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Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 141

Chapter 141

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 141: Distortion (4)

“Hmm.”

Yeongwoo looked around nervously for some reason.

Although North Korean residents had not yet appeared nearby, this act was undoubtedly an invasion.

Moreover, it was only now occurring to him.

‘My name and face are engraved on commemorative coins, and it’s even money... Isn’t this a direct provocation? It’s an outright leaflet for North Korea.’

Golden coins from South Korea falling throughout Geumcheon County.

How would the North Korean Strongest Swords and residents perceive this?

‘Well, the die has already been cast.’

Yeongwoo decided not to think too deeply about it anymore.

Blame.

Upon receiving the golden sphere from the goblin, he felt the peculiar object floating thinly.

Tingling...!

So Yeongwoo placed the sphere on the ground as it continued to float on its own into the air, initiating its rotation.

It was already activated.

Shi-ah-aat!

“.....”

As Yeongwoo gazed at the sphere, shortly thereafter, just like in the ruins, a quantum-choice quest appeared.

Grabbed!

<<Confirmed Reward>>

「Ghost Armor」 – Mutant Breastplate

【Projectile damage reduced by 15%.】

【–Empty slot–】

<<Choice Reward>>

[3 million karma]

or

[Grant 30,000 karma to all residents in the area]

‘It doesn’t really make a difference being in a foreign land.’

Although there was a slight sense of relief, it wasn’t as if there were any significant changes occurring.

Anyway, couldn’t significant achievements be accomplished just by raining gold here?

“Grant 30,000 karma to all residents in the area.”

[Grant 30,000 karma to all residents in the area]

When Yeongwoo decided to supply karma to the local residents, the golden sphere rotated even faster than usual before soaring into the sky above Geumcheon County.

‘It’s amazing no matter how many times I see it.’

Yeongwoo’s gaze followed the golden sphere ascending into the sky.

The spherical object, drawing a very long golden arc in the sky, caused a spectacular explosion moments later, coloring the sky with gold.

Then.

Suaaaaa...!

Gradually, it showered gold over the entire Geumcheon County as if it were rain.

“.....”

Yeongwoo, watching the golden rain pass by his palm without any enemies present, was momentarily lost in admiration.

It was a tremendous privilege to come all the way to North Korea and enjoy such romance.

But only for a moment.

Soon after, the message about karma distribution seized Yeongwoo's attention forcefully.

《Joseon's Strongest Sword, 'Jung Yeongwoo 07,' affiliated with the Republic of Korea, has forsaken the exclusive possession of 3 million karma and gifted 30,000 karma to all residents of Geumcheon..》

“Huh...?”

He checked again, thinking he might have seen it wrong, but the message remained unchanged.

It clearly stated 'affiliated with the Republic of Korea.'

'They're intentionally revealing that I'm an outsider.'

Then the system announced the creation of commemorative coins.

《30,000 karma will soon be provided in the form of commemorative coins. Prepare yourselves.》

Soon, all residents of Geumcheon County would recognize the face of Joseon's Strongest Sword, who came from South Korea.

Snap!

The characteristic sound of coin creation soon followed.

Next, with a clink, three golden coins engraved with Yeongwoo's name and face appeared in the air.

'Oh my goodness.'

Snatch, snatch!

Yeongwoo hurriedly grabbed the coins and glanced around nervously.

Of course, nobody would object to distributing money, but he couldn't help but feel anxious for no reason.

'Let's... Let's move for now.'

Yeongwoo decided to climb back onto Negwig to avoid any potential pursuit from North Korean Strongest Swords.

Ta-at!

He then checked the achievements and saw that the progress of the Golden Journey had been updated as expected.

[Golden Journey]

| Call forth a golden rain in the next area.

| Domestic (3/3) | Foreign (1/2)

Now, by showering gold once more in North Korea, the 'Golden Journey' would be achieved.

'However, if I do this, the extra golden spheres will disappear, and I won't be able to definitively open the nighttime dungeon.'

The best scenario would be to find an uncaught mutant nearby.

That way, he could obtain another golden sphere.

'But in return, the probability of encountering angry North Korean Strongest Swords again will increase.'

Especially since this area isn't far from Pyongyang.

So, if there's a 4th-day Strongest Sword here, it would likely take them a few tens of minutes' to cover the distance.

'Let's move east and shower the last golden rain, then quickly return.'

As Yeongwoo formulated his plan in his mind and turned his head to the east.

Tap-tat!

He happened to make eye contact with a man running towards him from the east.

“Huh?”

“Uh?”

The man on the other side was even more startled than Yeongwoo.

On the head of this man, who was running barefoot with a long sword tied to his waist.

『Tosan’s Strongest Sword』

That title was attached.

‘Tosan? Where’s Tosan?’

While Yeongwoo gawked at the unfamiliar name, the Tosan’s Strongest Sword he encountered as a foreigner couldn’t close his wide-open mouth.

『Joseon’s Strongest Sword』

Unlike Yeongwoo, who was bewildered by the unfamiliar title, the Tosan’s Strongest Sword, who encountered an outsider, couldn’t close his wide-open mouth.

“Jo... Jo...!”

Tosan’s Strongest Sword was too shocked to pronounce more than one syllable.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, due to the loud voice emanating from the Tosan Strongest Sword, instinctively made a gesture to quiet him down.

“Shh, shhh! Please calm down...! We’re not here to fight!”

“Jo... Joseon...”

The Tosan Strongest Sword appeared to be in his early thirties, similar to Yeongwoo’s age.

However, as seen in the North-South confrontation in Paju, this man’s height wasn’t particularly tall either.

He might be around 160 cm at best.

In contrast, Yeongwoo’s height was about 2 meters.

Moreover, riding on Negwig, which also had a height of 2 meters, Yeongwoo's silhouette didn't even feel like it belonged to the same person.

So, it was no wonder that the Tosan's Strongest Sword, a top-notch figure in North Korea, was in such a panic.

At this point, he had never dreamed that the official Joseon Strongest Sword in North Korea would be such a giant monster.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

"Now, are you feeling better? As I mentioned earlier, we're not here to fight."

Right now...

"Now, um..."

The Tosan's Strongest Sword's breath, which had momentarily calmed down due to Yeongwoo's strange nuance, became rapid again.

"P-Please spare me. I have a family to support."

"N-No... it's not like that."

Yeongwoo rubbed his forehead, realizing that he had spent a lot of time here and asked the other person.

"Where is Tosan? Did you come from nearby?"

The other person probably came after seeing the sudden golden rain falling in Geumcheon County.

Even though he knew that the South Korean Strongest Sword with the mark of trouble was here.

That's how much the golden rain stimulates people's curiosity.

"Tosan... is right over there."

Quickly responding to Yeongwoo's question, the Tosan Strongest Sword pointed east with his finger.

Tosan County, North Hwanghae Province.

An area bordering Geumcheon County, and the man in front of him had dashed here as if he were possessed after seeing the golden rain falling from the sky.

“Ah, then let’s go to Tosan quickly. Are there residents over there too?”

“.....?”

The Tosan Strongest Sword made a frightened expression at the suggestion of going to their neighborhood.

After all, wasn’t it Yeongwoo who had killed the North Korean Strongest Swords just an hour ago?

「Our country’s title, Hwanghae’s Strongest Sword, has been looted!」

「Our country’s title, Goksan’s Strongest Sword, has been looted!」

「Our country’s title, Sinuiju’s Strongest Sword, has been looted!」

Not only the Tosan Strongest Sword here but also many surviving North Korean Strongest Swords had seen that dreadful looting message.

But the perpetrator of that heinous act suddenly saying, “Let’s go to Tosan quickly,” was something else entirely.

“I-Isn’t it unnecessary to harm innocent people?”

Ultimately, when the Tosan Strongest Sword mustered the courage to protest, Yeongwoo reluctantly took out commemorative coins from his pocket to show him.

“I’ve already told you three times, but I’m not here to fight. I’ll distribute 30,000 karma to the residents of Tosan, so please guide me quickly. If I have to say the same thing four times, then I might actually cause harm.”

“.....!”

* * *

Tosan Strongest Sword, Hwang Pyeongsu03.

Yeongwoo learned the name of this man thanks to the local status.

Click, click.

After walking straight east for a while, the area status, which had been set as Geumcheon County, finally changed to Tosan.

| The current area is 'Tosan.'

| The Strongest Sword of this area is 'Hwang Pyeongsu03'. Rank 1st, defenses 62.

"Mr. Pyeongsu, nice to meet you."

As Yeongwoo recited the name of the opponent written in the status, Hwang Pyeongsu awkwardly smiled and tilted his head downwards.

"Y-Yes... I am Hwang Pyeongsu. P-Please come to Tosan."

The number of defenses for Hwang Pyeongsu was 62 times.

This was a remarkably low number for North Korea, which had become a brutal lawless land right after the reset.

Of course, the population of Tosan County wasn't that large, but even before that, Hwang Pyeongsu's temperament itself wasn't ferocious.

While other Strongest Swords massacred to show off their strength, Hwang Pyeongsu only drew his sword in self-defense situations.

"Uh... If we go further in, we'll encounter the residents."

Hwang Pyeongsu of Tosan looked at Yeongwoo with an unexpectedly pitiful expression.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo quickly glanced around for pursuers and even checked the Epic Compass 'Fearful Cat' once.

Then.

"Yes, sounds good. Shall we do it here then?"

As Yeongwoo said this, reaching out towards the golden goblin, it opened a pocket of spatial void.

"Wha-What was that just now...?"

It was because he briefly glimpsed the infinite space inside the small pouch carried by the little goblin.

But before he could finish speaking, the goblin pulled out the golden sphere.

"Gasp."

Just as Yeongwoo had once remarked, Hwang Pyeongsu was also greatly shocked by the fact that the sphere could move like an object and stepped back.

Swoosh.

“Isn’t it fascinating? I’m still not used to it either.”

Saying this, Yeongwoo handed the golden sphere received from the goblin to the ground.

Thunk.

“W-What... What are you trying to do?”

Since the sphere was already spinning rapidly, Hwang Pyeongsu, with eyes full of fear, alternated between Yeongwoo and the golden sphere.

“Well... I’m going to spread the same golden rain you saw here in Tosan too.”

“S-So what exactly is this ‘golden rain’?”

While Hwang Pyeongsu was asking, the heavily fluctuating golden sphere suddenly shot up into the sky.

Whoosh!

“Huh?”

And Yeongwoo took advantage of the moment when Hwang Pyeongsu’s pupils were tinged with gold to check the mutation equipment.

<<Confirmed Reward>>

「Avenger」 – Mutant Shield

【After defense, the power of the next attack increases by 15%.】

‘It’s amazing. Even if you put that in the catalogue, it seems like it would work even if it’s not a shield defense.’

But for now, it was just a dream.

Having too many pieces of equipment, he couldn’t use all of them, be it bows, spears, swords, or shields.

Click!

While Yeongwoo was handing over the shield “Avenger” to the goblin, commemorative coins were created in the air at the right moment.

Shrrrr!

Yeongwoo quickly grabbed the coins, just like before, and hurriedly climbed onto the Negwig.

There was nothing strange about the fact that enemies could be rushing from Pyongyang or anywhere else by now.

“You mentioned earlier that you have a family, right? I hope it wasn’t a lie. The coins were probably delivered to your family members too. Please use them wisely.”

As Yeongwoo finished speaking, he was about to leave, and Hwang Pyeongsu, who had been absent-minded for a moment, unconsciously grabbed the knee of the North Korean monster.

Tap!

“T-There!”

“.....?”

“I don’t know why you’re doing this, but thank you anyway.”

“...Ah.”

Yeongwoo was not accustomed to receiving gratitude from others.

He glanced vaguely at the North Korean Strongest Sword who was close to his age, then turned his head southward, shifting his gaze to the flashing notification messages in front of him.

「There are unclaimed achievement rewards.」

「The recommended achievement list has been updated.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 142

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 142: Distortion (5)

Unclaimed achievement reward.

Referring to the just achieved “Golden Journey.”

As Yeongwoo opened the achievement window, the completion record was immediately displayed.

Acquired!

[Achievement Attained: Golden Journey]

| Achievement Grade: Legendary

| Achievement Rank: First

「Summon golden rain in domestic and foreign areas.」

Simultaneously, all stats increased by 100 each.

「Idealist」 – Epic Ring

[All stats increase by 100 per achievement possessed]

Finally completed the Golden Journey perfectly.

‘Ah... Finally.’

Each achievement in the Golden Journey felt like crossing a huge mountain.

Of course, the rewards were overwhelmingly better than other achievements each time.

‘So, this time’s reward...’

As Yeongwoo read through the completion record of the Golden Journey, the achievement reward was automatically received.

Ping!

「Golden Trail」 – Legendary two-handed greatsword

【Auto Combat】

【Cumulative golden ratio: 10】

*Special bonus for 'Golden Journey.'

'A two-handed sword...?'

Yeongwoo's eyes widened in awe as a giant golden silhouette appeared above his head.

Swoosh...

But currently, Yeongwoo was atop Negwig, rapidly heading south.

"Wait a moment!"

Concerned that the newly acquired sword would fall to the ground, Yeongwoo immediately tried to stop Negwig.

"Huh...?"

Contrary to expectations, the golden silhouette did not continue to follow Yeongwoo at Negwig's speed.

"What, what's going on?"

Surprised, Yeongwoo eventually pulled on Negwig's reins out of shock.

Clang!

– Whinny!

Then Negwig abruptly stopped, and the problematic silhouette of the golden trail, as its name suggested, also came to a smooth halt, fluttering in the air behind Yeongwoo.

Swoosh-

"...Unbelievable. It's not just a sword."

Finally seeing the full form of the "Golden Trail," Yeongwoo couldn't help but marvel.

With a total length of 2 meters, a blade length of 1.5 meters, and a blade width of 40 centimeters, this colossal weapon resembled a large mirror and seemed to float in the air as if alive.

