

Overgeared 411

Chapter 411

One hour before the start of the opening event, in the Korean team's waiting room.

Peak Sword was pointing at 11 areas on a map of Tira.

"The target processing will be very crowded because everybody from 32 countries is participating."

A huge 224 people were divided into 32 teams to compete. Enemies would be present in all directions.

"The team that stands out too much is likely to be attacked. We should first focus on securing terrain favorable to taking care of the targets."

Yura's marksmanship was optimized for targeting. But if she focused on destroying the targets, it was likely to raise the alertness of the other teams. Peak Sword decided that it wasn't too late to start the target processing after leaving the center of the battlefield and finding a suitable spot.

Park Jonghwa checked the points on the map and was puzzled.

"Why are they hills and rivers?"

Park Jonghwa was a level 235 archer. It was 39 levels lower than the average level of the participants in the National Competition, but he was the top ranker in the Korean team after Peak Sword, Yura, and Grid.

He was a famous miser who always smoked and left his wallet at home when meeting friends, but he was quite good as an archer. From his point of view, the areas marked by Peak Sword weren't very appealing.

"Wouldn't it be better to occupy the highlands? It's easy to shoot the targets and snipe enemies."

"The higher the terrain, the more noticeable we are to other teams. We won't be able to occupy it for long."

Peak Sword realistically analyzed the power of the South Korean team. Apart from Grid and Yura, it was true that the average stats of the members was weaker than other teams. It was right to be extremely careful.

"..."

Park Jonghwa couldn't say anything further. His pride was strong, so he didn't like this opinions being ignored.

"It's easy to build a barrier on a hill or river. Compared to the highlands, the competition to occupy them will be lower. I think it's good."

The level 233 tanker, Kyunghoon, responded positively to Peak Sword. The level 220 magician Sumin and level 191 tailor Jinhee also agreed.

Since the most important Grid and Yura had nothing to see, they decided to go with Peak Sword's plan.

Peak Sword pointed to Area B among the 11 areas.

"This point is particularly good. It's deep in the forest and optimized for people to act secretly. As soon as the target processing starts, we'll move to the northern forest, avoiding the enemy's gaze and securing Point B. Then Jinhee will unfold his defensive tent and..."

"Wait."

The silent Grid finally opened his mouth. Everyone's eyes focused on him.

"Is there a problem?"

Peak Sword glanced at Grid. Grid and Yura recommended that he act as the operations manager in this National Competition, but Grid had the final say on plans. This was the authority and responsibility of the captain.

"At first, I thought it was a good plan. But as I heard more, I noticed something strange."

"What is strange?"

Peak Sword couldn't easily understand Grid's thoughts.

Grid told him.

"Avoid conflicts with enemies and build up a base before aiming for the targets? Can we get a gold medal with such relaxed actions?"

"Gold medal...?"

Jonghwa, Kyunghoon, Sumin, and Jinhee looked surprised at the words. South Korea, the team with the lowest average level and power, they would win a gold medal at the team events? It was only a dream. They thought Grid was joking.

However, Grid was serious.

"Don't we need to obtain 400 points first to win the gold? Why are you wasting time camping? Meanwhile, the other teams will raise their scores by a significant amount. Just focus on taking care of the targets from the beginning."

Park Jonghwa frowned.

"Do you plan to start a full-scale war with the enemies? It's just a path to self-destruction. Grid, you might be strong, but the four of us aren't. With our specs, it's impossible to compete 1-on-1 with the representatives from other countries. It's a team event, so you have to consider the average level of the team members."

Park Jonghwa believed that he was a clever person. He was absolutely negative about things that he saw were wrong.

"We'll be destroyed in an instant, even if we only face the US team."

Grid burst out laughing at the certain person.

"Self-destruction? Destroyed in an instant?"

Flinch.

Grid's eyes flashed ferociously. People shrank back at the sight. Grid hammered in the point.

"It doesn't matter if you discount your own value, but don't put others down. In particular, I am stronger than you could possibly imagine."

Grid turned to stare at Peak Sword.

"Answer me. What ranking will South Korea get with your plan?"

"3rd place."

Peak Sword was confident in his plan. Their average power might be weak, but Peak Sword believed that they could win a bronze medal if they had a favorable terrain and the power of Grid and Yura.

The bronze medal. Being ranked third among 32 countries was amazing. Perhaps most Korean people didn't even hope for it. But Grid wasn't satisfied with this. Grid wanted the gold medal in order to obtain adamantium.

"3rd place? Come on, let's go for something higher. Yura will focus on handling the targets from the beginning, while the rest of the members will try and protect her."

"But, we'll be hit right away..."

"In particular, we will be defeated in an instant if hit by the high rankers."

The higher rankers mentioned here were those in the top 80 who had completed their third class advancement. Grid spoke to the nervous team members.

"Don't worry. I will burn them all."

This was the result.

"South Korea! Block South Korea!"

"Is he crazy?"

Shortly after the commencement of the target processing. The 31 teams watching each other concentrated on South Korea at once. It was a natural phenomenon. They didn't know where this confidence came from, but after the game started, only South Korea was destroying targets.

They were a good scapegoat for the other countries, who had to reduce the number of competitors.

"We are going as well."

Grid smiled as he confirmed that the representatives of other countries were acting to stop the Korean team. Zibal wanted to smash Grid, who was like an eyesore.

Lauel calmed him down.

“Why do you need to be so obsessed with the Korean team when the other teams will take care of them? We’ll use this time to take over the highlands and concentrate on target processing.”

“Um...”

Yes, why should Zibal care about this person? Don’t get caught up in his emotions. Zibal coldly nodded and the US team broke away from the confusion. Britain, Russia, Canada, Italy, Brazil, Japan, and other teams from 20 countries made the same decision as the US.

The teams aiming at South Korea were made up of 11 countries, including the Turkish team led by Bubat and the French team led by Bondre. It wasn’t a small number. The 7 members of South Korea had to fend off 77 people.

Bubat and Bondre smiled with satisfaction.

‘PvP damage has been reduced by 50%.’

‘Grid’s Transcended Link is a ranged skill and can’t threaten us.’

‘Stupid Koreans! You will be embarrassed as the first to leave!’

The 77 enemies rushed joyfully. They were like moths to a flame as Grid looked at them and started his sword dance. The sword dance had an unmatched splendor compared to his previous one.

“Linked Kill Wave.”

[Linked Kill Wave]

Performs three sword dances simultaneously.

Summons eight consecutive Kill attacks that inflicts 1,500% attack power, chasing all objects within a 2m radius.

The targets hit will have all speeds reduced by 50%.

* This skill doesn’t share a cooldown with Link, Kill, and Wave.

Skill Mana Cost: 2,000

Skill Cooldown Time: 20 minutes.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

It was Grid’s Greatsword, which had a basic attack power that exceeded Iyarugt and increased the damage of skills. The eight stems of energy released from it caused fear to appear in the enemies aiming for Grid.

‘Linked Wave Kill?’

‘It’s different from Transcended Link!’

‘Much more powerful...!’

Pak!

Papapat!

The representatives attacking Grid scattered. It was an almost instinctive behavior. However, it was already too late. Eight of them already became targets of Linked Kill Wave.

Swaeeeeek!

Linked Kill Wave changed orbits like a guided missile and chased after eight people.

[You have suffered 31,300 damage.]

[You have become stunned from the big blow.]

[You have suffered 34,100 damage.]

[You have died.]

[The Frame Shield has been used. Your defense will increase by 30% for 10 seconds.]

[You have suffered 19,500 damage.]

[Three Step Turn has been used.]

[The evasion has failed.]

[You have suffered 37,500 damage.]

[You have died.]

...

...

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

It was an overwhelming sight. It was enough to silence the hundreds of thousands of spectators in the Stade de France National Stadium, as the strongest representatives turned to grey.

“S-Such a thing...”

In the National Competition, PvP damage was reduced by 50%. Killing rankers with one blow?

‘Why is he so strong?’

Grid’s attack power was beyond everyone’s imagination.

‘The patch has no meaning!’

Wasn’t this patch to nerf Grid, who showed a unique strength in the National Competition last year? Bondre whispered to Bubab, who was amazed at the unbelievable result.

“Stay calm. The deceased were only rankers in the 200’s who don’t have their third advancement class. Furthermore, most of them are damage dealers. Grid only attacked relatively weak opponents.”

It was heard. Bubab regained his calmness and smiled grimly.

"Grid, I think you used your ultimate skill. But didn't you just handle the small fries?"

Grid retorted.

"You should know that you're also a small fry."

Grid had to repay the debt to the masters of the seven guilds. Those naughty people who tried to invade Reidan when he wasn't there.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Teong!

Grid leapt forward and unfolded his sword dance. Bubat reflexively took a defensive posture. However, Grid didn't use a skill.

"Fake, you bastard."

"What...?"

Grid passed by Bubat and reached Bondre. Bondre was excited to face Grid. 4 seconds! How much had he been embarrassed after being defeated by Grid in the National Competition last year? This was a perfect chance to pay back the grudge of that time. He had been waiting for this day!

"Crying Ice Spears!"

Kwaduk!

Kwadududuk!

"...!"

The hundreds of thousands of spectators were astonished at the overwhelming sight that occurred. Bondre fled to the sky to avoid Grid, created dozens of sharp ice spears and caused them to rain down.

"Bondre, that bastard!"

The representatives from other countries, who were paying attention to the Korean team, screamed angrily. It was because they suffered a great deal of damage from Bondre's wide area magic, despite temporarily being on the same side.

[You have dealt 8,900 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt 7,500 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt...]

...

...

"Hahat! Kuhahahahat!"

Bondre was thrilled by the constantly rising notification windows. He was excited with this spell that showed off his great power. Bondre believed that Grid was being beaten by the magic and would soon die.

Crying Ice Spear was a continuously unfolding spell that lasted as long as his mana allowed, so it was possible for Bondre to completely destroy the area. But there was a phrase that constantly appeared between the notification windows that were rising.

[You have dealt 3,100 damage to the target.]

[The target has resisted the damage.]

[You have dealt 2,900 damage to the target.]

“What is this?”

Bondre’s eyes widened. There was one person who wasn’t receiving his magic damage properly! That someone was naturally...

“Gridddd!”

"Fly, Kill."

Puok!

Blood splattered from Bondre’s chest as he screamed at Grid, turning the ice spears red. The red ice spears had hit the strongest defense items against magic, the Holy Light Set.

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[Ice Shield (Lv.8) has been used.]

[Creates a shield that absorbs 10,000 (+11,532) damage.]

[The shield will increase your physical defense by 30% and magic resistance by 20%, and will reflect back 30% of the damage as ice debris.]

It was necessary to use a lot of magic in order to increase the proficiency of magic. But it shouldn’t be used in a meaningless manner. It needed to be used with a purpose to increase proficiency.

For example, in order to increase the proficiency of shield magic, it was necessary to defend against an enemy attack with the shield.

However, a magician was a class with low health and weak defense. They were extremely reluctant to allow enemy attacks, so the actual combat method was focused on not allowing enemy attacks. They took advantage of various spells to maintain a proper distance from the enemy and killed them before the enemy could approach.

