

## **Level 4 Human in a Ruined World**

### **#Chapter 31 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 31**

#### **Chapter 31**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 31: Villain's Battle (Part 5)

The two first swords fighting in the motel hallway were fully aware of the fact that mutants and monsters would soon arrive.

Clang!

Although the sound of the emergence of the light pillar was quite loud, what was more striking was...

[00:00:10]

In front of the two, a timer appeared.

But the time inside seemed a bit strange.

[00:00:09]

"What...?"

"What is this?"

[00:00:08]

In the moment of confusion, the remaining time until the appearance of the monsters decreased to 8 seconds, while the two top swordsmen paused their swordplay.

In response, Yeongwoo quickly checked his wristwatch.

'...1:00 PM exactly.'

Perhaps from now on, monsters and mutants would appear every day at this time.

[00:00:05]

The remaining time had decreased to 5 seconds, and ultimately, the anxious Sangju's Strongest Sword, suggested a ceasefire first.

"H-Hey... How about putting out the urgent fire first?"

At that moment, dealing with the monsters quickly was far more important than dueling challengers who were of no help in household affairs.

Ruling over a ghost city where everyone was dead had no meaning.

"How about it? We're running out of time, decide quickly."

Dokgo Sehwan 01, Sangju's Strongest Sword.

This man in his early 40s was in a state where he hadn't even put on underwear.

All he had was an early bird he hastily grabbed from the room earlier.

Thanks to that, he looked ridiculous on the outside, but to Yeongwoo, who had mixed swords with him, he felt like an enormous monster.

"..."

The reason Yeongwoo couldn't outright reject the ceasefire proposal was because of that.

'I can't guarantee victory like this. The sword is too fast.'

So, is there a solution?

「Golden Punishment」 – Legendary Bracelet

【Inflicts pain on the enemy.】

【Accumulated Golden Ratio: 2】

Yeongwoo looked at the golden bracelet wrapped around his wrist.

The only equipment he hadn't confirmed the effect of yet.

'It seems useless to confront with weapons. Maybe there needs to be direct stabbing or physical contact....'

But the opponent was so agile that even simple contact was not easy.

There was no sharp strategy at the moment.

‘Should I call Youngtae now? No, I should call him when I’m sure, and I only have one chance left today’

In a brief moment, Yeongwoo, who had many thoughts, made a decision before it was too late.

First, pull Sangju Strongest Sword and go towards the mutants, then take their senses and fight again.

“Okay. Let’s deal with the mutants first. If we leave them alone, even the strong ones might die.”

Then, Dokgo Sehwan chuckled and stepped back.

“You’re not a completely ignorant guy.”

At the same time, he kept an eye on Yeongwoo and began putting on clothes scattered around the motel room.

“Do you have time to put on clothes now? Weren’t you usually naked more often?”

Looking at the half-worn panties on Dokgo Sehwan’s buttocks, Yeongwoo said, and the guy growled, frowning.

“Be careful with your words, you little brat.”

At the same time, golden waves emitted from his body, but it didn’t have much effect on Yeongwoo.

Yeongwoo’s eyes were also burning with a golden light.

“ ... ”

Dokgo Sehwan stared at Yeongwoo like that, then finished putting on the clothes he was holding.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo left Sangju’s Strongest Sword in the room and walked out of the motel.

The timer that had long expired had disappeared from view for a while, and instead, numerous blue pillars were tearing through the air in Sangju City.

‘Where are the mutants?’

According to what he had heard earlier, there was a group in Sangju City that monopolized monster hunting, practically serving as the subordinates of Sangju's Strongest Sword.

Therefore, the monsters scattered around now were likely being swiftly dealt with by Sangju's subordinates.

So, Yeongwoo just needed to find the mutant first.

Since they were not at the level of Sangju's Strongest Sword, it would be impossible for them to intervene.

'There.'

Finally, Yeongwoo's gaze stopped somewhere in the north.

Though the distance was considerable, a distinctly red-colored light pillar was descending.

"..."

Anyway, Sangju's Strongest Sword would inevitably follow.

Yeongwoo pressed the ground firmly and turned his body north.

Then,

Boom!

As if a bullet were being fired, he advanced forward, beating the ground.

Indeed, who would be the mutant on the second day in Sangju City?

From the flow so far, it was clear that an individual stronger than yesterday would appear.

As for the mutants encountered so far, they are some kind of 'miscellaneous mob' based on goblins, gnolls, etc.

But, as confirmed with his own eyes yesterday morning, someone had mutated into a high-level monster like a dragon.

The timing of their appearance was the issue; they would inevitably show up sooner or later.

Paaaat!

While Yeongwoo was thinking this, a strange scene passed by as he continued north.

‘There are more people than I thought.’

What Yeongwoo saw were people moving vigorously as if they had heard an air raid alert.

Those who were outside had all moved into nearby buildings, and conversely, people were rushing out of buildings.

Moreover, those coming out were armed and had an unusual momentum.

‘Those are monster hunters.’

Yeongwoo sensed that they were the privileged class in Sangju City.

Of course, the ‘monster hunters’ who had come out with their equipment, seeing Yeongwoo, who was moving rapidly, realized that something was happening.

“What’s this?”

“He’s not Strongest Sword...?”

When they realized that the barefoot superman walking through the city did not look like the familiar face, everyone flinched and took out their weapons.

However, Yeongwoo didn’t have the luxury to pay attention to the henchmen.

Kwa-kwa-kwa-kwa!

