

Overgeared 531

Chapter 531

“Leader...”

The White Hammer blacksmiths called out, but White didn't respond. He sat to one side with his head bowed. He was trembling with shame after Enoch laughed at him. The White Hammer blacksmiths were worried. The ashamed White turned away from them. Grid approached White with a frown.

“Is there time to be doing this?”

“...?”

"If you're upset, pay it back. There's no time to be absentminded. Do your best with your skills."

Grid had contempt for bullies. It was because he had once been ignored and despised by people. That's how he could sympathize with White's heart. Blacksmith's Affection also added to the feeling of wanting to help White.

"If you don't like that feeling in your chest, blow it away. Then I'll get right to the point. Pull it out. The design of the Red Phoenix that you envisioned."

“Huh? U-Understood.”

White wanted Grid's help with the bellows. It was his only task. There was no need for him to see the design. In addition, this design was made by the White Hammer blacksmiths and it was something that shouldn't be shown to just anyone. But White was in a daze and easily handed over the design to Grid.

[The Red Phoenix Bow (Reproduction: White Hammer Version) design has been acquired.]

[Red Phoenix Bow (Reproduction: White Hammer Version)]

Rating: Normal ~ Epic

Normal Rating Information:

...

...

Rare Rating Information:

...

...

Epic Rating Information:

...

...

It was 1m 20cm in size. It is slightly larger than a short bow and much smaller than a longbow. The bow was divided into three big pieces. In the center, Hwangpyeong Mountain bamboo was used as a

material, while both sides had mulberry wood. Grid checked the design and accompanying explanatory text before asking White.

"What are the characteristics of the Hwangpyeong Mountain bamboo and mulberry wood?"

"Hwangpyeong Mountain bamboo is specially selected because it contains a lot of fiber, while the mulberry wood is both soft and strong."

"In other words, the bow is made from materials that maximize elasticity?"

"Huh? Oh, that's right. It doesn't break easily and can fire the arrows."

Shouldn't a woodcutter know all this? As White was feeling confused, Grid started to scan the materials.

'Certainly, both the bamboo and mulberry wood are of the best quality.'

It wasn't comparable to the bamboo and mulberry on the West Continent. The trees on the East Continent was much better in quality.

'Is it because they grow in an environment filled with mana?'

Good. Obviously good.

'But...'

Based on the name, the Red Phoenix Bow had the fire attribute. No matter how outstanding the performance, it was questionable if the bamboo and mulberry wood could sustain the heat of the flames. Grid identified the next dubious part of the design.

...

The exterior of the bow was wrapped with a fireproof leather.

"What is that red leather?"

"It doesn't burn even when covered in flames. It's Rascal Leather. It's very solid and durable against fire."

"...Hrmm."

Now he understood. But the most important thing was the creation of flames. What did the White Hammer smithy think about to summon fire? Grid was filled with anticipation as he confirmed the final part of the drawing, only to deflate. He discovered that they used a fire stone.

"What are you doing?"

Why was the design that White made with all his heart being crumpled? White looked at Grid with a disbelieving expression. Grid realized his mistake and muttered as he unfolded the pattern again.

"This won't do."

Fire stone? It might be a rare ore, but it could be found on the West Continent. Grid was convinced since it was a production material he used quite often.

'It might be possible with an iron bow or a composite bow, but a simple wood bow won't be able to bear the weight of the fire stone. The balance would be off. If the weight of the fire stone is lowered, the firepower will weaken.'

If a bow was made in accordance with this design, it wouldn't be qualified to be called the Red Phoenix Bow.

'Indeed, the answer is to use the white phosphorus wood. It's certain.'

The problem was that he didn't know the shape and characteristics of the Red Phoenix Bow, but White could help with that.

"White, you've seen the Red Phoenix Bow, right?"

"Of course. It's the treasure of my hometown, so I have seen it many times from a distance. The lord holds the Red Phoenix Bow for big events."

Liking faded from White's eyes when looking at Grid. He didn't appreciate his design being crumpled and his affinity fell. But Grid didn't care. There were plenty of chances to make up for his mistake!

"Is this design based on the Red Phoenix Bow that you saw?"

"Yes... However, the Red Phoenix Bow wasn't covered with leather. It was made entirely of wood... This is the result of trying to copy the form as much as possible."

"Was the color of the Red Phoenix Bow white?"

"Huh, how did you know...? That's right. The Red Phoenix Bow was white..."

It was up to here. Grid no longer hesitated and immediately took action.

"Item Creation."

[What item do you want to create?]

"A bow."

[What materials would you like to use?]

"White pho.... No, wait."

The white phosphorus wood was comparable to dragon iron. It was harder than steel and had weak elasticity. Thus, Grid was somewhat hesitant. White's design was based on the Red Phoenix Bow that he saw and it had the shape of a bow that emphasized resilience. If the Red Phoenix Bow emphasized resilience like White interpreted, then white phosphorus wood shouldn't be the main material used.

'But what if White misinterpreted?'

Then the story was different. Grid believed in his own intuition. It wasn't arrogance. It was the pride he had as a legendary blacksmith.

"I will use the white phosphorus wood as a material."

Grid made his decision.

"What is he doing?"

"Let's see?"

The White Hammer blacksmiths were confused. The woodcutter Grid was suddenly asking about the Red Phoenix Bow. After a while, he squatted in the corner and started drawing something. One blacksmith cried out with surprise.

"Don't tell me! He's copying the design of the Red Phoenix Bow that we spend three years and countless trials and errors completing?"

"Haha, how silly."

"It's nonsense."

Grid couldn't be a design thief. Surely a thief wouldn't blatantly copy in front of the parties involved?

"He would deliberately go to a place that is dark... Heok?"

Was he really a thief trying to steal it? The blacksmiths became alert. White restrained those who were feeling hostile towards Grid.

"You shouldn't judge a person so casually."

Yes, just like White a few days ago. Didn't he see only a few pieces of Grid and judged from that? White thought Grid was an unscrupulous person dreaming about becoming a blacksmith without even knowing the job.

'I didn't know he was such a distinguished person. Hmmm...'

But now he was different. What was Grid doing while squatting down? Maybe Grid was actually taking part of their design as his fellow blacksmiths said?

'No, he wouldn't steal so openly... Hmmm.'

White was worried. White was reminded of the darkness that lived in people and approached Grid. He looked at what Grid was drawing in the air and became shocked. He was amazed enough to jump like a rabbit. The picture Grid was drawing. It was the Red Phoenix Bow. It was a much more complete design than the Red Phoenix Bow that White had envisioned for the last three years.

"N-No, how can this be...? How can a woodcutter do such a thing?"

White still misunderstood Grid as a woodcutter. Grid laughed as he confirmed the information of the completed design.

[Red Phoenix (Reproduction)]

Rating: Epic ~ Legendary

Epic Rating Information:

...

...

Unique Rating Information:

...

...

Legendary Rating Information:

...

...

The treasure of Pangea that was reproduced by a legendary blacksmith. Its value can compete with the original.

'Okay.'

Now the key depending on the rating of the Red Phoenix Bow produced during the competition. Grid asked the baffled White a question.

"Did you say the competition time was eight hours?"

White replied with a dazed expression.

"Ah... Yes, that's correct. It's too long to make a bow, but this is the competition to reproduce Pangea's treasure..."

'This is rotten.'

The time was too short. For Grid who spent a day or two making a bow, eight hours was nothing.

'I have to use it wisely.'

There was also the new power he obtained from making the 20th legendary item.

'Item Upgrade!'

Grid was convinced that he could easily clear the quest with this power, even if he couldn't perfectly reproduce the Red Phoenix Bow. He checked the time and rose.

"Then let's depart."

"The White Hammer blacksmiths are entering!"

"Boo! Boooooo!"

The White Hammer blacksmiths entered the stadium with Grid in the front, not White. The spectators booed loudly since they lost the last three competitions. White and the blacksmiths shrank back, while Grid enjoyed it.

'More.'

Ignore him more.

'The more you ignore us, the more dramatic the result will be.'

Grid grinned widely, revealing his teeth. The blacksmiths of the other smithies on the stage ridiculed him.

"Who is that person?"

"It is the first time I've seen him... Isn't he new?"

"Why is a new person leading instead of White?"

"White might be embarrassed and is using the new person as a shield."

"He's pathetic to the end."

The tens of thousands of spectators and the hundreds of blacksmiths. They had no idea that this newbie would cause a huge commotion. It was the first step of Grid's legend on the East Continent.

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"U-Um..."

White and the White Hammer blacksmiths found it hard to understand the current situation. Why was a woodcutter asked to control the flames in front of all of them?

'I want to tell him to stand back, but...'

'He's the great person who designed the Red Phoenix Bow!'

'Who the hell is he?'

'Maybe it's as Leader White said...'

'He might be a distinguished person...'

'He's someone who cut down the white phosphorus tree.'

The White Hammer blacksmiths murmured among themselves while climbing onto the stage.

"Bhhhhh-! Boooooo!"

"White is a coward! All the other blacksmiths are standing at the forefront. Why do you have a newcomer in front of you?"

"Isn't it shameful to hide behind another person?"

The crowd's booing became stronger. The leader of the Blue Flames smithy, Enoch, walked over to White.

"You dare to participate in the competition again? In any case, the result will be the same as the last three years. Isn't that right? For. Ever. Lo. Ser. Friend.

"..."

White didn't respond to Enoch. Enoch was someone who liked ridiculing others and seeing their reactions. He would go away if White ignored him. But Enoch was persistent.

"I really can't understand you. Daring to risk the White Hammer smithy's reputation by confronting me when you don't have the talent. Ah, no. Didn't the reputation of the White Hammer smithy already fall to the bottom after your father died? It was the day he foolishly died to the armored needle."

"You!"

"Kukuk! It turns out to be like father, like son!"

Enoch was crossing the line. White could no longer tolerate it. The moment he became angry enough to punch Enoch in the face, something interrupted him.

"Bark bark. Bark. It's the sound of a dog barking nonsense."

"...?"

Enoch was watching White with pleasure, when he became shocked. The two people simultaneously turned their gazes in the direction of the barking. They discovered a black-haired man with sharp eyes. It was the unidentified newcomer of the White Hammer smithy.

Grid scoffed and said to Enoch. "You're a crazy dog. Just wait a minute. There's no need to bother Teacher White. I will smash you myself."

"Teacher White?"

White and Enoch were both surprised. White was stunned while Enoch laughed loudly. This was a jackpot.

"You're really crazy! White! You don't know the topic and actually dare to be a teacher? A person with poor talent teaching someone else? Puhat! Puhahat! Oh, my stomach! If the other blacksmiths hear this, they would be laughing!"

"Ugh...!"

White's face turned red. His skin was dark, making it hard to see, but he didn't look good. White was really embarrassed. It was because there was nothing wrong with Enoch's words.

"..."

He had spent the past three years as a loser. White lost his self-esteem and couldn't help bowing his head.

"Raise your head. Don't get used to seeing the ground." Grid stared at White and was reminded of his past self. "Today, the White Hammer smithy that you and your father love will win the competition."

Suuk.

Grid's finger pointed at White's heart. White saw the hard calluses on the thick fingers.

'Blacksmith hands?'

White belatedly realized Grid's real identity. He felt astonished as Grid confirmed it.

"You will be the best smithy in Pangea."

