

Overgeared 501

Chapter 501

"Let's go! Overgeared Skeletons!"

Clack!Clack clack clack!

Reidan's desert. A black-haired man was crossing the desert with two skeletons.

Hwiiiiing~~~~~

"Ah!" Spit!Spit spit!

A young man felt pained as the wind blew sand into his eyes and mouth. Two skeletons followed obliviously behind him.

Clack!

Clack clack!Clack!

The skeletons couldn't withstand the pressure of the wind and their joints twisted in different directions. They were like gentle dancers as their limbs broke down.

[The Overgeared Skeletons have suffered catastrophic damage!]

[Overgeared Skeleton (1) has returned to the soil.]

[Overgeared Skeleton (2) has returned to the soil.]

[The Overgeared Skeletons won't lose experience.]

"..."

After capturing the 8th city. Grid wanted to try hunting young scorpions in the desert with the skeletons. The level of the young scorpions was only 20~30. Rather than being classified as monsters, it was classified as a monster's prey. If Grid supported them well, the Overgeared Skeletons could hunt them and raise their levels.

But what was this? The Overgeared Skeletons were destroyed by the wind before they could even meet the scorpions! Grid was stunned.

"Wow... Seriously trash."

Undead monsters were known for their weak durability. Their bodies were easily broken and this was directly related to a decline in fighting ability. But the Overgeared Skeletons were different. Since their basic stats were garbage, their bodies were broken and they were killed. These skeletons were pathetic and were among the weakest undead Grid had ever encountered.

"The power obtained from defeating a direct descendant..."

He knew that the Overgeared Skeletons were highly likely to have great growth potential. But no matter how well they were raised, it was evident they would never compare to a death knight. Was it worth the trouble to raise these guys? Grid couldn't help questioning.

'But if there's one good point...'

The Overgeared Skeletons didn't lose experience if they died. They just died. If he repeatedly summoned them to hunt, he might be able to raise their levels.

"I should hunt rabbits when I return to Reidan."

Grid lost motivation and logged out. It was time to sleep. He hadn't been able to sleep well for two days, so his head and body were very tired.

While Grid was sleeping. As always, Lauel was working on behalf of Grid. The appearance of the hard working staff member became an inspiration for the Overgeared members, while inspiring compassion at the same time.

The Gauss Kingdom. A kingdom located on the northernmost point of the continent, bordered by the Eternal Kingdom. The east and west areas of the two kingdoms were close to each other and had a bad relationship. The Eternal Kingdom and Gauss Kingdom didn't have a good relationship.

In order to advance into the central part of the continent, Gauss must pass through Eternal. In order to advance to the sea, Eternal must pass through Gauss. A separate tariff had to be paid in order for them to trade with each other. The Gauss Kingdom was in a worse position than the Eternal Kingdom, which could easily enter the center of the continent.

"If it wasn't for Earl Ashur...!"

Marquis Valtin. He had been serving the Gauss Kingdom for generations and was responsible for the defense of the fortified city Borneo. Borneo was a very important base for defending the border of the Gauss Kingdom. It faced the fortified city of Patrian in the Eternal Kingdom and frequently clashed with Patrian.

Historically, the number of battles between Borneo and Patrian had reached the hundreds. But war didn't occur in the present day. It was due to one of the 10 great magicians on the continent. Earl Ashur. Since he became lord of Patrian, Marquis Valtin didn't dare go against Patrian. What did it matter how well trained his army was? They would be burned to ashes by the magic!

"I should've learned magic when I was young..."

Instead, he learned swordsmanship. Marquis Valtin was staring out the window when the voice of a deputy entered his ears.

"A guest from the Eternal Kingdom has come to see you."

"Hrmm."

The Gauss Kingdom might be at odds with the Eternal Kingdom, but that didn't mean there were no interactions. As a neighbouring kingdom, there were many superficial policies implemented. In order to enter the Gauss Kingdom from the Eternal Kingdom, everyone had to go through Borneo. Therefore, Borneo was often visited by the king or nobles of Eternal.

“Come in.”

Marquis Valtin politely welcomed the guest. No matter what he thought, he was a professional politician. He couldn't be rude to guests visiting from Eternal. After a moment. A man entered Marquis Valtin's office. He was a young man with silver hair.

‘No, isn't he a boy?’

The guest was very young. The inwardly confused Marquis Valtin smiled and spoke, "Welcome to Borneo. But what should I call you?"

The silver-haired boy bowed and introduced himself politely.

"I am Earl Lauel of Eternal. I come on behalf of Duke Grid of Reidan."

“Hah...”

Marquis Valtin's eyes sharpened. The names Lauel and Grid. Marquis Valtin were familiar with them. There was no way he couldn't know their names. A few years ago, they were the ones who rescued Reinhardt from the golem invasion. Marquis Valtin was interested in those who were praised as the 'Kingdom's Heroes.' Thus, he was familiar with the latest situation.

‘Grid killed Prince Ren, who was first in line for the throne.’

Due to that, the relationship between the Eternal royal family and Reidan was very bad. Perhaps Reidan was already isolated within Eternal. The fact that people were sent here...

‘If it's true, this situation will be fun.’

Marquis Valtin was filled with anticipation. He didn't show it as he asked calmly, "You're the famous Earl Lauel? Huhu, we have heard of you even in the Gauss Kingdom. It's an honor to meet you."

Lauel shook the thick hands of Marquis Valtin as politely as possible. Then he replied, "It's an honor to meet Marquis Valtin, the lion of Gauss. Isn't even Earl Ashur, one of the great great magicians on the continent, afraid of you?"

“Hahahat! I guess so!”

Marquis Valtin had an inferiority complex towards Earl Ashur. Lauel's flattery was sufficient. In addition, Lauel wasn't telling a lie. Marquis Valtin had mastered a specialized combat style. The ruler of Borneo. There was no person more suitable for the role of defending the Gauss Kingdom. In fact, the reason Earl Ashur didn't invade Borneo was due to Marquis Valtin.

Marquis Valtin laughed pleasantly and naturally asked, "Why did you come here?"

Lauel explained bluntly. "Eternal's royal family is making Reidan impoverished. Duke Grid can no longer endure it and has decided to become independent from Eternal."

It was a well-known story that Grid only pledged allegiance to King Wiesbaden when he became a duke. In addition, he was currently framed for Prince Ren's death. On the surface, there was a bad relationship between Grid and the Eternal Kingdom. That's why Lauel was certain. Marquis Valtin wouldn't doubt his words.

“Duke Grid needs Marquis Steim’s help to become completely independent. In order to connect the north and west, Duke Grid made a plan to invade and occupy Patrian.”

“...”

Marquis Valtin waited patiently. He tried to suppress the smile that wanted to leak out. He was inwardly filled with joy as Lauel asked him.

"As you know, Reidan is a desolate land. The population is less than 20,000 and the troops are few. It's natural for the quality of the soldiers to be low. We can't occupy Patrian with just our strength. So Marquis Valtin, please help us. Send the powerful soldiers of Borneo as reinforcements and help us occupy Patrian."

Lauel bowed his head and begged as much as possible. He was showing his desperation. Marquis Valtin didn't doubt the current situation and nodded.

"What will the Gauss Kingdom get in return for helping Duke Grid?"

"If the occupation of Patrian succeeds, the north and west of Eternal will be connected and ruled by Duke Grid." Lauel passed the papers he prepared in advance to Marquis Valtin. "Duke Grid has promised to remove all tariffs, as well as give a monthly tribute to the Gauss Kingdom. The details are contained in this agreement."

“Hrmm...?”

Marquis Valtin's smile became progressively larger as he read the contents of the agreement. The conditions were so great that it was difficult to control his facial expression any longer. He finally made a suspicious expression.

"I know that Duke Grid is Marquis Steim's son-in-law. Marquis Steim is ruler of the north. Why don't you borrow his power to occupy Patrian instead of coming to me?"

"King Aslan is blocking all communications with the north and there's no way to contact Marquis Steim. Due to that, Duke Grid has become more obsessed with Patrian."

It was an answer that was easy to guess. Marquis Valtin nodded. "Okay, I understand. However, Duke Grid needs to handle Earl Ashur. We want to avoid losing as many troops as possible."

"Of course. Believe in us. I'm sure that you're aware of our skills."

“Kingdom’s Hero... It should be enough to keep Earl Ashur in check. Okay, I will send the army.”

The soldiers of Borneo were the elite. They were trained to participate in war at any time, making them thirsty for it.

‘Of course, it’s the same for me!’

The first thing the excited Marquis Valtin did was to send a letter to the Gauss royal family. After delivering the story about the war to the royal family, the army was reorganized and headed to Patrian with Lauel. The final number was 10,000 troops.

Reidan had a total of 4,000 troops. 3,000 of them were involved in this expedition. If this expedition failed, the base of Reidan would be shaken. But the Overgeared members weren't nervous. It was difficult for them to think they would be defeated in a war where all the Overgeared members except for Grid were participating. In particular, the presence of Blood Warrior Katz gave a strong belief to everyone. It was difficult to find a stronger presence on the battlefield.

"But why is the marching speed so fast?"

The Overgeared members wondered as the 3,000 soldiers crossed the desert. The marching speed of the army was much faster than expected. Reidan's soldiers might be accustomed to the desert, but wouldn't this fast marching speed make them tired more easily?

Toban soothed his worried colleagues. "Commander Asmophel must have a reason. His strategies are above ours. We just have to believe in him."

"Hmm, indeed."

The Overgeared members were in the rear to protect the supply wagons from being attacked by giant worms. They thought that the man at the forefront of the army was Asmophel. They never dreamt that Asmophel would be missing in such an important moment.

"Go. Destination. Patrian."

His maximum intelligence was 20. The commander who didn't know anything, Jude, started the rapid advance.

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『 The first legendary class! The first person to become a duke! The holder with the most medals in the National Competition! The master of the Overgeared Guild! The name of this brilliant person is Grid!! What's the secret behind his level up that shot up forward 33 positions in the rankings? Are you curious? Do you want to know? Yes! I'll tell you everything! In a while, Grid's hunting video will be revealed on OGC Station! A live broadcast! You can watch it on TV, the Internet, or on the radio! Please use the OGC channel!! 』

OGC put a lot into this broadcast. They invested all their capital into advertising because they were certain it would be an unconditional success. As a result, OGC's ads were repeatedly played in dozens of countries on the Internet, TV, newspapers, and magazines.

It was an excellent choice. The spread of the advertisements to the whole world was enormous. OGC's Internet channel became congested with users and OGC quickly secured more advertising funds than they invested. OGC had a festive atmosphere.

"This is completely the best...! It's way more than we expected!"

"It has no choice but to succeed. We have secured a number of viewers that is comparable to the National Competition."

"One billion views will look funny in a few days."

"Bunny Bunny's private station has also gathered millions of people."

“This is Grid’s influence! He really is God Grid!”

“Everyone is wondering where Grid is hunting and how he’s raising his level so quickly.”

“They dream of becoming a ranker by obtaining the secrets to levelling.”

“Okay! Let’s do our best for a perfect broadcast! This is an opportunity for OGC to secure the world!”

After a while. The live broadcast of Grid’s hunting began. The number of viewers continued to rise, while the number of users logged into Satisfy decreased. It was almost similar to the time of the National Competition.

This was Lauel’s intention.

“Move forward. Move forward. Move forward.”

