

Overgeared 361

Chapter 361

[You have entered the 20th island.]

“Heok... Heok...”

Grid’s complexion was haggard as he gasped for breath. It was natural. He’d spent a total of 45 hours and 19 minutes breaking through 19 islands. It meant more than 15 hours in real time. Connecting to virtual reality for 15 hours a day wasn’t easy. The physiological needs were a basic problem, and he also consumed a lot of mental and physical power.

‘Since the 11th island, I wasted a lot of time.’

The 11th to 19th islands were hunting or raid missions. It inevitably took a long time, causing Grid’s exhaustion to sharply rise.

‘I’d rather finish this off today.’

There was no time limit to the Behen Archipelago. There was no reason to endanger himself by being impatient. His level had risen to 306 and Grid was about to log out when he suddenly stopped.

‘What?’

A huge shadow from the sky started to darken the surface of the island. It seemed like night time.

“This...!”

Grid looked up and was shocked. A huge circle was hiding the sun. It was a circle made of tens of thousands of eyes.

"Ugh."

Grid frowned with disgust. He had to swallow to push down his urge to vomit. The appearance of the circle was that bizarre. There were countless things like blood vessels on the surface that squirmed as the eyes blinked. The bloated eyeballs stimulated human fear and disgust to the limit.

What was this mission? The familiar notification window rose up as Grid ignored the eyes.

[A mission will be created.]

[20th Island]

Avoid the gaze of the hell moon!

First Clear Reward: 130 Challenger Points.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

‘Hell moon?’

The hell moon looked like this?

‘Perhaps.’

Grid had experience with visiting hell. The hell that he saw was nothing like the human world. It was hard to believe that such a terrible moon would appear.

‘But who knows? I went to hell during the day.’

It was disgusting to see. However, it was imperative to observe the target in order to understand the purpose of the mission. It happened when Grid was looking up at the hell moon.

[A helper fairy has appeared.]

A system that didn’t exist until after the 19th island was launched.

"Hello Challenger."

Was it a height of 50cm? A little male fairy appeared in a burst of light and greeted him. His behavior and tone were extremely polite, but his expression was full of playfulness.

“Who are you?”

The fairy explained to the confused Grid.

"I am Bini, a fairy of love and justice, who has been asked by Sage Sticks to help the challengers."

"Sticks asked you?"

"Yes, Sticks is anxiously waiting for a great challenger who can defeat the Behen Archipelago."

"Hoping for...?"

Grid thought that the trials that existed on each island were Sticks’ work. He thought it was to prove the qualifications of ‘those who wanted to go to the East Continent.’ Now he realized he was mistaken.

“If it isn’t Sticks, who made all the trials for each island?”

"I don’t know. It was like this from the beginning."

“What is on the last island?”

"I don’t know that either. You can ask Sticks if you meet him."

"...I thought you were a helper fairy. You aren’t very helpful."

"Nope, I’m sure that I will help. My role is to help the challengers overcome the trials."

“Then why didn’t you appear earlier?”

"I can’t help the rabble! I only help the challengers who have reached the 20th island by themselves! So please pay attention to me from now on!"

Bini took out glasses and started to explain.

“In order to escape the 20th island, you have to avoid the hell moon’s gaze. There is a theory that the hell moon has 66,666 eyes. There is no place on this island where the hell moon’s eyes can’t reach.”

“Then how do I escape it?”

"Pretend that you aren't a person."

"What?"

Pretend that he wasn't a person?

'Wait.'

Grid was baffled by the ridiculous command when he recalled Blackening.

"What if I turn into a demon?"

"Wow, a challenger has the power of Blackening? Indeed, you're someone who managed to get here! But unfortunately, that is wrong. It isn't the right answer. The hell moon is hostile to all living creatures."

"Then from the beginning, it's creatures."

"Challenger is a human, so I tried to explain it from your eye level. Hehet."

"So how do I pretend to not be a creature?"

"Stop."

"...?"

"The hell moon doesn't recognize any stopped being as a creature. Just stop when the hell moon's eyes are open. And exactly once every five seconds, you have to slowly move one step while all of the hell moon's eyes are closed."

'Is it like Red Light Green Light?'

Grid was reminded of a familiar game as he looked over the island. Then he frowned. The size of the island was considerable. It seemed to be two or three times the size of Yeouido.

"Moving one step every five seconds... Where is my destination?"

Grid's voice trembled as he asked.

Bini replied with a large grin, "To the other end of the island. The gate to the next island is there."

"..."

If a person's thinking power increased, would their personality change? That wasn't the case. He might be developing, but this expansion of thinking power didn't change his essential nature.

"Are you crazy?"

Grid eventually revealed his true nature as he grabbed the diaper Bini was wearing. Bini was very embarrassed because half of his butt was exposed.

"What are you doing!?"

Bini shivered as as Grid's face came close to his.

“Your method of helping me is to tell me that moving one step every five seconds is the best way to make it past this island? Rather than giving me help, you are just making fun of me.”

He couldn't imagine how many days it would take to make it to the other end of the island using Bini's method. In the first place, it was doubtful if he could maintain his concentration and patience.

'It's the worst if I have to stop when a monster is attacking.'

Bini hurriedly explained to the furious Grid.

“12 hours! In 12 hours, the sun will come up! Once the sun rises, the hell moon will hide itself!”

"I can only move one step every five seconds during the night, but I can act freely during the day?"

"That's right! Move during the day and fight with the hell moon at night! You only have to suffer for a few days! It will be difficult with sleep deprivation, but it's possible!"

'The difficulty is too high.'

It was the moment he admired Kraugel, who reached the 30th island.

'Wait... Could I use that?'

Grid released the diaper as he had a wonderful thought. The second item that he created after Failure. Could he take advantage of it?

"Does the hell moon rely on senses other than sight?"

"No. I have never heard of that."

Sticks was probably watching right now...

Tears of shame came to Bini's eyes as he answered.

"Is that so?"

A dark smile appeared on Grid's face. He came up with a way to avoid the eyes of the hell moon. But now wasn't the time. He needed time to rest, both physically and mentally.

"Log out."

"Ah, so good."

A restful night's sleep felt good. Youngwoo stretched as he went out to the living room, where he saw Sehee.

"I got a call from Team Leader Do Minjun."

"Team Leader Do Minjun?"

She was a young elite of Saint Constructions. Saint Constructions. It was that best construction company that didn't belong to any big corporations, and it was ranked 5th in South Korea. It was also the construction company responsible for the construction of Youngwoo's 10 billion won building.

“What did Team Leader Do Minjun want?”

"It was an interim report about how the construction is going well. She told Oppa to come visit the site. It is the first time that a client hasn't visited their own building."

"Where can I find the time to go there? I'm too busy playing the game."

"Shin Youngwoo, you are very trusting of people these days. In the old days, you would've thought they did a bad job since you can't see them. You would've monitored the construction site 24 hours a day."

"Isn't Saint Constructions doing the work in my name? In addition, it was a company recommended by Yura. Well, I don't care. Sehee, do you want to go with our parents?"

"Yes, understood."

Originally, Sehee thought of her brother as an object to be cared for. But that had changed. Now she trusted and followed her brother. Her brother's words and behavior were increasing.

Why did she trust her brother? Was it because her brother was earning a lot of money? Or because he was a celebrity? It wasn't for such petty reasons. It was because Youngwoo's nature itself had changed.

"Kraugel, isn't he an unbelievably great guy when I searched on the Internet?"

"He isn't just at the level of being great."

"Aren't you excited about winning over such a man?"

"There are no grounds for it. I probably would've lost if he and I fought under the same conditions."

"..."

He was now equipped with humility? Sehee gave a bittersweet smile as she saw her brother's deep eyes.

'Why is he changing every day?'

Her brother was growing everyday, but Sehee didn't feel good. It felt like her brother was becoming more and more distant. However, she was also proud.

"I'll get dressed and have breakfast."

"When will he come?"

Those blessed or cursed by the gods to not die. In other words, Sticks was aware of the existence of users. He waited calmly after the black haired man suddenly disappeared from the 20th island.

Dok.Dok dok.

Sticks tapped his staff while watching the magic ball. His eyes deep inside the robe contained tension and irritation. The moment that the black haired man appeared again.

"Medicine. My medicine."

He swallowed his medicine first to prepare for what would happen. It was a homemade medicine. He took a deep breath to maintain his composure, before turning his eyes to the magic ball again.

'Can he even break through the 20th island?'

Honestly, the possibility was low. So far, there had only been one person to pass the 20th island. It meant the difficulty of the 20th island was extremely high. Extreme patience was needed in order to avoid the gaze of the hell moon. At the same time, they needed wisdom to prevent the raids of monsters.

'Don't be disappointed. Empty your mind.'

But why? His expectations kept growing. The black haired man, so far he had exceeded Sticks' wisdom.

"Start!"

Gulp!

It happened when Sticks was looking at the red eyes of the hell moon and gulped.

"He's gone!!"

It was a perfect invisibility that was incomparable to stealth techniques. The black haired man suddenly disappeared and avoided the gaze of the hell moon.

"This...! This isn't invisibility magic!"

As expected from a sage. Sticks quickly figured out why the man couldn't be seen anymore. It made him even more surprised.

"Invisibility cloak...! A heritage of the altar of legends...!"

There were only two historic treasures left, so why did that man have it? There were no clues to that man's identity.

"Uh... Kuock...!"

It was the moment that the sage's wisdom became unclear.

Flop!

Sticks once again experienced a big shock, grabbing his chest and collapsing. He took the medicine prescribed by a professional pharmacist.

Chapter 362

[Hooded Zip Up]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 57/61 Defense: 10

* Movement speed will increase by 30%.

* Wind resistance will increase by 20%.

A cloak designed by a legendary blacksmith. However, the appearance is different from the normal look of a cloak.

Thanks to the sylphid scales being used as the material, affinity with wind and movement speed will increase. You can hide while wearing it, but the stealth will be turned off when an enemy is attacked.

Conditions of Use: None.

Weight: 5

The biggest advantage was the duration of the Hooded Zip Up. His stealth was maintained just by wearing it. However, it didn't consume any mana because it wasn't magical invisibility. Unlike an assassin's stealth skill, it could be seen through. It had the disadvantage of being ineffective against those with sharp senses.

But this disadvantage didn't apply on the 20th island. The hell moon only depended on sight. Grid rushed forward with his movement buff, and the hell moon wasn't able to find him. Grid was able to easily break through the 20th island by avoiding the monsters scattered everywhere.

The Hooded Zip Up was the perfect counter for the 20th island.

[You have entered the 21st island.]

'Amazing. It's really amazing.'

Grid felt thrilled during the process of breaking through the 20th island. Was he admiring his own ability? No. Grid was admiring Kraugel. Kraugel might be a sword saint candidate, but in the end, he only had a normal class.

He didn't have access to all types of items like Grid, so how did he reach the 30th island? His skills were truly phenomenal.

'He isn't only strong in battle and hunting. Kraugel is an overwhelming monster in all respects.'

As he imagined the process that Kraugel used to pass the 20th island, Grid realized the weight of the of his nicknames.

"Challenger?"

Bini called out to the blank Grid. Grid quickly recovered and looked around. The foggy 21st island stretched out before him. He couldn't see ahead of him.

'I can't even see my hands.'