Today's victory would be achieved by relying on Grid, but not in the future. White was a person he used Blacksmith's Affection on. His blacksmith skill level was destined to rise the moment that his affinity reached the maximum.

"Enoch is becoming more and more distorted."

"It was because he respected Dawwhite more than anyone else. He was disappointed when Dawwhite chose White as a successor, despite not being able to support the smithy."

"Looking at it, the poor person isn't White, but Enoch. Well, that doesn't excuse his twisted personality."

"Ignore him. Enoch and White aren't people we have to worry about."

Enoch had excellent skills and a twisted personality, while White was born with a unique talent, but was lazy in his youth. From the perspective of the skilled and older leaders of the Black Anvil and Red Tongs smithies, they were both inexperienced.

"Hrmm, yes. We have to focus on the competition."

"Last year, I was careless and lost the title to Enoch."

"This year will be our second victory."

The Black Anvil and Red Tongs leaders acknowledged each other as opponents. The appearance of the best blacksmiths in Pangea excited the audience.

"Beoksan! La Hochul! Have a great match this year!"

"Make the national treasure! Fighting!"

"The firepower of last year's Red Phoenix Bow was too weak! This year, make it heat of the fire properly!"

Waaahhhhhhhh!

It was a really different atmosphere. The White Hammer smithy was booed and received criticisms, while the Black Anvil and Red Tongs smithies received cheers. White was used to it, but he still felt sick. White bowed to Grid.

"First of all, I'm ashamed and sorry for being unable to recognize you as a blacksmith. And thank you very much. You helped stop me from doing something I would regret."

"There's no need to thank me..."

Grid attempted to demonstrate humility, only to suddenly stop. This was the East Continent, not the West Continent. In this place, he was an ordinary person, not a noble or the leader of Overgeared. There

was no need to consider his social status. He could act according to his personality. Grid changed what he was going to say.

"Yes, you should feel deep appreciation."

Huhuhut!

White couldn't help questioning Grid, "Why? Why are you helping me?"

Grid's answer was simple.

"Of course, it's for me. I have to stay here in Pangea for the moment. It will be helpful if I can obtain someone's grace."

"...Why did you choose me?"

"..."

Grid was embarrassed. Why did Grid come to the White Hammer smithy and help White? There was no reason. He ran into White because the White Hammer smithy was the closest. Then he received the quest and the situation became like this. But White was full of expectations. He was criticized after losing his father, only for Grid to suddenly appear. He wanted to be special for Grid. Until now, he had lived a poor life. But was he actually qualified to be the protagonist of his life? Didn't the sky drop Grid in front of him?

Grid looked at White's eyes that were shining like lanterns and smiled. It was a smile filled with genuine affection, not falsehood.

"You are special."

What if someone like the current Grid had appeared before his past self? That's right. Grid projected his past self onto White.

"Only you are entitled to receive help from me. So I looked for you."

"Only... Me..."

White's heart started to beat faster. This was an unidentified blacksmith who completed the design of the Red Phoenix Bow in a short amount of time. A special existence that couldn't be measured. Thus, his self-esteem started to rise again. But there was one part that weighed on his mind.

Even if the White Hammer smithy won this competition, it wouldn't be through their skills. White was grateful for the help, but it was meaningless to win through the hands of another person.

'What if I'm not qualified after winning the competition?'

He would lose even the glory of the past that he wasn't qualified for.

"Thank you... I really appreciate it. But... I think it would be better not to receive your help in this competition."

Grid grinned at the struggling White and shook his head.

“Don’t think about complicated things and just accept. Didn’t I say it? You are special. After the competition, you will be qualified to be the winner.”

The amount of times it was possible to use the Legendary Blacksmith’s Creation increased by three every time the skill level of the Legendary Blacksmith’s Craftsmanship skill increased. Most skills were mastered at level 10. Therefore, it meant the total number of times Grid could create an item was 30 in total.

Grid needed to use the Legendary Blacksmith’s Creation skill cautiously. It was clear that if Grid used it carelessly even once, he would regret it for the rest of his life. In other words, Grid used the creation skill on the Red Phoenix Bow after careful consideration.

‘I definitely think it’s worth it.’

Grid lined up with the White Hammer blacksmiths and listened to the host announce the start of the competition. It was the ultimate joy to see a completed Red Phoenix Bow.

‘This is a bow for Jishuka.’

If he could arm thousands of soldiers with it in the future...

‘I will be invincible.’

Grid looked at the completed Red Phoenix Bow design and pulled out something from his inventory. White wood. The white phosphorus wood.

“What?”

The tens of thousands of spectators and hundreds of blacksmiths all felt doubt.

“G-Grid.”

Grid quickly attracted the attention of many people. White couldn’t help feeling nervous. However, Grid attracted the attention of countless people since becoming Pagma’s Descendant and was used to it. He didn’t feel nervous at all.

“Now, I shall begin.”

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There was a clear similarity between the Red Phoenix Bow that Grid imagined and the one that the White Hammer blacksmiths designed. The bow was white and created powerful flames. It was the decisive moment when Grid was convinced that the main material of the Red Phoenix Bow was the white phosphorus wood.

The white phosphorus wood was hard and comparable to dragon iron. However, it was also lightweight and generated its own powerful flames. It was suitable to use as a material for the Red Phoenix Bow. However, the other blacksmiths of Pangea never thought about using the white phosphorus wood. Very few people expected the material of the Red Phoenix Bow to be white phosphorus wood.

Were they stupid? No. It was just common sense. The white phosphorus tree was something that could never be cut down by a blacksmith. No, it was common sense everywhere in the world. No one would think of making something with the white phosphorus wood.

But Grid did it. He was the only person in the world who could cut down the white phosphorus tree!

“Isn’t that white phosphorus wood?”

“It’s impossible...”

The tens of thousands of spectators watching the stage. All eyes were on the place that was surrounded by pine trees. It was due to the white wood that the new blacksmith from the White Hammer smithy took out. Straight white wood. It looked exactly like the white phosphorus wood. However, people judged that it couldn’t be the white phosphorus wood.

"The white phosphorus tree can't be cut down, right?"

"That's right. I heard that it will explode if cut."

“It’s impossible for it to be the white phosphorus wood. It just looks like white phosphorus wood.”

But was there a tree that resembled the white phosphorus tree in this world? There might be a lot of white trees, but the white phosphorus wood was unique. The white phosphorus wood had no twisted parts at all. As people were feeling confused, someone shouted a negative opinion.

"Those damn White Hammer guys! They can't get people's attention with their skills, so they prepared a useless performance!"

On one side of the stage. It was a cry from the Blue Flames section facing the White Hammer section. It was Enoch's voice. He was sincerely angry. He didn't like that people were paying attention to the White Hammer smithy instead of the winner of last year's competition.

The White Hammer smithy was grabbing people's attention with a performance, not skill. Pulling out fake white phosphorus wood? It was nothing more than an irritating and meaningless act. It was just embarrassing.

Dawhite. The person he once respected most in the world. Enoch had complicated emotions because the White Hammer smithy that Dawhite built had completely lost its honor and was about to fall.

‘Dawhite!’

Why did he pick White as his successor, destroying the White Hammer smithy? All of Dawhite's achievements were now worthless.

‘It is sad that even the greatest human is obsessed with bloodlines!’

Kwack!

Enoch placed the finest firewood that he had prepared into the furnace. He used a secret technique to cause blue flames to burn in the furnace.

"I'll show you the most ideal flames in the world!"

Hwaruruk!

Enoch pressed on the bellows and the blue flames flared up. The hot heat made the stage boil and stimulated the crowd.

“Ohh! Huge flames!”

"Indeed, the glow of the blue flames is brilliant!"

The quality of the blue flames was the best in the Cho Kingdom. Even Dawwhite acknowledged the blue flames when he was alive. The lowest grade iron ore could be refined like the finest grade iron ore. That's why these blue flames had the highest rating!

The blazing flames caught the attention of the crowd. The crowd turned away from the White Hammer smithy and the white phosphorus wood. Meanwhile, Grid was also admiring Enoch's flames.

'He's a blacksmith who is good at the bellows.'

It seemed like Enoch had the skills of a craftsman when it came to flames. That's right. It was just a craftsman. It was far less than a legendary blacksmith. Grid was surprised and disappointed.

'I thought I would learn something from observing the Blue Flames smithy, just like I did from the White Hammer smithy.'

It wasn't that much.

'The technique of the White Hammer smithy is special.'

It seemed like the Dawwhite who kept being mentioned was an excellent blacksmith. Grid thought this and threw the white phosphorus wood in the furnace.

At that moment.

Peeeeeeong!

“...!”

There was a loud explosion from the White Hammer smithy's furnace. The surprised crowd and blacksmiths turned their attention to the White Hammer area again. Then they were shocked.

"W-What? Those flames?"

"It's swallowing up the furnace?"

Flames of immense size. The flames rose from the blast furnace and leapt outside, covering the entire blast furnace. Red flames burst into the air, like the surface of the sun. Unlike the people who were astonished, Enoch burst out laughing.

“Puhahaha! A person who doesn't know how to handle the bellows! The materials can't be properly refined from such a strong fire! It will just burn everything up... Hak!”

Enoch fell silent for the first time.

Puok.Puok.Puok.

Grid.

The new White Hammer blacksmith was pumping on the handle of the bellows and repeated this movement.

Hwaruruk!Hwaruk!

The large flames in the furnace suddenly died down? Enoch and the chiefs of the Black Anvil and Red Tongs smithy all stared with wide eyes.

'The flames that I thought were impossible to control was calmed in an instant?'

'It's ridiculous the way he is handling the bellows. That young man's hands... Yes, it's like he has spent his whole life doing this.'

'Who is that person? Standing in front of the heat that could melt the skin, he doesn't shrink back and calmly handled the bellows? His skin didn't even turn red?'

Kurururung!

A loud sound was heard from the White Hammer smithy. It was the sound generated by the rise in temperature of the flames in the furnace.

"G-Great. But isn't the temperature too high? Won't you be turned into ashes before he can put the iron in?"

Grid explained to the cautious White.

"It might be dangerous, but this is a necessary process. The white phosphorus wood that is cut is merely hard. It doesn't produce flames."

However, the fire attribute in it was still alive. The white phosphorus wood was material that was activated when stimulated by high temperatures. This was the knowledge of a legendary blacksmith that Grid obtained from the system correct effect.

Hwaruruk!

The flames in the furnace emitted a high temperature that made it impossible to stay close to. White and the other White Hammer blacksmiths took one or two steps back, while Grid stepped forward. Then he put the prepared white phosphorus wood into the furnace and accelerated his usage of the bellows.

Puok!Puok!Puok!

The unstoppable air steadily raised the temperature of the blast furnace.

'It's impossible!'

The blacksmiths of the Blue Flames smithy started to deny reality. From their point of view, Grid wasn't a human. He seemed like a great demon surrounded by the flames of hell. In particular, Enoch started to fear Grid.

"Success."

Grid stopped the bellows and pulled the white phosphorus wood out of the furnace. The white phosphorus wood was much whiter than before. It showed off a beautiful white light. Grid grabbed it with the tongs and placed it on the anvil. Then he pulled out a hammer that only Pagma's Descendant could use.

Peeeeeeong!

The moment that Grid's hammer struck.

"Hat!"

The chiefs of the Black Anvil and Red Tongs smithy took a breath. Grid's forging quality. It was better than his handling of the bellows that they saw a while ago!