Therefore, most magicians only had low level shielding magic. However, Bondre raised the level of Ice Shield through his constant efforts. If he raised it two more levels, it would be mastered. It was a result of abandoning the typical magician combat style and confronting the enemy’s attacks with his shield.

Why? Why suffer in order to raise the level of Ice Shield? The reason was simple. It was to prepare for a decisive battle with Grid.

'I only dreamed about getting revenge!'

Grid used Fly and his various resistances to magic in order to instantly narrow the distance. Indeed, this was the counter for a magician. But Bondre had already faced Grid once before and didn't panic. As soon as he faced Grid's Kill, he calmly cast the Ice Shield and then started the chant for an attack spell.

'The shield can endure the bombardment!'

Bondre believed in his shield. He was convinced that his level 8 Ice Shield couldn't be destroyed in the National Competition where PvP damage was reduced by 50%. But Grid caused a reversal.

Jjejeong!

Puok!

[You have suffered 23,210 damage.]

[21,532 damage has been absorbed.]

[The target will receive 30% of the damage.]

[You have dealt 6,963 damage to the target.]

[Ice Shield is turned off.]

"Cough...! N-No, this is crazy!"

Bondre's face distorted as he coughed up blood. Grid suffered the most damage, but Bondre's mental shock was great.

'What a monster!'

His shield was smashed despite the 50% drop in damage? How powerful was Grid's original attack? It was only a moment, but Bondre felt afraid of Grid. But it cleared in an instant. As the peak of 41,000 ice mystics and a representative of his country, he could never weaken or feel distress.

Jjejeong!

Bondre barely sidestepped Grid's swing and shouted the last words of his spell.

"Ice Dragon's Fury!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The whole area became dominated with a chill. From the turbulent earth, huge ice pillars rose like dragons and threatened Grid. Power, speed and range. Bondre's magic wasn't lacking anything.

The earth quickly froze and frost covered the forest. The frost, ice pillars and Grid who was stiff like a statue, not moving. It was like he was overwhelmed by the phenomenal magic.

The French people who saw it cheered.

"Grid is stuck!"

"There is no escaping this magic! Indeed, Bondre is great! A genius!"

"That's right! Last year Bondre wasn't alert! Go Bondre! Take down Grid!"

"Bondre!! Bondre!! Bondre!!"

At this moment, most people in the world thought that Grid would be defeated. Bondre was different from the person who couldn't endure Grid's strike last year. This impression was implanted on the spectators.

In the distance, the US team competing with other teams to capture the highlands also believed in Bondre's victory.

Zibal smiled at the sight of the ice pillars rising high in the sky.

"Bondre's mighty power can't be endured. By taking advantage of the structure of ice, the enemy's actions are blocked and a complete victory can be achieved. The successful emergence of S-grade magic means it is the end for Grid."

"Don't make me laugh."

Someone snorted at Zibal's words. It was Pon, a member of the Spanish team that was confronting the US team. He asserted as he threatened Zibal with his spear.

"You can't measure Grid."

"Baby small fry."

Pon, who was 10th on the unified rankings, was one of the five influential figures of Overgeared. But Zibal was 2nd on the rankings. It was natural that he should be dominant. However...

"What?"

Zibal was shocked. Pon's spear flying from the front suddenly changed orbit to the side. It was unexpected and Zibal was slow to respond.

Puok!

"Ugh!"

Zibal groaned as his side was hit. He was once again shocked as he saw the damage.

'Why is it so painful?'

Zibal had been steadily taking elixirs and used the overwhelming resources he accumulated as master of one of the seven guilds to arm himself with the strongest equipment. He was even 20 levels higher than Pon. From a common sense point of view, it was normal for Zibal to not suffer great damage from Pon. But he was confused by the unexpected damage.

Lauel summoned a gust of wind to block Pon's next attack and warned.

"Zibal, I admit that you are strong. But don't be overconfident. The power of Overgeared can't be compared to what it was a year ago."

That's right. Due to the Reidan desert, the vampire cities and the Behen Archipelago, the Overgeared members reached a level that was beyond common sense. And Grid had achieved overwhelming development among the Overgeared members.

[A powerful frost has frozen your body. All speeds will decrease by 20%.]

[You have resisted.]

"Revolve."

Kurururu!

"Heok!"

Grid stood still as he faced the huge and mighty ice pillar dragons. He wasn't humbly accepting death. By rotating his sword, he reversed the path of the ice pillar, causing Bondre to be directly hit.

"W-What? A counterattack...!"

Typically, counterattacks could only be used against attacks of the same type. Physical force was counterattacked with a physical attack, while magic was counterattacked with magic. However, Grid used physical force to counterattack against magic. Furthermore, the attack was returned with more than 100% of the damage.

It was unbelievable, a fraudulent skill.

But Bondre wasn't surprised at the function of the skill itself. He was amazed at Grid's skill to fully utilize the counterattack. It needed to be used at the perfect timing, so very few players could use a counterattack in a fight against top rankers.

But Grid...

Grid, who was rated as having a low level of control, used a counterattack perfectly against Bondre.

'This guy... What has he been doing in the past year?'

Bondre became bloody. He looked at the deep eyes of the approaching Grid and realized.

'I can't measure him.'

He didn't know what trials Grid had gone through over the past year and how he had overcome them. Bondre couldn't imagine it at all.

{Bondre! We'll join in!}

The French representatives hadn't participated in the battle because Bondre asked for a one-on-one match against Grid. Bondre hurriedly shouted at them.

{No, abandon me and run away. We can't handle Grid without some sacrifices.}

{What?}

The rankings were constantly going down due to the rapid growth of the Overgeared members, but Bondre was still in the top 20. His pride was high and he had some of the best skills. Bondre and most people believed that he was defeated by Grid last year because he wasn't vigilant.

But right now, Bondre acknowledged Grid's skills. This person was above him. It was unfamiliar to the French team, who knew Bondre well.

{I will earn as much time as possible, so run away. Leave the South Korean team alone and focus on the targets. Aim for a bronze medal.}

As Bondre was talking with his team members...

Shaaaaaah-

Grid recalled Grid's Greatsword and took out Iyarugt. The sword scattered a red light like jewels, capturing the eyes of the hundreds of thousands of spectators. The cameras were dazzled by Iyarugt's beauty and zoomed in. It was natural that the appearance of Grid, the master of Iyarugt, would receive the attention of people from all over the world.

"Bondre, you developed a lot compared to last year. I acknowledge your growth."

Grid's original personality would've mocked Bondre. Bondre was one of the guild masters who dared to invade Reidan. However, Grid didn't disparage Bondre.

Was he worried about the image of Overgeared in the competition where millions of people were watching?

That was a secondary problem. Grid didn't ridicule Bondre, because he truly acknowledged Bondre's skills. He could see how hard he had worked and how much Bondre had grown over the past year, and Grid couldn't put him down.

"You are strong. But I am stronger."

"...Hat! You are ridiculous."

Bondre burst out laughing and summoned ice barriers. He was worried that his team members would become Grid's targets and wanted to buy as much time as possible by squeezing out all his power.

"It won't be so easy when we meet again next year."

Bondre shouted at Grid from behind the ice barriers. Grid nodded and rushed forward.

Chaaeng!Jjejeong!Jjeejeeong!

Subsequently, the ice barriers were destroyed by Iyarugt. The sharp ice arrows and ice spears couldn't stop Grid's movements. Grid didn't try to avoid the ice arrows and spears. He just accepted them while approaching Bondre.

The magic resistance of the Holy Light Set was extremely high and there was also the 50% drop in PvP damage. The synergy between the patch and his armor made Bondre into a fool.

『 B-Bondre, logout!! 』

Bondre, a leading figure in France, eventually kneeled down and died. This helplessness left a great shock on the French people.

"Next."

The rejoicing of the winner was short. After confirming that Bondre has logged out, Grid headed towards the South Korean team who were experiencing a crisis.

"Blackening."

Peeng!

The explosion of demonic power made a road around Grid. Grid's skin became paler and contrasted with his black hair, causing the female viewers to cheer.

Chapter 413

『 ... 』

The broadcasting companies showing the National Competition fell silent at the same time. They were shocked by Grid's abilities that surpassed the imagination and were at a loss for words. But as professionals, they couldn't remain silent forever.

The broadcasters hurriedly regained their minds and proceeded again.

『 Basically, Satisfy implements a system where the player's defense mitigates the damage as a percentage. 』

『 In the National Competition, PvP damage is reduced by 50%. 』

『 Experts observed that PvP damage is actually 30~35% in the National Competition due to the player's defense... 』

『 ...Grid quickly took care of Bondre and eight representatives. 』

『 Grid's damage is far too powerful. It seems like there's a limit that the player's defense can alleviate his attack. Even the patch can't stop his might. 』

『 It isn't just high attack power. Grid perfectly utilized a counterattack against the high ranker Bondre. Is this just a coincidence? No. Grid is different from last year. Now Grid seems to have high quality control. 』

『 ... 』

The hosts praised him while the experts who predicted that 'it is fortunate if South Korea doesn't come last' were silent. Grid's show was amazing. It was beyond expectations. God Grid. It was the moment when the arrogant nickname was once again engraved onto the minds of the world.

On the other hand, Bubat of the Turkish team had a relaxed expression on his face. Grid's level was just what he expected.

'Indeed, the patch had an impact.'

When Grid used the new skill called Linked Kill Wave, Bubab predicted that all the people hit by it would die. But the result was only four deaths, three serious injuries and one minor injury.

This alone was a very traumatic incident.

There were few people who could sweep away the skilled people of each country with one blow. However, wasn't their opponent Grid? Grid was a monster who destroyed dozens of people in the National Competition last year with just Transcended Link. Compared to last year, his power had definitely fallen.

'He isn't a threat to me now.'

Bubat was convinced as he looked at Grid, who even Bubab couldn't defeat. There was a reason for Bubab's confidence.

[Undeclared King's Battle Gear Set]

Madra, a man who had never been defeated and was called the Undeclared King. He was the 9th king of the Lubana Kingdom, which was now absorbed by the Saharan Empire. There was a legend that the Lubana Kingdom was unbeatable during his rule. The Saharan Empire in its prime couldn't occupy the Lubana Kingdom that Madra defended. The Lubana Kingdom was safe until Madra's death.

'The undeclared king who endured the onslaught of the enemy knights alone.'

Now Bubab had the strongest set of armor used by a legendary person. Bubab gained wings from the set and had the best tanking power.

'You can't imagine the sacrifices I made to get this, Grid.'

Despite the failures he experienced, Bubab's eyes remained brilliant and strong. After arming himself with a blue armor and holding a large shield in his hands, Bubab ran towards Grid and shouted.

"I will stop you!"

Bubat took out his unique rated weapon, 'Seres' Hammer.'

'Now Grid will be frustrated.'

He defeated four players with Linked Kill Wave and all the French players retreated after Bondre's defeat, but the number of people here was still overwhelming. The South Korean team were surrounded and under pressure from over 60 enemies. South Korea would be in a crisis if Grid didn't get there quickly, so Grid would be in a hurry.

Then as if to prove his impatience...

"Blackening."

Peeng!

Demonic energy exploded from Grid. Grid increased his attack power but received a penalty of lowering his health.