It was impossible to identify anything in front of him thanks to the thick fog. There was a sense of anxiety at not being able to see. Bini laughed at the anxious Grid.

"You are lucky to win the Fog Island. You can pass the 21st island for free."

"Fog Island?"

"It is an island with a store."

'A store...'

Grid thought about the challenger points.

"Are you talking about the Challenger Store?"

"Yes, it is a store where you can buy goods with challenger points."

"Store... In other words, the emergence of Fog Island is random?"

"That's right. One extremely lucky person met the Fog Island on the 10th island. One unlucky person didn't see it despite reaching the 30th island."

'That unlucky person is Kraugel.'

Oh my god, there was a person who actually had worse luck than Grid. Grid felt sympathy as he asked Bini.

"So, do you know where the store is located? I can't see in front of me because of the fog."

"It is anywhere you go. The store will naturally be waiting for you. It's better to think in advance about what you will buy from the store. The store is only open for five minutes."

"I don't know what it sells."

"Hehe, did you forget that I am the helper fairy? I have already figured out most of the goods sold in the store."

"Ohu?"

This person seemed quite helpful.

Grid admired it as Bini put on his glasses again.

"There are four types of products sold at the store on Fog Island. There are teleportation scrolls to the East Continent, elixirs, various class change books, and skill books. The class change books range from normal to rare rated, while the skill books range from normal to unique rated."

Grid's eyes widened.

The items sold in the store were really great. They were rare things that couldn't be bought with money.

"Among them, the item with the lowest value of the East Continent portal scroll. Maybe it's sold because most of the challengers come here to find a way to move to the East Continent? But you can get it for free when you meet Sticks."

"Kraugel... The person who reached the 30th island got the scroll from Sticks?"

"That's right. But luckily for them, six challengers met the store before the 10th island and purchased the portal scroll. They didn't even try to challenge the later islands. Cowards."

'It isn't cowardly, but wise. There are seven users who have moved to the East Continent so far.'

Grid thought about it as he moved through the fog and encountered a carriage. It was a pumpkin shaped carriage that emitted a gentle and calm light.

"That is the Challenger Store."

Grid received Bini's guidance and approached the carriage. Various goods were on display in the carriage.

"Isn't there a store owner?"

"No. It's an unattended store."

"Ah."

If there was an owner, he would've been able to ask questions. Grid started to scan the products.

[East Continent Movement Portal Scroll]

You can go to the starting village of 'Pangea' on the East Continent.

Weight: 0.1

Price: 50 Challenger Points

[Elixir]

A medicine that increases a certain stat by 10 points.

Weight: 10

Price: 250 Challenger Points.

'An elixir is so cheap!'

After clearing 20 islands, Grid had exactly 901 challenger points. It meant he could buy three elixirs that were worth millions of gold. He thought of the elixirs as cheap, but the reality was quite different.

The people fortunate enough to find the pumpkin carriage on the 10th island had an average of 150 points. In other words, from a general point of view, the elixirs weren't cheap at all. It wasn't a kindness to the other challengers of Behen Archipelago, except for Grid.

Grid took a look at the other goods.

[Lightning Swordsman Class Change Book]

Rating: Rare

You can change into a lightning swordsman.

Weight: 100

Price: 1,000 Challenger Points.

[Explosion Sorcerer Class Change Book]

Rating: Rare

You can change into a explosion sorcerer.

Weight: 100

Price: 1,000 Challenger Points.

“Hrmm.”

Rare rated hidden classes. A year ago, they would've sold for billions of won. Now the value of a rare class had been greatly reduced. People learned that there was a very small gap between 3rd advancement classes and rare rated classes.

Rare classes didn't go for a lot of money anymore.

'Bini said that the classes only go up to rare rated.'

Grid was disappointed after checking the list of class change books, then looked at the skill books.

[Dash to Turn the Tables]

Rating: Rare

Dashes to the target and deals damage proportional to the target's defense. They will be in a rigid state for 0.3 seconds.

Conditions of Use: None.

Price: 400 Challenger Points.

[Blazing Short Rain]

Rating: Epic

Causing a rain of fire for three seconds in the specified area. The damage dealt to the enemy is proportional to the caster's magic power and physical attack power.

Conditions of Use: None.

Price: 900 Challenger Points.

'Pass.'

Most players coveted rare and epic rated skills. But Grid had legendary skills and wasn't interested. For Grid, they were just a waste of points. However, unique rated skills were different.

19th knight, Fulito. Like the skill book 'Aura Festival' that he dropped, all of his unique skills had an outstanding performance. Grid also desired them.

'Aura Festival is rotting in my warehouse.'

Aura Festival was a lesser version of Pagma's Swordsmanship, Transcended Link. Grid kept it in storage because there was no reason for him to learn it. He waited for an opportunity to sell it at a high price.

“Eh?”

Grid’s eyes widened as he closely looked at the skills list. The skill he was looking at wasn’t a hidden skill that had a rare, epic, or unique rating. It was a normal rated skill that attracted Grid’s attention.

[Weapons Mastery]

Rating: Normal

Type: Passive

The Weapons Mastery skill.

Price: 6,000 Challenger Points.

‘Weapons Mastery!’

Weapons Mastery. It was a skill that increase attack power and accuracy rate regardless of what type of weapon was used. Only a small number of combat specialized classes could obtain it, and it could be called the strongest weapon unique to a few classes.

However, this crazy store was selling the strongest weapon.

‘I want it!’

Grid was filled with extreme greed. It was natural. Grid had the strongest passive skill that allowed him to use all weapons, so this was a ridiculous skill suited for him. His limitation was that he didn’t have any mastery type skill.

Now he could overcome that limitation. It was natural that his greed was boiling. The problem was the price.

"Why is a normal skill so expensive?"

"Originally, passive skills are expensive. Among them, the Weapons Mastery skill is the most expensive."

“Shit.”

The store would close soon. Grid checked the time limit and was irritated.

"If you miss this store now, does it mean I can’t use it again?"

“No. As I said earlier, Fog Island randomly emerges. It might appear again in the future. But it isn’t certain.”

‘Then I will wait for next time.’

He had to clear all the items to get Weapons Mastery. The East Continent Portal Scroll was something he could get in the process of meeting Sticks. Grid decided to leave the store. Bini’s eyes glowed like lanterns as he looked at Grid.

"I was afraid that you would buy the portal scroll and leave, but you truly are the challenger who broke through to the 20th island."

"It's a waste to buy something when I can get it for free."

Would he be able to collect 6,000 challenger points?

'Even if I fail this time...'

He would get stronger and challenge it again. Grid was sucked into the gate.

[You have entered the 22nd island.]

"Come quickly."

Grid was burning with enthusiasm. As soon as he entered the new island, he looked around the structure of the island as usual while waiting for Bini to explain.

Bini explained.

"Up to the 25th island, it's a fight against time."

Then a mission was created to prove these words.

[22nd Island]

Wipe out the monsters!

First Clear Reward: 162 Challenger Points.

"Okay, I see."

Grid didn't delay. He immediately summoned the God Hands, Noe, and Randy and went to wipe out the island's monsters. Experience, skill proficiency, and challenger points piled up, causing Grid's will to burn.

Four days later. Grid killed thousands of monsters on the three islands and finally reached the 25th island.

Sticks was waiting for him.

"You... You are Pagma's Descendant... Even... Hell's strongest... Demonic beast... If it's you... Contaminated Hall of Fame... Arrived... Ugh! Kuk!"

"...?"

Sticks fell over while talking. Grid was nervous when he saw Sticks barely breathing in a scruffy robe.

'Something is strange.'

Grid knew how unlucky he was. The cruel reality spread out in front of him.

[A quest has been created.]

[Save Sticks!]

★ Hidden Quest ★

Sticks' illness has worsened after watching your surprising performance.

Fortunately, it can still be treated with medicine.

After learning the method to prepare the medicine from Sticks, take care of him!

Quest Acceptance Reward: 'Recipe: Elf's Miraculous Medicine' will be acquired.

Quest Reward: Affinity with Sticks will rise to the maximum.

Quest Failure: Sticks' Death.

[Would you like to accept the quest?]

"...No, why will he die if it can still be treated with medicine?"

He wasn't convinced, but it was a hidden quest. The reward seemed special and Sticks couldn't die. Grid thought as positively as possible and helped Sticks.

Sururuk.

Sticks' face was exposed as the hood fell off. He was a surprisingly young man covered in sweat. He was a beautiful man with pointed ears.

"Elf...?"

Grid had played Satisfy for nearly two years, but it was the first time he saw an elf. He was curious, but dissatisfaction filled Grid's face.

'Normally, shouldn't it be a female elf?'

The first elf he met was a male? He had to nurse a man alone on an island with no one else! Once again, reality was relentless, unlike the movies and manhwa.

Chapter 363

The 25th island was quite small and shabby. It was around 10 pyeong wide, and there were palm trees all over. Grid looked Sticks down under the shade of a tree and prompted.

"Hey, if you want to live then tell me the elf's recipe."

"Ugh... Urgh..."

Sticks was sweating and breathing in an uncomfortable manner. His state was so serious that it was hard for him to speak. Grid hurriedly fed various potions to him, but they didn't have any effect.

The helper fairy, Bini, trembled and made a fuss.

"Challenger! Please use your talents to save Sticks!"

What should he do? The Grid in the past would've been confused about what to do. But he had greatly developed after meeting Kraugel and challenging the Behen Archipelago. He thought of a means to overcome the situation using his expanded thinking ability.

"Believe in me and wait."

Grid calmed Bini down and grabbed a sword.

[Great Lord's Sword]

It was a rare sword given only to the dukes of each kingdom, and greatly increased the insight, dignity and leadership of the wearer. It was a superb artifact that allowed him to peek at the stats and skills of the target NPC through the Character Observation skill.

'Sticks, if you want to live, give me a hint.'

[Character Observation has been used.]

Ttiring~

Name: Sticks

Age: 881 years old Gender: Male

Race: Elf Occupation: Sage

Title: Wise Star

* Benevolent and wise. Has extensive knowledge.

* Isolated for a long time from the world. His knowledge is outdated.

Level: 401

Strength: 403 (▼) Stamina: 880 (▼)

Agility: 1,201 (▼) Intelligence: 1,930 (▼)

Wisdom: 2876 (▼) Charm: 2,490

Skills: Archery (B), Social Sciences (B▼), Engineering (B▼), Medicine (B▼), Humanities (B▼), Art (S), Magic Studies (S), Natural Sciences (S▼), Elementary Science (S+), Learning (SS), Education (SS).

A high elf with a noble lineage.

Originally, he should have a lifespan that is close to an eternal life. But in the process of protecting the world tree, he received the anger of the gourmet dragon Reiders and got a disease.

* Currently in a state where his overall stats are declining.

The world tree existed in Elf Forest. In other words, Sticks was originally a person from Elf Forest. Why did he come to the Behen Archipelago? Grid thought about this and turned to stare at Bini.

"Why did Sticks come to the Behen Archipelago? Is it related to the disease from Reiders?"

“Yes, that’s right! His original purpose for coming here was to treat his disease!”

"Is there a medicine that grows only in this place?"

"I don’t know. After coming here, I only saw Sticks eating the blue coconut... Ah!"

“It’s that.”

The means to treat the disease. Grid turned his gaze towards the palm trees. The blue coconuts filled his field of view. Grid had the God Hands gather the coconuts and brought them to Sticks.