'That young man...!'

'Perfect!'

He was far better than Dawwhite in his prime. It was enough to make them think about the legendary blacksmith that they'd only heard about.

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

Grid continued the forging. He hammered at the white phosphorus wood that was as hard as dragon iron and gradually changed its shape. A notification window popped up in front of the sweating Grid.

[The Legendary Blacksmith's Patience skill has been activated.]

[Concentration, stamina and defense will rise to the extremes for one hour.]

Usually, the effect would be very welcome. But now Grid was entering a stage where nothing mattered. He was only dedicated to making the Red Phoenix Bow. He added the minotaur horn that he used all the time when making bows for Jishuka. This added elasticity and helped bend the wood into the shape of the bow. It looked exactly like the Red Phoenix Bow design that White saw.

'In the first place, this is the most developed form of the bow.'

The bow took shape under Grid's busy fingertips.

'Okay. This is really good.'

Grid's satisfaction and confidence rose.

'In the worst case situation.'

It was no problem if the Red Phoenix Bow was completed with an epic rating. He could use Item Upgrade to make it the unique rating and safely clear the quest. There was a limited number of times he could use Item Upgrade, just like the creation skill, but Grid judged that this quest was worth the investment.

'I have to raise my affinity with White and Han Seokbong.'

The reason was simple. Han Seokbong would be aware of the information of the other four guardians battle gear, which was in the same category as the Red Phoenix Bow. That's right. Grid planned to acquire the method to make all of them while he was on the East Continent. Grid judged that the value of the four guardians items would be comparable to divine items. If he could mass produce them, Grid's army would be invincible.

Meanwhile, Enoch's body was shaking in the distance.

"How? How does that newcomer have these skills?"

The black-haired man in front of him was better than Dawwhite. Enoch didn't want to acknowledge Grid's skills, but it was impossible. As a blacksmith, he felt infinite respect for Grid's skills. It was an instinct that couldn't be resisted. Then...

[The Red Phoenix Bow has been completed!]

7 hours, 59 minutes and 49 seconds since the start of the competition. Grid finally stopped! The pure white bow with a fluid curve was beautiful enough to capture the attention of everyone present.

"Red Phoenix...Bow!"

The lord. The lord who had been keeping an eye on Grid throughout the competition rose to his feet. He felt the energy of the Red Phoenix from the bow made by Grid.

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"Good!"

Grid cheered the moment that the Red Phoenix Bow was completed. He didn't care about his dignity and honestly expressed his joy.

"Asa! Yes! A jackpot!"

"...?"

He was as happy as a mating dog? White was confused. Grid had a dignified atmosphere when he was carefully making the item for eight hours. White couldn't believe the man had transformed like this.

'Can a person change 180 degrees? Did he accidentally hurt his head while hammering?'

It was a silly question. The Grid who tried his best and the honestly happy Grid were all the true Grid. Grid was happy because the result was good. The result of making the item!

[A legendary rated item was produced, so all stats have permanently risen by +10 and reputation throughout the continent has risen by +500.]

[There is a beneficial effect from producing the highest quality. The good luck stat has increased by 5.]

It was the moment when another legendary item was made, following the white phosphorus axe. Grid had never experienced such good luck. He looked at the 31 points in the good luck stat and his eyes reddened.

'I once again overcame my bad luck!'

To be honest, the process of eating Idan's food was very rough and the God's Command passive didn't work well, so Grid had been having a hard time. But then he obtained the golden walnuts for free and made legendary items, balancing out the bad luck with good luck. It felt like the work he was doing was getting better and better.

'Is it thanks to the good luck stat?'

There was no other explanation. Grid was thrilled by his good luck when the notification window updated.

[The completed item's rating is too high. Item Upgrade isn't applicable.]

Item Upgrade. It was the new skill Grid got from making the 20th legendary item. There were many constraints, but it was a powerful insurance for Grid.

[Item Upgrade]

- * You can increase the rating of your own item by one step.
- * Can't be used for items that are older than 5 minutes.
- * An item can only be upgraded once.
- * The amount of times it was possible to use Item Upgrade increases by three every time the skill level of the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship skill increases.

Number of available uses: 24/24

"Hrmm."

In any case, it was very regrettable that this skill could only be used on items less than 5 minutes old.

'It would be a huge bonus if I could use it on an existing item.'

What if he could use it to raise the level of the God Hands? As soon as the rating of the God Hands changed to a legendary rating, Grid's attack power would skyrocket.

'Should I melt them and recreate them?'

He could melt the God Hands to extract the ingredients and recreate it. The God Hands had a chance to be made into a legendary rating. Even if it was finished with a unique rating, he could use Item Upgrade to get a legendary rating. But it wasn't easy to try again.

'In any case, the God Hands are a growth-type item.'

He shouldn't be too nervous. It was much more prudent to raise them like he was currently doing. There was a limit to the number of times Item Upgrade could be used, so he might regret it in the future.

'Then...'

Grid was filled with disappointment at something else.

'It's impossible to upgrade a legendary item to a higher rating.'

The Red Phoenix Bow was finished with a legendary rating. Grid had hoped he could upgrade the Red Phoenix Bow to a myth rating. However, Item Upgrade was limited to a legendary rating.

'No, maybe it isn't the skill, but a limit of the Red Phoenix Bow.'

Grid couldn't rule out the possibility that the Red Phoenix Bow itself wasn't qualified to be upgraded to a myth rating.

'I thought the four guardians battle gear would be on the same level as the Rebecca Church's divine artifacts, but it might be lower.'

Grid was locked in his thoughts.

"Waaaaaaaah!"

Then the crowd cheered as the host announced the end of the competition. Finally, the details of the Red Phoenix Bow was confirmed.

[Red Phoenix Bow (Reproduction)]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 901/901 Attack Power: 2,360

- * 60% increase in firing speed.
- * Accuracy will increase by 20%.
- * Contains penetrative damage that ignores the defense of the target's armor.
- * Every time an arrow is shot or every time the bow is raised, flames will be generated. The flames will deal a fixed 4,000 damage to the enemy and cause a 'burned' state.
- * The skill 'Fly Up!' will be generated.

The Red Phoenix Bow interpreted by the legendary blacksmith Grid, whose techniques are blossoming.

It is made of the sturdy white phosphorus tree, but the addition of the minotaur horn and tendons has added elasticity. It can shoot further, stronger, and faster, and also has a strong fire power. It has the ideal shape of a bow, so the performance is far superior to the original Red Phoenix Bow.

However, the disadvantage is that it is very difficult to use. In addition, because the power of the Red Phoenix guardian is excluded, the overall ability is lower than the original Red Phoenix Bow.

- * This is a bow worthy of the power of the Red Phoenix guardian.

Conditions of Use: Master level Advanced Bow Mastery

Weight: 1,200

"Wow."

Typical ranged weapons and large weapons tended to rely on random damage. Unlike a one-handed sword with excellent stability, the attack power was applied as ???~???. The maximum attack power

was high while the minimum attack power was low. It was possible to deal a huge amount of damage to the enemy if they were lucky. However, if they were unlucky, then less damage would be dealt.

This wasn't a good system for someone with bad luck like Grid. Ordinary people tended to recognize the concept of random damage as drawing out the potential of ranged and large weapons, but Grid was afraid of it. Even so, he kept the greatsword as his main weapon.

But the damage of the Red Phoenix Bow was fixed like a one-handed sword. It was even higher! This bow was rare.

'In addition to that, there's compensation for high speed and high accuracy rate.'

The arrows shot also had a powerful fire damage. The Red Phoenix Bow contained all the things that Grid thought was ideal for a perfect weapon.

'More than anything else.'

It was much better than the original Red Phoenix Bow. It was a bow that desired the power of the Red Phoenix guardian. If Grid's Red Phoenix Bow was given the power of the Red Phoenix, it would boast a power that far transcended the original.

'This means the original four guardians battle gear is equivalent to the Rebecca Church's divine artifacts.'

The Red Phoenix Bow was a legendary rating even before the power of the Red Phoenix. The Red Phoenix Bow might grow to the myth rating if it received the energy of the Red Phoenix.

'But how do I get the energy of the Red Phoenix?'

Grid tilted his head to one side and grinned. He realized there was no need to worry about it.

"Red Phoenix...! Red Phoenix...Bow!"

A man jumped onto the stage. The lord of Pangea, Han Seokbong. He ignored all the bows made by the blacksmiths of the Blue Flames, Black Anvil, and Red Tongs smithy. He headed straight towards Grid.

"You are... No, who are you?"

There was a strong liking in Han Seokbong's eyes as he looked at Grid. The quest was cleared. In other words, Grid was convinced he won the competition and answered politely.

"A blacksmith passing by. I stopped by here in Pangea and was impressed by White. I decided to help him for a moment."

Grid thought carefully about how to answer to increase affinity with both Han Seokbong and White. The effect was big.

"Ohh...! White's skills brought such a distinguished person to Pangea!"

"Grid!"

The moment that Han Seokbong and White were feeling overjoyed.

"I can't admit it!" Enoch, who was proud after building up a big friendship with Han Seokbong after winning last year's competition, refused it. "Strictly speaking, this person isn't a blacksmith of the White Hammer smithy! Therefore, this competition should be void!"

Enoch protested to the end. Grid and White bristled but there was no need to worry.

"My only desire was the restoration of the Red Phoenix Bow, and he has achieved it! In addition, this result was possible due to White's skills and virtue. There's no denying that the White Hammer smithy won!"

Lord Han Seokbong directly defended the White Hammer smithy. Enoch was forced to close his mouth while Grid and White sighed with relief. At the same time.

[The quest 'Win the Smithy Competition!' has been completed.]

[The affinity with White, the master of the White Hammer smithy, has reached the maximum! White will never cause you any trouble!]

[In the future, all items at the White Hammer smithy are available for purchase at cost price!]

[If you sell items at the White Hammer smithy, you can sell them at 20% higher than the market price!]

[All facilities in the White Hammer smithy will be freely available!]

[Due to the effect of the Blacksmith's Affection skill, White's blacksmithing skill level has risen by 3!]

[White's blacksmithing skill has reached advanced level 8.]

[The affinity with Pangea's lord, Han Seokbong, has increased by 80! Unless you make a big mistake, Han Seokbong will infinitely favor you!]

[You have gained access to Pangea Castle's dungeon!]

[Your level has risen.]

[Follow Han Seokbong. You can get a reward.]

"Can I ask for the name of this distinguished person?"

If Han Seokbong couldn't restore the lost Red Phoenix Bow, both him and the Cho Kingdom would've been in danger. Han Seokbong recognized Grid as the benefactor of the kingdom and Grid needed to maintain a good relationship with him, so Grid answered politely.

"Grid."

"Grid..."

At this moment. A great name spread throughout the Cho Kingdom. Han Seokbong repeated Grid's name several times before saying,

"Well, let's go to my castle first. Ah, please hand over the Red Phoenix Bow."

"?????"

Curses almost emerged from his mouth. Grid felt like he had been hit in the back of his head.

Chapter 535

'This is... Isn't it outrageous?'

This was the Red Phoenix Bow that he made using his best effort. The Legendary Blacksmith's Creation skill was used, and it contained the essence of Grid's effort and skill...

'I have to give it away?'

Grid doubted his ears and Han Seokbong demanded again.

"The restored Red Phoenix Bow will allow me to manage Pangea for the rest of my life. Now, please."