From behind, Sangju’s Strongest Sword, Dokgo Sehwan, was emitting a formidable presence as he followed.

Now, he was fully armed, even holding a shield.

“Strongest Sword!”

Since they hadn’t declared their names to each other, Dokgo Sehwan simply called Yeongwoo Strongest Sword.

“Don’t forget! We deal with the mutants first!”

Reconfirming the agreement with Yeongwoo, Sehwan quickly closed the distance.

“...!”

The agility was enough to give you chills.

Naturally, Sehwan, too, had nothing on his feet.

‘Let’s deal with the mutants first. You won’t give up the reward, right?’

Yeongwoo alternated his gaze between Sehwan, who was surpassing him, and the red light pillar that was getting closer.

At this rate, he would encounter the mutants within a few seconds.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“What about the elimination reward? Does the person who delivers the final blow get it?”

As Yeongwoo asked Sehwan on his back, suddenly,

Hwae-aek!

With a solid sound, a hologram of the Gumi Sword Technique appeared in front of Yeongwoo.

It appeared flat on the ground.

“...!”

It meant an attack that couldn’t be blocked even with a shield was coming.

Immediately, Yeongwoo halted all his thoughts, lowered his body, and slid forward as if slipping down to the front.

Thud!

Kicking up dust, Sehwan, who had been running ahead, also attempted to slide.

He, too, had received guidance in Sangju Sword Technique.

As the two top swordsmen moved like each other’s shadows, a message appeared only in front of Yeongwoo.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 100 to 480.」

‘Crazy.’

The value was significantly different from when Yeongwoo first clashed with Sehwan.

This meant... he had stolen the senses of another entity, not Sehwan's.

In other words,

"Kraaaaah!"

It was the second mutant in Sangju City.

Boom!

With a sound as if space were tearing apart, a blade passed over Sehwan and Yeongwoo's heads.

Yeongwoo felt all the hair on his body stand on end and quickly raised himself.

Then, about 10 meters in front, a vague silhouette of something stood erect.

Although it seemed to be about 5 meters tall, it wasn't a single entity.

The opponent was a knight riding on a large black horse.

The knight, as dark-skinned as the horse, was covered in a shabby cloak and armor all over, holding a sword with a blade length easily reaching 3 meters in its right hand.

"What the fuck is that?!"

The mutant they encountered yesterday didn't have such a presence, and Dokgo Sehwan's face froze upon seeing it.

Yeongwoo, seeing this, informed him of what today's mutant was in a low voice.

"Dullahan. A headless knight."

"What?"

Instead of answering, Yeongwoo pointed a finger at the knight's left hand.

More precisely, it was holding the severed head of the knight itself.

"...Ugh fuck."

Sehwan finally noticed.

The fact that the head was not attached to the knight's torso.

The guy was holding his own severed head tightly with his left hand.

Moreover, the problem was that the severed head, with both eyes wide open, was trembling with lips chattering as if sharpening its teeth.

Therefore, instead of asking Sehwan quickly, Yeongwoo couldn't help but speak.

"Why did that person become a mutant?"

"What?"

That person, Dullahan, had a name tag attached to his torso.

[Sangju City Mayor – Kim Hyunho]

Because he was the mayor.

Becoming a mutant meant he had faced public judgment.

Why did Sangju City Mayor Kim Hyunho end up on the shortlist for the filtration vote?

"Damn, the mayor's back."

Sehwan, who belatedly checked the name tag, made a puzzled expression.

Then he continued his words.

"There were allegations of sexual misconduct."

"Sexual misconduct?"

Yeongwoo made a frozen expression.

Coincidentally, it was very similar to the current theme of Sangju City.

"It's not certain, and the reset started before the investigation could progress."

In other words, there were only allegations of sexual misconduct, and public judgment took place before the truth could be revealed.

"...So, in reality, he could be an innocent person."

"It's possible. Or maybe not. Of course, if he was really innocent...."

Sehwan's follow-up words, suggesting he might be very angry now if he were innocent, were not continued.



Splat!

Sangju City Mayor Kim Hyunho swung his sword again, the horse hitting the ground with his hoof.

Boom!

Just like before, a creepy sound of a breaking wave echoed, and the two top swordsmen saw it clearly.

The black sword that the guy was holding was increasing in an unbelievable length.

Zzeaaaat!

Crunch!

“This damn fucker...!”

The length of the black sword seemed to be over 10 meters.

“He brought something tremendous. Did he bring that to sweep away all of Sangju City?”

Yeongwoo spoke, dodging the faint trajectory while Dokgo Sehwan spat on the ground.

“Stop the bullshit and figure out how to kill that monster.”

Sehwan’s hands and feet were trembling thinly as he spoke.

Even the superhuman who had monopolized 3 million Karma was inevitably afraid of a struggle with a monster that he hadn’t even dreamed of seeing.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo was slightly better off than Sehwan in the current situation.

At least he knew that a monster named Dullahan existed in games.

‘It’s something I’ve seen in games... but facing it in reality is really overwhelming.’

What criteria determine the selection of mutants or creatures?

Is it based on games, novels, or the entire human imagination?

Tsk.

After thinking this far, Yeongwoo stepped backward, taking a combat stance.

Dullahan...

No, Sangju City Mayor Kim Hyunho was tapping the ground with his hooves again.

‘Since he’s not saying anything, he’s just thinking of killing all of us. It won’t be easy to befriend him this time.’

Yeongwoo watched the mayor’s movements, and when he saw him moving, he secretly narrowed the distance with Dokgo Sehwan.

