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Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 121

Chapter 121

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 121: Transition (4)

— [Dictator-Kim Jong-un] is faced with choices.

— He is extremely angry.

—

selected.

— Reflecting the accumulated points.

— A new type of monster, 『Yaksha』 has been added to this world.

— [Dictator-Kim Jong-un] is now a Geumgang Yaksha and threatens you.

“Geumgang Yaksha...?”

Yeongwoo, who heard about Kim Jong-un’s mutation from the boys, widened his eyes.

Of course, he only knew that Kim Jong-un would have transformed into something like a dragon or a giant.

“But becoming a Geumgang Yaksha... It’s rare even in games.”

The only encounter Yeongwoo had with the existence of Geumgang Yaksha was in a martial arts game.

There was a Geumgang Yaksha among the boss monsters in the game.

Still, with at least some authenticity, Yeongwoo knew the basic settings of Geumgang Yaksha.

‘A god of anger with three faces and six arms.’

As one of the five kings of the Underworld, it is known as a being that defeats evil spirits.

‘But Kim Jong-un becomes a Geumgang Yaksha and returns? Ironically, he himself was close to being an evil spirit.’

Of course, from his perspective, he didn’t even know if the North Korean residents who threw death warrants at him were evil spirits.

Anyway, the important thing is...

‘Although it’s a world where goblins are two meters tall, common settings are generally well maintained. At least in terms of appearance.’

So it was certain that Geumgang Yaksha would maintain its representative external features when manifested.

For example, the setting is that it has three heads and six arms.

Moreover, Geumgang Yaksha holds different weapons in its six arms.

In other words, it means that it can unleash up to six attacks at once.

‘Insane.’

While making a dreadful prediction, Yeongwoo kept his promise and threw chocolates and chocolate bars to the North Korean boys as soon as they reached his hands.

Swish!

“It’s the promised chocolate. Sorry, but you guys have to figure out how to unwrap it yourselves.”

Only two people stated the fact that Kim Jong-un became one of the five kings of the Underworld, but most of the audience rushed towards the chocolates Yeongwoo threw.

Now, unlike Yeongwoo, who no longer needed to consume food, these guys had intact human organs.

They had all been hungry because they hadn’t had proper food for a long time.

Crunch, rustle.

While the boys were frantically tearing open the South Korean products, those who didn’t even get their share in this “distribution” looked at Yeongwoo with envy.

There were only a few chocolates for about ten people, so there were dropouts.

“Why, what is it?”

When Yeongwoo asked like this, one of the dropouts pointed to a bag with a golden goblin and said.

“Is there nothing more?”

It was a question asking for more chocolates or anything else.

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo pondered for a moment before asking another question.

“Why are you staying here even though you are starving? There are ways to go to Pyongyang like adults.”

At this, the boys, who had been grimacing, subtly shifted their gaze back to the bag of space.

They knew well that answering the South Korean’s question would bring them food.

“Well, it’s because...”

After a while, one of the boys started to answer, rubbing his nose.

“Because the Leader always emphasizes it.”

“What...?”

“It’s important to hold our ground, especially when times are tough!”

As he said this, the boy straightened up and momentarily exerted his strength.

“...”

And Yeongwoo, seeing this, felt his heart soften instead.

Despite being so indoctrinated by the authorities, they wouldn’t even open their mouths when given chocolates.

No matter how harsh the world was, he thought, a child was still a child.

“So even if you really starve to death here, you’ll still hold your ‘ground’ to the end?”

When Yeongwoo instructed the Golden Goblin to retrieve petrified bread, the boys’ eyes widened once again.

“W-Well, of course! But the Leader will return soon!”

“...What?”

What kind of nonsense is this again?

“You guys said it yourselves earlier, that person became a Geumgang Yaksha.”

“Yes. He’ll come back stronger and more magnificent to set everything right.”

“Ah.”

Yeongwoo was speechless.

The premise was different from the start.

‘They firmly believe that if they hold their ground according to the Party’s instructions, Kim Jong-un will come back and reward them.’

Yeongwoo looked around the deserted streets of Kaesong, with only the boys left.

Now he felt like he might understand the situation in North Korea.

Kim Jong-un’s reign of terror continued even after the reset had begun.

The children suffered from hunger, waiting for his return, while the adults who had targeted Kim Jong-un during the reset were desperately preparing for his return as a Yaksha.

‘Near Pyongyang must be a paradise for the powerful. They must have gathered karma to survive.’

Perhaps there was some kind of alliance in North Korea, like the Seoul Federation.

Unlike Seoul, the primary purpose of the North Korean Union would likely be the high probability of striking Kim Jong-un.

‘If it was just fear of Kim Jong-un, everyone would have fled to China or our side. But the situation seems different. Whatever it is, something serious is happening.’

Yeongwoo decided it was time to give the boys the petrified bread.

“Do you guys have any money too?”

When Yeongwoo said this, the boys hastily released the petrification without even nodding their heads.

Shiaaaat!

Soon, smoke rose from everywhere, and the truly bothersome mealtime began.

In fact, if the North Korean authorities were still intact, such contact, let alone eating bread from a South Korean, would have been considered an act of defection.

“.....”

Yeongwoo quietly spoke as he watched the boys, who were busy enjoying their first meal in a while.

“After you finish that, leave this place. Then I won’t chase after you.”

It was a significant decision for Yeongwoo, but the difference in perspectives wasn’t limited to just Kim Jong-un.

“What nonsense, sir. You can’t leave here alive.”

One of the boys, with breadcrumbs on his lips, shot Yeongwoo a sharp glance.

Realizing the deep gap between him and his counterpart, Yeongwoo spat out another word.

“Ah.”

He momentarily misconstrued.

These kids gathered here were not just naughty boys but also monsters running a gang in the reset world.

They couldn’t be considered typical North Korean civilians.

They were more than the Southern boys who stabbed knives through car windows, not less.

“Ah, I misunderstood the situation.”

Yeongwoo jumped off of the horse with the Dragon’s Legacy in his hand.

Thud!

Instantly, the cloak fluttered in the air, revealing the golden armor, the Serpent of Greed, and other things within it.

“...!”

The boys looked startled at this sight, but not a single one fled.

Because...

Swish!

Before they could react, a blade flew in from outside the scene.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

「Sensory values have temporarily increased from the existing 900 to 2,083.」

“Ugh...!”

This was undoubtedly at the level of the Strongest Sword.

Yeongwoo immediately leaned back and swung the Dragon’s Legacy to repel the projectiles.

Whack!

It was evident that the basic one-handed sword supplied on the first day of the reset from the Sword Mountain bounced off.

It was initially thrown as a provocation.

Swish-

As Yeongwoo turned his head in the direction of the flying blade, he saw a figure, quite large, walking out between the buildings on the other side.

“Who’s this visitor so early in the morning?”

Despite his menacing appearance, his voice still carried traces of youthfulness.

He couldn’t have been more than eighteen or nineteen.

He seemed to be slightly over 180 centimeters tall.

It was unclear whether his original size was large or if he obtained a new body through karma.

At this point, all Yeongwoo could ascertain was:

‘He’s the youngest Strongest Sword I’ve seen.’

The fact that his opponent was the Strongest Sword here.

『Kaesong’s Strongest Sword』

As Yeongwoo looked at the title above his opponent’s head, Kim Seongu02, who had defended 311 times, grinned.

Then, the boys surrounding the outsider noticed them eating something and stiffened their expressions.

“No, these guys...”

It was evident that the chocolate bars wrapped in gold paper were not just lucky finds from distributions.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo was now fully engaged in battle mode.

He was already identifying what appeared to be equipment amidst his opponent’s shabby demeanor.

‘First, a ring. Is that bracelet also equipment?’

Above all, what caught his eye was the weapon his opponent wielded.

Swish!

The weapon Kim Seongu02 held in his hand was a spear.

It was a form with a long shaft and a broad blade at the end, similar to the shape of a Chinese sword used by Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee.

However, there was a difference: while Oh Yeonhee’s spearhead was curved, the one Kim Seongu had was closer to a very large Chinese broadsword.

Therefore, it was neither an Eunwoldo nor a halberd but a weapon of ambiguous form.

Anyway, if he won this battle, it would be the first time he obtained a spear.

‘There’s probably a special ability, but I’ll have to fight to find out what it is.’

As Yeongwoo thought this, Kaesong’s Strongest Sword, Kim Seongu, was scolding the delinquent teenagers who had fallen from grace.

“Are you out of your mind? These bast*rds don’t even know what shame is.”

Then, he exposed his teeth to the culprit of this situation, Yeongwoo.

“Let’s kill that bastard first and talk later.”

Whack!

The tip of Kaesong’s Strongest Sword’s spear flashed, pointing at Yeongwoo.

In response, Yeongwoo gripped the Dragon’s Legacy, preparing for an attack.

If he hadn’t noticed the quest that suddenly appeared in his field of vision just before the battle, he would have immediately shown off the Strongest Sword’s dominance.

‘Huh? Wait a minute.’

What Yeongwoo discovered just before the battle was none other than an advertisement quest from the universal weapon brand Dogo.

[Dogo] “Headhunter”

[Mission] Cut off the heads of seven Strongest Swords.

[Reward] 7 million karma

[Special] You must disclose Dogo’s support in this mission.

A whopping 7 million karma was at stake, but the conditions of the quest were merciless, requiring the killing of seven Strongest Swords.

At the time, the only way to fulfill this quest was to kill the Strongest Swords affiliated with the Seoul Federation, but not anymore.

As can be seen now, isn’t North Korea also using the title system of ‘Strongest Sword’?

Therefore, even defeating North Korea’s Strongest Sword would fulfill the conditions of “Headhunter.”

However.

[Special] You must disclose Dogo’s support in this mission.

This means disclosing Dogo’s support before cutting off the opponent’s head.

Just as mentioning support in the dungeon last night unexpectedly triggered the receipt of an unplanned quest, this “sponsor disclosure” was clearly an important procedure.

In other words, to kill the Kaesong Strongest Sword and advance the Headhunter quest progress, just like before, you have to disclose Dogo's support.

'Oh God, today's not really the day for this.'

Yeongwoo's lips involuntarily curled downward.

However, now that half of his life practically belonged to Dogo, it was not an exaggeration.

Moreover, wasn't he already acting like a pro since he started getting paid?

"What are you hesitating about? Everyone attack!"

In the meantime, Kaesong's Strongest Sword, Kim Seongu, couldn't take his greedy eyes off Yeongwoo's equipment and urged the crowd.

Then, about ten sharp movements around Yeongwoo started to become more intense compared to earlier, and sensing this, Yeongwoo quickly raised his hand and shouted loudly.

"Hold on a moment!"

".....?"

Surprised by the sudden 'Time' request, Kim Seongu, who was about to thrust his spear, frowned, and seizing the opportunity, Yeongwoo hastily inserted his lines.

"Sir, I have something to say. Just a word... No, a few words."

"What? If you're going to beg for mercy now, don't bother wasting your breath."

Kim Seongu scowled in annoyance and tightened his grip on the spear.

Yeongwoo, with his pupils tinged with golden light, continued.

"No, it's not such a cliché statement."

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 122

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 122: Transition (5)

Woah!

As golden waves emanated from Yeongwoo's body with his pupils turning golden, Kim Seonggu, the Strongest Sword of Kaesong, widened his eyes.

"This...!"

He knew it all too well.

The approaching golden waves were none other than the aura of the Strongest Sword.

Hence, he realized the identity of the man before him as the Strongest Sword of South Korea.

"Huhup!"

Kim Seongu also belatedly emitted the aura of the Strongest Sword in response, but the waves he produced couldn't last even a second before crumbling.

...!

This meant that the aura of the outsider who dared to challenge him was much stronger.

'What...? Is that bastard* tougher than me?'

Having experienced all sorts of battles in Kaesong since the first day of the reset, Kim Seongu knew relatively well how this 'aura of the Strongest Sword' worked.

The power of this technique was closely related to the prowess of the Strongest Sword themselves, but it primarily relied on internal strength.

In vulgar terms, it was called 'spirit', encompassing boldness, cunning, mental strength, and the like.

And this also applied to the ability to resist the aura.

So, even those who grew up like greenhouse flowers, despite having high equipment or stats, were greatly influenced by the aura, while those with strong inner selves could withstand the aura even when struck.

In other words, in a situation where two best swordsmen clashed with their auras, being overwhelmingly pushed back meant...

‘...Fuc*. Unbelievable.’

Being pushed back meant being relatively close to a greenhouse flower.

Eudeuk.

With wounded pride, Kim Seongu tried to extend his spear with a glint in his eye.

But.

Shwaaat!

Due to Yeongwoo’s golden waves shattering his aura and starting to demonstrate his skills, he couldn’t do it.

“Kkuh...?”

Suddenly feeling as if his heart was being squeezed, he couldn’t move properly.

This was true not only for Kim Seongu but also for about a dozen flying teenagers filling the audience seats.

“Ugh, ugh!”

“Save us...!”

“Mister!”

The boys, who saw even their ‘king,’ Kim Seongu gripped by fear, begged for mercy from the man from South Korea who was also affected by the aura.

However, it was already after Yeongwoo began chanting “that.”

“This battle is supported by the interstellar weapon brand Dogo....”

A somewhat gloomy sponsorship announcement, unlike usual.

It made the listeners even more fearful.

“Mister?”

“W... What are you saying all of a sudden!”

“I am the human of Earth, the strongest in Gyeongbuk and Gangnam, Jeong Yeongwoo 07.”

Finally revealed, the reason for this man's powerful aura.

Of course, despite him revealing the sponsorship, neither Kim Seongu nor the boys in this place could understand.

They couldn't know what the man before them had experienced.

If Kim Seongu was a greenhouse flower on Earth, Jeong Yeongwoo of Gyeongbuk was close to a weed who came to see the universe outside the atmosphere.

No wonder Kim Seongu's aura could never match Yeongwoo's.

"This lunatic bastard."

Finally breaking free from the influence of the aura, Kim Seongu thrust his spear straight towards Yeongwoo.

Shwaaat!

As expected from someone who had been through all sorts of battles, it was a decisive thrust that even felt poisonous.

However, since Kim Seongu utilized the Earth's martial arts, "Kaesong Swordsmanship," in his attack, to Yeongwoo, his thrust appeared merely as an honest attack.