"No, this is... Ah!"

Grid's face turned red as he suddenly realized. Restoration! The word meant to recover something. The Red Phoenix Bow was the national treasure and Pangea wanted to restore it because it was lost.

'Han Seokbong wants the restored Red Phoenix Bow...'

It was natural. He wanted the Red Phoenix Bow returned to its original place! Oh, why didn't Grid think about this earlier?

'How rotten...'

Flop!

Grid grumbled and pulled his hair. He felt wronged. Was it the quest itself? No, he had no such complaints about the quest. This was a quest to become friendly with the lord and acquire access to the castle's dungeon. It was a quest he would've accepted, even if he knew that he had to give up on the Red Phoenix Bow.

In the first place, the white phosphorus bow that was used for the Red Phoenix Bow was readily available. It wasn't too much if he gave the Red Phoenix Bow to another.

'At least, if it was the epic or unique rating!'

Then why?

'Why did a legendary rating appear in this type of quest?'

In retrospect, this was also the case with the National Competition. He created a growth type item and it was taken away. Grid couldn't help feeling like it was unfair.

'Creating a good item, just to hand it to someone else...'

He had been proud like an idiot the moment that the legendary item was created.

"My damn luck..."

He was too unlucky. It was undeniable bad luck!

"Now, let's go."

Grid was sighing by himself. Han Seokbong personally raised him up. He brought White and Grid and headed to the lord's castle.

Waaahhhhhhhh!

Their great lord was holding the hand of a blacksmith? The excited crowd cheered excitedly at the unusual sight.

"He didn't even treat me, last year's winner, like this..."

Blue Flame's leader, Enoch, was frustrated. White, who he had ignored so much, had transcended himself in one morning.

Pangea Castle.

"Hah."

On the way to the castle. Grid inwardly complained for an hour and finally shut his mouth. He was captivated by the beauty of Pangea Castle. Pangea Castle reminded him of the castle from the Goryeo period that he saw in the historical dramas.

'However, it's much bigger and more colorful.'

He walked along the marble floor and crossed seven doors. Finally, he arrived at the innermost part of the castle. It was the most secret and important part of the castle where the lord and his family lived. White gulped. He clearly felt nervous. He was different from Grid. As an ordinary blacksmith, White never expected to be invited to the innermost palace.

"That... Lord. I don't think this is a place for a lowly blacksmith like me to step into."

It was Grid, not Han Seokbong, who responded to White.

"Why are you a lowly blacksmith?"

"Haha! He's right! Blacksmiths are the base of national power! Furthermore, White is the best blacksmith in Pangea! It's only when you treat yourself like dirt that the kingdom will be shaken!"

"..."

White felt like it was a dream. The person who had been ignored and despised by people just this morning was now recognized by the esteemed lord of this kingdom. The cheers of the people at the venue were still roaring in his ears.

'My life changed in a moment...'

All of this.

'It's thanks to Grid!'

White's eyes shone as he gazed at Grid. It resembled Noe's eyes when he was hungry. Grid felt burdened.

'The love of all these uncles...'

It had been like this since the past. Grid was only loved by uncle or grandfather type NPCs. A prime example was Khan. Grid was a young man in his prime. He wanted to be loved by women more than men.

'I heard there are a lot of female NPC blacksmiths.'

Why did he only have blacksmiths that were old men around him? Even the only elf he met was a male.

"It can't be..."

Was this the aftermath of his bad luck? It gave him goosebumps. Grid's shoulders sank as he felt depressed.

Han Seokbong led him to one side of the innermost palace. It was a small room with calligraphy written on the wall.

"Wow, there are others in the world who can write as well as me."

Grid couldn't help admiring it. Han Seokbong coughed and removed the 'rules' stuck on the wall with a blush. No, it wasn't 'rules' but the character for 'fire.' There was a small button hidden in the spot covered by it and once Han Seokbong pressed it, the flat wall split to the left and right. Then a stairway leading to the basement was revealed.

"Now, let's go."

Grid and the frightened White gazed at the dismal looking entrance. Han Seokbong smile benevolently and led them down the stairs.

After a while.

"A place like this is in the basement of the castle..."

It was an underground space illuminated by brilliant jade monuments. It was a small space that gave a warm feeling. The blue moss on the wall shone brilliantly.

"It's too small to be a dungeon... What is this place?"

Han Seokbong answered Grid's question as he pulled out the Red Phoenix Bow. He started to explain as he placed the Red Phoenix Bow on the altar present.

"This place has good feng shui..."

Omitted.

'Waterway? What five elements? What is he saying?'

It was a long description that Grid couldn't understand. Grid was feeling confused and all of Han Seokbong's words entered one ear and out the other.

"In other words, this is the space where Grid's great work will stay forever."

"Ah... Yes."

One thing was clear. His legendary Red Phoenix Bow. He would never be able to get it back in his lifetime.

'It isn't hard to create a new Red Phoenix Bow because of all the white phosphorus trees on the East Continent, but...'

Could he create a legendary rated Red Phoenix Bow again? He had no confidence.

"Ah?" Grid trembled and suddenly doubted something. "But Seokbong ... No, Lord Seokbong. You must know that I have only restored the active function of the Red Phoenix Bow, not the aura of the Red Phoenix. Is this really the Red Phoenix Bow? Isn't it useless?"

Grid was unable to let go of the Red Phoenix Bow. He wanted it back. But Han Seokbong misunderstood.

"Distinguished person... You are truly a brilliant person."

"Huh?"

"I am truly grateful that you restored the Red Phoenix Bow, but you are concerned that you didn't help me enough?"

"...?"

Grid was embarrassed by Han Seokbong's interpretation.

"You are virtuous enough to be compared to the most respectable king of the Cho Kingdom. I feel admiration just looking at you. If it isn't impolite, I would like to present a title to you."

'A title!'

Titles in Satisfy had a mysterious power. They raised certain stats, gave new skills, or new power. The more titles a person had, the better. There was no reason for Grid to refuse.

"Give it to me! A title!"

Han Seokbong nodded at Grid's joyful shout. "You are a gentleman of virtue. In commemoration of Pangea, I will call you Pangea's Duke of Virtue."

"Pangea's Duke...of Virtue."

He had a very bad feeling. Braham's voice rang in the mind of the disappointed Grid.

'Just as some of the direct vampires have the title of the wise duke, human beings also have the title of 'duke.' Sword Saint Muller had the title of 'Duke of Pressure' and Blacksmith Pagma had the title of 'Duke of Fire.' The title of a duke is a symbol of legends and gives great power to legends. In fact, after getting the title of Duke of Fire, Pagma was able to bring out flames with his hammering and swordsmanship.'

"Oh..."

Grid's disappointment disappeared. He was filled with new anticipation as he asked Braham.

'Then what ability will I get as a virtuous person?'

At the same time.

[The title Pangea's Duke of Virtue has been acquired!]

[The passive skill 'Incomplete Virtue of Mercy' has been created!]

[Incomplete Virtue of Mercy]

Category: Passive

When hunting monsters, there is a chance that you will show mercy and not take their lives.

"Ah, XX."

In the end, Grid couldn't resist inwardly cursing. Braham consoled him.

'Don't be an idiot. A duke title wouldn't be terrible. Don't be too concerned. The original duke titles aren't for a single person, but lots of people. You might get new titles later. Well, even if you have a lousy title for the rest of your life, it won't be a big problem if I take care of you.'

"Ah, I don't know. If this keeps happening I might fold the game."

At this time, Grid couldn't imagine. The power of the virtuous title!

S.A. Group's headquarters. Lim Cheolho was doing his work when he heard a report from the supercomputer Morpheus.

[A duke title was acquired.]

"What?"

Lim Cheolho was startled. A duke title was a symbolic power that could only be given to players who succeeded a legend or would grow to be a legend. It was very difficult to get because it was very powerful. The person had to build up myriad achievements and gain full recognition from the residents of Satisfy.

"Morpheus? Didn't you say that these titles would only emerge in 1 year and 8 months?"

[It is one of the 5 miracle players. Grid once again broke my predictions.]

"Grid...! Haha! This time as well?"

Lim Cheolho had a great liking for Grid. A poor person grew steadily in the game that he made, so he felt happy watching Grid. Lim Cheolho asked with expectations.

"What new idea did he have to break your prediction this time?"

[It wasn't a new idea. As always, he gave off a great impression by respecting and saving NPCs. Once this repetitive action reached the 79th time, the title was opened.]

"Um... That's Grid's specialty."

Grid was an expert at gaining the favor of NPCs. It wasn't always intended and sometimes it was caused by a misunderstanding. Lim Cheolho and Morpheus obviously didn't know that.

"Then what title did he obtain?"

[Pangea's Duke of Virtue.]

"Pangea's...Duke of Virtue?"

The distinguishing word (Pangea) in front of it meant that Grid hadn't yet become purely virtuous. Well, it was no wonder. It was too early for a perfect title to emerge. Lim Cheolho was embarrassed that the title Grid obtained was Duke of Virtue.

"Virtue... It doesn't really fit with a blacksmith?"

It was a title designed to match the legends of other fields.

"No, why didn't he get the Duke of Fire... Oh my, this is going to cause another uproar."

He could see that Grid was going insane. Lim Cheolho clicked his tongue.

"Why did you have to treat NPCs so well every time...?"

This was the result of Grid's good heart. Lim Cheolho felt both sorry and delighted for Grid.

Chapter 536

Pangea's Duke of Virtue.

'If someone doesn't know about the title, they would think that's Pan Deokin!' (In Korean: it is three characters, like a Korean name.)

It wasn't a problem to be misunderstood. The name Pan Deokin fit Grid's taste. It wasn't bad or good. The problem was the effect of the title.

'There is a chance to spare monsters when hunting?'

Then what about the experience? The money? The items!

'In particular, what if I'm hunting a boss?'

What if he poured dozens of minutes or a few hours into the raid and the moment he was about to succeed...

[The effect of the title Pangea's Duke of Virtue has been activated!]

What if that notification window appeared?

"Ugh..."

He felt horrible just imagining it. His stomach was cramping. That's right. Grid accepted the effect of the Pangea's Person of Virtue title at face value. He didn't guess things like saving a monster would build up a favorable relationship with it or perhaps give him a tamer class skill. It was natural from Grid's position.

Why? Grid was already an all-rounder. He was a blacksmith, swordsman, magician, and skeleton summoner. It was hard to imagine that he would get a new class from this. He didn't want it in the first place.

"Ah, shi..."

He handed over the Red Phoenix Bow and got an affinity score of 80. He was expecting a reward other than this garbage! Grid was feeling frustration from the title when Han Seokbong handed him a bead. It was a red bead. Yes, it was a beautiful red bead like Braham's eyes. At first, Grid thought it was a round ruby, but then he made a sound of surprise.

"Flames?"

The translucent red bead. A small flame was burning inside it. It was a small size, like the flames of a match, but the momentum from it seemed great. It was as if life was burning inside it. Grid examined it and asked, "A torch?"

"..."

A player in this place would appreciate Grid's impression. But NPCs didn't know what a torch was.

"What is a torch?"

White and Han Seokbong cocked their heads. Grid ignored the question.

"Then this torch... No, what is this bead?"

"The fire in the bead..."

White thought of a name when he saw that beautiful bead.

'It's like the picture...'

Then Han Seokbong explained.

"It's the Red Phoenix's Breath."

