

Overgeared 761

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Seven players from six countries participated in breaking the hero. There was a 'Hero' in the center of the stage.

"Are you challenging me?"

A black-haired man asked with a nonchalant face. He was the 'Hero.'

[Breaking the Hero]

It was the event Peak Sword was participating in. The participants would fight one on one with the Hero and the contestants who defeated the Hero the quickest would win. It was an ordinary time attack game. However, the public's expectation for the event that was debuting this year was very big.

It was due to the identity of the Hero. It was the PvP winner of the 2nd National Competition, Kraugel. That's right...

To be precise, the Hero was a 'doppelganger' who duplicated Kraugel's stats and skills from last year. How many of this year's contestants could fight against the strongest player last year? Breaking the hero was enough to stimulate the curiosity of the public and attracted a great deal of attention long before the 3rd National Competition began.

『 Chris from Canada, Damian and Katz from Japan, Pon from Spain, Regas from the United Kingdom... The participants are amazing. But the number of participants is much lower than expected. Why? 』

『 This the majesty of Kraugel. It might be the Kraugel from one year ago, but Kraugel of last year is still recognized as the 'best.' How many would dare challenge him? I think it's great that there are seven participants. 』

Some experts interpreted this way, but reality was different. The reason why other players didn't participate in breaking the hero wasn't because they feared Kraugel's doppelganger.

"What's the point of knocking down a ghost of the past?"

The Argentina team's waiting room. Soul Predator Seuron scoffed as he confirmed the participants of breaking the hero.

"Pathetic losers. If you want to be a real hero, you should play in PvP."

It wasn't just Seuron. The elites of the other countries also laughed at the participants of breaking the hero. What was the pointing of winning a fight with the Kraugel from one year ago? It was clear that this year's Kraugel would be much stronger than last year after becoming a Sword Saint. They had to fight and win against this year's Kraugel in order to be qualified to win the title of the strongest.

'Breaking the hero is nothing but a refuge for the cowards who don't dare to challenge the true Kraugel.'

The people who thought like this didn't realize that all the participants in breaking the hero were members of Overgeared or deeply related to the Overgeared Guild.

"In the end, we gathered like this."

1st on the unified rankings, Chris. He broke the expectations of many people and participated in breaking the hero instead of PvP. Then he greeted the other participants.

Pon, Regas, Peak Sword, Katz, Ibellin, and Damian. All the participants except for Damian belonged to the Overgeared Guild and Damian was a famous Grid fan. The people who challenged the non-PvP event, breaking the hero, had one thing in common. They were those who knew the power of Grid's new sword, the Enlightenment Sword.

In particular, Damian had the direct experience of dying from the Enlightenment Sword. That's right. The reason they didn't participate in PvP wasn't because they were afraid of Kraugel like the other strong players thought. Grid was scary.

"But..." Katz ignored the other participants and talked to Peak Sword and Ibellin. "Isn't it too difficult for guys like you to challenge Kraugel?"

It was a realistic question, not a hurtful one. Peak Sword and Ibellin were vulnerable to Kraugel. It was suicide for Peak Sword to compete one on one against the nimble Kraugel, since Peak Sword had a big delay after attacking. Ibellin was very talented, but he was still inexperienced. He couldn't handle Kraugel's skills.

Ibellin replied ambitiously, "I don't believe I can win! But I think this is a good chance to measure my skills! I'm determined to use today's challenge as a platform for my growth!"

On the other hand, Peak Sword...

"Hut. The Japanese have such futile hobbies? You don't need to worry about me."

The replies were very enthusiastic.

Chris laughed. "It's nice that you have faith. But it won't be easy. Don't you know? It will be very difficult to win a gold medal against me."

Chris carried the fate of his country. Once he won a gold medal in this event, the chances of Canada being ranked first would be increased exponentially. Chris had an obligation and a desire to win. Chris' eyes showed his desire not to yield and it was enough to stimulate the other participants.

The participants became more competitive because they were close friends. Apart from Peak Sword and Ibellin, there was a fierce war of nerves between those who were regarded as the power of their countries. It was like there were flames in their eyes as they looked at each other. However, their eyes were amiable when they looked at Peak Sword and Ibellin. The pity was obvious! In this event, they were clearly looking down on Peak Sword and Ibellin!

Peak Sword felt isolated, but he muttered with a calm expression. "...I will show you the spirit of South Korea today."

『 Chris and Damian have an 80% chance of winning in breaking the hero. 』

『 That's right. They're the strongest people who have been often compared to Kraugel since last year. After all, Chris is first in the unified rankings while Damian has been the pope for a few years. I think it isn't hard for them to beat the Kraugel of last year. Time is of the essence. 』

『 Chris has explosive power with his greatsword, so he's likely to kill the Hero faster than Damian. Apart from these two, Katz seems to have high odds. Katz has a high chance of winning if he can block the Hero's agility with his unique ability to control blood. 』

『 On the other hand, it's questionable if Pon and Regas can win. Their strength is in their control, the same as Kraugel. It will be difficult for them to win against Kraugel, who's the peak of control. 』

『 Peak Sword and Ibellin are highly likely to be eliminated. 』

The experts started speculating ahead of the match. The evaluation of Peak Sword was very cold. Peak Sword had a disadvantage against Kraugel because the characteristics of his class were weaker than the other participants. It was natural to analyze that he couldn't defeat Kraugel when he had a gap between attacks.

The Koreans couldn't deny it.

"It will be very difficult for Peak Sword."

"Peak Sword is a bit dubious. He's overwhelming when supporting a team, but there are too many vulnerabilities when fighting solo. There's no answer when his opponent is Kraugel."

No matter how much they thought, it was difficult to expect anything from Peak Sword. People thought that the chance of South Korea becoming first was gone. But Grid thought differently.

'Peak Sword has the highest possibility of winning.'

Grid was someone who knew exactly the power of Kraugel last year.

'He has a paper body. He just needs to be hit.'

Bloodstone. It was the best mineral that Grid acquired as a reward in last year's National Competition. The Iyarugt's Sheath that was made from it fit very well with Peak Sword. It wasn't something Grid intended from the beginning, but it ended up like this.

Duguen!Duguen!

Grid's expectations were amplified.

『 Wahhhhh! It's an overwhelming attack power!! 』

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

Chris, the first challenger of Breaking the Hero, did as well as everyone expected. He blocked the swift attacks of the Hero while hitting back with his greatsword.

Puok!

In the end, the body of the Hero was damaged by the greatsword.

“Cough!”

The Hero perceived the danger and developed Super Sensitivity. The evasion rate and accuracy of the Hero was instantaneously amplified. The Chris of last year wouldn't have been able to handle the Hero in this state. But Chris had been hunting harder than anyone in the past year. This was how he could maintain the number one ranking. He had encountered Super Sensitivity multiple times due to his 'Great Swordsman Hunting' hidden quest and quickly blocked the Hero with the wide area attack of his second class, Tyrant.

In the end.

Kwajajak!

At the end of the fight, Chris succeeded in breaking the Hero. It took him 19 minutes to turn the Hero to grey. It was 20 minutes shorter than the time it took for last year's Grid to be defeated by Kraugel. He was a strong candidate to be the winner.

“Wow, really great.”

"I realize how big a year is after seeing this.”

Last year. People thought that the confrontation between Kraugel and Grid were on a different dimension. At the end of a fierce battle, Kraugel was victorious. Now one year later. No, to be exact, it was one year and three months. Last year's Kraugel was no longer the best. He seemed like nothing in front of Chris, the first ranked player. Everyone was realizing how great the power of time was when Damian challenged the Hero.

The Hero was once again defeated by Damian, who used the strong defense of a paladin, various buffs, and the pope skills to win. Damian took 20 minutes and 55 seconds to take down the Hero. It was two minutes slower than Chris.

"Ugh, gold medal...”

Damian became frustrated by the fact that he lost first place.

‘What a monster...’

Chris and the other participants were unable to close their mouths. It was because Damian's attack was incredibly powerful. It was comparable to a major damage dealer using the greatsword. His defense was also several times higher.

‘Watching him get beaten up by Grid...’

‘...I didn't know he was so strong.’

The Overgeared members pledged not to be enemies with Damian.

Then.

"I'm next."

The third challenger was Peak Sword. He went on stage without any expectations and faced the Hero.

'What pressure...'

The Hero, which recreated Kraugel from a year and three months ago, had already been defeated two times. This didn't mean he was weak. Peak Sword forgot to breathe the moment he faced the Hero in a one on one match. The Hero caught the moment he was distracted.

Teong!

The Hero narrowed the distance to Peak Sword in an instant.

Clink!

Peak Sword used Draw Sword. He was also a strong representative of his country. He restored his breathing.

"Annihilate."

Flash!

Iyarugt showed a beautiful appearance as it was pulled from the red and transparent sheath. At that moment.

[Iyarugt, who is 100% charged with magic power, is in an intoxicated state. He has lost his ego and is running wild.]

[The conditions of use for Iyarugt has been changed to 'person to be sacrificed.']

[It's impossible to summon Iyarugt.]

[Iyarugt's damage has increased by 500%.]

[Iyarugt's state is delivered to Peak Sword through Iyarugt's Sheath.]

Sakak-!

Among all the skills that existed in Satisfy, Draw Sword combined the best attack power and speed, drawing a red color in the air.

"What?"

"What's this?"

Chris, the other participants, commentators from various broadcasting companies, and viewers were simultaneously amazed. It was because the Hero's health gauge fell to the bottom with a single blow.

"...!"

The Hero was more surprised than anyone and stopped attacking, stepping back. He lost a large amount of health and entered defense mode, judging that he was in danger. This was the limit of an artificial intelligence. The original Kraugel wouldn't have made such a stupid mistake.

Clink!

The Hero didn't fight back, making it easy for Peak Sword to retrieve his sword.

[Iyarugt has been picked up by his sheath! 50% of your health has been lost!]

Peak Sword ignored the notification window and attacked again.

Sakak-!

The Hero used Super Sensitivity to try and evade, but it was impossible to escape the moment it had allowed Peak Sword to retrieve his sword. The Hero was hit once again and died. Just two blows. This was what it took Peak Sword to bring down the Hero.

Then.

Swaaaaah.

Peak Sword turned to grey.

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Only one minute. Peak Sword defeated an existence that people perceived as the best in a very short time. Peak Sword might've died as well, but people didn't care about this part.

"No way! A bug!"

Those who worshipped the Hero denied reality.

"Isn't this enough to beat Kraugel this year?"

"The real top is neither Kraugel or Grid, it's Peak Sword."

Some busybodies enjoyed the situation. A whirlwind of confusion swept across the globe. But Peak Sword didn't know this.

"Pant...pant..."

Peak Sword had died in exchange for using Iyarugt's intoxicated state. His entire body was soaked with sweat when he logged out. It would've been a failure if he missed a single attack. In the midst of this heavy burden, fighting the Hero was intimidating for Peak Sword. The mental power consumed was too great.

'God Grid who can fight this monster for dozens of minutes...'

Grid's presence became even bigger as Peak Sword lay in the capsule and shivered.

Grid, who had fought the Hero one year and three months ago, couldn't help looking great to Peak Sword.

In addition, this year's Grid made the item 'Iyarugt's Sheath,' which could devastate last year's Kraugel in two blows.

'Truly God Grid... he's a god.'

"...Player Peak Sword? Player Peak Sword!"

"Ah."

Peak Sword woke up from his thoughts. He looked up from the capsule and saw the host approaching. The excited host pushed the microphone towards him.

"You did a great job! People are wondering how you beat the sky above the sky in just one minute and one second. Have you been hiding your skills until now?"

At the time of last year's National Competition, Peak Sword had been branded 'useless Peak Sword.' Despite being in the top 15 of the unified rankings, he didn't win a single medal. Then this year, Peak Sword's unified ranking fell to the 20th place. People hadn't expected him to play an active role in this year's competition. Yet he showed a reversal.

The host's eyes shone like lanterns while the crowd was breathless. Peak Sword realized that the world was focused on himself and wiped the sweat rolling down his cheek. Then he spoke with his best expression.

"Do you know Overgeared?"

"..."

"Do you know God Grid?"

"..."

It was unfortunate. It was impossible to get a normal interview with Peak Sword, who was fascinated by the power of Iyarugt's Sheath and Grid's items. He missed the chance to be reborn as a top star in the world.

[The secret to Peak Sword's gold medal is Grid's items?]

[Grid who makes the useless Peak Sword useful.]

[(Column) If Grid took part in Breaking the Hero, could he knock down the Hero faster than Peak Sword?]

And so on. Headlines around the world were concentrating on Grid rather than Peak Sword.

"God Gridddd!"

After the breaking the hero and piercing the waterfall events ended. Peak Sword wore the two gold medals that held the wishes of 50 million people and ran straight into the waiting room. He grasped both of Grid's hands and cried out.

“Amazing! I won a gold medal thanks to your item! You are really the best! A god!”

“...”

Spit spit!Spit spit spit!

Peak Sword was so excited that he kept spitting while he talked. Grid’s face became terribly soaked.

“No, how did you make this monster-like sheath?”

“That...”

[Iyarugt’s Sheath]

Durability: 200/200

* Iyarugt’s demonic power is supplied to Iyarugt’s Sheath. 1% demonic energy will be charged every 10 seconds.

* Drawing Iyarugt consumes Iyarugt’s demonic energy. 1% demonic energy will be lost per second.