-Hum...

As if a small motor were embedded, vibrations continued to emanate from the Golden Trail.

‘So... is this what they mean by a sword crying?’

Yeongwoo thought half-jokingly, cautiously reaching his right hand towards the large handle of the golden trail.

Being the rightful owner of this sword, he felt he should at least try grabbing it, regardless of whether it flew around on its own or not.

Tap.

Eventually, as Yeongwoo grasped the handle of the golden trail, an unexpected message appeared.

「The current sword skill slot is empty.」

“Huh?”

「Would you like to register a new sword skill?」

“What in the world...?”

With a puzzled expression, Yeongwoo suddenly realized.

“Auto Combat?”

「Golden Trail」 – Legendary two-handed greatsword

【Auto Combat】

What did this tooltip of the massive weapon signify?

“Could it really be true auto combat? It becomes automatic?”

The characteristic of hovering around the owner without any manipulation, and the prompt for “sword skill registration” upon direct contact with the sword—all of this meant only one thing.

‘It’s not that grabbing this sword makes combat automatic, but exactly as written in the tooltip...’

-Humming.

That colossal sword engaged in automatic combat.

Even more astonishingly...

‘Using the sword skills I’ve registered for automatic combat...?’

This was an equipment at an overwhelmingly overbalanced level that no one would dispute.

「Would you like to register a new sword skill?」

The message asking about registering a new sword skill still hovered in front of Yeongwoo.

“Y-yes, register.”

As Yeongwoo approved the registration, the available martial arts that “Golden Trail” could use were selected from his current repertoire.

||Joseon Swordsmanship – Legendary Grade

|Rohm’s Bottom – Legendary Grade

|Gyeongbuk’s Sword Law – Unique Grade

...

...

|Gumi Swordsmanship – Relic Grade

And surprisingly, all martial arts, including Rohm’s Bottom, could be registered.

‘I thought Rohm’s Bottom was too close to martial arts to be usable.’

How would the automatic combat of a 2-meter-long sword flying in the sky work?

Moreover, if that greatsword were to use martial arts used by prisoners from another realm...

Gulp.

After swallowing hard once, Yeongwoo registered the legendary martial art “Rohm’s Bottom” to the golden trail.

Acquired!

Then, it was visible on the equipment tooltip that the currently used martial art was promptly indicated.

「Golden Trail」 – Legendary two-handed greatsword

【Auto Combat】

|Rohm's Bottom

【Cumulative golden ratio: 10】

*Special bonus for “Golden Journey.”

‘Oh... it's recognized immediately,’ Yeongwoo muttered to himself.

However, since there was no immediate opponent to test against, there was no way to know how the greatsword would interpret and use Rohm's Bottom.

‘It's hard to imagine.’

Even if it's a greatsword, it couldn't possibly engage in boxing or wrestling.

Clang, clunk!

Meanwhile, Negwig continued its descent, and by this time, Yeongwoo had turned Negwig's direction eastward.

It was to check if there were any mutants still alive in the Yeoncheon or Cheorwon area.

Now that he could store the golden sphere, it would be safer to secure it before nightfall.

‘Let's sweep through Gyeonggi Province and then return to Paju to meet the merchants.’

By now, there would likely be merchants coming down to Gangnam and Gwangjin-gu areas.

Although Gwangjin-gu was unknown, Gangnam was a region with an owner, so no one would have touched the merchants, probably Paju too.

‘Paju should be the same. Everyone dispersed.’

*Available Karma: 8,694,000

With current cash holdings totaling 8.69 million Karma, there was no shortage of money.

In unavoidable situations, he could also duplicate a card containing 7 million Karma.

「Blank check」 – Unique Currency

【Once, it changes into the touched currency.】

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘Of course, it would be too wasteful to just burn 7 million Karma. I should save a lot more if possible.’

Anyway, except for the nighttime dungeon tickets, everything had almost reached perfection.

Clang!

Continuing to steer Negwig eastward, Yeongwoo turned his gaze to the last notification he hadn’t checked yet.

「The recommended achievement list has been updated.」

With the completion of the achievement “Golden Journey,” there would probably be new entries in the recommended achievement list.

‘The probability of the next stage achievement related to the golden ratio series is high.’

And even if he didn’t know, there would be another achievement in the place where “Nocturnal” used to be.

“Check achievements.”

As Yeongwoo opened the achievement window, two existing achievements appeared first in order.

Pop, pop!

[Complete Orphan]

[Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)]

[Ending Maker]

[Discover the protagonist after the reset.]

‘Still the same.’

Two stubborn stumbling blocks that he still couldn’t figure out how to complete.

Instead, the newly appeared achievement below was relatively straightforward.

Of course, that didn’t mean it was easy.

This time, it wasn’t just a matter of going out to domestic or foreign areas and summoning golden rain.

[Golden Storm]

|Summon golden rain in the following four ways. (0/4)

-When there are seven or more mutants nearby.

-In the North American continent.

-When two entities with the attributes of #chaebol and #dragon race are fighting each other.

-At the moment when an entity with the attribute of #national enemy dies.

-When a second-grade or higher otherworldly entity visits.

‘Those crazy bast*rds.’

Yeongwoo was generally the one hearing such words directed at him, but this time, a curse slipped out of his own mouth first.

‘Don’t these guys know when to stop?’

This was practically at the level of not even considering the achievement completion.

However...

‘...But strictly speaking, it’s not entirely impossible.’

The system’s officially acknowledged stubbornness subtly raised its head.

‘Four sightings are required to fulfill the conditions, right? So, at least two are possible for now.’

-When there are seven or more mutants nearby.

-At the moment when an entity with the attribute of #national enemy dies.

Amazingly, Yeongwoo had the ability to summon three mutants, so by gathering four mutants on the battlefield, he could achieve the condition of “seven or more mutants nearby.”

‘I could just recruit more friends. So, breaking that condition is just a matter of time.’

The case was the same for an entity with the attribute of #national enemy.

Due to Yeongwoo’s starting point being the Korean Peninsula, he had a national enemy right next to him, without any guilt even if he were to cut their throat and kill them.

That was none other than...

‘...Kim Jong-un.’

With the quest for Dogo’s assassination in hand, there was no reason not to try it.

‘As soon as Kim Jong-un dies, I just have to spread the golden rain. It’s like a congratulatory performance.’

Regardless of the intention, two out of four achievements were quite achievable with a fairly high probability.

‘Now, the remaining two are the problem...’

– In the North American continent.

– When two entities with the attributes of #chaebol and #dragon race are fighting each other.

– When a second-grade or higher otherworldly entity visits.

Two out of these three methods must be performed.

‘If they’re chaebols and dragon race at the same time... we might be able to meet them when Korean chaebols return, but they have to be fighting each other.’

Since he hadn’t met a dragon yet, Yeongwoo couldn’t imagine it well.

It would be a situation where chaebols who came down as mutants fought each other, having taken on the identity of mutants.

‘I could make one of them my friend, and that could make it work.’

Nevertheless, it wasn't an easy task.

The request to summon golden rain in North America was equally strange.

'Is this telling me to swim across the Pacific to North America?'

But why specifically pick the North American continent?

As Yeongwoo pondered, he naturally shifted his gaze to the bottom of the achievement list and found the reason.

[Pangea]

| At the moment when a tectonic shift occurs, witness the movement of the continent.

"..."

Pangea.

A supercontinent appearing in Alfred Wegener's theory of continental drift, meaning all existing continents are connected as one.

In other words, what this achievement implied was...

"Ah... the land is about to connect soon. I didn't know that."

His mind went blank.

Yeongwoo couldn't think anymore.

* * *

At the same time, on the outskirts of Geumcheon-gun, North Hamgyong Province.

Pyongyang's Strongest Sword, Lim Yeongpyo 01, chuckled as he watched children who seemed to be no older than ten playing happily.

He had rushed here upon receiving a report of unusual weather phenomena occurring in Geumcheon, where the thief from South Korea had visited.

However, when he arrived, instead of unusual weather, the sky over Geumcheon-gun was clear as ever.

And most importantly, children were outside as if nothing had happened.

'Was the report wrong?'

Yeongpyo raised his head again and looked towards the stigma that had crossed over to the south.

Then, suddenly...

Clang!

With a familiar metallic sound and a momentary flash of brilliance, Yeongpyo's gaze shot like an arrow.

Straight into the hands of those children.

"Hey there."

Sensing something ominous, Pyongyang's Strongest Sword approached the child who held something in his small hands.

And then...

Swoosh.

"Would you like me to give you some candy?"

He pretended to take out a candy from his pocket.

"Really?"

The child grinned and reached out his hand to take the candy, and in that moment...

"...?"

For the first time in his life, Lim Yeongpyo saw a dazzling golden coin, engraved with the face of the South Korean thief in the center.

"Jeong Yeongwoo, this bas*ard?"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 143

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 143: Distortion (6)

Pangaea.

As anticipated through achievements, if indeed all continents were to merge into one, what would happen?

‘Could General Kim Younghyeom be right about a real war breaking out?’

The merging of land meant that borders would physically converge.

In simpler terms, from our country’s perspective, it could mean a land connection with the neighboring island nation, Japan.

‘And there could be other possibilities. While it’s written as Pangaea in the achievements, the land could merge in completely different forms.’

The biggest characteristic of the original Pangaea was the gathering of North and South America, Africa, and India.

On the other hand, Eurasia was largely clustered at the northern end of Pangaea, not significantly different from its current form.

In other words, for our country, the anticipated change would be merely a land connection with Japan.

‘But if it’s named Pangaea and yet its form is completely different....’

For instance, if the “Pangaea after the reset” were a gigantic ring-shaped continent, what would happen?

‘Then we can’t know which country would come and merge with the Korean Peninsula.’

From a realistic perspective, Japan or the Philippines might have been candidates, but it could be an entirely different scenario.

Up to this point, Yeongwoo’s thoughts were based on the premise that the dimensional shift would somewhat preserve the current geography.

‘Well, it looks like I’m going to have a sword fight with Kim Jong-un soon, so I wonder if the ground is moving a little.’

Due to experiencing too many events, Yeongwoo had come to accept the idea of Pangaea quite quickly.

And above all else.

Swoosh, swoosh!

Yeongwoo's attention was entirely focused on a distant glowing column of red light.

'There... it's there!'

There was a mutant even at this hour.

For Yeongwoo, a mutant meant a dungeon entry ticket, and that meant...

'If I do well tonight, I might earn another encyclopedia.'

Yeongwoo glanced over the local situation with slightly excited eyes.

[The current area of residence is Yeoncheon.

[The Strongest sword in this area is 'Jo Seongsik¹⁴.' Rank 2, 11 defenses.

The city he was traversing was Yeoncheon-gun in Gyeonggi Province.

However, the glowing column Yeongwoo was observing was not in Yeoncheon but rather across the city in Cheorwon, a mutant.

Hence, the reason the red glowing column moved as if startled was probably...

"Is the Yeoncheon's Strongest sword in Cheorwon right now?"

The probability was high.

Because.

"Huh? What's that?"

"Mo, monster...!"

"Alarm! Sound the alarm!"

Even though people mistook Yeongwoo for a new monster and sounded the alarm by hitting bells, the Strongest sword did not appear.

The golden flying greatsword, alone in the sky above Negwig.

Perhaps because these two impressions were too strong, people seemed unable to muster the courage to read the title affixed above Yeongwoo's head.

'Wow, there are more people than I thought.'

Even about 30% of the residents visible in sight in Yeoncheon were dressed in military attire.

As it was a front-line area, there were many military units, and the survival rate of soldiers was high right after the reset.

Especially with the makeshift checkpoint set up ahead, it seemed like the security of this area was voluntarily undertaken by the soldiers.

“Huh?”

“S-Stop!”

Of course, this was a world after the reset where soldiers brandished swords instead of guns.

Swoosh!

It was utterly strange to see people in military attire drawing medieval-style swords from their waists, even to Yeongwoo’s eyes.

But given the circumstances, Yeongwoo instructed Negwig to leap forward without engaging with them.

-Whoosh!

Then, Negwig, with its sharp iron hooves, propelled itself forward, leaping high over the barricades set up by the soldiers.

“...Huh?”

“...!”

“...!”

In an instant, the suspicious individual passed through the checkpoint.

“What was that just now?”

“Joseon... Strongest Sword?”

Some soldiers belatedly caught sight of Yeongwoo’s title “Strongest Sword,” but they couldn’t possibly imagine that it referred to the actual “Strongest Sword.”

How could a golden greatsword soaring through the sky and a black horse made of steel be human possessions?

Swoosh!

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo and Negwig, having leaped over the checkpoint, landed on the ground and headed straight for Cheorwon.

Thunk!

Soon, the updated regional status arrived.

However,

‘The hell?’

Contrary to expectations, there was a Strongest Sword in Cheorwon.

‘Then who’s fighting over there...?’

Scratching his head, Yeongwoo continued inward towards Cheorwon until he could soon resolve his doubts.

* * *

Yeongcheon Strongest Sword, Jo Seongsik¹⁴.

Cheorwon Strongest Sword, Kim Gwangyong⁰⁶.

Both thought at the same time.

‘This is fuc*ed.’

The mutant that appeared in Cheorwon was too powerful.

[Cheorwon County Mayor – Son Junyong]

Son Junyong.

A politically ambitious type who, upon assuming office as county mayor, pursued ambitious redevelopment projects in Cheorwon, only to find out later that his ambition was merely a passion for bribery.

Most of the contracts related to the redevelopment project were found to involve corruption.

‘Fuck, shouldn’t these basta*ds who’ve eaten up so much money come back as weaker monsters?’

Kim Gwangyong, the Cheorwon Strongest Sword, gritted his teeth, feeling the tingling sensation in his left arm holding the shield.

It was beginning to strain just to block Son Junyong's attacks.