'As expected!'

Bubat smiled with satisfaction as he watched the nervous Grid.

"Bring it on!"

Kuwong!

[Taunting Shout has been activated.]

[The enemy will be provoked.]

The rare hidden class, Crusher. His stats was that of a typical tanker, but the greatest advantage of the class was its ability to destroy formations. He used the 'Unconditional' skill to rush within 3m of the target and used CC combos to instantly destroy the enemy.

But last year, this didn't exert any power on Grid. Grid was immune to abnormal status conditions.

'Now it is different!'

In the course of achieving level 310, Bubbat acquired skills that forced the enemy into an abnormal status. This was originally designed to allow CC to work on boss raids, but it was currently deadly to Grid.

['Bubat' has taunted you.]

[You can't resist.]

Grid frowned.

'Lael's concern was right.'

Lael was sure that for the sake of balance, skills that overcome the status conditions immunity would surely emerge. Grid had scoffed at the time, but Lael's concern was turned to reality.

It was like when a game company sold the cash shop item 'Shield that absolutely defends against an enemy's attack' and later sold an 'item that breaks down the absolute shield' at a higher price.

As the zoomed in face of Grid distorted, the hundreds of millions of viewers realized the situation that was happening. The silent experts suddenly shouted.

『 That armor that Bubbat is wearing...! I've seen it in an ancient book! 』

『 It's Undefeated King Madra's battle gear set! 』

『 Undefeated King Madra was called a legendary tanker. There is a record stating that he endured the onslaught of the Red Knights alone! 』

『 Bubbat's tanking power will be beyond imagination. Grid won't be able to defeat Bubbat. 』

『 In the end, Grid failed to save the Korean team. 』

The experts raised the anxiety of the Korean viewers.

-Wow, really.I looked up Undefeated King Madra and he is wearing the exact same armor as Bubbat.

-One of the best tankers is equipped with the best armor...However, God Grid will win.

-A lot of Grid's skills must be on cooldown...It might be tough.

If this was the reaction of Koreans, what about the foreigners? Most people believed that Bubbat was a mountain that Grid couldn't cross. However.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid arrived in front of Bubbat, regardless of his will, due to the taunt. He used Blacksmith's Rage and Quick Movements.

"Haha! Try and hit me! You will realize that it is futile and feel despair!"

Bubbat provoked Grid to the end. Iyarugt aimed for the weak spot detected by the Slaughterer's Eye Patch.

"Pinnacle."

[Pinnacle Lv. 4 (0.5%)

A sword that expresses the essence of a warrior god.

Deals 800% of your attack power to a single target. This skill will ignore 64% of the target's armor.

Seokeok!

"...Eh?"

Grid's attack speed suddenly became very fast? The attack orbit was hard to read. More than anything else...

[You have suffered 17,050 damage.]

'It hurts?'

No, what was this?

The shield held in Bubbat's hand became obsolete.

"U-Uhh?"

Bubbat blinked because he couldn't understand what was happening. It was natural. The Crusher possessed the highest level of defense among the numerous classes in Satisfy, and Bubbat was also wearing the strongest armor set belonging to the undefeated king.

Then why was it so painful? Bubbat staggered and seemed to fall into a state of confusion. He tried to counterattack with his hammer, but Grid boasted extreme agility due to Quick Movements.

The Slaughterer's Eye Patch and Iyarugt told him the attack orbit and he could defend against it. But Grid ignored the hammer. He judged that Bubbat's attack power wasn't threatening at all.

Peeok!

[You have dealt 1,090 damage to the target.]

"...Eh?"

Bubat's eyes widened with astonishment.

It was a unique rated hammer, so why didn't it do any damage?

'What? Isn't this a big deal?'

Did Grid's defence go beyond their predictions?

'A tanker? Don't tell me?'

"If I can't reproduce the strongest attack power because of the patch, then I will show the strongest defense. I will thoroughly use this patch to look much better than last year."

Grid's remark from the press conference entered his mind. That's right. Bubat never even imagined it. Grid hadn't even pulled out Three Layers yet. Grid aimed a finger at the confused Bubat's forehead.

"Magic Missile."

Magic Missile (Enhanced) constantly gained proficiency in the Behen Archipelago, but it was still level 2. The experience was only at 60%. The proficiency gain rate of legendary skills was the worst.

On the other hand, the damage of the legendary magic was strong. It ignored the enemy's magic resistance and dealt damage equal to twice Grid's current magic power. Grid was still wearing the Holy Light set, meaning his intelligence was increased by 200 due to the Holy Light Crown. The elixirs also increased his intelligence by 400.

Bubat was surprised by the high damage.

Peeng!

"Ugh!"

Bubat's head snapped back after he was hit by Magic Missile. Looking at the blue sky, Bubat was convinced that the situation was the worst. Notification windows appeared in front of Grid.

[Critical!]

[The option effect of Iyarugt has caused the target to bleed.]

[The 3rd combo has been achieved!]

[The option effect of Iyarugt maximizes the bleeding of the target. The damage done to the target will increase by 200% for 1 second.]

Grid attacked during this gap. It was Pinnacle Kill.

[Pinnacle Kill]

An attack that completely ignores the target's defense and deals 2,000% of your attack power.

* The sword can change orbit in the middle, making it hard to deal with.

Seokeok!

"Kuaaaack!"

Just like most tankers, Bubbat invested his stat points into stamina, and his agility was very low. However, he hardly ever encountered inconveniences due to low agility. Was it sometimes difficult to respond to enemy attacks because of low agility?

It didn't matter. His defense was high, so he could endure it. But Grid's attacks were an exception. They hurt. He struck continuously and eventually linked Hell Sword.

It was a legendary attack skill attached to Iyarugt. It was another star. It happened in less than a minute.

Chapter 414

『 Bubbat has been logged out! 』

Criticisms towards Bubbat flooded in as he died.

The Turkish people were disappointed by his pathetic ability that allowed Grid's attacks.

-There are a large number of allies, so it's natural to tank while your allies deal damage to the enemies.

-What type of tanker challenges a person to a one-on-one battle?

-Bubbat lacks one-on-one experience. Seriously the worst.

-Basically, Grid is the strongest. How did such a monster appear in a small and weak Satisfy country like South Korea? I'm sick because we have been grabbed by South Korea two years in a row.

-This year, the one with the lowest ranking seems to be Turkey.

-Won't Bubbat lose his sponsors soon?

"..."

The logged out Bubbat couldn't raise his head. He was afraid to return to Turkey. On the other hand, Grid remained on the battlefield and was still admiring it.

'It's a huge passive skill.'

Grid confirmed the damage of Pinnacle and decided that it was possible to finish off Bubbat with Pinnacle Kill. But he was wrong. Pinnacle Kill did much less damage than expected. It was presumed that Bubbat had a passive skill where 'only a % of the maximum health' was decreased by a strong blow.

'If his armor was unsealed, it would've taken much longer.'

Grid had the Blacksmith's Eyes skill.

He could check the information of an item if he looked at it for three seconds. This could be a double-edged sword.

It was because the item information window interfered with his field of view.

Anyway, Grid learned one thing through the Blacksmith's Eyes. Bubbat's armor was currently sealed and couldn't perform at its full capabilities.

'The undefeated king.'

Was he also one of the nine legends? Grid's expression wasn't good as he moved. He spent longer than expected dealing with Bondre and Bubat.

'I feel like my luck is really bad.'

There was one reason why Grid used the Holy Light set instead of the newly created equipment, including Three Layers and Lantier's Cloak. He was hoping to trigger the 5 Joint Attacks skill attached to the Holy Light Gloves. If 5 Joint Attacks was activated, Grid would be able to deal with the enemy faster because he could deal five times as much damage.

However, the problem was that it wasn't activated. Since he entered the Behen Archipelago until now, the number of times 5 Joint Attacks was activated had significantly decreased. Grid felt like his odds when it came to games of luck was becoming worse.

'I am angry.'

He wanted to make an item that would increase his luck.

'...Eh? Isn't this good?'

It was better than the good luck state in many ways. In an extreme example, if he wore items that increased luck, he could increase the chances of producing higher rated items. Grid thought such things while moving to save the Korean team.

At this moment. He didn't show any signs of nerves, despite the Korean team being in a crisis.

Why?

He believed in his companions.

The reason why Grid decided on this high risk operation, which was to immediately attack the targets and attract the aggro of the enemies, was because he trusted in Yura and Peak Sword's abilities.

4 minutes after the commencement of the target processing.

While Grid was defeating Bondre and Bubat in succession, the Korean team was struggling against the allied teams.

"Fire Wall!"

"Multi Shot."

The archer Jonghwa and the magician Sumin didn't consider their mana, trying their best to tie up the feet of the enemies while the tailor Jinhee did his best to set up a protective tent. The tanker Kyunghoon used skills to slow down the enemies' advance.

But they were weak. They were at least 40 levels lower than the other players, making it impossible to endure.

"Shit, when is Grid coming?"

Park Jonghwa said nervously.

He had a negative impression of this plan from the beginning, so he couldn't help grumbling. He fired his arrows relentlessly, but there wasn't a single enemy who collapsed. His weak arrows couldn't penetrate the enemies' defenses.

"Ugh!"

Rather, his wounds increased due to the counterattacks. His health had already fallen to a risky level. He would've died sooner if it wasn't for the 50% reduced PvP damage patch. Sumin's mana reached the bottom.

"I can't use magic anymore..."

"Shit! Hey, Jinhee! Haven't you completed the tent yet?"

"I-I'm sorry. I think it will take 3 more minutes."

"This... Ugh!"

Ku tang tang tang!

Kyunghoon barely blocked an attack with his shield and went flying. The person who blew him away was Australia's leading ranker, Luca.

"Stop the senseless resistance. Aren't you just tiring yourselves out in this attempt to buy time?"

Luca was 80th on the unified rankings and had a third advancement class. The Korean team members couldn't go against him. He faced them with cold eyes.

'The end.'

Park Jonghwa thought with frustration.

"Our goal is to win, not buy time."

Yura was handling the targets with her rifle while being protected by her team members. This time, she was the one protecting her team members. Luca looked at her and laughed.

"I wondered what type of hidden class you got after disappearing from the rankings, but it was just a gunman?"

Gunman, a hidden class. One of their advantages was that they used a rifle, which had a longer attack distance and more powerful attacks than archers. They had the highest attack power among physical damage dealers.

But the weakness was clear. They had low health and defense, and their evasion rate was ridiculously low. They didn't have as many utility skills as magicians. It was safe to say that once they allowed the enemies to approach, they would die.

For Luca, a gunman was just good prey.

"I don't like the pretty faces of Asian people, so I will use this opportunity to trample on it."

Luca grinned and rushed towards Yura. His speed was very fast. His defense and evasion was great, so he avoided any fatal blows from the few shots fired by Yura.

“Yura!”

The South Korean team was desperate. It was the same for all Koreans watching the game. They didn’t want to see the goddess of Korea being trampled on. Did their wish reach the sky?

Yura didn’t panic. She avoided Luca’s attack and cut at him. Yes, it was a cut. From a gunman.

“W-What is this?”

Luca’s eyes widened as he felt terrible pain.