After the mutant’s next attack, the plan was to deal with Sehwan first with his newfound senses.

‘Now, my senses are more than double of his. If I combine forces with Youngtae, we should have a good chance.’

Boom!

Once again, with the unique sound of a breaking wave, the strange blade swept through the air.

“Again? Doesn’t that crazy guy get tired?”

While Dokgo Sehwan was panicking and moving backward, Yeongwoo also jumped backward, grabbing the pumpkin-colored wind chime hanging around his neck.

Then,

Piririririk!

He blew into the wind chime, producing a loud noise.

“Huh...?”

As the mayor and even the Strongest Sword of Sangju City were staring at Yeongwoo, the unexpected happened.

“What are you?”

And right after the mayor finished his sentence.

“Yaaaaaaah!”

A massive gnoll came tearing through the sky, leaping down.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 32**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### **Chapter 32: Villain's Battle (Part 6)**

Kwaaaah!

Commonly known as BJ Pagle.

As internet broadcaster Hong Youngtae smashed into the ground, a moment of silence fell within the battlefield.

Even Sangju's Strongest Sword, Dokgo Sehwan, and Sangju Mayor Kim Hyunho couldn't comprehend the current situation.

A mutant falling from the sky out of nowhere...?

Even Youngtae, summoned through the gourd, was equally surprised.

「...Huh? What's all this?」

This time, he came with a strong ambition to make a great achievement, but the atmosphere was unusual.

A large mutant whose head had already fallen off, Jeong Yeongwoo, and another Strongest Sword.

「why.....」

「There are two First Swords? 」

Before Yeongtae's last words could be pronounced, Yeongwoo swung his sword with golden eyes flashing.

Damn it!

It was aimed at none other than Sangju First Sword Dokgo Sehwan.

“No, you crazy bastard?”

It was an unexpected surprise attack, but because Sehwan had the upper hand in abilities, he was able to barely block Yeongwoo's blade.

Chaeaeang!

Two silver-white blades met near Sehwan's neck.

Then, an enormous text appeared before Yeongwoo's eyes.

「Sensory values have temporarily increased from the original 480 to 808.」

“...!”

A sensory value of 808.

It had taken away the senses of both Sangju's Strongest Sword and the Mayor.

Now, in a sensory battle, no one in the audience could defeat him.

“Youngtae! Kill this guy first!”

As Yeongwoo shouted again, Sehwan, who was blocking his sword, looked bewildered and frightened at the same time.

“...”

He had known nothing until now and was shocked by the unbelievable fact he witnessed with his own eyes.

In this world, there was a Strongest Sword that is in collusion with mutants.

He's even in the process of collaborating with a mutant right now.

Kim Hyunho, the Sangju Mayor, was still holding out behind him like a fortress.

In other words.

‘He's planning to kill me while leaving the mutant alone...?’

Indeed.

A huge creature with a long snout was already rushing towards him.

‘Is this real? Am I dreaming right now?’

Sehwan, struggling to fend off various attacks from both sides, was shocked by the fact that even now, he could not believe.

His many accumulated combat experiences were indicating that it would be difficult to survive this time.

Chaeng!

Shit!

The beast's claws and the early bird's blades were completely different from the usual, making it extremely challenging to block alternately.

Despite the support of Sangju Swordsmanship, Sehwan had to move his body himself.

"Ik...!"

Eventually, before twenty counts passed, Sehwan's breathing lost its original pace and became erratic.

"Aaaah!"

Sehwan, who had never expected today to be his last, made an unclear sound, whether a scream or a shout.

Yeongwoo also noticed that his opponent had lost composure, and he threw a dagger behind Sehwan.

Hwaeat!

He planned to retrieve the dagger on the next attack moment of Youngtae and strike from behind.

And soon.

Shi-iik!

Youngtae, swinging his heavy arm, rushed towards Sehwan.

Yeongwoo, having retrieved the dagger stuck in the distant ground, also aimed for Sehwan's neck while swinging the early bird.

Chaeng!

While aiming for Sehwan's neck, he didn't forget to swing the early bird.

Chaeng!

In essence, it was a three-sided attack, and even Sehwan, who had shown a defense skill close to magic, had to allow effective hits this time.

Pit!

He couldn't avoid the dagger flying from behind.

The returning dagger, grazing his side diagonally, pierced Sehwan's side, soaked in blood, and lodged into Yeongwoo's belt.

From this point, the course of the battle changed.

"Ugh...!"

Sehwan's movements, who had been fighting well until now, became noticeably rough.

'Could it be?'

Sensing something, Yeongwoo pushed Youngtae aside and also stepped back.

At that moment, reflexively swinging his sword, Dokgo Sehwan twisted his body and half-sat down.

"Ugh...!"

Sehwan, holding his side with a shielded hand, contorted his face in pain.

Yeongwoo was certain.

'It activated, Golden Punishment.'

「Golden Punishment」 – Legendary Bracelet

【Inflicts pain on enemies.】

The effect of inflicting pain would only activate when dealing a blow to the opponent.

Of course, Yeongwoo couldn't know how much pain this would cause.

What was clear is that it was enough to make someone as formidable as Sangju's Strongest Sword stop the fight.

"What... What is this? It hurts so much."

Even though it wasn't a significant wound, Youngtae looked at Yeongwoo with a puzzled expression as if he were surprised that his opponent was about to die.

He suspected that this guy had used some trick.

Of course, it was true.

"We need to finish this quickly."