That corrupt mayor's power was unexpectedly formidable.

「Hehe, are you starting to feel the pressure?」

The mutant Son Junyong acquired was an ogre standing an impressive 4 meters tall.

Its weapon was an enormous club, making it impossible to parry with a sword.

In other words, they had to either block with the shield or completely evade, just to withstand the next blow.

But now, even blocking with the shield had its limits, and it was only a matter of time before both of them were crushed.

And there was another Strongest Sword here, Jo Seongsik, who didn't even have a shield.

‘At this rate, we'll both end up dead soon.’

‘I'd rather both attack to the end simultaneously and settle this...’

As the two Strongest Swords were exchanging signals with their eyes, Cheorwon County Mayor Son Junyong let out a cruel laugh.

「Don't make futile resistance, you basta*ds!」

He knew very well that soon both Strongest Swords would be fighting for their lives.

Whoosh!

Then, with a heavy stride, Son Junyong's massive figure suddenly retreated.

“...?”

“What?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

As the two Strongest Sword turned their heads to chase the suddenly disappeared opponent,

「Hah.」

A triumphant smile appeared on Son Junyong's face, towering four meters high.

Then,

Boom!

Without hesitation, his club cut through the air.

It was a horizontal swing from right to left.

An attack aimed at annihilating both of them with a single blow.

“Dodge, dodge!”

“This is insane.”

The sights of the two Strongest Swords were already in chaos due to the warning from the regional magic system, urging for an emergency escape.

However, instinctively, they knew it was already too late. Because...

“...!”

Even before they could move, the shadow of the club was already looming dangerously close.

‘This damn bas*ard, he’s been toying with us all this time.’

Kim Gwangyong finally realized, as the club approached, that Son Junyong had been deliberately holding back his strength all this while.

He felt a surge of anger rising in his throat.

And as if his emotions were materializing,

Boom!

“...?”

“Huh?”

A violet explosion erupted from Son Junyong's right hand, which was holding the club.

「That son of a...!」

The one most surprised by the sudden explosion was none other than Son Junyong himself. Not only did he feel tremendous pain from his right palm due to the aftermath of the explosion, but there was also a crack on the club.

「What the hell did you just do?」

Struggling with the pain that had risen to his temples, Son Junyong, with one eye barely open, glared at the two Strongest Swords in front of him.

Naturally, he assumed that one of them had pulled out a last-minute trick.

When a cornered mouse is pushed to the brink, it doesn't hesitate to attack the cat.

But then,

Fweeew!

A small gunshot followed, clearly coming from outside the battlefield.

“Huh!”

“Who else is there...?”

Only when the two Strongest Swords finally turned their heads to the west did they see a mounted archer holding a bow hundreds of meters away.

“Fu*k, who's that now?”

“Wh-who...?”

Then,

Boom!

Another explosion occurred near Son Junyong, causing his right hand, which was holding the club, to shatter into pieces.

Thud, thump.

The sight of a large finger rolling to the ground was evidence of the Strongest Sword's escape.

But the most astonishing thing was Son Junyong's reaction.

「You, you bastard!」

Despite his right hand being completely destroyed, instead of writhing in pain, he suddenly sprang up and rushed towards the intruder.

Thud, thud!

Unlike before, his entire body was now turning bright red, indicating...

‘Is he going berserk?’

Just like the thoughts of the two Strongest Swords, Yeongwoo also sensed something as he watched the mutant charging towards them at an incredible speed.

‘If their stamina or energy drops below a certain level, they go berserk.’

It wasn't hard to understand, as it was a common setup in games, but seeing it firsthand was fascinating.

‘It seems like the mutants with their own gimmicks are starting to appear. With these reinforced mutants, conglomerates returning as dragons or Kim Jong-un won't be easy opponents.’

So, dealing with enhanced mutants like this should be relatively straightforward.

Thud, boom!

In the meantime, as Son Junyong approached closely, Yeongwoo leaped off Negwig to meet him.

Clang!

At the same time, the “Golden Trail” emitted a very intense vibration.

– Humming!

As if seeking approval for deployment.

‘Ah... That's right. You were an automatic combat sword, weren't you?’

「Golden Trail」 – Legendary Two-Handed Greatsword

【Automatic Combat】

| Rohm's Bottom

A legendary-grade two-handed greatsword equipped with martial arts said to be used by the prisoners of another realm.

Since it was hard to imagine how this sword could engage in automatic combat in the first place, Yeongwoo silently approved the deployment by nodding his head towards the sword.

'Is... this enough for approval?'

Having given his silent approval signal, Yeongwoo stared intently at the Golden Trail, while Son Junyong, who had approached within about 20 meters, blinked in surprise.

「Strongest Sword of Joseon...? Huh, are these guys kidding?」

Indeed, from the perspective of a political figure who had just landed in this world, titles like Strongest Sword would undoubtedly seem amusing.

'But would my sword seem amusing too?'

Just as Yeongwoo was about to draw his sword from his belt,

Thunk!

“...?”

The Golden Trail firmly plunged its broad blade deep into the ground.

“What? You said it's for automatic combat!”

Thinking he might have finally been tricked, Yeongwoo widened his eyes, only for the golden greatsword to start emitting a high-powered engine-like noise.

– Whiiiiing!

Then,

「Die!」

At the moment Son Junyong charged towards Yeongwoo,

Crunch!

The asphalt on the ground erupted towards the ba*tard's forehead.

‘This b*stard, really?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 144

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 144: Origin (1)

Sprinkle asphalt in the eyes.

Although the technique of the fourth equipment of the Golden Ratio achievement was somewhat inferior for manipulation, its effect was tremendous.

「Huh?」

Because Cheorwon County Mayor Son Junyong, who was rushing with a fierce momentum, stopped moving all at once.

「No, this damn bastard.」

But who is Son Junyong?

A man who was expelled from this world after receiving the majority vote of Cheorwon County citizens in the extinction vote.

Now his body was an Ogre with a height of a whopping 4 meters, so he could easily block asphalt debris with enough distance between his eyes and the ground.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 1,500 to 3,647.」

The sensory value far exceeded that of most Strongest Swords.

‘As expected, it was a reinforced type.’

Yeongwoo exhaled deeply as he looked at the sensory deprivation alert.

This was a higher value than that of Death Knight Lee Seonho, who was also a reinforced type mutant.

「A guy who does this kind of thing is called the Strongest Sword of Joseon?」

Then Son Junyong showed an angry gesture.

He was trying to retaliate for the despicable ambush.

Boom!

Once again, when Son Junyong's huge muscles produced a mighty output, the Strongest Swords of Gyeonggi Province who were watching it opened their mouths in shock.

"Whoa!"

"No, don't...!"

To both of them, it seemed impossible to block the current blow.

Swish!

A large club swung fiercely, cutting through the air menacingly.

Yet, that so-called Strongest Sword of Joseon remained calmly within the opponent's range.

"Watch out!"

"Ah!"

Yeoncheon Strongest Sword Jo Seongsik.

Cheorwon Strongest Sword Kim Kwangyong.

As the two screamed almost in panic, Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo drew his sword like lightning.

Slash!

But it wasn't Yeongwoo's sword that blocked Son Junyong's club.

It was none other than the golden trail – Legendary Two-handed Sword.

「Golden Trail」 – Legendary two-handed greatsword

【Auto Combat】

【Rohm's Bottom】

– Wheeee!

It was a legendary-grade greatsword roaring with tremendous momentum.

「What, what's this?」

Only then did Son Junyong realize, with a bewildered expression, that the golden greatsword was moving on its own.

Of course, Yeongwoo was equally surprised.

‘What’s the output?’

Instead of being driven into the ground by Son Junyong’s attack, the golden trail remained floating in the air.

And in the meantime...

– Break

The symbol of ‘Break,’ meaning the ability to break the opponent’s posture, appeared countless times in Yeongwoo’s sight.

So, without hesitation, Yeongwoo thrust his black sword towards Son Junyong while commanding the golden goblin somewhere.

“Underdog!”

Upon hearing this, the goblin sitting on the neck of Negreg opened its pocket dimension hastily.

– Kiiiiit!

After a while, the goblin, with an urgent voice, threw the Underdog spell at Yeongwoo.

「These guys...!」

Seeing another sword added to the battlefield from outside, Son Junyong made a resentful expression.

For some reason, he felt as if he was being ganged up on.

And indeed...

– Uuuuuung!

At the timing of Yeongwoo's black sword thrust, the golden trail rushed towards Son Junyong.

Swish!

Being stabbed by a 2-meter-long Strongest Sword and a sword with a length of a full 2 meters was a completely different experience from the pressure alone.

Of course, the more frightening one was obvious.

「Eek!」

Son Junyong, with a frightened expression, swung his club to block the golden trail.

Clang!

At that moment, another symbol appeared on his whole body.

– Kill

It meant the opponent's life was finished.

‘Is this the end?’

As the Underdog arrived just in time, Yeongwoo threw away the black sword and grabbed it, holding the Underdog.

Thunk!

Upon seeing this scene, Yeoncheon and Cheorwon Strongest Swords looked at Yeongwoo with eyes close to awe.

“Wow, what's that?”

“No, damn it...”

The sight of them fighting, changing swords as if changing empty magazines, was a big shock to them.

Adding to that was the halo effect of the title “Strongest Sword.”

Even though the level of the battle was different, it was too different.

「These damn...!」

On the other hand, Son Junyong pushed away the golden trail clinging to his club with his foot and bit his lip.

In the meantime, the Joseon's Strongest Sword, which had changed its sword, was seen making an unusual attack.

It seemed that he was resentful because he felt that something was not right.

–Do these bastards not know when to stop?

Swooosh!

Since the tip of the sword had already approached near the abdomen, Son Junyong's best response was to dodge behind the club.

Anyway, if he could somehow block a single strike, it wouldn't be difficult to turn that guy, who had already come within range, into a sitting duck.

So, at the moment Son Junyong attempted an emergency evasion...

Thuuuung!

With an unexpected sound of impact, his lower body momentarily lifted in the air.

「...?」

Startled, Son Junyong reflexively rolled his eyes downward, only to catch a glint of gold so bright it almost blinded him.

–Ah.

It was that despicable greatsword that had knocked his legs out from under him earlier.

And then...

Swoop!

The Underdog, which had been rushed forward at an early speed, pierced his abdomen.

「Urgh!」

Even the tough skin of the Ogre couldn't withstand such a powerful blow, almost like cracking a coconut.

「Underdog」 – Mutant one-handed sword

【Power increases by 25% against targets larger than the user.】

But this didn't take Son Junyong's life.

What completely severed his lifeline was...

Wheeeeeng!

In an instant, the golden trail, which had floated high into the air and then descended vertically, was there.

Crunch!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

As if dropping like a guillotine blade, the greatsword, with a width of 40 centimeters, fell, seemingly doing nothing to Son Junyong's head, and returned to Yeongwoo's side.

–W-What...?

Done, and with blood smeared all over its slender blade, it seemed.

'Is it... over?'

Because everything had happened so quickly, even Yeongwoo couldn't quite grasp it all and blinked for a while.

Though he was the attacker, even Yeongwoo himself felt uncertain about winning if he were to fight the one with this golden trail.

That's how much of a threatening variable "Automatic Combat" weapons were.

And...

'Its power is unbelievably strong. It's a legendary-grade weapon, so maybe it's to be expected, but... still, is it this much?'

Yeongwoo blankly stared at the decapitated body of Cheorwon County Mayor Son Junyong.

Then, his body seemed to melt into thin air, disappearing and leaving behind a golden sphere.

–Kit!

Next, the golden goblin rushed forward to the sphere, then glanced at Yeongwoo.

–Keet?

It seemed to indicate whether to store this in the pocket dimension.

“ ... ”

Yeongwoo nodded in agreement to the sphere’s storage, then shifted his gaze to the two Strongest Swords standing like statues.

“Are you both okay? Any injuries?”

“...Eh?”

“Ah... ah! Yes, we’re fine!”

The two Strongest Swords from Gyeonggi Province, who had been momentarily stunned, swallowed hard as they watched the golden goblin toss the sphere into its pocket dimension.

It was as if the 3 million karma allocated to Cheorwon had now gone there, but of course, it was money they couldn’t have gotten anyway.

If it hadn’t been for that man, the Strongest Sword of Joseon, not only would the two have been smashed into the ground, but the entire Cheorwon area would have been turned into a battlefield.

“ ... ”

As the two Strongest Swords stood with a dejected look, Yeongwoo observed their attire and asked.

“Are you both soldiers?”

As Yeongwoo pointed out, they were both dressed in military uniforms.

The difference was that Yeoncheon Strongest Sword Jo Seongsik wore the rank insignia of a sergeant, while Cheorwon Strongest Sword Kim Kwangyong wore the insignia of a corporal.

“Yes, somehow...”

Kim Kwangyong, a corporal, was the first to smile awkwardly and answer.

On the other hand, Sergeant Jo Seongsik’s position was clearly different.

“Although late, let me introduce myself. I am Sergeant Jo Seongsik, 2nd Platoon Leader of the Army’s Temporary Headquarters Firearm Company in Yeoncheon.”

Then Jo Seongsik raised his palm and saluted like a knife.

Thunk!

“Ah, it’s an honor to meet you, Sergeant Jo Seongsik.”

Yeongwoo, thinking it might be rude to salute back, nodded with a slight bow.

“By the way, is there still a Firearm Company?”

Upon hearing Yeongwoo’s inquiry after hearing his introduction, Jo Seongsik turned his head with a bitter expression.

“All of us... perished on the second day.”

“...Ah. I’m sorry.”

“It’s okay. It was my mistake.”

Jo Seongsik’s explanation was that he thought the second-day mutant would be similar in difficulty to the first day’s.

So, like the previous day, he had dedicated himself to handling the mutants with his platoon members, but only he, Jo Seongsik, the Strongest Sword himself, survived.