"Can you calm down if you eat this?"

Sticks saw the blue coconuts and barely managed to open his mouth.

“That... It if’s with the leaves of the world tree...”

“Mix them together?”

Sticks nodded. Grid cut the coconut shells while asking Bini.

“What are the leaves of the world tree?”

"I’ll find them!"

Piece by piece. Bini searched inside Sticks’ robe. After a while, he pulled out some green leaves and handed them to Grid.

[Leaves of the World Tree (6) have been acquired.]

[Leaves of the World Tree]

Leaves that periodically fall from the world tree that defends nature. They don’t dry out even after hundreds of years.

Weight: 0.1

"How many should I mix in?"

Sticks raised one finger at Grid’s question. Grid put one leaf into the coconut and mixed it well. Then something interesting happened. The transparent liquid inside the coconut turned emerald.

[You have succeeded in preparing the ‘Elf Miraculous Medicine’!]

[Recipe: Elf Miraculous Medicine has been acquired!]

[Elf Miraculous Medicine]

Recovers from all abnormal states immediately.

The effects are exceptional, but the recipe is extremely simple. Anyone can make it.

Grid was astonished.

‘Recovers from all abnormal states immediately!’

It was truly a great medicine. The Overgeared members wouldn't have had such a hard time during the Elfin Stone raid if they had this.

'But the question is how to secure a lot of leaves of the world tree and blue coconuts.'

Gulp gulp.

Was this like a person who had been thirsty for 10 years finally getting water? While Grid was thinking, Sticks was consuming the medicine. A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[The first aid for Sticks is successful!]

[An elf will never forget your grace. Sticks sees you as a savior and will show your great affection in the future!]

"Heok... Heok... Thank you. Thanks to you, I was able to overcome a big crisis."

Sticks got up and respectfully bowed.

"I am the high elf, Sticks. Can I ask for my benefactor's name?"

Sticks's beauty was more brilliant than before after his color was restored. Despite being male, he was beautiful enough to compare to Yura and Jishuka.

"Grid."

Grid answered briefly and Sticks asked again.

"Are you Pagma's Descendant?"

"That's right. How did you know?"

Sticks pulled out a transparent magic orb.

"I observed you through this and realized it along the way. Powerful swordsmanship, the ability to possess and utilize all types of artifacts. Also showing great blacksmithing... There's only one person who comes to mind after all this is added up, Pagma."

Grid nodded and asked a question.

"What is the Contaminated Hall of Fame?"

"It refers to the current Behen Archipelago. The original name of the Behen Archipelago was the Hall of Fame."

"The Hall of Fame?"

"A sacred place that celebrates the feats of legends..."

Stick's golden eyes shone like jewels as he looked at Grid.

"It's a place of succession where the power left by the former legends are transferred to the current legends. It's fate that you came to this place."

"What?"

It was an unexpected and shocking answer. A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[A legendary class quest 'Hall of Fame' has been created.]

[The legendary class quest 'Hall of Fame' has changed to '★Hidden Quest★ Contaminated Hall of Fame.']

The Overgeared members ranging from the former Tzedakah Guild members, Yura, Huroi, and Peak Sword. They were growing rapidly. They repeatedly hunted in the vampire cities, causing their levels to rise and the rankings to shake every day.

In particular, the vampire rings were a huge help. Unlike Grid, who steadily enjoyed the effect of Doran's Ring and the Holy Light Armor, recovery items were desperately needed by ordinary users.

"Let's move onto the next city."

The 10th city. Two months ago, Grid had encountered Braham's soul. The Overgeared members were no longer interested in a place where strong bosses didn't appear. They wanted stronger enemies for even faster growth.

"Didn't My Lord say not to widen the area because we might encounter a vampire called Marie Rose?"

"What if we don't encounter Marie Rose, but an Elfin stone level boss? We don't have God Grid this time."

Huroi and Peak Sword were cautious and wanted to listen to Grid's words. But who were Yura and the Tzedakah Guild members? They were people who always dreamed about reaching the top. Their basic ideals were very high.

"Meeting a strong enemy is also an experience."

"So what if we die? It's better to find good hunting grounds, even if we have to sacrifice ourselves, rather than become stagnant. Adventuring is the foundation of growth."

"And we have enough power to raid a Elfin Stone level boss."

The Overgeared members were growing. It was because they witnessed Grid mowing down Kraugel. They praised Kraugel as the sky above the sky and regarded him as an insurmountable wall. Thus, they felt shame after Grid broke that wall.

Why should they set limits on themselves? Why shouldn't they experience setbacks?

"It's time for a new challenge."

"Don't worry too much if we meet a vampire stronger than Elfin Stone. This time, I'm with you."

Jishuka and Yura were sympathetic to those with the radical thoughts. The situation was like this, so Huroi and Peak Sword couldn't say anything more.

On this day.

The vampire expedition led by Yura and Jishuka entered the 9th city.

It had been 97 years.

Sticks, who came to the Behen Archipelago to collect the blue coconuts, was astonished. He admired the islands with beautiful scenery that were a monument to admire previous legends, as well as the sanctuaries with a mysterious atmosphere.

Then it was transformed by someone and filled with trials.

"In order for the current legends to become true legends, they need to inherit the forces left behind by the former legends. However, all types of trials interfered with the legends entering, so I have to sacrifice myself."

He waited for a hero, in order to tell them the importance of the Behen Archipelago and cleansing it together. Sticks waited and dreamt about that day.

[You have entered the 29th island.]

[This is a save point. Do you want to save your position?]

[You have been registered. When you enter the Behen Archipelago later on, you will start from the 29th island.]

Grid moved on while listening to Sticks' long story. He smiled as he passed through the 29th island.

"I will do my best so that your efforts aren't in vain."

Grid coveted many skills that Sticks had, especially the Learning and Education skills. What if he let Sticks educate the talents in Reidan, as well as his son? In short, it was the best. That's right. Grid was determined to obtain Sticks. Thus, he tried to show off his best side as much as possible.

"Believe in me."

Grid confidently said as he stepped into the gate for the 30th island.

At that moment.

[You have entered the 30th island.]

[Your level has dropped to level 1.]

"... Eh?"

Grid's eyes widened.

"This is the reason why I couldn't break through here."

Sticks belatedly sighed.

"There is a very powerful curse. I can't draw out all my strength."

"..."

Grid frowned.

TL: I know, gourmet dragon is weird, but I doubled checked with several other translators. So I guess its just a dragon that really likes food, unless the author gives a more detailed explanation later on.

Chapter 364

According to Sticks, the Behen Archipelago was a beautiful and holy place until 200 years ago. It was praised as a sanctuary where former legends passed on their power to current legends. But that was a story of the past.

Now the Behen Archipelago was transformed into a field of trials with all types of dangers. Who caused this? Sticks didn't know, despite his age. He vaguely guessed that he would find the answer if he reached the last island.

"I must find the answer. If the succession doesn't function properly, the legends of the current day won't be able to exercise their full strength."

"What does that have to do with you?"

Sticks wasn't a legend. He wouldn't lose anything if the Hall of Fame failed to function.

"I don't know why you sacrificed 97 years because you want to purify this place. But I am thankful from my position."

Sticks smiled gently and explained his reason.

"The legends need their strength to protect the order of this world."

"The order of this world?"

It was cloudy, but Grid got a rough feeling.

"You're doing this for everyone?"

"Yes."

"It's a noble mission."

It wasn't a mockery. His son Lord, his beloved Irene, Khan, Piaro, Jude, Rabbit, and everyone else. Grid was aware of the precious world they lived in. He didn't know the specifics, but Sticks was sacrificing himself to protect the world.

"I will repay you for your hard work. Believe in me."

Grid confidently said as he stepped into the gate for the 30th island. Then he was shocked.

[You have entered the 30th island.]

[Your level has dropped to level 1.]

"E-Eh?"

Grid doubted his eyes. His level had dropped to one? His cognitive ability couldn't figure this out.

'What is this?'

Sticks sighed and said to the confused Grid.

"Has your body changed? This is the reason why I couldn't break through here. There is a very powerful curse, so I can't draw out all my strength."

"..."

No, wasn't it too much for a curse to bring him back to level one? Sticks explained to Grid.

"It reproduces the nightmare of the challenger."

The 30th island, Nightmare.

"This island reproduces the greatest trial that the challenger has already experienced. In my case, I was confronted with Reiders in front of the world tree. My power was suppressed to what it used to be and I couldn't run away from Reiders. I can never break through the 30th island. I hope that the trials you experienced in the past aren't too heavy."

"...?"

A question mark appeared above Grid's head as he listened to Sticks.

'Wasn't the greatest trial when I was looking for Pagma's Rare Book?'

His level and situation at that time should be reproduced, so why was he level one? What big ordeal could he experience at level one?

"...Ah."

Grid looked around at the scenery of the island and frowned. The scene reproduced by the 30th island. He belatedly realized that it was the beginner area around the fortified city of Patrian.

'I was killed dozens of times by the rabbits and bears.'

It was the moment when the black history he sealed off for his self-defense emerged again.

"Piaro intervened."

The showdown between the 1st ranked Kraugel and legendary class Grid. Chairman Lim Cheolho watched the recorded video from beginning to end and was convinced by the results.

"But surely... I didn't know that Kraugel would challenge Piaro."

Kraugel's pride and challenging spirit was higher than predicted, as he chose the hard way by challenging the strongest. Lim Cheolho emptied a beer can and laughed.

"I never imagined that Piaro would grow to that extent."

It wasn't enough to create a new legendary class, which was different from the nine legendary classes that were inherited. Piaro's current appearance was contradictory to the original plan. 'Originally, he

was a key character prepared for the Empress Marie, Episode 3 storyline, as well as the people's alliance storyline.

Grid was amazing, finding a character filled with hatred and vengeance and making him walk a new path.

'Making an NPC his subordinate and actively utilizing him...'

Satisfy was a game with a large degree of freedom. He didn't know if Grid did this on purpose from beginning to end.

"Um."

Chairman Lim Cheolho emptied his third can of beer and rose from his seat. It was to get a new can of beer out of the fridge. At that moment.

[Quest SH100B7 has been triggered.]

"...!"

Chairman Lim Cheolho's eyes widened as he heard Morpheus' words.

"By whom?"

In fact, it was a nonsensical question. Quest SH100B7. It was a quest activated when a legendary class user reached the 25th island of the Contaminated Heben Archipelago. At this point, there were only two legendary classes.

Grid and Yura. But Yura's level was still too low.

[Grid.]

"Kuooh, of course."

Lim Cheolho was sad. Grid's current self couldn't clear the Contaminated Behen Archipelago quest.

"It is relatively easy to reach the 25th island using items..."

But from the 30th island, a higher level of control was required. Most of the items wouldn't be applied, so Grid was at a disadvantage.

"It might be possible if Grid maintains his current growth and challenges it again in half a year. At present, isn't the quest clearance rate close to zero?"

Morpheus replied with an answer that surprised Lim Cheolho.

[Grid has a 88.19% of clearing the SH100B7 quest. The difficulty of his trials is very low.]

"..."

Lim Cheolho ordered one more chicken. He was planning to monitor Grid in real time.

[30th Island]

The place and situation where you had the most deaths is 100% recreated.

Overcome the trial and jump past your previous self!

Mission Clear Condition: Gain three levels.