Reidan’s army had Jude at its head. Their marching speed was very fast. They crossed the hot desert as if they were running. The soldiers felt like they were going to die. The hot sun shone down on them and the desert was sizzling. Armed with heavy armor and weapons, they didn’t rest and marched as if they were running.

It was hell. They couldn’t deal with the hardships. The field work under Piaro and Asmophel’s mental education wasn’t as hard as this.

“Pant... Pant! Th... Thirsty! Give me a break to drink water, please.”

“Pant pant! Aren’t we going to die?”

“Hah... I see my dog that died last year in that haze over there... She’s calling me over...”

"Seeing an illusion of a dog, not a woman... This guy has never experienced love..."

The limit. The soldiers were covered in sweat and on the verge of collapsing. There were some who wanted to kill somebody, some who wanted to go home, and most of them had tears in their eyes.

‘An army that can’t maintain its rank has lost its role as an army.’

‘They still have stamina but morale has dropped to the worst.’

‘Unbelievable... In this state, there will be those who run away. The army will collapse before they even fight.’

‘They’re also the elites of Reidan...!’

The eight young knights selected and trained by Piaro and Asmophel. They tried not to express it, but they were also tired. They followed Jude while looking at the soldiers and finally couldn’t bear it.

"Commander Jude, can I ask for the reason behind such a fast marching speed?"

“There is plenty of time before the arrival time that Earl Lauel specified. I don’t think we need to hurry. The soldiers’ morale has lowered and their stamina...”

Jude had been Grid's knight for five years. It was rumored that Grid even specifically picked him. The ravaged Reidan that had turned into a desert. Grid was the great hero who saved their home, which had been abandoned. The young knights naturally envied Jude, who had been recognized by Grid for five years. They didn't dare doubt Jude's abilities. They believed in him and followed him.

But now they felt doubts. Jude's way of commanding the army was too ignorant. It was illogical and inefficient. Maybe Jude was weak when it came to strategy?

Jude replied to the shaken young knights. He did it while moving forward.

"The meeting point. Quickly. Quickly. My Lord. He said it. Quickly."

"...Hah."

The battlefield where they would risk their lives was called a meeting place? The young knights were thrilled.

'For him, the battlefield is...'

'A place where he meets friends?'

'Truly great...! This is the dignity of a veteran who has stood right beside the great hero...!'

"Heok?"

The young knights were suddenly astonished. For some reason, they thought the desert heated up even more and a sea of fire appeared in front of them.

"T-The desert is burning?"

"Heok! Stop! Stop!"

They didn't know what was happening. The desert was burning and blocking the path to Patrian. It was impossible to jump into the fire with the precious soldiers. The young knights urgently ordered the soldiers to stop marching at once. But Jude continued to run. He didn't shrink back from the raging fire and just advanced.

"What are you doing?"

"Please stop!"

The young knights tried to stop Jude. But it was too late. While they were taking care of the soldiers, Jude was already running into the flames.

"This is crazy...!"

Was he crazy? The moment that the young knights paled.

Swaaaah!

The flames swallowed up Jude faded away. A splendid oasis was present where the flames had been. It was clear blue water. The 3,000 soldiers of Reidan couldn't close their mouths.

"The fire was an illusion...! Earl Ashur created a trap!"

"Commander Jude noticed it!"

"Amazing! Really amazing!"

Jude was soaking himself in the oasis. He plunged into the sea of fire only for it to be cool, making him smile.

"Water. Good. Clear. Jude. Thirsty. Drink."

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

The morale of Reidan's troops pierced through the sky. Their weariness disappeared. The young knights were shocked by Jude.

'He knew the resting point in advance? He's thorough.'

'Earl Ashur was aware of Reidan's rebellion and designed something to keep us in check.'

'Commander Jude is in a different dimension from us. He truly is Duke Grid's knight.'

At that moment, the young knights and 3,000 troops had complete trust in Jude. Jude obtained a new title.

[Trusted Commander]

The physical strength and defense of the troops he commanded would slightly increase, while the stamina consumption rate would decrease.

"Isn't this amazing?"

"It truly is Sir Asmophel."

"No wonder why he was called one of the pillars of the empire."

At the rear of the 3,000 troops. The Overgeared members were escorting the supplies convoy and their speed was naturally slow. They were moving wagons and couldn't keep up with the marching rate of the main army. The Overgeared members felt disbelief.

Asmophel was completely neglecting food transportation, one of the most important aspects. They suspected him of being an incompetent commander. However, these doubts disappeared after a while. The vibration and dust that occurred because of the 3,000 troops was huge. This disturbance was transmitted underground and suppressed the appearance of the giant worms.

'He stopped the giant worms from showing up? It's a strategy that fully understands and exploits the characteristics of the giant worms.'

'Thanks to this, the rear of the army and the food supplies are perfectly safe.'

'He lead the weary soldiers to an oasis and immediately gave them a break.'

'He figured out the location of the oasis?'

Indeed, Lauel was great. He accurately identified Asmophel's talents and boldly delegated 3,000 soldiers to him. The Overgeared members believed that the future was bright.

The fortified city, Patrian.

Earl Ashur perceived a mysterious atmosphere. Adventurers started to disappear from the streets and an unpleasant silence dominated the city. In addition, one of the traps he set up on the road between Reidan and Patrian had been destroyed.

"...Is Grid finally moving?"

It was natural for Grid to invade Patrian. Grid had killed Prince Ren who swung a blade at him. It was no different from announcing his hostility to the Eternal Kingdom. That's why Earl Ashur was well prepared. He thoroughly defended Patrian, the only route that Grid could use to advance to the north. The sea of fire was one of the defenses.

'It was broken so easily... I can still stop him.'

Earl Ashur understood Grid's strength very well. He had seen it for himself. But now the situation had changed. At that time, he had been careless when facing Grid. In addition, he was confused because of the swordsman who looked like a beggar. Now he had grasped Grid's power. He was confident that he could beat Grid because he was fully prepared.

In the first place, a magician showed their overwhelming firepower in a war. In particular, the terrain was on their side. There was no chance that Patrian would be occupied.

'There is one variable.'

The presence of his son Bland, who was taken as a hostage. The only remaining flesh of his wife.

'Can I turn away from him?'

His family had served Eternal's royal family for generations. From a cold point of view, it was right to chose the kingdom over family.

'My father, grandfather, and great grandfather would've all chosen the kingdom.'

Yes, he knew. It was possible to give birth to more children, but there was only one kingdom.

'I know...'

His heart ached like it was torn. He hated his fate as a guardian that had been given to him since he was born. There was nothing more sad than having to turn away from the person he loved most in this world.

'Bland... If this stupid father drives you to death, I will also die. Only after I smash Reidan!'

Earl Ashur stared out the window with hollow eyes. Then someone came up to him.

"I understand your sad heart."

The man was covered by a robe. He was someone who had been staying in Patrian for a few months already. His identity? Earl Ashur didn't know. The person was sent by King Aslan. Earl Ashur wasn't feeling good and frowned at the robed man.

"Are you finally going to show off your skills?"

King Aslan said that this robed man was the 'force' that would defend Patrian against Duke Grid's attack. In fact, Earl Ashur was aware that the robed man was someone great. But he wasn't happy. He didn't want a person with an unknown identity near him. The robed man faced Earl Ashur's hostility and bowed respectfully.

"I will definitely rescue your son. Believe in me."

"...?"

The robed man who made the ridiculous declaration. As he bent forward, his robe moved to reveal a blade that was strangely split into a Y character. It was the sword that had killed Prince Ren on a cold desert night last year. It was the emergence of the Solo Number Knight who defeated the Great Swordsman Chucksley.

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[You have entered the Vampire's Underground City (8).]

[The entrance of the dungeon is blocked. Contact with the outside world will be blocked.]

[You can't escape the dungeon until you have died or kill the dungeon boss.]

'Right here...'

'Grid was able to raise his level so quickly in this place.'

'8th city, does this mean that Reidan has seven more cities like this?'

'A territory with eight instant dungeons, the value is astronomical. This is why the Overgeared members can dominate the rankings.'

The world's best gaming BJ Bunny Bunny and the shooting staff of OGC Station. They entered the dungeon to shoot Grid's hunting broadcast and were immediately perplexed.

"Huh? Isn't it too dark?"

"Nothing can be seen."

"Turn on the lights!"

A darkness that didn't allow anything to be seen! The OGC staff and Bunny Bunny decided this couldn't continue and turned on their lights. Was it a view of the city that appeared as soon as the lights were turned on? No. It was the sight of at least 50 bats and wolves.

"Heok?"

"L-Large-toothed wolves and red-eyed bats!"

They were powerful monsters that were at least level 270. Dozens of these monsters showed up? The shooting staff shrank back while Bunny Bunny showed his professionalism.

“Viewers, look at this! A huge number of high level creatures are coming! Ahh! We will be wiped out! Will we die before we can pass on Grid’s levelling secrets?”

The moment that the viewers gulped and felt great tension because of Bunny Bunny’s words.

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship.”

Grid’s dancing had become much more natural after getting the diamond capsule. His cloak flapped as he moved quickly and generated a strong energy.

“Transcend.”

Kwaaaaang!

At the same time, there was a blast of energy! The stones around Grid floated in the air. Grid’s eyes became sharper under his black hair as he swiftly swung his sword.

Pepeng!

Pepepepeok!

Every time he swung the sword, energy blades shot out and killed the bats and wolves.

“Wow.”

“Wah... So strong.”

The shooting staff let out sounds of admiration. They knew that Grid was one of the best in Satisfy, but this was the first time they saw him hunting! They didn’t think he would slay 50 monsters with levels in the late 200’s in a flash. Grid scolded those whose mouths were open with shock.

“Next time, if you act selfishly and risk yourselves, then I won’t save you again.”

“Ah...! Ah, yes! I’m sorry!”

Unlike the hurriedly apologetic staff, Bunny Bunny asked unabashedly, “The monsters that just appeared are the vampires’ familiars. Do you raise your level while hunting the familiars until you meet the boss?”

Grid asked like he didn’t understand.

“The vampires’ familiars?”

“Huh? Ah, yes. Indeed.”

“I should hunt vampires.”

"...???"

Vampires were a senior species. They were overwhelming stronger than monsters of the same level and was a monster with the trinity of physical power, magic power, and intelligence. Common players

avoided hunting vampires because they were very demanding to handle. Yet Grid said he was going to hunt vampires.

Bunny Bunny doubted his ears and turned his gaze towards his camera.

“Did you hear that? Grid says that he will hunt vampires! Maybe today we can witness the huge scene where a player hunts three or four vampires at the same time...! Heok!”

Bunny Bunny’s face turned white. The buildings in the city. Grid was standing in front of hundreds of coffins, not dozens? It was the first time Bunny Bunny realized that there were so many vampires in the world.

OGC’s announcer, Park Shinye carefully speculated. “Perhaps... Grid will raise his level by quietly breaking each coffin one by one... Kyaack!”

Announcer Park Shinye shrieked. The reason why she was surprised...

“Linked Kill Wave.”

Crazy Grid. He used a wide area skill to wake up hundreds of vampires simultaneously.

-Wow, boss class ⇨ ⇨

-The shooting team is wiped out!

-Sweet ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨ ⇨

The viewers forgot to eat their chicken. Every action that Grid showed after entering the vampire city was amazing and interesting. The immersion wasn’t a joke. However, they felt desperate. Grid’s levelling secret. It was impossible to follow him, even if they learned the secret.

Near Patrian.

‘They are rabble.’