'It's sharp, but the intention is clearly visible.'

On the other hand, Yeongwoo's martial arts came from another realm.

【Rohm's Bottom】

And the unconventional martial art proposed by Rohm's prisoners offered a counter.

Kwig!

It involved receiving the opponent's spear with the forehead, or in other words, the front of the helmet.

Due to the overwhelming defensive performance of the "Golden Oath" and the sensory advantage, Kim Seongu's attack seemed incredibly slow to Yeongwoo.

Chit!

Ultimately, Kim Seongu's spear couldn't pierce through the front line and slipped sideways, prompting Yeongwoo to grab the tip of the spear with his left hand.

Thud!

Kim Seongu's eyes widened in disbelief.

"What...?"

Next, Yeongwoo pulled the spear towards himself.

Hwaeaat!

Naturally, Kim Seongu was drawn closer to Yeongwoo.

...!

In fact, Kim Seongu was trying to narrow the distance with Yeongwoo.

Based on his combat experience so far, it was natural for the opponent to wield a sword in such a situation.

Wasn't his center of gravity completely off?

And the Kaesong Swordsmanship was also advising him to approach the opponent's right arm, near where he held the sword.

However, the next attack executed by Yeongwoo after fulfilling this was...

Pwoeeok!

A kick utilizing the recoil caused by pulling Kim Seongu in.

"Kkuh!"

Kim Seongu's face contorted from the unexpected attack, but even in the midst of this, he kept an eye on the opponent's blazing red sword.

He thought the sword would move next, anyway.

However.

Hwaeaeck!

What followed was a left body hook flying like lightning.

Pwoeeok!

"Kehk!"

A gasp escaped from Kim Seongu's throat.

'Why is this crazy guy using his fists when he has a sword?'

Is this how they fight in South Korea...?

While Kim Seongu was confused by Yeongwoo's unexpected attack, finally, the "Dragon's Legacy" began to move.

Ssweut.

From Yeongwoo's perspective, after all, Dogo had ordered him to cut the throat.

"Ah...!"

Ironically, Kim Seongu felt relieved seeing his opponent finally resorting to using a weapon.

In a weapon-to-weapon duel, he had accumulated a lot of combat data, and he believed that a spear would have a significant advantage even in a close-range fight.

"You're finished now."

Thud!

So, as Kim Seongu instinctively leaned back.

Hwaeak!

With another ominous gesture, Yeongwoo's right foot shot out swiftly.

It was none other than a front kick.

Pwoeeok!

Yeongwoo's front kick, extended like a thrust, directly hit Kim Seongu's abdomen, causing him to reflexively bend over in pain.

"What...?"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

He felt something was seriously wrong.

With his upper body bent and his neck stretched out, this posture was definitely...

“Oh, no!”

Ideal for decapitation.

And indeed, at that moment, Yeongwoo was wielding the “Dragon’s Legacy” with both hands and swinging it towards Kim Seongu’s back.

Ssguk!

The “Dragon’s Legacy” traced a dazzling trajectory without any deviation.

“...!”

“Uh...!”

“Oh my god...!”

Everyone in the audience, including Yeongwoo, saw the Dogo’s wedge pattern pierce through Kim Seongu’s neck and touch the ground.

Then.

Thud, thump!

The head of Kim Seongu, the Strongest Sword of Kaesong, fell to the ground.

* * *

10:02 AM.

Although the sun had already started to rise quite high, still not a single person appeared.

Just as the first impression suggested, Kaesong City was indeed a ghost town.

The only ones stationed here were Kim Seongu and his gang, in this abandoned city.

‘Well, now this place’s fate will remain in a neglected state.’

Yeongwoo, amidst the scattered bodies of boys, calculated the round-trip time between Gangnam in Seoul and Kaesong.

‘At 1:00 PM, deal with the mutants appearing in Gangnam as quickly as possible... Then move to Gwangjin-gu. If I can handle the mutants in Gwangjin-gu in time, it should be around 1:30 PM.’

And from then on, high-speed travel from Seoul to Kaesong.

He didn’t know if he could arrive in Kaesong around 2:00 PM if he could wrap up things in Seoul a little faster.

Of course, even this was a plan that could be achieved because Yeongwoo was the owner of iron horse Negwig.

‘It’s a really absurd idea, but that doesn’t mean it’s entirely impossible. And this way, I can almost complete my achievements in just one day.’

[Golden Journey]

|Summon a golden rain in the next region.

|Domestic (2/3) |Foreign (0/2)

The fact that North Korea’s climate was different meant that at least the world system was considering the North Korean region as a foreign jurisdiction.

Therefore, there was a very high probability that he could fulfill the additional condition of summoning a golden rain in two foreign regions.

‘Let’s go with that plan for now. Now that I know Kim Jong-un will return as a mutant, we need to keep an eye on North Korea.’

Then, how would the Strongest Swords of the Seoul Federation react to this news?

Yeongwoo was about to transmit this information through the ring ‘Wave,’ but he hesitated as he saw the system message that appeared before him.

-Would you like to merge or merge Kaesong Strongest Sword?

... The merger authorization will disappear in 5 seconds.

... 4.

... 3.

“What?”

He momentarily forgot about the assassination of the Strongest Sword, a long-awaited event.

It meant the ability to absorb titles from other regions.

‘Ha, approval for the merger.’

When Yeongwoo decided to acquire the title of Kaesong's Strongest Sword, the regional status in the corner of his vision immediately changed.

Whoosh!

[The current location is ‘Kaesong.’

|There are no Strongest Swords in this area.

Then, a familiar but slightly different merger notification appeared.

「Acquired Kaesong's Strongest Sword!」

...Reached 1 title in possession of North Korean regions.

‘...North Korean regions.’

However, the really important information followed next.

[Kaesong Strongest Sword] => Merged with a large region 2 or more times.

= [Joseon Strongest Sword (Advanced)]

“Huh...?”

Although it was a format he had seen before, the content was completely different.

This is because the example of title merger that Yeongwoo had seen before was not a merger between large regions, but the process of becoming the Strongest sword of a large region, which was the previous step.

[Gumi Strongest Sword] => Merged 2 or more times.

= [Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword (Advanced)]

On the other hand, the example that appeared this time...

‘Wait... Isn't the Joseon Strongest Sword a superior version of a large region?’

A title that could only be obtained by integrating large regions such as South Hwanghaenam Province, Hwanghaebuk Province, Pyongyang Directly Governed City, and North Hamgyeongnam Province, probably the highest-ranking title in North Korea.

‘But why am I getting this notification now that I’ve only acquired one title in North Korea...?’

Could it be because I obtained large region titles from South Korea?

‘Then wouldn’t the genealogy of titles in North Korea become more complicated? I don’t think it will work like that.’

Considering various hypotheses, Yeongwoo finally arrived at a very plausible conclusion after much contemplation.

That was...

‘Ah... Could it be because Kaesong is a special city?’

Special City of Kaesong.

In fact, in terms of scale alone, it was just an ordinary city with a population of 370,000, but due to its unique location and administrative characteristics, Kaesong was classified as a special city within North Korea.

In other words, unlike other cities, it was an independent area not belonging to any ‘province.’

Therefore, if the regional classification system accepted this straightforwardly, the status of Kaesong’s Strongest Sword could have been placed on par with titles like Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword or Pyongyang’s Strongest Sword.

‘If that’s really the case, it’s a kind of flaw, albeit not an error.’

And most importantly, Yeongwoo himself became the main beneficiary of this flaw.

Of course, since two more large region titles were needed in North Korea, the probability of Yeongwoo becoming the Joseon’s Strongest Sword, while he had his main base in South Korea, was extremely low.

No, he had been thinking that way until just now.

Until the warning message of the title system popped up, that is.

「As you have acquired titles from regions not belonging to your country, the stigma ‘Territorialism’ will be created.」

“What did you say?”

As Yeongwoo voiced his confusion, a tooltip appeared before him along with a conspicuous blade mark, something he had never seen before.

『Territorialism: North Korea』

[You have plundered assets from North Korea. To atone for this sin, all Strongest Swords in North Korea will be informed of your location.]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 123

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 123: Territorialism (1)

“Hey...!”

Stigma, territorialism.

Exposed for the crime of plundering North Korean assets to the Strongest Swords of the opposing side.

Yeongwoo felt unjust, but he couldn't help but accept it because there was nothing wrong with what was written in the tooltip.

First, the title of the Strongest Sword of North Korea, Kaesong Strongest Sword, was plundered?

‘It’s true. I admit it.’

Second, then is that really a sin?

‘Regardless of the reason, it’s a sin because someone was killed. Of course, strictly speaking, what the system judges as a sin is not murder... It seems to be the act of taking away a foreign title.’

『Territorialism: North Korea』

[You have plundered assets from North Korea. To atone for this sin, all Strongest Swords in North Korea will be informed of your location.

Anyway, no matter how Yeongwoo felt about this stigma, the predetermined outcome could not be reversed.

Therefore.

‘...I lost.’

He is now the top priority fugitive in North Korea.

Moreover, since the sentiment between the two countries was not particularly good, it was obvious that an unfortunate incident would occur due to this incident.

‘It wouldn’t be strange at all if a war broke out because of this.’

Moreover, wasn’t it said that outer cities were being abandoned due to the shortage of supplies in North Korea anyway?

So, there was no telling whether a large-scale invasion operation would begin with this opportunity.

Dozens of North Korean Strongest Swords crossing the military demarcation line to find the South Korean trash that took away their country’s title...

“....”

As Yeongwoo imagined the terrible scene, he shook his head.

Then, he noticed a golden goblin digging through corpses on the other side.

-Tsk tsk! Tsk!

‘Yeah. It’s not like this is the only crisis. I have to find a way to survive somehow.’

Eventually, the golden goblin rushed to Yeongwoo with a handful of coins and equipment that Kaesong Strongest Sword had.

-kit!

Then, as if reporting to Yeongwoo, he spilled coins and equipment in front of him.

“You had quite a lot of spare change.”

After checking to see if the goblin had missed any valuable items using the Serpent of Greed, Yeongwoo picked up the loot piled on the floor.

‘For now, the coins... 34.’

34,000 karma.

Since he had poured all the money he had at the time into his stats to survive in the dungeon, such cash was welcomed no matter how much it was.

‘There are three pieces of equipment.’

The loot obtained from Kaesong Strongest Sword consisted of a spear, a ring, and a bracelet, totaling three.

Considering that they were all mutant-grade, it seemed that the karma he had gained so far had been invested in his stats and body.

‘Well, his size was unusually big.’

As Yeongwoo picked up the spear on the ground, the equipment tooltip appeared immediately.

「Armor Cutter」 – Mutation Spear

【Ignore 50% physical damage reduction rate.】

‘Oh, it’s more terrifying than I thought.’

This would have been suitable as one of the main weapons, but due to the nature of the spear, it couldn’t be tucked into the belt, so one of the three existing weapons had to be entrusted to the goblin.

Dullahan’s sword, which extends up to 6 meters.

Underdog, which increases its power against large enemies.

And the Dragon’s Legacy, which becomes stronger when fighting targets of rank 2 or lower.

‘There’s nothing to throw away. If anything, it would be Underdog.’

Although Dullahan’s sword was also considered, the maximum reach of up to 6 meters was an irreplaceable characteristic.

“Hmm.”

Yeongwoo, who was pondering for a moment, suddenly remembered something and asked the golden goblin.

“Hey.”

-Tsk!

“Do you understand what I’m saying well enough?”

-Ket!

“If a fight breaks out, can you wait nearby and throw me the weapons I ask for?”

Then, the goblin suddenly closed its mouth.

-.....

It seemed like it could, but it didn’t want to.

“Since I don’t have a weapon encyclopaedia right now, you’ll have to play the role of a squire for now.”

After unilaterally informing it, Yeongwoo handed Underdog to it.

“Just looking at it, if the opponent is bigger than me, I’m preparing to throw this.”

-...Kiik.

The goblin made an incomprehensible sound as it received the Underdog.

Nevertheless, it obediently put Underdog into its spatial pocket.

Because it was a ‘slave,’ it had to fulfill the orders as much as possible.

“Fortunately, the rest of the equipment is accessories, so I can just put them in the encyclopaedia.”

Yeongwoo’s gaze fell on the remaining two accessories of Kaesong Strongest Sword.

「Firestop」 – Mutation Ring

【Fire Resistance 10%】

「Contemplation」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Sense increased by 500.】

“Oh...?”

Yeongwoo, checking the tooltip of the new loot, widened his eyes.

The bracelet that increased perception was undoubtedly welcome, and it was also the first time he had acquired flame-resistant equipment.

Planning ahead for battles with dragons, Yeongwoo intended to gradually collect elemental resistance equipment as well.

Shiaat!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

As Yeongwoo registered both accessories in the encyclopaedia, the number '16' briefly appeared before his eyes.

[16]

It was the current number of equipment registered in the accessory encyclopaedia.

Now, with four more, the second effect of the accessory encyclopaedia would be activated.

‘Ah... I want all the other encyclopaedias too. It’s so fraudulent.’

But to do that, he would have to enter the insanely difficult nighttime dungeon again, and for that, he had to stay alive until tonight.

From the mutants in Seoul who were scheduled to come at 1 p.m., and the potential assassins from North Korea who could strike at any moment.

‘Life is becoming more and more dynamic.’

Yeongwoo finally checked his current stats.

It was because a new notification had appeared in his vision since he registered the mutant ring “Firestop” in the encyclopaedia.

「Resistance indicator has been added to the stats.」

‘Resistance indicator? Is it because I’ve started wearing resistance items?’

When Yeongwoo opened the stats window, he noticed that resistance values began to be displayed at the bottom.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 3,100 (19+3,081)

[Endurance] 2,548 (21+2,527)

[Durability] 3,048 (13+3,035)

[Sensation] 1,400 (24+1,376)

|Fire Resistance: 10%

|Ability Resistance: 10%

* Available Karma: 34,000

‘There might be more monsters breathing fire in the future, but I still don’t know what ability resistance is.’

While Yeongwoo tilted his head, he also thought that he should collect ability resistance equipment whenever it appeared.

‘There’s no reason for resistance concepts to exist for nothing. You have to be prepared in advance to make use of them at crucial moments.’

After finishing up, Yeongwoo straightened his waist and looked up at the sky, where the sun had risen higher than before, shining down on him.