First Clear Reward: 500 Challenger Points.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

‘The space where I suffered the most deaths...’

Thus, the space reproduced was the novice area of Patrian. It was a reminder of how incompetent Grid was when he first started playing the virtual reality game.

Hop hop.

Bark bark.Bark bark bark!

There were rabbits in the forest, deer at the lake shore, and dogs playing with children. Sticks nervously observed the scenery of the peaceful forest and tilted his head.

“Why was this chosen as a trial?”

Grid was too embarrassed to explain to Sticks. It was too unfortunate to see that these rabbits and deer were comparable to a terrible dragon like Reiders. Therefore, Grid remained silent as he opened his status window.

Name: Grid

Class: Beginner

Health: 123 Mana: 15

Strength: 6 Stamina: 7

Agility: 4 Intelligence: 5

Skills Possessed: None

"..."

The situation was recreated 100%, so even his class and titles were reset. He was armed with equipment for beginners. Most of his hard earned items were disabled.

Sticks kept making a fuss.

"Where is this place? It's so common that it's difficult to tell. Is there a huge monster at the end of this forest? An ordeal given to Pagma's Descendant... Heok, don't tell me you met a dragon? This... It's said that the difficulty of the 30th island has increased in proportion to the challenger's ability."

"..."

Grid didn't say anything. He ignored Sticks, walking out towards the rabbits grazing.

'I will get revenge.'

He hadn't been able to adapt to virtual reality games yet. He couldn't move his fingers or toes at all, and his arms and legs moved separately from what he wanted.

'The white rabbit who killed me with its front teeth, the black rabbit who slapped me with its hind legs, the grey rabbit that headbutted me to death!'

He would completely wash away his disgrace and write a new history!

Buuong~

Grid firmed up his heart and wielded his sword. The wooden sword flew at a very slow speed. It was a level that the hopping rabbits could avoid.

"Kuk."

Just a few minutes ago, Grid had 2,800 strength and 1,800 agility. It was difficult to adapt after it decreased to 6 and 4 points respectively. It was like regressing from a healthy adult to a newborn baby.

Grid was embarrassed by the slow attack as the rabbit ran up to him. In the past, the grey rabbit had given Grid hell by hitting him a few times. But now its strikes couldn't hit Grid.

Deftly.

Grid used the footwork of Pagma's Swordsmanship, Link, to move to the left and evade the grey rabbit. They were skilled movements that an ordinary level 1 user wouldn't be able to show. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that it was like a level 60 user. It was enough to be listed in the Guinness Book of Records for movements that a level 1 beginner could show.

"Okay!"

Grid marvelled at his own ability. However, there was no time to rest. The rabbit started to realize that its attack was in vain and called its kin for a pincer attack.

"This...!"

Grid's face tensed for the first time. In the past, he would've allowed the rabbits' pincer attack. But now Grid was different.

"I...!"

Teong!

Grid showed the highest concentration as he blocked the white rabbit's long, pointed front teeth with a wooden sword. At the same time, he aimed his fist.

Peeok!

The white rabbit was in tears after being hit hard. The eyes of the black rabbit shone. The black rabbit's kick aimed at Grid's chest, who avoided it.

'This ridiculous guy.'

Grid scoffed and aimed his wooden sword.

Ppak!

Jjik!

The black rabbit's head was hit hard and it collapsed. Grid kicked it and roared.

"I am a legend!!!"

Currently, Grid's performance was higher than his stats.

In no time, he had fully adapted to his 6 strength and 4 agility, and could freely manipulate his body to strike at the rabbit with the wooden sword.

He was the legend who killed several strong bosses, such as the Yatan Servants, Pope Drevigo, the Great Demon Hell Gao, Vampire Earl Elfin Stone, and who had experience fighting the legendary Piaro and 1st ranked Kraugel.

Peeok!Peok peek!Peeeeeok!

[You have defeated a white rabbit.]

[5]

[You have defeated a black rabbit.]

[5]

...

...

Grid's fighting style became more sophisticated the more he fought. He beat the rabbits with a skill that was hard to believe for a level 1 user. But Sticks wasn't inspired as he watched from the side.

At the same time, in Reidan.

"Abubu! Abuoo~!"

Lord, armed with the 'Baby Wooden Sword' made by his father Grid, was hunting a 'desert rabbit' that was twice as powerful as a normal rabbit. Lord caught the rabbit while crawling around on all fours. It was enough to raise the admiration of Piaro, who once dreamt of being a sword saint.

'The young lord has an excellent talent in swordsmanship.'

Perhaps, the ultimate genius wasn't Kraugel, as Piaro thought.

Chapter 365

Peok peek!

Peok peek peek!

The battle between Grid and the rabbits was coming to an end. He squeezed out his last remaining power to prevent the rabbits from attacking, evading and then succeeding in a counterattack to win.

Jjik!

Kuuong!

“Hahat!”

The rabbits made X-shaped eyes and died. Grid saw them and felt like a 10 year slump had disappeared. He had been killed by rabbits more than a dozen times in the past! He was glad to be able to erase that terrible black history that he didn't want to think about again. His mind was lightened and pleasure filled his body.

He felt rejuvenated.

“Kuahahahat!”

Grid laughed with joy. Of course, he paid special attention to his image as lord of Reidan and master of Overgeared. He tried to laugh in as dignified a manner as possible. Sticks' face was confused as he watched Grid.

‘One of the nine legends, Pagma's Descendant is fighting with rabbits?’

It couldn't be. Sticks denied reality and urged Grid.

"Grid, stop joking and start now."

This seemed like a peaceful forest, but there would certainly be a fearsome monster at the end.

‘I encountered a gourmet dragon... What if Grid encounters a light dragon or dark dragon?’

He wouldn't be deceived by Grid who was harassing ‘innocent’ rabbits. There was a high possibility that a rare dragon existed in this forest. In a short while, Grid would fight against the dragon.

The moment Sticks tried to maintain his tension.

Fla~sh!

A flash of light fell onto Grid's body, who was holding a wooden sword above a rabbit. It was the symbol of a level up. Sticks saw it and faced reality.

“D-Don't tell me... Does this mean hunting rabbits was really your biggest ordeal?”

No, what was this? Sticks couldn't understand it at all.

“Hum hum.”

Grid turned away from the confused Sticks. He was embarrassed and had nothing to say. He just checked the notification window that appeared.

[Your level has risen.]

[10]

'Okay.'

The lower the level, the lower the power of the stats. The basics stats were so low that it was easy to feel strong with a new investment of stat points.

'First of all, increase agility to 10.'

The rest would be invested in strength. It was the ideal stat distribution to increase the speed of hunting for novice beginners.

[Your agility has risen.]

[Your agility has risen.]

...

[Your strength has risen.]

[Your strength...]

...

Gaining three levels was the condition to clearing the 30th island. Grid invested his stat points without any delay.

'Next is the deer.'

He faced the threat that were the thirsty deer at the lake shore.

Sneak sneak.

Grid approached the deer as sneakily as possible. Originally, the deer were difficult for level 2 beginners. The deer's physical strength and attack power was at least three times higher than rabbits.

But who was Grid?

'I am a legend!'

Grid was filled with courage as he hunted the deer. He paid attention to the deer's kick, keeping a distance favorable to him before striking the deer with the sword.

The 30th island. The worst gateway that caused a challenger's despair by 100% reproducing their worst trial...

It was the moment when 1st ranked Kraugel's place of frustration was turned into a basic training field for Grid.

[You have succeeded in the mission.]

[500 challenger points have been acquired.]

[Your level has returned to normal.]

Grid, who returned to the level 306 Pagma's Descendant from the level 3 beginner, was impressed.

'My body feels great.'

His body was light and boiling with power. He stretched out his hand and a sharp wave burst out. He jumped slightly and reached an explosive height. He had perfect and delicate control over each of his 10 fingers.

This was the flesh of a legend, compared to a level 3 beginner.

'I was unaware that my body has grown to this extent.'

In other words, it meant he hadn't been using his body properly.

'Moving forward, I have to pay more attention to it.'

Grid contemplated on his past self. He was growing in real time. Sticks wasn't aware of this and asked with a loud voice.

"...Are you really Pagma's Descendant?"

It was a question full of distrust. Grid's appearance was shocking as he struggled with the rabbits and deers. In the end, Grid couldn't ignore him any longer and spoke honestly.

"I am dull-witted. I was always inferior to others, and went through trials that others wouldn't have experienced. Does that mean I shouldn't be a legend?"

Pride was in Grid's eyes. It was pride in himself. Sticks felt his confidence and shook his head.

"No, that isn't it. I don't have any doubts."

A dull-witted person was born again as a legend. That was even better than the genius legends. It meant he tried harder than anyone else.

"Maybe I respect you more."

Sticks smiled and spoke in a straightforward manner. Grid smiled in response and walked to the gate of the 31st island.

[You have entered the 31st island.]

The 31st island was uncharted territory for Sticks. He was surprised to see the scene stretched out in front of him.

"City...?"

That's right. The 31st island was a city. Hundreds of buildings were lined in four rows, and the streets were crowded with carriages and people. 'Where is this place? Why is a city recreated?' Grid's voice was heard as Sticks tried to reason it out.

"This is the fortified city of Patrian."

He couldn't forget the city that he stayed in for one year, from level 1 to level 80.

"But why was this recreated? From what I recalled, I died less than 10 times in the city."

"Huh? You died so many times within a city? Did you commit a crime that deserved the death penalty?"

"No way, that's impossible. I was just walking on the streets when I was hit by a wagon, died from a flowerpot dropped from the third floor, or was caught and killed by hoodlums."

"Your luck isn't ordinary."

As the two people talked, several notification windows popped up. Thanks to this, Grid knew what needed to be done here.

[Your level has dropped to level 23.]

[A mission will be created.]

[31st Island]

The place and situation of the quest that you failed the most number of times has been 100% created.

Overcome the trial and jump past your previous self!

Mission Clear Conditions: Succeed in the quest that you failed in the past.

First Clear Reward: 600 Challenger Points.

First Clear Reward 2: The rewards you obtain with the quest.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

"The quest I failed the most times?"

It was difficult to pinpoint what quest he failed the most number of times. A golden exclamation point appeared on one side as Grid tried to recall the memory. It was a quest window.

[Participate in the Reserve Forces Training]

Level of Difficulty: Regular quest.

Patrian is a fortified city built for the purpose of controlling the Gauss Kingdom.

Players who belong to Patrian are obliged to do a certain amount of training as part of the reserve forces.

Train under the instructor at the training ground.

Quest Clear Condition: Get a passing grade for each training course.

Quest Reward: Depends on the passing rank.

"Ah, this quest."

It was a quest that repeated once a month. They would be trapped in the barracks if they refused to do it. It was an obligatory quest that users belonging to Patrian had to perform. Of course, Grid also participated in the full time training.

However, there was a problem.

'I never got a passing score...'

He didn't know how many times he failed. It couldn't be helped. The significance of the military training was to raise usable soldiers. It was natural for Patrian to endeavor to nurture reservists to a level that could be used. The problem was that Grid didn't respond to Patrian's efforts.

'The training was too difficult.'

Patrian's reserve army training was largely divided into weapons training, formation building training, and squad training, which was very difficult.

'There were many people besides me who didn't receive a passing mark.'

In fact, there were less than 10 people, but Grid's memories showed that there were hundreds of them.