This was Marquis Valtin’s impression after he joined Reidan’s army. Reidan’s soldiers were unimpressive. They were covered with sweat and panting like a tired dog on a summer’s day.

‘They weren’t trained in the usual manner.’

Becoming this tired just from crossing the desert? Their stamina was low. It was truly pathetic.

‘Indeed... They won’t have the stamina to train normally.’

The circumstances behind Reidan’s desertification and impoverishment were well known. It was difficult to even obtain food to eat. How could they afford to train the army in the harsh manner? It was natural for Reidan’s soldiers to be weak.

‘Just gathering 3,000 troops is great.’

There were 20,000 residents and 3,000 soldiers. It seemed like all the young men had come out.

'It will be the end of Reidan if we lose today.'

Pisik.

Marquis Valtin made a scoffing sound. Meanwhile, Lauel was talking in the guild chat with the Overgeared members.

&Jishuka: We arrived half a day ahead of schedule, but we joined just in time?

&Toban: How did you know to align the time?

&Lauel: Jude would overuse the soldiers, so I took that into account. After thinking about it, I hastened the meeting with Marquis Valtin. Well, it's good that this is happening so quickly.

&Pon: ...Jude? Why Jude?

&Lauel: What's with this reaction? Surely you still don't know? Jude is Reidan's commander. Asmophel received my permission to act freely.

&Vantner: Wow. Nonsense. The great commander was Jude?

&Ibellin: Lauel. Are you crazy? What fool would entrust Jude with an army? You should've left it to Jishuka or Peak Sword.

&Lauel: Does the commander have a role other than directing the march? It's a task that can easily be carried out by Jude. In the first place, I don't want to place the Overgeared members at the front where Marquis Valtin can see. He might become wary if he sees such outstanding people.

The convoy escort was also the most important part of the march.

On the other hand, Marquis Valtin's gaze was fixed on Jude.

'Amazing. He's like an ogre.'

Large muscles harder than stones could be seen. Indeed, a person praised as the hero of Eternal would have such a great physique.

That's right. Marquis Valtin thought that Jude was Grid.

'He is only staring at the front?'

Grid (Jude) was just looking at the front, not even bothering to thank Marquis Valtin who brought a large army of 10,000 troops. His eyes were hollow and Marquis Valtin didn't know what he was thinking. It was the point where Grid wouldn't hear anything. This wasn't a normal appearance. It was remarkable.

Marquis Valtin felt admiration.

"The small fries are here."

The height of 20 meters. The man who appeared on Patrian's high walls gave both Reidan and Borneo soldiers a sense of oppression and despair.

Kurururung!

There was a thunderstorm above them and rain poured down. The man's ghost-like pale face was revealed under the flashing sky. It was Earl Ashur. The man who was still beautiful at 50 years old opened his mouth.

"I expected Reidan's revolt, but I never imagined it would coincide with Marquis Valtin's march. You are fools who don't know honor."

Marquis Valtin laughed.

"Your tough talk is still the same, Ashur! But I won't fall for your provocations today!"

He was confident. Originally, he would be scared of Earl Ashur. However, Grid was by his side.

'Grid and Reidan's army will keep him in check, while my troops can easily enter Patrian and occupy it.'

He was the reinforcements, so he wasn't in the position where he had to sacrifice his troops.

Ssik!

Lael took a step forward as Marquis Valtin smiled. Then he politely spoke to Earl Ashur. "I am Lael and I serve Duke Grid. It is an honor to meet one of the 10 great magicians on the continent."

The fishing rod and bait that Lael prepared. He threw the fishing rod first.

"As you know, Sir Bland is currently secured by us."

Lael glanced over at the eight young knights and Bland stepped forward from beside them.

"Father..."

"Bland!"

Earl Ashur's eyes trembled. Lael didn't miss his agitation and immediately tried to negotiate.

"The one who killed 1st Prince Ren wasn't Duke Grid, but King Aslan. He killed his older brother and placed all his sins on Duke Grid. The truth will be proven by Bland."

"What...?"

Earl Ashur's face filled with confusion as Lael continued.

"Earl Ashur has no obligation to be loyal to the royal family that has lost its legitimacy. Come join Duke Grid. Duke Grid will dispose of the false royal family that deceived you and will give you greater honor and power than before... Urgh."

Lael let out a groan of pain and stumbled. It was because a dagger had flown without a sound and pierced his chest.

"What?"

"Protect Earl Lael!"

The eight knights hurriedly ran to where Lael and Bland were standing. Then something dropped from the high walls. It was a robed man. The 9th knight of the Saharan Empire's Red Knights. A solo number

knight who could destroy a city by himself. He pulled out a strange Y-shaped blade and made it at lightning fast speed.

Chaeeeeeng!

“Ugh.”

“Keok.”

The eight young knights selected and trained by Piaro and Asmophel were defeated in an instant. They couldn't even follow the robed man's sword. A serious injury was dealt and they barely survived.

“E-Earl Lauel...!”

The eight knights screamed. Lauel was paralyzed by the poisoned dagger. In no time, the robed man reached him and swung his sword.

“Fast!”

All the Overgeared members running from the rear of the army were shocked. The swordsmanship was so amazing that Faker, Pon, and Regas became nervous. What about Lauel, who was the target?

‘I'm dead!’

This was bad. He never thought that such a monster would be hiding in Patrian.

‘Why am I always weak when it comes to variables?’

Lauel scolded his lacking qualities and closed his eyes.

Chaaeng!

A pebble came flying from Reidan's troops and stopped the sword of the solo number knight.

“?!”

A man hiding among the soldiers! A chill went down the spine of the solo number knight.

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Only 19 seconds. That was the time it took for the solo number knight to jump from the wall, get through the eight young knights, and reach Lauel.

Syuk!

The Y-shaped sword flashed towards Lauel's neck. Fast. Lauel's death seemed inevitable. But Lauel lived. A pebble came flying from Reidan's troops and stopped the sword of the solo number knight.

‘Unbelievable!’

A solo number knight. They referred to the top nine of the Red Knights, the strongest people on the continent. It was evaluated that their strength was higher than Piaro, the former leader of the Red Knights. It was because all the Red Knights of the present day had accomplished the status of great swordsman.

The 9th knight, Nautilus, couldn't believe it after his sword was blocked by a stone.

'A person who can throw a stone that can block my sword exists?'

It was also in a small kingdom?

'Duke Grid?'

No, Nautilus had already penetrated through Grid's skills and talent. He had watched from afar during the war with Prince Ren and fully understood Grid's fighting skills. He was strong, but a few levels below Nautilus. Grid wouldn't be able to reach this level even if he trained all his life. If that was the case?

'It can't be... Piaro?'

There was information that the last place the traitor hid was the Eternal Kingdom. It was possible that this was Piaro.

'No, no. It isn't Piaro.'

Piara hadn't been capable of this in his prime. He couldn't stop Nautilus' sword with a stone when his skills had fallen far below what it was in the past.

'Who is it?'

1 second. Nautilus was feeling confused.

"Lael. Protect."

Jude arrived and swung the +8 Dainsleif (Reproduction). The black sword fell towards Nautilus' head like a lightning bolt.

Chaaeng!

"Kuk!"

Nautilus' arms and legs shook when he collided with Jude's sword.

'What is this strength?'

It wasn't simply high muscular strength. The person in front of him seemed to have learned how to exert double or triple his actual strength.

Kwang!

Kwa kwang!

Nautilus realized as he defended against two more strikes from Jude.

'He isn't afraid of death.'

He seemed to have 10 lives. This person didn't care about being hit by a counterattack or his own well-being. He just wielded the sword in order to destroy the enemy. It was more intense and threatening because the opponent was an animal that acted through instincts.

'Is he from Durima?'

They were a crazy clan that raised puppets who only knew how to kill with weapons.

'Anyway, he's weak.'

Nautilus regained his coolness, avoided Jude's diagonal slash by bending his knees, then he stabbed his sword upwards.

Seokeok!

A white aura sprang out and caused a deep wound on Jude's thick chest. Nautilus jumped into the air and stabbed his sword in Jude's shoulder.

"Ouch. It hurts."

"Jude!"

The Overgeared members running from the rear were worried. They were concerned about Jude dying, but it wasn't easy to move through the gaps between 3,000 soldiers. Faker stepped lightly on the soldiers' head and was the fastest. However, he was still far away.

"This is the end."

The moment that Nautilus' sword aimed at Jude's head.

Chaaeng!

Once again, a stone blocked Nautilus' sword.

"Crazy..!"

It was like a ghost. Nautilus paled and hurriedly shouted to Earl Ashur on the wall.

"Command the army to attack! I will rescue Bland in that gap!"

'Don't listen to Lael's words and end the war as quickly as possible.'

Nautilus felt desperate because he feared the unidentified enemy, but Earl Ashur was a clever man. He thought first instead of acting rashly.

'Does Grid get any benefits from killing Prince Ren?'

No. On the other hand, King Aslan obtained the kingdom with Prince Ren's death. It was too early to dismiss Lael's claim that Aslan was behind Prince Ren's death as a false one.

'Besides, he said that Bland would testify...'

Was Grid really framed? Earl Ashur was taken aback by the thought.

'Bland is a hostage.'

He would've suffered terrible pain and humiliation while being held in Reidan. Earl Ashur couldn't believe Bland's words, as his body and soul might've been torn down. He might've been threatened in order to lie.

'My first priority is to rescue Bland. I will secure his safety and then discover the truth.'

Earl Ashur decided and finally issued a command.

"Shoot!"

Papat!

Pa pa pa pa pat!

The 2,000 archers on the walls fired simultaneously. Indeed, the archery abilities of the Patrian soldiers called the 'Heart of Eternal' were excellent. Thousands of arrows flew in a curve. However, Earl Ashur's magic was more surprising than the skill of the soldiers. All the arrows shot by the soldiers simultaneously gained the fire attribute and accelerated.

The Reidan soldiers panicked as the arrows poured down like meteors.

"Hiik...! B-Block!"

"Raise your shields!"

"If you want to live, hurry! We have to reunite with our families in Reidan!"

The idea of surviving raised the concentration of the soldiers. Thanks to the harsh training, Reidan's soldiers moved into rows and succeeded in blocking most of the arrows with their shields. However, there were some people who were unlucky.

"Ack!"

"Ugh!"

The arrows penetrated through the gaps in the shields and struck the soldiers. Some died instantly, while others would be crippled for life.

"Leo! Franc!"

The soldiers cried out at the sight of their bleeding comrades. Desire to live once again filled their faces as they used the shields to block the enemy's arrows.

Chaaeng!

Puk!

"Kyak!"

The battlefield filled with sharp screams and the sound of metal clashing was fierce and terrible. It was a pit of grief and anger. Asmophel held a shield and moved among the soldiers.

'This is what soldiers on the battlefield sees...'

Asmophel was born a noble. He received a command role as soon as he entered the military. He always treated his soldiers with great care, despite the desire to win. However, this was the first time he had been in the position of a soldier. Did he enjoy it? It was awful. He didn't know that war was so horrendous in the days when he was the commander who held tens of thousands of lives in his hand.

'The important thing for soldiers isn't the war or the compensation.'

It was only survival. They were the weak who were afraid of even one arrow. Asmophel was avoiding the flying arrows when he was hit by a shield that a soldier was setting up. His eyes widened as his nose became bloody. Beyond the shields, a large rock fired from the enemy's catapult was falling.

"Uwaaaack!"

"R-Run away!"