* Once 20% magic power is charged, Iyarugt will enter the satisfied state. At this point, Iyarugt will easily submit to the owner and gains 20% attack power. This state is maintained for 30 seconds after the sword is drawn. The cooldown time of Draw Sword is reset.

* Once magic power is charged to 70%, Iyarugt will enter the ‘excited’ state. At this point, Iyarugt won’t listen to the owner’s commands and will go at his own pace. This state is maintained for 70 seconds after Draw Sword. The cooldown time of Draw Sword is reset.

* Once magic power is charged to 100%, Iyarugt will enter the ‘intoxicated’ state. At this time, Iyarugt will recognize the owner as his prey. The damage of Iyarugt’s drawn sword will increase by 500%. The user will lose 50% of its health in 4 seconds and will die within 30 seconds. In order to avoid death, the sword must be retrieved within 10 seconds and Draw Sword can’t be used for two minutes while demonic energy is declining. The moment Draw Sword is used again, death is instantaneous.

Conditions of Use: None. However, the weapon is limited to Iyarugt.

Grid had succeeded in securing bloodstone in the 2nd National Competition. But he couldn’t easily find a use for it. Iyarugt was already a sword and the quantity was lacking to make an armor. Then they raided Belial and secured a large number of materials. Bloodstone fell to the side. Grid had neglected the bloodstone only to make a hypothesis before the National Competition.

Maybe the reason why Iyarugt’s soul was sealed in a bloodstone sword was because Iyarugt’s soul was compatible with bloodstone? Wouldn’t Iyarugt become stronger if a sheath was made with bloodstone? Grid was obsessed with reinforcing his items before facing Kraugel and immediately made a sheath. The result was Iyarugt’s Sheath. It was a beautiful sheath that fit the standards of Iyarugt.

“As you can see, a powerful sheath was born. It’s strong, but the penalties are huge.”

Iyarugt’s satisfied state had no merit for Grid, who had the Enlightenment Sword. Even with a 20% increase in attack power, Iyarugt was weak compared to the Enlightenment Sword. The same was true for the excited Iyarugt, who was uncontrollable.

Then what about Iyarugt's intoxicated state? As it happened, Iyarugt's intoxicated state also wasn't attractive to Grid. There was a 500% increase in pure attack power but it could only be used safely for three seconds. The damage wasn't high compared to the various options of the Enlightenment Sword.

'Of course, the pure attack power is higher than the Enlightenment Sword. But the Enlightenment Sword is more stable.'

He didn't see the value in swapping out the Enlightenment Sword just for higher damage. Of course, this was only the case when Grid used it 'directly.'

Grid was convinced and reached out to Peak Sword.

"Now, shouldn't you return the items you borrowed?"

The story was different when the God Hands used it. The God Hands didn't have the concept of health and could use the intoxicated Iyarugt with less penalties.

"Y-Yes. Of course."

Peak Sword lay directly in the capsule.

The synergy of Peak Sword and Iyarugt, which boasted a high attack power, was certainly fantastic. But he wasn't entitled to use Iyarugt since he didn't have demonic power. It was only possible to use it when Iyarugt was in the intoxicated state, which meant the damage was bigger than the gains.

The sword was inappropriate for Peak Sword other than a one-off event like the National Competition. Peak Sword wasn't greedy for Iyarugt at all. Just.

"E...Excuse me, God Grid. Once I ask for minerals from this gold medal, can you make a blade and sheath set for me?"

Peak Sword requested carefully. Grid nodded immediately.

"Of course."

A byproduct of a sacred creature. Considering that the power of fire was embedded in the Red Phoenix's Breath, there was a strong possibility that the Blue Dragon Breath contained the power of lightning. Lightning attribute items were likely to have speed increasing options.

"Ask for the Blue Dragon's Breath."

How strong would Peak Sword become? Grid trembled. He felt proud that his skills could help someone grow. And time passed...

『 Now there's only the last event remaining! 』

The National Competition's third day. Eight out of nine events ended, leaving only the closing event. PvP. The big match that the world had been looking forward to for over a year, the moment where Grid and Kraugel would reunite.

"Kuk! Kukukuk! Finally, the moment had come!"

Seuron of Argentina.

"Grid and Kraugel, I can take out these trash with my power!"

Zhang Zheng of China.

"Grid! I will get my promised revenge this year! I will neutralize your items with the power of Erosion!"

Tarma of the former Blood Carnival.

And...

"..."

The sky above the sky.

A total of 32 people were converging on the stage. Of course, Grid was part of them.

South Korea: Gold (6), Silver (1), Bronze (2)

United States: Gold (5), Silver (8), Bronze (4)

"Grid, have strength!"

"Please win this year!"

"Kraugel! Be sure to win this time!"

"The first place in the overall rankings must be the US!"

"Grid! Grid! Grid!!"

"Kraugel! Kraugel! Kraugel!"

The crowd's shouts resonated across Tokyo. Tokyo Dome was heating up. The sky above the sky and the person who nearly reached it. Which one was going to fall this year?

In the midst of the people's cheers and expectations.

"During saint sword drawing."

Grid and Kraugel faced each other on the stage. Grid started talking.

"I was relieved when you got the gold medal and Yura got the silver medal."

"..."

"It was fortunate. You didn't lose. My heart wouldn't be beating this fast if you'd been defeated by someone other than me."

The person who broke the sky must be Grid. It was the last proof remaining before he could reach the top.

"This year, I will surely win."

Kraugel briefly replied to the motivated Grid.

"I'm looking forward to it."

For Kraugel, Grid was a special existence. The only person who victory wasn't guaranteed against. In today's showdown, Kraugel might be more eager than Grid.

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There was no longer a promised victory.

The 1st National Competition, the 2nd National Competition, the battle between guilds and the successive defeats to Grid and the Overgeared members led to Bubab becoming the symbol of defeat. Numerous people who praised him now turned away from him. Sometimes other people mocked him.

The honor he built up as the leader of the Yak Guild, one of the Seven Guilds, and as the strongest initiator, Crusher, disappeared like a sandcastle. But Bubab wasn't shaken. He didn't shake at all. As a tanker, he was accustomed to being hit. He had a strong mentality from taking blows well.

"This year I will definitely do it."

Bubat was determined before the PvP event of this National Competition.

"I will definitely beat Grid this year."

The reason he was so obsessed with Grid wasn't because of personal grudges. It wasn't simply payback for being defeated. He burned with a sense of challenge because he recognized Grid as a trial to be overcome. He had a desire to develop further.

In addition.

'Father, have strength!'

'This year, be sure to win the gold medal!'

He wanted to be a wonderful dad in the eyes of his two daughters, who were just beginning to grow up.

'Huhut, tomorrow I can meet my cute princesses.'

He remembered his daughters' appearances in the video call last night and smiled. The Chinese representative, Zhang Zheng was waiting for him. Zhang Zheng lay down in the capsule at the request of the host and provoked Bubab.

"Are all people from Turkey brainless? Or do they have no shame? Why participate in the National Competition every year when you don't get medals? Isn't it a waste of time for other people?"

"Tsk tsk."

Zhang Zheng was still young and had less personality. Bubab clicked his tongue and lay in the capsule. He was 35 years old. It might be different two years ago, but he wasn't easy enough to be provoked by a young man. The host was shouting.

"Before the long awaited first match of PvP, China's Zhang Zheng and Turkey's Bubab are logging in! The showdown between the two players is starting now! It has started!"

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

The cheers of the crowd filled Bubat's ears as he closed his eyes in the capsule.

Then.

"Um."

Bubat opened his eyes again in the Lion's Castle. It was the castle that had been the stage of PvP for three years already. Zhang Zheng jumped over the wall and pulled out his weapon immediately.

"Aren't you very solid? Are you a person?"

Supak!

Zhang Zheng flew forward while making insidious remarks. His hands held one of the eight strongest weapons obtained from his workforce, the Destruction Sword. It was a powerful weapon that inflicted additional damage to human type targets, had the effect of blocking healing, and dealt damage proportional to the target's health.

Puk!

Puk puk puk!

Zhang Zheng, who started appearing as a new star in China last year, had the hidden class of 'fighter' and was a master of combat. He could handle all weapons with Weapons Mastery and possessed high strength and agility. It was impossible for Bubat, who had invested most of his stats in stamina, to avoid Zhang Zheng's swordsmanship. The black sword quickly shaved at Bubat's rock-like body. But Zhang Zheng's expression didn't look good. It was because Bubat's health gauge didn't make sense.

'Why does he have such high defense?'

Bubat's tanking power last year was already enough to surprise Grid. In the first place, the reason why he could be called the strongest initiator was because he could jump into the enemy's base with his overwhelming defense.

Snap!

Bubat succeeded in grabbing the wrists of the confused Zhang Zheng and smiled.

"I'm not called the Yak for nothing. Did you bring a small knife to catch a cow?"

"You boar-like bastard...!"

Zhang Zheng sensed the crisis and attempted to shake off Bubat's touch. But it was wishful thinking. A Crusher didn't miss the opponent he had caught.

"Go to Hell!"

Kwajajajak!

It was the Crusher's move that slammed the enemy's head into the ground, causing all types of status conditions. This skill had very high attack power. His attack power was influenced by his stamina stat, resulting in a force similar to a damage dealer.

"...!"

Zhang Zheng couldn't even scream as his head was slammed to the ground. His vision was blurred by the darkness of the ground.

"Ahat!"

Bubat wrapped an arm around the waist of Zhang Zheng, stuck upside down in the ground. It wasn't a gesture of affection.

"It will hurt more this time. Huup!"

Bubat gritted his teeth!

Sok! Zhang Zheng's body was lifted up like a sweet potato and descended again. It was like a gyro drop.

'Ick!'

As his vision moved from the sky to the ground at the speed of light, Zhang Zheng felt an instinctive fear. Goosebumps crept over his skin.

'You dare...!'

Zhang Zheng gritted his teeth. He overcame the chaos state caused by 'Go to Hell.'

"You dare do this to me! I will slaughter you!"

He abandoned the Destruction Sword and pulled out a dagger. It was a lethal weapon that increased accuracy, had a probability of disregarding the defensive power of the target, and inflicted damage equal to the Sword of Destruction.

Puk! Puk puk puk!

"Kuk...!"

Bubat's face distorted as Zhang Zheng in his arms stabbed Bubats side. Zhang Zheng's attacks that had a chance of ignoring defense were effective against Bubats. The Crusher had a passive skill that allowed him not to be harmed over a certain level of damage, but it was scary when the low damage accumulated.

"Ohhhhhh!"

Kuwaaaaaang!

Bubat endured the pain and slammed Zhang Zheng into the ground.

"Kiyaaaaah! Kieeek! Kyaack! Keok!"

Zhang Zheng continued to stab at Bubats side as he was slammed into the ground. Of course, the one who suffered the most damage was Zhang Zheng. The Descending Death boasted a damage twice as high as Go to Hell. Zhang Zheng looked like he was just about to die as his head was stuck in the ground. It was a quiet match.

Peok peok!Peok!

Bubat's attack continued. Zhang Zheng was continuously in the 'stunned' state. Zhang Zheng boasted a high defense due to his items. However, his defensive power fell due to the influence of Descending Death and his health was rapidly consumed.

"This is the end!"

Bubat shouted as firmly as he could. He emitted a red light. It was the forerunner to one of the Crusher's few attack skills, Watermelon Break.

Jeeeeeeong!

The moment when Bubat's hammer swept across Zhang Zheng's unprotected abdomen.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Zhang Zheng's armor exploded. It wasn't the effect of Watermelon Break. It was the 'there will be triple the damage reflection if you receive a certain amount of damage' effect of Zhang Zheng's legendary rated armor.

"Ugh!"

Bubat was caught in the explosion and collapsed, while Zhang Zheng overcame the stun and raised his body. Then he unleashed sharp attacks on Bubat's body.

Puk!

Seokeok!

Blood spurted. Zhang Zheng swapped between eight types of weapons and started to maximize the power of various skills. The weapons had effects such as reducing defense power, dealing fixed damage, etc. The effect of the skills gradually weakened Bubat's rock-like body.

"You damn bastard! Do you know who I am? Kyaak!" Zhang Zheng stabbed the fallen Bubat without a break. Zhang Zheng's shining eyes as he attacked made him seem like a killer in the movies. The organizers minimized the bloody effect but it was still a cruel scene.

Finally.

"B-Bubat has been logged out!!"

Bubat turned to grey. However, Zhang Zheng kept stabbing the ground where Bubat had been.

"Kyaak! Kiyaaaaah!"

It was a terrible thing. The sight filled the public with fear. Even the Chinese supporting Zhang Zheng felt creeped out and fell silent. Bubat's wife, watching the competition on TV, had to hurriedly send her daughters to their room. It was an appalling atmosphere.

"Cute."

Grid muttered as he prepared for his match. For Grid, who had the experience of meeting the read madman Agnus, Zhang Zheng was just at the level of a puppy barking.

"The atmosphere will rise."

Tarma's lips curved as he prepared for the second match in the round of 32. It was good for him that Zhang Zheng, classified as part of the new generation, had beaten Bubut. Since he was matched with Grid from the beginning, he wanted the public's attention.

He looked at Grid and smiled. That's right. Tarma was assured of his victory. He was confident that he could easily neutralize Grid after using Erosion to temporarily destroy Grid's strongest weapon.

"I will take you down today and get rid of the humiliation of the past."

Tarma lost his reputation after being defeated by Grid in just three seconds at the 2nd National Competition. He became insignificant in the industry and requests stopped coming in. He lost wealth. Was that all? After Blood Carnival was dissolved due to Grid, he became a fugitive and hid on the East Continent, living a life of hell. Life on the East Continent was very difficult compared to the West Continent. It was truly awful.