Name: Grid

Class: Warrior

Level: 23

Health: 1,161 Mana: 45

Strength: 187 Stamina: 40

Agility: 22 Intelligence: 15

Skills Possessed:

Beginner Sword Mastery Lv. 2, Beginner Armor Mastery Lv.2, Charge Lv. 1, Full Swing Lv. 1.

"The stats distribution is too ignorant."

The balance of stats was too bad. He wanted to curse his level 23 self.

'It's all about strength except for a little bit of stamina.'

His agility and intelligence was stagnant as the basic ability of a warrior. His attack speed and evasion were the lowest, and he didn't have the mana to use skills. Using the Charge or Full Swing skill once would deplete all his mana.

The items he had:

[Blunt Greatsword]

Attack Power: 32~71

Attack Speed: -3%

[Old Skull Helmet]

Defense: 2

[Old Orc Armor]

Defense: 13

[Old Goblin Shoes]

Defense: 2

'The items are also messed up... No, isn't it better to have set items from one type of monster?'

How had he been playing the game in the past?

'This is why I only reached level 80 despite playing the game for a whole year... No, I only got to level 79.'

He could only sigh. In his current state, it was doubtful if he could clear the quest.

'I just need to focus on the training and it will be good.'

It was a matter of technical training and sparring. He could handle the sword at a good level and was also decent with the spear due to Pon. Therefore, he was only worried about archery. He didn't have Bow Mastery and his agility was the lowest, so he wondered if he could hit the target with a single arrow.

'I am also worried about not being able to use skills properly during the spar.'

Sticks looked at Grid's anxious expression and became nervous.

"Is the difficulty of this trial so high? Don't tell me...! This time it is a dragon...!"

He was suffering under a curse from a dragon, so his dragon trauma was quite strong.

"Don't worry. You won't meet a dragon when you are with me."

Grid reassured Sticks and took a deep breath.

'Now believe in me.'

Since becoming Pagma's Descendant, he went against many enemies that ordinary users couldn't overcome alone. Now he would overcome his past self.

"Let's go."

Grid braced himself and entered the training camp. The instructor saw him and shouted.

"There you are, Blue Falcon! You're late again! Hurry up, hurry, you bastard who is weaker than a dog!"

"...!"

Blue Falcon! (https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/blue_falcon)

It was an embarrassing nickname that he had erased from his memories. Grid's face distorted like a demon as he stared at the instructor. The castle's training instructor. The old man who ignored him and harassed him to death!

'I might've had no experience at that time...!'

But not anymore.

'I will make shock appear on your face!'

Grid's determination was boiling up.

Chapter 366

Grid was well aware of the importance of drills as a former member of the South Korean army.

It was to quickly and easily control the army, for order and unity, to reduce the number of incidents, and to instill a sense of purpose. Drills were the most basic and crucial virtue of the army.

"The biggest reason why an army operates effectively is due to the formations. Imagine a large group of people. What if the shield troops were in the rear and the archers were in the vanguard? Isn't that just rubbish?"

The higher the level of training, the faster the speed of the formation. The faster the speed that a formation was formed, the higher the probability was of winning the war. Grid smiled as he watched the instructor explain why drills were so important.

'In the past, I wasn't able to concentrate.'

The reserves were brought to the training ground and given theoretical education. What type of game was this? In the past, Grid had grumbled and couldn't concentrate on learning.

"Hey, Blue Falcon."

Instructor Kaesul glared at Grid.

"Why is it that you doze off every time I am educating you?"

Patrian was a fortified city, so the military training was very strict. Of course, this also applied to players.

"Is my education useless? Have you already mastered this?"

The instructor shouted angrily.

"Stand up!"

Grid stood up. He knew it was wrong to laugh at the instructor, and absolute obedience was necessary to receive a passing score.

"Attention! Parade rest! Align right!"

Grid followed the simple command while the instructor smiled.

"I will teach you to smile while I'm talking."

After that, the instructor forced Grid to follow all types of actions. He tried to make it confusing and complex by making Grid move to the front, back, and right side, then he would punish Grid when he got it wrong. However...

Cheek!

Cheek cheek cheek cheek!

'Wow.'

Instructor Kaesul was puzzled when Grid didn't hesitate when following the orders.

Blue Falcon, Grid. He never received a passing grade in any training and was inferior to the other troops, so how could he follow this? Despite his weak stamina, he performed the commands perfectly without losing concentration.

There was something even more surprising.

'Did his eyes always look like this?'

Grid was famous with Instructor Kaeul and the assistants. He was dumb, not motivated, weak, and had eyes like rotten fish. Now Grid wasn't stupid, was full of desire, and concentrated enough to overcome his weak stamina.

The rotten fish eyes? They were sharp and keen, like there was a reversal. Some people would shrink back when facing it.

"...Hum hum."

When would this inferior soldier collapse? Instructor Kaesul kept giving commands and eventually gave up. He cleared his throat and spoke while avoiding Grid's gaze.

"You have mastered these drills. How hard did you practice? Go back to your spot."

"Yes!"

Grid responded vigorously and rejoined the ranks. Honestly, he didn't feel good. As the duke of a kingdom, he was being insulted by a trainer and tested on an extreme level? It was shameful. But this wasn't a situation to hold onto his pride.

'Right now, I'm only a level 23 warrior.'

Yes, this was currently the past. He had to conform to this situation in order to pass the 31st island.

"I will conduct the test from now on!"

After around three hours of training, the test was started. The result was amazing. Blue Falcon Grid was ranked number one in the test. Compared to the other reservists, he maintained his concentration and performed the drills of the instructor completely and thoroughly.

'Did he eat something wrong?'

The instructor and assistants were bewildered.

Camp building exercises. It was about climbing up a mountain behind the training ground and making a shelter.

"It's just shovelling."

"How hard is it to dig a pit?"

The reservists holding one shovel thought it was easy. However, Grid knew the significance of building a camp. It was to provide cover from enemy attacks and to protect their teammates.

'It isn't just digging a pit. It needs to have defensive power.'

Grid judged and looked carefully at the mountain. Then he found a place where there were vines and bushes between two trees. He approached it and started digging. The other reservists laughed at him.

'The trees and bushes will interfere with the digging action.'

'It will take a while to dig a pit.'

'Noob, no wonder why he's being ignored by the instructor.'

He would receive the lowest points. The reservists made fun of Grid and started digging at the ground. Their digging pace was incredible. It was obvious that they wanted to finish this tiresome training.

On the other hand, Grid's digging speed was slow.

'Digging too quickly is exhausting.'

Grid had served in the Korean army for more than a year, so he was used to labor. For Grid, digging was one of his few specialties.

'Digging works the heart and muscles because it leans on the upper body.'

If he didn't want to collapse from tiredness, it was more effective to do it slowly and steadily.

Puk!

His right hand grasped the handle while his left hand grasped the bottom portion of the shovel. His speed was very slow compared to others, but that only lasted for a short period of time. The speed at which Grid dug the ground was three times faster than the others. The others became exhausted while Grid maintained his pace.

"Hah... Overcoming low stamina with know-how."

The instructor and assistants observing the reservists couldn't keep their eyes off Grid. Grid's digging skill was the best. It was enough to remind them of a professional digger. It was natural that Grid would take the first place in the camp building test.

'Good.'

Grid's face brightened as he erased a few pathetic memories from the past. His high pride after fighting with Kraugel became more robust.

Weapons testing.

The reservists, who learned the basic skills of handling spears, swords, and bows, stood in front of a scarecrow.

Instructor Kaesul shouted, "First is the spear!"

At the same time.

Blue, red, and green dots covered the bodies of the scarecrows in front of the reservists. The blue dots were the size of a 500 yen coin, while the red and green dots were like billiard balls.

"Over the next three minutes, the three types of dots will emerge alternately. You will get one point when striking the blue dot, 5 points for the red dot, and 10 points for the green dot. You will pass if you get at least 50 points in three minutes."

In the past, this was a test that Grid had never succeeded in.

The dots with the three colors flashed too quickly before disappearing, and there was no regularity. In the past, Grid couldn't exert much control over the spear and wasn't able to gain 50 points in three minutes.

Now it was different.

Cheek!

Grid moved his right foot back and wielded the spear. He'd hunted with the strongest spearman Pon, and got a look at the spear techniques and movements.

More than anything, the current Grid...

'I am a person who understands the divine spear.'

Once he understood the structure of a weapon, he naturally realized how to use it.

Flash!

Grid's eyes saw the signal in front of him.

Beeek-!

"...!"

The instructors, assistants and even reservists were surprised by the sound and turned their attention to Grid. Grid had stabbed precisely at the blue dot on the scarecrow. Everyone who saw it were shocked beyond admiration, but Grid wasn't satisfied.

'Indeed, my agility is too low.'

The speed of the spear was slow and it wasn't very precise. He tried to aim at the center of the blue dot, but it deviated to the left. Grid was complaining when he suddenly realized.

'Kraugel wouldn't complain like me.'

He would overcome the ordeal, no matter how bad his condition.

'Yes, I don't have the time for regrets.'

He concentrated harder and tried to use the spear to the best of his ability.

Peeeeeeong!

The spear let out a sound again as it struck. The instructor couldn't close his mouth when he saw that Grid once again hit the blue spot.

'No, what's up with him today?'

He knew the Blue Falcon. He seemed like a completely different person.

Diririri-

After a while, Grid's scarecrow scoreboard achieved 100 points.

"What...?"

The instructor turned pale. 100 points in 1 minute and 23 seconds. Grid set a record that even the most experienced knight apprentices couldn't beat. The instructor couldn't tell if this was a dream or reality.

A notification window appeared in front of Grid.

[You have set a new record in Patrian's reserve forces training Spear Test!]

[The rare skill 'Spear Shot' has been acquired as a hidden reward.]

[Spear Shot Lv.1]

Throws a spear that deals 600% physical damage to the target. The enemy will fall down.

* You must reclaim the spear in the thrown window. If you fail to retrieve it within 30 seconds, you will lose ownership of the spear.

Mana Consumption: 150

Skill Cooldown Time: 1 minute

"Wow."

Grid was astonished by the completely unexpected benefit.

It was a hassle to recover the thrown spear, but compared to Pagma's Swordsmanship, the skill cooldown time was very short and the damage was also good. In addition, it was a medium range skill that would be useful in many ways.

'This... Will I be able to get rare skills in the sword test and archery test?'

Grid's motivation grew even more.

Chapter 367

'It isn't bad to have one spear.'

Spear Shot.

It was a skill that used the concept of 'throwing the spear,' so it was somewhat tricky for general warriors to use. The slightest slip meant they could lose their weapon. But Grid was different. There were many ways for him to retrieve the thrown spear using the God Hands. He was confident that he could use Spear Shot properly.

"The test has finished!"

While Grid was feeling satisfied with his new skill, all of the reservists ended their test. The average score of the reservists was 50 points, and it took a full three minutes. It was a level that was barely above the cut line. There were four people who failed.

Grid's score of 100 points in 1 minute and 23 seconds became even more outstanding.

"Hrmm... Next is the swordsmanship test."

Instructor Kaesul was still stunned. The sudden change and growth of Blue Falcon Grid was unbelievable, even when he saw it directly with his own eyes. While Instructor Kaesul was feeling confused, Grid and the reservists followed the assistants. Each of them stood in front of a new scarecrow.