The screams of the soldiers echoed as they tried to escape from the rock. They pushed other people away as they started to run, including Asmophel.

'So far, I have only experienced a fraction of war.'

Now he knew.

'Duke Grid called me a soldier so that I could experience the life of one.'

In fact, Grid never invited Asmophel to experience being a soldier. But whatever the case, Asmophel accepted it and a positive change occurred.

'I will be a commander who knows the heart of the soldiers. I won't forcibly sacrifice the soldiers. I will come up with a strategy to win the war with a minimum of sacrifices.'

But before that.

'I have to perfectly perform the role of a soldier!'

Asmophel picked up a spear and threw it. It was towards the rock falling on his allies.

Kuwaaaaaang!

The spear shattered the rock in the air.

[Asmophel has acquired a new skill.]

[Asmophel has acquired a new skill.]

[Asmophel has acquired a new title.]

"Why is it so hard?"

"No matter how I shoot the arrows, they don't die..."

On the walls, the Patrian soldiers gradually lost morale. It was because the equipment of Reidan's soldiers were so hard that no matter how many arrows they fired, only a few casualties appeared.

"Soldiers are wearing armor that is normally for high ranking knights... Is Reidan that rich?"

"A desert city is rich? It's proof that Reidan's lord is taking care of the soldiers. Duke Grid cherishes the soldiers and gives them good armor."

"Such a great master... I envy Reidan's soldiers..."

Earl Ashur panicked as soon as morale started to rapidly deteriorate.

'I must reverse the atmosphere.'

Borneo's army was advancing towards the gate while Reidan's soldiers performed the role of blocking the arrows.

Kung!

Kung!

The walls shook and the soldiers trembled in fear every time Borneo's siege weapons slammed against the gate. In the end, Earl Ashur could no longer stand still. He would show them the value of a magician in a war!

"I will show the majesty of the 10 great magicians on the continent!"

Kurururung!

Earl Ashur's voice spread through the battlefield as he started to chant a spell, causing the atmosphere to heat up quickly. It was the precursor to the mass destruction magic, Fire Storm. Lauel recovered from his paralysis and hurriedly shouted to Bland.

"What are you doing right now? Go and stop your father!"

"...I can freely take action?"

Bland was baffled by Lauel's words.

"Have I ever blocked your freedom?"

"..."

No more words were necessary. Bland used magic to fly through the sky. He cried out as he approached his father.

"Father! Listen to Earl Lauel!"

"...?!"

Earl Ashur's eyes trembled. How could his son, a hostage, move freely on the battlefield?

'Perhaps...! Maybe!'

Earl Ashur stopped the magic spell and Lauel asked from the ground.

"King Aslan killed Prince Ren and framed Duke Grid. If this is the truth, will you abandon Eternal's royal family and serve Duke Grid?"

"I can feel betrayed by the Eternal Kingdom, but I don't intend to serve Duke Grid. I don't want to serve someone incompetent."

Ssik!

Lauel smiled evilly and threw the bait. "So you will serve Grid if he is capable? Okay. I will immediately prove Grid's capabilities."

"...?"

It was like Lauel predicted his answer. He declared to the puzzled Earl Ashur.

"The fortified city Borneo of Gauss, which hasn't been occupied for hundreds of years by Eternal, will now fall."

The moment he finished speaking. The Overgeared members that Lauel placed in the rear started to target the 10,000 Borneo soldiers attacking the gate.

Pepepepeong!

The Borneo soldiers became panicked at the bombardment of magic and skills that dealt catastrophic damage.

"W-What is this?"

Marquis Valtin was in turmoil while Earl Ashur felt astonished. Lauel properly explained the situation to them.

"The Eternal Kingdom and Gauss Kingdom will all fall into Duke Grid's grasp."

"...!"

The moment that Earl Ashur was shivering.

"Earl Ashur! Don't be deceived! He's telling lies!"

Nautilus belatedly cried out from where he was surrounded by Regas, Pon, and Faker. He painfully shook off the three men and threw himself at Lauel. He hoped to kill Lauel and somehow straighten out the confusion.

"Get lost!"

The enemy troops blocking the path were nothing. Dozens of soldiers were instantly slain as he reached Lauel and struck.

Chaaeng!

Suddenly, one of the soldiers guarding Lauel blocked Nautilus' attack.

"Who are you?"

The soldier pointed a spear at Nautilus and stated.

"Private Ars."

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"Private?"

Nautilus was stunned and asked again.

“You’re a soldier in the army?”

A soldier who called himself Ars. His eyes were the only thing that could be seen through the deep helmet and he shook his head.

“No.”

‘That’s right. I heard wrong...’

“I’m a private, not a soldier.” “You crazy guy! Making puns!”

It didn’t matter what he called himself. The fact that he said he was a soldier was the problem. A soldier was strong enough to block the sword of the 9th ranked Red Knight? It was something that had never happened in the 41 years he lived.

“You’re deceiving me! I know that you are the one who stopped my sword twice before! Reveal your true identity! That is only polite!”

Nautilus threw a dagger as he shouted. It was the poisoned dagger that made Lauel paralyzed for a while. Private Ars drew a circle with his spear and blocked it. No, Asmophel clicked his tongue.

"You’re talking about politeness? How shameless."

Asmophel’s discerning eyes could tell that this robed man was a knight. He was a knight that learned the swordsmanship of the Saharan Empire. In the old days, it was inconceivable that a Red Knight would use hidden throwing weapons. This was inconsistent with an honorable act.

‘The Red Knights have become corrupt.’

Asmophel smiled bitterly and mourned.

‘Indeed, the Red Knights are different than before.’

All the chivalrous knights had been framed by Empress Marie and were dead or scattered. The Red Knights of the present day only had the same name. Otherwise, it was a completely new organization with different tendencies.

‘Marie...’

The damn woman who killed all their families and friends!

‘On the day that Grid devours the Saharan Empire, I will surely take everything back... Heok.’

Asmophel shook his head as he fell into his thoughts.

‘Right now, I’m Private Ars.’

A private didn’t need to think about the empire’s empress. Most ordinary soldiers in the world didn’t even know the face or name of the empress! Asmophel took a deep breath and stuck to his current role as Nautilus flew towards him.

"Daring to think in front of me!"

Syuok!

Syuok!

Nautilus' sword aimed for two points. The ends of the Y blade were only aimed for weak spots like the heart, throat, and eyes. The grains of sand that rose up were split in half every time.

'Great skills.'

Regas, Pon, and Faker felt admiration. The level of the robed NPC was estimated to be at least 400. The strength of a fourth advancement class was overwhelming for the Overgeared members, who were still only in the third advancement. But the Overgeared members were shocked by the soldier, not the robed man.

'Why is a soldier so strong?'

Why did the soldier seem better than the robed man? Regas, Pon, and Faker were speechless when they heard Lauel's call.

"How long are you going to stand there blankly? Go help the guild members destroy the Borneo army!"

"Y-Yes..."

The most threatening presence on the battlefield, the robed man, was being kept in check by a soldier. Thus, they could feel assured and do their roles well.

"Then who is that private?"

"Ars."

"So who is Ars?"

"I don't know."

"Where did Grid pick up another named NPC?"

"In any case, Grid is great."

The three men who misunderstood separated. On the other hand, the battle between Nautilus and Asmophel was becoming more intense.

Chaeeeeeng!

Nautilus' sword moved at a fast pace while Asmophel focused on defending with his spear that had a wide range. The two people looked even. This was why Nautilus felt indignant.

"What? What's your identity? How is someone like you hiding in a small kingdom?"

"Private Ars of Reidan."

"Stop repeating the same bullshit! You're too strong to be a soldier! Reveal your true identity!!"

"No, any soldier can be as strong as me if they learn Reidan's spearsmanship."

Reidan's spearsmanship. It was something Asmophel had made after brainstorming with Piaro. All the soldiers of Reidan learned these techniques, which collected the merits of the 'Imperial Spearsmanship Style' that was passed down to only a handful of knights recognized by the Saharan Empire's court.

However, the difficulty level was high and not one soldier had learned it to a good level yet. Of course, Asmophel had a complete understanding of it.

"Reidan's Spearsmanship 2nd style. Dragon's Tail."

Peeng!

Asmophel swung the spear and a wave of energy shook Nautilus' cochlea.

"What?"

Nautilus lost his balance and barely defended against Asmophel's attack. Then his eyes widened. It was because Asmophel's spear, which was in contact with his sword, curved and stabbed at his neck.

'This is bad...!'

Puok!

"Keok!"

Blood emerged as Nautilus was stabbed lightly. In the meantime, he predicted Asmophel's movements and counterattacked. However, Asmophel was able to avoid him.

"You are forever dancing in the palm of my hand."

"Ugh."

If a passerby was grabbed and asked about the strongest knights on the continent, they would all say the Red Knights. And among the Red Knights, Nautilus was the 9th strongest. Nautilus was confident that there were only around 30 people stronger than him on the continent. Yet he was being overpowered by a soldier of Reidan. It was also a private!

"How? Why is someone like you...?"

It was serious. He couldn't have the stigma of a 'solo number knight defeated by a soldier.' It was absurd. Nautilus decided to flee and used Aura Rage, threatening Asmophel by erupting aura everywhere, creating a sand storm.

'Use this gap to escape... Heok!'

Nautilus believed that he'd disturbed Asmophel's view and ran away.

"It's strange for a Red Knight to show his back. Originally, a Red Knight should have the instinct to ignore the limit and exceed it if they meet a stronger opponent. You're actually like this?"

That damn voice was heard right above his head?

'How did he escape from the bombardment of Aura Rage?'

A chill went down Nautilus' spine as Asmophel stabbed his spear several times.

Papang!

Papapapang!

One, twice, three times, four times, ten times! Continue, continue, continue! Continue!

Puuooooook!

"Kuoooak!" Shit! Shitt!"

Nautilus tried to cope with the ruthless bombardment that was pouring down on him, but Asmosphel was too fast. Nautilus was constantly battered despite his resistance.

"Reidan's Spearmanship 3rd style."

Kurururu!

The spear stabbing and piercing Nautilus' body became surrounded by a golden light. It was the precursor to the peak technique of Reidan's spearmanship, Splitting the Seven Seas.

"Golden aura...? This is ridiculoussss!"

Nautilus whitened as the spear led to a storm of golden aura. He was afraid that his identity would be exposed and didn't wear the Red Armor, the symbol of the Red Knights. Now he felt disappointed and helpless by this fact.

Puooook!

The golden-colored spear split Nautilus' chest in half.

"Kuaaaack!"

Nautilus suffered catastrophic damage and collapsed. He belatedly thought. 'Yes, this is the best spearman on the continent...'

Kirinus! That monster was hiding among Reidan's soldiers!

'I would've had a chance if I wore the Red Armor... Too bad...'

Nautilus turned to grey. He never knew. Asmosphel wasn't Kirinus, and his swordsmanship was much better than his spear techniques.

"Whoa..."

"A-Amazing."

The Reidan soldiers witnessed how an ordinary private (?) defeated the enemy. They obtained new hopes and dreams. If they kept working hard on Reidan's spearmanship, they could one day be strong like Private Ars? The morale of the Reidan soldiers rose and Lael issued a timely order.

"Full force! Rush and hit Borneo! And I will promote Private Ars to a Private First Class right now!"

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

The prize might seem a bit low since Ars defeated an enemy that no one else could stop, but this was the unfortunate treatment of commoner soldiers. Since there was a private first class who could perform the role of 50 people, it was relatively easy to advance.