“Whew.”

With a deep exhale, Yeongwoo took out the Unique Ring Wave.

「Wave」 – Unique Ring

[Voice transmission to the Strongest Sword of the acquisition area.]

| Area: Seoul

He then cautiously spoke into the ring.

《Can... can you hear me?》

Naturally, since this was a one-way transmission device, there would be no response, and after realizing this a moment later, Yeongwoo brought the ring to his mouth again.

《Today's meeting will be held in about 40 minutes at 11 a.m. in front of Paju City Hall. There are urgent matters to discuss, so please attend if possible.》

After saying this much, Yeongwoo was about to head straight to Paju City Hall, but he felt something was missing and added a few more words.

《I'm on my way back from North Korea. Please make sure to come and listen.》

* * *

Seoul buzzed with excitement at the meeting announcement hosted by the newly appointed Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo.

The fact that this meeting place was outside Seoul was unusual, but the meeting time unilaterally set by Jeong Yeongwoo was about 40 minutes from the announcement.

This meant dropping everything and rushing over.

—No, if he's unilaterally calling for it, can he be so shameless? Asking us to come within 40 minutes is like telling us to run barefoot.

So, some expressed great discomfort, but still, they couldn't dare refuse the call.

Because.

—North Korea...?

—Coming back from North Korea?

—What kind of bullshit is this again?

—There's never a quiet day.

It was because Yeongwoo had thrown the topic of "North Korea" at the end.

In a world after the reset, where famous individuals, including all sorts of chaebols, were scheduled to return as monsters one after another.

Amidst everyone living in such a world, how could anyone just sit back and ignore Gangnam's Strongest Sword promising to unravel the "story" of his visit to North Korea?

—If it's North Korea... Kim Jong-un is probably on the mutant list, nine times out of ten.

—If he's been to North Korea and urgent news has emerged...? I'm very uneasy.

—This lunatic, what trouble has he caused this time?

Especially those who had attended the last meeting, having witnessed Yeongwoo “unboxing” the corpse of Jeong Hyunsik and swallowing the mutant parasite, even felt fear at the mention of urgent matters.

I was wondering what was so serious that that monster would use the expression urgent.

So, as soon as most people received Yeongwoo's announcement, they immediately left their respective areas and headed to Paju.

—Gangnam's Strongest Sword is quite something. Is he trying to make us run barefoot?

—But why Paju, of all places? And at this hour.

Anyway, they had to arrive by 11 o'clock at the latest.

Because of this, Strongest Swords from distant regions had to give up their dignity and rush barefoot at high speed.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, the source of this commotion...

Clippity-clop, clippity-clop!

He was hurrying to leave Kaesong City, riding on an iron horse's back.

The distance between Kaesong and Paju City Hall was as far as the distance between Seoul and Paju, so he had to hurry.

Clippity-clop!

He had scheduled the meeting for 11 o'clock purely based on the appearance time of the mutants.

After the meeting, everyone would need enough time to return to their respective areas.

‘And since we don't know when someone will come down from the North, we can't have the meeting in Yongsan.’

Of course, Yeongwoo thought that the Strongest Swords of North Korea would also have their own areas, so they wouldn't move recklessly in the morning.

If they were to come down to reclaim their titles, it would likely be around three or four in the afternoon after the mutant problem had been resolved.

‘By the way, if the top title in North Korea is Joseon Strongest Sword... what about South Korea? Would it be something like Daehan’s Strongest Sword?’

As Yeongwoo pondered these thoughts, the end of the Gyeongui Line railway appeared in the distance.

He had returned to the outskirts of Paju in South Korea.

Pop!

[The current area you are in is ‘Paju’.

[There are no Strongest Swords in this area.

Shortly after the area status of Paju, which he had seen last night, appeared, as he went further in, he saw the railway laid over the Imjin River.

‘Well, I’ll arrive soon...’

Just as Yeongwoo was about to cross the river via the railway...

-Meow.

Along with a small vibration from Yeongwoo’s embrace, the cry of a cat echoed out.

“What’s this?”

Yeongwoo asked, but he was already looking around.

The vibration just now was probably...

「Fearful Cat」 – Epic Compass

【Indicates a threatening target.】

【Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

It was undoubtedly the alarm of the Fearful Cat, the threat detector.

“Wait a minute. I don’t see anything yet. Why is the cat meowing?”

Sensing something amiss, Yeongwoo pulled on the reins of Negwig and halted just as he was about to continue forward.

Kwiing...!

From somewhere, a very peculiar sound of breaking through space echoed, and Yeongwoo's vision was engulfed in a deep purple.

It was his legendary martial art, "Rohm's Bottom," delivering a powerful warning.

'Huh!'

At the same time, the hologram in front of him suddenly pulled Negwig's neck backward.

'What?'

But it couldn't have been an act without reason.

With a sense of doubt, Yeongwoo immediately pushed Negwig's neck backward.

Squelch!

Suddenly, where Negwig's forehead had been just moments ago...

Squealing!

A single beam of light shot down at an incredible speed, piercing the ground.

Kwaak!

'That's insane...!'

It was none other than an arrow.

A silver-colored metallic arrow.

'It's a sniper.'

There would undoubtedly be further attacks.

Thump!

Yeongwoo hastily noticed that the Fearful Cat in his arms was already looking northwest.

"...!"

As Yeongwoo turned his head in that direction, he saw a woman holding a bow on a distant hill.

And the title above the woman's head.

『Hwanghae's Strongest Sword』

"Hwang...!"

Before Yeongwoo could fully comprehend the opponent's title, the troublesome sound echoed again.

Squealing!

"You son of a bastard! Hand over your head quietly and leave!"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 124

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 124: Territorialism (2)

"Good heavens."

Yeongwoo, after confirming the opponent's identity, was greatly surprised by two facts.

The first was the mobility of Hwanghae's Strongest Sword.

Even though the Kaesong area was adjacent to the Hwanghae Province, known for its individuality, didn't they just move straight here riding a steel horse, Negwig?

'Of course, it wasn't a full-speed rush. Still, the fact that someone who departed from Hwanghae Province has already found me...'

That meant the opponent's mobility was nearly double that of Negwig's normal speed.

And the second one was...

Sweeeesh!

“Insane...!”

A long-range sniper who had been steadily targeting Negwig since earlier.

It seemed like they were planning to completely block the mobility first and then deal with it slowly.

In stark contrast to shouting to expose oneself immediately, the actual combat was being conducted very rationally.

‘They’re not an ordinary opponent. It’s evident they’ve subdued many people with a bow.’

Seeing another arrow narrowly skim past Negwig’s ear, Yeongwoo glanced again at the Hwanghae Strongest Sword, which was pulling the bowstring again.

‘I need to narrow the distance for now. This won’t do.’

Because the opponent was persistently targeting Negwig instead of Yeongwoo, the sensory deprivation of the golden flash didn’t trigger.

Therefore, allowing the sniper to continue shooting like this would eventually lead to being hit.

“Let’s use full power. I need to make you attack me, not Negwig, to have a chance of winning.”

Pointing towards the Hwanghae Strongest Sword on the hill, Yeongwoo spoke to Negwig, and it seemed to understand as it snorted heavily.

Hyyyyyyah!

Then, it immediately started a full-speed rush towards the Hwanghae Strongest Sword.

“Wha...?”

The approach speed of the black horse was much faster than expected.

Swoosh!

As Negwig covered over two hundred meters in the blink of an eye, the contours of the opponent’s face finally came into focus for Yeongwoo.

The Hwanghae Strongest Sword was a small-built woman in her late twenties, but oddly enough...

‘What’s that?’

There was a holographic interface floating near her right eye.

It looked like a sniper scope.

‘Could it be a real scope?’

Yeongwoo couldn’t help but think so.

Given how she managed to make accurate shots from such a long distance, he had been curious.

No matter how high her sensory capabilities were, weren’t there limits?

However, if she had equipment that corrected her vision or sight like that, the situation would change.

Swoosh!

Hyyyyyyah!

As Negwig, who had been the target until now, brought the opponent within visibility, emitting an angry sound, Yeongwoo also menacingly extended the “Iron Cutter,” a variant spear.

「Armor Cutter」 – Mutant Spear

【Ignores 50% of physical damage reduction.】

Using its longer reach compared to conventional weapons, he intended to pressure the opponent.

‘If they handle things much better than expected, I’ll have to create some variables with the Black Sword at that time.’

As the distance between him and the Hwanghae Strongest Sword rapidly closed, Yeongwoo noticed that the red glow emanated from the Dragon’s Legacy, which he had stored in his belt.

This meant that the opponent was also a Grade 2 or lower human.

On the other hand, the Hwanghae’s Strongest Sword let out a venomous shout as she saw South Korea’s Strongest Sword rushing towards her like cavalymen.

“How dare you...! Die, you bastard!”

Clang!

Now that the distance had significantly shortened, Yeongwoo also heard the sound of a bowstring being pulled in his ears.

And for the first time, this happened:

「Sensory values have temporarily increased from the previous 1400 to 3000.」

The golden flash had seized the opponent's senses.

And it was a staggering value of 1600.

“Huh...?”

Yeongwoo's eyes widened.

Among all the Strongest Swords he had encountered, this one had the highest sensory perception.

Was it because she primarily used a bow as her weapon?

‘No matter what, could she have heightened her senses to this extent?’

Of course, it was a favorable situation for Yeongwoo.

Considering his ability to halve the opponent's senses unconditionally, this was a fight he couldn't lose.

Shwaaaah...!

As Yeongwoo's senses soared to 3000, the Hwanghae Strongest Sword also seemed to sense something amiss.

“Huh...?”

Being someone whose original sensory value was not just 1 or 2 thousand but a staggering 3200, and being someone who used a bow where precision was crucial, she immediately realized that there was a problem with her own senses.

“What kind of trickery is this now?”

While aiming at Yeongwoo's chest, she released her hand from the bowstring.

Thud!

Then, from the seemingly empty front part of the bow, an arrow suddenly flashed out.

Kwiiiiing!

The silver-white arrow shot out towards Yeongwoo with a speed comparable to a fired bullet.

“...!”

With the distance between both sides being only tens of meters, the arrow inevitably struck Yeongwoo’s chest.

Ka-aang!

“Ugh!”

Yeongwoo, startled, screamed.

This was the first time he had been hit by an arrow in his life, and above all, the area around his chest hurt terribly.

‘Even with all the equipment I’ve covered myself with, I couldn’t dodge an arrow flying straight at me from up close.’

「Golden Oath」 - Legendary Breastplate

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

【Accumulated Golden Ratio: 5】

「Rock Guardian」 – Mutation Gem

【Slot: Reduces all physical damage】

「Agility」 – Mutation Ring

【When sense is the highest attribute, gain 10% damage reduction.】

However, it was also thanks to having such equipment “covered” that he survived.

The situation he had just gone through, which he passed over with regret, was a miracle that could not happen to the Hwanghae Strongest Sword.

‘That arrow... he was definitely hit, right?’

Hwanghae Strongest Sword, Park Seolhwa09.

She cast a fearful glance at the unexpected turn of events.

She had just witnessed her arrow not only failing to pierce the opponent's chest but also being deflected by the golden armor.

Then, she should at least tidy up her fall.

Clang, clang!

Despite being hit by arrows, the strange South Korean Strongest Sword continued to approach on horseback.

It was as if he was brushing off his chest as if it tickled where the arrow had struck.

'No, even after being hit by an arrow?'

The reason Seolhwa primarily used a bow as her weapon was because she used to be an archer before the reset.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It was an Olympic sport called "archery" in South Korea.

The advantage of the bow was undoubtedly one-sided killing.

Even if the first shot was blocked or missed, she could shoot more while the opponent approached.

Thanks to this, Seolhwa had never been exposed to the opponent's range until now.

But now, for the first time, she encountered an opponent who didn't even bleed after being hit by her arrow.

'Maybe he... dodged it?'

Clang!

With a frightened expression, Seolhwa hastily drew her bowstring.

However, seeing the iron horse charging towards her, she gave up her follow-up attack.

This was because the South Korean Strongest Sword, riding the horse, was swinging a club-like weapon ignorantly.

Whaaaack!

A tremendously powerful attack.

Just brushing against it would tear one's body apart, so Seolhwa rolled back to avoid it and leaped high backward.

Thud!

Was it just the distance from the ground?

She could create enough sniping distance even in the sky.

'This time, it's your head!'

As Seolhwa, who leaped about ten meters into the air, aimed her bow at her opponent again, Yeongwoo, who was watching her, suddenly soared into the sky.

Paaaah!

He even reached a much higher place than Seolhwa.

「Climber」 – Mutant Pants

【Leap distance tripled.】

Yeongwoo had reached a level where he received equipment buffs for every action.

“Ugh.”

Seolhwa, who was trying to re-aim at the opponent who had climbed above her head, frowned as the sunlight pierced her eyes.

And in the meantime...

Whaaaack!

A black streak erupted from Yeongwoo in the sky.

It was a black sword, its blade extended up to six meters.

“Ah!”

Seolhwa, who had only been thinking about the range of the spear so far, tried to block the unexpected attack with her bow.

There was no other way to block the opponent's sword in this empty space.

So, in the end...

Ka-aang!

As Yeongwoo's Black Sword clashed with Seolhwa's silver-white bowstring, tremendous pressure was transmitted to Seolhwa.

"Ugh!"

Most of the money she had saved had been spent on sensory perception and equipment purchases, so she couldn't exert strength in such a direct strength fight.

In the end, Seolhwa barely escaped with her life, crashing to the ground, and soon after, Yeongwoo settled down with his black cloak fluttering down.

Clang!

As Yeongwoo landed with a metallic sound, Seolhwa, in a last-ditch effort, drew an early bird from her waist and swung it in a counterattack.

Swish!

However, even this was easily seen through by Yeongwoo.

This time, instead of swinging his sword, he simply stepped on her Early Bird with his foot, blocking it.

"Give up."

Yeongwoo's close combat abilities were unparalleled.

As Yeongwoo stared down at her, Seolhwa, who was also staring at him, spat out unexpectedly.

"Pfft!"

But even this was blocked by Yeongwoo raising his Black Sword.

"Hah."

Finally, Seolhwa collapsed with a bitter laugh.

Yeongwoo scanned the surroundings to see if there were any other North Korean Strongest Swords around and asked her.