Still, it was fortunate in misfortune that many of the other unit members who had been responsible for clearing the monsters in the Yeoncheon area had survived.

‘Then the soldiers I saw in Yeoncheon earlier must be the survivors from back then.’

Yeongwoo had grasped the situation to some extent.

“The predecessor of the Army’s Temporary Headquarters was the 36th Division of the 5th Army.”

Of course, the 36th Division was the unit with the highest ratio of remaining personnel after the reset, but in reality, there were a few soldiers from other nearby units mixed in, according to Jo Seongsik’s explanation.

In simple terms, the soldiers who had been guarding the Yeoncheon area had gathered themselves after the reset to maintain a makeshift form of the army.

“So, you haven’t made contact with other units yet.”

“Yes. Currently, stabilizing our jurisdiction takes precedence.”

In fact, it was only natural.

Isn't it just the 4th day since the reset?

While Yeongwoo has been busy shuttling between South Korea, North Korea, and dungeons in just one day, the majority of survivors were already out of breath just trying to fend off the mutants and monsters that come every day.

“Right now, it's only in name... But anyway, there's a provisional government set up in Seoul. How about visiting and having a chat with the government officials?”

“Oh, really?”

Although Jo Seongsik hesitated, he couldn't hide his suspicious gaze.

Given that they are practically fighting a war every day, it's hard to believe that a new government has been established in Seoul.

Understanding this, Yeongwoo concluded the conversation by informing him of the location of the government office at the north end of Yongsan Park.

“Then... Are the soldiers maintaining security in Cheorwon?”

At this point, the previously silent Cheorwon Strongest Sword Kim Kwangyong widened his eyes.

“No. Cheorwon doesn't have its own regular army...”

When Kim Kwangyong couldn't continue his words, Corporal Jo Seongsik spoke instead.

“Cheorwon is being led by our Kim Kwangyong, the Strongest Sword, and our provisional headquarters is assisting with civilian security.”

“Ah.”

Strongest Sword Kim Kwangyong...

It's an expression that means a lot.

Because Corporal Kim Kwangyong holds such great power, the temporary army headquarters can't treat him as a corporal.

“Anyway, it’s fortunate. I didn’t know you were putting in so much effort at the front lines. Thanks to you, Seoul was safe.”

When Yeongwoo said this with sincerity mixed with formality, Jo Seongsik’s eyes widened.

“Seoul is safe because of us?”

“Ah... Did I make a mistake?”

Surprised by the other’s reaction, Yeongwoo found himself bewildered.

Then, Corporal Jo Seongsik explained, tilting his head.

“No, you didn’t make a mistake... I was just curious about how the problem in Uijeongbu was resolved. After all, they were so powerful...”

As Jo Seongsik tried to retreat, Yeongwoo grabbed him.

“No, about the problem in Uijeongbu? I’m hearing about it for the first time.”

“Huh? How could that be? I thought Uijeongbu was completely destroyed because of the problem... Wouldn’t they have gone to Seoul?”

At this point, Yeongwoo realized that he had completely missed one of the major events in this world.

After all, he had only just arrived in the northern part of Gyeonggi Province today.

“Who exactly are ‘they’ in Uijeongbu?”

When Yeongwoo asked this, Jo Seongsik pointed south.

“They are the prisoners of Uijeongbu Prison.”

“Ah.”

As Yeongwoo nodded, following Jo Seongsik’s gaze to the south, a small vibration occurred in his arms.

“?”

So, rummaging through his embrace to find the source of the vibration, he pulled out a fountain pen that he hadn’t used in a while.

「Wanted Poster」 – Epic

【Find what you want.】

|Father

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 145

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 145: Origin (2)

‘What, what does this mean?’

As Yeongwoo looked surprised while holding the fountain pen, Sergeant Jo Seongsik tilted his head.

“Why are you doing that?”

“That’s...” Yeongwoo hesitated, then closed his mouth again.

Why would the ‘Wanted Poster’ set up to find his father react at this point?

‘Could my father have any connection to the prison?’

He couldn’t help but think so.

The wanted poster that reappeared in his sight pointed south, towards Uijeongbu.

Yeongwoo glanced vaguely to the south, pondering his own background.

「This individual is a random combination of level 4 settings.」

「Influenced by parental settings, they possess the following immutable elements at birth: #Level4 #Orphan.」

「As a level 4 combination, they receive retroactive adjustments to acquire settings of level 2 or higher throughout their lifespan.」

The ruthless preface of the fate record, which even evoked fear at the time.

But now, Yeongwoo wasn't afraid of those ominous words anymore.

He had become the person he was now, facing much more terrifying things than those mere phrases.

Jeong Yeongwoo07.

The daring "Jeong Yeongwoo," seventh of all the Jeong Yeongwoos on Earth to contact the Currency Exchange, and the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk Province, Gangnam, and Joseon.

'Also known as the advertising model for the universal weapon brand Dogo.'

And at some point, he would compete with Kim Jong-un and who would emerge as Geumgang Yaksha.

However, despite all that.

[Father]: Grade 6 Extra

[Mother]: Grade 1 Supporting Role

Faced with the clear confirmation of his own origins in the fate record, Jeong Yeongwoo07 couldn't help but feel diminished.

Of course, it was natural. Jeong Yeongwoo07 was also born between a man and a woman and inherited much from them.

'A random combination of level 4 settings...'

When certain settings from his grade 6 father and grade 1 mother were appropriately integrated, it resulted in the system-designated 'stubborn' being born.

"What exactly happened in Uijeongbu? Did the prisoners conduct a mass breakout?"

Yeongwoo asked, hoping it wasn't true.

In response, Lieutenant Jo Seongsik gave a merciless answer.

"Yes. It's said that several Currency Exchanges even fell on top of the prison. Because of the chaos, it seems prisoners poured out."

"Oh..."

Yeongwoo rubbed his forehead.

This meant that his father was most likely one of the criminals imprisoned in Uijeongbu, and he would soon have to identify him among those sinners.

‘Does the wanted poster pinpoint the exact target I’m looking for? So far, it seems to only vaguely indicate the direction.’

Would it leave a mark like a target above the opponent’s head when he got close enough?

He could only find out by meeting the target himself.

“Hmm...”

Yeongwoo stared anxiously southward.

At that moment, Jeong Seongsik cautiously asked.

“Are you planning to go to Uijeongbu...?”

“Yes. If the city is in such chaos, I need to see it for myself.”

There was no need to explicitly mention that his father might be there.

But apart from that, there was one other question.

‘If there was such a big uproar in Uijeongbu, why doesn’t Seoul know about it yet?’

At least the members of the Strongest Swords assembly, who had started the alliance early, should have been aware, shouldn’t they?

“...”

In the end, he would have to go to Uijeongbu himself to find out.

With determination, Yeongwoo reached out his left hand into the air and summoned his black sword.

Swish.

「Gnoll’s Iron Belt」 – Mutant Belt

【Remotely retrieve weapons.】

Instantly, the black sword lying on the ground flew back like an arrow and stabbed itself into Yeongwoo’s waistband.

Clang!

“Huh...?”

Once again, Lieutenant Jo Seongsik was greatly surprised.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo was climbing on top of the Negwig with the Golden Goblin.

Tap!

As Jo Seongsik inserted the sword he was holding into the waistband, he bid farewell to Strongest Sword.

“If I visit Seoul, can I see you again...?”

“Yes. Every day at 3 p.m., the Strongest Sword of Seoul gathers in Yongsan Park. You can see me then too.”

Yeongwoo added that if it wasn't at that time, he would have to come to Gangnam himself.

It also implied that he wasn't often attached to Seoul.

“Oh... So there's a Strongest Sword gathering.”

For Jo Seongsik, who had been guarding the front, everything he heard from Yeongwoo, who came from Seoul, was new and surprising.

“Please be careful. Pocheon is close to a gray area, but you should be a little cautious from Yangju onwards.”

Of course, whether there was anyone who could deal with this monster over there was another matter altogether.

Jo Seongsik advised with concern.

“Yes, thank you. If there are any problems on the way, I'll take care of them.”

Meant that Yeongwoo would kill any threats to himself and Seoul as he passed through.

“...!”

Seongsik realized the meaning of Yeongwoo's words belatedly and felt a chill run down his spine involuntarily.

Clunk.

Finally, the Negwig carrying Yeongwoo began to move its iron hooves slowly.

* * *

Pyeongtaek, Gyeonggi Province.

Before the reset, its population was only 140,000, making it one of the cities with very few people compared to its size. Even Gangnam had a population of 540,000.

‘There’s literally no one there. It’s closer to a ghost town than a gray area,’ Seongsik remarked.

According to him, Pyeongtaek had become a sort of public hunting ground where all nearby Strongest Sword and monster hunters gathered around 1 p.m. to earn money.

‘It’s true that Yangju’s Strongest Sword serves as the protectors of this city. So people must be living here.’

[Current location: ‘Pyeongtaek.’

]There is no Strongest Sword in this area.

There was no Strongest Sword acting as the defense force here, and consequently, there were no residents either.

Therefore, most of the buildings along the path Yeongwoo was taking were severely damaged, to the extent that one might think rental services were available in them.

Perhaps these were traces left by monsters or mutants that had been summoned here, freely wreaking havoc.

‘This is what happens when there are no people around.’

At 11 p.m. every night, those who couldn’t find a place to stay died for the most part.

Thus, Pyeongtaek, with hardly any intact buildings left, was practically uninhabitable.

There hadn’t been any way discovered yet to restore the destroyed buildings.

Still, the fortunate thing was that there were many areas Yeongwoo could leave Pyeongtaek for.

Even neighboring areas like Cheorwon, Hwacheon, Yangju, Dongducheon, and Namyangju were difficult to count with one hand.

‘People probably scattered to the east and west, as they wouldn’t have stayed near Uijeongbu.’

Yeongwoo confirmed that even the “fearful-cat” was closing its eyes, then increased Negwig’s speed.

Vroom, vroom!

Since there were no people living in Pyeongtaek anymore, there was no need for him to be there.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

‘There aren’t even any merchants here.’

The sky over pristine Pyeongtaek.

As it was known as the gathering place for Strongest Sword and monster hunters from various regions, merchants who came here likely sold out their goods in an instant and left.

In other words, they were leaving work early.

“ ... ”

Yeongwoo continued to traverse the desolate city of Pyeongtaek.

Then...

[Current location: ‘Yangju.’

[The Strongest Sword in this area is ‘Choi Jongseon02,’ Rank 2, defense 233 times.

“ ... ”

Finally, as the location status changed to Yangju, the information about Choi Jongseon02, the Strongest Sword of Yangju, was revealed.

‘233 times...?’

What caught Yeongwoo’s attention was the number of defenses by Choi Jongseon, which was over 200 times.

Such high defense counts were usually only seen in North Korea.

‘But... with such a big uproar around here, how did they manage to defend 233 times?’

This not only hinted at the rough atmosphere of the Yangju area but also meant that Choi Jongseon was not an ordinary person.

Vroom, vroom!

As they passed through the entrance of Yangju and began to see houses scattered around, people started to appear here and there.

‘It’s definitely different.’

There wasn’t a single unarmed person among those caught in Yeongwoo’s sight, each maintaining a sufficient distance from each other.

‘About 40 meters apart.’

It was probably a safety distance learned through experience over the past few days.

That is, in Yangju, if someone breached that distance, people would either flee or prepare to fight.

-*Neigh!*

Of course, Yeongwoo was riding a horse from another world.

-*Whiiiiing!*

Wearing a flying greatsword shining with golden light, the rules of Yangju did not apply to him.

Vroom!

Since his speed was too fast, and those he encountered were busy avoiding him first, not many people paid attention.

“What’s... that?”

“Whoa! It scared me.”

“What’s going on, riding a horse...?”

The survivors of Yangju were captured by an ominous sense of foreboding as they looked at the unidentified cavalryman who had suddenly appeared.

Because...

Vroom, vroom!

The familiar figure of the dark light pillar that had almost disappeared from their sight was moving towards the city center.

It was heading towards the location where the remaining merchants were staying in Yangju.

‘Oh...! There are still merchants here.’

As Yeongwoo, riding atop Negwig, also fixed his gaze on the distant dark pillar, which indicated the location of the merchants, he naturally entered Yangju.

Then, he felt that the atmosphere was somewhat different from the outskirts of the city.

For one thing, there were no people walking alone, but instead, everyone was moving with about a 20-meter safety distance between them.

Perhaps, in the city center, people mostly knew each other, so that might be the reason.

‘Still, it’s somewhat unusual to maintain the safe distance. Usually, the atmosphere in the city center is more relaxed.’

Could it be related to the unusually high defense count of the Strongest Sword?

But it didn’t seem like they were indiscriminately killing everyone they saw.

If that were the case, there shouldn’t be anyone in the city center, just like in Pyeongtaek.

‘It’s a peculiar city.’

However, there seemed to be hardly anyone here who could be considered ordinary residents like in Seoul.

Most seemed to be combatants with a high level of self-defense ability.

That meant living in this area was not easy.

“...”

As the distance with the black light pillar gradually decreased, Yeongwoo pulled on Negwig’s reins to slow down the speed.

Gradually, he felt the residents of Yangju, who had been hiding between the buildings, narrowing the distance as they approached.

But they were all staying behind him.

‘What’s this? Riding a horse looks strange to them?’

In just a few minutes, the number of people following behind reached about twenty, but Yeongwoo wasn’t tense.

In a similar situation, he was confident that he could fight them all at once and survive.

And above all...

“Ho-o-o-o...!”

The eerie atmosphere characteristic of the black light pillar was emanating from ahead, almost reaching the vicinity of the merchants in Yangju.

‘I have plenty of cash right now, so I’ll meet the merchant and head towards Uijeongbu.’

As Yeongwoo thought so and continued to move Negwig forward, the scenery under the black light pillar, hidden behind the buildings in front, caught his eye.