As Yeongwoo raised his sword threateningly, Sehwan, who had been kneeling on one knee, raised his shield while gritting his teeth.

However, in a state where attention was partially distracted due to intense pain, he was pushed even in a one-on-one confrontation with Yeongwoo.

He barely blocked about five strikes but showed a flaw.

Chwi-iit!

From Yeongwoo's perspective, it was a simple stab targeting the space between the collarbone and neck, but Sehwan, trying to push it aside diagonally, failed to time it properly, and Yeongwoo's early bird pierced through his shoulder muscles.

Phook!

Once the blade entered his body, the rest happened swiftly.

Without removing the blade stuck in the opponent's body, Yeongwoo pulled out the dagger from his belt and stabbed it under Sehwan's chin.

Phook!

Like lightning, the iron needle penetrated through the guy's jaw, and blood flowed down like a stream.

...Creep!

However, Sehwan still had strength left in his body, so Yeongwoo immediately swung his left-hand shield, smashing the skull.

Kwajak!

Then, Sehwan's upper body lost strength all at once, and his body flowed down to the ground.

The early bird and the dagger were firmly embedded in various places, including the trapezius and the head.

“ ... ”

Youngtae looked at the brutally damaged corpse of Sehwan and thought of skewers or something similar, but he couldn't bring himself to say it out loud.

It had been happening since a while ago; his body was disappearing.

It was time for his return.

「Huh?」

As Youngtae made a bewildered sound and disappeared into the air, the large shadow he had been casting also vanished.

But there was still a much larger shadow remaining.

「Impressive. Is something like this happening elsewhere?」

Sangju Mayor Kim Hyunho.

He was still holding a sword on the ground, looking at Yeongwoo with a head held in his left hand.

Even while two Strongest Swords and a mutant were entangled in a fight in front of him, he hadn't moved a single step.

After all, why bother interfering when the enemies were fighting among themselves.

“I don't know how things are going in other neighborhoods. It's only the second day since the reset.”

Yeongwoo provided a kind response, keeping in mind that the opponent was experiencing the world after the reset for the first time, just like the mutants from the past.

「Two days? It's only been two days since...?」

Kim Hyunho showed signs of confusion for the first time.

However, his appearance holding his severed head was still gruesome, and after looking around for a moment, he swung his attacking weapon indiscriminately.

「Anyway, you better disappear now. You seem like a dangerous one.」



Hwaeaeaeak!

“...!”

Yeongwoo widened his eyes as the guy's sword seemed faster than before.

‘Oh no, my senses have decreased since Dokgo Sehwan died.’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Currently, Yeongwoo's senses had returned to 480.

In addition, with Youngtae gone, he was now in a situation where he had to handle the fight alone.

Pahat!

Yeongwoo quickly sensed a ruthless blade passing over his lowered head and bit down on it.

‘The only way to increase my power now is to take the equipment that guy has.’

As Yeongwoo approached the body of Sangju's Strongest Sword, Kim Hyunho rushed in and swung his sword down at Yeongwoo.

Kwaaah!

“Ugh...!”

Although he managed to narrowly evade the attack again, in return, Dokgo Sehwan's body was split in half, bouncing into the air.

This time, Yeongwoo noticed that a violet bracelet was filled on the corpse's wrist, but he couldn't retrieve it.

「You're dead...!」

Immediately, Kim Hyunho, with a shadow cast on his son-in-law, charged forward.

With the black horse's body, which was like a pair of scissors, the guy's height reached 5 meters, giving Yeongwoo the feeling of fighting against a tank.

‘How did this crazy guy appear so soon?’

Even the Gumi Sword Technique was advising not to directly block the guy's sword.

There was no chance in a strength battle.

On the contrary, Yeongwoo had the upper hand in terms of the total amount of sense, so Kim Hyunho's blade didn't achieve much.

It only caused the ground to tremble, raising dust, and nothing more.

Kwaquk!

Once again, a futile strike caused debris from the sidewalk blocks to fly in all directions.

From this point on, Kim Hyunho's composure broke.

「This crazy bastard!」

Fundamentally, he was still human, which was why the effects of the rage and frustration were kicking in.

Moreover, he hadn't returned here to dance with a kid playing with a sword all day.

What he wanted was to deliver punishment to the public who judged him.

“This...!”

With an enraged voice, Kim Hyunho raised his sword again, but suddenly, he blinked and turned his gaze somewhere else.

‘What’s going on?’

At a similar moment, Yeongwoo also detected some movement and turned to look in the same direction as Kim Hyunho.

Then.

“There!”

“What, what is this? Isn't that too big?”

It could be seen that a considerable number of people armed to some extent were rushing towards them.

Judging by their speed alone, it was evident that they weren't ordinary people.

Probably...

‘The monster hunters of Sangju City.’

Whether called monster hunters, privileged, hunters, or superhumans, there was no longer any standard or norm.

‘Why did these crazy guys come here? Could it be that the woman sent them to help her husband?’

Yeongwoo remembered that Sangju’s Strongest Sword’s wife was still alive.

When he started fighting with Sangju’s Strongest Sword at the honeymoon motel, she disappeared somewhere.

“ ... ”

Anyway, at this point, it wasn’t important.

What was truly crucial was...

Kwuduk!

Kim Hyunho turned his body in the direction of the ‘reinforcements.’

Since there was no answer, it seemed that fighting endlessly wouldn’t yield results. So, he wanted to kill the small fries first to enjoy the fun.

‘I’ll be indebted to him.’

Kwung!