“Did you come alone? Did you come right away in anger after hearing about the theft of your title?”

Upon hearing this, Seolhwa looked incredulous and replied sharply.

“Then, did you expect me to stay, have a meeting, and come with others? You should return it soon.”

Given that the location of the thief was being transmitted in real-time along with the notification that assets had been leaked, it was ridiculous to just stand by and watch.

‘Then maybe another Strongest Sword is coming.’

Especially since there had been no change in location due to fighting with the Hwanghae Strongest Sword for a while...

It was possible that they were quietly pursuing him at this moment.

“Anyway... I didn’t mean to provoke you on purpose, I’m sorry. Thanks for coming with all this equipment. In a way, I’m grateful too.”

As Yeongwoo said this and looked around again, Seolhwa, realizing that the South Korean was waiting for the next assassin, widened her eyes.

“You, you bastard. You’re saying that, but you’re also waiting, aren’t you?”

Yeongwoo had no intention of lying, so he nodded.

“Yes. Since you brought all this equipment to find me. I’m also grateful in a way.”

As Yeongwoo reached out to touch the silver-white bow still in Seolhwa’s hand, a tooltip appeared in his eyes.

Pah!

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sensory perception applies to arrow power.】

【Power increases with arrow distance.】

“This is my first time getting a bow, but seeing how you used it earlier made me think it would be useful.”

Especially for Yeongwoo, who leaps in both strength and perception.

Since arrow distance was based on strength.

And just as he struggled with sniping earlier, this bow would be able to subdue the upcoming North Korean powerhouses.

“Do you have any last words? Or is there anyone in Hwanghae that you must protect?”

As Yeongwoo asked for final words, Seolhwa retorted.

“You’re all puffed up just because you won one round! You’re going to regret it today too, you bastard! Soon...!”

“...”

Since there seemed to be no significant last words, Yeongwoo was about to swing his sword when he hesitated for a moment.

He almost forgot something very important.

“Alright, then please listen to me for a moment.”

“...?”

“It’s about the previous battle—it was sponsored by the Universal Weapon Brand Dogo!”

“...What?”

“I am the strongest in Gyeongbuk, Gangnam, and Kaesong on Earth, Jeong Yeongwoo07!”

With that, Yeongwoo’s blade swiftly severed the neck of the Hwanghae Strongest Sword in the blink of an eye.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 125

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 125: Territorialism (3)

10:48 AM.

North Korea was in an uproar.

Just minutes after the stigma of 'territorialism' had occurred, another unpleasant news followed.

「Our country's title, the Hwanghae Strongest Sword, has been robbed!」

In the morning, or practically the beginning of the day, two major regional titles from North Korea were being sucked into South Korea.

This was a significant problem regardless of whether the counterpart was South Korea or not.

Was the country's assets being leaked abroad?

Although it was a world where even countrymen pointed swords at each other, at this moment, everyone was outraged by this incident.

And that's the same for Sinuiju's Strongest Sword Jo Seonghu 01.

“What? This son of a bitch.”

Looking across the Yalu River while having breakfast, he unconsciously crushed the rice cake he was holding in his hand.

“What on earth are you doing? Southern bastards.”

The 'Southern bastards.' that Jo Seonghu was talking about referred not to thieves from South Korea but to the entire south, including Kaesong and Hwanghae, which had consecutively lost their titles.

How much of an indignity can one have to be mentally lax to suffer?

How can you lose a fight like nothing else to a South Korean guy who has never experienced the slightest hardship in his life?

“Damn it.”

Seonghu furrowed his brow as if frustrated.

Yet, he couldn't hide his ominous expression.

This was because yesterday, even at the Sinuiju, Chinese thieves were discovered crossing the border.

However, since they were clearly unrelated to the Chinese authorities, Seonghu decided to cut off one of their arms each and send them back.

But now, titles were being taken away by South Korea...?

While the intruders from China were mere riffraff, that thief was undoubtedly extraordinary.

Kaesong and Hwanghae Strongest Swords were weaklings, but... Anyway, isn't it the Strongest Sword?

'What on earth is going on down there, that the Strongest Sword level has already started crossing the border?'

Whoosh.

As Seonghu raised his hand into the air for a signal, a person waiting behind him hurriedly approached.

"Yes, give me the order."

"Only dispatch one Pawel to Pyongyang. I guess I have to catch that rat myself."

* * *

At the same time, Yeongwoo, unaware that a flood was being prepared from the Yalu River, was relentless in shooting arrows.

Twang!

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sensory perception applies to arrow power.】

【Power increases with arrow distance.】

Thrilled by the fact that he could unilaterally attack enemies hundreds of meters away.

"Oh, my goodness!"

Yeongwoo was on the Negwig running towards Paju City Hall, aiming at the traffic light in the distance.

Then.

Thud.

He pulled the bowstring with all his might.

Thwack!

He released the hand holding the bow.

The silver-white bowstring flashed in the forefront of the silver-white bow, and from that spot, the arrow shot out like a flash of lightning.

Thunk!

It took practically no time for Yeongwoo to shatter the red traffic light nearly 400 meters away.

Of course, if his opponent were of a decent level, like Park Seolhwa, they could probably react adequately to this attack, with a probability of about 70%.

「Illusion」 – Unique Shoes

【30% chance of detection evasion.】

But what if a stealth arrow, undetectable even by local forensic examination from outside the field of vision, came at high speed?

How many could react to that?

‘It’s terrifying just to imagine.’

However, as the impact point exceeded 500 meters, he had to slightly elevate the bow to shoot, indicating that extensive practice would be necessary.

‘So that’s why Park Seolhwa’s arrows seemed to fall just above the brow.’

Although her shooting angle might not have been perfect, it would have been close to 40 degrees.

Strength.

The stronger the force pulling the bowstring, the farther the arrow could fly even at low angles.

Conversely, if the shooting angle was too high, the range would decrease.

‘Archery is practically a matter of instinct. I’ll have to shoot a lot to get used to it.’

But where was he?

This was the world after the reset.

With Yeongwoo’s sensory index reaching 1,400, it rapidly improved his archery skills.

Twang... thunk!

He had just succeeded in a precise shot at 700 meters.

‘I may not be able to account for variables like wind yet... but I’ll get more accustomed to it today.’

As expected, since the arrow’s range was related to strength, Yeongwoo’s realistic maximum range was about 2 kilometers.

So how could he identify and snipe enemies beyond 2 kilometers?

That’s where one of the loot items, “Clairvoyance,” came in handy.

「Clairvoyance」 – Mutant Earring

【Visibility is amplified up to 5 times.】

The hologram above Park Seolhwa’s right eye was this item.

Moreover, it was a piece of jewelry, so it could be added to the inventory.

‘Since the bow was a Epic grade, she must have acquired it herself. As for the Clairvoyance, it’s a mutation item, so she must have decided to use the bow after obtaining it.’

In other words, obtaining the Clairvoyance, a core item enabling bow operation, marked the start of her “bow build.”

So how many merchants did Park Seolhwa meet to find a bow in her lifetime?

Even the third loot item she obtained seemed to be deliberately prepared for proper use of the bow.

「Shoes」 – Sole Shoes

【When there are no adjacent enemies, movement speed doubles.】

‘I need to quickly obtain an armor encyclopaedia to make good use of this.’

Right now, it’s not too disappointing because I have Negwig, but in places like dungeons, it’s impossible to bring a mount, so there will come a time when it’s needed.

‘And lastly.’

「Poison」 – Mutant Dagger

【Neurotoxin】

|Decreases the target’s senses by 10%.

This was the dagger that Park Seolhwa carried with her.

It was probably her last resort to use when she inevitably allowed the opponent to approach.

Of course, for Yeongwoo, who was overflowing with weapons, this was just another factor that awaited the acquisition of a new encyclopaedia . If he were to obtain a weapon encyclopaedia, wouldn’t the neurotoxin be released whether it was Black Sword or Dragon’s Legacy?

‘I want to get to the dungeon quickly.’

Yeongwoo thought such crazy thoughts as he pulled the bowstring and precisely hit the center of one of the signs on the other side.

Twang... boom!

Thanks to his rapidly increasing archery proficiency, Yeongwoo could make quite accurate shots even while riding a horse.

‘So this is how the sensory equipment is used.’

Currently, Yeongwoo’s basic strength index was 3,100.

If bleeding started in this state, his strength would increase by 25%, and if he also used blue blood doping, his strength index would be further amplified by an additional 30%.

In other words, the power and range of his arrows could increase by almost 60%.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘Since the locations of the mutants are clearly visible, it’s possible to take positions in advance and snipe them.’

As Yeongwoo thought this, he began to see the building of the Paju City Hall, the meeting place for today.

With that in mind, Yeongwoo pulled the bowstring for one last shooting practice before the meeting.

* * *

Around the same time, in the parking lot in front of Paju City Hall.

Contrary to Yeongwoo’s expectations, several Strongest Swords were already present in front of the city hall, and they were all barefoot.

This was in response to the shocking statement made by Gangnam Strongest Sword regarding their visit to North Korea.

“It’s probably something you’d hardly see twice in your lifetime.”

Mapo’s Strongest Sword Yang Wutaek07 chuckled as he scanned the “barefoots.”

In response, Dongdaemun’s Strongest Sword Jang Jeongho01 sat on the ground, grumbling.

“What’s going on that they’ve summoned these high-level talents here? It must be something serious.”

Then, Seongbuk’s Strongest Sword Lee Yoobin16 mocked him.

“Serious? Are you planning to shake hands again?”

This reminded everyone of the incident yesterday when Jang Jeongho challenged the newly appointed Gangnam’s Strongest Sword to a power struggle and got severely reprimanded.

“But still, the employees haven’t arrived yet, right? Shouldn’t we at least bring out some chairs? Or go inside? There are new people joining today, and their appearance seems...”

Pointing to the inside of the city hall was Lee Hanwook09, Dongjak’s Strongest Sword.

And a few meters away from him was Kim Hyeonggyu11, Eunpyeong’s Strongest Sword, who was attending the meeting for the first time, holding a very large and flat two-handed sword stuck into the ground.

Although he was also a Strongest Sword from the Seoul area, he looked very grim due to joining the meeting late.

“...”

Therefore, he was making a rather cautious expression, as he was unfamiliar with the structure and atmosphere of the meeting and didn't want to seem underestimated.

“Gangnam's Strongest Sword... is the strongest right now, right?”

When Eunpyeong's Strongest Sword asked with a somewhat heavy voice, the bustling crowd suddenly fell silent.

Everyone present here had witnessed the moment when the strongest Strongest Sword changed firsthand.

The newly appointed Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo.

The monstrous giant who came from another world, riding on a steel horse, and tackled Jeong Hyunsik in a wrestling-style, toppling him over.

“He's strong, incredibly so.”

After a while, Seongbuk's Strongest Sword Lee Yoobin said with a wistful look.

Right now, she was recalling the sight of Jeong Yeongwoo swinging his elbow and cutting off Jeong Hyunsik's neck.

On the other hand.

“He's strong, but he's a bit strange, so be on your guard. He's a guy who eats people's organs.”

Dongdaemun's Jang Jeongho made a disgusted expression, recalling the scene where Jeong Yeongwoo opened Jeong Hyunsik's abdomen and swallowed his entrails.

“He eats human organs...?”

The concept of a newcomer meeting momentarily shattered.

Kim Hyeonggyu¹¹, Eunpyeong's Strongest Sword.

Although he was a hero who had protected Eunpyeong-gu against mutants every day, he couldn't help but be surprised at the idea that the strongest person in this meeting ate human organs.

‘What kind of person is he...?’

As Kim Hyeonggyu imagined the worst-case scenario, Yongsan’s Strongest Sword, who had been looking around anxiously, pointed to the south.

“Oh... That person is the second-in-command of our meeting.”

At this, Kim Hyeonggyu’s head turned involuntarily, and soon he saw a woman with a sword, holding an Woldo.

Ta-tat!

She was none other than Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee⁰⁴.

Behind her were Seocho’s Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee¹¹, and Gangdong’s Strongest Sword, Kim Juwoo¹³, sticking closely.

Gangdong was especially the farthest area from Paju among the Seoul regions.

“It seems like almost everyone is here. Now, all we need is for the host to appear...”

As Yongsan Strongest Sword, Kim Doha, said this, everyone waited for the moment when Jeong Yeongwoo would enter from the north.

Twang!

A strange sound, unfamiliar to everyone, rang out.

Thwack!

Along with the sharp sound, a silver arrow flew through the Strongest Swords and embedded itself into the ground.

Thunk!

The arrow had such a powerful force that it pierced through the hard asphalt like tofu.

“What...?”

“What’s this, where did it come from?”

“What is this...?”

The Strongest Swords in the crowd were bewildered, staring blankly at the arrow, and only reacted belatedly when it disappeared into thin air as if melting into the air.

Shwooosh!

Thud!

Drawing their weapons from their waists, they began to search for the direction from which the arrow had come.

Then.

– Twang!

Along with the distinctive cry of his iron horse Negwig, Yeongwoo's voice was heard from across the city hall.

“Oops... Sorry! Was anyone hit by the arrow?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 126

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 126: Territorialism (4)

“An arrow... What would we have done if someone got hit?”

Jang Jeongho muttered quietly with an expression of discomfort.

His feelings towards Yeongwoo weren't great, but he didn't have the skill to confront him directly.

‘Even though he's the Strongest in Seoul, isn't this crossing the line? Isn't it?’

Jeongho glanced around, thinking he would actively support any other Strongest Sword who protested against Yeongwoo.

Shooting an arrow in the middle of a meeting...

The proud Strongest Swords couldn't just sit still.

Moreover, they had all come barefoot from afar, so it was clear they were in a low-pressure state.

“Hmm. Hasn’t this... crossed the line a bit? How many Strongest Swords are here in this position...?”

Finally, Jang Jeongho subtly hinted at his discomfort.

Since their numbers were much greater here, it was an opportunity to break Gangnam Strongest Sword’s spirit.

But.

“A bow...? This time you brought a bow?”

“Where on earth did you get something like this?”

“Where else. He went to North Korea.”

However, the rest of the Strongest Sword only showed interest in Yeongwoo’s new weapon.

At least on the surface.

‘Fuck... An arrow? Didn’t even see it coming.’