“...”

And now, Yeongwoo finally understood why the cautious residents of Yangju had started following him.

“Ah...”

As Yeongwoo involuntarily sighed, a woman sitting in front of the merchant on the other side turned her head towards the visitors.

『Yangju’s Strongest Sword』

With this title shining brilliantly above her head, there was no room for doubt.

She was Choi Jongseon02, the Strongest Sword of Yangju, with 233 defense counts.

“...”

Studying Yeongwoo’s appearance carefully, Choi Jongseon, the Strongest Sword of Yangju, made a troubled expression, then picked up the sword lying on the ground and suddenly an unexpected sound came.

“Waaah...!”

This was undoubtedly the cry of a baby.

“Huh...?”

Surprised by this, Yeongwoo blinked his eyes, and he saw a baby wrapped in a swaddle lying on the ground, struggling at the feet of Choi Jongseon.

“If you’re going to fight, let’s do it quickly.”

Choi Jongseon urged Yeongwoo with tired eyes and a weary voice.

So Yeongwoo...

Clunk, thud!

Dropping all the bows and swords he had on him to the ground, Yeongwoo spoke.

“Madam! I am an orphan on my way to find my father in Uijeongbu. If it’s alright, may I meet the merchant for a moment?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 146

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 146: Origin (3)

Orphan.

A term used to refer to a child who has lost their parents or has been abandoned by them and has nowhere to attach themselves to.

Therefore, Yeongwoo was undoubtedly an orphan.

It was certain because he had been abandoned by his parents.

However, in order to be fully recognized as an orphan even by the achievement system, he had to perfectly fulfill the literal meaning.

[Complete Orphan]

|Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)

The system considered only children who had no parents in this world as complete orphans.

‘Then am I an incomplete orphan now?’

Nevertheless, he wouldn’t be wrong to introduce himself as an orphan externally.

“.....”

As Yeongwoo spread his arms with all the weapons thrown aside, Yangju’s Strongest Sword, Choi Jongseon, swallowed heavy saliva.

Gulp.

“Ah... an, an orphan? What should I do... I’m sorry.”

Although she was taken aback by the sudden confession of her opponent’s unexpected situation, she kept her composure.

Because Choi Jongseon was once a mother before she became Yangju’s Strongest Sword.

As a mother who wielded a sword to protect her child, how could she ignore someone who openly admitted to being an orphan?

However, there was never a trivial problem, and that was precisely...

-Wiiiiing.....

Behind the opponent who had seemingly given up fighting by discarding their weapons, there was still a heavy golden greatsword floating.

With a grand shadow cast on the ground as if showing off.

“Ah.”

Yeongwoo belatedly realized the situation as he looked at Choi Jongseon’s strange gaze and hurriedly grabbed the handle of the greatsword and stabbed it into the ground.

Clang!

“I, I’m sorry. It’s a sword I recently acquired, so I’m not good at controlling it.”

At that moment, Choi Jongseon, who had been tense until now, let out a forced laughter and relaxed her expression for a moment.

Even forced laughter was laughter, and unknowingly, her guard had loosened somewhat.

Then, shortly after.

“Um... is your father really in Uijeongbu...?”

She asked cautiously again, now with a solemn expression.

It was because she felt trust in Yeongwoo, perhaps due to his sudden confession earlier, despite her previous flustered state.

So her earlier greeting calling herself an orphan was definitely not a lie.

“Yes. As far as I know, he is.”

As Yeongwoo answered like this, he glanced briefly at the tracking marker in his field of vision.

The arrow was still pointing south unchanged.

“Ah... I see.”

Choi Jongseon looked at Yeongwoo with an even more pitiful expression than before.

If this man's father was a resident of Uijeongbu, by now he would most likely be either a corpse or have fled to a completely different area.

Even in her dreams, she could not have known that this orphan had an achievement that allowed him to know whether his parents were alive or dead, and that the name of that achievement was ‘Complete Orphan.’

So in the end.

“Although it's unusual... if that's the case, there's nothing we can do about it. It means I hope you can meet your father safely.”

Swish.

She extended her kindness to the outsider, opening the way as a merchant.

“Ah... thank you.”

Upon this, Yeongwoo bowed deeply to the other person.

It was a sign of gratitude and respect.

Yangju's Strongest Sword Choi Jongseon is a courageous person who did not avoid a fight even after seeing the 'golden trail', and at the same time, she is a mother of one child.

Yeongwoo didn't want to fight such a person.

So he had confessed to being an orphan first.

Even if she was a person who felt inflammation in this world, wasn't she someone who protected a child?

Therefore, he thought she couldn't help but react to the keyword 'orphan.'

And fortunately.

Clack, clack.

Yeongwoo could open the way without swinging his sword once.

'Being an orphan can be helpful sometimes.'

As Yeongwoo made his way towards the merchant with the clanking sound of his shackles, Choi Jongseon picked up the child from the ground and stepped aside.

-Grrrr.....

The fourth-day merchant of Yangju City was a toad with fancy patterns.

However, if there was a difference from those on Earth, it was in its legs... no, it had an extra pair of arms.

-Gruk.

Supporting its body with its thick legs, the creature felt the surface of the black shiny pillar with its numerous arms.

It was as if it were contemplating whether it could not go beyond this barrier.

'So this guy is a merchant too...? He seems quite proactive.'

As Yeongwoo watched the constantly moving eyeballs of the extraterrestrial merchant without pause, the space in front of the shiny pillar split open, and the mediator Kubu appeared.

Sssrrr...

A space broker of the universe who used the vast area of empty space as his eyelids.

As soon as Kubu revealed himself on Earth, he blinked his big eyes once and made a surprised sound.

—Huh.

And then, a sentence that was clearly different from before.

—It is an honor to meet again, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷, a human of earth, the strongest in Gyeongbuk, Gangnam, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula!

During the time he hadn't seen him, Yeongwoo's record had become much more glorious.

—I am Kubu, the owner of Tenta and the guardian of Daro, who will be mediating this transaction.

At last, Kubu's greeting, as if heard after a long time, flowed out.

Then, the Yangju's Strongest Sword, too, widened her eyes.

“...!”

Although she, as someone who had traded with merchants before, wasn't surprised by the presence of a mediator, but the expressions used to describe the orphan just now were completely unexpected.

‘The strongest in Gyeongbuk, Gangnam, and the northern part of the Korean Peninsula...?’

While the Yangju Strongest Sword pondered the meaning of ‘the northern part of the Korean Peninsula’, Kubu spoke the next lines.

—The intermediary fee for this transaction is 10% and is included in the price of the goods. However, since the transaction has already been made, changes at the top are not possible.

“I see. It's been a while. Please proceed with the transaction.”

As Yeongwoo lightly greeted and approved the transaction, Kubu blinked his huge eyes.

—The target of this transaction is the Tattoo of Pegua. Let me show you the product list.

As Kubu rolled his eyeballs, something like a blue blotch appeared in front of Yeongwoo, then gradually changed into the shape of human characters.

2 — 「Mark of Endurance」 – Artifact Tattoo

【All resistances increase by 1%.】

◇ 330,000 Karma

3 — 「Protection of the Night」 – Moon

【Acquire 15% damage reduction at night.】

◇ 750,000 Karma

5 — 「Whitespace」 – Epic Tattoo

【Allocate advertising space to the body.】

◇ 3,400,000 Karma

This time, the merchant was someone who sold tattoos.

But.

“Huh?”

As Yeongwoo carefully examined the product list, the Yangju’s Strongest Sword, who had been watching him, involuntarily grasped her sword, surprised.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“Why...? Why are you like that?”

While it was true that she had opened the way for Yeongwoo out of kindness, she couldn’t ignore the fear that the epithet ‘the strongest in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula’ instilled in her.

What other way was there to prove oneself as the strongest in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula in this reset world?

Wouldn’t it be nothing more than having killed numerous strong individuals in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula?

Especially since it was a fact spoken directly by the mediator from another world.

‘Goodness.’

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo was in a state of shock at the 5th item left by the Yangju Sword, ‘Whitespace’.

This was something that only someone who had been active as a model in another world could appreciate.

‘Could it be that I’ll have to engrave some sort of alien text on my body?’

Whatever it was, there weren’t many people on Earth who would invest 3.4 million Karma into such an odd tooltip.

And coincidentally.

‘...I definitely have to buy this.’

Jeong Yeongwoo⁰⁷ was one of those few individuals.

*Available Karma: 8,694,000

Yeongwoo currently had approximately 8.69 million Karma.

And to buy all the items sold by Pegua, he needed 4.48 million Karma in total.

‘This might actually leave me with a deficit? I also have to meet merchants in Paju, Gangnam, and Gwangjin-gu.’

However, it wasn’t worth taking up the other two tattoos besides Space.

The effect of the Mark of Endurance granting the maximum resistance was literally breaking through the limit of each resistance value.

Without obtaining such effects in advance, there was a high chance of regret later.

And as for the ‘Protection of the Night’...

「Protection of the Night」 – Moon

【Acquire 15% damage reduction at night.】

‘This is for sniping in night dungeons.’

Especially since unlike other equipment, one could wear multiple tattoos at once as long as there were empty spaces on the body.

‘And there’s also the possibility of a tattoo encyclopedia existing. It’s not a deal that will only result in losses in many ways.’

After reaching a conclusion, Yeongwoo decided to purchase all the items from this merchant.

‘I’ll buy all three remaining tattoos.’

Once Yeongwoo gave his final approval, Kubu rolled his eyeballs once again, and Pegua’s Dorgon also showed a reaction as if he were delighted.

-Crash!

Making a completely different sound from before, he repeatedly pounded the walls with his two pairs of arms radiating light.

—The transaction is complete. Thank you as always.

Finally, as Kubu announced the completion of the transaction, Yeongwoo’s Karma balance plummeted rapidly.

Plundered!

*Available Karma: 4,214,000

The balance was 4.21 million Karma.

Even though he had spent half of what he had, he still had a considerable amount left.

—I’m leaving now. Please stay well until next time.

With these parting words from Kubu, Yeongwoo hastily reached out, grabbing his arm.

“Wait! Just a moment!”

This unexpected action halted Kubu, who was about to roll his eyes and the Dorgon, who was lifting his head to the sky.

—...?

Seeing a mediator already done with his work being held back was a first for Kubu, so he blinked his eyes and just looked at the trader.

“I have something to ask. It’s something only you, Kubu, can answer.”

Yeongwoo said, prompting Kubu to glance briefly at the sky before responding.

—Please speak.

“Ah!”

With Kubu’s permission, Yeongwoo asked his question without hesitation.

“What about Grade 2 or higher beings from other worlds? What level are they? Have I met any Grade 2 or higher beings among the traders I’ve encountered so far? Or does your grade fit into that category...?”

This was to understand the conditions for the new Golden Vow achievement, “Golden Typhoon”.

However, the other person’s reaction was unexpected.

Upon hearing the question, Kubu’s eyelids began to flutter violently.

He was clearly very anxious.

—I dare not... describe their dignity.

And surprisingly,

—Grung...

The Dorgon of Pergua, unlike before, spread out his four arms and assumed a very humble posture.

In the realm of otherworldly beings, the status of Grade 2 beings was such that even discussing them was off-limits.

“So, what grade are you, Kubu? Can’t you tell me that?”

As Yeongwoo realized his impropriety, he suggested a different route, to which Kubu blinked his eyes.

—Kubu, the owner of Tenta and the guardian of Dar0, is a humble being of Grade 9 in the Law of universe. And...

-Grug, grug...

—Being of humble origin and unnamed, Pergua’s Dorgon is a being of Grade 11 according to the Laws of the universe.

“Ah...”

Upon hearing their self-introductions, even Choi Jongseon, who was listening alongside Yeongwoo, wore a sad expression.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, after hearing the grades of the two beings from other realms, was biting his lip, as another question arose.

Can I ask this...?

“So, what grade am I according to the universal law?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 147

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 147: Origin (4)

Perhaps Kubu would know.

It's about the universe law ranking of Joseon's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo 07.

Doesn't it seem unreasonable not to know at what level the counterpart one is dealing with is?

And whatever the answer, Yeongwoo was fine.

Having been shocked by the existing destiny record, that Jeong Yeongwoo was no longer there.

'It doesn't seem like the ranking would be that high... It could even be the lowest ranking. As long as it's not said that they don't know.'

Curiosity.

The question Yeongwoo threw was purely out of curiosity.

After hearing one by one the universal rankings of cosmic beings, why wouldn't Yeongwoo be curious about his own ranking?

“Madam, are you curious too? From a cosmic perspective, what grade is the Strongest Sword of Earth?”

When Yeongwoo asked Jongseon, she hesitated for a moment.

Since he kept calling her “Madam” from earlier, it was probably because their ages were quite similar for her to hear such a term from the other person.

Anyway, Jongseon reluctantly nodded her head.

“Oh, yes... I suppose I am curious.”

Then she glanced at Kubu as she added a word.

“But wouldn’t it be a bit awkward from that person’s perspective...?”

However, before Jongseon could finish her sentence, Yeongwoo was already pressing the pitiful intermediary for answers.

“Mr. Kubu knows, right? My ranking. If he says he doesn’t know, it’s obviously a lie.”

—...Yes, that’s correct.

Eventually, Kubu admits it.

Indeed, he knew what grade his trading partner existed at cosmically.

“Then what grade am I?”

Yeongwoo asked with a voice full of anticipation.

Internally classified as a 4th class extra within Earth.

A being that didn’t even have an identification number like 07 until the reset happened.

In other words, not only among numerous humans on Earth but also among individuals like ‘Jeong Yeongwoo’, he was not specifically identified.

So, the probability of being below 11th class according to the cosmic standard, like the Dorgon of Pegua, which didn’t have a name due to its humble origin, was quite high.

‘Well, it’s only natural.’

Yeongwoo awaited Kubu’s response with humility.