Kim Hyunho, shaking the ground, rushed out to greet the monster hunters, and Yeongwoo took advantage of the opportunity to approach Dokgo Sehwan’s corpse.

More precisely, he rummaged through the remains of the guy lying far away.

Ta-at!

However, an unexpected event occurred.

“ ... ? ”

The moment Yeongwoo cast a shadow over Dokgo Sehwan’s head, the guy’s eyelids trembled.

“Huh?”

At first, Yeongwoo thought he might have seen it wrong or that it was due to the ground vibrations.

‘What the fuck... he’s breathing?’

Surprisingly, the guy’s chest swelled and sank repeatedly, even though his head was half destroyed, and his body was torn apart.

‘Does this make sense? Even if he has high durability...’

While Yeongwoo was gaping in disbelief, a tremendous noise and people’s screams came from behind.

The Mayor was happily chopping up the monster hunters.

‘Damn it, there’s no time.’

Yeongwoo didn’t even have the luxury to marvel at what seemed like a miracle.

He immediately swung the early bird to completely cut off Dokgo Sehwan’s breath.

Afterward, he took off the bracelet the guy had.

Thud.

As Yeongwoo removed the violet bracelet, the tooltip floated into his view, revealing the identity of the miraculous item he had just witnessed.

「Slime’s Core」 – Mutant Bracelet

【Significant increase in regeneration.】

Regeneration increase.

The reason why Dokgo Sehwan, who was practically just a lump of meat, didn’t die completely was because of this.

‘Wait... there was an item like this?’

However, the astonishing event didn’t end there.

「You have become Sangju’s Strongest Sword!」

...You have three Strongest Sword titles in the Gyeongbuk region.

「You have become Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword (Advanced)!」

...You are currently the only Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword (Advanced) in the Gyeongbuk region.

'Wait a minute, if that's the case...'

In accordance with the rules of the same title system he had seen before, the one who accumulated the most titles among Gyeongbuk's Strongest Swords (Advanced) would be promoted to Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword.

In other words.

'I'm the only candidate.'

As Yeongwoo thought this, in the midst of the ongoing parade of notifications, he realized something and widened his eyes.

'Now, if this happens...'

Amidst the continuous parade of notifications, Yeongwoo realized something and widened his eyes.

「You have been elected as Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword!」

「The current Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword is 'Jeong Yeongwoo07.' Rank 1, 0 defense.」

Next, Yeongwoo received a warning message.

「From now on, all Gyeongbuk's Strongest Swords (Advanced) elected will receive real-time updates on your location.」

[PR/N: Sharing real time location? now that's some serious fucking shit ]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 33**

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 33: Alien (1)

Invitation to the Strongest Sword in Gyeongbuk.

As Yeongwoo read all the text, the title he possessed changed.

Paah!

“Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword” – Epic Title

【Supremacy of the Strongest Sword】

【Voting Rights】

【Gyeongbuk Sword Law】

‘Hmm...? The effect has been added.’

The most noticeable were two things.

First, the grade of the title that was ‘Unique’ changed to ‘Epic.’

And second, the option ‘Voting Rights’ was added.

Voting Rights power...

It means the power to exercise rights in deliberative bodies such as councils or shareholders’ meetings.

Then what exactly is the decision about?

‘Judging by giving Voting Rights power to the Strongest Sword of a large-scale region, it seems like an unusual authority.’

Whatever it was, to use this authority, one must first stay alive.

“.....”

Yeongwoo put the bracelet left by Dokgo sehwan on his arm, then took the early bird that the guy was holding and tucked it into his backpack.

Then.

Quad-deuk!

He looked at Kim Hyunho, who was pushing skilled individuals away like a bulldozer on the other side.

「Kwaaaah!」

Various emotions were intertwined in the momentum unleashed with the blade.

Anger, sadness, and joy.

After all, from his perspective, he must be killing those who killed him.

At the same time, he was harming the citizens of Sangju by giving up the position of Sangju Mayor without harming them.

[Sangju Mayor – Kim Hyunho]

Yeongwoo briefly looked at the name tag on the mutant's head, then, clutching the early bird, he rushed out.

Taah!

The skilled individuals who came to help Sangju's Strongest Sword had diminished, and even more, they were trying to run away from the scene, showing their backs to Kim Hyunho.

However, the escape did not seem to be successful.

Both of them were already under the giant shadow of Kim Hyunho.

Boooom!

Finally, Sangju Mayor Kim Hyunho swung his sword towards the fleeing people.

And simultaneously.

– Break

– Break

In Yeongwoo's sight, who was chasing behind the Mayor, two 'Break' marks appeared.

It meant that although he couldn't kill the opponent with this attack, he could disrupt the posture.

The two marks were attached to Kim Hyunho's lower back and the hind leg of the black horse he rode.

According to the hologram, both attacks were 'throwing attacks.'

It meant throwing the early bird and dagger inserted in the belt one after the other.

“.....!”

Following the guide, Yeongwoo threw both weapons while jumping to the left side of Kim Hyunho.

The hologram was also running in that direction.

‘Why all of a sudden...?’

It was the first time the hologram used the space so extensively, but Yeongwoo followed the guide without questioning.

Because.

「.....!」

Having skillfully sensed the surprise attack from behind, Kim Hyunho turned his sword to block the dagger thrown by Yeongwoo.

At the same time, the early bird flying towards his lower back also twisted his body at an unbelievable angle to avoid it.

– Void (虛)

– Void (虛)

The two marks successively changed to ‘Void,’ but the holographic battle was still ongoing.