'Let's earn achievements like Ars!'

The soldiers of Reidan burned with desire and attacked Borneo. After a while. Lauel whispered to Ars as they were left in the rear.

"I didn't even dream that you would be Asmophel."

"I'm Private Ars."

Asmophel tried to conceal his identity, but he couldn't deceive Lauel's eyes.

"Huhut, you don't need to hide your identity from me. I can guess your reason behind becoming a soldier. Is it to give encouragement to the soldiers so that they can train better? Always thinking about developing the army... Truly a great commander. You're someone who is hard to fully grasp, like Grid and Piaro. Kukuk."

"...?"

Lauel's interpretation made Asmophel embarrassed. He tried to deny it by repeating the same words.

"I'm Private Ars."

"Haha! Understood. Please continue to act as a soldier in the future. Private First Class Ars."

Asmophel said again to the smiling Lauel. "I'm Private Ars."

"...Do you have a fetish with being a private?"

"I should start from the beginning instead of getting the role of a private first class."

He wanted to experience everything about being a soldier. Therefore, he refused. Lauel was delighted by Asmophel's strong will.

'I can reduce our financial expenditure.'

There was a big difference between a private and a private first class. Since Asmophel received a salary as the captain of the Overgeared Magic Knights division, it was a waste to pay him the salary of a private first class as well.

"It's good that Ars has this private disease."

The Saharan Empire's solo number knight. He was killed by a soldier of Reidan. Unfortunately, this news was quietly buried. No one except for King Aslan and Asmophel knew that Nautilus was a solo number knight.

The next day at dawn. The long and intense battle ended. Borneo's 10,000 troops were defeated by Reidan's 3,000 troops. The members of Overgeared were active, but the crucial difference between the Borneo and Reidan soldiers were their items. The Borneo soldiers couldn't go against the mass

production Grid set that the legendary blacksmith Grid that every 1 in 10 soldiers had. There was also the activities of Private Ars.

At the same time, the vampire city.

"The vampires are simple to handle using this method. Just have the God Hands hit them with Mjolnir. How is it? Simple right? The viewers can try it as well."

"..."

Grid was fooling viewers around the world. It wasn't intentional, but it was unavoidable. The viewers became confused by Grid's explanation.

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Using the God Hands wielding Mjolnir to hunt the vampires and gain experience! The viewers showed a variety of responses after learning Grid's secret.

-What should I do if I don't have the God Hands and Mjolnir?

-Buy a hammer with divine power.

-Even if you hit them with a hammer with divine power, will the vampires really die so easily?

-It's only possible with the God Hands.

Some people took Grid's levelling secret seriously while others just enjoyed it.

-Ah, what is this?! I watched the broadcast to learn how to raise my level quickly like Grid, only to get nothing.

-Tsk~ I could've been playing the game during this broadcast time.

Some people grumbled. But few people directly criticized Grid. In the first place, Grid wasn't obliged to reveal the secret behind his levelling. It was a position where people couldn't complain, even if they couldn't get any help from Grid's broadcast. Most people were happy and thankful that Grid appeared on air to resolve their questions. Grid might be ridiculed, but his popularity was real.

However, OGC Announcer Park Shinye felt somewhat uneasy.

How to hunt like Grid. She was worried that the ordinary players couldn't follow Grid's actions and the audience ratings would fall. In the end, she used the interim advertising time to speak to Grid.

"Youngwoo-ssi, can't your attitude be more serious? Shouldn't you do your best to satisfy the viewers of the broadcast?"

"Serious attitude?"

Grid became confused where he was sitting and resting.

"Aren't I being serious?"

His role was to show the viewers how he hunted and he stuck to this role. What was the problem? Park Shinye explained to the puzzled Grid. "You need to make the viewers feel that it is worthwhile watching this. For example, when catching a vampire, explain the weakness of the vampire in detail..."

Grid frowned.

"Why should I?"

Did he need to be that kind? If OGC had asked him for such a role from the beginning, he would've declined to appear. Grid disliked the fact that Park Shinye was making demands for things that weren't in the contract. His negative reaction stimulated Park Shinye.

"Youngwoo-ssi, you don't have the attitude of a professional. I heard that you received 20 billion won in exchange for appearing on this broadcast. Shouldn't you at least be aware of the value of that money?"

"The value of the money? I think this is enough."

Grid was well aware that broadcasting stations weren't charities. He could easily guess that OGC had already earned over 20 billion won revenue from this broadcast.

"Hey Shinye, what are you doing all of a sudden?"

"Relax. Don't make a fuss."

The moment that the OGC staff were trying to stop Park Shinye.

"The smell of humans!"

"Delicious. Prey has arrived after a long time."

The vampires sensed it as Grid's party became lively and flocked.

"They showed up again."

"Withdraw to the rear."

The broadcasting staff who were initially afraid of the vampires were now calm. They weren't nervous because they knew that Grid could easily handle the vampires. However.

"W-What are you doing?"

Grid didn't get up, despite the vampires approaching. He just sat and waited. The broadcasting staff belated noticed this strangeness and became anxious. In particular, Park Shinye urged Grid.

"Youngwoo-ssi! Get rid of the vampires! Everybody will die like this!"

Her shouts were useless. Grid stayed still until the end and the staff were eventually attacked.

"Kyaak!"

Park Shinye was dressed conspicuously and became the first target. She was pierced by the vampire's nails and bitten on the neck, dying instantly. Then Grid rose.

"Phew, good riddance."

There was a refreshed smile on Grid's face! Bunny Bunny gulped as he watched Grid command the God Hands and start hitting the vampires.

'I should be careful.'

He had noticed it a long time ago, but Grid didn't have a nice personality. He knew how to treat the people around him well and wasn't rude, but he was never nice or innocent. It was important not to forget this.

The fortified city, Patrian.

"You lowly and wicked man! Stabbing your allies in the back! You have no honor or goodness! If today's incident is known to the world, Duke Grid's reputation will fall to the bottom!"

Marquis Valtin shouted at Lauel while being tied up. It was against common sense to betray and attack allies during a war. There were few such incidents in the whole continent. Marquis Valtin thought Lauel was the worst person.

Lauel acknowledged this fact. "Indeed. If this is known to the world, I will be stigmatized as the worst trash and Grid's credibility will also fall. No one will trust Reidan again, and we will be isolated both economically and with the military."

"Then you understand! The only thing waiting for you is ruin! You were blinded by the immediate benefits and have made an irreversible mistake! There's no future for you!"

"..."

Lauel fell silent. He couldn't refute Marquis Valtin's words. The Overgeared members were agitated.

"Isn't this situation serious?"

"It's serious. The other forces won't sit idly by after this incident. The concept of an alliance is to be trustworthy, so the wave caused by this will be big."

"What are we going to do now?"

"As Marquis Valtin says, the future won't be smooth."

"Wow... Then we should cover it up as much as possible to prevent the world knowing that we stabbed Borneo in the back."

"How can we conceal an incident where tens of thousands of people were present?"

"Eh... Then are we ruined?"

Ssik.

Marquis Valtin smiled with satisfaction when he saw the agitated Overgeared members.

"Free me and my army right away. This is an opportunity to make up for your mistake!"

According to the common law, killing enemy nobles captured during a war was prohibited. It was resolved after receiving money. The liberation period was normally delayed as much as possible, but Marquis Valtin was convinced.

'They have to release me now.'

They would want to escape from the worst situation. However, it was already too late. 'You will never be forgiven!' Once he returned to Gauss, he would immediately find the king and urge for an alliance with Eternal.

'I will make an alliance with Eternal and punish all of you!'

Lael smiled awkwardly at Marquis Valtin. "I'm sorry, but I can't release you. Now that I have done this, I won't be able to regain the trust that has been lost. I can't risk freeing you when you will become a greater enemy in the future."

"What are you saying? Don't you know that the common law is not to kill captive nobles?"

"I'm aware of that. So I have to manipulate the truth. Uhh, well. Marquis Valtin was hit by an arrow on the battlefield and died."

"Don't make me laugh! The 3,000 Borneo soldiers who survived are my witnesses! My soldiers will attest that you executed me!"

Borneo was forced to surrender in the late afternoon, resulting in 3,000 troops still surviving. Behind the tied up Marquis Valtin were 3,000 soldiers kneeling down, their weapons thrown away. Lael acted like he didn't understand Marquis Valtin's confident words.

"Where are the 3,000 soldiers? All 10,000 Borneo troops were wiped out in the war."

"What...?"

Marquis Valtin's heart sank. The Overgeared members were also shocked.

"L-Lael, do you mean to kill all of them?"

Lael nodded easily at the whisper of the Overgeared members.

"Yes."

"What?"

Even if they were NPCs, they were still alive. It was also 3,000 lives! It was terrible to kill 3,000 soldiers who had already declared surrender. Lael looked indifferently at the rejection from some of the Overgeared members.

"It's difficult to gain power if you aren't evil. Those who behave justly are always bound to receive damage."

"..."

"Execute all 3,153 Borneo soldiers, including Marquis Valtin. The execution will be carried out by Reidan's soldiers. Raise the level of the soldiers."

Some people would accuse him of being a demon and some wouldn't want to look at him. But Lael didn't care. He wasn't part of the Overgeared Guild to play around. Marquis Valtin shook at his emotionless face and shouted, "I wonder if you can cover the sky! The evil you committed today will eventually be revealed and will lead to Duke Grid's destruction!"

Lael laughed as he imagined it.

"No, Duke Grid will be extraordinary. I will block and overcome everything that gets in his way, no matter the trials."

Lael foresaw this from the time he planned to take over Borneo to acquire Earl Ashur. The fate of Overgeared was to be isolated. Nevertheless, it was inevitable for his plan. What if they didn't ally with Borneo and occupied Patrian with their own power? They would still be stigmatized as 'those who betrayed the kingdom.'

'Since we are going to be isolated no matter what, it's better to get as many benefits as possible.'

Independence. The power of Overgeared, his brains and the forces of Marquis Steim and Earl Ashur would be their foothold!

'It doesn't matter if other kingdoms don't acknowledge us to the end and are hostile.'

Break through this with force. Lael pledged as Marquis Valtin and 3,153 Borneo troops were executed. Then he received a new title.

[You have caused a massacre using the pretext of war. You have become an object of hatred to an unspecified number of people. On the other hand, you will also have enthusiastic followers.]

[The title 'Wise Villain' has been acquired!]

[The stat 'political power' will be opened due to the title effect.]

[Political power has increased by 500.]

[Attack power and magic power will slightly increase due to the title effect.]

[You have gained the skill 'Madness' as a result of the title effect.]

[You have gained the skill 'Harsh Tax Levy' as a result of the title effect.]

[You have gained the skill 'Merciless Commands' as a result of the title effect.]

"This, this... I received great strength at the cost of sad slaughter. Look forward to the future of the dark shadow Lael, who will be responsible for the darkness of Overgeared..."

"..."

The Overgeared members were worried about Lael's increasingly serious illness.

Chapter 507

"...Now I see."

Earl Ashur realized as he watched Lael execute all the prisoners of the Borneo army.

"The reason why the greedy and stupid Grid is able to solidify his position is due to this person."

Lauel used the alliance with the Borneo army to not just occupy Patrian. He deserved to be accused, but it couldn't be denied that he was excellent. Choosing the cruel means in order to achieve better results was especially great. Could Grid come up to his current position if it wasn't for this person?

'It wouldn't have been possible.'