However, due to his desire for revenge, he eventually got Erosion.

"Kukuk! Grid...! I will kill you!"

There was a stir in Tarma's body. He felt pleasure as he imagined the glory that could be gained by knocking down Grid.

『 After Bubut's sudden defeat, South Korea's Grid and Greece's Tarma are on stage. 』

『 Player Tarma is notorious as a member of the former Blood Carnival. He's an assassin who's evaluated as being better than the god of killing, Faker. 』

But last year, he was defeated by Grid in just three seconds and his image changed a lot. Now people didn't have high expectations for him. At least until yesterday.

『 Though the rumors about him have been overstated, Tarma has done great in the asura path event in the past few days. He beat his competitors and won a gold medal, proving that the rumors about him weren't exaggerated. 』

The level of skill that Tarma showed in the asura path event was certainly at the highest level. He looked like a powerhouse who was above Chris, Damian, Pon, and Regas. It wasn't an exaggeration. Once the asura path event ended yesterday, Tarma revealed in an interview how great he was.

'I am the one who occupied the Overgeared Guild's Cork Island. The Overgeared members guarding the island were killed by me. Kukuk, if you think I'm lying then go to Peak Sword and ask. Peak Sword was brutally killed by me. I was just caught off guard when defeated by Grid last year!'

It was a shocking interview. The media investigated to confirm the truth and as a result, Tarma's remarks were proven to be true. Tarma had caused the Overgeared Guild to suffer the bitter taste of defeat. There were people who thought that Tarma might have a chance to beat Grid.

At this time.

'I want to use it.'

Grid felt a strong urge as he faced Tarma on stage. 100,000 Army Massacre Sword. It was a desire to show the strongest skill he got from the Undefeated King to the public. Why? He would wash away the stigma of a chuuni! Grid wanted to prove that the 'Grid is a chuuni' video on the Internet was wrong.

Thus, it was fortunate that he met Tarma in the first match. It was likely that Tarma's level would be equal or higher than Grid's since Tarma had been an unofficial ranker for a long time.

'After building up fighting energy, I will perfectly finish it off with 100,000 Army Massacre Sword.'

Grid lay down in the capsule. He opened his eyes in Lion's Castle and faced Tarma.

Tarma cried out.

"I! I have been waiting for this moment! Kuahahaha!"

Taack!

Tarma moved. An assassin was a combat class with low health and defense, but it demonstrated exceptional attack power and agility. Tarma's speed was enormous since he was considered to be at the peak of assassins. He reached Grid instantly and attacked. Of course, it wasn't an attack with all his power. Tarma was cautious, unlike how he outwardly looked. He was planning to explore first.

Swaeek!

A quick strike with minimal movements.

Puk!

Tarma's yellow dagger stabbed Grid's shoulder and he moved back after confirming the damage, fearing a counterattack from Grid. At that moment.

Peeeeeeong!

Grid reached the fastest speed with Alex's Quick Gloves and quickly reached Tarma. The roar of black flames, as terrible as a dragon's breath, swallowed Tarma up.

[The target has died!]

"...?"

Grid was upset by the rising notification window.

『 Ah! This is the strongest assassin! Tarma has disappeared like a lie!! 』

『 He can't be seen anywhere! How shocking! 』

The commentators, spectators, and viewers weren't aware that Tarma had died. The ash pillar effect, which symbolized a player's death, was buried by the brilliant effects of the black flames. Grid sweated as he stood alone in the castle. He had to stand there for a few seconds before the host belatedly realized the situation and announced the end of the match.

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1.6 seconds. It was the time it took Tarma to reach Grid with Shadow Shift. After that, Tarma's dagger stabbed Grid's shoulder and it took another 0.5 seconds for Grid's sword to reach Tarma's body.

Yes, just 2.1 seconds. It was the time it took to defeat Tarma. It broke his previous record of 3 seconds.

“...”

Tokyo Dome fell silent.

Duk.

Some viewers in South Korea dropped their jokbal on the floor. They were eating spicy jokbal instead of chicken. The viewers and TV commentators belatedly opened their mouths.

『 Skill... Player Grid has acquired a powerful skill. 』

『 Ah...! Yes! C-Correct! That's right! 』

Most of Grid's attack skills required the preparatory actions of a 'sword dance.' Sometimes it was an advantage, but there were more disadvantages. There were blind spots compared to the immediate skills of the combat specialized classes. It was viewed as Grid's weak spot. This year's Grid had overcome his weakness.

『 Player Grid is a hero who captured the Behen Archipelago. He seems to have acquired the strongest skill as a reward from the Behen Archipelago. 』

『 He's born again as a complete body... 』

Nobody expected that what Grid used to kill Tarma was a 'basic' attack. No, they couldn't even imagine it. People rarely imagined things that broke common sense. The experts interpreted it as Grid acquiring a new ultimate skill. The audience and viewers saw the replay video that was repeated several times and agreed.

『 A quick fire skill boasting a range that even the fastest assassin can't avoid... Ah! Maybe it's a black fire dragon...! 』

『 Black fire dragon...? Do you mean the power that Player Lauel mentioned several times? 』

『 Yes, that's right. Lauel had said it in an interview with various media. The power of a black dragon was sealed in his right hand and he served his master Grid with this power sealed. Maybe Grid has released the seal of that power... 』

『 I think the black fire dragon is a reward from some type of quest. It's really scary if it's true... 』

This was an interpretation that started to spread, but few people were concerned about this part. It didn't matter if it was a black fire dragon or not. Either way, Grid had acquired the ultimate skill. The anticipation towards the battle between Grid and Kraugel increased.

"Player Tarma! Tell me how you feel about being logged out in two seconds!"

"Shut up!"

After the match. Tarma hurriedly came down from the stage like he was ashamed. He was terrified. He feared Grid who disbanded Blood Carnival... The fear that he had forgotten filled Tarma's body and mind. Tarma's body was shaking as he rushed to the waiting room. Tarma realized. The fact that the power gap with Grid couldn't be filled up no matter how he struggled.

'I can't face that monster.'

He didn't know what type of harm he would come to from the Cork Island incident.

Scoff.

"...?!"

Tarma stopped as he was running away with a pale face. Zhang Zheng was leaning of one side of the corridor leading to the waiting rooms, laughing sat Tarma.

"Do you think it makes sense to die in one blow? The old generation is just a joke."

"You..!"

Tarma's face reddened. His grudge against this bastard, who didn't even know Grid's power, was very large. His eyes instantly filled with killing intent. But it quickly died down. Tarma confirmed that there were bodyguards by Zhang Zheng's side and lost his momentum. He snorted at the sight.

"Do you think you're good enough to look down on me? This small fry who was just born? I think the world has gone crazy if someone like you is walking around."

"You...! I'm a third-generation rookie!"

10 new rookies were born every year. They used the know-how accumulated by senior players and information released to the world to speed up their growth. They believed that their growth was faster than their predecessors due to talent. The older players were just ridiculous.

"I can assure you. You will also die in two seconds. You will die in a single strike from Grid. Grid is a monster and you aren't better than me!"

Tarma eagerly hoped it would be like this. He didn't like this bastard before him.

'Shit! I never thought the day would come when I will support Grid!'

Tarma disappeared after ranting.

Zhang Zheng shouted towards his shabby rear view. "This dog only knows how to talk! I will show you how incompetent the old generation are! Understood?"

Time was proportional to developed. This also applied to humans. There were far more great people in the science age than in history. The new generation was unconditionally better than the old generation. These were Zhang Zheng's thoughts. It was his personal thoughts!

“Grid, I won’t challenge you again.”

“...”

On the way back to the waiting room. Grid met Bubat, who was waiting for him. There was a bitter smile on Bubat’s face.

"I realized it after being defeated by Zhang Zheng. I have no hope in a one on one battle."

During the 1st National Competition and 2nd National Competition’s PvP event. Bubat won against everyone except for Grid. He was overlooked because he kept being defeated by Grid. It was the limits of a Crusher. After all, a Crusher was an initiator. He had weak attack power. It was possible to neutralize the target, but he didn’t have the force to finish them off.

It took Bubat many years to acknowledge the painful reality.

“It can’t be helped. Apart from Grid, I have only fought with weak people. I thought I was really strong. Therefore, I was burning with a will to challenge you. But I realized it in this fight with Zhang Zheng. It’s impossible to beat an opponent who has reached a certain level.”

“Hrmm...”

Grid showed some confusion because he didn’t know how to respond. It had been three years since the start of his bad relationship with Bubat and there was no reason to like him. Grid was clearly aware that Bubat took part in the invasion of Patrian and put the Overgeared Guild in a crisis. Such a person wouldn’t be coming up to him with a good heart.

Bubat confirmed that Grid was at a loss and waved his hand. "No, I don’t mean to burden you. It’s too presumptuous to try and start a new relationship with you. Just... I just..."

Bubat’s eyes twitched as he recalled the phone call to his wife a moment ago. The shock of his children due to the cruel actions of Zhang Zheng constantly rang in his ears.

"...I hope that you don’t lose to that cruel boy."

"The person called Zhang Zheng?"

"That’s right. Please be careful. If that type of person wins over you..."

It would no longer be a dream stage for his daughters and other children. Bubat wanted to provide information to help Grid win.

"Don’t be too careless against the rookie. Zhang Zheng’s armor has an option of reflecting damage by three times. It is dangerous even for you."

It was terrible when thinking of Grid’s strong attacks being reflected with three times the damage. Maybe Grid would lose. Bubat came to Grid because he was concerned.

“Three times the damage reflection.. Hmm, I understand.”

Grid nodded with a calm expression and passed by Bubat.

Step step.

“...”

Grid's footsteps gradually faded away. He didn't even bother saying farewell to Bubbat. Bubbat knew what he did to Grid and the Overgeared members. He couldn't expect to be greeted with familiarity. He was standing there quietly when he heard Grid's voice.

"You are weak."

“...”

"As you said, it's in a one on one match."

“...?”

"If we meet again in a war, I hope that we are no longer enemies."

“...Grid.”

The Overgeared King acknowledged him in a war? Bubbat was thrilled. A bright smile appeared on his gloomy face.

The PvP round of 32 passed quickly. The relatively weak people were dropped out and only the qualified people advanced to the round of 16.

There was also Sword Saint Kraugel. He met winning candidate Seuron in the round of 32 and defeated Seuron with skills that were more overwhelming than last year. People took it for granted that Kraugel, who was several times stronger than last year, would win.

On the other hand, Grid was shocked. He was aware that Kraugel was at least 50 levels lower than he was last year.

‘Not even reaching level 300 yet...’

Maybe. Was this Grid's last chance to win against Kraugel? As time passed, Grid wouldn't be able to reach this genius. The moment Grid thought this.

Duguen!Duguen!

He couldn't help smiling. The higher the sky that was Kraugel, the most Grid instinctively felt that he could build a higher tower.

"Hey, Bangzi. What are you thinking?" (Bangzi = A derogatory word that some Chinese people use for Koreans.)

Zhang Zheng. The Chinese player was Grid's opponent in the round of 16.

"Are you thinking of packing up and going home?"

“What bullshit are you saying?”

“...?”

Zhang Zheng was confused by Grid's words. Until now, the 'existing powerhouses' tended to cling to their dignity. They didn't reveal their true colors until they were provoked. Zhang Zheng enjoyed seeing them lose their patience. However, Grid cursed easily despite being on a throne.

"I'm not ignoring you just because you're weak. If you want to be respected, conduct yourself well."

Grid belatedly turned off the microphone. Grid scoffed and lay in the capsule, while Zhang Zheng's face belatedly turned red.

"Bangzi...! This damn Bangzi dares...! Don't you know who I am?"

Not ignoring him just because he was weak? In other words, Zhang Zheng was weak?

"Asshole!" Zhang Zheng hurriedly lay down in the capsule. He wanted to show Grid the taste of defeat as soon as possible. "Login! Loginnn!"

[Chapter 765](#)

There were many dialects around the world. It was said that there were more than 100 dialects in China due to its large land mass and population.

"Standard language unification."

As soon as he connected to Satisfy, Grid ended the dialect interpretation system. It was the reason why he heard Zhang Zheng's Yanbian dialect translated into Korean.

"I personally hate Yanbian."

"What?"

Ruined castle walls weathered by dry winds. Zhang Zheng emerged from behind them and declared, "Grid, don't think you will die painlessly."

It had been two years and three months since Zhang Zheng started Satisfy. He took great pride in using his wealth of information and tremendous talent to catch up with existing players, becoming a top ranked player beyond the second generation rookies.

Grid? Kraugel? He didn't believe the people at the top were his opponents.

"My confidence has grown after I participated in the National Competition. Existing players are weak. They're rotten and dull-witted. It's worthless to be the king of the trash. Isn't that right?"

To describe the current Satisfy, it was like a lion getting lost in a forest. Wolves and foxes were abundant. Zhang Zheng believed he was a talented person who would fill the empty position of a lion.

"I'll be the master of this forest."

He would win. Zhang Zheng was sure of it. The talent that allowed him to jump over the second generation rookies that the old generation claimed to be geniuses was the basis of his conviction. He was sure that he was better than Grid.

"You want to cut me up?"

Zhang Zheng gave a wicked and arrogant smile as he showed eight types of legendary weapons in order. They were the most powerful weapons with different users. The unusual appearances showed they were enhanced.

“Ohh...”