Soon, the hologram positioned itself at Kim Hyunho’s side, pulling his arm in a gesture to retrieve the weapons.

Following suit, Yeongwoo swiftly pulled the two weapons back.

Paah!

At that moment, the early bird and dagger, which had bounced off in different directions, returned simultaneously, attempting a dual attack.

It was then that Yeongwoo finally realized.

‘The higher-level swordsmanship provides a much more sophisticated guide.’



Of course, with just the remote retrieval function of the belt, he couldn't inflict fatal damage to Kim Hyunho.

However.

Swiish!

If he could somehow get the blades to touch his body...

– Break

– Break

Finally, the 'Break' mark appeared at the tips of the two weapons cutting through the air, and a moment later, Yeongwoo saw one of them change to 'Void.'

Paeaeng!

Kim Hyunho turned the sword once again, deflecting the early bird.

The delayed dagger, however, reached his left arm wrapped in full armor.

Teeit!

At that moment, the 'Break' mark attached to the dagger vibrated and turned red.

「Huh?」

The shadow that looked like a towering fortress, Kim Hyunho's, swayed significantly forward and backward.

The unique effect of the golden retribution had been applied.

【Inflict pain on the enemy.】

'Here it comes! The opportunity...!'

As Yeongwoo pulled out the early bird from his hip, raising his eyes, Kim Hyunho turned his left arm to look at him from under the attached headpiece.

「This bastard...!」

But unlike the furious words, his two eyes were shaking severely.

He felt fear from Yeongwoo, who had inflicted immense pain just by contact.

Kim Hyunho couldn't say anything more and focused on the two escapees who were already running far away.

Kwagwagwak!

'He doesn't intend to fight me.'

However, the pain once initiated didn't easily let go of Kim Hyunho.

"Euk!"

While avoiding Yeongwoo, he forcefully twisted his waist several times, even though he was running on horseback.

However, that didn't stop him.

On the contrary.

Kudududud!

He forcefully urged the horse and swung the sword more violently as he narrowed the distance with the escapees.

Boooooom!

The solid sound of breaking waves echoed as the bodies of the fleeing escapees scattered.

Then, Kim Hyunho's black horse passed over them, crushing the corpses under its hooves.

It was an exceedingly retaliatory act.

And Yeongwoo sensed it as he watched. Perhaps Kim Hyunho might really be innocent.

"Mayor Kim Hyunho! There were unpleasant suspicions, is it true?"

When Yeongwoo shouted like this, Kim Hyunho's body momentarily wavered.

But that was it.

He didn't stop; instead, he changed direction and began to run somewhere crowded with people.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It seemed he wanted to kill as many people as possible before he exhausted his strength.

In response, Yeongwoo accelerated even more, calling out his name.

“Kim Hyunho!”

Finally, he turned around.

「Suspicion or whatever, you guys already killed me. Now, there's only one thing I have to do. Make you guys suffer. I've been waiting for that all this time.」

Even if it wasn't Yeongwoo, anyone who heard it would have felt sincerity in his tone.

‘The idea of returning peacefully is not going to work at all.’

Yeongwoo made a disgusted expression as he felt the lingering malice emanating from Kim Hyunho's appearance.

Dududududududu...!

Kim Hyunho's momentum, which had been staggering, gradually recovered, and the movements of the dark horse he controlled became faster.

It is the pain of the golden punishment that is piercing through.

‘I have to settle it here. If he goes into the city, dozens of people will be cut down every time the sword moves.’

The apartment complex on the other side was already visible.

He clearly knew the structure of the city as the mayor.

Thud!

As Yeongwoo increased his speed and prepared to shoot weapons in succession as before, Kim Hyunho, who saw through it skillfully, spoke again.

「Leave me alone. After I finish my work, I'll die quietly. 」

“People are clearly going to be killed, and you want me to leave you alone?”

Yeongwoo was already sending his dagger flying from his waist, and Kim Hyunho, who was watching him, twisted his body in response.

Sweetit!

The sharp sound of the dagger passing near Kim Hyunho's shoulder.

Next, Yeongwoo's early bird aimed for Kim Hyunho's head, but it was blocked by the black sword.

Peeiing!

However, Yeongwoo's prepared attack was not over here.

As he threw the early bird, Yeongwoo also pulled out another early bird from his backpack and swung it.

「.....!」

For Kim Hyunho, who had tasted the bitterness of the previous dual attack, it was a scene that could only be terrifying.

This time, a three-sided attack was approaching.

'Oh, damn.'

Kim Hyunho, who anticipated the dog-like future, gritted his teeth and grasped his sword, while Yeongwoo retrieved the weapons he had sent out and swung the early bird.

Hwaeaeaeat!

Naturally, since the attack of the 'original' Yeongwoo would be the most powerful, Kim Hyunho had no choice but to block his sword first.

Therefore, he had to skillfully avoid the remaining blades flying towards his back and right side.

But now, it seemed that Kim Hyunho was in a state where he had lost half of his senses to Yeongwoo.

Chaeaaang!

Doing his best, he received Yeongwoo's early bird with the black sword, and then twisted his upper body as much as possible to reduce the area of his body.

Kkudeudeuk.

Although his armor was urgently moving enough to open the seams, it was not a sufficient response.

Due to the height difference with Yeongwoo, the entry angle of the two blades flying from the air was too wide.

Whiit!

When Kim Hyunho turned his body to avoid both weapons, the exposed nape of the black horse beneath him was completely exposed.