"Breath?"

"Yes, it is the breath that drops when the four divine guardians pass by to bless those who ascend to become a daoist immortal."

'Divine guardians... Daoist immortal.'

It was a key setting for the East Continent. The Hwan Kingdom, national treasures, yangban, divine guardians. It was clearly greatly influenced by Korean and Chinese culture.

'Then there will definitely be areas influenced by Japanese culture.'

Peak Sword would surely be angry if he was there. He would probably question while the Korean S.A. Group was spreading other cultures around the world.

Grid smiled as he thought about the friend he hadn't seen for a while. A notification window appeared in Grid's field of view.

[You have obtained the 'Red Phoenix Breath' as a reward for the quest 'Win the Smithy Competition!']

'Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal.'

Ttiring~

[Red Phoenix's Breath]

A blessing of the Red Phoenix.

It will increase fire resistance by 30%.

It can be used to infuse items with the powerful aura of the Red Phoenix.

However, it can also be attached to items with a strong fire attribute.

Weight: 2

"Hah."

It turned out that the title of Pangea's Person of Virtue wasn't the only reward. This was the true compensation for the Red Phoenix Bow.

"If you use this, it will become the real Red Phoenix Bow?"

Han Seokbong nodded at Grid's question.

"That's right. It's the energy of fire that won't die forever. There is no stronger fire energy."

'Amazing!'

It was truly amazing. He couldn't imagine how powerful it would be when harmonized with the white phosphorus tree.

'This is a reward worthy of making a legendary rated item!'

Wasn't it possible to upgrade the Red Phoenix Bow to a myth rating if he combined with with the Red Phoenix Breath? Grid was delighted and a smile appeared on Han Seokbong's face. Pangea had a total of three Red Phoenix Breaths. One of them belonged to the original Red Phoenix Bow that was stolen, so there were only two left. It wasn't something that should be given to Grid. If the Red Phoenix Bow was ever lost again, it might not be able to be restored.

However, Han Seokbong was a man who knew how to repay favors. The Red Phoenix Bow that Grid made was more valuable than the original, so it was right to reward him with the most precious thing.

'I don't have to repeat the same mistakes.'

He wouldn't allow the Red Phoenix Bow to be lost again.

Grid asked Han Seokbong, "By the way, where is the castle's dungeon?"

Han Seokbong laughed at the question.

"You can enter it through a well in the west of the castle."

"I see."

Armored needles! Silver thread! A new hunting ground. Grid's fantasy about the dungeon that only a specific number of people could enter was too big. He was so excited that he wanted to jump forward, but Han Seokbong stopped him.

"It's true that you have the right to enter the castle's dungeon. However, you can't arbitrarily access the dungeon as before."

"Eh? I have access rights, but I can't freely access it?"

"This is for your safety. You can enter if you have a complete guard escort."

"Guards?"

Han Seokbong looked at White with a bitter expression.

"Years ago, our Pangea suffered a terrible incident and lost a great blacksmith. Dawwhite... He was Boss White's father."

Dawwhite won the championship and gained entrance to the castle's dungeon. He was murdered by an armored needle. Then the lord realized. The lord couldn't completely protect the weak.

"Anyone who enters the castle's dungeon must be fully equipped to protect themselves. You can only enter the dungeon if you have a minimum of six silver or gold class mercenaries to escort you."

"..."

Mercenaries meant those who moved only for money. But Grid was Pagma's Descendant, not an ordinary blacksmith. Since he was powerful, he didn't want to spend money on hiring mercenaries. There was no reason to do so.

"I have enough strength to protect my body."

"Everyone says that."

"No, I'm serious."

"Hrmm..."

Han Seokbong looked Grid up and down. Grid was wearing worn-out clothing. He might give off an unknown dignity, but he seemed vulnerable when it came to defense.

"In your current state, you will die if you are just scratched by the armored needle or silver thread."

"Then what about this?"

Clink!

Clink clink!

As always, Grid was dressed in beginners' clothing. Now he pulled out the Triple Layers from his inventory. His body was armed in an instant and Han Seokbong and White's eyes widened.

'A blacksmith can wear such heavy armor?'

'Yes, a person of distinction... He has the strength and stamina of the greatest blacksmith.'

Due to the nature of the job, strength and stamina were important for blacksmithing. A top blacksmith might have as much strength and stamina as a knight. It wasn't unrealistic for Grid to wear such heavy armor. Yes, he was convinced at this point. But it was still dangerous for Grid.

"Just because you can wear armor with your high strength and stamina, you don't have the skills to deal with it. You can't bring out the ability of the armor even if you're wearing it."

The absence of heavy armor mastery. In other words, the penalty was being pointed out. Those who wore heavy armor without a mastery couldn't even apply half the power of the armor. Grid spoke to the concerned Han Seokbong with a confident expression.

"I will be fine."

Pagma's Descendant was technically classified as a non-combat profession. The passive effect of Pagma's Swordsmanship was similar to that of Sword Mastery, but he didn't have any armor mastery skills. It was a fatal drawback. However, he didn't get penalized when wearing items. In other words, Grid couldn't bring out 101% of the armour effect, but he could bring out 100%.

'Most of the other people were too confident and took risks. That is the nature of distinguished people.'

Han Seokbong bitterly thought that Grid and Dawwhite before he died were similar. He pulled out a trump card.

"Then prove it."

"Prove?"

"Yes, there's a gatekeeper to the entrance of the dungeon. He has an attack power similar to the armored needle. Try to endure one of his blows."

Of course, he would instruct the gatekeeper to adjust his power. If the gatekeeper used his real force, then Grid would die.

'I will command him to use 30% of his power... That's enough to not kill him.'

Grid would just faint for a few days. Han Seokbong had this thought and guided Grid and White to the entrance of the castle's dungeon.

White's complexion was dark as he followed. Like Grid, White was in a position to access the dungeon.

'I want to get revenge on my father and earn some silver thread...'

But it was impossible for him to even enter! He felt ashamed.

Grid placed a hand on White's shoulder. "The mass production Grid set... It's a good armor that you can wear with your level and strength. How about it? Do you want to borrow it?"

"Hah. C-Can I really?"

White trusted Grid completely. Grid smiled without any doubts.

“The hourly rental fee is 500 gold. Call?”

In fact, Grid wanted to charge a separate price. However, it was hard to behave so cruelly to White.

“I will offer up everything I own if I can get past the gatekeeper’s trial.”

The deal was established. The satisfied Grid opened his inventory. Then he pulled out a mass production Grid set placed in a corner of the inventory. It was a Grid set with a unique rating that had been enhanced to +7. It was the one worn by Reidan’s young knight, Royman.

‘That woman... Is she growing well?’

He wasn’t talking about her breasts. He was referring to her skills as a knight. Royman was a talent picked and trained by Piaro. Grid’s expectations for her were high.

“We’ve arrived.”

A few minutes after Grid and White concluded the deal. The party finally reached the well in the west of the castle. It was the entrance to the dungeon. A two meter tall man stood beside it as a guard.

“The experience of being hit by this man who can crush rocks into powder. Do you have to go through it?”

Han Seokbong asked Grid one last time.

“Hit me. I will be okay.”

Ah, by the way.

“White, you might get hurt. This gatekeeper isn’t normal.”

“...Huh?”

White was pale, but believed in the armor that Grid lent him. On the other hand, a person was watching them with an unpleasant face. It was the daughter of Han Seokbong, a knight belonging to the castle dungeon exploration team.

Chapter 537

Rare treasures, herbs, and various battle gear could be obtained from the dungeon underneath Pangea’s castle. In particular, people coveted the silver thread produced by the armored needles and called Pangea’s dungeon a treasure house. It was a land of opportunity that everyone wanted access to.

Pangea’s knights and soldiers were exasperated by this. The castle’s dungeon was a treasure house? A land of opportunity? It was all crazy talk. The castle’s dungeon was hell. It was the worst place on this earth that was filled with powerful and atrocious monsters.

Today, and tomorrow as well. The knights and soldiers had to go on expeditions to stop the monsters in the dungeon from looking for trouble in Pangea. They risked their lives, and now those seeking riches

demanded entrance to the dungeon. A volunteer with no combat skills was just a burden on them. For example, these blacksmiths.

'These blacksmiths have no shame.'

Grid and White arrived with Han Seokbong. The blacksmiths who won this year's competition were enemies in the eyes of the knights. They hated the blacksmiths for coming with such a light heart, while they shed blood in the dungeon. In this cold atmosphere, Han Seokbong's daughter Sua came forward.

"Father."

"Oh, Sua."

Sua was a beautiful woman who could be called the first beauty of the kingdom. Moreover, she was gentle, intelligent, and excellent at martial arts. Han Seokbong always boasted about her achievements. She was the captain of the dungeon exploration team, the Red Phoenix Group.

She looked like an actress in a historical drama with her black hair tied up with a hairpin and her luxurious clothing.

'Pretty.'

Grid couldn't help admiring Sua. It was very rare.

Who was Grid? He was the husband of Irene and surrounded by the most beautiful women in the world, Jishuka and Yua. He even had a pretty little sister. In other words, Grid was very familiar with beauty. He was a man who didn't feel inspired when seeing beauty.

But he was overwhelmed the moment he saw Sua. The thick lips and glaring eyes captivated Grid's mind.

'There is something mysterious...'

Was it because they were both Asians? Grid compared Sua to Yura, not Jishuka and Irene. Due to her overwhelming beauty, Yura made the surrounding scenery black and white. If she was a blooming flower, Sua was the moonlight. She gave off a cool feeling that made him feel a strange lust. Was it the curves of her white neck?

He couldn't deny it, but there was something irritating him. There was a sense of disturbance despite her elegance.

'Maybe...'

Grid realized something. Sua was a similar age to Grid. She was more mature than Yura, who was a few years younger.

'Won't Yura change once she matures over the next few years?'

Although her chest was unknown.

'It will be sad if she gets medical help.'

Grid was interrupted while thinking useless thoughts.

“Is the expedition prepared?”

"Yes, we do this every day."

"I was told by Captain Horang that the speed that the monsters are expanding their area is becoming faster... I am very worried about how long the Red Phoenix Group can endure."

“We all know that it’s over for Pangea if we fall. Don’t worry. We’re managing the schedule and taking care of our physical state.”

Han Seokbong and Sua were talking about a heavy matter. Based on the contents of the conversation, the monsters in the dungeon were constantly expanding their area and becoming a threat to Pangea.

‘They can’t ask for help because of the monster community in the north.’

Then he had a question.

‘What are the yangbans doing?’

They were people were powers that he estimated to be equivalent to legends. In addition, the Hwan Kingdom they belonged to were affiliated with the Cho Kingdom. It was said that Pangea’s Red Phoenix Bow was given to them by the Hwan Kingdom. Based on this, it was interpreted that the yangbans of the Hwan Kingdom would help out Pangea.

‘It would be easy for the yangbans to solve the monster community in the north or the problem of the castle’s dungeon.’

Then why did the yangbans leave Pangea alone?

‘Well, it’s good for me.’

He could obtain this excellent hunting ground. A huge grin emerged on Grid’s face. He avoided Sua’s eyes. It was because his face would redden whenever he met her eyes. After the disappointment of his first love, Grid became very conscious of the opposite sex.

"Hmm hmm, I want to enter the castle’s dungeon."

Rather than Han Seokbong, Sua was the one who responded to Grid’s words.