The scarecrows had solid lines on them.

The instructor explained.

"If you cut along the solid red line, you will get 5 points. If you stab it, you will lose 5 points. Stabbing the green dot will earn you 5 points, cutting it will lose you 5 points. Stabbing the blue line will earn you 10 points, cutting it will lose you 10 points. You will pass if you get 50 points in three minutes."

It was a bit more complicated compared to the spearmanship test. Grid was lacking in the past and had barely gained any points from the three colored solid lines. In particular, the weapon that Grid normally used was a greatsword, and it wasn't effective when it came to stabbing. This was the biggest cause of his low score.

However, after becoming Pagma's Descendant, Grid had used Kill hundreds of times. Now he could stab with a greatsword. The continuously intersecting solid lines and dots? Compared to Piaro and Kraugel's movements, they were trivial enough to make him yawn.

"G-Grid passed...!"

100 points in 39 seconds. Grid was like one with the sword as he obtained this score. Instructor Kaesul and the assistants' mouths gaped open at the sight.

'He has the makings of a knight!'

'He was just acting as a Blue Falcon until now!'

They didn't know why he was acting. Anyway, they had to admit it. Grid had the best qualities. On the other hand, Grid wasn't feeling inspired at all. He had fought against countless strong enemies, so striking a scarecrow was just boring.

[You have set a new record in Patrian's reserve forces training Swordsmanship Test!]

[The rare skill 'Continuous Stab' has been acquired.]

[Continuous Stab Lv. 1]

Quickly stab the target 5 times.

Every stab that hits will deal 100%, 120%, 150%, 190%, and 240% of your attack power respectively.

Mana Consumption: 300

Skill Cooldown Time: 3 minutes.

It was a multiple hits skill. It could be defended against or avoided, but it was useful against sluggish enemies, as it was a type of skill that contained explosive power.

'Yes, it's weaker than Kill.'

It was a good substitute skill for when Kill was on cooldown.

'Good.'

In the past, he felt like it was hell. Now he was getting great rewards from the reservist training, so he wanted to dance with joy.

Shoot!

Grid and the reservists stood side by side with a target 10m in front of them. The archery test was about to begin.

'This test is to get 50 points with 10 arrows.'

The target was divided into 10 points, 8 points, 6 points, 4 points and 2 points. Tension filled Grid's face.

'In the past, I couldn't even hit the target with one arrow.'

To be honest, he wasn't very confident. In the absence of Bow Mastery, the hit rate of the arrows was proportional to agility.

'But.'

He had watched Jishuka shoot for more than a year. He'd made hundreds of bows for Jishuka and the soldiers of Reidan.

'I'm not a complete newbie to archery.'

Believe in himself.

'10 meters. It is only 10 meters away. I can focus enough.'

Every time he made a bow and tested the performance, the target distance was 100 meters. Grid took a deep breath and watched the center of the round target. He was aiming for 10 points.

'I will be sure to acquire a rare skill!'

He felt hope as the distance to the target was too short. He could do it if he concentrated.

"Hmm?"

Grid was trying to reproduce Jishuka's posture when he frowned. It was because the quality of the training arrows for the test was very low.

'Did beginner level 3 or lower blacksmiths make this?'

The shaft was twisted and the weight balance was off.

'Anyway, the reservist training environment is disappointing in reality and the game.'

The shaft should be leveled and the balance between the arrowhead and shaft adjusted. The weight of the arrowheads should also be balanced. An unbalanced arrow wouldn't fly far, no matter how hard they were shot.

'A material with a heavy weight can cover it to some extent, but this arrow is made from the worst material.'

The legendary blacksmith, Grid. As Pagma's Descendant, he had made over 100,000 arrows. He might've lost the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship skill, but his eye for arrows hadn't disappeared.

'I can win, even without the power of items.'

Determination flashed in Grid's eyes.

"Grid, what is it?"

Instructor Kaesul's attitude towards Grid had toned down. He didn't call Grid 'Blue Falcon' or curse at him. Grid unabashedly demanded, "The arrows I've received are in a very bad state. Can I have a look at the ones in your hands?"

"What?"

Instructor Kaesul was very embarrassed.

"Look. The structure of the arrow is so simple that anyone can easily make it, but it doesn't just depend on the arrow when being fired. A novice who doesn't know anything touching them, of course the arrows will be bad. If the arrows are a problem, I will give you new arrows."

Instructor Kaesul gave a signal. Then an assistant brought new arrows to Grid. But the state of the arrows were just as bad.

'It might be different if I had the Bow Mastery skill.'

Grid was determined and asked again.

"Let me handle the arrows myself."

"Geez, he isn't a blacksmith."

"It seems he's become arrogant just because he gained some skills."

The assistants complained. They were dissatisfied with Grid, who was slowing down their schedule. However, the response of Instructor Kaesul was surprisingly favorable.

"I understand. If you can, then try it."

The reason why Instructor Kaesul felt contempt towards Grid before wasn't just because he was incompetent. Grid didn't try to overcome his incompetence and had an attitude of hating everything.

Now Grid was overflowing with enthusiasm. The instructor didn't want to pour cold water on that positive change.

"Thank you."

Grid left the group of reservists. While the other reservists did the test, Grid started to repair the arrows.

'I would prefer to cut the shaft thinly and make it flatter.'

Grid currently had 0 dexterity. He wasn't able to exert his full ability just by relying on experience and theory alone.

'I could break the shaft. Forget my greed and focus on the balance.'

Grid picked up a stone that was three times smaller than the arrowhead. Then he tore a few branches and tied it to the back of the arrowhead.

'Good.'

The arrows, which were so light they couldn't go against wind resistance, now had a moderate weight. Grid smiled with delight and pulled some of the feathers behind the shaft. It was an extreme measure to balance the left and right side of the shaft.

'It's crude, but better than before.'

A notification window popped up as Grid tried to improve the curve of the shaft.

[The options of the 'Reserve Troops' Arrow' has changed.]

[Reserve Troops' Arrow]

Attack Power: 1~2 Accuracy: +2

Someone saw what was wrong with the arrow and fixed it.

The workmanship is poor, but the performance of the arrows has improved. It will fly quite far when fired well.

Weight: 0.01

“Now it purely depends on my abilities.”

Grid spoke to an assistant and took deep breaths on the shooting range.

Kkirik!

He remained tense, but there was no hesitation in his actions. The bowstring was drawn back.

‘Remember when I test the performance of my bows.’

He followed the posture of an expert archer. It was a posture he had seen from Jishuka since the days of the Malacus raid. He would be able to hit a target 10 meters away.

‘Now!’

Grid stopped breathing and aimed the arrow tip. At that moment, the arrow burst out with a cheerful sound and flew away. It fell in a parabola and succeeded in penetrating the target. It was 6 points. He was aiming for the center, but it deviated to the right.

‘Then.’

Grid aimed more to the left of the first shot. But he failed to read the wind direction in his rush. The direction of the wind changed and the arrows fell down. It was another 6 points. His opportunity to acquire a rare skill was flying away.

The Grid in the past would’ve cursed with irritation.

But.

‘It’s still okay.’

Grid was calm. The reservist training included sparring, so the level of the participants needed to be similar. In other words, the power of the 50 reservists currently participating in the training were around level 20 like Grid. It would be difficult for them to hit the targets with all 10 arrows.

‘The record will be for the level 20 reservists in the past. It’s still possible.’

He couldn’t give up. This time, Grid raised his concentration to the maximum, read the wind direction, and fired the arrow.

Puok!

10 points. There was no difficulty after he got it once.

Puk puk puk!

Grid completely grabbed the feeling and got 10 points eight times in a row. The result.

“Grid has 92 points!”

[You have set a new record in Patrian’s reserve forces training Archery Test!]

Chapter 368

“G-Grid has 92 points!?”

[You have set a new record in Patrian's reserve forces training Archery Test!]

[Your understanding of archery, the bow, and arrows is higher than your ability.]

[An ability correction will be applied to the hidden compensation.]

[The normal skill 'Bow Mastery' has been acquired.]

[Bow Mastery]

Beginner: Lv.1

You can handle all types of bows.

When equipped with a bow, attack power and hit rate will increase by 4%, and the probability of a critical hit will increase in proportion to agility.

Current Critical Hit Probability Increase: 0%.

'Bow Mastery!'

An archer had been described many times as a class that exerted a unique physical attack power. The reason? It was thanks to the Bow Mastery skill. Bow Mastery had the highest attack and accuracy rate of all masteries, and was the source of an archer's power.

'I never thought I would get Bow Mastery.'

Grid was strong at a distance because he had Pagma's Swordsmanship, Transcend, and Transcended Link, as well as Magic Missile. But that was a story when he had enough mana. The skill cooldown time was also a problem.

'On the other hand, a bow guarantees steady attacks if there are enough arrows.'

Grid referred to Piaro's stats distribution when increasing his agility. For him, Bow Mastery was a very good passive skill.

'If I can get Weapons Mastery as well...'

The foundation for further strengthening would be completed. Grid's body shivered as he thought about it.

The stats of the level 23 Grid were a mess, but the level of the reserve troops participating in the training were only level 20. Grid was at the top of the rankings and won in the sparring. He completely overpowered his opponent.

"The top graduate, Grid!"

Clap clap clap!

The training graduation ceremony. Instructor Kaesul called out his name and the assistants and reservists clapped. Grid had shown enough during the training to be respected by everyone.

'Not Pagma's Descendant...'

'Shin Youngwoo' was the one acknowledged. He was beyond thrilled by his own growth. Grid smiled and walked up to the stage. Then...

[You have taken the top position in the training of Patrian's reserve forces!]

[You have obtained the first prize 'Senior Reserve Forces Citation'.]

[Senior Reserve Forces Citation]

You have become the role model for the Patrian reservists.

I want to thank you for your enthusiasm during training.

-Earl Ashur-

"???"

Surely that wasn't it? Grid was expecting more from the compensation, so confusion filled his face. Instructor Kaesul smiled at him and said.

"It is an honor to receive a citation from Earl Ashur, lord of Patrian, and a great magician of the continent. It is an heirloom that can be passed on to your descendants."

"This nonsense... There isn't a separate compensation?"

The moment that Grid asked this question.

[Mission success!]

[You have cleared the 31st island.]

[You have acquired 600 challenger points for the mission success.]

[Your level has returned to normal.]

[The skills Spear Shot, Continuous Stab, and Bow Mastery have been acquired.]

Shaaaaah-

The fortified city of Patrien, Instructor Kaesul, the assistants, and the reservists. The perfect reproduction of the 31st island scattered like a mirage. Grid was left alone. He changed his mind about tearing up Earl Ashur's citation and throwing it away.

"...It isn't bad to keep it as a memento."

It was the first award he received in his life. His personal feelings towards Earl Ashur had already been resolved to a certain extent, so Grid placed the citation on one side of his inventory.

Reidan went through a big change while Grid was away.

First of all, the monsters around the yellow mithril mine dried up. It was thanks to the great success of the knights who raised their level in Winston and returned. Reidan was now able to extract the yellow mithril in earnest. The yellow mithril caused a remarkable growth in the alchemy technology of Reidan, thanks to the fairy dust. It finally reached a level where alchemy could be combined with blacksmithing.