The crowd made sounds of admiration due to the spectacular effects that occurred every time Zhang Zheng changed weapons.

“It doesn’t matter how many weapons you take out. I won’t give you a chance to wield them.” Grid said with a nonchalant expression. It was enough to stimulate Zhang Zheng.

“The king of petty wild dogs! How can a dog challenge a lion? Today I will show you reality! I will make you realize how trivial and frivolous the world you have reigned over is!”

Zhang Zheng’s face was red as he yelled. He was like a demon as his axe rose in the air. Grid smiled bitterly.

‘A new generation mutant...’

Grid was the king of a nation. He had information that general players couldn’t possess and knew about Zhang Zheng. A genius who achieved unparalleled growth above the third generation 10 Rookies. Someone who was said to transcend the second generation.

‘I was expecting a lot.’

In fact, Zhang Zheng was just a lump of arrogance. Grid felt a sense of responsibility when he saw Zhang Zheng disparaging the old generation. He felt responsible to eliminate the prejudices about the old generation. It was an obligation Grid felt for himself and his precious colleagues. Grid didn’t want the people who had paved the way to be called trivial.

Paaaat!

Four golden hands appeared behind Grid. They were armed with Mjolnir, the most powerful status inducing weapon. Zhang Zheng’s eyes shone at the appearance of the famous God Hands.

"Kukuk! Kuhahaha! Indeed! This is it! You’re admitting that you are afraid of me!"

In the past National Competition PvP matches, it was rare for Grid to use the God Hands. Apart from when facing Kraugel, there were no cases where Grid actively used the God Hands from the beginning. From Zhang Zheng’s point of view, it was a clear acknowledgement. It proved that Grid put him in the same class as Kraugel!

The crowd was also excited.

"Grid is already pulling out the God Hands!"

"Zhang Zheng seems to be strong..."

"Indeed, the strongest of the third generation of rookies!"

Zhang Zheng was the one who broke Bubai, one of the strongest of the old generation. In a situation where Grid revealed his power from the beginning against the monster rookie, people were forced to appreciate Zhang Zheng even more. In particular, China had a festive atmosphere.

"Finally, a hero has emerged in our great nation!"

"He's a different genius from Hao, who bows down to Grid every time! Despite being a newcomer, Grid is nervous about him!"

"Zhang Zheng is just the beginning. There are many people in our great nation and the younger generation is evolving every day. The descendants of the heroes in history will continue to appear and occupy the world stage!"

The Chinese pride in their country was the highest in the world. They were drunk in the name of nationalism and dreamt of a brilliant future. They didn't doubt that China would be one of the leading superpowers in Satisfy. The 1.5 billion population were excited.

"Admitting that I am afraid? Me? Of you?" Then Grid gave them despair. "You're just a fly to me. I don't have to catch you directly. Summon Iyarugt."

Kurururung!

Grid pulled out Iyarugt and it roared. Grid couldn't hold it as a blood red light scattered all over the place.

Paaaat!

Iyarugt emerged from Grid's grasp and flew into the sky. The translucent red color of the smelted bloodstone started to darken. The ancient golden characters gave it a mysterious and beautiful sight.

'What?'

Zhang Zheng and the crowd was dazzled by the amazing sight.

Kuoooooh-

Iyarugt didn't move anymore. The light being emitted calmed down and everything became silent.

"..."

It was static, like time had stopped. It was a short moment.

Paaaat!

The static broke as a red ball popped out from Iyarugt, still floating in the air. Hell's best swordsman, a Sword Demon, Great Demon Zepar's only rival, etc. It was the moment when the soul of Iyarugt, who had all types of titles attached to him, appeared before the public.

"What's this...?"

Zhang Zheng belatedly became anxious and moved back. His instincts told him that he shouldn't let the red sword complete its actions. However, it was already too late. Iyarugt's soul exploded like the starlight of the universe and formed a shape.

An old man bent over. He had a sharp horn sticking out from his forehead, was covered with a flaming red light, and his eyes bulged like developed muscles. The iris, visible in the shadowy eyes, were as black as the deep sea.

“Demonkin...!”

A player could summon a demonkin? No, they knew it was possible for a third advancement black magician, but the blacksmith Grid? Zhang Zheng paled at the unexpected situation. Then the elderly old man summoned in front of him took a deep breath, enjoying the sweet air that entered deep into his lungs.

"Sweet."

He had the magic power of a lower demonkin, but his swordsmanship was enough for him to compete with great demons. Marbas, one of the major powers in hell evaluated Iyarugt as ‘one who can change the landscape of hell.’

Sakak-!

He held the floating Iyarugt and moved towards Zhang Zheng.

“Keok...!”

[A weakness in your swordsmanship is exposed.]

[Evasion rate is ignored, defense has dropped, and you will receive critical damage.]

[You have suffered 12,150 damage.]

“K-Kuock...!”

One sword. Yet this strike caused Zhang Zheng to lose one-fifth of his health. What the hell was this demonkin? Zhang Zheng was dumbfounded by the emergence of an unexpected monster.

Snap!

It was hard to believe that Iyarugt was an old man as he moved and pushed Zhang Zheng to the ground.

Peeeeek!

Zhang Zheng couldn’t resist and fell to the ground.

“...”

The Chinese spectators and viewers were mute at the helpless appearance of Zhang Zheng.

Name: Iyarugt

Age: ?? Gender: Male

Species: Horned Demon

Title: Best Swordsman of Hell

* When sword type weapons are used, the attack power is doubled. There is a 100% chance of a critical strike when hitting a weak point. Evasion rate will increase by 50%.

Strength: 3,503 Stamina: 1,090

Agility: 3,201 Intelligence: 330

Skills: Swordsman's Eyes (S), One Way of Life (SS-), Sword Dance Explosion (SS), Volcanic Circulation (SS), Hell Moon Cut (SS), Sublime Sword (SS+)

A horned demon classified as a lower demon. As a result of training in swordsmanship without giving up, he became the strongest swordsman of hell. But he failed to overcome the limit of his birth and was defeated in a battle with the great demon Zepar and died.

After that, his soul was cursed and attached to a sword.

* By winning in a battle against the strong, he can regain a feeling of life. Repeating this a few more times can recover all his skills (1/10)

* You must win against an opponent who is recognized as an 'enemy.'

* Iyarugt has a strong camaraderie that will develop into liking towards you.

It specified that Iyarugt hadn't regained his strength yet. In one on one fights with the current Grid, Iyarugt would be hit like a dog every time by Grid. Of course, from a general point of view, he was a powerful demonkin. His health and defense weren't much different from normal players, but his attack attack was based on a definitive critical attack and almost matched Grid's attack power. Even within the Overgeared Guild, there were only around 10 people who could match Iyarugt's attack power.

The third advancement Zhang Zheng couldn't afford to be hit by him. What about the control skill that Zhang Zheng was so proud of? It didn't work in front of Iyarugt. What about Zhang Zheng's items? They were trivial to Iyarugt after being hit several times by Grid's items.

"Kuaaaah!"

Zhang Zheng roared with humiliation and raised his body. He tried to swing the sword that dealt 'extra damage to demonkin.' But Iyarugt swung his sword again and Zhang Zheng's attack was in vain. Zhang Zheng glared at Grid.

"You! You Bangzi bastard! You're a coward! You're afraid of a fair fight so you brought a monster like this!!"

There was a limit to the attack power of a pet. Their stats were low if their level didn't exceed their master's. However, the demonkin in front of him dealt 10,000 damage. It was well beyond Grid's attack power that Zhang Zheng had estimated. Zhang Zheng believed that Grid had temporarily contracted with the demonkin through a special quest. In other words, it was interpreted as a trump card. He had no idea that Iyarugt was a Grid specific summon.

Grid was conscious of the cameras focused on himself and Iyarugt as he answered, "What damn monster? He's just my pet."

"What? What nonsense are you saying?"

Zhang Zheng rushed towards Grid.

[Black King's Armor]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 299/299 Defense: 699

* Blocks incoming damage by 7%.

* There is a 30% of a stealth effect in the dark.

* There is a 20% increase in defense in the dark.

* Agility +50 in the darkness.

* Once 30,000 damage is accumulated, three times the magic damage will be reflected back. At this time, the armor's durability is reduced by 50. In addition, the effect isn't activated if more than 30,000 damage is received at once.

Zhang Zheng was determined to beat Grid and the demonkin with the strongest armor. Theoretically, it was possible. The Black King's Armor reflected a damage of 90,000, which wasn't enough for a player to endure! But...

Peek peek!

[You have been stiffened.]

[You have been stiffened.]

[You have been stiff...]

"Ugh! Keok! Eek!"

He couldn't reach Grid. From the moment the God Hands wielded Mjolnir, Zhang Zheng fell into the hell of infinite stiffness. Zhang Zheng kept screaming as he was hit in the head with a hammer. It was the appearance of a cheap dance as his head moved from the right to left. Grid laughed as an infinite CC that could be called a scam was used.

"Didn't I tell you? You won't even have a chance to swing your sword."

Originally, Grid was the representative of an arrogant person. If he truly expressed any grudges he had, he would make Zhang Zheng look charming.

"You...! You lousy jerk! Eek! Keok!"

Zhang Zheng resented Grid's attitude, but he had no way of doing anything. As Zhang Zheng's health was slowly being consumed in units of hundreds, the 1.5 billion population of China fell into shock and despair.

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[You have suffered 1,950 damage.]

[You have become stiff. You can't take any actions.]

[You have suffered 879 damage.]

[You have become stiff...]

[You have suffered 880 damage...]

"Ugh! Keok! Eek! Kuoh! Kuaaah!"

There was a feeling of helplessness, like a fly caught in a spider web. Zhang Zheng roared like a wild beast after being frozen by Mjolnir for a few minutes. It was difficult for him to accept this awful feeling of helplessness that he felt for the first time. Why did he have to be disgraced in front of the world?

'I won't be able to raise my head if I'm logged out this way!'

It had been less than an hour since his interview stating that Grid and Kraugel were insignificant. The one who was defeated without Grid lifting a finger would transform into trash that was no different from Tarma.

Kwaduduk!

Zhang Zheng wanted to deny this terrible reality. He tried to act. In order to regain his freedom, he looked for a gap.

'Let's concentrate!'

He only needed to move his hands once. If he wielded his sword the moment the stiffness was released and defended against the hammer attack, he would be freed. Zhang Zheng calmed his mind and didn't doubt it. Until now, he had lost his cool at the infinite CCs. But he was confident that he could escape from this hell since a skill with an infinite effect in Satisfy couldn't exist.

But.

Peok!

0.3 seconds.

Peok peok!

0.1 seconds, 0.1 seconds, 0.1 seconds and 0.3 seconds again. The four hammers alternated, leaving no gaps in the stiffness. Zhang Zheng tried to focus but he couldn't find the right timing to escape.

'This is ridiculous...!'

It was a scam! Grid was using a bug! The moment that Zhang Zheng was convinced.

[30,000 damage has accumulated. The Black King's Armor feels humiliated!]

Peeeeeeong!

The dark armor that Zhang Zheng was wearing flashed red and exploded. It was the prelude to a counterattack. The God Hands were caught in the explosion and flew in every direction, becoming rigid. Then Zhang Zheng was freed from the endless CC.

Gulp!

Zhang Zheng immediately drank a health potion and headed to Grid.

“How long did you think you could hide behind that trick?”

Zhang Zheng was excited. The moment when Zhang Zheng tried to aim his sword at Grid.

Puok!

[You have suffered 13,050 damage.]

Iyarugt, who had been standing next to Grid with folded arms interfered.

“Keok!”

Zhang Zheng was hit by Iyarugt due to being blinded by Grid. Then he coughed up blood. It was the moment when his hell started again.

Peek peek!Peek peek peek!

“Ugh! Eek! Kek!”

The God Hands were released from their stiffness and randomly assaulted Zhang Zheng again. It was the scene where the counterattack that the Chinese crowd were hoping for failed.

[30,000 damage has accumulated. The Black King’s Armor feels humiliated!]

“Kiyaaaaah! Bastard! Die! Dieeee!”

During the time that Zhang Zheng was released from the stiffness, he pulled out some chains.

Chwaruruk!

The chains stretched out in all directions to restrain the God Hands.

‘That’s it!’

Zhang Zheng smiled with satisfaction, took a potion, and rushed to Iyarugt. He realized that he had to beat Iyarugt to get to Grid.

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

Zhang Zheng exchanged sword blows. Zhang Zheng recovered his cool and demonstrated 120% of his stats. It was because he had a desire to smash the nasty Grid. But his momentum didn’t last long. While Zhang Zheng was caught in the fight against Iyarugt, Grid had released all the chains restraining the God Hands.

Peek!Peek peek!

“Cough! Ugh! Eek!”

Peeeeeeong!

Zhang Zheng's armor was hit a few more times by Mjolnir and exploded again. It meant that a lot of damage accumulated during the battle with Iyarugt.

"Bastard! You nasty bastard! Cowardly bastard!!!"

Zhang Zheng bound the God Hands with the chains again and glared at Grid with bloodshot eyes. Grid didn't fight until the end, only relying on his items and pets. It was like a one player fighting game! But what could he do about his anger? Zhang Zheng might be able to match Iyarugt, but he couldn't defeat Iyarugt.

While he was tied up with Iyarugt, Grid untied the chains holding the God Hands. Then he relaxed with a whistle!

"..."

The commentators were silent. It was too uncomfortable to talk about this one-sided and terrible match. On the other hand, Grid...

'It's still incomplete.'