‘That Jang Jeongho keeps talking nonsense. Does he want to start a war with Gangnam’s Strongest Sword?’

‘The guy who beat Jeong Hyunsik to death with his fists now has long-range weapons. A bow... No, at this rate, it’s more like a missile.’

This was the true feelings of the majority of the Strongest Swords gathered at Paju City Hall today.

Of course, if everyone here attacked at once, they might be able to subdue one Gangnam Strongest Sword.

‘But at least a few would die in the process. Just because their pride got hurt, are they going to play Russian roulette?’

This was the reason why everyone maintained cheerful expressions.

Clack!

Finally, from behind the city hall, the sound of Negwig’s iron hooves echoed, and a faint silhouette rose high into the sky.

Taahat!

“Huh...?”

First, Kim Hyeonggyu of Eunpyeong Strongest Sword widened his eyes.

‘He’s riding a horse...?’

He had heard all kinds of rumors about how powerful Gangnam Strongest Sword was, or how they could eat internal organs, but he had never expected this.

In a world where you could drive a car if you had money, and in fact, running with two feet was faster, could horseback riding even be considered practical?

Moreover, the creature the opponent was riding wasn’t just a horse, but an otherworldly being made of thick iron.

– Kwiiieek!

Then, Negwig let out another long cry and landed in the middle of the meeting hall where the arrow had fallen moments ago.

Kuung!

The aura emitted by Gangnam’s Strongest Sword was as substantial as their reputation.

Since the eight Strongest Sword on the left had never seen Negwig up close, they suddenly realized how large the creature was.

And Kim Hyeonggyu from Eunpyeong...

“.....”

He looked at the face of the organizer of this meeting and the current Gangnam’s Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo, with a more tense expression than anyone else.

Then.

The face of a man in his thirties, much more ordinary than expected, caught his eye.

“Huh?”

Kim Hyeonggyu, who involuntarily made a surprised sound, drew his gaze above Yeongwoo’s head as if mesmerized, then opened his mouth wide.

Shiaaaaah...!

There, twisting and turning, was a peculiar title that perfectly matched the absolute devil Yeongwoo had in his mind.

『Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword』

An earthly regional title belonging to South Korea, contaminated by the transplantation of the Otherworldly martial art, "Rohm's Floor," which had been tarnished into a form barely recognizable due to adaptation.

Shiaaaaah...!

From the purple mist that wrapped around the five characters of the title, mana continuously spewed out, and the title itself kept wriggling as if it were alive.

"But... why Gyeongbuk...?"

As Kim Hyeonggyu instinctively stepped back and muttered, Yeongwoo bowed his head slightly and greeted him.

"Nice to meet you. I am Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo. I also hold the position of Gangnam's Strongest Sword."

And although he was now also concurrently serving as Kaesong's Strongest Sword, it wasn't the time to reveal that yet.

First, it was necessary to gauge the atmosphere of the meeting.

"I... I'm Kim Hyeonggyu from Eunpyeong-gu. But... you're not from Seoul. Oh, I mean, not that it matters."

As Kim Hyeonggyu babbled without composure, Yeongwoo smiled as if to say it was okay.

"By the way, is everyone here? First of all, thank you all for coming all the way here."

Yeongwoo looked around the assembly from his position on the stage.

Then, it was clear that all eight Strongest Sword were wide awake.

'Thank goodness.'

Yeongwoo felt relieved that his provocation, unintentional as it was, had been well received.

While it hadn't been an outright challenge, shooting an arrow into the center of the meeting hall had been quite deliberate.

There were two main reasons for this.

Firstly, to see how the Seoul Strongest Sword would react to the arrow.

‘As I saw earlier, most of them didn’t react in time. It might be because it wasn’t an attack they were prepared for, and the local swordsmanship didn’t activate... But if it had been a real fight, even if unintentional, it could have killed a few and started something.’

Judging from the encounter with the two North Korean Strongest Swords earlier, the gap in skill between the two sides wasn’t that significant.

In other words, even if the North Korean Strongest Swords were to gather in force, it would still be possible to handle them to some extent.

Even for Yeongwoo alone.

And the second reason, to confirm his own strength to the Seoul Strongest Swords.

‘If they have any sense, they should have realized by now that I’ve grown significantly since last night.’

It wasn’t just an increase in ability, but a change in perspective.

From exploring dungeons akin to hell in this world, to collaborating with people from Italy and Brazil, to infiltrating North Korea for the first time, and killing two North Korean Strongest Swords.

And now, with the addition of a long-range weapon like a bow, the concept of “combat” that he could engage in had expanded.

In other words, no one here could replace Gangnam’s Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo anymore.

But why was this fact important at the present moment, on the eve of the meeting?

‘Because I have to ask for everyone’s understanding soon.’

As Yeongwoo seemed to be preparing to speak, the Strongest Swords standing around him held their breath and paid attention.

“Well, first of all... as I mentioned in the meeting notice, I went to North Korea this morning.”

“North Korea? You’re not joking, are you?”

“Really...?”

“That can’t be true.”

“Nonsense!”

The inside of the hall buzzed with commotion.

Then, Songpa’s Strongest Sword Oh Yeonhee raised her hand slightly, and pointed to the silver-white bow Yeongwoo was carrying across his chest.

“So, is this bow North Korean? It’s something I’ve never seen before yesterday.”

North Korean.

It was a strange expression, but in a way, it was accurate.

“Yes. Although the place of production is completely different, it’s true that I obtained it by killing a North Korean Strongest Sword.”

As Yeongwoo changed his title successively to Kaesong’s and Hwanghae’s Strongest Sword, the Seoul Strongest Sword began to stir beyond mere commotion.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Huh?”

“What’s that?”

“Are you crazy, really...?”

This lunatic who had been devouring the innards of his predecessor since their first meeting seemed strangely quiet, but it turned out he had been out since morning fighting North Korean Strongest Swords.

However, strictly speaking, Yeongwoo had been out since last night.

“Before we continue with the North Korea story, we should start with the nighttime dungeon in chronological order.”

“What’s that again?”

“A dungeon?”

“At night...?”

Lo and behold, the Strongest Swords stood with dumbfounded expressions, much like people from ancient times in front of the newspaper stand.

“You may have already seen or have some of these items. There are items that can ignore abnormal weather conditions.”

As Yeongwoo said this and pressed his cloak lengthwise, item tooltips appeared in everyone’s field of view.

「Black Wind Cloak」 – Hero’s Cloak

【Nullifies Obsidian Rain.】

“Yesterday, it rained Obsidian rain, so I was able to go outside, and I defeated a mutant left abandoned on the outskirts of Gyeonggi Province, which opened the dungeon.”

Yeongwoo’s statement afterwards seemed like something he had actually experienced.

Powerful individuals who entered through portals from other countries on the same day.

And dungeons of insane difficulty where one couldn’t survive without cooperating with them.

Of course, he didn’t mention the top-ranked reward, the Encyclopaedia.

Instead.

Yeongwoo, meanwhile, slowly scanned through the equipment of the Strongest Sword gathered here and continued.

“It’s like risking your life to get one more piece of equipment. That’s why I recommend against it. However, sharing information as soon as possible is good. But...”

“But what?”

“Hurry up and say it.”

“What’s the ‘but’?”

In the meantime, Seoul Strongest Swords, eager for the next development, intervened in Yeongwoo’s story, and Yeongwoo continued.

“Risking your life to obtain one more piece of equipment, especially one of Unique or higher grade, isn’t that an enormous advantage? The difference between those who participated in the dungeon and those who didn’t will only grow wider.”

Then, looking southward, Choi Namhee of Seocho’s Strongest Sword finished his thought.

“Moreover, considering the current growth trend of mutants these days, isn’t it right to do whatever it takes to become stronger?”

Just looking at the boxing medalist Cha Dooseong, who appeared in Gwangjin-gu yesterday, was extraordinary.

Ultimately, he did meet his end against Yeongwoo.

“Yes, you’re right. But the dungeons aren’t just made for no reason. However, the difficulty is too high...”

As Yeongwoo spoke up to this point, Lee Yoobin of Seongbuk blinked and said with a resolute voice.

“But we have someone who has returned alive from the dungeon, don’t we?”

It referred to Yeongwoo, who was likely the only dungeon experimenter in Asia at the moment.

“After all, nighttime outings require equipment, and it’s not like we can all go out together... It would be much safer if only experienced individuals went out.”

“...Right. In a way, it’s like having a dungeon career.”

“That makes sense.”

One by one, the Strongest Swords began to nod their heads.

And this was also why Jeong Yeongwoo had become indispensable within the assembly.

‘Fortunately, it’s going smoothly. Anyway, I can’t progress through the dungeon alone, so I need party members. And it’s better to channel the rewards into our country.’

Thinking about it in terms of the stamp system, it seemed that eventually there would be competition or even conflict with other countries.

However, the problem was that in Korea’s case, this “conflict” arrived unexpectedly quickly.

“...”

So, Yeongwoo revealed the real reason for convening this meeting.

“Now then, let me tell you why I brought you all together.”

“Wasn’t the dungeon the main point?”

“What else is there...?”

As the Strongest Swords swallowed heavily at Yeongwoo’s words, the problematic stamp appeared above Yeongwoo’s head.

Stamp!

『Territorialism: North Korea』

[You have plundered North Korea’s assets. To atone for this crime, all Strongest Swords in North Korea will become aware of your location.

“Huh?”

“What’s this now?”

“Assets... plundered?”

As Seoul’s Strongest Sword showed various uneasy reactions, Yeongwoo pointed to the northern sky.

Thrust!

“North Korea is currently waiting for Kim Jong-un to return as a mutant and is sharpening their knives.”

Then, Yeongwoo bowed his head to the Strongest Swords in the audience.

“In the midst of this, I unilaterally committed murder in North Korea, which led to this stamp.”

So, it was likely that enraged northern forces would soon come here, and in the process, the chances of being killed on sight would be high not only for those marked but also for those who had acquired something from the South...

At Yeongwoo’s subsequent explanation, all Strongest Swords were left speechless.

They had thought about how to fight mutants every day, but they had never imagined that strong survivors from the North would come down in droves like this.

“Th-then what happens now? Is it war...?”

Kim Doha, also known as the guardian of Neo-Seoul, asked with a somewhat incredulous expression.

Because of the earlier conversation, he couldn't scold Yeongwoo, and the conclusion was to first properly understand what had happened.

Upon this, Yeongwoo nodded with a calm expression.

“Yes, that's right. I'm sorry.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 127

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 127: Territorialism (5)

War with North Korea has arrived...!

This event was as shocking as the reset that changed everyone's lives here just a few days ago.

The majority of the people in the crowd have gotten to this point by acting like dogs.

Yet, suddenly finding themselves in a life-threatening situation overnight.

If there's any silver lining in this misfortune, it's that the most skilled fighters on the Korean Peninsula are on the same side.

‘Ugh... Why did we have to let this bastard in?’

‘I knew there would be trouble eventually, but I didn't expect it to be today.’

‘But still, can't that brat handle three of them alone? Then maybe it'll be surprisingly manageable.’

Amidst countless thoughts of optimism and pessimism crossing the minds of the fighters, someone unintentionally muttered to themselves.

“Why doesn’t he just stay here and stop the North Koreans, while we continue to handle the mutants as we’ve been doing...?”

And the one who spoke wasn’t someone else.

“...Tsk!”

It was Kim Doha, the Strongest Sword of Yongsan.

The weak Strongest Sword who had surrendered Yongsan Park as a meeting place after being struck by the previous Strongest Sword, Jeong Hyunsik.

“Ugh, seriously.”

“You call that a plan?”

“Tsk.”

Despite other Strongest Swords rushing in to criticize, they subtly glanced at Jeong Yeongwoo’s expression.

They were actually thinking the same thing.

In fact, it’s not an unreasonable opinion.

‘Well, the Strongest Swords from North Korea won’t all come down at once, right? Of course, it would be regrettable if ten really came down at once, but...’

While mutants are indeed becoming stronger, not all regions were experiencing a simultaneous strengthening of mutants.

Just yesterday, weren’t there only about three regions out of twenty-five with issues?

Meanwhile, the Strongest Swords from North Korea could appear anytime, anywhere.

‘They could be at least as strong as me, or even stronger. In terms of winning probability, it’s 50%. But that’s only when one of them comes down from over there...’

Already, two Strongest Swords from the north have died.

Next time, they’ll surely increase their numbers, won’t they?

“Ugh.”

Yang Wootae, the Strongest Sword from Mapo, belatedly shivered realizing that his district was close to the front line.

And Kim Hyeonggyu from Eunpyeong, closer to the north than Mapo...

“Um, excuse me. If a war is suddenly declared like this, what should we do?”

Now the ‘solid’ concept he had maintained was nowhere to be found.

What’s the importance of such dignity when they’re facing North Korean blades dozens of times today?

“We need to do something, right? Yes? Strongest Swords!”

As Kim Hyeonggyu looked around the audience and shouted a renewed cry, Yeongwoo, who had been perched on Negwig all this while, came down to the ground.

Clank!

All the Strongest Swords in the area suddenly widened their eyes.

“Huh...?”

“What’s going on?”

“He’s grown taller...?”

While it was thought that Yeongwoo exuded intimidation due to Negwig’s bulk, it turns out that his physique itself had grown much larger than before.

Until now, it was thought that Yeongwoo exuded intimidation because of Negwig’s bulk, but now it was clear that his physique itself had grown much larger than before.

“Ugh...”

Standing right in front of Yeongwoo, Kim Hyeonggyu grinned and looked up at his opponent.

Kim Hyeonggyu, the Strongest Sword from Eunpyeong, was 176 centimeters tall.

He was certainly not short, but the height of Yeongwoo, whom he faced now, was a whopping 2 meters.

Literally a giant.

Swoosh.

Slowly, Yeongwoo planted his feet firmly on the ground, then gently grabbed both of Kim Hyeonggyu's arms with his bare hands.

"Especially with this recent incident, there's been an increased risk burden on Eunpyeong. I apologize sincerely. But if you hadn't shown up to this meeting today, you would have been angry without knowing anything. Welcome."

"...?"

With Yeongwoo's oddly twisted point, Kim Hyeonggyu looked puzzled.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo looked at the rest of the Strongest Swords and said.

"It's really a good suggestion for me to specialize in Paju all day. I really want to do that."

This was truly sincere.