Secondly, the magical talents of the 'Ul Clan' that Grid rescued from the empire had blossomed from the steady education. Reidan now had 930 magicians. Among them was Princess Hwarin of the Ul Clan, whose ability was unrivalled. The unique rated passive skill, 'party's magic power increased by 30%' was a treasure for the magicians.

Thirdly, the farming area of Reidan extended to the Altes Mountains. This would increase food production by three times.

Lauel was confused, 'There is a limited number of farmers, so how has Piaro developed agriculture to this degree? Surely he didn't do all that work alone?'

Lauel wasn't yet aware that Aura Master Hurent and Pet Master Nyangmong were being held by Piaro.

Fourthly, a Rebecca Temple started to be built under Pope Damian's authority. The Rebecca Temple would give a big blessing to the city and foster healers, so the population of Reidan would increase dramatically.

Fifthly, the Rebecca's Daughters candidates brought by Damian were incorporated into Reidan. Piaro trained them to become the best farmers in the future. No, they were going to be the paladin unit.

Lauel was worried about the fifth point.

"Is this too excessive?"

Rebecca's Daughters were the absolute force of the Rebecca Church. It wasn't an exaggeration to say that without Rebecca's Daughters, there would be no Rebecca Church. The Rebecca Church wouldn't be convinced by Damian's compassion for the candidates.

"You might get kicked out of the pope position before you can finish your term. Your tenure needs to last in order to help Grid."

The power of the pope was mighty. It was best to aim for remaining pope for the rest of his life. However, Damian might lose his position just because of a few girls. Lauel felt like he was stupid.

But Damian was stubborn.

"The reason I became pope was because I hoped a second Isabel, Rin and Luna wouldn't be born. You can't imagine it. The pain of the young girls who are stuck in a facility, undergoing constant brainwashing and hard training... Being used as a weapon for all their lives, it isn't possible for me to tell you how harsh it is."

"Hrmm."

Lauel was someone who would use and slaughter players to achieve his goal. He couldn't understand Damian, who empathized with NPCs. But he tried to understand. Grid was close to NPCs like Irene, and had a child called Lord.

Lauel had a duty to take into account Damian's heart.

"...To be honest, I still don't understand you and Grid. However, I respect it. I will find a way to solidify your position that will be shaken by this incident."

Damian's nervous face relaxed.

"Thank you!"

'Contact with the vampire cities has been disconnected and the work I have to worry about is growing.' Lauel's dark circles thickened.

All the islands in the 30's reproduced the challenger's past trials. Situations where the challenger died a lot or failed a quest many times appeared sequentially. The rankers were armed with excellent talents and skills. For those who didn't play an easy game, the islands in the 30's were a disaster.

But Grid was different. The trials that Grid suffered in the past, he could now easily overcome.

[You have entered the 40th island.]

[This is a save point. Do you want to save your position?]

[You have been registered. When you enter the Behen Archipelago later on, you will start from the 40th island.]

"That is amazing. It's really wonderful."

Sticks kept praising Grid. He wasn't able to overcome his trials, and he was impressed by the fact that Grid grew in real time.

"What's the big deal about catching orcs and goblins?"

Grid responded with a smile and checked the time.

'I should rest for a while.'

A total of one month had passed since he entered the Behen Archipelago. It took longer than expected, so Grid needed to manage his stamina. After six hours of game connection, he adjusted his condition by logging out, eating, and exercising.

'The harvest that I obtained from the islands in the 30's is great.'

Apart from Spear Shot, Continuous Strike, and Bow Mastery, he gained 7 strength and stamina, as well as 5 agility and intelligence.

The rewards earned from the quest were cumulative, demonstrating the effect of two elixirs. What were the rewards waiting for him on the remaining islands?

Behen Archipelago. There was no place more appropriate for growth.

'It would be good to use it as a training place for the guild members before it is cleansed.'

The Tzedakah Guild, Yura, and Peak Sword were skilled enough to reach the 20th island. If they could collect a few elixirs with the challenger points, Overgeared would become even stronger.

Ttiring~

Shin Youngwoo was thinking about this when a message arrived on his phone.

-A mail has arrived.

'Is it the periodic report from Lauel?'

Youngwoo stopped running and opened the mail.

The third week of September.

The alchemy facility has successfully studied yellow mithril, producing fairy dust.

* As soon as Grid returns, be prepared to try a fusion of alchemy and blacksmithing techniques.

A magic unit has been constructed around Princess Hwarin of the UI Clan. Piaro has expanded the farming area.....

It is now the 24th day of Satisfy time since the vampire expedition entered the 9th city. I have lost touch with them.

"...!"

Youngwoo's expression hardened as he read the contents of the mail. Marie Rose. The name of a transcendent being penetrated his mind.

'It can't be...!'

Youngwoo rushed back along the jogging course he had just run. He was breathing roughly, but didn't easily collapse.

Chapter 369

Most gamers liked to dream, but they became frustrated by their talent and environmental limitations, causing them to abandon their dreams.

From a general point of view, Grid was also like this. However, Grid obtained an opportunity after hard work. He had been trying his best ever since becoming Pagma's Descendant.

He wanted to escape his poverty, wanted to show off, and then wanted to overcome his inferiority. Now he didn't want to lose what he had obtained, and also to protect his precious ones. His aspirations were refined in a more upright direction.

He couldn't sit still while his colleagues were at risk.

"Login."

Behen Archipelago, the 40th island.

Sticks was drinking a blue coconut.

"Why did you come back so soon this time?"

Grid cut right to the point.

"Instant dun... No, can you forcefully enter a place where access is limited, like the Behen Archipelago?"

No. Anyone would give that answer. But Grid was full of hope. Sticks. He was called a sage because he accumulated more knowledge and wisdom than others. Indeed, Sticks met Grid's expectations.

"There is one way. But it is likely to fail and I can only try it twice a year."

"Can you give it a try for me?"

"...Can I ask about the situation?"

Grid was his benefactor and had infinite appeal. But Sticks couldn't blindly help without knowing the situation.

"There are people who I want to protect."

Grid gave a clear and brief explanation. His eyes were deep, warm and bright. Sticks didn't inquire anymore after hearing the explanation.

"First, let's get out of here."

Sticks got up from his seat. The purification of the Contaminated Behen Archipelago? It was better for Grid to solve his problem first before returning. Grid would be able to concentrate more.

The members of the vampire expedition were as followed. Pon, Regas, Faker, Jishuka, Yura, Huroi, Peak Sword, Vantner, Toban, Zednos, Ibellin, and Toon. They were the elites of Overgeared.

Since raiding Elfin Stone and growing from the 10th vampire city, they were filled with confidence. With the exception of Marie Rose, who Grid told them to be careful of, they were convinced that there weren't any vampires they couldn't raid.

Now they greatly regretted challenging the 9th city.

"Dammit, I'm lost at this age."

The 9th city was a castle. The castle was several times larger than Reidan, the second largest city in the Eternal Kingdom. Traps were set up everywhere, the corridors were like labyrinths, and the Overgeared members unintentionally became scattered.

"Ka~kung."

Pon and Vantner were separated from the group. They were moving between a forest of pillars when a playful woman's voice was heard from behind them. The surprised Pon and Vantner swung their weapons, but they only hurt the pillars and felt a pain from their wrists.

“Oh! This nasty woman!”

Vantner’s bald head turned red. He was like an octopus, so Pon burst out laughing. Vantner’s head became even redder.

"This situation isn't funny!"

“You should look in the mirror. It’s impossible not to laugh.”

“This bastard!”

Vantner and Pon were still at odds. It happened when the agitated Vantner was going to grab Pon’s collar.

"If you're bored, then play with me."

The playful voice of a woman was heard from the ceiling instead of behind a pillar. Pon was still being held by the collar, but stabbed upwards with his spear. Vantner let go and grabbed his axe.

They leapt towards the vampire baron, Ran.

Puuok!

The sharp fingernails moved with high agility and scratched the chests of the two men.

“Kuk...!”

“Oh!”

Pon and Vantner’s faces became irritated at their failed counterattack.

"Huhuhut~ silly Brothers."

Ran hid herself in the darkness and taunted them, causing Vantner to grumble.

“Wouldn’t Faker be a match for that woman?”

“I agree. If Faker was here, then we would be able to easily catch that woman instead of suffering like this.”

"That's what I wanted to say!"

The two of them couldn’t work together and the number of wounds gradually increased. Ran’s laughter echoed in the darkness.

“Do you think this body will be hurt by that small dagger?”

A large hall on the first floor of the castle. Faker had fallen into a trap and was fighting a vampire alone. Like his name, Mountain held an unusually large weapon and was covered with armor. The body of the vampire baron was as big as his name. He was at least 3m tall.

‘Amazing.’

His throwing skill wasn't enough to get past the defense. Rare tension appeared on Faker's face.

"This is the worst."

A corridor to the north of the castle's first floor. Jishuka and Zednos was isolated in the middle of it without any cover. There were vampire soldiers coming from both sides of the corridor.

"We can't let them get here."

"I know."

Jishuka was an archer and Zednos was a magician. They were vulnerable when it came to close combat. They shot arrows and magic to the other side of the hall to prevent vampires from approaching...

"Damn humans!"

The number of angry vampires didn't show signs of diminishing. Zednos saw that they were gradually narrowing the distance and clicked his tongue.

"The average level is 20 levels higher than the vampires of the 10th city?"

"...I agree."

The two people felt desperate.

"Is everybody safe?"

Regas, Huroi, Peak Sword, Toban, Ibellin, and Toon. They were at the forefront of the party and was move towards the 2nd floor when they activated the 'Teleportation Trap.' It was impossible for them to confirm if the colleagues left on the 1st floor were safe.

"I can't see their health and location."

"I think they are in danger."

"No, Regas. This is why I told you to let Faker go first. Why were you in the front when you don't have a searching ability?"

"...I'm sorry. I was so motivated that I moved ahead."

"Let's go down to the 1st floor instead of blaming anyone."

Peak Sword. He used to be the guild master of the Silver Knights Guild. When he was serious, he showed a high leadership and judgment ability. The others were well aware of this fact and followed Peak Sword without saying anything.

However, there were people blocking the path to the 1st floor. They were three vampire barons.

"...This place is great."

In the 10th city, one or two vampire barons emerged as intermediate bosses. However, the 9th city contained an absurd number of vampire barons.

"Draw Sword, Annihilate."

Sakak-!

Peak Sword initiated the battle.

Demon Slayer, Yura. Her level was 247. The level that the general public took two years to obtain was achieved in just seven months. It was the result of the know-how from her 5th place ranking, a legendary class, and the best hunting ground that was the vampire cities.

The present Yura was strong enough to compare with the main powers of Overgeared. However, her level wasn't enough to deal with a vampire viscount alone.

"Is this your limit?"

A viscount was far stronger than the vampire barons. The viscount, Tiramet, looked down at the kneeling Yura. He was overflowing with magic power and his infinite physical strength made him arrogant.

"I was a bit nervous about the dirty bullets you shoot, but it isn't interesting. A Demon Slayer is just this much."

Yura asked Tiramet, who had spoken in a ridiculing tone.

"You know about a Demon Slayer?"

"It's impossible for me to not know."

Tiramet raised his silver hair. Then he revealed a deep wound on his forehead.

"I was wounded by that guy."

His killing intent rose. Tiramet's hostility exploded as he thought about the past.

"Woman who inherited that power. Today I will thoroughly step on you."

Peeng!