"Can I ask why you would like to enter the castle’s dungeon?"

Sua gave an oddly bewitching smile. Grid blushed the moment he met her eyes and tried to calmly reply.

“I want to get the silver thread.”

"Do you know how to obtain the silver thread? Oh, I was impolite. I’m Han Sua, and I’m the captain of the Red Phoenix Group that is in charge of the dungeon exploration. Please forgive me for the late introduction."

Sua bowed slightly and reached out to shake Grid’s hand. But Grid couldn’t hold her hand. His ears were red and he avoided looking at her. At this moment, Sua’s black eyes shone strangely.

‘This man...’

It was obvious that he was someone who didn't have experience with women. Sua thought he was funny. But that was it. She had no private interest.

"I've already heard that you have succeeded in restoring the Red Phoenix Bow. Congratulations. I represent the people of Pangea and will pay back this grace. For example, giving you the silver thread as a gift."

"...!"

Grid's eyes shone as he heard he would be given the silver thread as a gift. It was a gift with tremendous value. But the two men had made up their minds.

"No, I will get the silver thread directly."

Grid wanted to experience a new dungeon that would give him experience and raise his level. In addition, he wanted to help White get revenge for his father's death by killing the armored needles. The two men were burning with fighting spirit.

"The only way to get the silver thread is to hunt down the armored needles. But the armored needles are very strong. There are countless people who have lost their lives to this monster. One of them was Dawwhite."

"..."

"It is impossible for you to hunt an armored needle when you aren't a warrior. It's dangerous even if you go with our expedition. Unfortunately, I can't allow you access to the dungeon."

"Didn't the lord say I can enter if I resist one attack from the gatekeeper?"

Sua's expression changed at Grid's words.

"The gatekeeper isn't an ordinary person, but a member of the Ung clan. He hasn't learned martial arts, but his natural abilities surpass the imagination. Do you think you can endure the attack of the gatekeeper that is as powerful as the armored needle? Don't hurt yourself and give up."

'Ung clan?'

The gatekeeper standing by the well. He was over 2 meters tall and had a large belly. However, he wasn't obese. It was just that his species was larger than others.

'Let's do it.'

Grid shrugged.

"Don't worry. I can withstand it."

Grid tried to be as calm as possible. However, he was still uncomfortable and couldn't meet Sua's eyes. He was extremely conscious of Sua.

Sua scoffed at Grid. 'The pride of an immature man is useless.'

This futile pride could drive a person to their limits.

'He can't imagine it.'

Han Seokbong sighed and whispered to Sua.

"This is Pangea's savior. Can't you do it this once since your father is asking?"

"I am refusing because he's our savior. What if his body gets hurt?"

"But look at the armor that he's wearing. Doesn't it seem durable? He might not be able to use the armor properly, but at least survival is guaranteed. In addition, tell Ung to use only 30% of his power."

"..."

Certainly, the armor looked really durable. It was armor made by stacking many iron plates sculpted to look like dragon scales. It was a beautiful masterpiece.

"10% is enough. Otherwise he might be unconscious for a few days."

"Yes, you thought well. We will let him know not to be too greedy."

Nod.

Sua led Grid and White towards the gatekeeper. Gatekeeper Ung. He didn't care about the lord coming with precious guests. He was yawning while looking at the distant mountain.

"What?"

Sua whispered to Ung, who was scratching his head and looking confused.

"Hit one of them. Use 10% of your strength."

"I understand."

Ung snorted like a bull and moved his huge arms. At that moment.

"Prepare to move them to the infirmary."

Sua commanded the members of the Red Phoenix Group.

Peeeeeeong!

Ung's fist slammed into Grid's belly. There was a sound wave as the sound of something hitting metal was heard.

"This...!"

Sua was stunned. Ung seemed to have used at least 50% of his strength.

"No!"

Han Seokbong paled. The person who restored the Red Phoenix Bow was going to be killed in front of him because he made a mistake.

"What's the fuss?"

It happened when the Red Phoenix members were making troubled expressions.

Shake shake.

The fist stuck in Grid's belly started shaking.

"...Huh?"

Han Seokbong, Sua, and the Red Phoenix members were shocked.

'Why...'

'Ung is making a pained expression?'

That's right. The big face of Ung was distorting. It turned red and sweat dripped down. On the other hand, Grid was fine. His expression was calm.

'This is impossible!'

'This can't be.'

Han Seokbong and Sua were amazed. They were expecting his intestines to be ruptured and his bones smashed, but Grid was fine? How solid was his armor? Someone muttered while Han Seokbong and Sua were speechless.

"If he has this much defense, he will be able to save his life when attacked by an armored needle."

Grid was permitted access to the castle's dungeon. But Grid looked troubled. Why?

[You have suffered severe damage.]

[Triple Layers has reduced the physical damage by 30%.]

[You have suffered 2,303 damage.]

Ung's swinging fist was judged not to be a cut or a stab. It was considerable damage when taking into account that Triple Layers' 50% damage reduction wasn't activated. But this was only 10% of Ung's power. The attack of the armored needle would be several times more painful.

'Armored needle... They are much stronger than I expected.'

They seemed more like boss monsters than ordinary monsters. If they appeared in large quantities, he would have to stop their attacks as much as possible.

'It's hard to operate the God Hands in the narrow dungeon.'

This was a battlefield where extreme control was needed. Grid became tense. But White was even more nervous. He was extremely shocked when he saw the wound on the man's hand that struck Grid.

"That... I'll give up today."

White thought that he could pay back his father's enemies in another way. He was a wise man.

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"It's a good idea."

Based on Ung's fist, the monsters were a lot more powerful than Grid expected. He had no confidence that White could survive. White's declaration that he would step down was very much in line with Grid's thoughts.

'At least he isn't a disruptive character.'

White was a middle-aged black man. Grid seriously liked him. He was looking at White with satisfaction when Sua approached.

"It's great that you are fine after being hit by Ung. Did you make this armor yourself?"

Grid was able to withstand the attack for a reason. It was thanks to his stamina stat, not just Triple Layers. Grid had a huge 1,500 points in stamina. Grid's minimum defense was equivalent to tankers in the mid-200s. But Sua wasn't aware of this fact.

From a common sense perspective, it was impossible for Grid to have high stamina when he was a blacksmith. Sua thought that Grid's high defense was only due to his armor.

"I made the armor."

Chwaruruk!

Grid puffed up his chest, highlighting the beautiful appearance of Triple Layers even further. The hundreds of black scales shone as they moved with Grid's body, showing a superb art form created by a craftsman.

"Okay. I won't stop you any longer. You're someone who can access the dungeon. However, if you want to preserve your body, be prepared to act according to our instructions."

"Yes."

Grid didn't pay much attention to the instructions. Sua had been consistently polite from the beginning and her intentions were purely for Grid's sake. There was no reason for Grid to think badly of Sua.

'Well, I'll end up doing what I want anyway.'

Sua and the Red Phoenix members might be the elite troops, but they would have to concentrate on the armored needles instead of Grid after entering the dungeon. They wouldn't have the capacity to control Grid.

'Still, I won't cross the line.'

Considering the background of the East Continent and the strength of the armored needles, the skills of the Red Phoenix Group were probably above the Red Knights that he had met. It wasn't unusual for them to be fourth advancement classes and to be stronger than Grid. They weren't good people to become enemies with.

'It would be fun to observe them one by one with the Great Lord's Sword. I will take any talented people to Reidan.'

As Grid was feeling greedy, the Red Phoenix team finished their preparations and started to enter the well one by one. They fell down the deep well without any hesitation.

“Let’s go.”

“Yes.”

Sua and Grid were left at the end.

“Please be careful.”

Sua was worried about Grid getting hurt. Her actions of trying to protect Grid made him smile.

‘Her sense of responsibility is unbelievably strong.’

He had a good feeling. It wasn’t just because her touch on his arm was tender.

[You have entered the dungeon of Pangea’s castle.]

[The inner wall of the dungeon sucks out light. Using light tools or magic is meaningless.]

[Your field of view has narrowed.]

[This is a physical phenomenon. It can’t be resisted.]

[You can only see within 5 meters of you.]

‘It’s worse than the vampire’s dungeon.’

A darkness without any light. It was a darkness that seemed hard to adapt to, no matter how much time passed. Grid felt the need to estimate the size and shape of the dungeon. His fingers reached out to touch the wall and ended up stroking someone’s skin.

At that moment.

“Haaack!”

A Red Phoenix member groaned as he was touched by Grid. The bearded man in his 40’s flushed and made a strange sound. It wasn’t good to see. His legs trembled and weakened.

“Hey Ryu! I know that you have a lot of energy, but there is a time and a place!”

“Doing something so wretched on the battlefield...”

“At a time like this, when we’re with Captain Sua...”

The Red Phoenix members seriously misunderstood.

Stagger.

Ryu felt chagrin as his body barely recovered.

“I was just walking along! I didn’t do what you imagined!”

“Making that sound just by walking?”

"No, something suddenly caressed my wrist!"

“...”

Feeling like that just from his wrist being touched? Sua smiled at Ryu’s absurd plea.

“Your body is very sensitive.”

Ryu was ashamed and couldn’t raise his head, while Sua looked at him with interest. Grid thought it was like a cat with fish placed in front of it.

‘That pervert.’

Sua probably wasn’t to his taste after all.

‘The mild Irene turns into a beast in the...’

How much wilder would it be with Sua?

‘I should watch my hands.’

Since he could only do it once a month, Grid hid his hands behind his back and gulped.

Flash!

Grid’s higher insight caught something shining in the darkness before anyone else.

‘Thread?’

The dungeon passage allowed five heavily armed soldiers to walk side by side. The thread spread out like spiderwebs on one of the paths suddenly shone.

‘It can’t be... Is that silver thread?’

The moment Grid felt astonished.

“An armored needle!”

The Red Phoenix Group discovered it one step later than Grid and prepared for battle. They pulled the bow and aimed at all the other passages apart from the one blocked by the silver thread.

Step, step.

The bows aimed at the passage that footsteps were coming from.

"It’s coming!"

Pik!

Pipipipit!

The Red Phoenix members attacked in unison. It was quick and accurate archery.

Puk!

Puuooooook!

“Kuwaaaah!”

A scream rang out from the dark passage. It was proof that the arrows of the Red Phoenix members had hit their target.

“Isn’t it great?”

Measuring the position of an invisible target using sound and shooting the arrow accurately.

‘What is their Bow Mastery level?’

Grid admired it while Sua handed him a yellow talisman.

“During the battle, I can’t pay attention to your safety. Please have this talisman.”

[The Protection Talisman has been acquired.]

[It can invalidate an enemy attack when carried. This effect can only be used once.]

[After defeating an enemy’s attack, your defense will increase by 20% for two minutes.]

[The item will disappear after the effect ends.]

‘A one time invincible buff item?’

It was unfortunate that it would be destroyed, but it had a great effect. In particular, it would be godly in PvP or raids. It would sell for a huge price if it could be traded between players.

‘The Red Phoenix Group is giving me such a valuable item...’

Grid felt a great appreciation towards Sua. But he was soon disappointed.

‘It’s an untradable item?’

He couldn’t even move it to his pet inventory. His plan to keep it and sell it later was useless.

‘Maybe it will be consumed in this dungeon.’

Grid clicked his tongue with regret.

“Kuwaaaah!”