Earl Ashur denied it with certainty, making Bland speak.

"Father, with all due respect, Duke Grid isn't incompetent. It's true that Earl Lauel's achievements are big, but his actions would be limited if Duke Grid was incompetent."

"...?"

Earl Ashur felt that his son was strange after reuniting after two years. Bland had a bad relationship with Grid and was also held hostage by Grid, yet he acknowledged Grid?

'Grid even took Irene from him. Now there are no grudges in his eyes...?'

Bland seemed to be brainwashed. How was he tortured? It was truly horrible. Earl Ashur made a heartbroken expression while Bland smiled brightly.

"Father, it's nothing like you are imagining. I have been enjoying life in Reidan."

"Bland?"

Earl Ashur was surprised. His son Bland could smile so brightly again after losing his mother and brother? After Irene married Grid, this kid definitely should be darker and more pained!

"What is life like in Reidan that you can make such a bright face?"

Bland told the truth to the confused Earl Ashur.

"Field work."

"W-What?"

"I eat potatoes every day."

"What?!!!"

Earl Ashur was furious. His precious son, a noble of Eternal, had to work in the fields like a serf? He was even eating potatoes like a pig! He had been living this hellish life!

"Ahh! Bland! You've gone mad at the end of your life!" Earl Ashur lamented and hugged Bland. "I'm sorry! Your life was ruined due to this foolish father!" Sob sob.

Bland handed a boiled potato to Earl Ashur who was weeping. A rainbow colored potato.

"I'm not going to speak any longer. Eat this potato. Your misunderstanding will be wiped out the moment you taste this."

"This..."

His son was crazy. What son would invite his father to eat the same pig food? Earl Ashur lamented. Bland determined there would be no progress in this conversation and acted. He shoved the rainbow potato into his father's mouth.

"Heok!"

Earl Ashur's eyes shone as the pig food entered his mouth.

'W-What is this?'

It was a new world. The shock and pleasure that was comparable to opening a new mana circle caused him to be stunned. As soon as it was inserted in his mouth, it melted and the taste was sweet, salty, spicy, sour, and refreshing. It was as if all the delicacies in the world were concentrated in one potato.

Bland spoke excitedly to the shocked Earl Ashur. "Isn't it delicious?"

"Delicious! What?" Earl Ashur was agitated. "How can you express this precious delicacy with just delicious!? Yes! A heavenly flavor! The food of the gods!!"

"..."

Blood was truly thick. Bland and Earl Ashur even had the same taste buds. Either way, it was the birth of a new potato maniac.

"Will you serve Duke Grid?" Lael arranged the situation and talked to Earl Ashur.

Earl Ashur spoke in a blunt manner with a potato in his mouth. "What are you planning to do in the future? Duke Grid will become hostile to both Eternal and Gauss. It is doubtful that Duke Grid can withstand the pincer attacks of two kingdoms, even with the protection of Marquis Steim."

Lael raised three fingers. "There is a part you are overlooking. The countries we will become hostile to in this war aren't just Eternal and Gauss, but the Saharan Empire as well."

"The empire?'

The power of the Saharan Empire, the real rulers of the continent, was overwhelming. They had over one million soldiers and the number of knights was close to 3,000. There were several great magicians as outstanding as Earl Ashur. In other words, it was an absolute powerhouse. Becoming hostile to the empire would lead to ruin.

"Why would you be hostile to the empire?"

Lael explained to Earl Ashur with a firm expression.

"The Saharan Empire is behind King Aslan."

Many circumstantial things prove the cooperation between King Aslan and the Saharan Empire. Lael was convinced there was a relationship with the empire not long after Aslan was crowned.

Earl Ashur thought silently and nodded. "That reminds me... Recently, the relationship with the empire is changing little by little. The policies have started to become favorable towards the empire? They seemed so trivial that I and the others were negligent."

It was murky.

"Will there be a future for Duke Grid after becoming hostile to the empire? Won't I just die a dog death if I serve him?"

"No, there's no need to worry. The empire currently has their army scattered due to insurgents in the south. It's hard to get involved in matters of the north. I'm certain that there will be no direct conflict with the empire for the next two years. In the first place, King Aslan won't send a request for support to the empire."

Eternal had a very strong pride as a neutral kingdom. They might have to give a tribute to the empire, but there were few kingdoms with full autonomy like Eternal. What if it was known that King Aslan borrowed the power of the empire in order to be crowned, and in return, implemented policies favorable to the empire? King Aslan's position would be weakened and it might be the moment when the power of Prince Ren's faction would be revealed.

Lauel came to the conclusion that King Aslan couldn't announce his relationship with the empire.

"...You're a person who can read the situation of the whole continent and use it."

"Isn't this the basics?"

"It isn't something that anyone can afford."

Earl Ashur thought about it for a moment.

"Okay. I'm someone who can't return to Eternal already. My base is too weak to build an independent force. I will serve Duke Grid. However, I expect high treatment."

"They are fair words. You're one of the 10 great magicians on the continent. Just..." Lauel gave a friendly smile. Then he spoke to Earl Ashur with a gentle expression. "Always remember that your only mission is to serve Duke Grid. It's unacceptable if you hold a sword to his neck."

"I know."

Earl Ashur was curious. How much had Grid grown to be able to make talented people like this serve him?

'I want to see it.'

His grudge against Grid disappeared the moment he learned that Bland had been living a healthy and happy life. Earl Ashur was full of expectations when he suddenly had a question.

"Where is Duke Grid now?"

The war against Patrian was an important event that would determine Reidan's future destiny. Yet Grid hadn't been seen at all during the war. How could he be away during such an important moment?

Lael replied. "Duke Grid is currently hunting."

"...?"

Earl Ashur doubted his ears for a moment before becoming convinced.

"Ah, that's right. He is struggling alone to defend his territory against those who threaten it?"

"Well... Something similar."

Grid's growth was the absolute weapon. The stronger Grid became, the stronger Overgeared was. But Lael allowed Earl Ashur to interpret it as he wished. Lael made a warm expression and sent a whisper to Faker.

-The road to the north is finally opened. As scheduled, go to Marquis Steim and tell him about Grid's independence.

The moment that Marquis Steim promised to serve Grid.

-We will make Grid a king.

Right now, no big changes could be made if Grid became king. Grid's kingdom would suffer, surrounded on three sides by the Eternal Kingdom, the Gauss Kingdom and the Saharan Empire. In the worst case, it could quickly fall. But Lael didn't care. There was only one reason. He wanted to give Grid the title of 'First King.'

'I can't give it to Ares.'

He bet it was a legendary rated title. Lael speculated that the effect would be much better than Kingdom's Hero.

"Patrian has been taken?"

"It isn't just that. Earl Ashur has committed betrayal and joined Duke Grid."

"T-This..."

The capital of the Eternal Kingdom, Reinhardt. King Aslan never dreamt that Patrian would collapse, and he sat down without any strength. He stared into the air for a moment before asking.

"W-Where is the knight I sent to Earl Ashur?"

"He was killed during the war. He was also defeated by a soldier of Reidan."

Why did he send a knight that was weaker than a soldier as reinforcement? The questioning eyes of the people present stabbed at King Aslan.

Aslan was confused. 'A soldier defeated a solo number knight?'

It couldn't be. The news must be distorted. Aslan was sure of it.

'Duke Grid learned that Nautilus was a Red Knight and took care of it.'

He pretended to be as soldier in order to kill the Red Knight.

'The empire can't reveal that Nautilus is a solo number knight. They can't make a big issue against Grid.'

From the empire's perspective, how could they announce that one of the solo number knights they were so proud of was killed by a soldier? No. In order to avoid embarrassment, Nautilus couldn't be revealed.

'Duke Grid...'

He was scarier and more clever than imagined. That's right. King Aslan could never imagine. Grid wasn't involved in this incident at all. Perhaps it wouldn't be strange for Grid to not participate in future wars. Lael was hoping for Grid's infinite growth. Whether the Overgeared members went to war or a kingdom was established. Lael desired for Grid to focus on solo play.

'Like Agnus.'

Agnus had a guild of necromancer rankers under him. He played solo while his forces gained honor and glory for him. Why couldn't others do the same thing? Lael had a rivalry with Veradin, Agnus' chief of staff. He aimed to give Grid more comfort and glory than Agnus.

It was the beginning of the 'Grid: Emperor of the World' project.

Chapter 508

After annihilating Borneo's army and absorbing Patrian. Lael took control of Borneo and looked at a map of Eternal.

"By conquering Patrian, we have succeeded in completely connecting the north and the west. From now on, we'll use the resources produced in the north to defend against the empire's invasion based on Reidan, the Eternal Kingdom's invasion based on Patrian, and the Gauss Kingdom's invasion based on Borneo."

Reidan, Patrian, and Borneo were able to form a triangular defense zone. The disadvantage of having to disperse their troops was created, but there was the tremendous advantage of not having to worry about their rear.

'Looking at the current situation, we'll be able to hold on for the next two years. If we hold on, there's a chance to counterattack.'

The problem was Cork Island, separated from the southern part of the Eternal Kingdom by the sea. It was impossible to protect it. Lael made a painful decision.

"...Give up Cork Island. Please have all the members residing there return to Reidan."

Peak Sword fiercely argued against it. "Cork Island is the territory that the Silver Knights Guild won after a fierce battle! We can't give it up so easily!"

Toban spoke carefully. "Cork Island has a high profit as a tourist destination and has 23 mines. It's the territory with the highest value, so it's hard to obediently give it up."

Lael replied coolly. "But what can we do? It's impossible to spare resources and forces for Cork Island."

Lauel also felt regret that they had to give it up. It would be a lingering regret. But he needed to make a realistic decision. He couldn't be emotional like Peak Sword or express an opinion without a solution like Toban. Lauel had the responsibility of being Grid's representative.

"Cork Island won't be able to last long against an offensive from Eternal. It's better to not be obsessed with it and give it up instead of receiving huge damages."

Lauel showed an objective judgment, but Peak Sword declared.

"I will go to Cork Island. I'll protect it for as long as I can. Just give me permission to take 10 guild members from the Silver Knights. I'm well aware of the lacking manpower, but please do me this favor. I will make sure that you benefit from this."

"..."

Peak Sword's skills were among the top in Overgeared. He didn't perform well in the National Competition. However, it was inevitable due to the nature of his class. Looking at simple combat ability, he was just below Regas and Pon, and his leadership was better than theirs.

"...If you have the Silver Knights members, you will be able to extend the time it takes for Cork Island to be occupied."

The limit was probably one or two months. The resources and taxes from those two months would certainly be a great help to Overgeared. But Lauel thought the damage was larger than the benefits.

"Peak Sword, Cork Island doesn't have any monsters suitable for third advancement classes to hunt. Your growth during your stay there will be stagnant. In the long run, this will be a huge loss of power for Overgeared. Thus, I can't send you..."

"No, I can grow without hunting." Peak Sword interrupted Lauel's words with a hoe. No, it was a pickaxe. "I will stay in the mines when I'm not defending the island."

Steady labor would raise his mining skill as well as his stats. He would become stronger little by little. They could also obtain ores there.

"Cork Island is a special territory for me. It resembles Dokdo. So Lauel, please send me to Cork Island. I will protect it as long as possible."

He was prepared to die many times. One month, two months. No, he would secure funds for Overgeared by defending Cork Island for three or four months. Lauel finally gave up when he saw the flames burning in Peak Sword's eyes.

"I understand. Your stubbornness is comparable to Grid's and I can't break it."