With the need to take down five more Strongest Swords in the future, it wasn't their place to choose their targets here.

"But."

Yeongwoo added a follow-up.

"However, we can't just leave Seoul vacant all day either. I'm already in charge of two areas."

He meant Gangnam and Gwangjin-gu.

Of course, Gwangjin-gu was a joint area that also restrained Songpa and Seocho, but practically speaking, it wasn't an exaggeration to say that Yeongwoo, the strongest within the meeting, was in charge.

The highest probability of quickly defeating the mutants assigned to each and rushing to Gwangjin-gu first was indeed Yeongwoo's.

"Yes. If Yeongwoo leaves his position, it'll be difficult for us too."

Songpa's Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, supported Yeongwoo's argument.

She also didn't want mutants in Gwangjin-gu harming Songpa residents.

And if Yeongwoo stayed in Paju, who would handle Gangnam's mutants?

“Even handling just Gwangjin-gu alone is overwhelming... If Gangnam is also vacated, it'll be impossible.”

Seocho's Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee, nodded in agreement.

Then, finally, Yeongwoo drove the nail.

“So, the alternative I propose is that once mutant hunting in Seoul is done, I'll move to Paju.”

“I-Is that possible...?”

Kim Dohha, the Strongest Sword of Yongsan, asked like this, then immediately realized he had asked a stupid question and shut his mouth.

Didn't he see it firsthand just a moment ago?

The moment when Jeong Yeongwoo single-handedly intimidated everyone in this meeting.

He was a figure capable of subduing eight Strongest Swords, so handling mutants in two areas wasn't a big problem at all.

“Yes. We can handle the mutants somehow. The problem is if more Strongest Swords come down from North Korea than expected.”

Therefore, Yeongwoo added that the voluntary participation of the remaining Strongest Swords was necessary.

“You don't all have to come. Just a few who are confident in one-on-one combat would be reassuring.”

“T-Then... should we just vote quickly?”

Asked the Yongsan Strongest Sword, spreading his hands on the ground.

At this, Seocho's Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee, was the first to raise her hand.

Swoosh.

“I'd like to see how Gangnam's Strongest Sword fights at least once, even if out of curiosity.”

A tough yet humble reason for participation.

Following suit, Songpa's Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, also volunteered.

Swoosh.

“If something were to happen to Yeongwoo, it would be troublesome for us too since Songpa and Gangnam are neighboring areas.”

She said, providing a reasonable justification.

After that, no one else raised their hand.

“...Is there anyone else besides these two?”

As if finally concluding, the Yongsan Strongest Sword looked around, and at this point, Seongbuk's Strongest Sword, Lee Yoobin, cautiously raised her hand.

“I'm not sure if I can eliminate mutants quickly, but... I'll do my best.”

As she said this, her eyes met with Oh Yeonhee, who had previously expressed her willingness to participate.

In fact, Oh Yeonhee had raised her hand out of concern.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Then the Yongsan Strongest Sword, as if saying it was enough, hastily concluded.

“Ah... So there are three of you. That's reassuring.”

“Well, what about future meetings? Even if today we can roughly go through it here, what about from tomorrow onwards...?”

This was a concern from the Dongjak's Strongest Sword, Lee Hanwook.

So, Yeongwoo pointed to another Strongest Sword who was hurrying over from the other side.

“That'll be handled by him for the time being.”

At the end of Yeongwoo's finger was none other than Gwanak's Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik.

* * *

11:32 AM.

Temporary meeting in Paju dispersed.

Yeongwoo headed straight to Gangnam as soon as he left the meeting.

He judged that North Korea's Strongest Swords wouldn't come down now since mutants would appear in an hour and a half.

Clatter, clatter!

And next to Negwig, who was currently running with the sound of iron hooves, Gwanak's Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik, was moving along at a fairly fast pace.

"You've only been in Seoul for barely a day, but your influence is even greater than that of your predecessor."

Jo Sangik said with a subtle smile, referring to the series of events he heard about hastily upon arriving late to the meeting.

"I caused a lot of trouble."

For Yeongwoo, it was best to make a suitable comment as he didn't have much to say.

Then Jo Sangik shifted the topic with a smile.

"Yesterday evening, they sent someone from Taewon to our side. They're going to bring your colleagues to Gangnam."

"Yes, I requested it."

"As expected. They're probably almost near Gangnam by now. Just in case, I attached our people to them."

"That's good. I was worried if it would overlap with the mutant's appearance time."

Then Yeongwoo hesitated and asked Jo Sangik cautiously.

"Um... how many of my colleagues are there?"

"...Yes? Oh, I remember there were five."

"I see."

Yeongwoo finally smiled in relief.

If there were five of them, it would probably be Jongsu, Taeyoung, and Kim Taejoon's wife and two children.

Jongsu and Taeyoung must have managed to find and bring them.

‘Now the chairman might be a bit more satisfied.’

Yeongwoo fiddled with the whistle hanging around his neck and then urged Negwig to pick up the pace.

* * *

At 11:57 AM.

Yeongwoo arrived in Gangnam like an arrow shot from a bow.

To avoid the crowd gathering around Negwig, he leaped into the air.

Swoosh!

Every time he did this, the residents of Gangnam rushed after Negwig’s departing figure, exclaiming “Oh!” in awe, as if he were their guardian deity.

Now, to the residents, the Gangnam Strongest Sword was akin to a guardian spirit.

Of course, there were all sorts of terrifying rumors about him circulating, such as decapitating the former Strongest Sword and even eating his body whole, but the true identity of the incumbent Strongest Sword remained shrouded in mystery, hidden from the public eye.

Up to now, the only known fact about him was that he rode a horse from somewhere in the universe.

So, paradoxically, because he seemed so unrealistic, the residents weren’t afraid of him.

“He’s just like an airplane.”

“I wonder where he’s been since morning.”

“I heard the meeting today was outside of Seoul.”

Regardless of the relationship with the local community, everyone knew that the Strongest Swords captured mutants to maintain order.

Therefore, it was expected that today’s mutant in Gangnam would be taken care of by this mysterious Strongest Sword.

For the residents, Yeongwoo naturally evoked a sense of internal intimacy.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo...

Swoosh!

He soared through the air on Negwig, lost in thought.

'Should I go back to the accommodation we stayed at yesterday? Taewon probably handled things that way. It's the only place I know in Gangnam.'

Already, the Parnas Hotel, where Yeongwoo had stayed, was only a kilometer away.

Within reach with a few more leaps from Negwig.

Swoosh!

Finally, Negwig made another powerful leap, and by now, Yeongwoo could see people near the entrance of the hotel staring at him in amazement.

And among those people...

"Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo!"

There was Lim Suna, Yeongwoo's aide.

She had been waiting at the hotel entrance all this time, as he had promised to return when daylight came.

And even here...

Yeongwoo's close aides, Jongsu and Taeyoung, as well as their entourage.

"Aaaah!"

"Mom!"

"Is that really dad...?"

Even Kim Taejoon, the chairman's family, came out to greet him.

They probably heard that they could meet Chairman Kim here if they waited quietly.

The former founder of VC Soft, and the current Golem of granite, Kim Taejoon.

"Uh-oh."

Yeongwoo realized that the children were younger than he had expected, and he looked awkward.

Then...

Swoosh!

He landed heavily on the road in front of the hotel, shattering it into pieces.

"Nice to meet you. Are you the family of CEO Kim Taejoon?"

Yeongwoo smiled coolly as he slowly dismounted from Negwig, and instinctively, Kim Taejoon's wife, trembling with a mixture of fear and anticipation, asked.

"Uh, where is our...? Didn't he come with you?"

All she could see now were a two-meter-tall giant, a horse from another world, and a greedily looking golden goblin.

There was no trace of her husband anywhere.

"Strongest Sword...?"

As the other party sent a desperate gaze, Yeongwoo, unable to resist, fiddled with the whistle and explained.

"Your father is here."

"Huh? What do you mean...?"

"..."

Seeing is believing.

Before starting the task, Yeongwoo first asked Lim Suna for a favor.

"Suna."

"Yes?"

"I'd appreciate it if you could mobilize all the staff to control civilian access in Gwangjin-gu."

"Gwangjin-gu? May I ask what's going on?"

"I need a space with no one around. As far as I know, Gwangjin-gu is already empty."

“Oh? Yes, that’s true, but realistically, it’s difficult to completely control the entire area. How wide of a restricted area do you need?”

To which Yeongwoo replied,

“When a mutant appears, how many meters around the vicinity are usually cleared?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 128

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 128: Diary of a Wanderer (1)

It would be a lie if I said it wasn’t a waste.

To use the whistle once in a non-combat situation.

Especially today, there were at least three major battles scheduled.

One, a fight with the mutants who might appear, whose strength was unknown.

Two, a battle with the Strongest swords coming down from the north.

Three, the hardships in the unpredictable nighttime dungeon.

But wasn’t there a promise made to Kim Taejoon?

‘He said he would definitely find and meet his family.’

For Kim Tae-jun, it is no exaggeration to say that it was a bet that put the meaning of life on the line.

He chose to be trapped in the whistle, believing only in Yeongwoo’s words that he would find his family.

If he had chosen death instead of becoming a “friend” then, he wouldn’t have suffered the agony of waiting for eternity in the white room.

But he finally made a difficult decision.

'I have to meet his expectations as well. There's a way to repay faith with faithfulness.'

For some reason, Yeongwoo lightly sniffled his nose, which had become a little sore, and then spoke politely to the woman in her 50s, who had a nervous expression on her face.

"You'll be able to meet him soon. Please wait a little longer."

"...Yes. I understand."

Kim Seok¹⁸⁶.

The wife of VC Soft founder Kim Taejoon and the chairman of the Moi Cultural Foundation.

Yeongwoo didn't know it well, but the Moi Cultural Foundation was quite famous for supporting struggling artists as a non-profit organization.

So, even though her husband became a target of hatred among gamers and was put on the brink of extinction, Kim Seok, who was as famous as her husband, could save her life.

"What... exactly is the condition of our husband now? I heard he's with Yeongwoo."

Kim Seok asked cautiously.

"Uh... about that....."

At this, Yeongwoo glanced briefly at the two pale-faced children behind Kim Seok.

One girl, one boy.

Both looked to be in their mid-teens at most.

Of course, in this world, there are children who commit murder and robbery, but at least the two in front of him were purely "kids."

"It's okay. Our kids know roughly what happened to their father."

It means they saw with their own eyes that their dad was targeted by the public and turned into a monster.

"....."

And hearing this story, Yeongwoo felt a heavy heart.

Fortunately, a dramatic reunion would be arranged soon, but that didn't mean Kim Taejoon's situation had changed significantly from before.

The father of those two children no longer had to fight the public, but instead had to traverse various battlefields following the thread of fate.

—In the end, the ending of my life is a bad ending.

Kim Taejoon's last words, as he accepted the handshake, were not wrong.

"If I blow the whistle, your husband will fall from the sky."

"From the sky?"

"Yes. He won't stay here long, so if you have anything to say, you should think about it now."

"Oh....."

While Kim Seok made a complicated expression, Lim Suna came to inform that the "Restricted Zone" had been prepared.

"Yeongwoo, it's all set."

The current time, 12:24 PM.

The place Yeongwoo was at now was the heart of Gwangjin-gu, where all the residents were relocated due to the absence of the Strongest sword.

Calling Kim Taejoon to Gangnam's heart would have caused panic among the residents, so they moved to a less populated area as much as possible.

'Well... as expected of my brother, he's not going to spend a single moment quietly. For some reason, he seems a bit taller in the meantime...'

Jongsu made an amazed expression as he looked around Yeongwoo, Kim Taejoon's family, and the vast desolate landscape of Gwangjin-gu.

Of course, there were some people in the area.

Taewon Group's employees secured an area with a diameter of about 400 meters.

However, they only installed barricades sparsely along the perimeter of the designated area and surrounded it with restricted access tape, so they couldn't completely block the locals from gathering one by one.

"It's almost time for the appearance of monsters and mutants! Everyone, go back home!"

Although Taewon Group warned as 1 PM approached, it was not enough to curb people's curiosity.

"Why... why are they doing this all the way out here in Gwangjin-gu?"

"What's that? Isn't that our Strongest Sword over there?"

Residents of Gangnam, upon discovering Gangnam Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo, began to murmur.

However, Yeongwoo couldn't postpone the reunion of Kim Taejoon's family any longer, as he had to take up a sniping position before 1 PM.

Those who had risked coming here would witness a rare sight.

If you have the courage to endure what you are about to see.

"If your children are surprised, will it be okay?"

Yeongwoo asked one last time.

"I haven't mentioned it because I have no experience, but when I blow the whistle, it's not just the chairman who gets summoned."

"What? Then who else...?"

"Um..."

This time, Yeongwoo's expression became complicated.

"One more mutant is also contained in this whistle."

And when he mentioned that he was a giant beast who had the head of a hyena, Kim Seok, who had maintained composure so far, looked shaken.

"A hyena...? Could it be that person is fighting with our husband?"

"Oh! No! Both are... friendly. I confirmed they're doing well."

"Oh, that's a relief. Really, it is."

"...Yes."

It was a great relief that they had left the room after watching the returnee through the television.

'I guess families can think like that. I thought they would be getting along just fine until I watched TV.'

Certainly, family is family.

Yeongwoo looked at Kim Seok and her two children with an even more remorseful heart than before.

Then.

Swoosh-

He brought the whistle near his mouth.

“Then I’ll call the chairman.”

“Yes.”

Kim Seok shifted her gaze to the sky with a resolute expression.

Yeongwoo also slowly looked up at the sky.

“Phew.”

He blew into the whistle vigorously.

Brrriiiiiiiiiiiing!

Suddenly, the saturation of the entire area decreased, and an alert message appeared in front of Yeongwoo.

「Friends, Yeongtae, Taejoon are summoned in response to your call.」

“ ! ”

Yeongtae, Taejoon.

The list of friends who had truly responded to the call had expanded to two.

And indeed.

「Yaaaaaah!」

With a shout that was starting to get annoying, typical of Yeongtae, along with a scream filled with fear rather than a shout from chairman Kim Taejoon.

「Uwaaaaaaaaah!」

The harmony of the two former mutants.

Kwaaaaaaang!

Kuuuuuuung!

Both “people” seemed to have the same height of 3 meters, but their components and masses were completely different, so the sound of landing was completely different as well.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And the tension right after landing was definitely different too.