Four armored needles with arrows piercing their bodies finally showed up. They were zombies wearing bamboo hats. Their silver armor was melting down, embedding in the rotten blood vessels of the zombies. Based on this, Grid deduced one fact.

‘The blood of the armored needles are hot enough to melt silver.’

It was a good idea to avoid their blood when attacking the armored needles.

‘I have to rely on the God Hands for this part.’

Chaaeng!

Chaaaaeeng!

The Red Phoenix members started to deal with the five armored needles. They actively used swordsmanship, which was even better than the archery skills they showed before. But the armored needles were undead monsters. They couldn't feel pain and weren't afraid of wounds. They fought fiercely despite being stabbed by the Red Phoenix members' swords.

Peeeeeeong!

The swordsmanship of the armored needles combined power and speed. They were so fast and powerful that the Red Phoenix members couldn't avoid the blows. They had to defend, forcing them to take a few steps back every time. Some of them fell down.

'But.'

In Grid's eyes, the armored needles weren't a match for the Red Phoenix members.

The Red Phoenix members were really proficient in battle and had high stats. There was surprisingly no fourth advancement class, but the armored needles were thoroughly marked due to the number superiority. It seemed impossible for the armored needles to hurt the group.

However, this was a rash judgment. The armored needles started showing their true skills.

Chwarururuk!

"Be careful!"

The armored needles realized that swordsmanship alone wasn't enough to overpower the enemies and simultaneously changed battle modes. After inflating the muscles of their body, they extracted the silver thread embedded in their rotten blood vessels. Then they used the thread to threaten the Red Phoenix members.

"Ugh!"

The Red Phoenix members became busy. The silver thread was like a living serpent that stretched out in all directions. Sweat flowed down as they focused on protecting their bodies.

'How hard is it?'

The silver pieces melted into the blood vessels and the armored needles used them as weapons. The situation changed rapidly the moment the silver thread was used as a weapon. The Red Phoenix couldn't find a way to counterattack and also had to protect their bodies.

'Certainly... It is very tricky.'

One armored needle took out around 8~15 strands of silver thread that were 10 meters long. The armored needles used great skill to wield all the strands freely at the enemies.

'That can't be avoided. I have to definitely fight with the God Hands.'

It might be different if someone like Regas or Faker were here, but no one present could act freely in front of the silver thread.

Jjejejeok!

Pepepepeong!

The silver thread was very strong. When it encountered the sword of a Red Phoenix member, the member was thrown into the air and pierced the ground or wall like a bullet.

‘Sometimes it’s like a blade, and sometimes a whip...’

The durability was also considerable, seeing that the thread didn’t get damaged by the swords and armor of the Red Phoenix members. There was a reason why the blacksmiths of the East Continent considered the silver thread to be the best material.

‘It looks like a version of pavranium that is as thin as a thread. What is possible?’

What items could be made with the silver thread? As Grid’s infinite imagination as a blacksmith ran wild, the Red Phoenix group was facing a great crisis.

“They have appeared!”

There were two main reasons for blocking the passage with the silver thread. The first was to block the intruders from escaping. The second was to buy time for the armored needles to fuse together. The fusion of the armored needles was terrible.

At least two armored needles were connected together with silver thread and became one. Of course, there was no inconvenience with their movements due to the seamless connection. Therefore, it could be described as a monster optimized for war, with at least two extra limbs.

“Kyaaaaaah!”

The sound of the monster’s roar exploded from the pathway blocked by the silver thread.

“Everyone retreat!”

Sua had never experienced facing four armored needles at the same time and instructed the Red Phoenix members to retreat. But the armored needles didn’t allow them to leave. The silver thread shot out like spiderwebs to block the retreat. The Red Phoenix members’ attempt to get to the passage behind Grid was blocked off.

“This...!”

The Red Phoenix fell into confusion. A fused armored needle with four limbs and five ordinary ones ran at them! Danger was approaching. Sua felt a strong sense of responsibility. She was the captain of the Red Phoenix group and successor of Han Seokbong. She couldn’t let the Red Phoenix members and the saviour of Pangea, Grid, die in this place. She flew forward without hesitation and faced the armoured needles alone.

“I will buy time while you run away!”

“Captain!”

“Young Lady!”

The Red Phoenix members couldn't stop her. Sua was the fastest among them and had already fallen into the middle of the enemies. However, Grid was beside her.

"You!?"

No, what was with this blacksmith? Why did he come to die when she sacrificed herself to let him run away? Sua thought it was absurd when an unexpected development occurred.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Intense energy moved around Grid as he completed the sword dance and wielded the +9 Failure.

"Wave."

Kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A powerful light was shot from Failure and moved through the darkness.

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Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave, had the lowest attack power among all the techniques. The level 6 Wave only dealt 230% of his attack power. It was a little over double his flat damage. It was incredibly low for a legendary rated skill. It was occasionally a powerful skill considering it was a 'wide area' attack. However, this lost its utility after the skills of the third advancement classes were released.

But it still had unique strengths. All targets hit by it would be affected by a slowing effect. In other words, it was a wide area CC skill, and it was natural for the attack power to be low. This was if the user was an ordinary player.

"Wave."

The white light that was emitted only by a +9 enhanced weapon. A powerful light wave of energy was shot from Failure. The bodies of the armored needles chasing after the Red Phoenix members were damaged.

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

The explosion shook the dungeon. Blood spurted from the armored needles while parts of the dungeon failed to survive the aftermath of the shock.

[You have dealt 15,310 damage to the target. The target's speed will decrease by 63%.]

[You have dealt 16,004 damage to the target. The target's...]

[You have dealt...]

...

...

"Y-You...?"

Sua stared at Grid with a stunned expression. A blacksmith using swordsmanship? It was also extremely strong swordsmanship!

“What is your identity?”

Sua was confused. Grid placed extra strength in the arm wrapped around her waist. It was to protect her from the blood that was like lava that came from the armored needles. But it wasn't easy. It was impossible to avoid all the blood with Grid's control abilities.

'The blood dissolves anything it touches.'

It was impossible for a person to be safe. In the end, Grid called for the best assistance.

“God Hands!”

Pa pa pa pat!

Four golden hands appeared immediately in response to Grid's call and moved quickly. They protected Sua and Grid as much as possible from the blood.

Chiiiik!

The God Hands burned fiercely when touched by the armored needles' blood. Sua's surprise became larger.

'They are fine despite being hit by the armored needles' blood and can move by themselves?'

The East Continent people had wide imaginations. In the treasure houses of the various kingdoms, there were many things outside common sense. Yes, like the golden hands currently summoned by Grid. That's right. In Sua's eyes, the God Hands looked like divine beings and Grid was a daoist, which was how he could use swordsmanship despite being a blacksmith. He was mysterious and overwhelming.

On the other hand, Grid was relieved.

'Thank god she is wearing armor.'

Grid had hesitated when he was about to put an arm around Sua to protect her. He was worried about what would happen if she experienced his hands. Fortunately, Sua was wearing excellent armor. No matter how dexterous Grid's fingers, it was impossible to cause someone to feel pleasure by touching armor. Sua luckily didn't feel Grid's touch.

"Step back."

The armored needles were currently slowed. Grid handed Sua to the Red Phoenix members and urged them to move away.

“What is his real identity?”

“A blacksmith using swordsmanship...”

"I heard he used the white phosphorus wood to restore the Red Phoenix Bow. Is he really a daoist?"

'They don't know Pagma's name?'

White once mentioned a legendary blacksmith. In addition, Pagma was a person presumed to be born on the East Continent. Grid thought that people on the East Continent would know Pagma. However, that didn't seem to be the case.

'Well, not everyone will know a legendary blacksmith.'

It was likely that Pagma didn't have as much reputation on the East Continent because he was more active on the West Continent.

'My reputation here might transcend Pagma's reputation.'

His heart jumped at this thought. An area that couldn't be reached by others. Grid felt joy at the opportunity to gain new achievements. Grid's smile was distorted with greed as he questioned Sua and the Red Phoenix members.

"All of you are careless for a group who has been steadily exploring the dungeon. Are you originally like this? Or are you in bad shape today?"

Grid felt great disappointment in the Red Phoenix members. Experiencing a crisis in their first engagement after entering the dungeon, it was absurd and pathetic. The armored needles were strong, but the skills of the Red Phoenix group wasn't as much as he expected.

"That..."

Grid's sarcastic tone. It was enough to undermine their pride as those who dedicated their lives to defending Pangea. But the Red Phoenix didn't get offended. No, they couldn't feel offended. They weren't qualified. They understood Grid's tone.

"..."

Sua explained instead of the silent Red Phoenix members.

"Originally, the armored needles rarely travel together. We have been coming here for several years and this is the first time we've been attacked by five."

The basic tactic of the Red Phoenix group was to form a team of eight people. Eight people were needed to hunt one armored needle, and the highest number that had appeared at one time was three. It was unusual for five of the armored needles to appear at the same time. The Red Phoenix members deserved praise for not instantly falling into confusion.

But the result? It was the worst. They would've surely been wiped out if it wasn't for Grid.

"I don't mean to imply that we are unlucky today. I am deeply embarrassed by our inability to thoroughly prepare for today's situation. And... Thank you."

Grid didn't respond to the bowing Sua. It was because of the conflict between the armored needles and the God Hands!

'Already?'

Grid was confused. Including the fused undead, there were a total of six armored needles. But still, what were the God Hands? He thought he could take advantage of the infinite stiffness and bind their feet for at least 20 seconds. But it failed to last even half of 20 seconds.

'They can break Mjolnir's offensive with their slow attacks?'

Grid realized when it he faced the fist of the gatekeeper, but the armored needles were strong. The evidence was that they overpowered the God Hands. The lead God Hand. It held the Ultimate Enhanced Mjolnir and was the one with maximum power. It had fought for ages, but was now bound by the silver thread. The remaining three God Hands were hurriedly avoiding the silver thread.

'I have to go hard.'

Grid categorized them as boss monsters and summoned Noe and Randy.

"Noe!"

"Nyang!"

There was a funny sound effect as Noe appeared and cried out.

"The best demonic beast of hell has emerged! Nyang!"

"Randy!"

"I will help."

Then Randy appeared and copied Grid's appearance.

A talking cat. Two Grids.

The Red Phoenix members were astonished as they watched Grid.

'Sacred creature!'

'A clone!'

'Daoist! He is definitely a daoist!'

It was natural for the Red Phoenix members to think so. Grid was too special. Grid didn't care about what they were thinking and ordered Noe and Randy.

"Noe, take the stats of the fused armoured needle. Randy will use ranged skills to help me. Make a gap so that the God Hands can strike the armored needles."

"I understand! Nyang!"

"Yes."

Grid was convinced when he saw the armored needles break the God Hands' infinite stiffness. The Red Phoenix members weren't weak. They were the elites of the elites. It was just that the armored needles were too strong. Thus, it would be a challenge of strength. There was no room to hold back his strength.

"Linked Kill Wave."

The armored needles were undead monsters. Their intelligence was significantly low. They moved without thinking and conflicted with each other when moving along the relatively narrow passage. It was impossible for them to avoid Grid's Linked Kill Wave in this passage.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Linked Kill Wave boasted damage that was several times higher than Wave. It shot out eight energy blades that contained 1,500% of his attack power. The armored needles hit by them were instantly turned to rags and their health gauge fell by more than half.