Were all Korean people like this? Lauel laughed at the thought. A gentle smile that couldn't be seen when confronting the enemy spread across his face.

"Peak Sword, I will believe in you."

Lauel personally liked Peak Sword. A person with persistence and a noble mind, he closely resembled Grid.

"Stay as long as possible on Cork Island."

Peak Sword respectfully rose from his seat and said to Lauel.

"I will hold it and collect resources for the guild warehouse."

Peak Sword moved quickly. He left Borneo for Cork Island on that day. He had 10 elite members of the Silver Knights with him. There was a pickaxe in the corner of their inventories.

After that, Lauel dispersed the Overgeared members between Reidan, Patrian, and Borneo, telling them their top priorities.

"Always be prepared for war and concentrate on levelling up. Spend all the assets you've collected on potions and just keep hunting."

Lauel would stay in Reidan. He placed the safety of Duchess Irene and Lord as his top priority.

"Finally, it's starting."

King of Shadows, Kasim. Immediately after Lord was born, Kasim stayed by his side and taught him Lantier's techniques. Therefore, he heard when Reidan became hostile to the Saharan Empire. He looked at the residents and soldiers of Reidan who were preparing for war.

"Don't be afraid. My shadows will embrace you."

The Nero who had been destroyed by the empire. As the last survivor of the Nero, Kasim's hatred for the empire was great. Lord spoke to the man who was burning with the desire for vengeance.

"Teacher, control your breathing. Assassins must manage their emotions."

"Hah... Haha, yes. I made a big mistake because I'm still lacking."

Kasim controlled his heart and was thrilled to see how Lord was growing.

Sururuk.

Kasim disappeared into the darkness.

"Young Nobleman Lord, it's time to study."

Sticks visited Lord. Lord's response wasn't good.

"Are we studying great demons today?"

"Yes, the great demons are the enemies of all species on this earth. It's natural for you to acquire information about the great demons in advance, since you will be ruling over many humans in the future."

"I don't like great demons."

Lord, who had advised Kasim just a while ago to manage his emotions, wasn't controlling his emotions at all. He pouted and started complaining. Even a continent-level genius couldn't control his emotions when he was still under four years old.

"I hate talking about great demons. It's scary. Let's study something else. Yes~? Teacher?"

Lord's innocent facial features were combined with his begging eyes. The child had a lovely appearance that combined the merits of his mother and father, causing Sticks to feel a strong pain in his heart.

'Ugh... So cute.'

Maybe it was because he almost died from a heart attack previously. Sticks breathed roughly to ease the pain of his heart and stroked Lord's head.

"Young Nobleman Lord, you have to learn it because you hate it."

"..."

It was somewhat philosophical. Grid wouldn't have understood what it meant, but his young son did. He focused his mind on Sticks' lecture.

[You have gained new knowledge. You have acquired the ability to detect weaknesses in some low-grade demonkin.]

[You have gained new knowledge. Dark magic evasion and defense has increased.]

Sticks' vast knowledge was gradually passed down to Lord. The combination of a genius student and a mentor with close to infinite knowledge was producing great results.

"Why is Bunny Bunny broadcasting with OGC? Where did Park Shinye go?"

After the end of the advertising break. The broadcast of Grid's hunt resumed and the viewers were confused. It was because OGC's announcer, Park Shinye disappeared without a trace. What happened during the 10 minutes when ads were playing? The viewers questioned it and Park Shinye felt confident.

'Grid, don't you know how popular I am?'

As an announcer representing OGC, she had countless fans. After the truth was revealed, her fans would accuse Grid. She was confident that Grid would lose some popularity. Unfortunately, people's concerns about her didn't last long. Finally, the final boss of the vampire city appeared. Everyone's attention focused on Grid and the boss. From the beginning, Park Shinye's existence was infinitely weak in front of Grid.

『 Kukukuk! I am a true blood kindred! Vampire Viscount Steg! 』

The vampire descended with a bloody energy around him. His force wasn't a joke. An overwhelming feeling was being emitted by his shining eyes and dark trident. This was like the dignity of a king. He seemed much stronger than the drake that appeared in the National Competition. It seemed impossible for Grid to raid him alone. But Grid was stronger than he was during the National Competition and he had something that made the vampires much weaker than drakes.

Peok!Peok peek peek!

"Heeeeeok!"

The God Hands wielded Mjolnir and caused infinite stiffness! Steg wasn't able to resist and died, while Grid gave advice to the viewers.

『 A sub-boss can't resist CC with a short duration like stiffness. It's simple to raid them after causing infinite stiffness. 』

"..."

No, what did he mean by infinite stiffness? The viewers started to become heated. Grid, Bunny Bunny, and the OGC staff succeeded in leaving the vampire city. At this moment, Grid's hunting broadcast stopped. Grid reached level 317 and turned to a new hunting ground.

'The East Continent.'

He was planning to follow the footsteps of Kraugel, who had held the number one ranking with his overwhelming levelling speed. His ultimate goal was to get ahead.

'I will make you go after me.'

Grid's motivation shot up. He always set a new goal so that he wouldn't become stagnant.

Chapter 509

Snore.Snore...

Lord practiced his assassin skills every morning and every night. But nobody knew this fact. Kasim's presence itself was a secret.

"Uhuh! Young Nobleman Lord, are you sleeping in class?"

He didn't know that Lord had been training all of last night and this morning. Sticks smiled bitterly as Lord started dozing off during the second half of the lecture.

'He might be a genius that represents the continent, but he's still a child... He's lacking concentration and stamina.'

Sticks didn't intent to reduce the lecture time, despite knowing this. Sticks wanted to teach Lord more and more.

"Young Nobleman, if you feel tired then let's take a break for an hour before continuing the lessons. Rest your eyes for a moment."

"Uhhh... Yes."

Lord answered sleepily. He headed out into the beautiful garden where petals were swaying in the breeze. It was a garden that existed due to the past activities of the Overgeared members.

"Oh my? Lord, did today's class end early?"

"Kyaaah! I'm happy! We can play a lot today!"

There were dozens of girls waiting for Lord in the garden. They were girls more beautiful than the flowers, each with a different personality.

"Ohh... It isn't over. A quick break. I'm going to sleep."

Lord yawned, headed into a girl's arms, and fell asleep straight away. The girls loved this cute and loveable Lord. "Kukuk, so cute."

"Sleep well and grow up quickly, our Lord."

Some girls poked Lord's cheeks, others kissed him, and some hugged him. There were also girls who stroked his head. They were the Rebecca's Daughters candidates. They were Lord's girlfriends.

"Hah."

Vantner found Lord sleeping in the girls' arms and blinked.

'...I'm envious!'

He never thought that a child of Grid would be so beautiful and have so many pretty girls. Vantner angrily poked Lord in the side with a branch and ran away. After a while, he was caught by the girls chasing after him and beaten up.

"Any actions that threaten Lord are unforgivable, even if you're a member of Overgeared."

"Duke Grid himself asked this of us! We will take good care of Lord!"

"..."

Vantner, who failed in his 103rd blind date a few days ago, was miserable in both mind and body. He was frustrated for a while and belatedly realized something.

'Why are these kids so scary?'

Vantner had overlooked it, but the girls were strong. In the first place, they were taken to be Rebecca's Daughters because they were talented. Then after coming to Reidan, they received Piaro's training. The power of Reidan was much stronger than that of Overgeared.

One of the people who contributed to this rising power was Aura Master Hurent.

'By the way, Piaro didn't come again today?'

One day, Piaro had suddenly disappeared. Hurent had been disguised as an unnamed serf and trained by Piaro for several months already. He was in a bad mood after Piaro disappeared.

'Where did that guy suddenly disappear to?'

He wanted to ask people, but felt reluctant. He was worried that he would be thrown out by the Overgeared members if he was discovered. Hurent covered his face even more with the straw hat he received from Piaro and eventually started his field work again.

'Come back soon. Until then, the fields that you cherish... No, I will defend these training grounds.'

Hurent followed the field work techniques that Piaro taught him in order to become stronger. At first, he thought of Piaro as an enemy. After the great teachings, he truly considered Piaro as a true benefactor and teacher. His desire for vengeance against Grid had disappeared a long time ago.

In the first place, it wasn't Grid's fault that he was disgraced after being defeated by Grid in five seconds. The result occurred because he was weak. He should focus on himself rather than feeling resentment towards Grid. However, if the opportunity came, he wanted to fight against Grid again. He would prove his strength.

It was a pure desire, different from his previous grudges.

[(Breaking News) Overgeared Guild captured Patrian and Borneo!]

The world was overturned. Patrian and Borneo. Few players knew the names of the territories in small kingdoms. But they were clearly strategically important points when looking at a map. The Overgeared Guild swallowed these territories in two days. The amazing fact was that it occurred when Grid was on air.

『 I didn't know the power of Overgeared was this much. Taking two new territories without Grid... It was only one a few days ago. Isn't the master of Patrian one of the 10 great magicians, Earl Ashur? 』

『 It was possible because there was no Grid. There was a small number of players inside Patrian and Borneo because everyone was busy watching Grid. This meant Overgeared had relatively easy access to the two territories. In other words, it was an important empty fort. 』

『 It's a strategy that Lauel devised. He truly is a genius... It clearly shows the role of Overgeared's brain. 』

『 It isn't just Lauel. There are many famous people in Overgeared. I appreciate Grid's ability to gather so many individuals that are hard to control and managing them. 』

『 I don't think Grid is lacking anything. He has high level combat ability, unique blacksmith skills, raid and hunting ability, the charm to attract talent, and the wisdom to use that talent in the right places. As for the leadership that raised the guild to be the best... Isn't this a perfect human being? 』

『 Having a charm that attracts people means his personality is also good... Actually, he's probably a very kind person. There's a reason why Grid is loved by the world's top beauties like Yura and Jishuka. 』

People's misunderstandings deepened every day. They talked about a perfect person called Grid. And the experts started debating.

『 Grid will probably become the first king. 』

『 It's likely. It is unclear how many territories are owned by third parties, but Overgeared has Reidan, Bairan, Cork, Patrian, and Borneo. The combined size is enormous. Maybe Grid will soon be eligible to be king. 』

Satisfy's opening phase. Players, like NPCs, could become nobles and even royalty. In order to build up wealth, power, honor, and to reach a high status, the players worked tirelessly. As a result, many rankers had succeeded in becoming nobles. However, no one had yet become qualified to be a king. This was the first time that the media used 'First King' for a particular player.

Of course, the shockwave was large. Many refuted it.

『 Do you think a kingdom can be built just based on territory? The most important thing is the workforce, the workforce. 』

『 The Overgeared members are only in the hundreds. They're lacking the talent to build and manage a country. 』

『 No. Personnel can be filled up with NPCs. 』

『 Are competent NPCs that common? I assure you, the construction of a country for a player is only possible after at least three years. In addition, the player is likely to be someone other than Grid. 』

『 Who is that? 』

『 God of War Ares. He's an unofficial ranker and his activities are limited to wars, so few people know about him... His ability in war and politics will surely overwhelm Grid's. 』

"You've grown since I last saw you."

Originally, Grid always looked for Irene first when he returned to Reidan. But right now, Lord was a priority. His love for Irene strengthened his love for Lord.

"The more I look, the prettier he is."

All parents said their children were cute, but Lord was really beautiful. He had Irene's white skin, oval-shaped face, and big blue eyes. He resembled Grid in his high nose and sharp eyes.