“Draw Sword.”

The moment that Peak Sword placed his hand on his sheath. Ten team members jumping at him flinched back. Peak Sword normally seemed stupid, but his presence was different on the battlefield.

“Annihilate.”

Flash!

It was well known that Peak Sword had cut apart dozens of enemies during the Silver Knights war with Japan’s Sakura Guild over Cork Island. That famous story was now being reproduced in the eyes of the world.

Seokeok!

Peak Sword felt the ultimate pleasure at his Draw Sword. By using the shortest distance from the sheath to the attack point, the enemy couldn’t recognize it.

“Eh...?”

Kukukukukung!

There was a flash and everyone in front of Peak Sword collapsed. The rankers felt a chill.

[You have suffered 13,520 damage.]

[You have suffered 12,144 damage.]

[You have suffered 9,050 damage.]

[You have suffered 8,600....]

...

...

“Ugh!”

“Cough!”

The pain came late.

'How can a ranged skill do so much damage...?'

The rankers suffered serious damage from the strikes and couldn't believe it. However, Peak Sword wasn't satisfied with his own attack.

'Damn, the effect of the patch is too great.'

The only advantage of his class with a long attack delay was the power of his strikes. It was worth it since one attack could deal a fatal blow to the enemies. However, in the National Competition, Peak Sword couldn't exert his original strength and the advantage of his class disappeared.

"Hit him!"

"Let's go!"

The wounded rankers of the allied teams rushed towards Peak Sword. They were aware of the weakness of Peak Sword's class. Peak Sword couldn't link an attack until the sword returned to the sheath, so their aim was this defenseless gap.

But Peak Sword's weapon was made by a legendary blacksmith.

[Ideal Longsword]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 308/308 Attack Power: 680

Attack Speed: +21%

* The skill 'Wind Blast' is generated.

* The skill 'Quick Movements' is generated.

User Restriction: Level 310 or higher. Advanced Sword Mastery level 5 or higher.

The durability and attack power was lacking compared to the same unique-rated Iyarugt, but it couldn't be denied that it was one of the best one-handed swords. Furthermore, it was a longsword that maximized the advantages of Grid's Ideal Dagger.

It was a very suitable weapon for Peak Sword, whose attack speed was important. Furthermore, Grid had prepared another gift for Peak Sword. The gift was a sheath.

[Peak Sword's Sheath]

* 20% increase in sword drawing speed.

* 40% increase in sword recovering speed.

It was a sheath that used one of the Water Clan King's Tears that Euphemina obtained in the Siren Kingdom to attach Zednos' wind magic. A gust of wind occurred to increase the speed of Draw Sword. at the same time, a whirlwind would recover the sword.

“God Grid! I will surely become more overgeared!”

Peak Sword tearfully cried out. The faces of the rankers turned pale at the sight.

‘That recovering speed...’

‘Ridiculously fast!’

The rankers didn’t step back, despite the sight before them exceeding common sense. To be precise, they couldn’t step back. It was already all or nothing with Peak Sword.

"Die!"

"A country weak in Satisfy, you should collapse quickly!"

All types of weapons stabbed at Peak Sword.

Peeeeeeong!

The storm surrounded Peak Sword as there was once again a dazzling light.

“Kuaack!”

Peak Sword was thrilled as he confirmed the enemies’ screams and collapse.

‘This is the power of items!’

Overcoming the limitations of his class with items... Peak Sword was excited and amazed.

At the same time.

“T-The sky above the sky...!”

While South Korea and the allied teams were fighting chaotically on one side of Tira, Kraugel was in full swing elsewhere.

Chapter 415

Tira had three mountains.

The highest mountain was 723 meters above sea level and was the closest area to the sky. There was no better place to aim for the targets moving around in the sky. The team that won this spot?

The United States. This was the inevitable result. The seven US representatives were all third advancement classes and had the best names.

1st among the 10 Rookies, a Genius among Geniuses, Grid’s Brain, Chunni... Lauel had many titles, and even he was merely ordinary in the US team. They had many business cards among them.

‘Lauel, this child.’

Pon, who had been struggling to occupy the highlands, was hit by a landslide and fell down a cliff. The culprit who caused the landslide was Lauel.

“Kuoong.”

Pon barely inserted his spear into the cliff and saved himself from crashing down, but it was dangerous. It wouldn't be unusual for Pon to be logged out if he fell down.

{Attack Zibal... Ugh!}

{This! Zephyr is preventing the use of my skills!}

{Dammit! Skull is behind you!!}

{L-Lael is causing another landslide...! Kuaaack!}

Pon was isolated and the Spanish team's party chat window was frenzied. The seven Spanish rankers were strong, but it wasn't enough against the United States. The average power of the United States was overwhelming.

'That Lael, he's the same as always, but now he is so scary.'

It was unfortunate that they overlapped with the US team.

'We need to give up on the medal.'

Pon saw his colleagues being logged out one by one and pulled out the spear rammed in the cliff. Then as he fell, he used his last remaining mana to fire a blow. The target was the back of Zibal's head at the top of the mountain.

"I will make you a friend on my journey."

Pajik!Pajjik!

Lightning formed around the red spear held in Pon's hand. It was the precursor of Rail Spear, which used electromagnetic force to shoot the spear faster than the speed of sound.

Kurururung!

The cliff where countless joys and sorrows were taking place. Light shone in that dark place and a thunderous roar was heard. The moment the sound was heard, the spear was already almost at Zibal's head.

"What?"

Zibal's eyes widened.

"Dragon Claws. Wind Dragon's Roar."

Kurururung!

Lael considered Pon's nature and predicted this situation, using two skills at the same time to protect Zibal. He summoned a wind to slow down the speed of the Rail Spear, then caused the ground to raise, creating a barrier to block the weakened Rail Spear.

But it was useless. The power of the Rail Spear was too strong. It simply tore down the wind and earth barrier in its way. Lael failed to protect Zibal and Zibal received a big blow. He would need to withdraw from battle for a while.

“Poooooon!”

"...Hat! Hahahahat!"

Zibal’s shriek of rage was heard from the top of the mountain, while Pon laughed loudly from the bottom. This battlefield was becoming more intense.

『 Pon has been logged out! The Spanish team has been annihilated! 』

『 Spain couldn’t win against the United States. The United States is really strong! I can guarantee that the United States is the strongest at team events! 』

At the start of the event, the Korean team and the teams that allied against them were struggling against each other. The Brazil team, led by Jishuka, moved secretly and reached the depths of the northern forest.

“Is there a need to fight? You shouldn’t forget the fundamental purpose of shooting the target.”

Pepeng!

Pepepepeng!

Truly a godly archer. Jishuka fired without a break, quickly taking care of the flying targets in the area. Jishuka handled several more targets and asked the team members.

“Huhu, how about it? Aren’t we first?”

"Of course! Eh?"

A Brazilian ranker responded and then checked the scoreboard, only to feel shocked. No matter how they looked at it, the score was strange. Jishuka became anxious when she saw him stiffen and checked the scoreboard. Then she was shocked.

1st. South Korea - 41 points.

2nd. Brazil - 23 points.

3rd. United States - 18 points.

4th. Russia - 11 points.

...

...

“What... What?”

How could Korea flourish, despite being the target of various teams from the beginning? The confused Jishuka burst out laughing.

‘The God Hands.’

Grid was facing the allied teams, while the God Hands were destroying the targets in the sky. The God Hands were very simple and easy to control, so it was possible.

“He’s truly a great man.”

Jishuka couldn’t understand why Grid destroyed the targets and attracted aggro the moment the game started. But now she sensed Grid’s deep meaning.

‘The God Hands have completely disappeared from the minds of the enemies. Grid is taking advantage of his presence.’

He even used Yura as bait. On the current battlefield, it was rare for people to be aware of the presence of the God Hands in the sky. If South Korea was able to withstand the barrage, they would obviously obtain the medal.

Since the allied teams were mostly weaker countries that couldn’t have won medals in the first place, it was likely that Korea could endure the alliance’s offensive. Apart from Grid, South Korea also had Yura and Peak Sword.

‘Grid, you’re great. But I’m sorry. The gold medal is mine.’

Jishuka only started the target hunting after entering the forest and securing her safety. In other words, she started the match very late compared to the South Korean team. Nevertheless, the gap was gradually narrowing.

The Brazil team could safely concentrate on the target hunting, while South Korea had to deal with enemy teams. Thus, there was a difference in speed. In particular, Jishuka’s archery was very great.

‘Grid, be satisfied with the silver medal.’

Jishuka knew how to distinguish between public and private matters. She didn’t worry about her colleagues and wanted respect.

Kkirik!

Jishuka pulled her bowstring while feeling sorry to Grid in her heart. She would win the gold medal, become stronger, and get the title of strongest woman. Her gaze became more intense and sexier. However, her brightly shining eyes soon became shaken.

“I can’t leave you alone, so I came after you.”

A low voice was heard from the dark forest. The owner of the charming voice showed up between the trees. Jishuka and the Brazilian rankers paled as they saw him.

“T-The sky above the sky...!”

The 1st ranked user, Kraugel. His waist long hair was tied up and his beautiful eyes shone.

“I’m sorry, but I have to do this.”

He would make Russia 1st on the overall rankings. It was the condition of payment for the new drug developed by the Russian government that would help Kraugel's mother. Kraugel only accepted these terms for his mother.

He vowed to knock down the competitors, trample on them and lead Russia to victory. His goal in the target processing match was to assassinate the ranged dealers, and Jishuka was his fifth victim.

That's right. Unlike Grid, Kraugel had stealthily and faithfully acted in his role as a close range damage dealer to assassinate four ranged dealers while Grid was attracting the public's attention. They didn't even know it.

"Who said I will be easy?"

She didn't think she would be caught by such a big person...

Jishuka felt astonished, frustrated, and desperate as she pulled back her bowstring.

Kkirik!

The bow that originally aimed at the target switched to Kraugel...

Peeng!

Godly archer. The arrow of the godly archer that exceeded the human condition left the bowstring.

Kiiiing-!

Pepepeng!

The arrow rotated and split into five arrows, exploding and blocking Kraugel's escape. Jishuka pulled her bowstring again during the time when Kraugel was delayed. She was hoping that Kraugel was alone.

'First of all, I will deal as much damage as possible while the team members take up a pincer formation.'

They had a chance of winning, even if the opponent was Kraugel. The 14th ranked Jishuka was qualified to make this positive analysis. However, her opponent was the sky above the sky, who made even gods insignificant.

His innate skills and Keen Senses passive skill meant that he escaped most of Jishuka's exploding arrows. Kraugel avoided big injuries and rushed through the blast towards Jishuka.

"...Oh?"

She didn't think there would be someone who could emerge unscathed from that attack. Jishuka was at a loss, but she calmly fired her bow.

Swaeek!

Sharp arrows rained down on Kraugel's head.

Suuk.

Kraugel twisted and avoided the arrows. As expected, Jishuka's arrows exploded to try and inflict damage on Kraugel. Kraugel used White Light Steps and easily avoided it. He steadily broke through the Brazilian rankers.

"Kuack!"

"Eek!"

"Hiik!"