And then.

—The current universal grade of Jeong Yeongwoo07, the strongest in Gyeongbuk and Gangnam on Earth, and in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, is...

Finally, Kubu gave an answer.

–Initial grade, 12th class.

“Huh...?”

At Kubu’s first words, Yeongwoo tilted his head.

The word ‘initial’ grade implies that it’s different now, doesn’t it?

“So what about now? Did the grade change by any chance?”

As Yeongwoo prompted for the next line, Kubu blinked his large eyes once again.

–Yes. According to the universe law, the current grade of Jeong Yeongwoo07 is 7th class.

“7th class?”

This time, Jongseon expressed her surprise.

Hadn’t she heard Kubu say 9th class?

But even if he was called the Strongest Sword of Joseon, isn’t it strange that he’s only 7th class, essentially just an Earthling?

Didn’t he even start from the 12th class?

“Are you sure? We only met a few days ago at most, and during that time, did my status change from 12th to 7th?”

Yeongwoo also questioned in a tone of disbelief.

“No, if it’s a universe law grade, what kind of promotion system is this...?”

As Yeongwoo was about to continue his words, something crossed his mind, and he shut his mouth.

Then, as if knowing exactly what he was thinking, Kubu provided additional explanation.

–The current classification of Jeong Yeongwoo07 is an advertising agent, a skyrocketing stock.

“Oh.”

That makes sense.

Yeongwoo's mouth gaped.

'My grade shot up while doing Dogo's brand advertisement.'

Then what would be a skyrocketing stock alongside the trait of 'advertising agent'?

Yeongwoo was about to ask about the skyrocketing stock, but Kubu cut in.

—As all transactions are completed, I will return!

He hurriedly closed his eyelids.

Swish.

Erasing even the horizontal dashed line that was dividing the air, he completely concealed his presence.

And then.

-Whoosh!

The nameless one, the Dorgon of Pegua, also quickly raised its head and disappeared beyond the sky along with the black light column.

Shoo-ahh!

Two beings from another realm, clearly fleeing as if hiding.

Thanks to them disappearing, Yeongwoo and Jongseon, who were left in their place, could only look at each other with bewildered faces.

"...What's all this about?"

In response to Jongseon's question, Yeongwoo shrugged.

"Merchant... Thank you for letting us meet."

"..."

Jongseon's expression showed disbelief.

Then, on the other side, the Yangju citizens who had gathered to watch this bizarre event began to disperse one by one.

It seemed that since the two Strongest swords weren't going to fight each other, and all the merchants had left, they deemed the "show" to be over.

But the major event involving Yeongwoo...

‘Ah, finally.’

It was starting now.

Swish, swa-aht!

Perhaps the tattoos he purchased from the potter had finally arrived, as he could feel alternating warmth and coldness throughout his body.

Next, in front of Yeongwoo, tooltips appeared one by one along with the shape of each tattoo.

Pop, pop!

「Mark of Endurance」 – Artifact Tattoo

【All resistances increase by 1%.】

「Protection of the Night」 – Moon

【Acquire 15% damage reduction at night.】

「Whitespace」 – Epic Tattoo

【Allocate advertising space to the body.】

The Mark of Endurance was in the form of a circular pattern placed within a slightly smaller circle than the palm of a hand.

It was probably going to be tattooed on his body exactly as it appeared in size and shape.

‘Oh... Are they showing the design before tattooing it? It’s quite considerate, perhaps because I purchased it directly.’

The only tattoo currently on Yeongwoo’s body was the “Covert Mark,” received as a reward for unlocking the Golden Ratio achievement.

「Covert Mark」 - Artifact Tattoo

【Can conceal titles.】

This tattoo, shaped like a spiral flame, was embedded on the left side of Yeongwoo's chest and couldn't be moved arbitrarily.

'But what I bought seems a bit different.'

Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the next tattoo, "Protection of the Night."

This one was slightly larger than the Mark of Endurance.

It was a sizeable cloud-like shape that could probably fill one side of his chest.

'Not easy. At this rate, I'll end up looking like a walking canvas.'

Next was the last tattoo, "Whitespace," but there was nothing there.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

"...?"

More accurately, he could feel that Whitespace had been allocated, but there was nothing visible to the naked eye.

Just as its name suggested, Whitespace.

It was a tattoo meant to be filled in through post-processing.

'The contents of the tattoo are probably determined by the advertiser. I expected this.'

Intuitively, the size of the "Whitespace" tattoo seemed to be about the size of the front of his abdomen.

'I'll have to decide on the location carefully.'

Yeongwoo considered his options between the back, abdomen, or shoulders.

If he could choose the location himself.

After Yeongwoo confirmed the designs of the three tattoos, a new system message appeared.

「Please designate the location where the tattoo will be inked from now on.」

[Warning] After this procedure, the tattoo's location cannot be arbitrarily moved. Please consider carefully.

‘Of course. I’ll consider it carefully.’

As Yeongwoo read the system message twice, the next guidance appeared.

「Drag the displayed designs with your hand directly onto your body or place them on the human body model on the left.」

‘Wow, why is this so systematic?’

Yeongwoo exclaimed in admiration as he saw a holographic model of himself with the same physique as him appear to the left of the tattoo designs he had been looking at.

‘With this level of detail, there must be a tattoo encyclopedia.’

Swish.

Following the guidance, Yeongwoo dragged the design of the “Mark of Endurance” onto the humanoid model, and the size of the design adjusted to match the proportions of the model.

‘Since it’s a functional tattoo.’

As discreet as possible.

Yeongwoo decided on the inner side of his thigh or perhaps inside his leg, in the groin area, for the Mark of Endurance.

‘After all, the groin is not easy to see even when wielding a weapon, but it’s not so for the abdomen.’

And in terms of difficulty of movement and maintaining dignity, the armpit side was much better than the groin.

‘In the future, I’ll place functional tattoos mainly on the lower body and advertising tattoos on the upper body.’

After Yeongwoo established his own placement principle, he moved on to the second tattoo, “Protection of the Night,” and placed it opposite the Mark of Endurance.

Thunk!

Then, the area near his groin became somewhat noisy.

‘Now, all that’s left is...’

The most important tattoo, Whitespace.

「Whitespace」 – Epic Tattoo

【Allocate advertising space to the body.】

This one also allowed him to drag the intangible design with his hand anywhere on his body.

‘Since it’s ad space... It should be in a visible location.’

But he didn’t want it on the front of his abdomen or back.

It was still too early to sell those spaces as advertising, as he didn’t know much about the cosmic advertising ecosystem yet.

Was this the only way to allocate ad space on the body?

Especially since he had just been referred to as a skyrocketing stock.

‘I’m not exactly sure what it means, but one thing’s for sure.’

The fact that the stock here was high, and there was potential for something to keep rising, be it body value or grade.

Therefore.

‘I should leave the prime advertising space intact.’

But since this was his first “body advertisement,” it needed to be in a position with sufficient meaning and promotional effect.

So, after much deliberation, Yeongwoo chose the right upper arm.

In other words, from the right shoulder to the elbow.

‘Since I’m right-handed and mainly use this arm, it also has a significant exposure effect.’

Of course, since the advertising space would wrap around the upper arm and shoulder, there was only a limited visible area, such as the back or abdomen.

‘But whether standing in front or behind, it will always be exposed, especially during combat, making it one of the most noticeable areas. It’s sufficiently marketable.’

For these reasons, Yeongwoo allocated the right upper arm as the first advertising space on his body.

Thunk!

Then, the tattoo interface finally asked whether the placement was confirmed.

「The tattoo design placement has been completed. Do you want to proceed like this?」

‘Yes. It will be like this.’

As he confirmed the placement, a sensation akin to burning spread over his groin and right upper arm.

Tsss...!

“Ouch!”

With the confirmation of the placement, the tattoos were inked onto his body.

“Are you... okay?”

Choi Jongseon, who had been watching the orphan gesturing at thin air, asked with a mixture of concern and apprehension.

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo looked at her as if momentarily forgetting her presence, then threw the black cloth covering his shoulders onto the ground before replying.

“Madam, if it’s alright with you, could you take off your clothes for a moment...”

“No, I’m fine. Are you out of your mind?”

* * *

Joseon’s Strongest Sword Jeong Yeongwoo.

To Jongseon, who had explored this world to the fullest, the orphan seemed different somehow.

‘It’s like their style doesn’t match this world.’

Right now, she was watching the orphan, while tightly hugging her baby, about to leave for Uijeongbu to find his father, while taking off his clothes.

Considering the 3.4 million karma he spent on the advertisement tattoo, he had to check.

“...”

Even though Jongseon had seen this absurd tattoo during her dealings with merchants, she eventually accepted it.

The reason the orphan needed to check his body after taking off his clothes.

‘Well, it’s not like it’s 3.4 million won.’

But she couldn’t stand seeing him constantly stare at his groin.

“Um... Could you stop looking down there? You didn’t get a tattoo there, did you?”

“Well, yes, but still, I apologize. It’s not easy to see, so I keep checking.”

“...I suppose.”

Jongseon sighed as she looked down at the ground.

It wasn’t bad because I was able to have an innocent conversation for the first time in a while, but I was slowly starting to wish that orphan Strongest Sword would leave.

Because if she left that person alone, she felt like another incident would happen soon.

It was a gut feeling she had developed surviving in this harsh world.

“Um, are you done now? Since the merchants have all left, can we stop...”

Finally making up her mind, Jongseon lifted her head while holding the baby.

Shhh.

She noticed the half-naked Joseon’s Strongest Sword muttering something strange while looking up at the sky.

“Looking for someone to advertise in the whitespace!”

[TL/N: MAD !!]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 148

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 148: Hot Stock (1)

“Oh... No!”

Yangju’s Strongest Sword, Choi Jongseon, didn’t really understand.

Is it possible to bring out something real with a weak line like that?

But for some reason, it seemed very likely with that crazy orphan Strongest Sword.

The plan is to find an alien to place an advertisement on the tattoo that he spent a whopping 3.4 million karma on.

“No, damn it, go do it in another neighborhood!”

In the end, Choi Jongseon, the mother Strongest Sword, reached her limit and drew her sword.

She couldn’t tolerate anything that could threaten Yangju.

This city was also a sanctuary for children in the future.

“Now stop it, you crazy orphan!”

Choi Jongseon threatened the orphan with harsh words and a menacing sword.

As someone who prioritized her child’s safety, she could say even harsher words.

But.

“S-Sorry, I got carried away. I should have thought about the child.”

“...?”

Surprisingly, Jeong Yeongwoo’s sensible reaction made Jongseon feel awkward.

“I sometimes... get narrow-minded.”

With a truly apologetic expression, the strongest orphan of the North Korean Peninsula hastily picked up the equipment on the ground.

“...?”

Watching him blankly, Jongseon eventually softened her voice and asked him to be slow.

“...Take your time. I might have been a bit harsh just now. It's not like aliens will really appear just because you call them from the sky.”

After Jongseon said this, Yeongwoo awkwardly smiled and silently finished picking up the equipment.

“Huh...?”

From Jongseon's perspective, it was a reaction that could only make her spine chill with the thought of what if.

“R-right? Aliens aren't coming.”

“I'm really sorry.”

“Kid, why did you pretend to pick up the equipment?”

Then Jongseon poured out very harsh words, but they were not transmitted to Yeongwoo due to the deafening roar from the sky.

Fuuuuuuuuuuck!

A cannon blast came from high above, and a crimson pillar of light was driven into the center of Yangju City.

At the same time, the sky, which had turned pitch black, swayed heavily like the night sea.

‘Someone's really angry.’

Looking up at the sky, Yeongwoo snorted.

The one he just thought of as “angry” internally was none other than.

—Yeongwoo...!

The shareholders of the intergalactic weapon brand, Dogo.

* * *

Quarrrk!

Thunder roared loudly from the pitch-black sky.

Then, a more intense voice spewed out from the tip of the crimson pillar of light.

—Yeongwoo...!

Whether it was because they were in a hurry or because they were very angry, the shareholders of Dogo sent their voices before revealing themselves on Earth.

—Jeong Yeongwoo! Contractor of “Dogo”!

In response, Yeongwoo waved his arms as if directing parking in front of the crimson pillar of light.

“Yes! Over here!”

Then, as if he suddenly remembered, he turned to Jongseon.

“Wait, is the kid okay?”

The shareholders of Dogo were beings that were difficult for humans to perceive with a clear mind.

In fact, when they first called them on Earth, Kwon Taeyoung was unable to contain himself and was lying on the floor vomiting.

That’s why Yeongwoo suddenly remembered the child’s condition.

However, surprisingly, Jongseon’s child was not affected by Dogo’s presence at all.

“Abvbb!”

Instead, he even pointed at the crimson pillar of light with his finger and laughed.

“My kid seems fine for now. But what are we going to do about this? The city is completely ruined.”

As Jongseon said, Yangju City was now completely devastated.

“Hee, hee!”

“What on earth is that?”

“Run away!”

An untimely crimson pillar of light.

Moreover, a crimson pillar of light in the form of a tornado, which had never been seen since the reset, appeared, causing everyone to flee the city.

And to make matters worse.

Goooh...!

—Jeong Yeongwoo! We're here!

Finally, as the shareholders of Dogo revealed themselves in a rainbow-colored glow, even those who trusted Strongest Sword nearby began to flee.

In an instant, the city was destroyed.

“....”

Seeing the desolate surroundings, Yeongwoo looked around and then alternated between Jongseon and the baby before saying,

“Well, then, how about moving to Gangnam?”

“W-what...?”

“There are vacant properties all over Seoul. I'll arrange a place for you and the child in Gangnam. You can commute to Gwangjin-gu if you want.”

“What on earth...”

The conversation between the two Strongest Swords ended here.

— 「Whitespace」 belongs to our “Dogo”!