He was watching Zhang Zheng's armor. It wasn't a 'damage reflection every time it was hit' but a 'damage reflection every time a certain amount of damage accumulated?' It reflected a huge three times the damage. Therefore, Zhang Zheng's armor was sure to have a huge penalty.

Grid had expected this from the beginning. Grid could make a better production item than a dropped item the reflected three times the damage. From the moment he heard about Zhang Zheng's armor from Bubab, he predicted there would be a deadly problem with Zhang Zheng's armor.

Peeeeeeong!

Finally, the Black King's Armor exploded and Zhang Zheng drank a potion. Then the same thing repeated.

Peeeeeeong!

It was the fifth explosion of the Black King's Armor. Zhang Zheng once again drank a potion. Then he noticed a wicked smile spreading on Grid's face.

'Is this bastard smiling...? Eh?'

Zhang Zheng was taken aback when he witnessed Grid's face. He belatedly realized that he overlooked one fact because he was completely lost in the humiliation he felt for the first time in his life.

'...The armor's durability!'

A chill went down Zhang Zheng's spine. The Black King's Armor, it exploded five times? Then 250 durability had been lost. If it exploded one more time...!

Peek!Peek peek!

"N-No...!"

[You have suffered 1,600 damage.]

[You have suffered 930...]

[You have suffered 965...]

Zhang Zheng became panicked as the Mjolnir bombardment started again.

“Stop! Please! Please stoppppp!”

The crowd murmured as Zhang Zheng’s desperate screams rang out through Tokyo Dome. The nasty Zhang Zheng was crying and begging as a child. Then Grid...

“What if I don’t want to?”

He didn’t stop. Zhang Zheng was wicked. Considering his personality, Grid didn’t know what he would do if Zhang Zheng wasn’t trampled on. Grid knew it for sure because he had met many enemies in his life. Zhang Zheng wasn’t someone he should show mercy to.

"Today is your memorial day."

“You...!”

Zhang Zheng was unable to swap items in the infinite stiffness state! Zhang Zheng fell into despair at the worst situation when a notification window rose.

[30,000 damage has accumulated. The Black King’s Armor feels humiliated!]

Peeeeeeong!

[The Black King’s Armor has completely lost its durability. The Black King’s Armor is permanently destroyed.]

“N-No! Noooooooooo!!”

Zhang Zheng screamed.

Puok!

Iyarugt dealt the final blow. Zhang Zheng was finally released from hell.

"The winner is Grid!!"

The same time that the host called out.

“You...! How dare you!”

Zhang Zheng rushed towards Grid the moment he logged out and exited the capsule. He completely lost his temper and forgot that this was the National Competition. His actions were being broadcasted around the world.

“I will kill you!”

Zhang Zheng roared like a dog with rabies and swung his fist. It was a fist that accurately aimed for Grid's face as he left the capsule late. Grid was caught off guard. The crowd cried out as they expected Grid to be hit. But surprisingly, Grid didn't allow the attack. He instinctively used footwork to avoid Zhang Zheng's fist. Then he kicked out, knocking Zhang Zheng down. It was a counterattack that took full advantage of the natural body movements from playing Satisfy, a body that had been constantly exercising and the Taekwondo taught during military service.

"...!!"

The security guarded running on stage were stunned when they witnessed what happened to Zhang Zheng. They were impressed with Grid's clean movements. On the other hand, Grid was baffled.

'Wow, what a terrible fighter.'

Grid had been beaten up in his school days. Even a few years ago, he had been hit by the gangsters harassing Sehee and Yerim and ended up being protected by Yerim. Being protected by a high school girl...

Grid was forced to think he was weak. He believed that he was someone who couldn't fight in reality. Yet Zhang Zheng's fist seemed to be in slow motion.

'There are people who are worse at fighting than me...'

Grid looked at Zhang Zheng, who had collapsed from his weak kick, and was filled with sympathy. Grid didn't know. Zhang Zheng was actually a martial artist in China.

The viewers cheered.

"Waaahhhhhhhh!"

"Grid properly gave a scolding to that nasty Chinese player!"

"How can he fight so well? What can't he do?"

"He's the real deal...!"

"Grid! Grid!! Grid!!!"

The atmosphere rose. The Grid who exited on the cheers was the main character of the world itself. On the other hand, Zhang Zheng was greatly disciplined for his constant cursing and violence. His account was suspended from Satisfy for four months and he wouldn't be able to participate in the next two National Competitions.

China's new star fell as soon as he rose. All of China had a mournful atmosphere. But surprisingly, few Chinese people blamed Grid. This incident was caused by Zhang Zheng himself and they thought he deserved it.

At the same time, the Korean team's waiting room.

"...Doesn't Grid fight better than me?"

Toon was afraid of losing his job as Grid's bodyguard.

The 3rd National Competition's PvP event seemed like a stage designed for Grid and Kraugel. They rose from the round of 32 to the finals.

Grid used his overwhelming attack power to blow away the enemies while Kraugel used his control to take down the enemies. If Grid managed to defeat his opponent without even touching them, Kraugel also took control of his sword to defeat the opponent with folded arms.

Strangely, not one member of Overgeared participated in this year's PvP, making it a competition between Grid and Kraugel. In the course of four matches, Grid and Kraugel won easily without a single crisis. The crowd was overwhelmed by their unrivaled strength.

"Isn't Grid several times stronger than he was last year?"

"Is Grid the reason why the Overgeared members didn't participate in PvP? They knew they would obviously lose against Grid and gave up."

"It's a realistic interpretation. I have the same idea."

"But Kraugel is also much stronger. He won't be pushed by Grid."

"That's right. In particular, the Control Sword technique is a big hit. He can move the sword without using his hands. This year's Kraugel has a perfect defense for the God Hands."

"Who will win?"

Nobody could predict the winner. Even the experts didn't disclose their opinions. Did they deserve to be paid for the show if they stayed silent on air? There were many protests from viewers. The experts, who gradually lost their place due to Grid, were no different from being unemployed.

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Due to their overwhelming presence, Grid and Kraugel went straight to the finals. They shared the same thoughts 30 minutes before the match.

'Can I win?'

'I must win.'

'If not this year-'

'There might not be a chance to win anymore.'

The two men saw each other's skills during the last National Competition. They acknowledged each other and were afraid. They had both expectations and concerns about the potential that was hard to quantify of the other person.

Duguen, duguen, dugeun...

The Korean team's waiting room.

Grid sat on the sofa, his heart beating much faster than usual. He thought of the first day he met Kraugel. He was reminded of the emotions he felt when facing the sky above the sky, who wasn't easy to see.

'...Good.'

How could he explain this deep emotion? Grid changed due to his meeting with Kraugel. He became known world wide, knew his potential strength, and gained confidence. In addition, he was able to run towards the goal of 'Kraugel.'

'If I hadn't met you at that time, I wouldn't have grown to where I am now.' Yes, for Grid, Kraugel was a special person. Sometimes he felt like a benefactor. 'He's the benefactor who shared the information of the Behen Archipelago with me.'

Grid smiled and rose from the sofa.

"Kraugel, you have an obligation to see my growth."

Victory. Fight and win at all cost. Grid was filled with strong desire.

Now he realized. In the future, he wouldn't be the one chasing after another player. He would be the one going ahead. Grid had to evolve, for the young players of South Korea and the players of the Overgeared Kingdom. It would be done by breaking the sky called Kraugel.

'The role that you have been taking so far... I'll do it for you in the future.'

Kkuok.

Grid raised trembling hands to his grim face.

The other Korean representatives were afraid of interrupting Grid's thoughts and waited outside the room.

"Who will win?"

Viola wasn't affected by the atmosphere and questioned. Then.

"Of course it will be God Grid." Peak Sword didn't hesitate for a moment before replying.

"..."

The other players couldn't easily guess and remained silent. The rematch between Grid and Kraugel that took place after one year and three months.

It didn't just involve the pride between the two, but the destiny of South Korea and the United States. The first place in the overall rankings would be decided by who won the match. The citizens of the first ranked country could secure a large experience buff.

From the standpoint of the Korean players, they were praying for Grid's victory. The problem was that the opponent was the sky above the sky. The man who had reigned since Satisfy opened. No matter how strong Grid was, it was hard to be sure if he could beat Kraugel.

"We will find out at the end of the day." Eat Spicy Jokbal said. "It's true that Sword Saint Kraugel's power can't be measured, but Grid hasn't revealed all his power yet either. We don't know who will win."

The fact that the Sword Saint was the strongest combat class was hard to deny. But Grid had items and a higher level than Kraugel.

"...Well, I will personally cheer for Grid."

It wasn't just because Eat Spicy Jokbal coveted the buff. What if Grid who defeated him lost to Kraugel?

'I will also be under Kraugel. Damn!'

He didn't want to be below another person!

Peak Sword laughed without knowing why Eat Spicy Jokbal was going crazy. "You're hoping for Grid's victory? Friend Jokbal! You have finally fallen for the charms of God Grid!"

"What bullshit...! I just want the buff!"

There were 20 minutes until the finals started.

The US team's waiting room.

"..."

Kraugel sat with his eyes closed.

He thought of the first time he encountered the mad Agnus. The first and last day he met with Haster, who had no interest in the world. The day he first met Grid, who had flames in his black eyes. Among the people who the S.A. Group called the 'Five Miracles,' Grid was the one who made Kraugel's heart boil. It was just after fighting Piaro. However, Grid was still the first player to defeat him.

'From then on.'

Kraugel's gaze and awareness always followed Grid. Every time he saw Grid go one step further, Kraugel became more motivated and was able to grow faster. Kraugel realized. If Grid hadn't been here. Kraugel might not have been left behind, but he would've become empty from the curse called nothingness.

'Since then, I have been happy.'

There was a smile on Kraugel's face as he opened his eyes. The moment he stood up.

"Player Kraugel, it's 15 minutes until the start of the match. Please move to the stage."

The voice of the staff could be heard outside the waiting room.

Lauel saw him and said, "Good luck."

Lauel didn't want Kraugel to win. He naturally wanted Grid to win. As Grid's subordinate, he eagerly prayed. But Kraugel was the peak of two billion users and an idol to billions of people. It would become complicated if Kraugel fell. Kraugel read Lauel's bittersweet facial expression and replied with his distinct expressionless face.

“The other person is Grid. If I lose to him, his existence can no longer be denied.”

The fact that Grid deserved to bring down the sky, now everyone in the world knew this. No one would be disappointed or criticize Kraugel if he lost.

“Of course, I don’t intend to lose.”

Victory. He would also win this time. Kraugel was filled with a strong desire. He hoped that he would always be Grid’s goal. He wanted Grid to keep being conscious of him. There was nothing as sad as one-sided liking.

“Crying Tiger.”

Peeeeeeong!

The PvP finals video of the 2nd National Competition was being played on the screen. Kraugel penetrated the shield summoned by the white-haired Grid, while being burned by flames at the same time. The winner was decided with a mere 0.1 seconds difference, touching the hearts of the crowd and viewers.

“Ahh...”

“It’s cool to see that scene again a few times.”

It was a video recording that had 5 billion playbacks in a year. Of the 8 billion people, the only ones who hadn’t seen the confrontation between Grid and Kraugel were babies. In addition, people didn’t play the video once. Growing children, young people aggressively planning for their future, middle-aged people getting tired of their lives, and old people in the twilight of their lives.

All of them came up with new dreams and desires by repeating the video of the confrontation between Grid and Kraugel. They lived a faithful life, hoping to stand on the same stage someday.

The players who became idols. Grid and Kraugel entered the stage.

『 The protagonists of the confrontation that occurred one year and three months ago! Kraugel of the United States and Grid of South Korea are on the stage!! 』

『 Hey! The cheers were amazing! I have never seen such a sight in 15 years. Won’t Tokyo Dome collapse if it continues like this? 』

『 Hahaha! At this moment, everyone seems united, regardless of nationality, race, gender, or religion. We can see how great the two players are. 』

『 Nobody cares that this match will determine who will be first on the overall rankings. Everyone in the crowd is just passionate about both players. 』

“Grid!! You’re the first legend! You’re the first king! Prove that you’re the best!”

“Kraugel! Don’t fall! Show Grid why you have reigned at the top for so many years!”

“Grid!”

“Kraugel!”

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

The piercing shouts spread throughout Tokyo. The excitement of the scene was being transmitted to viewers. But Grid and Kraugel were in the middle of a tranquil world. The two men faced other other and were solely focused on the other person. The cries of other people didn't reach their ears.

"A man's match should be decided in three rounds?"

“Yes.”

"Then this time is the real winner?"

“That's right.”

"We will still be friends regardless of the result?"

“Of course.”

"Then I will beat you.”

"I will also do my best.”

The two men lightly greeted each other before standing in front of their capsules. The host hurriedly handed a microphone to Kraugel.

"Could you please tell us your feelings ahead of the match?"

“...”

The moment Kraugel was given the microphone. The heated up Tokyo Dome fell silent. Tens of thousands of people in Tokyo Dome gazed at one person. Their faces were filled with anticipation as Kraugel opened his mouth.

"I'm afraid.”

“...Huh?”

The sky above the sky was afraid? The host and spectators doubted their ears.

“That's why I am looking forward to it even more.”

Kraugel smiled at the end of his words. The always emotionless Kraugel was smiling so brightly?

“Ahh...”

The people who saw Kraugel realized it for the first time. The person who had been waiting for this moment more than anyone else was Kraugel.

"Kyaaaaak! Kraugel!”

"Yes, enjoy it! Kraugel, win!”