Like most vampires, Tiramet was good at magic and physical fighting. He used a style of fighting that weakened the enemy with magic and then ended it with physical attacks.

"I won't be hit by the same thing again."

Yura cancelled the magic by shooting a purification bullet and immediately opened the distance. She narrowly avoided a flying kick and fired a bullet again.

Tatang!

It hit. The bullet accurately hit between Tiramet's eyes. It was a great marksmanship. However, Yura's complexion was still pale. She was only level 247, so she couldn't deal a big blow to a named level 360 boss.

"Kuk...! Girl!"

A Demon Slayer's attack was a deadly poison to demonkin. No matter the level difference, Tiramet felt a great deal of pain, so his anger soared into the sky.

Peeng!Peeng!

Kwaang!

Every time he waved his hand, black magic power struck to constrict Yura's behavior.

"I'll break you!"

A smile broke out on Tiramet's face because he was confident in his combat abilities. His kick flew out like lightning and aimed accurately at Yura's face.

Peeok!

A sound rang out. Tiramet was convinced it was the sound of fragile human bones being broken.

"Kukuk...! Huh?"

Tiramet stopped laughing while imagining brains pouring out of the dying human. He felt doubts.

'What is this?'

Where did the golden shield that appeared in front of his leg come from?

'What is this damn girl...!?'

The moment that Tiramet backed away.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

A storm of blue-black energy blades flew and covered Tiramet. Tiramet reflexively used a defense spell and was astonished.

'Strong...!'

It was a level of damage that couldn't be defended against. Tiramet's body became wounded as he moved backwards.

"What bastard?"

Immediately after the storm of blades finished, the outraged Tiramet tried to counterattack. He was about to use magic when he stopped. Four golden hands came flying over and bound his arms and legs!

"What is this...?"

Tiramet struggled to shake off the golden hands. But this wasn't an easy task. He had the advantage in power, but the dexterity of the fingers meant he couldn't easily get rid of them. At that moment, a gap was revealed for a few seconds.

Someone was flying above Tiramet's head. It was a black haired human.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

It was Grid.

"Linked Kill."

Chapter 370

Elfin Stone, master of the 13th city, was an earl, while the master of cities in the 10s were viscounts. Yura was well aware of the strength of a viscount type vampire.

'At least five of the elites of Overgeared must be present to raid them.'

It might be possible if she completed all her class quests and went over level 300, but she couldn't do it alone right now. Yura judged this and focused on survival. She fought defensively in order to buy as much time as possible for her scattered colleagues to return.

But Tiramet's combat power was too destructive. He was stronger than the other viscounts she had met.

'He met a former Demon Slayer and survived.'

It was clearly a unique event, meaning...

'Named boss!'

Pepeng!

Pepepepeng!

"Ah."

Yura avoided the bleeding magic, but her range of actions was constrained. Soon after, she was faced with a kick flying at her.

'I can't avoid it.'

She would lose at least a third of her health. The key was to not allow any linked attacks. Yura calculated the angle and deliberately moved her body. The moment she was hit, she would be blown back to the rear pillar and planned to use that gap to regain her posture.

At that moment.

Syuk~

Chaaeng!

A shining golden shield came flying and protected Yura from Tiramet's kick.

“...!”

Yura’s normally always calm eyes widened. She knew who the owner of this golden shield was.

‘Grid!’

Why was he here when he should be in the Behen Archipelago? How did he enter, and why did he only show up in important moments to help her?

‘I will keep depending on you if this happens.’

Even Yura’s sad expression was beautiful.

The True Blood vampires were divided into two types.

There were the nine children born directly by Shizo Beriache, and those made using their blood. Viscount Tiramet was a direct descendant. He was at least three times stronger than the usual made vampire viscounts, so it was right to call him a quasi-earl.

He was being threatened by a human? It didn’t make sense. Unless his opponent had the title of a legend!

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship, Linked Kill.”

Puk.

Puk puk puk!

“Kuaaaaak!”

Tiramet’s body was pierced five times by a blue-black energy blade, causing him to scream terribly. The black haired human who suddenly appeared, his attack power was devastating.

“You!”

The angry Tiramet waved his hand, causing his magic power to move. It was the manifestation of transfusion magic that hit all targets and took away their health.

‘A non-targeted skill.’

The black haired man, Grid’s, eyes changed. He withdrew the greatsword that was inserted into Tiramet’s chest, while using the footwork of Link to avoid the blood magic. It was a remarkable accomplishment, considering the timing and speed of the magic. Of course, the aid of the Slaughterer’s Eye Patch was also great.

“You rat bastard!”

Tiramet shouted as his health went down and he punched out. But Grid’s skill deployment was quicker, since he was already completing the footsteps of Link.

“Link.”

A little while ago, Grid had stabbed Tiramet's chest rather than his head. The head would receive more damage, but he wasn't able to hit the enemy's head with 100% accuracy with his current skills.

On the other hand, Link was different. The range of the slashes was much wider than a stabbing attack.

"This will hurt."

Pit!

Pipipipit!

"Kuaaaaak!"

At the same time as Grid's proclamation, Tiramet's face was mangled. Tiramet was shaken by the terrible pain and pulled out a trump card.

"Blood Tornado!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Magic power moved around Tiramet like a whirlwind. Grid's body was swept into the air by it.

"I'll kill you!"

Kwa kwang!

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Five blood missiles flew towards Grid.

"God Hands!"

Syuok!Syuok!

Two golden hands came flying at Grid's call. They spread open their palms and blocked the Blood Missile, but stiffened. The three remaining Blood Missiles hit Grid's head and chest.

Pepepeng!

"Cough!"

There was an explosion and Grid coughed up blood. Tiramet confirmed it and laughed with excitement.

"Kuhahat! You're quite strong, but you're still human! There's a large physical difference between you and I! A human body is like dry leaves, while the body of a True Blood vampire is like steel!"

This was true, but Tiramet was also hurt by his wounds. The damage from the human destroyed common sense and half his health was consumed.

'But!'

He had vampire magic. Tiramet smiled and aimed magic at both Grid and Yura.

"My body is a stone."

“...!”

Tiramet’s eyes widened. The human received three Blood Missiles and was far from death!

"Why is a human so durable...?"

"Magic Missile."

Jiing.

Peeng!

“Cough!”

Magic Missile (Enhanced) Lv. 2. The legendary spell, which had become more powerful in the Behen Archipelago, accurately penetrated Tiramet’s heart. Tiramet thought it was ludicrous.

‘I was hit by a Magic Missile?’

Why was a magician so tough? No, why did he use a sword so well if he was a magician? Tiramet was feeling astonished when Grid appeared above him, drinking a health potion.

Chaaeng!

The blue-black greatsword struck like a lightning bolt! The momentum was great, but it was easily caught by Tiramet’s left hand.

"This body won’t be caught by the same pattern!"

Tiramet stretched out his right hand. He grabbed Grid’s neck and pushed him into a pillar.

“Blood Burn!”

Peeng!

Grid’s body was pushed into the pillar and swept away by the explosion of blood.

“Grid!”

Yura’s face paled. No matter how good his items, stats, and class, she was worried that Grid wouldn’t be safe from this attack. She had forgotten for a moment. Grid was someone who fought against Kraugel.

"Already making me use Doran’s ring."

Grid’s appearance was moderately fine. But his expression wasn’t good.

‘I still have a long way to go.’

Kraugel wouldn’t have been caught by the neck when the attack was blocked.

‘He would’ve aimed for the head with the first Linked Kill.’

Was Grid frustrated after knowing he was lacking so much, despite going to the Behen Archipelago? No. Just like Kraugel and Yura, Grid was now aiming to be the best. He couldn’t be so easily frustrated.

“Let’s start properly.”

"This guy keeps on speaking nonsense... Hah?"

Tiramet, who was laughing with a relaxed expression, hurriedly moved from his position. Two golden hands appeared in the air. The hands could fly on their own through the air with weapons?

‘Artifacts that can be used for both offense and defense, and move by themselves...! It is big!’

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

The God Hands’ Sword Mastery level had grown from the beginner to intermediate level. It was the result of Grid repeatedly using them in the Behen Archipelago. They wielded the Ideal Dagger, the Doppelganger’s Greatsword, and fired Magic Missiles to tie up Tiramet’s feet for a while.

But it wasn’t enough to drive Tiramet to the defensive.

“What can you do with such shameful artifacts?”

Jjejeong!Jjejejeok!

Tiramet grasped the trajectory of the two God Hands, avoided them and reached for Grid.

"Die!"

Peeng!

He fired Blood Fire, which dealt both fire damage proportional to his health. Grid faced the heat and revealed his power for the first time.

“Blackening.”

[Your black magic power has increased.]

[You don’t have any black magic power. It will be replaced with demonic power.]

[While Blackening is activated, your species will change to half-demon.]

[As a half demon, your maximum health is reduced by 50%. Your attack power, magic power, and agility will increase by 20% each.]

[All attacks will be converted to the black magic attribute.]

“Quick Movements.”

[The skill attached to the Ideal Dagger equipped to the God Hand has now been activated.]

[Your evasion rate is increased by 30% and your agility is doubled for 1 minute.]

“Blacksmith’s Rage.”

[Attack power will increase by 25% and attack speed will increase by 40% for 35 seconds.]

Then...

[The items have successfully combined!]

[The combination time of Failure and Iyarugt will last 2 minutes.]

The reason that Grid only used two God Hands during the battle wasn't to make fun of Tiramet. He recognized and appreciated Tiramet's strength, so he had used the Item Combination skill with two God Hands just before entering battle.

Clink!

The two God Hands flew here and gave Grid a new weapon. Based on his increased agility, Grid evaded the Blood Fire and gave orders to each God Hand.

"Open. Magic Missile."

Syu syu syu syu syuk!

Pepepeng!

The hands scattered all over the place fired a Magic Missile at Tiramet, making it difficult for Tiramet to avoid.

"This technique... Heok?"

Tiramet cried out as he deployed Blood Shields to defend against the Magic Missiles. The black haired man, who was hard to define as a human anymore, was coming closer?

"Fling Blood!"

"Continuous Stab!"

Puok!

Jjejeong!Puk!

Chaaeng!Jjejeong!

Tiramet wasn't ordinary. Using the Fling Blood skill, he was able to boost his stats and defend against three of Grid's five attacks. Grid judged that he was unable to achieve five combos in this situation and used Blood Cry.

Kakiing.

"Kuk... No, that's Elfin Stone's!"

Tiramet's eyes widened. Grid saw an opportunity and chopped at Tiramet's shoulder with Pagma's Swordsmanship, Pinnacle. From here, Iyarugt's power activated properly.

[The 3rd combo has been achieved!]

[The damage done to the target will increase by 200% for 1 second.]

"Kill."

[Critical!]

“Urgh...”

Tiramet’s face wrinkled as he was affected. Yet he tried to fight back, proving his strength. It wasn’t comparable to Elfin Stone, but Tiramet far exceeded the weakened Hell Gao. Grid was expecting Tiramet’s counterattack.

“Revolve.”

The counterattack came on cue. It was the moment when Grid’s aim was completed.

[The 5th combo has been achieved!]

[The target’s sense of reason has collapsed for 0.3 seconds.]

[The skill ‘Hell Sword’ can be linked.]

The skill must be activated within 0.3 seconds. Now Grid could strike at the right timing.

“Hell Sword.”