Kraugel's moves weren't as destructive as Grid and Chris, and they weren't as dazzling as Faker or Regas. But he was as strong as Grid and Chris, as fast as Faker, and as unconventional as Regas.

He was like flowing water. All of his actions seemed natural.

"...Why did you lose to Grid?"

Kraugel avoided Jishuka's continuously firing arrows and eliminated the Brazil team in an instant. A few arrows hit his body, but he exquisitely avoided any fatal blows. The reason why Kraugel was called the sky above the sky, Jishuka understood after seeing it directly.

『 Jishuka has been logged out! The Brazil team has been wiped out! 』

"Once again, the world is wide and there are many strong people. Right?"

Pon and Jishuka. Grid didn't know that some of the strongest people in Overgeared were eliminated in succession.

The teams from 11 countries also couldn't have imagined. The fact that they would be crushed by a country weak in Satisfy, South Korea.

"M-Monster..."

The last survivor turned to grey. All of the team members were dead, and Grid was at the center. He was breathing roughly, but there were no obvious wounds on his body.

Armor that looked like it was made out of black dragon scales. Giant red gauntlets reminiscent of an ogre's fist. A black cloak that changed color whenever it flapped in the wind. Gold leggings and a plate helmet with horns rising up on both sides.

Armed with new items, Grid's appearance was like a magnificent mountain. The world was shocked because it looked like he would never collapse.

Chapter 416

There was nothing in front of strength.

This was one of the truths of the game. It was an undeniable law.

An extreme example of this law was applied in boss raids. Bosses that had millions of health? If they suffered from tens of thousands of damage from dozens of players, they would eventually fall.

But what if the boss monster had the power to knock down the players in one go? This truth was likely to be broken. In that sense, it wasn't impossible for Grid to wipe out 37 people from the allied teams alone.

South Korea vs the allies.

Despite the efforts of Yura and Peak Sword, South Korea went increasingly on the defensive because the numerical disadvantage was too much. All of the Korean players except for Yura and Peak Sword were logged out.

This was the end for South Korea! The moment that the people of the world were thinking the worst.

"The protagonist appears."

After defeating Bondre and Bubat, Grid finally joined the battlefield. As always, he appeared with truly exquisite timing. Originally, the commentators and spectators would be thrilled to see him...

『 Grid's outfit is really unique. 』

『 Um... It is vague. 』

The commentators and spectators were embarrassed as they saw Grid. Black armor and cloak, golden leggings and helmet, and red gauntlets. Grid's appearance was ridiculous after he wore different armor.

"He has no sense of aesthetics."

"How can he go around looking like that? Isn't it embarrassing?"

"My daughter is in elementary school and she has a better grasp of colors than Grid..."

If they looked at Grid's armor individually, all the pieces were beautifully designed and nicely colored. But the harmony of colors together was a mess. The black armor and red gauntlets were okay, but the armor was the same color as the cloak, as well as the leggings and helmet...

The combination didn't look good. It was a funny outfit that comedians would wear when they played punishment games.

"Grid, what are you doing? Are you aiming to kill us with laughter?"

"How thick is the sheet of iron in front of your face that you can go around like that?"

"I would rather be naked."

The momentum of the allied teams rose. They laughed at Grid's state and lost their tension. In the first place, Grid had wasted a lot of skills and mana while dealing with Bondre and Bubat, so the allied teams believed that they could easily kill Grid if they worked together.

But the result? They were all wiped out. Most of the team members had second advancement users and weren't able to penetrate Grid's defense. Meanwhile, Grid's attack power shattered the defense of the allied teams.

Grid paid back every blow with 10 blows and slaughtered 37 people.

Hit, hit, hit, and hit. Grid's simple battle strategy caused the enemies to feel an enormous fear.

"If I can't reproduce the strongest attack power because of the patch then I will show the strongest defense."

He didn't keep this declaration. Unlike his declaration, he showed the strongest attack power and the strongest defense. It was truly an overwhelming display of items. It was a show of hope for millions of people dreaming of being overgeared.

『 A-Amazing... Amazing! 』

『 The current Grid can probably deal with two third advancement classes alone... 』

『 At the end of Grid's performance, the allied teams have been knocked out! 』

It was the moment when the commentators praised Grid for the annihilation of the allied teams.

"Grid...!"

Zibal was sitting down and resting to recover from the powerful damage dealt by Pon. He watched the scoreboard with bloodshot eyes.

1st. South Korea - 83 points.

2nd. United States - 68 points.

3rd. Russia - 47 points.

4th. Canada - 36 points.

...

...

Kwaduduk!

The allied teams, those guys were useless. Not only did they not destroy the South Korean team, they couldn't even stop South Korea from hitting the targets. Lael saw that Korea was ahead and said.

"I hoped that we could catch up while South Korea's scoring was slowed down. Now that they can concentrate on the target processing, we'll be forced to defend second place."

"What if we hit South Korea?"

"We have a chance. South Korea is tired and we're all strong, except for you."

Lael emphasized the 'except for you' part. Zibal frowned at the words, causing Lael to laugh.

"But I can't say how long it will take to defeat Grid. Currently, Grid has at least 3,100 defense and he seemed to have an extreme resistance to physical attacks."

"..."

The average defense of the third advancement tankers was at least 2,500. Yet it was estimated that Grid had a defense that easily surpassed 3,000, despite being a blacksmith and not a tanker. He didn't even have any passive skills to increase his defense.

'Damn items.'

Zibal also had excellent items due to the 1st ranked blacksmith, Panmir. It was why he wasn't killed by Pon's Rail Spear. But somehow, it seemed shameful in front of Grid.

"If we fight Korea, we'll be giving a chance to Russia and Canada. It's better to be satisfied with second place."

The top of the mountain. Lauel handled the targets while looking down at the Russian team. It was honestly surprising. Despite Kraugel not being present, the six people were handling the targets quickly while confronting the Italian team.

'The four third advancement class rankers have better skills than rumored. Is Kraugel raising their morale?'

『 Sofia has been logged out! The Hungary team is eliminated! 』

"...A monster."

After crossing the forest and mountains, Kraugel assassinated famous ranged damage dealers. His destructive power was beyond common sense. It was unrealistic. Lauel questioned if even Grid could withstand Kraugel's onslaught.

'...Wait.'

Looking at the situation, Kraugel was the most active person on the battlefield. Maybe he was aiming for gold? Lauel had overlooked Russia's power and realized it late.

'If that's the case...!'

Kraugel's next target would be...

'Yura of South Korea.'

Would the biggest match of Grid vs Kraugel occur in the opening event? Before being Lauel of Overgeared or Lauel of the United States, Lauel was a player of Satisfy. His honest desire as a pure player was to watch the confrontation between Grid and Kraugel.

It was the common wish among the hundreds of millions of people watching the National competition.

"..."

The Chinese and Japanese teams were facing each other on the lowest of the three mountains on Tira. Both teams believed themselves to be Asia's ambassadors, so they couldn't focus on target processing because they were busy interfering with each other.

However, there were three people who weren't tense. They were Japan's Damian and Katz, and China's Hao.

"Indeed! Grid truly is great!"

Damian. The strongest paladin who rose to become the first pope user was merely watching Grid's activities and feeling admiration.

"Bah, how boring."

Katz. One of Japan's top rankers and an epic class user, he yawned without any hesitation.

"The sky above the sky..."

Hao. The draconian and king of fighting was only conscious of Kraugel.

"...Hey guys. What do we do now?"

Yoshimura, who was once called one of the best rankers in Japan. He was strong against the weak and weak against the strong.

Then Katz stepped forward.

"Indeed, it's less boring to kill these uncivilized bastards than to stay still."

The faces of the Chinese rankers reddened.

"What? Uncivilized?"

"This nasty brat is speaking nonsense!"

"I will kill you!"

The Chinese rankers were hot-blooded. Once Katz provoked them, the rankers rushed forward at once.

"Kukuk."

Katz laughed and pulled out a sword from his waist. It was the moment when the might of the Blood Warrior, which absorbed the enemy's health with every attack and could use wide range skills using blood, was exposed. Hao saw Katz' strength instantly and finally came forward.

The struggle between the two Asian countries started in earnest. The Chinese mainland and Japanese island simultaneously went wild. But Damian's remark poured cold water on them.

"Korea will be the best anyway."

"..."

It was the moment when the 'Damian is Korean' theory became stronger.

'A 10 billion won neck.'

Tarma was part of a dark gamers group, Blood Carnival, which committed all types of bad acts. He participated in the National Competition for Greece and his goal was to assassinate Kraugel. He was involved in all possible events that Kraugel would participate in, and he would aim for Kraugel's neck every time. He didn't care about the gold medal.

'I will gain additional benefits if I kill him three times in PvP... Killing other famous rankers will also gain me benefits. Kukuk, I will make hundreds of millions of won and migrate to the US.'

He would enjoy a luxurious life in a mansion with beauties every day! He dreamt of a brilliant future as he moved after Kraugel. Then a golden hand hovered around him? It was Grid's famous God Hands.

'This is very irritating.'

Armed with a sword, it was flying alone and handling the targets. It didn't care about what was happening in the surroundings. Tarma was afraid he might be spotted by Kraugel because of the God Hand, so he nervously hit the hand with a dagger.

Chaaeng!

The hand was hit hard and stiffened.

"What?"

He hit it hard enough for it to go flying, but it just stayed in place?

"Go away!"

Jjang!Jjang!Jjang!

Tarma scowled and hit the God Hand several more times. Then all of the scattered God Hands gathered and headed towards Tarma. They recognized him as an enemy.

"Wow."

They not only moved by themselves, but had the ability to make decisions. There was a reason why Grid was famous for his items. Tarma was feeling confused when he heard an unfamiliar voice.

"What are you doing, assaulting someone else's item?"

"...Grid?"

Grid appeared in front of Tarma, who had promised to win against Kraugel.

Tarma snorted.

Chapter 417

Grid.

He was a legendary class, and the most famous one among the informal rankers. He was behind so many topics that even people indifferent to Satisfy knew Grid's name.

But evaluations were split in two. He was either an inexperienced person lucky to obtain a legendary class, or he had the ability itself to acquire a legendary class. And so on. A person who received both praise and criticism like Grid was rare.

However, those who praised Grid and those who criticized him came to a common consensus. Grid was strong.

But Tarma thought differently.

'I'm stronger than a blacksmith.'

In fact, Tarma had seen Grid's battle video several times. Grid was lacking a lot when seen from the viewpoint of a combat specialist. His combat skills were all aggressive and lacked any defense, but he had no control skills to cover for that lack of defense.

'Well, he might seem good when looking at it from the level of the public.'

Tarma ridiculed and made a shooing motion with his hand.

"Get lost, small fry. I don't have time to deal with you."

Before the National Competition started, the world predicted that Grid wouldn't play a big role, and it was the same for Tarma's client. Tarma's client didn't put a bounty on Grid's head. In other words, Tarma didn't target Grid. It was a waste of energy to kill him. He intended on sending Grid away, but his tone was the problem.

Get lost, small fry? Grid didn't like Tarma's attitude.

"What did you call me? Get lost?"

"What? What are you saying?"

Tarma didn't understand Grid's slang. Then Grid raised his middle finger.

"Eat this."