The reason the shareholders of Dogo, who had descended to the bottom of the pillar of light, began to voice their anger more fiercely than before, was because of what had happened earlier.

Of course, Dogo had come looking for Yeongwoo in surprise, as he had returned “Whitespace” through an open bid.

That's understandable.

[00:03:26]

In Yeongwoo's sight, the advertiser timer was already displayed separately.

It seemed that his advertisement-exclusive tattoo, “Whitespace,” had once again summoned another advertiser.

‘Dogo seems to have come to me as if we already had a contract... Then who is the timer pointing to?’

As Yeongwoo chuckled while looking at the timer, the Dogo shareholders wrapped the pillar of light around even more tightly and shouted.

– Jeong Yeongwoo 07! Remember our “contract”!

Large-scale entities like Dogo’s shareholders were capable of compressing large amounts of data or emotions into a single word.

For example, even to entities that had no idea what “Dogo” was, conveying voices or texts alone could help them understand new concepts.

So, as soon as Yeongwoo heard Dogo’s pronunciation of “contract,” he could vividly recall the details of the contract he had made with them before.

Of course, even without that, Yeongwoo had memorized the contract details down to the last detail at the time.

「Contract: Dogo-49523-ⅢⅢⅢⅢ_Ⅱ-Tier 2」

[Grade 2 advertisement space utilization]

– The Dogo logo will be printed on the trajectory of the weapon.

– Before major battles, you must announce loudly that you are fighting with the support of Dogo.

[Grade 3 exclusive quests]

– Receive bonuses for completing exclusive quests.

[Grade 2 exclusive quests]

– Receive split payments for advertising fees only through the completion of exclusive quests.

– The total advertising fee executed increases by about 40 times.

#Basic advertising fee: Estimated 10 million karma per week.

#Basic contract period: 4 weeks.

Maximum weekly payment of a 400 million contract.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

However, the salary can only be obtained through the completion of Dogo quests.

‘I’ve already received well over the basic advertising fee, but I’m still far from 400 million.’

After double-checking the contract details, Yeongwoo addressed the Dogo shareholders.

“I’m grateful for the contract you made with me, but isn’t the advertising space we contracted for the trajectory of the weapon and my advertising slogan? If you want to include advertising in the tattoo, you’ll have to make an additional contract.”

This was also strictly business.

Yeongwoo spoke as firmly as possible, ensuring that his relationship with Dogo would not be compromised.

– Ugh...!

Nevertheless, the shareholders of Dogo with dilated pupils seemed displeased from the listening position.

[00:01:13]

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo’s advertiser arrival timer was still a minute away.

“A new bidder will be coming soon. Please keep the contract proposals in mind. We should try to maintain loyalty with Dogo, but... if the conditions differ too much, there’s nothing we can do.”

Yeongwoo said this while hurriedly putting on his pants.

Since the area with “Whitespace” engraved was on the upper right arm, he only needed to remove his upper armor.

Then, he turned his head back to where the baby in Choi Jongseon’s arms was, and saw the baby looking at Dogo’s unique iridescent color with an even happier expression than before.

‘Could it be that children are completely unaffected by prestige?’

This was a hypothesis with some basis.

Even when the Strongest Swords exuded prestige among the crowd, only children were not affected.

Why could that be?

‘It doesn’t make sense for the system to only favor children.’

‘...Karma’

So, the only possible reason for children being exempt from many threats of the system, due to not having any “Karma,” could be enough.

‘Then what about Dogo? To what extent are beings from other worlds affected by Earth’s rules?’

‘I don’t know. Perhaps the prestige of the Strongest Swords and the aura emitted by beings from other worlds are fundamentally similar. After all, there were no Strongest Swords like them on Earth originally.’

As Yeongwoo pondered this far, the advertiser timer hanging in his sight fell below 10 seconds.

[00:00:09]

With 9 seconds left until the arrival of the bidder for “Whitespace.”

“Shareholders, are your contracts ready?”

Yeongwoo asked his first advertiser with an excited voice.

Another color appeared in the sky, which had been a deep shade until now.

Kwi-aaah...!

With an unusual atmosphere, the sky began to turn cyan.

The representative color of the new company was overlaid on the space that Dogo had painted pitch black.

-...!

At this, the shareholders of Dogo raised dozens of heads towards the sky and showed surprised expressions.

“Lemu!”

The scene unfolds with the reactions of the shareholders of Dogo, who raised their heads to the sky in surprise.

–Lemu!

–Lemuuuu!

–Wretched Lemus!

–Lemu! Filthy creatures!

The Dogo shareholders began chanting the name “Lemu.”

Sensing their reaction, Yeongwoo had a hunch that a company preferring cyan as their color, like Lemu, did not have the financial power of ordinary people.

‘Why would they act like this? There seems to be some discord between Lemu and Dogo’.

Yeongwoo thought to himself.

With Dogo deliberately withholding the meaning of “Lemu,” Yeongwoo had no choice but to wait patiently.

[00:00:05]

With just 5 seconds left, Yeongwoo anticipated their appearance.

‘It’s about to reveal itself,’ Yeongwoo thought as he observed the increasingly intense cyan sky.

Then, a thin laser guidance line shot down from beyond the sky.

Piiiiit!

About a hundred meters away from Dogo’s appearance point.

‘What’s this? It’s quite neat.’

It was a method that was contrary to the Dogo method, which announced the location of the appearance with a huge pillar of light.

And finally.

[00:00:00]

Finally, as the timer hit zero, changes occurred in the cyan sky.

Zzweoong!

With a loud crack, a space near the guidance line opened up, and from within it...

Shuaaaat!

A brightly glowing, pure white cuboid descended as if sliding.

‘That... Lemu?’

‘Lemu’ felt more like an object than a living creature, unlike the residents of Dogo.

It resembled a television with six sides all made of screens.

Pah!

Eventually, the problematic cuboid blinked, and large characters appeared in the air.

It looked like hieroglyphs, displaying the logo of “Lemu.”

「Lemu」

It also served as a company pamphlet offered to Yeongwoo, who was looking for a second advertiser.

‘These guys, they’re a universal pornography production company, aren’t they...?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 149

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 149: Hot Stock (2)

Lemu.

A universal pornography production company.

As a company that must satisfy desires of numerous species, there were no limits to the forms of products they created.

If they could satisfy their customers, they made everything from text, pictures, sounds, videos... to even immediate-consumption 'emotions' or biologically engineered tools to assist and induce arousal.

In Earth terms, it's like an adult entertainment company producing drugs and sex robots.

'These guys are extremely aggressive in their business.'

Yeongwoo, who had been quite accepting of Earth's sensationalism, couldn't help but hesitate at this moment.

Even if the system officially endorsed them as 'old-fashioned,' fundamentally, they were still Earthlings.

So, there was a minimum of humanity, or rather, a minimum of decency for him.

For example, worrying about a baby's safety before entering into negotiations with universal companies was a minimum level of humanity.

So, when he realized that Lemu could make anything if it meant money, he became scared.

'If I contract with them, I can't even guess what I'll end up advertising.'

It was the moment when he realized why Dogo criticized Lemu as soon as they heard it.

The reason they labeled Lemu as wretched, filthy, was to criticize both the industry and its business practices.

Of course, even brands that make lethal weapons would find it hard to escape criticism from a moral perspective...

'But Dogo probably has its own standards unlike Lemu. So, there's resentment towards Lemu.'

It was just a guess, but if it were true, it would be somewhat reassuring.

This meant that there were concepts like ethics and dignity even in space.

In a form that Earthlings could understand.

'Well, since our ways of thinking are somewhat similar, we could communicate with each other.'

Yeongwoo stood in the tense space between the two companies, looking back and forth slowly.

Dogo, crowded with dozens of shareholders, and Lemu, appearing very clean unlike its external reputation.

Actually, he wanted to tattoo Dogo's first advertiser, but from a distance, it was definitely not a good idea.

'Don't forget. This is a public contract.'

Summoning Lemu was quite simple for Yeongwoo.

He bought an ad space and then shouted to the sky, asking for companies to put ads in the tattoo.

This surprising thing happened: a universal pornography production company, which had no contact with them, visited Earth.

In other words...

'Surely all of this is being broadcast somewhere. Like a show.'

The starting point might have been when alien merchants wandered around Earth, but it wasn't important right now.

The most important fact at this point is...

'...Other companies must be watching this scene right now.'

Other companies.

In other words, potential advertisers.

'If I refuse to contract with Lemu just because I think it's merely about money or a vulgar industry, not many companies will respond to my call in the future.'

Knowing that there are other companies in this vast universe, should I choose advertisers based on my taste from now on?

'Now is not the time.'

Moreover, rookies in the industry don't pick and choose their work, isn't that one of Earth's virtues?

So, Yeongwoo decided not to discriminate against Lemu.

“I would like to express my gratitude to everyone who visited on behalf of both parties today.”

As Yeongwoo cautiously spoke, dozens of Dogo shareholders turned their gaze to their advertising models.

Meanwhile, Lemu simply rotated their rectangular shape as if to express that they were listening to the conversation.

Yeongwoo finished his words.

“While loyalty is a very precious value to me, I also think it’s very important to observe etiquette.”

Then Dogo’s shareholders, who immediately understood the gist of what he said, opened their eyes wide.

—No way...!

—Jeong Yeongwoo07!

—Maintain your dignity!

They realized that Yeongwoo, as a potential advertiser, was trying to show courtesy to Lemu.

“This contract will proceed with the company that offers relatively better conditions.”

Eventually, Yeongwoo set the premise of the contract, and as a result, Dogo’s side began to murmur with discontent.

—:.....:

—α~α~

—∠||^∠∠^

This time, since the shareholders were not using Earth’s language but their own, Yeongwoo couldn’t understand what they were talking about.

They were probably discussing things like the current executable advertising budget.

‘I wonder if they sold a lot of weapons so far...? To compete in advertising contracts with a pornography production company, they must have immense financial power.’

While silently cheering for Dogo's shareholders, Lemu sent down 'transcendental characters' implying the contract details.

「□」

This was a character with a square shape, like the cube that existed on Earth.

Was this the contract?

Swish.

With a soft sound, Yeongwoo placed his hand on the intricate characters, and immediately the advertisement contract presented by Lemu was displayed as a system message.

「Contract: Lemu-8739-IIIIII-II-Tier 2」

(Required) [Permanent advertisement space – Tattoo]

– The headquarters' composite advertisement will be broadcasted in the tattoo 'blank space'.

(Optional) [Indirect appearance]

– During the validity of this contract, parts of your appearance and actions may be indirectly used in the company's products.

– A minimum of 5 million karma will be paid as a reward for each indirect use.

– If this option is selected, the basic advertising fee will triple.

(Optional) [Sound test]

– Whenever you are hit, the company's sound-based products will be demonstrated.

– 50,000 karma will be paid immediately per hit.

– If this option is selected along with 'indirect appearance', the advertising fee paid by the company will be doubled additionally.

#Basic advertising fee: 30 million karma per week.

#Basic contract period: 2 weeks.

"Crazy...."

Yeongwoo exclaimed without realizing it.

The basic advertising fee alone was 30 million karma per week, three times higher than what Dogo had offered in the initial contract.

And on top of that...

‘If you choose both optional options, the basic advertising fee will increase to 180 million. Plus, all incentives will double...’

Moreover, the 180 million won was not conditional, like the contract with Dogo, but was paid out weekly.

Additionally, individual rewards were paid separately in exchange for selling one’s portrait rights and dignity.

‘But, all of this is only if I accept all three contracts. If even one is rejected, the total amount received will decrease significantly.’

Yeongwoo immediately realized that Lemu was a rather wicked company.

Well, with this level of planning and financial power, it’s not surprising they could engage in the adult entertainment business in space.

– The headquarters’ composite advertisement will be broadcasted in the tattoo ‘blank space’.

‘What does ‘composite advertisement’ mean exactly? Could it include videos or something, not just simple drawings?’

Although Yeongwoo expressed his doubts, Lemu did not provide any further explanation.

After all, as they had offered an offer of money that couldn’t be refused, they didn’t provide any clues that could work against them.

‘If it’s about adult content production... On Earth, it was traditionally an industry where money flowed freely.’

Yeongwoo admired Lemu’s financial power once again and turned his head towards Dogo, his original advertiser.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Then he noticed that the Dogo shareholders, who had been making noise in their own language, had become quiet.

—.....

Their faces were so downcast it was almost comical, especially the shareholder with the fish head whose ugly downturned mouth made the scene even more ridiculous.

“Is the contract... ready?”

As Yeongwoo asked in a somewhat trusting tone about the contract, the Dogo shareholders looked as if they had lost their country.

It seemed impossible for Dogo’s corporate image and core values to align with those of a universal adult content production company.

However, due to financial pressures, they reluctantly agreed to have Lemu’s advertisement tattooed on their model, who were currently in high demand in the market.

It was a heartbreaking decision.

‘Ah... you already know you’re going to lose, don’t you?’

Yeongwoo also watched with a melancholic heart as the Dogo shareholders reluctantly handed over the brightly shining contract.

Sseu-eut.

“...”

Brief but significant memories with Dogo flashed through his mind like a meteor streaking across the sky.

The day the Dogo shareholders, on their first visit to Earth, learned to speak human from the first syllable.

The first Dogo quest, where they encountered a ferocious tiger.

The surprise quest where they were asked to fight a boxing gold medalist bare-handed.

And the urgent request for rescue in the nighttime dungeon, which led to equipment sponsorship.

‘But that’s all over now. Lemu will essentially become the main advertiser from now on.’

Nevertheless, if he ever had the opportunity, Yeongwoo vowed to repay Dogo in some way.

With his own determination, Yeongwoo reached out his hand towards the contract prepared by the Dogo shareholders.

Sseut.

If the conditions inside were worse than Lemu's, they would have no choice but to proceed with the tattoo contract with Lemu.

'But there won't be any surprises. Look at the shareholders' faces already...'