Grid's momentum increased. He calmly decided to finish them off as they rushed over.

'If possible, let's try not to consume the talisman in this fight.'

It meant that he couldn't be hit! It was ridiculous to deal with six boss monsters without being hit. However, Grid was serious.

"Transcend."

The scene of transcendence was completed in an instant as Grid's hair was swept upwards. Grid's ears and sharp eyes were exposed as he stepped back from the armored needles and wielded his sword twice.

Then two energy blades shot out.

Pepeng!

Pepepeng!

"Kyaak!"

The fraudulent ability of Transcend had been proven many times. It replaced Grid's default attack with ranged attacks that had double his attack power. What if a buff skill was used in this state? It was a bombardment that no one could endure.

"Blacksmith's Rage."

[Blacksmith's Rage has been used. Attack power will increase by 25% and attack speed will increase by 40% for 35 seconds.]

"Kyaaaak!"

The armored needles were angry. They were angry at being hit by their prey. They started moving quicker towards Grid.

Pepepepeng!

Pepepepeok!

After using Blacksmith's Rage, Grid wielded the sword three or four times while stepping back. The momentum of the armored needles decreased. In particular, the one at the forefront was on the verge of having its health extinguished. Grid was excited.

“Hahat! Kuhahahahat! You are too slow!”

“...”

Sua and the Red Phoenix members were just watching the battle. The evil that had taken so many lives. The ghostly armored needles were just scarecrows in front of Grid.

"How can he be so stro... Ah!"

The Red Phoenix members flinched in unison.

Puook!

It was because a few strands of silver thread appeared behind Grid. An armored needle secretly shot it through the ground in order to attack Grid.

"Danger!"

Sua hurriedly shouted but it was too late. Grid was busy with the armored needles in front of him and not paying attention to the rear.

"Ah...!"

The moment that Sua and the Red Phoenix members felt desperate.

“Come out! Overgeared Skeletons!”

Pahat!

A little ahead of where the silver thread emerged. Two skeletons popped up behind Grid. Then they were hit by the silver thread instead of Grid.

“Huh?”

There were a large number of people on the East Continent who could summon skeletons. But it was uncommon for people to use them as shields. Grid summoned the skeletons again.

‘It is good that the East Continent has a high mana regeneration rate.’

It was the environment that best harmonized with the Ring of Absurdity.

Clack!Clack clack clack clack!

Peok!Pasak!

Noe, Randy and the God Hands were used for attack purposes, while the strands of silver thread were blocked by the Overgeared Skeletons. Then a notification window popped up in front of him.

Chapter 540

[Overgeared Skeleton (1) and Overgeared Skeleton (2) are gradually growing accustomed to the silver thread.]

“Wow.”

The Overgeared Skeletons had a concept of growing skeletons. The Overgeared Skeletons were so special that even Braham, who had the 'most of the world is trivial' mentality, advised that it would be better to give the Overgeared Skeletons an opportunity to learn.

However, the Overgeared Skeletons started at level 1 and their basic stats and growth rate were low. Grid didn't have much expectation for the Overgeared Skeletons.

'I thought they would be useless for a few more months.'

This was a mistake. The Overgeared Skeletons could be summoned freely within one meter of Grid. The Overgeared Skeletons were able to faithfully fulfill their role as a shield, even at level 1. Their potential was also exploding thanks to their unique learning abilities. It was amazing that they became accustomed to the silver thread after dying nine times.

'The fact that they are accustomed to it means they've grasped the characteristics of the silver thread?'

The Overgeared Skeletons were able to analyze the elements of the silver thread and the attack patterns while dying nine times. Then they could construct a body that more effectively resisted the attacks of the silver thread.

'I would say that they are a two time shield, not a one time shield... No, that's too much.'

Once again, the Overgeared Skeletons were only level 1. At level 1, they had 3 strength, 3 stamina, 3 agility and 1 intelligence. Their total health was 45 points. The Overgeared Skeletons would still die even if they analyzed the silver thread and strengthened their bodies.

'Hrmm... Once I return to the village, I should catch chickens and raise their level.'

It was great to see the Overgeared Skeletons grow.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Grid kept the armored needles in front of him in check.

Chwarururuk!

The silver thread in the rear once again threatened Grid. Grid scoffed. He drank a mana potion and once again summoned the Overgeared Skeletons.

"Come out!"

Clack! Clack!

The Overgeared Skeletons made a distinctive sound as they emerged from the ground. Grid previously hated this noise, but now it sounded good.

'These pretty guys. Now, become a shield with that hardened body... Eh?'

Grid doubted his eyes. The Overgeared Skeletons summoned at the place where the silver thread was heading. The skeletons summoned to be a shield for their master were avoiding the silver thread instead?

"Eh?"

What were they doing? Of course, Grid standing behind the Overgeared Skeletons was hit by the silver thread instead.

Jjejejeok!

[You have been attacked!]

[The Protection Talisman has been activated!]

[A shield to block the damage has been created!]

[Your defense will increase by 20% for 2 minutes.]

“...”

He lost his talisman that he wanted to save for bosses? It was also because of his pet! Grid thought it was absurd and closed his eyes for a moment, before exploding in anger.

“You stupid things!”

He summoned them to act as shields, only for them to avoid the damage? The Overgeared Skeletons stared back at Grid. There wasn't a single bit of guilt in their expressions. It was natural. A pet was obligated to be helpful to their master if summoned.

However, the Overgeared Skeletons had already been killed nine times by the silver thread. It meant the Overgeared Skeletons weren't faithful to their roles after growing. The sparkling thread killed them every time they were summoned. Their first priority was to survive and succeed.

[The Overgeared Skeletons (1) and Overgeared Skeletons (2) have acquired the skill 'Avoid the Silver Thread.']

[Avoid the Silver Thread]

Category: Passive

There is a low chance of avoiding the silver thread wielded by the armored needles.

'It isn't a rise in strength, but evasion.'

It was very rare for a pet to acquire the proper skill under their own judgment. The potential of the Overgeared Skeletons was very high.

'Can the skeleton warriors grow into death knights?'

Clack! Clack clack!

Their ribs expanded as if they were talking to Grid. It was like they were waiting for compliments.

“Sigh... Yes, well done. Good job.”

Grid lost a huge item, but he was glad to see the potential of the Overgeared Skeletons. Grid laughed and gave an order to the Overgeared Skeletons.

"Stand still and watch how I fight. It can be studied."

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

The duration of Transcend was over. Grid quickened the speed at which he swung the +9 Failure. He ignored controlling his stamina and did his best. But it wasn't a good situation. Why? The armored needles learned how to respond to Grid's ranged attacks.

Chwarururuk!

The armored needles crossed their silver thread with each other, entangling the silver thread like a spiderweb.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Transcend was blocked by the spiderweb shield.

'This is great.'

Grid didn't panic, and instead felt admiration. He knew from the beginning that one strand of silver thread had strength higher than steel. It was rare for the dozens of silver thread layered together to not be able to block any physical force. Yes, it was rare.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Taack!

The moment Transcend ended. Grid changed his combat style from intercepting from a distance. He rushed at the armored needles.

"What?"

Sua and the Red Phoenix members were startled. They were confused that the calm Grid would suddenly jump into the enemy.

"Plunging into the range of the silver thread...! It's dangerous!"

A member of the Red Phoenix group screamed out urgently. The armored needles were strongest when it came to melee ability. It was reckless for Grid to face six armored needles in close combat alone.

"Let's cover him."

Sua had the same thought. She decided that she needed to help Grid with the other Red Phoenix members. But after a moment.

"...Huh?"

"Ha!"

Sua and the Red Phoenix members stiffened.

"Pinnacle Kill."

The web of silver thread protecting the armored needles. There was a white flash as soon as it reached Grid.

Sakak-!

“...!”

The web of silver thread split to the left and right, scattering. Then the armored needle in the front was split apart. It was the moment when the ‘Bisect’ effect of Failure and the ignore 100% defense of Pinnacle Kill was combined.

[Critical!]

[You have defeated an armored needle.]

[123,509,000 experience has been acquired.]

‘Good!’

Once again, the experience lived up to the strength. Grid was delighted at gaining so much experience after defeating one armored needle. At the same time, he broke through the gap and fired Linked Kill.

Puk!

One hit.

Puk puk!

Two hits, three hits!

Puk puk puk!

Four hits, five hits, six hits!!

It was difficult for the armored needles to endure after being subjected to the bombardment of Linked Kill Wave and Linked Kill. They turned to grey as soon as their health was exhausted. But Grid couldn’t let go of his tension. The largest fused armored needle remained.

“Nyang! It hurts!”

Noe screamed from where he was struggling to tie up the fused armored needle alone. Grid hastily shifted his gaze and saw that Noe’s plump body was full of wounds. His fur was covered in dirt and blood. His tail was hanging down and his eyes were moist.

Grid used Restraint to save Noe that was tied up by the silver thread. The fused armored needle stepped back from Grid and the silver thread around Noe was loosened.

"Miong."

Noe flapped his wings tirelessly. He rushed towards Grid, who rubbed Noe’s head.

“You suffered. Go and rest.”

“Nyang... I will be looking forward to a delicious meal.”

Noe immediately returned to the pet inventory. Now the fused armored needle recognized Grid as an enemy.

“Kyaaaaah!”

Teteteteng!

Dozens of silver threads shot towards Grid like a bullet.

Gulp!

Grid swallowed his saliva. The gatekeeper had the same strength as the armored needle. Grid lost 2,303 health when hit by a fist. If he was attacked by the fused armored needle, it meant that a minimum of 23,000 health would be lost. Of course, it was likely that the damage would be much higher. Even Grid would shrink back, despite his high health.

“Quick Movements!”

The silver thread aimed at their target. Grid used a buff to increase his agility and then used Randy and the God Hands to defend. However, the God Hands and Randy could only defend from two or three silver strands each. The rest of the silver thread had to be blocked with Grid’s own power.

“Link!”

Chaaeng!

Chaaaaaeng!

It had been a few minutes since they started fighting. Grid was relatively familiar with the pattern of the silver thread and knew that it was difficult to avoid. But the number of silver threads controlled by the fused armored needle was nearly three times higher than the ordinary armored needles. It meant there were still hidden silver threads!

Chwarururuk!

As Grid struck the silver thread, the fused armored needle fired several more.

‘This is bad!’

It couldn’t be avoided. The moment that Grid thought so, several silver thread pierced his chest. Sua and the Red Phoenix members paled.

“Pangea’s Duke of Virtue!”

“Grid!”

Grid was dead. Everybody thought so. However...

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

[Triple Layers has reduced physical damage by 30%.]

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

[You have suffered 2,195 damage.]

[You have suffered 2,308 damage.]

[You have suffered 2,240....]

[You have suffer...]

...

...

[The enemy's weapon has been caught by the niches in Triple Layers and Sword Break is used.]

[The target's weapon durability has dropped.]

"..."

What? The attack was more itchy than painful! Grid was surprised by the unexpected result, while Sua and the Red Phoenix members were more stunned. It was natural.

Jjejejeok!

The silver thread was caught in the gaps in Triple Layers and cracked!

"T-This is impossible..."

The silver thread that had killed so many people was damaged by armor. But Grid was fine and managed to neutralize the silver thread.

"How? How are you so strong?"

Sua asked in a trembling voice and Grid replied.

"It's being overgeared."

Peeeeeeong!

The head of the fused armored needle was blown away.