Grid was more welcoming towards the people around him, but his innate personality was still far from being gentle. The worst of his nature emerged when it came to people like Tarma.

"You bastard..."

Tarma's face distorted like he was a demon. The second reason for Grid's grudge was that Tarma was at the point where Grid expected Kraugel to be. Due to that, Grid missed the timing for a perfect surprise attack.

"This can't be forgiven..."

Tarma growled out.

"Small fry, I will give you a chance to die under my glorious hands."

The world knew Faker as the strongest assassin. Faker was responsible for wiping out one of the seven guilds, the Ice Flower Guild. But those who knew Tarma evaluated Tarma as higher than Faker.

The unofficial ranker, Assassin Tarma. The activities he showed in the world of darkness were greater than Faker's achievements.

『 Tarma? Who's that? 』

『 Um, let's see... A third advancement assassin belonging to Greece. His class is Shadow Master... He's an unofficial ranker because his level isn't disclosed. 』

There were currently hundreds of cameras installed on Tira Island, capturing the movements of the participants in real time. However, the videos that the broadcasting stations could show were limited, so the users who weren't famous weren't exposed to the viewers. One of them was Tarma.

But at this moment. Grid destroyed the allied teams and came across Tarma, making Tarma subject to the attention of the world.

-Tarma? He has a third advancement class, which means he's at a minimum, the same level as the 80th ranker.

-There seems to be little exposure about him. He's probably a person who only eats and hunts.

Most viewers didn't know Tarma. It was the same for the international commentators. But those who knew the world of Satisfy more deeply were well aware of Tarma.

『 Tarma is a well known assassin. 』

『 There is a rumor that Tarma has assassinated over 100 rankers. Even the 2nd ranked Zibal was assassinated by Tarma. 』

『 Have you heard about that dark gamer group called Blood Carnival? Tarma is one of the monsters of that infamous group. 』

『 There's a saying that the true god of death is Tarma, not Faker. 』

The Internet was shocked by the comments from the experts. The real time search terms on Internet portal sites were dominated by Tarma and Blood Carnival.

-Wow... This is the first time I've heard of Blood Carnival, but their power is huge.

-An unbelievably wicked group... Are they the Triads of Satisfy?

-13 kingdoms have bounties on the Blood Carnival, but their base can't be found.

-It seems like Tarma isn't a simple assassin;; Did Grid pick the wrong opponent? Isn't it dangerous?

-Yiing

Dozens of drones scattered through the forest started gathering around Grid and Tarma. It was proof that the world was paying attention to both people.

"Hah, this is really..."

Tarma scratched his head as he saw all the cameras. He was only in the National Competition to assassinate Kraugel, so he wanted to avoid people's attention to act more freely. However, this was ruined due to Grid.

"After I kill you, all the participating countries will be alert towards me. I'm being bothered by this little chick."

Suuk.

Tarma complained while pulling out the logo of the Lion Group. The Lion Group. One of the world's top 10 companies, they were the ones who sponsored Tarma.

"Since so much attention is being paid to a small fry, I might as well get money from it."

Tarma attached the logo of the Lion Group to his chest. Then he started to emit a dark aura as he pulled out two yellow daggers. It was a PK only weapon that he acquired from quests in Gaya, the sandy kingdom on the East continent that most users hadn't even seen yet.

"This is the strongest weapon that makes those on the West Continent look stupid. Overgeared? Pffft! That's a word that describes me!"

Tarma shouted with confidence and shadows emerged from everywhere. The ground, bushes, trees, rocks, etc. Tarma's shadow spread all over the place and deceived the viewers.

"The shadows are moving!"

Tarma disappeared into a shadow. It was perfect. It was at a level that could be called the strongest hiding technique, so the comments, experts and viewers around the world admired it.

But Grid was different. In the past, Grid had experienced the shadow assassin called Kasim. He was able to grasp Tarma's identity the moment that Tarma's shadow started wriggling. Based on this, he used Magic Detection (Enhanced) Lv. 2 in advance.

Magic Detection Lv. 2 had a long casting time and couldn't accurately detect the position of an assassin moving in real time. However, Grid's Magic Detection was one developed by the legendary great magician, Braham. It transcended common sense.

Furthermore, Grid had his high insight and the Slaughterer's Eye Patch. All the conditions were in place to make it a perfect disaster for Tarma.

"What?"

Tarma emerged from the shadow of the tree next to Grid. He stared at Grid, intent on killing Grid before he was detected. But Grid's Greatsword was aiming towards the point where he appeared.

"Linked Kill."

Puok!

Puk!Puk!Puk.

"...!"

An assassin's weaknesses were their low health and defense. They were proud of their excellent stealth and lethality, but their bodies were the weakest of all damage dealers. How could an assassin survive Linked Kill, which was superior to Linked Kill Wave when it came to just attack power? It was only fortunate if they could avoid it.

Tarma couldn't even scream as he turned to grey.

『 Wow. 』

The commentators and experts took a deep breath. The 1st ranked real time topic on search portals was '3 seconds.' After logging out Hurent in 5 seconds and Bondre in 4 seconds in the last National Competition, now Grid had set a new record. It was very cliché, but the world was once again astonished.

From the first day of the National Competition, Grid was overturning the world several times.

'A very strong guy.'

Grid realized the moment he read where Tarma would emerge and used Linked Kill. Tarma didn't give up and fought back, cutting Grid's wrist.

'I received 3,000 damage...'

Grid resisted it, but the attack also caused poisoning and paralysis. The power was tremendous. If he couldn't kill Tarma with one blow and if Linked Kill had only done three strikes, Grid thought it would have been dangerous.

That's right.

Grid had eyes that could measure an opponent's ability just by exchanging one blow. It was something he developed after numerous battles with enemies stronger than him. Now Grid was becoming a real powerhouse.

『 The US team has started catching up with the South Korean team! 』

『 Currently, there are only three survivors in the Korean team. It's inevitable that their speed will slow down compared to other teams. Isn't it possible for them to lose their first place to the United States? 』

"This..."

The words of the commentators alarmed Grid. After confirming the scoreboard, Grid used Fly and flew in the direction where targets were concentrated, unleashing Wave. Dozens of targets exploded.

However, there was a limit to his mana. Grid had the God Hands continue to handle the targets and dropped to the ground after his mana was depleted. The Korean viewers who saw it were frustrated. The targets were difficult to deal with from the ground and South Korea only had one ranged damage dealer, Yura, so the US team was able to catch up. Maybe Russia and Canada would also catch up.

But who was Grid? He was a legendary blacksmith that could use all weapons. He had acquired the Weapons Mastery skill in the Behen Archipelago. The commentators and viewers were shocked as they saw him take out a bow.

『 Bow? Why is he bringing out a bow? 』

『 Don't tell me... Surely a blacksmith isn't trying to shoot a bow... 』

Pagma was a legendary blacksmith and great swordsman. Everyone could understand why Pagma's Descendant would use a sword, but they never imagined that he could shoot a bow.

Chapter 418

[Spiral Quick Fire Bow]

Rating: Epic

Attack Power: 215~249 Firing Speed: +17%

Accuracy: -30%

* Every time you shot an arrow, the firing speed will increase by 0.5%. This effect will only be applied up to 50%.

* It is difficult to control the trajectory of the arrow.

* If you hit the 'desired target,' you will gain additional Bow Mastery experience.

A bow made by the legendary blacksmith Grid.

The structure of the bow and arrow is unusual. It is difficult to predict the trajectory of an arrow the user even hit rate is very poor.

Kkirik!

Grid took out the bow that he made after much suffering. Then a notification window appeared in front of him.

[The effect of Beginner Weapons Mastery Lv. 8 is higher than the effect of Beginner Bow Mastery Lv. 3.]

[The passive Weapons Mastery skill is applied.]

Grid learned Bow Mastery much faster than Weapons Mastery. However, the level of Weapons Mastery was much higher than Bow Mastery because Grid's main weapon was a sword. Weapons Mastery accumulated experience with any type of weapon, while Bow Mastery only gained experience when using a bow.

'When I use the bow, both Weapons Mastery and Bow Mastery increases. If the level of the two masteries is similar someday, I will start to see the advantage of Bow Mastery.'

Paang!

Unless they were some combat specialized class, more ordinary users only learned one type of mastery. Blacksmiths didn't have any mastery skill at all. Grid was a blacksmith, yet he possessed Weapons Mastery, Bow Mastery, and Magic Mastery.

He had endless potential.

『 H-He is really shooting a bow! 』

One arrow left Grid's bowstring. The spectators looked on as it moved in a zigzag, the movements hard to predict. It was the moment that the dignity of the legendary Pagma's Descendant class was howed to the world.

Grid was confident.

'I'm no longer someone you can ignore.'

Grid had lived a life where he wasn't acknowledged by people. He had always been despised for his lack of talent. But now it was different.

Satisfy. In the end, it was a game where Grid broke the prejudices of the people who knew him and became the best.

Peeeeeeong!

『 Grid has accurately hit the target!!! 』

[Firing speed has increased by 1%.]

[The arrow has hit the desired target. Additional Bow Mastery experienced has been acquired.]

Kkirik!

Grid pulled the bowstring again with calm eyes. As the stagnant score of South Korea started moving again...

[Your arrow has missed.]

[Your arrow has missed.]

[Your arrow...]

"...This is rotten."

Indeed, his luck was bad. It happened when Grid saw that the arrows were flying in a different direction.

『 The situation is turned upside down! The United States has surpassed South Korea's score! 』

『 Russia and Canada are also close to South Korea's score! 』

『 The other countries are finally fully engaged in the target processing, but South Korea has only three survivors. They will keep falling behind. 』

『 Hah... Regas and Seuron are still fighting. I want to express my sympathies to the people of Britain and Argentina. 』

『 To the people of China and Japan... 』

‘Is there nothing I can do?’

Grid’s heart weakened for the first time in a while. He had been trying so hard for the past year, so he felt frustrated because he couldn’t achieve his desired result.

‘...No, it isn’t over yet.’

Grid bit his lip and firmed up his heart. The bowstring was pulled close to his red lips. Grid was extremely focused when there was a new change on the battlefield. The scores of the US and Russia stopped.

{Shit! East cliff! Check it! }

{U-Uhh? What? Why isn’t magic working?}

{There’s a reason. Haven’t you heard the rumor that it is impossible to hit him with non-targeted skills?}

{I thought it was an exaggerated rumor.}

{An exaggeration? There is never any exaggeration when describing him. Rather, it’s too lacking.}

Economies, industrial, science, culture, arts, military, academics, sports, etc. The United States had always been the leader in every field. There was nothing comparable to the largest and strongest country in the world.

It was natural that the United States would hold the title of the strongest in Satisfy. But the strongest United States was currently in turmoil. It was due to only one person. The sky above the sky.

‘Kraugel...!’

Lael’s face distorted as he clung to the top of the mountain and looked at the battlefield.

‘It’s my mistake.’

It happened the moment he was convinced that Kraugel would target South Korea’s Yura.

‘We should’ve adjusted the pace of our scoring until Kraugel had a direct conflict with South Korea.’

But that didn’t happen. The United States overtook South Korea’s score before Yura was attacked, causing Kraugel to switch targets. Kraugel was only aiming for gold. From his point of view, it was natural for him to target the most threatening country.