“Kraugel! Kraugel! Kraugel!”

"Waaaaahhhhh!"

The atmosphere reached the peak.

At the same time, in Satisfy.

“We will soon move.”

Veradin led the elites of Immortal into Reinhardt, capital of the Overgeared Kingdom. It was easy to infiltrate, since the Overgeared Kingdom freely allowed players to access the city.

"Head straight for the smithy."

“Yes!”

Not only did Grid show an overwhelming performance in the National Competition, he also succeeded in getting the first ranked blacksmith, Panmir. In such a situation, Immortal was forced to feel a sense of crisis since they were hostile to Grid. It was hard to overlook the Overgeared Kingdom.

So.

“The target is Blacksmith Khan. Find him and kill him.”

Immortal acted first. Most members of Overgeared were logged out now that the PvP finals had begun. Reinhardt was an empty house.

“The stars are bright.”

His hammering would give strength to Grid. Khan worked hard again today with such an attitude. His eyes in his wrinkled face were filled with longing as he looked up at the night sky. Today, he wanted to see Grid more and more.

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The US team’s waiting room.

Panmir was sitting next to Lauel and chattering away. He looked like a young child placed in front of a birthday cake. He was excited about the new life he would live as an Overgeared member after finishing the National Competition.

"Is there a blacksmith craftsman in the Overgeared Kingdom?"

“Yes. There are a total of five.”

The blacksmiths who came from Pangea on the East Continent and Khan. All of them were taught by Grid and became craftsmen through enlightenment. In particular, Khan’s craftsmanship level was high. Lauel dared to boast that Khan was in the top 10 of the continent.

“Blacksmith Khan...? I’ve heard that name before. I remember that he was praised as the best blacksmith 20 years ago, until he retired after losing his son.”

"Yes, that's right."

"Huhu, he didn't actually retire, but followed Grid. Khan reached the craftsman rank thanks to Grid. It's no different from Grid being his benefactor."

Grid had nurtured talent from a long time ago. It was truly amazing. Lael spoke meaningfully towards Panmir, who admired this new fact. "Benefactor... But Khan might be King Grid's benefactor."

"Hmm?"

"Haha, it's nothing."

In terms of Khan's superior blacksmithing skills, it was mostly from an NPC point of view. In fact, he was Grid's first friend, teacher, student, and also a family member. Who would understand?

Grid was on the monitors. Lael watched him standing in the center of the world with unwavering eyes and showed a gentle smile.

"..."

"..."

A castle enveloped in the darkness of night. The Lion's Castle, the stage of PvP every year was very large. There were four spires, seven floors, and corridors with hundreds of rooms. But in the end, it became a ruin. It might've boasted a brilliant civilization and beauty in the past, but now it was just a ruin where desolate wind blew.

Chichik, chijijik.

The hundreds of pillars supporting the roof were in such a precarious state that there were doubts about whether they could collapse straight away. The stone powder falling on the ground was a signal. The extremely concentrated Grid and Kraugel in the middle of the square with a fountain moved at the same time.

Chaeeng!

The sword where darkness was encroaching. There was no trace of it as Kraugel's +9 White Fang shot towards Grid.

[A complete evasion has failed. You have suffered 1,290 damage.]

[The durability of Triple Layers has decreased by 1.]

Kwajajak!

A sword split apart the darkness. Like the claws of a bird of prey, the Lightning Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires smashed the old fountain.

"Che!"

This attack could easily be avoided despite Grid being equipped with Alex's Quick Gloves? Grid was amazed by Kraugel's movements, who took full advantage of the passive Super Sensitivity and his innate abilities as he rotated and retrieved his sword.

Then.

Peeeeeeong!

Grid's Enlightenment Sword blocked Kraugel's White Fang that appeared behind Grid's back.

[You have blocked a powerful blow!]

[Your hands are temporarily paralyzed.]

[You have resisted.]

[The durability of the +9 White Fang has decreased by 2.]

"Kuk...!"

Grid's attack power with his new sword exceeded Kraugel's assumed range. Only their swords clashed but the weight of the sword was so great that Kraugel moaned.

"How is it?" Grid was able to grasp and react relatively quickly to Kraugel's movements thanks to the Slaughterer's Eye Patch and his high insight stat. "Have I become stronger?"

"The best."

"Hat..!"

Kraugel's confirmation made Grid flourish. Grid felt his heart beat faster as he advanced forward. He tried to use footwork while pushing Kraugel's White Fang with his Enlightenment Sword.

At that moment.

"Crushing Sword."

Kraugel used a unique sword breaking type skill.

Hwiririk!

The Enlightenment Sword intertwined with White Fang was rotated by White Fang. Naturally, Grid's wrist also turned.

Kwajajajak!

An eerie sound was heard. A chill went down Grid's spine.

[Your wrist has been broken.]

[You have fallen into the 'fracture'd state.]

[Your attack speed is reduced by 50% for 20 seconds and damage is reduced by 30%.]

[The current durability of the Lightning Sword Born from Enlightenment and Strong Desires has decreased by 12%.]

‘Crazy!’

It caused a physical condition that couldn’t be resisted while drastically reducing the durability of the weapon? Grid reminded himself. Kraugel was able to become a Sword Saint by mastering the sword. The person who the world viewed as strongest in Satisfy right now was Kraugel!

Seokeok!

Pa pa pa pat!

[You have suffered 4,700 damage.]

[You have suffered 3,950 damage.]

[You have suffered 4,230...]

[You have suffered 4,110...]

The moment he allowed an attack. The Slaughterer’s Eye Patch and his insight didn’t detect that constant slashes that struck Grid’s body. The minimum damage compensation when a ‘sword type weapon was equipped’ in proportion to defense and the ability of a Sword Saint to deal additional damage to all species made the defense of Triple Layers futile.

“God Hands!”

The flow wasn’t good. Grid determined that it was necessary to reset the situation. He shouted and the four God Hands appeared behind him. Under the clear moonlight that shone in the darkness, a glittering gold light appeared. But the gold was soon lifted.

It was because four swords were fired from Kraugel’s inventory and the God Hands were blown away. It was the Control Sword skill. A Sword Saint was able to remotely control up to 10 swords. An ordinary person wouldn’t be able to control their body and the swords at the same time.

Sururuk.

But it was possible for Kraugel, the sky above the sky. He controlled the swords while using White Light Steps. He reached Grid’s side while hiding in the moonlight.

‘Ick...!’

Grid realized Kraugel’s approach and belatedly swung his sword.

Supaak!

He was hampered by his fractured state. Kraugel had the effect of reaching the maximum speed ‘when a sword type weapon was equipped’ and he was much faster than Grid’s sword.

[You have suffered 4,900 damage.]

“Cough!”

Grid coughed up blood as he was cut on the side. Kraugel moved forward the moment he attacked, capturing Grid's rear area. There was a perfect gap behind Grid.

Clink!

Kraugel bent forward and took a stance. It was the forerunner to the sword that cut the world, Space Sword.

Sakak-!

As soon as White Fang emitted a black light, the ground, darkness and the moonlight...

Jjejeok!Jjejejeok!

They were split in half at the same time. However, the target Grid received no damage. It was thanks to the use of Freely Move, which avoided all non-targeted skills. Even the glorious Sword Saint found it hard to harm the Secret Hero who saved the world.

Kwajak!

Rising and descending. With a simple action, Grid slipped away from the range of Space Sword and struck Kraugel's body.

[You have suffered 9,490 damage.]

"...!"

Didn't he have a passive that reduced maximum damage done by a sword type weapon by 40%? This question rose in Kraugel's eyes as he received big damage. The biggest problem was that Grid's attack didn't end with just the primary damage. Up to three extra damages were possible.

Kuwaaaaaang!

The black flames inflicted 300% damage.

『 Ah...! 』

The commentators of broadcasting companies around the world cried out. This was the strongest immediate skill that destroyed Tarma, one of the PvP winning candidates. Some commentators predicted Kraugel's death.

『 P-Player Kraugel! Surely he won't be logged out like this? 』

The legendary class had an immortal passive. The people of the world were now clearly aware of this fact based on various circumstances. Of course, the commentators were the same. The commentators were well aware that Kraugel wouldn't die from this blow. But they had to make a more dramatic commentary, sweeping the audience and viewers into an extremely nervous atmosphere.

In particular, those who cheered on Kraugel were watching the remnants of the black flames with worry. They didn't want the sky above the sky that they had admired for so many years to fall like this.

At that moment.

Chwaruruk!

A shield of light blocked the black flames. The black flames sweeping the Lion's Castle vanished without a trace. It was the defensive skill of a Sword Saint, 'Sword Curtain' that used sword energy as a resource. The skill created a protective curtain made of dozens of swords and had the ability to block all magical and physical damage.

"...Wow."

Grid sweated as he looked at Kraugel. So far, he had dealt with various competitors. Perhaps they had the same thoughts every time they faced him?

"Isn't this a scam?"

Grid spoke what he was thinking. The strongest legendary class, Sword Saint. He was revealing a grand majesty when dealing with the Overgeared King. In addition.

[You have discovered a strong person of this era!]

[The Hero King's fighting energy has started to boil!]

Grid was also complete. Grid's fighting energy, which had been kept at 10 thanks to Kraugel's low level, slowly started to rise. It was a hidden effect created by the Sword Saint class.

Kuoooooh!

It didn't matter if it was real or not. People murmured as the fighting energy appeared like a haze around Grid's body.

"What's this?"

"Wow, it's cool."

The crowd and viewers started to notice one by one. A red and purple aura was wrapped around Grid's body. It was the mighty power of the Undefeated King, whose existence itself was a legend. Grid inherited his will and was now exposing it to the world.

Duguen!

Kraugel sensed it. This year's showdown would be much tougher than last year.

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'From now on, it is the real thing.'

Kuoooooh!

The red and purple aura around Grid. Kraugel knew what it was. Sword Saint Muller was also the Hero King.

'Fighting energy...'

Just like Grid learned about Pagma, Kraugel learned about the former Sword Saint Muller. He had a variety of Muller episodes that ordinary people didn't know. He couldn't be ignorant about fighting energy.

'The power of a hero of heroes.'

Muller was said to become complete by combining fighting energy and sword energy. From the time Grid was named the Hero King, Kraugel could no longer follow Muller. Kraugel would've felt desperate if he had been pursuing Muller's shadow. But Kraugel was pioneering his own way. There was no reason to be obsessed with the title of Hero King because he didn't follow Muller. When Grid became the Hero King, Kraugel could congratulate him in a pure manner.

Clink!

It would be a tough fight that couldn't compare to last year. Kraugel's expression calmed down as he faced Grid's fighting energy. But it was just a superficial appearance. His hands holding White Fang were filled with cold sweat. A tension comparable to the time when he faced Great Demon Drasion filled him. It meant that Grid's presence was equal to or greater than a weakened great demon.

"From now on, it will be different!"

The excited Grid ran over to him. He was faster and stronger thanks to his rising fighting energy.

Jeeeeeeong!

"Kuk...!"

Grid's sword descended at the fastest speed! Kraugel gritted his teeth and defended. The weight behind Grid's attack was like a great mountain. Kraugel's body and mind were driven to the extreme.

Jaaeng! Jjejeong!Jjeejeeong!

Every time he hit Kraugel's sword, Grid's fighting energy rose and his attack speed increased. A relentless black and red light pressed Kraugel from all directions, causing Kraugel to take several steps back.

Finally.

Tak!

Kraugel's back ended up against an old pillar. Grid was already in the process of moving forward with his footwork.

"Pinnacle!"

It was one of the basic skills of Pagma's Swordsmanship. The powerful skill that disregarded a certain amount of defense fell like a lightning bolt. Suddenly, a question popped into Kraugel's brain. Wasn't Pinnacle a technique that Kraugel had counterattacked twice in the past already? Every time Grid used Pinnacle, he was hit back with Tearing the Sky the sky and suffered great damage. He wouldn't have forgotten this fact.

'Is he trying to do something else separately?'

Kraugel's intuition told him not to use Tearing the Sky. As Grid's sword descended, Kraugel used Sword Curtain to defend.

Then.

'Che!'

Grid, who was preparing to use Revolve, clicked his tongue. That's right. Grid intended to return the counter to Pinnacle, Tearing the Sky back to Kraugel using Revolve. But it was all for naught.

Jjejeong!Jjejeok!

Kuwaaaaang!

The collision of Pinnacle with the Sword Curtain produced a powerful shock wave. Of course, the pillar Kraugel was backed up against as well as the ones 3m to his left and right were swept away by the shock wave. The moment a corner of the castle collapsed.

Kurururung!

The collapsing roof and rising dust hid Grid and Kraugel. The commentators and viewers looked around in order to find traces of the two.

Kuuong!

Grid flew out from the smoke. A jump! He immediately raised his body and used magic.

"Magic Detection!"

[Magic Detection (Enhanced) has been used.]

Paaaat!

Mana was released from Grid's body and scanned around him.

Name: Kraugel

Level: ???

Class: ???

Stats: ???

Race: Human

Status: Player

Since reaching level three on the East Continent, Magic Detection (Enhanced) displayed a small part of the target's information as well as informing Grid of Kraugel's location. It was right in front of him.

Chaeeng!

Grid hurriedly swung his sword and it was stopped by the empty air in front of him.

Sururuk.

A full moon was floating above the high spires. Kraugel, who had hidden himself in the moonlight with White Light Steps, was revealed. His breathing was rough as he blocked Grid's sword. The commentators, spectators and viewers who saw this series of processes were disturbed.