Just as Yeongwoo's fingertip was about to touch the Dogo contract,

Hwoo-ook!

A sense of impending doom washed over him as a massive presence covered the entire sky.

"....?"

Looking up, Yeongwoo saw the center of the turquoise sky gradually turning dark.

Then, suddenly,

Hwaaaah!

A gigantic metallic object, resembling an anchor, tore through the turquoise sky and landed in the middle of the city with a thunderous crash.

Kwaaaaang!

As a result, buildings were destroyed and dust flew everywhere, but fortunately, due to the appearance of the two preceding companies, there were no casualties among the residents.

However, isn't this a clear case of unauthorized intrusion?

Among the beings that came from other dimensions, except for mutants who were originally from this planet, nobody dared to damage Earth's property.

This might be due to the laws of the universe.

For example, there might be rules stating that when entering other planets, one should avoid causing physical harm, etc.

Or perhaps, since the majority of visitors come as traders, they naturally observe etiquette.

Regardless, it was a clear fact that the sudden appearance of that being was extremely rude.

“No, who the heck...”

Just as Yeongwoo, who was responsible for the visits of the beings from other dimensions to Earth, was about to protest on behalf of the planet, an unexpected line came out of the mouths of Dogo shareholders.

—Chairman!

—Chairman...!

—Oh my!

—The chairman has arrived!

“What?”

Chairman.

On Earth, it generally refers to the head of a large company.

Usually, the largest shareholder or founder of the company sits in the chairman’s seat, and judging from the atmosphere, the meaning of ‘chairman’ in space didn’t seem much different from Earth.

So, the intruder who just appeared.

“Dogo has a chairman... No, that chairman is here?”

As Yeongwoo’s mouth fell open, a massive steel plate, the size of a high-rise apartment building, slowly descended above the anchor that had been embedded earlier.

“...Unbelievable.”

Yeongwoo widened his eyes at the tomb-like gigantic metallic structure, and Choi Jongseon, who had been wrapping her child to protect him from the dust, also showed a shocked expression.

“W-what... What did you summon this time?”

All Yeongwoo could say was,

“The... The chairman.”

Then, a booming voice echoed from the “tomb”.

—I am Dogo, the King of Destruction, the one born on the battlefield, the master of the Hundred Thousand Swords Mountain! Jeong Yeongwoo07, I will write the contract with my sword.

As expected, the chairman had come to propose a new contract.

More precisely, it seemed like he had come to prevent any dealings with the lowly Lemu.

‘But wait a minute.’

As Yeongwoo watched the bottom of the “tomb” gradually open, he raised an eyebrow.

‘Could it be that the brand name is his own name...?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 150

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 150: Hot Stock (3)

Born on the battlefield, owner of the Hundred Thousand Swords Mountain, the Destruction King Dogo.

Also the chairman of the intergalactic weapon brand “Dogo,” he was a giant standing at a height of 4 meters, his entire body covered in armor.

‘Wow, what’s this? That tombstone was some sort of flying ship.’

Clang clang...!

As the bottom of the tombstone opened, Dogo appeared suspended in midair, leaving Yeongwoo unable to help but admire.

It was astonishing that the founder of this mega-corporation, with shareholders spanning across the universe, was of a humanoid race.

At least outwardly, Dogo's body proportions and number of limbs seemed identical to humans.

Of course, with a helmet completely covering his face, it was impossible to tell if his eyes, nose, and mouth were intact.

'But we've seen humanoid species before. Perhaps the chairman is the same.'

Meanwhile, as Chairman Dogo effortlessly soared dozens of meters above, he murmured while gazing at Lemu's cuboid structure.

—Be thankful that this is a commercial zone.

At that moment, Dogo's right hand rested near the sheath at his waist.

Had this not been a commercial area, he would have drawn his sword without hesitation.

'...Truly befitting of the head of a weapons manufacturing company.'

Simultaneously, it indicated that even Dogo couldn't defy the universal laws.

'How does the world outside Earth function?'

Dogo, the founder of a weapons company born on the battlefield, and Lemu, a cosmopolitan pornography producer whose species remains unknown.

Just by observing the two major corporations present here, one could understand the vastness of the universe, as evidenced by the expressions used by the traders encountered thus far.

And there was undoubtedly a clear hierarchical system.

'If what Kubu says is true, then my current universal ranking is Grade 7. Just judging by the rank, I have a higher status than those who trade across multiple planets. How is this possible?'

Initially, I was even Grade 12, they said.

In other words, one's status in the universe varies depending on what one achieves.

Then, could someone who was just a resident of a single planet establish a cosmic enterprise like "Dogo" and make a name for themselves?

" ... "

As Yeongwoo stared blankly at Dogo hovering high in the sky, he soon began descending towards him.

How does he manage to float in midair like that?

Is it a feature of his equipment? Or a racial characteristic?

As Yeongwoo scrutinized the figure before him, Dogo, approaching within 3 meters above his head, glanced down at him.

No, at least that's what it seemed like.

Dogo wore a helmet shaped like some sort of beast, with no exposed areas for the eyes, hence no gaze was visible.

"... Chairman, nice to meet you."

Yeongwoo managed to correct himself from stumbling over his words as he faced the founder of Dogo.

While he didn't exude a unique aura like Dogo's shareholders, his mere presence was imposing.

However, whether it was due to his position or his actual skill, Yeongwoo couldn't tell.

At any rate, one thing was certain.

—Looking at you like this, I can see that you have grown taller.

Dogo, the founder of Dogo, who was also occasionally observing the daily life of the new advertising model Yeongwoo.

"It's... an honor."

Yeongwoo expressed his gratitude even though he wasn't sure what he was honored for.

While doing so, he noticed the damaged and dented parts of Dogo's full-body armor.

'Unbelievable.'

Who or what could inflict physical damage on such a giant?

'Or maybe it's his sense of aesthetics...? A testament to his various battles?'

In any case, from the fact that he could threaten Lemu, it seemed that the chairman's status was extraordinary even on a cosmic scale.

So Yeongwoo had no choice but to ask before accepting the contract.

“Chairman, if I may.”

—Speak.

“It may be an intrusive question, but... what is your rank?”

If Dogo were Grade 2 or above, he would have to use the Golden Orb right here and now.

After this moment, there might never be another opportunity to see someone of Grade 2 or higher.

—...

After receiving Yeongwoo's question, Dogo, who had been gazing at this Earth-originated advertising model for a while, placed his hand on the dented part of his armor.

—As for myself, the Destruction King Dogo is a Grade 3 entity in accordance with universal law. Regrettably so.

Regrettably, indicating that Dogo already knew about Yeongwoo's achievements.

Then Dogo raised a finger encased in armor, pointing towards the distant cuboid.

Swish.

—The despicable Lemu is a Grade 4 entity. Since he will leave no achievements behind, he will remain there until his demise.

In other words.

‘A being of a cosmic business level is roughly Grade 4. If one reaches the level of founding such a business, they move up to Grade 3.’

Of course, judging by the expressions used to describe Dogo, he didn't seem like a mere elder merchant.

The titles used by cosmic figures are based on factual achievements.

It is as if Yeongwoo can use the epithet “the strongest in the northern part of the Korean Peninsula, a human of Earth,” just like that.

In other words, Dogo is essentially recognized as a destroyer by the universe.

‘Well then... Just how high are Grade 2 entities...?’

Suddenly, memories of when Kubu was just Grade 9 resurfaced, unable to even dare to describe Grade 2.

Perhaps achieving the “Golden Storm” accomplishment, which he once thought could be easily achieved, had become more elusive than ever.

“Um, then... How can one meet entities of Grade 2 or higher? Have you ever met them, Chairman?”

When Yeongwoo asked again, Dogo chuckled softly from within his distant armor.

–If you cause enough trouble, you will undoubtedly meet them. There’s a possibility for you as well.

Although it was an ambiguous expression, Yeongwoo interpreted it as meaning that Dogo, too, had encountered Grade 2 entities due to his cosmic troubles.

And also known as ‘Stubborn’ by the system, Jeong Yeongwoo 07.

‘At this rate, I might meet them someday.’

In truth, to truly cause trouble, perhaps the lewd advertisement side...

Swiftly, as Yeongwoo’s gaze unintentionally shifted towards Lemu, Dogo, sensing it like a ghost, swiftly drew his sword like lightning.

“Yikes.”

Wish!

In the blink of an eye, Dogo’s sword was inches away from Yeongwoo’s nose.

However, neither Yeongwoo’s Joseon swordsmanship nor Rohm’s Bottom embedded in the Golden Trail on his back responded.

Perhaps because there was no intention to harm the opponent, neither Yeongwoo’s martial skills nor Rohm’s Bottom reacted.

–Becoming vulgar is not a bad way to become famous.

—But.

As Dogo slowly pulled back the sword he had thrust at Yeongwoo, creating a straight line, spikes spread out around that line, emitting a bright light.

So, this was...

‘A contract written with a sword.’

It was exactly what Dogo had said when he first arrived on Earth.

He had actually written a new contract with his sword.

And at the same time, the contract given by Dogo’s shareholders disappeared without a trace.

—Your battles already belong to Dogo. Do not fight with mud on you.

Dogo used surprisingly poetic expressions for a Destruction King.

But if the power of the contract he offered wasn’t impressive, then those words would just be empty.

“...”

With a tense heart, Yeongwoo reached out towards Dogo’s new contract.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And as his fingertips touched the contract with the spike pattern, a completely different format appeared before his eyes for the first time.

Woah!

Suddenly, as if a space opened up before his eyes, characters began to appear within.

Most notably, the name of the original contract attached to the top of the contract caught Yeongwoo’s eye.

「Contract: Dogo-107-IIIIII_II-Tier 1」

‘Tier 1? Is it because it’s a direct contract with the founder?’

The name “Dogo” on the contract represented the subject of the contract or the party executing the contract.

And the barcode following it was Yeongwoo’s unique code.

So, the number 107 between the names of the two parties was probably...

‘The number of 1 Tier contracts Dogo has executed so far.’

It was a reasonably based inference.

Previously, the number attached to the advertising quest contract with Dogo was an astonishing “49523”.

「Contract: Dogo-49523-IIIIII_II-2 Tier」

In other words, Dogo had generated nearly 50,000 Tier 2 contracts thus far, and there were 107 Tier 1 contracts, including this one.

Then, what about Lemu?

「Contract: Lemu-8739-IIIIII_II-Tier 2」

Although the contract Lemu offered was also Tier 2, the number was only 8739.

That could mean his experience was much shorter compared to Dogo.

‘Now I’ve learned a bit about reading contracts.’

As Yeongwoo finished reading the contract’s header, the main content finally appeared line by line.

(Required) [Permanent Advertisement Space – Tattoo]

– The headquarters’ mixed advertisement will be broadcasted on the “Tattoo” space.

‘Oh, this seems to be a standard contract. Similar to Lemu’s.’

So, the characteristics of the company would be revealed in the subsequent optional selections.

However...

“Huh...?”

In this contract from Dogo, there were no optional selections.

#Basic Advertisement Fee: 10 million Karma per week.

#Basic Contract Period: 4 weeks.

Immediately, the standard payment for a Dogo contract was indicated.

‘What? It’s supposed to be a Tier 1 contract. But this is much worse than Tier 2...?’

Just as Yeongwoo was skeptical, at the moment when he had doubts about the level of salary that cannot even follow Lemu’s proposal....

Boom!

A condition labeled “Special Agreement” appeared beneath.

(Special Agreement) [Owner of Myth]

– Upon the conclusion of this contract, the headquarters must provide you with one piece of equipment of myth grade.

(Special Agreement) [Expensive Beads of Sweat]

- 「Dogo」 will obtain an encyclopedia.

– If you choose a type, Dogo will acquire one within two days.

– In case of failure to meet the deadline, the headquarters will pay a penalty of 100 million Karma.

‘My goodness.’

Seeing the contents of the special agreement, Yeongwoo couldn’t help but be astonished.

Especially the last item, “Dogo,” referred not to the company but to the founder, Dogo.

If you specify the type of encyclopedia you want, Dogo will personally fetch it for you.

‘Is the chairman going to venture into the higher dungeons himself...?’

This was something that couldn’t be valued in terms of money.

And above all...

‘Mythical equipment. You can’t even buy it with millions.’

The merchants from other dimensions sell at most legendary-grade items for legendary accomplishments.

And the grade above “legendary” would be “mythical.”

How would one obtain mythical-grade equipment?

Yeongwoo couldn't even imagine, which is why he was captivated by the contract directly proposed by Dogo.

And it seemed...

‘Dogo doesn't have much cash on hand right now. Probably because they have so many contracts in progress.’

With already executed Tier 2 contracts alone, Dogo had nearly 40,000.

There were all reasons why Dogo's shareholders were dismayed when Lemu appeared as a competitor.

‘So, in the end, the chairman is selling off his own inventions...?’

—Your battles already belong to Dogo. Do not fight with mud on you.

Yeongwoo recalled the chairman's words once again.

“Alright, Chairman.”

—Is the contract concluded?

“Yes. I will contract with Dogo... I mean, with the chairman.”

As Yeongwoo finally approved the contract with Dogo, he could feel the chairman nodding inside his helmet.

—A wise decision.

And then, he addressed the shareholders who were still waiting in the background.

—I will call for Hundred Thousand Swords Mountain on this planet. Erect a defensive barrier.

And then the shareholders started to murmur with astonished eyes.

In fact, the mythical-grade equipment offered as a special agreement was the chairman's personal possession.

And Yeongwoo could sense this fact discreetly.

‘Mythical equipment is not something you can easily come by.’

On the other hand, witnessing the entire process of this great undertaking, Yangju Strongest sword Cho Jongseon muttered in disbelief.

“Hundred thousand... What? What’s coming now?”

[TL/N: Poor woman]

[PR/N: Let her and her city be man well her city doesn’t exist anymore]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]