“Ugh... My health...”

There were some rules in the 2nd National Competition’s PvP field. First, damage was reduced by 50%. Second, various recovery potions and buff potions couldn’t be taken. Third, pets couldn’t be summoned.

These were measures to ensure that the participants fought purely with their combat abilities, and to allow the viewers to watch entertaining scenes for a longer time. It was why Zibal still wasn’t fully functional after receiving a large injury from Pon’s Rail Spear. Only two-thirds of his health had recovered.

How could they deal with the monster called Kraugel in this state? It was a very regrettable thing for Zibal. But he couldn't stay still.

Lauel restrained him.

"You should try to recover a bit more. If you rush it, you will just be hurt worse."

Healers were rare and precious in this game. He realized it again. Therefore, the value of Pope Damian and the Rebecca Church, which could train healers, was more important. He needed to be turned into a perfect ally.

In this dire situation, Lauel was still thinking about Overgeared.

{Russia is approaching through the western path. All personnel, except for Skull, should prepare to face the enemy. I will stop Kraugel in the east with Skull.}

The United State's power was certainly unique. They completely overwhelmed Spain. It should be relatively easy to deal with Russia if Kraugel's feet were tied up. Lauel believed so and used Dragon's Stretch to cause a landslide.

Kraugel confirmed that most of the US rankers moved away, used White Light Steps to avoid the 8th ranked Skull and came face to face with Lauel.

'Indeed. He always targets the head.'

Smart people were always a target. Lauel predicted that Kraugel would aim for him. It was the reason why he made Zibal keep recovering here.

"Zibal! Let's see if your hands can reach the sky!"

"I'm ranked 2nd! I'm the only person qualified to crack the sky!"

Zibal received Lauel's provocation and jumped up to face Kraugel. He had shown excellent skills in hunting and boss raids, but nothing in PvP. He didn't participate in the 1st National Competition's PvP event, so he had to prove himself now. The reason he neglected PvP was because he wasn't interested, not because he was weak!

"Kraugelllllll!"

Zibal screamed and pulled out a grey rod. It was the emergence of the ego weapon made by the 1st ranked blacksmith, Panmir, who used the techniques learned from the dwarf city Talima.

Peeng!

The grey rod was 1m in length and soared into the sky. The length quickly grew to 3m in an instant and aimed for Kraugel's chest.

Suuk.

The moment that Kraugel avoided it.

Pakak!

The end of the grey rod turned at a right angle and hit Kraugel's temple. Kraugel couldn't overcome the shock and fell down.

Kuuuuong.

"...This is items."

Lauel never imagined that Zibal could do this much. On the other hand, the world was in great disorder.

『 T-The sky above the sky...! The sky above the sky!!! 』

『 He fell!!! 』

『 It's because of Zibal! 』

They were skeptical of his abilities since he was assassinated by Tarma who was logged out by Grid in 3 seconds, but he truly was the 2nd rank. The rumor that he had a close fight with the crazy farmer of Reidan wasn't a lie.

"Waaahhhhhhhh!"

"Zibal! Zibal! Zibal!"

The Americans cheered and stomped their feet. A stir filled the Stade de France National Stadium.

"I am Zibal! I am the most powerful American!"

Zibal shouted excitedly. Kraugel responded by slowly raising his body. His condition wasn't good. Was it due to the injury from Zibal? No. Kraugel's defense wasn't so poor that Zibal's blow would cause a big injury.

Kraugel was just tired. It had been 30 minutes since the target processing started and he had wiped out more than 10 countries alone. His stamina was low and as a result, his concentration dropped, and his movements became less stable.

"It's very unfortunate that it isn't Grid, but this is a chance to break down the sky in front of the whole world..."

Lauel finished casting Dragon Stretch and reached out towards Kraugel. The 8th ranked Skull had climbed the cliff and was aiming for Kraugel's back.

"Just rest."

Lauel proposed.

Kurururung!

Dragon Stretch crumbled the floor around Kraugel.

"Open Arms!"

Skull continuously hit Kraugel's back.

"I will wash away the stain on my reputation today!"

Zibal controlled the grey rod and aimed it at Kraugel's head.

"..."

Kraugel faced strong skills. He was sweating so much it was like raindrops, but he remembered his sick mother. A deep desire filled his black eyes. He struggled and endured because he only wished for his mother's recovery.

"Super Sensitivity."

Kakiing.

The strongest skill that only a person who obtained the title of great swordsman could use was activated and the owner moved between Zibal, Lauel, and Skull.

Seokeok!

Peok!

Kwang!

America's strongest players were shattered by the combination of a speed that couldn't be followed with the eyes, an attack that seemed beyond cognitive ability, and the hard to match destructive power.

At this moment, Kraugel was invincible. This was a truth that nobody in the world could argue against. The sky that Grid wanted to reach was endlessly high.

Chapter 419

『 Skull and Lauel have been logged out!! 』

『 The survivors of the US team have started to retreat. 』

『 It's a big matter that Kraugel alone tied up three rankers. Russia has the numerical superiority. 』

『 Zibal survived, but his loss in power is severe. The United States seems to be getting further away from the medal. 』

『 Who could've imagined that a strong champion like the United States would be knocked out? Amazing! Kraugel is really great! 』

Since Satisfy's opening, Kraugel had maintained his first place ranking on the unified rankings chart. However, due to his nature of acting alone without appearing in public, the public had no chance to get to know his skills. They just guessed he was strong based on the few rankers who were witnesses.

To be honest, the public thought that all the nicknames for Kraugel were exaggerated. But that changed today. They were able to realize it after seeing Kraugel directly.

The rumors about Kraugel weren't exaggerated. Rather, they weren't accurate enough.

Kraugel was truly a transcendent figure.

“So what if the trivial monkey is good at fighting?”

The skinheads of Russia showed extreme racism. Over the past century, the number of Asians assaulted or killed by them was over 100,000.

The Koryoin were no exception. Most Koreans voluntarily acquired Russian citizenship and lived in Russia for several generations, but they weren't recognized by the skinheads. They were treated with threats and contempt. In 2005, there was a well known incident where the Koryoin Russian karate champion, 'Yakov Khan' was murdered by skinheads.

“What are you doing? The competition isn't over yet.”

Alexander. He was a skinhead and 22nd on the overall rankings. He treated Kraugel as less than a human. He didn't cheer, honor, or respect Kraugel, who played a bigger role than anyone else. He was just like a dog.

"..."

Kraugel led Russia to victory by defeating Jishuka, Skull, and Lauel. He couldn't even hold his body up properly as Alexander whispered to him.

"Shake it off and keep going. Don't you have to work hard to treat your mother's disease?"

"..."

“What? You're not getting up?”

Alexander knew why Kraugel was in this National Competition and thoroughly took advantage of it.

"Oh, I'm not feeling motivated anymore. I am tired of playing in the National Competition, so how about I quit and take a break?"

“I'm sorry. I'll get up.”

Kraugel restrained Alexander, who was about to lie down, and barely got up. His legs were staggering as Alexander pointed to the scoreboard.

"While we were fighting the United States, South Korea took back the number one spot. If you don't want to miss out on the gold medal, you need to shatter them.”

“...I will do so.”

A new medicine that could treat his mother's disease. It would take at least two years before it was commercialized. Kraugel couldn't wait until then, so he firmed up his heart.

1st. South Korea - 244 points.

2nd. Russia - 195 points.

3rd. United States - 167 points.

4th. Canada - 153 points.

5th. United Kingdom - 119 points.

...

...

Grid's face was tense as he checked the scoreboard.

'The score of the Russians has started to rise again.'

It meant that the battle between the US and Russia ended in Russia's victory

"As expected from Kraugel."

The average power of the United States was higher than Russia. The US was only defeated due to the variable called Kraugel. Yura and Peak Sword hadn't expected the current situation and were surprised, but Grid was different.

'I can't play a more active role on this stage than Kraugel.'

In the past, Grid had defeated Kraugel because Kraugel wasn't in a perfect state. It was natural for Kraugel to achieve all of this, since he was so strong.

"Hrmm."

South Korea had once again regained first place, but their the situation wasn't very good right now. Grid's God Hands were slowly and steadily accumulating points. However, Peak Sword was limited to close range damage, while Yura consumed mana with every shot. Yura's target processing speed was remarkably reduced and the targets flying through the sky were too small to handle.

'It would be a great help if Park Jonghwa was still alive.'

Grid judged that Russia and Canada would eventually beat them.

'The secret to how Russia is able to reach here.'

They actively utilized the weapon called Kraugel. Kraugel moved through Tira, fighting the elements that threatened Russia alone. And right now, the country threatened Russia was South Korea.

Kraugel needed to move again for Russia to get a more definitive victory. South Korea would be a target.

'Kraugel will soon attack.'

What will be the result if I fight against him?

'South Korea will lose.'

Even if Grid caught Kraugel's ankle, Yura and Peak Sword were the only ones handling the target, so the speed of scoring will be slow. In the end, Russia would catch up.

'If Yura and Peak Sword can confront Kraugel...'

It was counterproductive. Yura had grown quickly through the vampire cities and the Behen Archipelago, but she was still only level 260. Peak Sword wasn't Kraugel's opponent in the first place.

Grid could only handle dozens of targets before the two people were logged out by Kraugel. Then Grid would be left alone.

The result where South Korea was defeated didn't change.

'How to get first?'

If Grid was an ordinary player, he would've abandoned the gold medal. But Grid wasn't a common player. Like Kraugel, he had a destructive power that overturned common sense. Thus, he could do something.

'What if I hit Russia?'

Yes, he didn't have to take the risk of facing Kraugel. While Kraugel ran to this place to confront Yura and Peak Sword, he would run and smash the Russian team.

'Afterwards, avoid Kraugel's pursuit and handle the targets with the God Hands.'

Canada remained a problem, but Korea, Canada, and Russia weren't the only countries remaining on the battlefield. Britain, Argentina, China, and Japan were still in a relatively good condition. They were also aiming for a medal, so they would read the situation and keep Canada in check.

"Okay."

The cooldown of most skills had returned and his mana had recovered by quite a bit. Grid made a decision and spoke to Yura and Peak Sword.

"Stand out so that you will be Kraugel's target. Then when Kraugel attacks, escape as far as possible and buy some time."

"Grid, don't tell me..."

Yura was smart and Peak Sword had been the leader of a guild. They figured out Grid's plan at once.

"Are you going to strike Russia alone?"

"It's too dangerous, even if you're God Grid! Russia didn't beat the United States just because of Kraugel. The average power of Russia is strong, especially Alexander...!"

"Isn't it high risk, high return? If we want the best result, I have to take this risk."

Grid cut off Peak Sword's anxious words and entered the forest. Peak Sword looked at his back with dismay and muttered.

"It is high risk, not high list..."

Kindergartens taught English these days, so shouldn't he know more? Peak Sword felt very good about his English, despite only saying 'Do you know?'

"South Korea's scoring rate has slowed down?"

"Is Kraugel already raiding Korea's base?"

"No, Kraugel is tired. It will take him a considerable amount of time to reach the Korean base, and even if he reaches it, he won't pose a great threat to Grid."