『 Kraugel's condition is strange...? 』

『 Is that right? 』

Kraugel was different from Grid. He neutralized his targets with pure control rather than overwhelming them with physical stats, skills, or items. Yet his control skills weren't highlighted when fighting Grid. Throughout the battle, he seemed to rely solely on skills like Grid.

People started to speculate.

"Is Kraugel's control less than what it was?"

"Or maybe Grid's control is a match for Kraugel...?"

"In any case, the situation is different from the past."

The reason people envied Kraugel was because of his control. If only they could move as well as him. If only they could make the same cool judgment in that situation. How many rankers could follow even half of Kraugel? People always thought like this.

But they didn't think this when they saw the current Kraugel. Kraugel seemed to be worse than usual in the confrontation with Grid.

'Is it the aftermath of becoming a Sword Saint?'

A legendary class. Obviously, the Sword Saint was the one with the best power among them. An example was the Space Sword that split apart the world. Perhaps Kraugel had become obsessed with the power of these skills and forgot his own strength? Did his control decline because he became dependent on skills?

People who thought like this couldn't even imagine. In fact, Kraugel was currently controlling four swords against the God Hands. It was in order to block Grid's strength with the God Hands, which was much more proficient than last year. Kraugel was forced to disperse attention to the four swords, meaning he lacked delicacy when dealing with Grid. But people didn't know the principles of Control Sword and couldn't understand Kraugel's position.

On the other hand.

'Is it hard?'

Grid faintly guessed the situation Kraugel was in. It was natural. A delicate command system was needed in order to make high-quality movements with the God Hands, even for Pagma's Descendant. It was Grid's conjecture that Kraugel's Control Sword would be just as hard and his thoughts were correct. Kraugel's mental power was consumed twice as fast after using Control Sword.

'God Hands! Continue to attack Kraugel! Don't rest!'

Grid maximized the benefits of the God Hands. He took full advantage of the ego items that could act on their own. It was the majesty of the legendary class exclusive item that Kraugel hadn't acquired yet.

Peng!Pepepeng!

The God Hands set Kraugel as the target and started to launch Magic Missiles. The four swords were interfering with Mjolnir. Then Grid would rather abandon Mjolnir and have them support him from a distance.

Syuok!Syuok!

Kraugel moved in a zigzag to avoid Magic Missiles. Grid attacked the gaps that occurred at this time. Kraugel who was trying to defend himself with Super Sensitivity, stopped trying to fight back. Then a new Grid appeared behind him. It was Doppelganger Randy. It was the first time Grid summoned his pets in his three confrontations with Kraugel. It was the influence of Battlefield. Now Grid had become aware. Pets were also his skills. He realized it was wasteful to refrain from using pets in the name of fair play.

"Kill!"

At the same time, Randy was able to reproduce his master's skill.

"Tearing the Sky."

Kwajak!Kwajak!

As soon as Randy appeared, he was hit by Kraugel's counterattack and died. One of the two pets that Grid had relied on for many years vanished. But Grid wasn't upset.

"Sorry...!" He apologizing to the grey Randy. "It was good enough!"

Grid sent encouragement.

"Pinnacle Kill!"

Then he finally completed the footwork of his fusion skill. It was something he had been unable to do through the battle due to being blocked by Kraugel. If it wasn't for Randy pulling Kraugel's gaze away, Grid would've never been able to complete it.

Kuoooooh!

The ultimate slash containing killing intent. It was soon linked with a stab. The skill that Grid had trained in the process of dealing with his clone on the Behen Archipelago was devastating to the target since it ignored defense. It was the second most powerful skill in Pagma's Swordsmanship.

It was a skill that Kraugel's counterattack, Tearing the Sky couldn't cope with. Last year, Kraugel had used Jajinmori, which instantly activated in close ranges, to block it.

'Too late...!'

This year's Kraugel had fallen for the bait that was Randy. Kraugel's reaction to Pinnacle Kill was too late.

Sakak-!

The black and red sword fell in a straight line towards Kraugel.

Puok!

Then it was followed by a stab. The strongest skill that exerted a powerful force. It put a heavy burden on the user's muscles and had a risk of causing the user to lose 4,500 health.

[You have dealt 69,300 damage to the target!]

What did 4,500 health matter compared to dealing a critical wound to Kraugel? Grid smiled with satisfaction.

Snap!

Kraugel took out a gold peach and bit it. It was the ultimate health recovery item that Kraugel gained in exchange for being Pangea's Little Hero. The gold peach restored the user's health to the maximum. Grid ignored the various PvP rules intended to create a 'grand spectacle.' It was Kraugel who positively utilized the newly applied 'potions can be taken' PvP rule.

"What...?"

Grid was confused when Kraugel's health was restored to the maximum.

Kraugel pushed away from Grid using Jajinmori, then used one of the unique endgame skills of a Sword Saint, 'Condemnation Sword.' Unlike the wide-range Space Sword, this skill aimed at a single target and its power transcended Space Sword. It was the beginning of a full-scale counterattack.

By using Space Sword in the beginning, Kraugel deliberately had Grid consume Freely Move. He was in a position to win. Even if it was only a 1% chance, Kraugel hoped. He wished to be Grid's goal for one more year and sincerely swung the Condemnation Sword.

But there was a saying that the heavens didn't love short-lived geniuses. Brilliant talent came with a lethal curse.

[The True White Fang is resonating!]

[The curse 'Bunhelier's Gaze' is activated!]

[Retreat!]

[Bunhelier's Gaze]

The evil dragon Bunhelier is always watching over you.

You might be attacked on the day when Bunhelier is feeling grumpy.

Skill Activation Condition: Random

It was the curse attached to White Fang. It had never activated before and now it was activated in a match that Kraugel had dreamt about for the past year.

Kurwarwarwarwa!

With a roar that shook the earth, a huge shadow that erased the moon appeared.

“Avoid it!”

Kraugel stopped using Condemnation Sword and urgently shouted towards Grid. The worst situation was triggered due to the probability system. There was no time to blame anyone. Kraugel just didn't want to ruin the situation. He couldn't overlook the consequences of what would happen if Grid was trampled on by a dragon while the whole world was watching. He had to bear responsibility for the current situation.

“Freely Move!”

The condition to acquire this title was to ‘raid’ three named bosses higher in level ‘alone.’ It wasn't Grid's exclusive skill. It was one step behind Grid but Kraugel also obtained the title this year. Due to this, he could use Freely Move.

Supaak!

Kraugel escaped from Bunhelier's breath, ascended the grey scales and reached its huge head. His black eyes flashed under black hair as he faced the dragon, while the world watched agape. There were only two people in the world who understood the present situation. The people who knew the options of White Fang. One of them was Grid.

"Damn lizard...!"

Appearing at this timing to obstruct the match?

Kwaduduk! A distinctively purple fighting energy rose from Grid's body. His gaze was only following Bunhelier. He ignored Kraugel.

Then.

"100,000 Army Massacre Sword."

The power of the Undeclared King was revealed to the public.

[Chapter 769.5](#)

“What the hell is this?”

The National Competition Operations Team in the S.A Group was in a state of emergency.

The National Competition's server was operated separately from Satisfy's server. It was impossible for a dragon that existed in Satisfy to appear in the National Competition. However, a dragon appeared in the most important closing event. It was a situation they couldn't understand and it was serious.

“Figure out what is going on right now!”

“Yes!”

After receiving the orders of the team leader, the employees started to investigate all variables. The National Competition Operations Team was composed of the elites of the S.A Group. Thus, reports immediately poured in.

"Bunhelier has disappeared from this server!"

“What...? Then that is the body?”

"No, how did this happen?"

“I’ve found the cause! It is the weapon used by Kraugel. The +9 White Fang has an option to summon Bunhelier.”

“What?”

The National Competition’s server was separate from Satisfy’s server. However, the data of the players brought into the National Competition’s server was the same. The option of ‘summoning Bunhelier’ was present in the imported data. It wasn’t impossible to exclude the summoning probability from the National Competition’s server.

“This is crazy! A user has an item that summons a dragon?”

"It is a drop item from the ‘Weakened Great Demon Drasion’ that Kraugel raided alone!"

According to the information that came up on the central monitor, White Fang was originally an item with its real power and function sealed. Yet Kraugel had completely released the seal on the item. That’s why the Bunhelier’s curse option was opened.

"How did he break the seal of a legendary grade weapon? Did he proceed with the hidden quest?"

“There is no history of the quest being unlocked.”

"The greatest probability is that it was due to the involvement of Pagma’s Descendant Grid..."

“Again...! It is Grid once again!”

The head of the National Competition Operations Team was Mr. Nicol Cage, the server audit director of the S.A Group. He was responsible for preventing errors and bugs from appearing in the server in real time. Therefore, Grid’s existence was very troublesome for him. Every time Grid created a variable that was beyond a player’s category, he would have to work overtime.

Now it was the National Competition... what was this mess?

“That nasty child!”

Kwang!

Nicol Cage couldn’t control his boiling rage and hit the table. His face was green and he was gritting his teeth.

“This situation is very interesting.

“Chairman...!”

An elder gentleman had entered the office of the operations team. He was the father of Supercomputer Morpheus and the creator of Satisfy. The founder and chairman of the S.A Group, Lim Cheolho. After a simple greeting and encouraging the employees to go back to work, he sat down in front of Nicol Cage.

“I-I’m sorry.”

This incident wasn't Nicol Cage's fault. It was the fault of the management team responsible for verifying the data of the players. But he still apologized. Nicol Cage was the head of the National Competition Operations Team. He didn't give any excuses and apologized for ruining the closing ceremony.

Lim Cheolho grinned at him.

"I don't think this is a situation where you need to apologize."

"...?"

Nicol Cage was confused. This situation had ruined the closing ceremony. He couldn't understand how Chairman Lim Cheolho could be so relaxed right now.

Chairman Lim Cheolho said, "Hasn't the water already been spilt? There is something else that should be noted."

"What is it?"

"Did you know what Bunhelier just woke up from his seal?"

There was a village called Trempet. It was a village where the descendants of the Taylor Kingdom that was destroyed by the Saharan Empire lived. There was a verse in the folk song of the locals, stating that 'Evil dragon, a hero sealed it 500 years ago.' The evil dragon was Bunhelier. The players who visited Trempet would know that Bunhelier was sealed. The S.A Group executives who knew the world view of Satisfy knew that Bunhelier's seal had recently been released.

"The evil dragon Bunhelier is one of the reasons for Nevartan going crazy. Once he sensed the unlocking of Bunhelier's seal, the insane Nevartan regained his mind for a moment."

From here, an episode that would transform Satisfy's world view would proceed.

In order to get revenge on Bunhelier, Nevartan would travel all over the world and reunited in the Saharan Empire of the West Continent. The West Continent would become a global stage. The two dragons would have a long battle that would last for several months. As a result, most of the West Continent would be destroyed. The number of humans who controlled the West Continent was destined to greatly decrease.

"The species that will replace humanity will appear on the continent and be either fight or ally with players."

Yet Bunhelier disappeared from the server at this time.

"Nevartan can't sense Bunhelier's energy and can't maintain the lease on his reason. He has become insane again and hid somewhere. The original scheduled battle between the two dragons has been cancelled."

"In other words..."

"Grid and Kraugel have caused the planned disaster and transformation to disappear."

"Isn't this a big deal?"

Two players twisted the world view of the game that billions of people were playing. It was a serious problem. It must be restored. These were Nicol Cage's thoughts. However, Chairman Lim Cheolho thought the opposite.

"No, it can't be reversed. Have you forgotten that our policy is to absolutely not intervene in Satisfy?"

The management team shouldn't intervene in Satisfy. The reason for this rule was to avoid losing the 'another reality' setting of Satisfy. If the management team intervened in the flow of Satisfy and its users, could it really be called another reality?

In Satisfy, users must be guaranteed the same degree of freedom as reality. The moment that the company intervened, the users might become aware of the fact that Satisfy was a game and lose their immersion. It would violate the reason why Chairman Lim Cheolho created Satisfy.

"We can't intervene to restore the situation and the changed fate."

"But this is a special situation... No. It is nothing."

Nicol Cage objected only to shake his head. It was a basic policy that management couldn't intervene in Satisfy and he had to follow this if he wanted to be kept by the board of directors. In addition, there was no real impact on Satisfy's development if an episode designed by Morpheus didn't proceed normally.

Morpheus' role was to encourage players to have fun in a pleasant environment. Morpheus provided new fun by inducing players to create more diverse forces, not just the current kingdom forces. This episode was intended to give players the fun of choosing different species but the players would eventually pioneer the way themselves. Grid was the one who showed the possibility of destroying an existing kingdom and creating a new one.

'Rejecting even the fate of God (Morpheus)...'

On the monitor, Grid and Kraugel were facing a giant grey dragon. Lim Cheolho's eyes were very fond every time he looked at the miraculous beings who defied Morpheus' predictions. Chairman Lim Cheolho thought they were similar to himself and the employees who broke all expectations and built a virtual reality world.

"Now it is time to reveal Bunhelier's information."

"Huh? Reveal it to the public?"

"Yes. We will make the appearance of the dragon an event." A dragon was a godlike presence in Satisfy. The majority of players might never encounter a dragon. According to the information collected by Morpheus, only 17 players had ever seen a dragon from a distance. "Wouldn't it be exciting to experience the existence of another world?"

A crisis was an opportunity. If the public perceived the appearance of the dragon as a 'special event' rather than 'ruining the competition', it could lead to a positive result.