「Ah.....!」

Realizing this, Kim Hyunho twisted his face, but the early bird and dagger had already entered the inside of the mane, scraping away.

And then, what happened next.

「Kwuuoar!」

A scream, but not a scream from Kim Hyunho.

Yeongwoo, who was anticipating him falling, tilted his head as he watched Kim Hyunho suffer.

‘What the... Was that black horse also part of this guy’s abilities?’

Anyway, there was no better time than now to end the mayor’s reign.

Because for the first time, the symbol ‘kill’ appeared on the opponent.

– Kill

It was in just one place.

It was attached to the head of Kim Hyunho, who was shaking in the air without any sense.

‘He had only one weakness.’

As Yeongwoo raised the early bird threateningly and looked at Kim Hyunho’s head, he seemed to have felt something and shouted with a frightened face.

「Wait! Wait a minute!」

While saying this, Kim Hyunho unconsciously glanced at the apartment complex surrounding him like a folding screen on his back.

If only he could run a little faster...

No, if the crazy guy in front of him didn't interfere, he would have vented his resentment without any grudge.

Only now did suspicion arise in Kim Hyunho's mind, and he asked with an expression of genuine disbelief.

「What are you...? Why the hell does someone like you exist?!」

Someone like you.

Kim Hyunho felt anger and resentment at the fact that a human more powerful than mutants existed.

According to the 'voice' that had been coming from the darkness for a long time, the reason mutants were originally sent back to the original world was to judge the masses.

But now, it seemed that to anyone looking, this was not a judge, but just a mere monster.

Moreover, he hadn't even fulfilled his grudge.

“.....”

However, just because it was Yeongwoo didn't mean he had the answers.

He was also just a human living day by day in this broken world due to the reset.

“Why do I, a guy like me, exist? I don't know. I just survive well in this world. So, I become stronger. That's why I thought you guys would have the answers.”

Yeongwoo still held the knife, looking at Kim Hyunho, who was still staggering, and raised the knife again.

“But it seems like you guys don't know anything either.”

Swish.

As Yeongwoo aimed the blade at Kim Hyunho's head, the guy's eyelids widened.

“Just die now. Let's end it with the Golden Rain.”

Shiit!

Yeongwoo's silver-white blade cut through the air like an arrow.

「No!!」

Despite Kim Hyunho's resistance, the blade had already pierced through his skull.

Quack!

Kim Hyunho's head shattered with a sound like cracking cookies, and at the same time, a white beam shot up into the sky.

'If I use the Golden Rain this time, it will be the third time.'

As Yeongwoo thought this while looking at the golden sphere left by Kim Hyunho, a new notification appeared in his field of view.

「The second mutant in Sangju has been eliminated, so basic welfare will be applied to this area.」

|Remaining time until the application of daily quest: 20 minutes.

|Remaining time until the appearance of a merchant: 5 minutes.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 34**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 34: Alien (2)

“Merchant appearance? Where is this merchant supposed to appear?”

Yeongwoo felt a ominous premonition, but soon his attention was diverted by what happened next.

Kwaaaang!

A column of light shot down through the clouds with a thunderous noise, as if tearing the sky apart.

“...!”

It was different from the markings that pointed to the location of monsters or mutants, and it sent shivers down his spine.

‘Is that where the merchant appears?’

The black column of light descended a few kilometers northwest of the current location.

As Yeongwoo turned towards that direction, follow-up messages related to the defeat of the Mayor filled his vision.

「Eliminated the mutant.」

「Please choose your reward for completing the process.」

?Confirmed Reward?

「Dullahan’s Sword」 – Mutant One-Handed Sword

【The length of the sword is proportional to the user’s height.】

?Choice Reward?

[3 million Karma]

Or

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

“Now there’s a weapon reward too.”

Getting a weapon as a reward for defeating mutants was a first.

Moreover, it was a mutant-grade equipment, surpassing the Early Bird, which was a hero-grade.

“I can probably expand the influence of the Sword Master like Kim Hyunho did.”

Yeongwoo quickly chose the latter in the reward selection and completed the process.

Pahat!



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

Then, as usual, the golden sphere rapidly spun and soared into the sky, showering golden rain along with a splendid explosion.

Suaaaaa...!

《Gyeongbuk Strongest Sword 'Jeong Yeongwoo 07' gave up his monopoly on 3 million karma and gifted 30,000 karma to all Sangju residents.》

《Soon, 30,000 Karma will be paid in the form of commemorative coins. Get ready.》

Yeongwoo grabbed three commemorative coins amid the raining golden glow and opened the achievement window.

Pot.

[Golden Flood]

|Summon golden rain in five or more locations. (3/5)

'I can tidy up one achievement if I visit two more places.'

There were three more achievements remaining.

[Nocturnal]

|Spend a night outside the residence.

[Jeweller's Touch]

|Wear two rings of Hero grade or higher on the index and ring fingers each. (2/4)

[Complete Orphan]

|Find and eliminate parents. (1/2)

But none of them had a clear strategy, and he was in a deadlock.

Moreover, to update the achievement list, he had to achieve existing achievements and clear slots, so it was best to continue moving to the next city for now.

'Of course, I'll have to meet that merchant or whatever it is.'

As Yeongwoo had this thought, a sharp sound echoed through the air, and a mysterious sword plunged into the ground.

Ssshaeaak, ping!

A scene reminiscent of the first time he received the Early Bird's sword.

It was the Mutant-grade one-handed sword, "Dullahan's Sword."

"..."