"Then why is South Korea's score rising so slowly?"

"Are they frightened of Kraugel?"

"Well, there is Yura in the Korean team. She will quickly identify that she is Kraugel's next target."

"Hahat! Cowards."

The Russian representatives were on top of the mountain that was originally the US team's base. As a result, the speed of their scoring was very fast. It was at least five times faster than South Korea, so a reversal would happen soon.

"But Alexander, isn't it better not to bother Kraugel so much in the National Competition?"

"I also agree. Kraugel is currently our largest power. It could backfire if you keep crushing his pride and morale."

Apart from Alexander, the Russian team representatives didn't know the real reason why Kraugel participated in the National Competition. They just thought he wanted a gold medal and a reward like themselves.

Alexander snorted.

"Don't worry. He wants to win the championship for Russia more than anyone else. He will do his best to the end, even if he's treated as a dog."

Alexander disliked Kraugel. He felt honored to participate in order to make Russia great, and couldn't stand the attitude of someone who participated for personal reasons. Thus, he wanted to crush Kraugel even more.

The Russian representatives were chatting while handling the targets.

"Are you harassing Kraugel? Hyenas are bothering a lion?"

It was a familiar but also unfamiliar voice. Alexander and the other Russian rankers looked in the direction of the voice.

"You..."

"Grid?"

Why was this bastard here? The Russian representatives quickly figured out the situation.

"Hoh, I see. You want to hit us while Kraugel hits South Korea?"

They felt grateful.

"Planning to raid us alone, you're crazy. Didn't you just come here to die?"

"You hit a couple of small fries and think you are so great?"

“You aren’t Kraugel. Did you call us hyenas and Kraugel a lion? Then you are a dog, a dog.”

Grid had been bullied throughout school and disliked harassment. He could roughly guess Kraugel’s position after hearing the conversation of the Russian rankers, so his eyes were sharp.

“I’m a tiger, dumb bastards.”

Kwack!

Before arriving here, Grid used the Item Combination skill. By combining Grid’s Greatsword and Failure, he held the weapon with the highest attack power.

“Transcended Link. And Linked Kill Wave.”

The bombardment struck the Russian team.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa!

“...!”

The energy blades, which were more threatening than a storm, destroyed the edge of the mountain peak. Unlike Lael, who caused a landslide by taking advantage of the terrain, Grid caused a landslide using pure destructive power.

The Russian representatives screamed as they were hit.

Chapter 420

Kurururung!

The mountain wasn’t able to cope with the explosion generated by Transcended Link and collapsed.

The Russians showed their skills as the stones poured down like hail. Transcended Link was a non-targeted skill, so it could be avoided with control, while Linked Kill Wave could be countered with a corresponding skill.

Pepeng!

Pepepepeong!

Indeed, third advancement classes were different. The two second advancement users were unable to cope with Transcended Link properly, while the four third advancement classes handled Linked Kill Wave. They were hit by the landslide, but they moved their bodies properly and avoided a fatal injury. They were different from small fries.

Among them, the 22nd ranked Alexander was a military student. He focused on the small shields hanging on both wrists and hardened them, completely neutralizing the strike of Linked Kill Wave. He wasn’t a tanker, so it was probably a skill to neutralize techniques.

“Indeed, you’re a monster.”

Alexander shook his hands like it was numb.

“If it’s just the power of the skill alone, you are stronger than Kraugel.”

Just.

"Aren't your total abilities below me?"

Alexander had also participated in the National Competition last year. He saw Grid defeat Hurent and Bondre in succession, winning the PvP event. At the time, he had been honestly surprised. He realized that he couldn't beat this yellow monkey and his pride was hurt.

But now it was different. Over the past year, Alexander had become stronger. He advanced faster than others. Grid would also be stronger than last year, but Alexander was certain that he had a bigger growth.

"I also experienced the East Continent."

One of the people who knew about the Behen Archipelago.

In this notorious instant dungeon, Alexander reached the 15th island and luckily found Fog Island. He bought a large number of elixirs and moved to the East Continent. There, he succeeded in countless quests, receiving all types of titles and a second class.

"My current stats are around 400 points higher than the same level users. By hardening my aura, I can exert powerful attack power and defense at the same time. Can a monkey like you handle me?"

Grid listened to the story and laughed.

Alexander frowned.

"What is funny?"

"In my experience, talkative people like you usually die in one blow. I'm just curious about how many seconds it will take for you to die."

It was an obvious provocation. Grid noticed Alexander's temper and taunted him. But Alexander was a surprisingly cool person.

"Hey monkey. I know that you've been a winner for a while. But keep this in mind."

The world was wide and there were many people.

"There are more than two billion users in Satisfy. Why do only a few rankers participate in the National Competition to represent their country? You're strong, but there are countless others in the world that you don't know about."

The true users that were Kraugel's level didn't show up in the National Competition. Why? They didn't want to expose their power to the world.

"They don't crave anything enough to risk exposing themselves. They are complete products."

"What is your point?"

"Well, to put it simply, it means that the rankers who competed in the National Competition are only B-class. They are lacking many parts and are weak and pitiful beings who made a choice to expose their power. Don't be so arrogant when you have only played against them."

“...Hoh.”

It was a plausible logic. Grid had reasons for participating in the National Competition. First of all, he wanted the world to acknowledge his abilities. Secondly, he wanted to obtain adamantium and promote Overgeared. He wouldn't have bothered participating in the National Competition if he had no purpose. In fact, Faker hadn't participated in the National Competition for two years in a row.

Grid thought about it and came to a conclusion.

"Then Alexander, aren't you also B-class? Are you giving me an advance warning before I knock you out?"

Alexander snorted.

“No, I am A-class.”

Alexander was already strong enough. He knew it wasn't ideal to fight in the National Competition and expose his power. Nevertheless, he participated in the National Competition for only one reason.

“I participated in this competition for the glory of my country. Now, experience the power of an A-class. Be the cornerstone of Russia's glory!”

“...!”

Grid's eyes widened.

It was because something as sharp as thorns rose from the ground at his feet.

His high insight and the power of the Slaughterer's Eye Patch meant Grid quickly detected the abnormality of the ground. Then he moved around with the agility he gained in the Behen Archipelago, avoiding the thorns.

The swift movements were more than Alexander anticipated.

‘Yes, this is the trinity of items, stats and skills.’

Alexander linked skills while admiring it.

“It is useless! Aura Explosion!”

Pepepepeong!

The aura thorns that rose from the ground where Grid stood became hard. They exploded and caused damage to Grid...

[You have dealt 680 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt 599 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt 605 damage to the target.]

“Eh?”

Alexander's eyes widened with surprise.

‘What? Why isn’t the damage higher?’

That Grid, did he move quickly and get away from the blast radius? Alexander watched the dust caused by the explosion and belatedly realized.

‘No, he didn’t avoid it.’

Grid’s defense was just absurdly high.

‘Overgeared...’

The first time that Grid appeared in front of the world in the past. He called himself overgeared when facing Neberius, a Yatan Servant. It was a defense that made Alexander recall Grid’s intense first appearance.

‘But it will eventually break!’

Alexander moved forward.

Jjeejeeong!

Twin swords slashed through the air towards Grid. If Grid didn’t have flying magic, he wouldn’t have been able to respond easily. Now Grid was accustomed to Fly after nearly two years. He could move as freely in the sky as he could on the ground. It was relatively easy to block Alexander’s swords.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

“What...?”

Currently, Grid was armed with a greatsword. It was common sense that his attack speed would be slow. But Grid’s attack speed was very fast. The attack speed was between that of a one-handed sword and a greatsword, so it was hard to defend against.

‘Even the destructive power...!’

Alexander barely defended with his shield, but he couldn’t bear the weight of the greatsword. He fell to the ground. Grid immediately rushed towards him.

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship.”

In the empty air, he moved while using Link.

Pit!

Pipipipit!

A quick swordsmanship that made it hard to believe it came from a greatsword. Dozens of black lights appeared around Alexander’s body. Grid believed that dozens of strikes would emerge from Alexander’s body. It was a maneuver to deal with Link.

But Alexander wasn’t an ordinary person. As soon as Grid used Link, he developed an aura tornado, creating a barrier of aura around his body and making it harder.

At that moment.

Pepepepeong!

Link hit the aura barrier and it broke. Grid and Alexander's gazes met through hundreds of scattered aura fragments. Alexander laughed.

"Louder than before! Aura Explosion!"

Puaaaaaaaah!

"Kuk!"

Grid groaned.

It was the first pained expression he made after the target processing started. It would be difficult to cope with the damage caused by the simultaneous explosion of dozens of aura fragments.

"This is the power of an A-class!"

Alexander took advantage of the momentum to hit Grid's chest with his left hand, while pushing the sword in his right hand into Grid's abdomen. It wasn't a weak attack. However, Grid's items were much better.

[The Largest Gloves have reduced physical damage by 4%.]

[The Shiny Gauntlets have reduced physical damage by 5%.]

[The Heavy Helmet has reduced physical damage by 6%.]

[Lantier's Cloak has reduced the damage of all stabbing and cutting attacks by 20%.]

[Triple Layers has reduced physical damage by 4%.]

[Triple Layers has reduced the damage of stabbing attacks by 50%.]

[The enemy's sword is caught in the gap of Three Layers. The skill 'Sword Breaker' is used.]

[The target's weapon durability has dropped.]

Kwajjjik!

"...What?"

Alexander paled. The durability of his swords decreased severely just from cutting and stabbing Grid. It even got stuck. It was like dealing with a named golem boss.

Grid told him.

"If you are A-class, then I am S-class?"

'Damn items...!'

Alexander removed his sword and attacked Grid again.

It was the manifestation of his strongest attack skill, 'Exceed Sword,' which concentrated hardened aura at the end of the sword. Exceed Sword had the option of ignoring a certain amount of the enemy's defenses.

Grid didn't avoid it. To be honest, it was difficult to avoid it. He didn't bother wasting strength and just let it hit. He believed in the Heavy Helmet, Largest Gloves, Shiny Gauntlets, Triple Layers, and Lantier's Cloak, which had high resistance to physical attacks.

Of course, his items certainly paid back Grid's faith.

[You have suffered 8,144 damage.]

"This is ridiculous!"

Alexander's strongest attack skill only did this much damage? The durability of his sword was further reduced. Grid struck the miserable Alexander. Alexander couldn't avoid it. Grid used a skill the moment he welcomed the attack, so there was no time to avoid it.

Linked Kill pierced Alexander's heart before Alexander could recover his sword.

Puk.

Puk puk puk!

Alexander did his best to the end.

He succeeded in defending against the first strike of Linked Kill with his hardened aura shield. But Grid's Linked Kill was a skill that hit the target at least three times. Luckily, this time it was six strikes.

Alexander couldn't deal with the overwhelming power exerted by Grid's Greatsword + Failure and turned to grey.

"..."

The Russian representatives were speechless.

They never imagined that Alexander, who was the next strongest after Kraugel, would lose against Grid. Frankly speaking, they expected Alexander to crush Grid. But the result was the opposite.

Then Grid said to them.

"Am I still a dog?"

The Russian representatives shook their heads.