「Wow, where are we now?」

As a seasoned friend, Yeongtae, upon returning to this world, immediately looked for Yeongwoo’s enemy, or rather, the target to make a deal with.

Cough...!

Kim Taejoon habitually coughed in the midst of the dust clouds filling the surroundings, revealing himself to be a novice summon, because he wasn’t actually choking or coughing.

「Ah...?」

Kim Taejoon, who realized this fact belatedly, stopped coughing, and Kim Seok, who sensed her husband’s tone in that brief cough, tossed her words into the dust.

“Honey...?”

She had shown tremendous courage as someone who had only known from the reset notification on the first day that her husband had turned into a “Granite Golem” but had never actually seen him like that.

Because.

Dudududuk...

In the dense dust, the sight of two giant silhouettes wriggling was a sight that could only evoke fear as a human.

「What...?」

Eventually, Kim Taejoon, who felt like he had heard something, raised his head and his voice flowed from within the dust cloud.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo moved closer to Kim Seok just in case of any accidents.

He thought Kim Taejoon might jump out in excitement.

“Darling!”

Then Kim Seok called her husband again, and this time, Kim Taejoon, who clearly detected his wife’s voice, emitted an excited voice as expected.

「Seok!」

Wham!

He started to push aside the dust to see his wife.

「Is this real? Are the kids here too?」

As soon as Kim Taejoon pronounced “kids,” his movements, which had been swiping through the air, suddenly stopped.

He had a moment of enlightenment.

It was because he belatedly realized that he was currently not in a human body but in the body of a 3-meter Granite Golem.

「...Uh.」

He was afraid that moving this body recklessly might hurt his family, and before that...

「Wait, Seok. I... right now...」

Kim Taejoon stuttered from within the dust.

He realized that if his family saw the body of a monstrous creature, their hearts might be hurt.

「Brother...」

Yeongtae quickly caught on to the situation and immediately flattened himself on the ground.

Compared to Kim Taejoon, who was a rock, Yeongtae was much more beastly, so he tried to shrink his size a bit.

As the dust that had covered them finally began to settle, the surreal bodies of the two figures that had been seen only as murky silhouettes gradually became apparent in this world.

「Seok-ah, wouldn't the kids be too surprised? How about we close our eyes for a moment? We can still talk like before.」

Kim Taejoon suggested, and Seok responded with a faint smile.

“What are you talking about? How much they've been wanting to see you...”

At the same time, she swallowed heavily as she felt the body heat of her two children, who had been holding her hands tightly for some time.

Gulp.

“...Dad's here.”

With Seok's line, the dust cloud that had obscured the relationship between the couple finally dissipated.

The skin made of gray-white granite.

Shoulders so broad they felt monstrous, and arms formed even more terrifying than that.

It was a figure sculpted for brutal combat.

Seok, confirming her husband's physical form, cautiously observed her children's expressions while feeling their slightly trembling breaths.

However...

“....?”

Contrary to expectations, the children's expressions weren't too dark.

No, a faint smile seemed to be delicately wrapped around their faces, repeating the process of appearing and disappearing.

Although there was still some fear in their eyes, it wasn't entirely absent.

Curious, Seok followed their gaze.

「Ugh.」

Behind her husband, there was a creature that was ambiguous as to whether it was human or beast, making absurd facial expressions and poses frantically.

“Oh.”

Although it wasn't that the terrifying feeling unique to mutants had completely disappeared, it was quite ridiculous and amusing.

The fact that with that monstrous body, he was doing his best to make the children laugh.

[Friend of Jeong Yeongwoo07 – Hong Yeongtae]

It was only now that Seok realized who the other person, whom Yeongwoo had talked about, spending time with her husband, was.

“Thank goodness... it seems like you have a friend.”

As Seok stuttered her words and laughed more comfortably than before, Kim Taejoon, who hadn't said a single word so far, opened his eyes wide.

「Darling...! Mo-se, Lee Hyeon-ah!」

Kugung.

Kim Taejoon knelt on the ground, his cheek made of granite distorted, and finally, the family reunion began.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 129

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 129: Diary of a Wanderer (2)

“Did you know about it?”

When Songpa’s Strongest Sword, Oh Yeonhee, asked, Choi Namhee responded with a distracted voice.

“...I didn’t know. No one knew. Who would have imagined such a thing?”

Seocho’s Strongest Sword, Choi Namhee, 11.

Right now, she was too preoccupied trying to understand the inexplicable event unfolding before her.

Summoning mutant beings...

Does that even make sense?

But such an event did occur.

Not even during the usual appearance time for mutants, but in broad daylight in the heart of Gwangjin-gu, two mutants were summoned.

If news hadn’t reached quickly that Gangnam’s Strongest Sword was heading to Gwangjin-gu, they might have missed the scene just now.

“It seems like they’re friends of Jeong Yeongwoo, right? Allies... I don’t know if it’s an alliance or a master-servant relationship.”

O Yeonhee chuckled as she looked at the name tags above the heads of the two mutants.

[Jeong Yeongwoo07’s Friend – Hong Yeongtae]

[Jeong Yeongwoo07’s Friend – Kim Taejoon]

Judging by the format of the name tags, it was clear that these two mutants had somehow become indebted to Jeong Yeongwoo, akin to genies in a lamp, in some way.

But what really piqued curiosity was...

‘Do those mutants also fight for Jeong Yeongwoo? But they didn’t appear when Jeong Hyunsik was in a confrontation?’

As someone who didn’t know that the magic lamp had a usage limit, Oh Yeonhee couldn’t help but be puzzled.

“What’s happening... I really don’t know.”

Choi Namhee was equally bewildered, if not more so, by the increasing confusion.

Isn't Jeong Yeongwoo supposed to be the absolute villain from the start?

But now, even the suspicion arose, 'Is he really the same human being?'

"Anyway, we should start heading back soon. It's almost 1 o'clock."

As Choi Namhee looked at her watch and turned her head south, Oh Yeonhee nodded in agreement.

Current time, 12:31 PM.

In roughly 29 minutes, the fourth-day mutants would appear all over Seoul.

Also, the appearance of mutants and monster marks could occur as early as 30 to 10 minutes before, so they needed to return to their respective districts in advance.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo was now observing the family reunion, which was now calming down.

Contrary to his initial concerns, chairman Kim Taejoon's family quickly recovered from the shock of the recent events, allowing Yeongwoo to quietly step aside.

「How heartwarming. I've lived for so long to see such things happen.」

Yeongtae, who had also escaped from the scene with Yeongwoo, laughed heartily while patting his long chin with his hand.

To this, Yeongwoo chuckled.

"Living for so long, well..."

He was about to say, 'It's been four days since you became a mutant,' but quickly closed his mouth.

He momentarily forgot that this world and the 'Returnee's Room' had completely different time flows.

While the remaining people in this world had spent only four days, Hong Yeongtae and chairman Kim Taejoon had spent what could literally be an eternity.

So when Yeongtae casually used the phrase 'living for so long,' it wasn't a big deal.

'Right. From Yeongtae's perspective, it could be considered living for a long time.'

Thinking so, Yeongwoo checked the time.

Current time, 12:34 PM.

“...?”

If it wasn't a mistake, the two 'friends' were staying in this world longer than usual.

Before, they would disappear after a short period, maybe tens of seconds at the shortest, or three to four minutes at the longest.

'What's going on? Did they give them extra time for family reunions?'

If so, who?

Does the system even have 'emotions'?

As Yeongwoo vaguely thought about his opponent, Yeongtae tilted his head.

「Why? What's up?」

“Oh, nothing, I'm just... worried about the mutant appearing soon.”

As Yeongwoo vaguely replied, Yeongtae perked up his ears.

「Oh, really? Then will you call us again when it happens?」

Yeongtae was always eager to earn merits.

But Yeongwoo had no intention of using the horn in the mutant battle.

Not at the moment.

'Thankfully, thanks to the encyclopaedia effect, I earned one more usage...'

[Collection Effect: 10]

| Usage of all artifacts +1

'But that only makes it three in total. I can only use it twice more.'

Of course, there was no need to deliberately crush Yeongtae's hopes.

It's a sad story, but whether he calls them shortly after 1 o'clock or after the nighttime dungeon appears, it'll be the same long wait for Yeongtae.

“Yeah, we’ll see each other again soon.”

Yeongwoo lied with good intentions.

Then, to avoid any possible loss of expression control, he changed the subject.

“What are you planning to buy with the points you’ve collected? Have you thought about it?”

The topic Yeongwoo chose was none other than the public point shop.

According to what he saw on television in the hotel room, points could also be accumulated in the Returnee’s Room to buy televisions.

And if what Yeongwoo saw was indeed true...

「Oh, that’s it. I’ve decided. A television!」

“Ah.”

Confirming that Yeongtae’s response was as expected, Yeongwoo uttered a remark with significant meaning.

“If you buy a television from there... what’s broadcasted?”

「Well, I don’t know. The price list only had the product names written on it.」

“...I see.”

Yeongwoo nodded.

Personally, he thought a television might shed light on this world, but he decided to save his words on that matter as well.

“Well then...”

Just as Yeongwoo was about to bring up the next topic, the time had come.

「Oh!」

Yeongtae exclaimed, widening his eyes.

Then.

「We are already leaving...!」

With a regretful expression, he flattened his ears.

Even the extension time permitted by the system had been completely used up.

Swoosh.

Yeongtae's two feet were already disappearing rapidly into thin air, which meant...

"Darling!"

"Hm? Oh, Dad...?"

On the other side, chairman Kim Taejoon, who was having a precious conversation, was also disappearing.

"Thank you for your hard work, Yeongtae."

As Yeongwoo bid farewell with a smile, the faint voice of Yeongtae, with only the tips of his ears left visible, murmured.

「Let's meet again!」

Then.

Swoosh.

He completely disappeared from this world.

And the same went for chairman Kim Taejoon, who had cast a large shadow on the other side.

"..."

The family who were exchanging fond words under Kim Taejoon's shadow just moments ago were now looking at the empty space with desolate expressions.

It was such a short time.

"...Hyung-nim, what happens now? Those people..."

Jongsu, who had been silently observing everything from behind, spoke up.

To this, Yeongwoo smiled bitterly and glanced back.

"First, Jongsu, thank you for your hard work. And you too, officer."

“You’re too kind. After coming here today, I think I made the right decision to follow Mr. Yeongwoo.”

Taeyoung, still seeming unsettled, wiped his eyes with the sleeve of his police uniform and sniffed.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo organized his emotions and spoke in a somewhat businesslike tone.

“Since the usage of the whistle is limited, I can’t just summon chairman Kim Taejoon anytime. Today’s family gathering is over.”

“What about tomorrow?”

This was Jongsu’s question.

So Yeongwoo deliberated.

“Well, we’ll have to wait and see how things go tomorrow. If I die or if the safety of the family members is jeopardized, the meeting may not happen.”

“That makes sense.”

“For a while, please take care of chairman Kim’s family. I’ll request accommodation near Taewon Group. And if there’s anything else to do, please let me know.”

Perhaps Jongsu would be suitable for monster hunting, while Taeyoung would be suitable for private security in Gangnam.

Not only the mutants but also the monsters might suddenly become stronger, so both of them needed to earn money.

“Hyung-nim, have you completely settled down in Seoul now?”

Jongsu’s question was quite sharp.

But for Yeongwoo, it was difficult to answer.

“Well, we’ll have to wait and see. But for the time being, I’ll be based around Gangnam.”

Of course, this was just a guess.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

After all, isn't it a world where it's hard to predict even what will happen tomorrow?

'Just the Golden Journey achievement alone suggests leaving the country. Nobody knows what else will happen in the future.'

Anyway, he needed to hurry up and get ready for the mutants.

First, he had to send chairman Kim Taejoon's family to a safer place within Gangnam.

'The current time... is 12:40.'

Now there were exactly 20 minutes left.

As Yeongwoo was about to call Lim Suna from Taewon Group, a tremendous noise erupted from the sky.

Taaaang...

Tattang!

It sounded like the gunfire amplified dozens of times.

Sssshooooo!

Red and blue pillars of light.

It was the sound of the marks of the invaders of this world falling.

* * *

"Aaah!"

"Ack!"

"Save me...!"

Time left until the appearance of mutants and monsters: 19 minutes.

The residents of the area, who were watching the astonishing "family reunion," started running for their lives, each heading towards their own vehicles or towards their neighborhoods several kilometers away from here.

Amidst the chaos, Yeongwoo observed the red pillars of light piercing the sky in the direction of Gwangjin-gu.

'Fortunately, it landed in the southern part of Gwangjin-gu.'

The location where the fourth day mutant was scheduled to appear in Gwangjin-gu was inside the campus of Konkuk University.

It wasn't as close as the Han River, but still relatively close to Gangnam-gu.

Amidst this, Taewon Group had already dispersed their employees into vehicles and one of them came near Yeongwoo before stopping.

"Yeongwoo-nim!"

As the window opened and someone called out, it was none other than Lim Suna.

She had brought chairman Kim Taejoon's family in the car.

"I'll take care of your colleagues. If Yeongwoo-nim plans to move to Gangnam for now..."

It was a gesture to offer him a ride out of courtesy.

However, Yeongwoo only took Jongsu and Taeyoung in the car, as he had a means of transport from another world.

"I'll look around here and make my own way. Please go ahead. Thank you for your hard work."

He had to say something appropriate to be Seoul's Strongest Sword.

"Ah, yes. Understood."

Lim Suna stared at Yeongwoo for a moment, then snapped out of it and grabbed the steering wheel.

And then.

Vroom!

Like any other evacuees, they dashed towards the outskirts of Gwangjin-gu.

"Hmm."

The current time was 12:49 PM.

With 11 minutes left until the appearance of the monsters.

Yeongwoo glanced at the red pillars of light piercing the sky, then released the parking mode and climbed onto the nearby Negwig, which had approached.

“Let’s go to Cheongdam Bridge.”

* * *

Cheongdam Bridge.

A two-story bridge over the Han River, between Jayang-dong in Gwangjin-gu and Cheongdam-dong in Gangnam-gu.

Once, Subway Line 7 used to run through the lower section of this bridge, but now subway operations, like those of Dongjak Bridge, were suspended.

Instead.

Vroom!