"But it doesn't make sense to restart the finals. People will notice that it is a mistake, not a prepared event."

"Why should it proceed again from the beginning?"

“Huh...?”

“Once Grid and Kraugel dies to Bunhelier, don’t log them out and have them resurrect in Bunhelier’s nest. It was package their death as the process for releasing a new stage.”

The National Competition’s server was separate from Satisfy’s server but all maps were implemented. Bunhelier’s nest was naturally included. The operations team wasn’t involved in Satisfy but they were constantly involved in the National Competition. An example was the changes in the rules every year.

“This isn’t a problem. The appearance of Bunhelier will be finished with a dramatic directing that brings joy to the public.”

This year’s PvP finals would be more popular than ever. Nicol Cage was impressed by Chairman Lim Cheolho’s resourcefulness and creativity.

『 D-Dragon... 』

[The evil dragon Bunhelier has appeared!]

This message appeared the moment that the sky was covered. The commentators and viewers were overwhelmed by the grandeur and were speechless. The question ‘No, why is a dragon appearing in the National Competition?’ was covered by the presence of the dragon itself.

Kurarararara!

Bunhelier opened his huge mouth and shot out a breath. The momentum was like the whole sea being summoned. The range of the blue breath swept over the Lion’s Castle. It was different from a wyvern’s breath that only burned a few metres. This was a heug attack that was impossible to avoid.

Kurururung!

Was it true that this place existed a while ago? The Lion’s Castle disappeared so quickly that people questioned it.

“...”

The crowd and viewers all closed their mouths.

Dragons. Players recognized them as the final boss, a legendary presence that overwhelmed even the 1st Great Demon Baal. It was enough to make the silent world feel fear.

At this time.

[You have suffered catastrophic damage!]

[A legend doesn’t die easily. The life force is fixed to a minimum. Resistant to all attacks for 5 seconds.]

Grid was hit by Bunhelier’s breath and entered the immortal state, while Kraugel avoided the breath using Freely Move and rose to Bunhelier’s head. The height was 30 metres above sea level. He avoided the non-targeted skill and flew by using the effect of Freely Move to reach the target.

“Condemnation Sword!”

Pajik!Paijjik!

It was the Sword Saint’s ultimate attack that was originally for Grid. The +9 White Fang was surrounded by silver and struck Bunhelier.

[The information of the evil dragon Bunhelier is released.]

[Bunhelier]

Level: ????

Species: Dragon

Strength: 99,999 Stamina: 99,999

Agility: 12,000 Intelligence: 25,000

Skills: Breath (SSSS). ????, ????,????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????, ????

A transcendent dragon. He can destroy the world if he wants. Only a similar transcendent presence can threaten a dragon.

“What...?”

The crowd was astonished at Bunhelier’s ridiculous status window.

Puk!

Kraugel’s sword flew against the fierce momentum and penetrated Bunhelier. The pupil size along was bigger than Kraugel’s body. White Fang was just like a toothpick.

Then.

[Sword Saint Kraugel has done 1 damage to Bunhelier.]

This notification window appeared on the centre of the monitor.

“Ah... Ahhh...”

People realized. The sky above the sky, who they so envied, was a mere speck of dust in front of the dragon.

『 That is the world’s strongest creature...! 』

『 Dragon... It is more amazing than I can imagine. Perhaps it can be raided in 10 years, 20 years? 』

『 Named bosses grow with the players. It is impossible to raid a dragon. In the first place, dragons weren’t created for players to raid. 』

The commentator was right. Dragons weren’t targets for raids. This was clearly stated in Satisfy’s default setting.

The moment that everyone was in shock.

"...?"

"What?"

The camera suddenly focused on Grid. The purple fighting energy around Grid was burning.

"100,000 Army."

"...Eh?"

People thought of the 'Grid is a chuuni' video. Overgeared King Grid. He was acting like a chuuni in an emergency like this?

"Was this a joke?"

"No, what is he doing alone in this urgent situation?"

"Crazy. Crazy."

They didn't know where this joke came from. Some people criticized Grid while others thought it was ridiculous. Then Grid...

"Massacre Sword."

The Undefeated King's power was unveiled.

Peng!

Pepepepeok!

The Enlightenment Sword was swung 30 times per second. Black red energy blades filled the air and headed towards Bunhelier.

Kuwaaaaang!

As soon as Grid fired the 100,000 Army Massacre Sword at Bunhelier, the following notification windows appeared.

[The target is a dragon.]

[The Hero King title effect is activated.]

[The fighting energy of the Hero King has risen to the rank of a transcendent and threatens the dragon. The Absolute Defense of Bunhelier is disabled.]

[You have dealt 1,500 damage to the target!]

[You have dealt 1,430 damage to the target!]

[You have dealt 1,610...]

[You have dealt 1,290...]

.....

.....

Kurarararara!

A storm of energy blades struck Bunhelier! The scratches on the dragon scales that couldn't even be damaged by the Sword Saint's ultimate attack caused massive shock to the public.

"Hiccup!"

People on the stands started hiccuping.

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[You have dealt 1,430...]

[The black flame explosion...]

Pepeng!

Pepepepeng!

『 P-Player Grid is continuing the onslaught!! 』

『 Player Grid's attack power is completely overwhelming Player Kraugel!! 』

『 100,000 Army Massacre Sword...! I now understand why it has such a name! It has tremendous power!! 』

『 It's worth noting that the black flames are intermittently exploding. It's applied at the same time as other skills so it might be a passive skill... 』

『 Huh? Is that so? 』

The sight of Bunhelier being bombarded 30 times with 100,000 Army Massacre Sword was shocking. Bunliel's scales, which completely neutralized Sword Saint Kraugel's attacks, received damage. It was the moment when the hidden skill 'Absolute Defense (SSS)' was overwhelmed by Grid's dignity.

Flinch.

Bunhelier's 30 meter long body was finely shaking. The spectators and viewers watching wondered if Grid might succeed in raiding Bunhelier. But reality was terrible. It was like an ordinary person scratching the paint of a luxury sedan only for it to emerge unscathed. Even if slight scratches were made with human fingernails, it was just like dirt from the road blowing. It meant that the wounds on Bunhelier's scales were very minor after being hit by 100,000 Army Massacre Sword.

Bunhelier had an ill-natured personality. It had a health recovery speed that made a damage of 10,000 or 100,000 meaningless. After being hit by 100,000 Army Massacre Sword, the grey scales that were finely scratched healed in an instant. Grid's attacks couldn't keep up with their resilience.

"Ah...!"

The spectators and viewers were dazzled by the colourful effects and noticed late. Bunhelier's health hadn't decreased at all despite being hit by Grid dozens of times.

'Does it have 10 billion health?'

It was estimated that Great Demon Belial had 2 billion health. It wasn't strange that a dragon, which overwhelmed even the 1st Great Demon Baal, possessed at least 10 billion health. Given the defense and resilience, it was impossible to raid Bunhelier, even if he used 100,000 Army Massacre Sword endlessly. Grid didn't even know about the One Million Army Massacre Sword.

"...I-I'm sorry."

Kung! As Kraugel hit Bunhelier's snout and turned the giant eyes to him, Kraugel apologized to Grid. He had no choice but to bow his head. Dragon. Kraugel felt awe towards the world's strongest creature.

Kuwaaaaaang!

The ground shook. Grid couldn't maintain his balance and fell down. It wasn't an earthquake. It was a wave created by Bunhelier's 'one step' as it tried to trample Kraugel on the ground. For a dragon, the small and feeble human was like an ant. Grid who penetrated the defense and left small scratches on the scales? From Bunhelier's point of view, he was no different from Kraugel. It felt a little annoyed and wasn't inspired at all. He had no special interest in the ants that were biting at his nails.

Kurarararara!

Bunhelier blew out a breath. Grid and Kraugel had no way to withstand the powerful attack that swept through the ruins of the old castle. People were upset when Grid and Kraugel turned to grey at the same time.

"...Even Grid and Kraugel can't match a dragon."

"The range of the breath is a scam. Who can endure that? Even if all the players are gathered together, they will be wiped out in 10 minutes.

"By the way, what's this? Why did a dragon suddenly appear in PvP?"

"..."

The crowd and viewers belatedly detected the abnormality. They recovered from the dragon's presence that had overwhelmed them. People were angry because the confrontation that had waited 1 year and 3 months for came to a futile end.

"Is this a joke?"

"I want my admission fee back!"

"Boo! Boooooo!"

The crowd was convinced that this incident was due to the organizers and criticisms poured out. They were no longer concerned with Bunhelier. They couldn't have any interest because it was an existence in another world. The public wanted a target that was in reach.

After Grid and Kraugel's deaths. Bunhelier stood alone on the PvP area where everything was destroyed. It was the moment when the worst existence, that should've terrorized the world along with Insane Dragon Nevartan, felt a sense of uncertainty due to an unfamiliar situation.

At this time.

“Ah! Look there!”

“What? Was it staged?”

The screen was switched. The PvP stage had changed. It was a space large enough to make humans look like dust. A little while ago, Bunhelier had suddenly showed up. Now there was a huge place that looked like there was room for it, even with its two wings wide open.

“Is this a dragon lair?”

As soon as they noticed, they guessed it was the new PvP stage. Then Grid and Kraugel, who had been resurrected, checked the notifications in front of them.

[You were killed by Bunhelier. The evil dragon’s venom has penetrated deep into your lungs. Until you die again, all types of health recovery are reduced by 60%.]

“...”

It was a terrible curse that could only be solved with death. Kraugel was silent as a bitter expression appeared on his face. For the first time in his life, he felt a sense of great helplessness.

In reality and in Satisfy. Every time he met an opponent better than himself, he had a belief that he could jump over the opponent one day. For him, dragons were unfamiliar presences that couldn’t be reached even if he tried for the rest of his life. Kraugel didn’t want to meet a dragon again and it was deeply engraved in his heart.

Grid was different from him.

“Ah, shit...!”

Grid was jumping around while huffing and puffing. An opponent he couldn’t catch up with in his life? Unlike Kraugel, Grid had experienced it countless times. He had learned how to grow using the feelings of helplessness and frustration as nutrients. His attitude was in contrast to Kraugel.

“This damn lizard scum! Not even apologizing after killing someone? Ah, bastard! The next time we meet, I will be sure to get revenge! Kill it at all cost... No, subtract half blood! Yes! I will make an item to counter a dragon!”

“...”

Kraugel was surprised at Grid’s burning desire. Grid’s eyes presented Kraugel with an unexpected future.

"This lizard, I will summon it again for you later."

“What?”

"At that time, you and I will be armed with dragon slayer items and cut off his layer of scales. And... huhuhu! Make armor out of the scales. How about it? Aren’t you happy just imagining it?"

“...”

Kraugel became aware that Grid was a great person. But he didn't expect it to be this much.

'His vessel fills my vessel.'

With a complicated expression, Kraugel returned to reality.

"Then what about this?"

Grid noticed the cameras reopening and noticed that the PvP match would resume. He was affected by the evil dragon's curse. The recovery abilities of Doran's Ring, Elfin Stone's Ring, and Cray's Power had become ineffective. The situation was the same with Kraugel. It was a deadly curse for Kraugel, who had the ability to recover with the Troll King's Curse, Bitter Grief Spear, and the Red Sword.

Of course, the S.A. Group didn't overlook this. The organizers released the curse on the two people by borrowing the name of a god.

[Goddess Rebecca has healed you of the evil dragon's extreme poisoning.]

At the same time.

『 Did you enjoy the emergence of the evil dragon Bunhelier, which made the PvP finals more colorful? From now on, the second round of the finals will begin on a new stage! This stage is a dragon lair! It's the nest of the evil dragon Bunhelier! 』

The host received a notice and shouted in a loud voice.

Grid and Kraugel laughed as they discovered the situation.

"The host is also suffering."

"I agree."

"Let's finish this quickly. Fighting, fighting, and fighting again. I'm exhausted."

"A sea of hope."

No further words were necessary. The resources such as health and skill cooldown time were restored to what they were before Bunhelier appeared. The two people rushed towards each other.

Paaaat!

Grid's attack power was high now that fighting energy exceeded 50, making it difficult for Kraugel. He started to be pushed on the defensive in the sword exchange. He evaded and then launched a large number of swords with Control Sword. The swords moved in every direction so that Grid couldn't avoid them.

Grid didn't find a way to escape, but he wasn't afraid. When he looked with a Blacksmith's Eyes, the swords had a rating from unique~ legendary. Then what about Grid's defense? Grid judged that it would be hard for the weapons to penetrate his armor unless Kraugel wielded them directly.

Puk!Puuook!

Grid's battle style was exchanging flesh and blood! He tried to counterattack against Kraugel every time he was hit by a sword. Then he suddenly stopped. Some of the swords fired by Kraugel pierced his right elbow. Grid was unable to swing his arms because the physical conditions prevented the rotation of his joints.

'Crazy...!'

It was guided?

'What is this...?'

The moment that Grid was feeling irritation and excitement.

"Condemnation Sword."

Pajik!Paijjjik!

A silver sword was raised. It was the skill that was blocked by Bunhelier's emergence. Now it appeared again as a threat to Grid.

Clink!

It was too late to move the hand holding his sword. Grid judged and raised his left hand, summoning Iyarugt from his inventory. Kraugel expected Grid to fight back with Revolve. But Grid's choice was different.

"100,000 Army Massacre Sword!"

'At this timing?'

Kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The strongest skill that penetrated even a dragon's scales washed over Kraugel. He was swallowed up as a silver light flashed from the tip of his sword.