These features harmoniously intertwined to create a perfect young man.

"Huhuhut... It's like my childhood..." Grid looked at the past and stroked the hair of the sleeping Lord.

"Please always continue to grow up healthy."

'Don't taste misfortune and always be happy. Don't get upset when meeting someone strong. Become the pride of my love, Irene.'

Grid made a gentle expression and confirmed Lord's status window out of habit.

Name: Lord Steim

Age: 3 years old Gender: Male

Occupation: Young Nobleman

Title: Grid's Son

* The son of a legendary blacksmith. He has inherited most of his father's abilities.

Title: Genius of the West Continent

* A genius that represents one continent. He overwhelms national geniuses, and his level and abilities will rise 60% faster than normal. In addition, he can acquire skills in a wide range of fields.

However, there is a limit to the level and abilities that can be raised until he is 15 years old.

Title: One who Will Become a Legend

A person who will leave his name in history. There is an 80% chance of being immune to all status effects and illnesses. When attacked, if his health falls to 1 point, he will enter the immortal state for 2.5 seconds.

Level: 15

Strength: 87 Stamina: 70

Agility: 109 Intelligence: 87

Dexterity: 150 Charm: 100

Dignity: 17 Insight: 80

Skills: Beginner Bow Mastery (F), Beginner Blacksmith Skill (F), Beginner Weapons Mastery (C), Daluka's Methods (A+) Discerning Eyes (S), Overwhelming Charm (S), Lantier's Methods (SS), Famous and Legendary Pedigree (SS).

His mother is the successor of a noble family in the Eternal Kingdom and his father is a legend.

He has inherited all of his parent's strengths, so his potential is outstanding. Teaching him will be inspiring.

Recently, the discipline has been effective and he has learned humility. His heart is being tempered by the love from females.

"Eh...?"

Lantier's Methods. Previously, Grid hadn't know what it was when he discovered it, but now he knew. Lantier. The name of the legendary assassin Grid met in the Behen Archipelago.

'How does Lord have Lantier's power...?'

No matter how much of a genius Lord was, there was no way he could learn the power of a legend on his own. Someone had to intervene with Lord's teachings. The problem was that person's identity. Who would give Lord such strength, and what were their intentions?

Grid lost his smile as his eyes shone fiercely. He maximized his senses and caught something.

Chapter 510

The current Grid was different from the Grid when Lord was born. He honed his control skills in the Behen Archipelago, gained combat experience from the National Competition, strengthened himself through items and raids, and raised his level in the vampire city.

Grid's steady progress maximized the power of his stats, titles, and items, increasing the effectiveness of his five senses. It was enough to feel the presence of the king of shadows, Kasim, on the ceiling!

"Magic Detection!"

Paaaat!

It was so weak that Grid couldn't be certain, making him use magic. The magic was deployed throughout all of Lord's bedroom. He clearly caught Kasim's presence on the ceiling.

"How dare you!?"

Hiding in his son's bedroom! The furious Grid pulled out Iyarugt and Sword Ghost, aiming them at the ceiling. However, he couldn't hit the target.

'Fled?'

Grid was startled. The reaction speed of the person on the ceiling was so fast that he got the creeps.

'Dangerous!'

His sense of alertness deepened. In the first place, the person had been hiding in Lord's room without being noticed by the Overgeared members. It was obvious that the person wasn't ordinary.

"Shit!"

Lord's safety was the number one priority! Grid hurriedly grabbed the sleeping Lord and aimed Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave, towards the person on the ceiling. Kasim on the ceiling was embarrassed.

'Attacking without asking any questions!'

At the very least, he might have a chance to introduce himself if Grid had asked who he was. But Grid just struck. He was confident Kasim was an enemy. Kasim was forced to resist in order to avoid death.

'Shadow Move!'

Supak!

Kasim hid himself in the shadows to hide from the wave of energy hitting the whole ceiling. Then a black sword appeared in front of his eyes as he moved to a new shadow created by the collapsed ceiling debris. Grid used the Slaughterer's Eye Patch to chase after Kasim and fired Pagma's Swordsmanship, Kill.

Kasim was astonished.

'He has grown in the few months I haven't seen him!'

The stab filled with killing intent that headed towards him! Kasim was about to flee when he was caught by the God Hands.

'He blocked all the ways to escape?'

It was a skill that accumulated from countless fighting experiences. It was a level that was hard to deal with. Kasim determined that he might die and used his strength.

"Shadow Soldiers!"

Pepepepeok!

All the shadows that existed in the bedroom responded to Kasim's call. The shadows formed large and small bodies and created a barrier around Kasim. Kasim managed to defend against Grid's Kill and the God Hand's attacks and then moved. He aimed for the God Hands, not Grid.

The shadow soldiers all threw shadow spears simultaneously. There were exactly 67.

Teteteteng!

[God Hand (1) has stiffened.]

[God Hand (2) has stiffened.]

[God Hand (3) has stiffened.]

[God Hand (4) has stiffened.]

[God Hand (1) has stiffened.]

[God Hand (2) has stiffened.]

...

...

"Crazy!"

Grid was astonished. The unidentified intruder had a turban wrapped around his whole face and demonstrated an incredible ability to use shadows. All the shadows that existed around him were used for movements, defense and attack, while the defense and attack power were the best. The ability was unmatched compared to Tarma who he met in the National Competition.

Where had this monster suddenly appeared from? A name suddenly popped into Grid's questioning brain.

'King of Shadows!'

Kasim!

'That damn bastard is aiming for me again!'

During the days when Grid was still active in Winston. The assassin called Shay had hired Kasim to kill Grid. He was blocked by Huroi and Euphemina and eventually withdrew.

"Noe! Randy!"

Grid was certain that the opponent was Kasim and used all his power. Kasim was a named NPC. He had a third advancement when Grid met him a long time ago, so it was highly likely he was at the fourth advancement now. Grid judged it would be difficult to handle Kasim by himself and summoned his pets before using Linked Kill Wave.

Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The walls of Lord's room were smashed and all of Reidan Castle shook. It was the overwhelming strength of Linked Kill Wave, which could be called Grid's ultimate attack. However, it was unreasonable to hit Kasim with a non-targeted skill. Kasim avoided the eight strikes of Linked Kill Wave by moving through the shadows and ended up behind Grid.

"Duke Grid, please calm down first and let me speak..."

Kasim attempted a conversation.

"Where are you going?"

Randy copied Grid and threatened Kasim with Link.

"Kyong!"

Noe's mouth opened to swallow Kasim. This was followed by the God Hands wielded Mjolnir. Kasim eventually had to use a hidden technique. It was the manifestation of 'Greed,' a technique that drew all the shadows to one point and swallowed everything around it. It was Kasim's unique skill that he created by combining Daluka's Methods and Lantier's Methods.

Kuoooooh!

"Kyaack!"

"Nyang! Scary!"

Randy, Noe, the God Hands and the furniture in the room. Everything except for Grid was swallowed by the shadow. It was like a black hole, although it naturally wasn't comparable to the power of the universe. Kasim's Greed could only swallow the target for 3 seconds before spitting it out. Of course, these 3 seconds exerted absolute force during a battle.

"Duke Grid! I'm not an enemy!"

"Not an enemy?"

Kasim finally got a chance to speak to Grid. Kasim hurriedly shouted, "I want to become your ally!"

"Ally? You?"

Grid asked like he didn't understand.

"Uhhh..."

Lord who had fallen into a deep sleep after working too hard the past few days. Despite the turmoil of the battle, the child only woke up now. Then he laughed when he saw that Kasim was in front of him.

“Teacher!”

“Teacher?”

Grid was stunned.

“Ah! Father!”

Lord belatedly realized that he was in Grid’s arms and hugged him tightly. Finally, Greed spat out Noe, who shook his tail nervously.

“I suffered needlessly. If only you talked and resolved it from the beginning, nyang...”

It was because he was born in the human world. Noe was gradually losing the instincts of a memphis, the best demonic best of hell that enjoyed combat and slaughter. A pacifist demonic beast.

“There was a story like this.”

For a long time, Grid heard a lot of stories from Kasim. Kasim’s past. The fall of the Nero. Being wanted by the empire. His relationship with Doran. His observation of Grid. The thoughts he had during the observation period. Protecting Irene and Lord and ultimately becoming Lord’s teacher, etc. Kasim told Grid all of it.

What was Grid’s response?

“Thank you.”

Their first meeting was the worst, but that was the past. It was a fact that Kasim protected Irene and Lord, with Lord even testifying directly. Grid wasn’t unscrupulous enough not to feel gratitude. He bowed his head deeply and thanked Kasim. Grid was also greedy. Kasim was the most powerful assassin in existence and the only person who knew Lantier’s techniques. Grid coveted him. He wanted to make Kasim his own person. He also knew he could have Kasim.

Grid’s raised his head and stared straight into Kasim’s eyes.

“Kasim, I will fulfill your desire. Starting today, formally serve me.”

He was in a position where he needed to be hostile to the Saharan Empire. One of Grid’s ultimate goals was to win greater honor and riches, and to destroy the empire for Piaro and Asmophel. However, he knew that it was hard. Maybe it was impossible. But he would challenge it.

“Didn’t you see the possibility when you looked at me? So believe in me and serve me.”

Kasim had no reason to refuse. In the first place, it was also what he wanted.

“I am grateful.” Kasim immediately kneeled and pledged. “I will be your shadow.”

[King of Shadows Kasim has become your knight!]

[Kasim has become a member of Reidan!]

[Your charm has increased by 100!]

'Good!'

This was what he wanted. The thrilled Grid immediately gave Kasim a role.

"I want you to protect my family like you are doing now. In addition, I'd like you to work hard on raising an assassin group. Is it possible?"

"As I said before, there are a number of assassins from the Silver Dragons. They are acquiring Daluka's Methods, so I think it should be sufficient to make an assassins group out of them."

Grid nodded.

"Okay. From now on, your position is leader of the Overgeared Shadows."

"...Yes."

He didn't know what Overgeared meant, but it didn't sound that great. Kasim was troubled, but couldn't go against his lord. He nodded without saying anything. Grid observed him with the Great Lord's Sword.

Name: Kasim

Age: 36 years old. Gender: Male

Occupation: Leader of Overgeared Shadows.

Title: Last of the Nero Clan.

* The Nero have dark skin, making it easier to assimilate into the darkness. As the only survivor of the Nero, Kasim gains a large bonus effect when using Stealth. However, some of the power of throwing weapons is reduced due to his too long arms.

Title: King of Shadows

* Maximizes the effects and power of shadow techniques.

Title: Disciple of Lantier

* Knows the theories of Lantier's techniques. However, he doesn't have the talent to learn it himself.

Level: 401

Strength: 2,107 Stamina: 1,158

Agility: 4,409 Intelligence: 933

Persistence: 3,550

Skills: Trap Installation (A), Daluka's Methods (A+), Evolved Body Techniques (A), Evolving Techniques (A), Evolved Sword Techniques (A), Evolved Throwing Technique (S), Evolved Assassination (S), Nero's Stealth Techniques (S), Ultimate Shadow Technique (S+), Lantier's Methods Knowledge (SS).

It was unfortunate that only one special stat, Persistence, was opened. However, the numerical value of Persistence was unreasonably high. It was much higher than Grid's persistence. Kasim would never give

up. In addition, his high strength and agility demonstrated that his combat ability was equivalent to Asmophel.

'He is equivalent to Piaro in places with a lot of shadows.'

Grid felt like he had won thousands of troops.