Several cars were racing madly across the bridge, in the midst of the evacuation time attack by the residents who had witnessed the family reunion in Gwangjin-gu until the end.

“...”

And ahead of them, having arrived at Cheongdam Bridge ahead of time, Yeongwoo was hanging on the railing, looking around.

To the left, Gwangjin-gu.

To the right, Gangnam-gu.

‘It seems like I might be able to reach it if I’m lucky.’

From Cheongdam Bridge, located between the two districts, one could simultaneously confirm the red marks of the mutants about to fall in each area.

In other words, for someone like Yeongwoo with a maximum range of 2 kilometers, it meant he might be able to snipe both mutants in succession.

Paat!

As Yeongwoo activated “Clairvoyance,” a holographic scope appeared in his right eye, enhancing his vision up to 5 times.

「Clairvoyance」 – Mutant Earring

【Visibility is amplified up to 5 times.】

‘Gangnam is near Jongno, right? It’s a little further than Gwangjin.’

The distance from his current location to the mutant in Gwangjin-gu was about 2.3 kilometers.

Meanwhile, the mutant in Gangnam-gu was scheduled to appear a little over 2.5 kilometers away.

‘If this is the case, you will have to bleed before shooting the arrow.’

Youngwoo’s strength increases by 25% while bleeding, and as strength increases, the arrow’s distance increases.

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sense values apply to arrow power.】

【Power increases depending on the distance the arrow flies.】

And as the distance increases, the power of the arrow also increases.

So, in theory, it was possible.

After stabbing one’s own arm and causing bleeding, he jumps to a high altitude to gain visibility and continuously snipes mutants in Gangnam and Gwangjin-gu.

「Climber」 – Mutant Pants

【Leap distance tripled.】

‘If this works, I’ll be a genius.’

With a satisfied smile, Yeongwoo glanced at the Golden Goblin who was watching him from a distance.

And as he did so.

[00:00:10]

The timer for the monster hanging in the air decreased to 10 seconds.

‘It’s almost time. Have people evacuated?’

[00:00:08]

‘I should start bleeding soon.’

[00:00:06]

Slash!

Yeongwoo slashed his own side with the end of the bow, and blood began to trickle from inside his skin.

“Ugh.”

It was quite painful, although not enough to be stopped by the Berserker talisman.

But with considerable vitality already flowing through his body, Yeongwoo felt confident.

‘At this level, what’s 2 kilometers? I can snipe even up to 3 kilometers away.’

[00:00:03]

Suddenly, three seconds left.

Yeongwoo, in a stance ready to jump, alternately looked at the two red pillars of light fiercely cutting through the sky on both sides.

[00:00:01]

Now, one second.

[00:00:00]

Vroom!

As the timer reached 0 seconds and disappeared frighteningly, the sky flashed, and from all the marks including the red pillars of light, numerous figures began to rain down like hail.

“Unbelievable.”

Seeing the monsters falling from the clear sky for the first time, Yeongwoo was momentarily stunned.

But then.

Shaaaat!

Shaaaat!

Seeing the large silhouettes falling from beyond the sky along with the red pillars of light, Yeongwoo quickly snapped out of it.

‘They’re here...!’

With a swift motion, Yeongwoo’s feet forcefully planted in the middle of Cheongdam Bridge, and then.

Vroom!

His body soared into the sky, raising the bow and aiming from Gangnam.

[TL/N : Hawk Eye moment from avengers 1.]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 130

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 130: Diary of a Wanderer (3)

‘I can do it! No, I must do it.’

Thunk!

Yeongwoo, who pulled the bowstring tens of meters above the ground, looked carefully at the name tag of the mutant fallen in Gangnam.

[Singer – Lee Seonho]

‘Ah, Lee Seonho.’

This mutant was also a name Yeongwoo knew.

Lee Seonho, the leader of the second generation male idol group “Zero” in South Korea.

Although it had been almost 20 years since his debut and he was practically retired from the entertainment industry, the name Lee Seonho still remained unforgettable to the public.

Because.

—[Exclusive] ‘Zero’ Lee Seonho, Assault Incident in Drinking Session, Charged.

—”Sorry to Fans and Zero” Lee Seonho, First Confession after Assault Incident.

—Unstoppable Assault Locomotive, Lee Seonho Faces Fourth Indictment.

This is because his personality changes whenever he drinks alcohol, and he gets caught up in assault controversies almost every day.

So, although Yeongwoo might not know Zero’s representative songs, he was well aware of the face and notoriety of Lee Seonho, the group’s leader.

‘But he’s not even human anymore.’

What kind of monster had Lee Seonho, the perpetrator of the assaults, turned into?

The ground was still covered in dust at the landing site, making it impossible to see him clearly.

But.

Thunk!

As the bright name tag of the opponent shone, Yeongwoo released his hand from the bowstring.

Clang!

Suddenly, tremendous pressure built up in front of the silver bowstring.

Swoosh!

With its distinctive sound, an arrow was shot.

‘The sound is incredibly loud.’

Yeongwoo realized anew how loud the whizzing sound of the arrow was.

He hadn’t been bothered by the noise before because he hadn’t had to snipe opponents unilaterally.

‘Isn’t there any equipment to reduce the sound?’

Thinking so, Yeongwoo quickly turned his body and looked towards Gwangjin-gu.

His body was already beginning to descend, leaving him with little time.

Thunk!

As Yeongwoo pulled the bowstring again, aiming towards the Konkuk University campus, something began to emerge from the landing point, just like in Gangnam, enveloped in dust.

“What...”

Yeongwoo widened his eyes at the unexpected movement.

The mutant in Gwangjin-gu was a flying-type monster appearing for the first time since the reset, a wyvern.

-Kkkkreeeeak!

“...Ugh.”

Yeongwoo frowned at the unfamiliar cry of the wyvern, then aimed at the head under the opponent's name tag, but changed his mind.

[Seoul City Councilor – Kim Seokshin]

The incessant flapping of its massive wings kept it aloft, causing its head to sway continuously.

So, in the end, Yeongwoo...

Thunk, Clang!

...shot an arrow towards the opponent's enormous wings.

Swoosh!

Once again, the distinctive sound echoed, and this time, a sensory alert appeared in Yeongwoo's field of vision.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the previous 1,400 to 3,566.」

‘What? Again this time?’

It's an enormous amount of sensory input.

Perhaps Lee Seonho from Gangnam, who had been hit by the arrow first, recognized this direction.

And judging by the amount of sensory input gathered, the opponent's basic sensory value was a whopping...

'4,332....'

Could it be one of the reinforced mutants that started emerging since yesterday?

Quack!

As Yeongwoo landed on the Cheongdam Bridge, he quickly turned his head towards Gangnam.

'As expected.'

As anticipated, the red pillar of light from Gangnam was rapidly approaching.

Lee Seonho, who initiated the attack, was coming for the sniper.

「Aaargh!」

Judging from the voice coming from afar, it seemed like the arrow hit him squarely. His scream conveyed immense anger.

'Should I deal with Lee Seonho first?'

Wouldn't it be more appropriate to stabilize Gangnam, his current district, rather than Gwangjin-gu, which currently has no residents?

Clunk.

Just as Yeongwoo was about to go out to meet Lee Seonho...

Rumble!

A strange noise erupted behind him.

"Huh...?"

As Yeongwoo turned around, he saw the sight of Gwangjin-gu transforming into a sea of fire.

"This is insane."

The flying wyvern that fell in Gwangjin-gu along with Seoul City Council member Kim Seokshin began to emit breaths.

* * *

Wyverns.

Imaginary creatures often referred to as flying dragons.

In general, they are considered to be a sub-mutant of Western dragons, or in other words, a subcategory of dragons.

Their appearance has undergone numerous changes throughout history, but recently, they are generally described as “lower dragons with front legs integrated with wings.”

Their intelligence and personality vary greatly depending on the work that features them, but to differentiate them from dragons, wyverns are often portrayed as more aggressive or lacking in communication skills.

In other words, simply put,

‘It’s just the perfect monster to send out before bringing out dragons. Strong enough, capable of flying, and even spewing fire.’

As Yeongwoo contemplated his definition of wyverns, he looked at dozens of them spewing fire on the other side.

And among them...

「That bastard...!」

There was Seoul City Councilor Kim Seokshin, who had finally located Yeongwoo and started flapping his wings.

A particularly large wyvern, with crimson blood trickling down from one of its wings.

‘Even with a hole in its wing, it can still fly.’

Soon after, Kim Seokshin seemed to have fully recognized Yeongwoo as the enemy, as his sensory value shot up once again.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the previous 3,566 to 4,811.」

This time, the absorbed sensory value was 1,245.

Therefore, Kim Seokshin’s original sensory value, as manifested in the wyvern, was 2,490.

‘At least in terms of abilities, Lee Seonho seems stronger.’

Just by comparing their sensory values, it's 2,490 versus 4,332.

Thunk!

As Yeongwoo quickly mounted the wyvern's back, he glanced briefly behind him.

Then, enraged Lee Seonho finally arrived at the end of the Cheongdam Bridge.

「Aaargh!」

His physical form emerged with a silver arrow lodged near his neck.

[Singer – Lee Seonho]

None other than a Death Knight.

A skeletal, ghastly figure clad in gray armor, an undead knight.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘Ah, if the chairman had seen it, he might have liked it.’

While there were differences in appearance from the domestic version of ‘Death Knight’, Yeongwoo sensed that Lee Seonho had returned as a considerable monster nonetheless.

Starting from the basic abilities, they were extraordinary.

「Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword.....!」

Eventually, Lee Seonho, standing tall on the other side of the Cheongdam Bridge, roared out the only text visible to him.

It was the only means by which he could summon the madman who had shot an arrow at him.

In response, Yeongwoo...

“...”

Thunk.

Pulled the bowstring once again without a word.

He judged that now, with the sensory value at its peak, was the time to attack.

‘Let’s see how much stronger it becomes.’

「White Fire」 – Epic Bow

【Sense values apply to arrow power.】

【Power increases depending on the distance the arrow flies.】

According to the tooltip, White Fire receives power adjustments not only based on the arrow’s distance but also on the sensory value.

And indeed.

Thunk!

As Yeongwoo released the bowstring, a shimmering energy gathered in front of the bow, unlike before.

Shwaaah...

Then.

Boom!

An explosion accompanied the creation of a silver arrow that sliced through the air like a shell.

“Ugh!”

Directly towards the Death Knight Lee Seonho, standing confidently on the other side.

Shwaaaaa!

‘This is just a cannon.’

Yeongwoo, astonished by the power beyond imagination, belatedly realized that the trajectory of the arrow was embroidering a pattern resembling a dogo’s crest.

Shirrrring!

As the real fight began, the insertion of that damn logo began.

‘Hm, should I do another promotional slogan?’

But this time, there wasn't any separate money set aside for this battle.

Yeongwoo gazed at the sky, subtly waiting for something.

And in the meantime...

「Eeek!」

As he returned to this world, Lee Seonho, once again receiving an arrow as a gift, urgently raised his sword and blocked the arrow.

Whack!

「Grrr!」

Lee Seonho, blocking the arrow with sparks flying, momentarily staggered, and upon seeing this, Yeongwoo immediately urged the wyvern towards Gwangjin-gu.

‘Sufficient. With this level, I can handle them both.’

This battle inevitably had to be fought in Gwangjin-gu.

Although it would have been ideal to capture Lee Seonho within Gangnam to unleash the Golden Rain, it meant accepting that the wyverns filling Gwangjin-gu would move to other areas.

‘Even if those bastards don’t spew their breath, I have to deal with Lee Seonho in Gangnam first.’

Yeongwoo’s sight already caught sight of some wyverns entering Gangnam through the Yeongdong Bridge on the opposite side.

So.

Thunk, Boom!

He swiftly pulled the bowstring in succession, unsettling them.

And finally, Kim Seokshin realized.

The identity of the horse archer who suddenly ambushed them.

「So, your role is to stop us. Haha, what an interesting world.」

Then, blocking the entrance to Cheongdam Bridge towards Gwangjin-gu, where Yeongwoo was heading, he...

Kwoong.

「DIE.」

With its scaled mouth wide open, it spewed out a fiery breath.

Fwaaaah!

Instantly, as the 27-meter-wide Cheongdam Bridge was engulfed in flames, it attempted to swallow Yeongwoo whole.

‘What kind of firepower is that?’

Yeongwoo, astonished by the unrealistic level of firepower, leaped high into the air with Negwig.

It was towards the body of Kim Seokshin, blocking the exit of Cheongdam Bridge.

Quack!

As Yeongwoo left behind a small shadow and disappeared into the sky, Kim Seokshin, momentarily losing sight of his opponent, raised his head.

Then.

Thunk, Thunk!

From above the sky to towards the ground, he saw the opponent pulling the bowstring vertically.

「Uh...!」

Kim Seokshin realized that something was seriously wrong.

And Lee Seonho, who had been rushing to the scene, screamed a scream-like cry from within the gray armor.

「You sick old bastard! You obviously should have...!」

Though he spoke like this, he was actually worrying about Kim Seokshin, who was practically his only ally in this world.

If he were to die now, wouldn't he have to fight against that horse archer alone?

However.

Fwaaaah!

Along with another explosion, the arrow that followed pierced through Kim Seokshin's mouth, striking the surface of the Han River under the Cheongdam Bridge.

「Ugh...!」

To anyone's eyes, it was clear that the one struck had taken their last breath.

Then, suddenly, the body of Kim Seokshin, who had been thrashing around, seemed to lose all strength.

He had just been struck and killed.

「You bastard!」

Lee Seonho, the fourth-day mutant of Gangnam, the Death Knight, screamed in anguish as he sharpened his sword.

Unlike the previous returnees, he was one of the few mutants who tasted despair as soon as he arrived in this world.

Coincidentally, the return destination was under the jurisdiction of the 'Monster,' Jeong Yeongwoo.

「Stay right there! I will definitely kill you!」

Despite Lee Seonho's fury-filled shout, Yeongwoo didn't even look back, but instead headed towards Gwangjin-gu, past Kim Seokshin's corpse.

Because...

'Ah, finally.'

[Dogo] "Marksmanship Practice"

[Mission] Defeat the wyvern with a 'headshot,' 1/40 times.

[Reward] Equipment upgrade sponsorship

[Special] You must disclose Dogo's support in this mission.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]