Yeongwoo pulled out the problematic black sword with a strange sense of anticipation.

Splat.

Then, rising from the sturdy handle, a roughly one-meter-long dark blade became visible.

'It's definitely longer than the Early Bird, but how can I make it even longer here?'

Although he swung the sword in the air as the Mayor did, nothing unusual happened.

So.

'G... Get longer?'

Internally demanding the sword to lengthen.

Shiririt!

"Huh?"

The black sword actually pierced through the air, rapidly extending.

'How much longer is it? About five meters?'

Upon close examination, Yeongwoo estimated that the maximum length of the dark blade was approximately 5 meters.

「Dullahan's Sword」 - Mutant One-Handed Sword

【The length of the sword is proportional to the user's height.】

'Since the length of the blade is proportional to my height....'

Yeongwoo's height was in the mid-170s.

In other words, Dullahan's Sword could grow up to approximately three times the user's height.

‘Then if I get taller, this sword will get longer too.’

And that height probably...

“...”

Yeongwoo silently placed one commemorative coin against his lips.

Then, along the outline of his body, translucent dotted lines appeared, and the settings appeared in his field of view.

「Change character settings」

|Appearance

|Stats

‘I can probably change the height in the appearance settings.’

Opening the “Appearance,” a plethora of information poured out, much more than he expected.

‘What... What is all this?’

The range of appearance changes that could be made using Karma was not limited to just physique but also included facial features, distribution and color of facial hair, and more.

\* \* \*

As Yeongwoo moved towards the black column of light, he continued to explore the appearance interface.

‘This is insane... I can even change the default position of the pupils.’

Even the skin color and texture were changeable.

If desired, he could elongate his nose like Pinocchio or protrude a specific part of the forehead to create a horn.

Of course, it wasn’t completely unrestricted.

According to the guide at the top of the interface, penalties were imposed for appearance changes beyond the human category.

-The standard range for each appearance item is ‘human.’

– If a specific item deviates from the standard range, the Karma requirement for that item increases significantly.

‘But if you have an absurd amount of Karma, it might be possible to deviate from the human category.’

Yeongwoo imagined himself with a height of 4 meters, horns on his forehead, and bright red skin, resembling a giant.

‘A new era has opened where theoretically becoming such a monster is possible.’

‘Well... it doesn’t seem like they made it for us to do such things right away.’

Yeongwoo looked at the “Presets” that appeared below the guide text.

「For user convenience, we provide three types of preset collections.」

|Combat

|Charm

|Special

‘What’s this again?’

When Yeongwoo selected ‘Combat’ among the three presets, a translucent window opened on the left side of his field of view, revealing dozens of body samples.

‘Huh?’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

All of these samples, all in a nude state, represented body shapes within the human category considered advantageous for combat by the appearance system.

With a height of up to 2 meters and near-perfect upper and lower body balance.

‘Am I supposed to choose one and follow it exactly?’

After all, how could an ordinary person meticulously modify dozens of appearance items one by one to find the optimal model?

The concept of presets provided a textbook guide to prevent Karma from being wasted.

As Yeongwoo focused on each sample, detailed numerical values for each appearance item appeared, comparing them to his current details.

‘...My legs are definitely short. The upper body skeleton isn’t that great either.’

It was a bitter realization, but there was also a reassuring aspect.

In any case, if the arms got longer, the reach would increase, and if the legs lengthened, the stride... in other words, the mobility would also improve.

“...”

As Yeongwoo chose one of the samples that he liked the most, the total Karma required to make his current body match the preset was automatically calculated.

[2,116,000]

2.116 million Karma.

The cost for Yeongwoo, a born 4th-grade human, to obtain the best body conditions.

For the current Yeongwoo, it felt like a reasonable amount, but it wouldn’t be the same for the majority.

‘The more money you spend here, the slower your ability growth will be... I probably won’t be able to afford it unless I have a lot of courage.’

Yeongwoo also had his concerns.

With 2.116 million Karma, he could allocate more than 2,110 points to his stats.

Considering that his highest stat, strength, was only 600, was it really wise to give up on more than 2,000 stats?

‘It’s difficult.’

Yeongwoo’s gaze turned to the next preset, ‘Charm.’

Then, just like before, a translucent window opened, revealing an enormous number of face samples.

‘Probably a collection of handsome and beautiful faces by type.’

If you had enough Karma, becoming a handsome or beautiful person was also possible.

Since the location of the merchant was getting closer, there was no time to examine all these 'faces.'

After closing the 'Charm' window, Yeongwoo chose the last category, 'Special.'

Pahat!

"....!"

Once again, a window appeared with several samples, but this time, it was completely different from the previous two cases.

'T-this is...'

What Yeongwoo saw were samples so grotesquely altered that they could be called deformities, even when referred to as modifications.

Arm lengths much longer than the height, or pupils with colors resembling the whites of the eyes, making it impossible to discern the gaze, and so on.

Each sample had information about the physical burdens associated with these special forms, and it was undoubtedly a warning.

"Everything imaginable might be possible, but the cost-effectiveness won't be good," warned the message.

'Just looking at this is horrifying.'

When Yeongwoo closed the special window, a cautionary message appeared before any external changes.

'All appearance changes are permanent, and some elements may be inherited when the next generation is created.'

'What? It's inherited...?'

Upon reaching this section, Yeongwoo began to doubt his eyes.

Despite the world being reset, the system where the parents' grade and settings influenced the child was still intact.

In other words, the born grade hadn't disappeared; it had simply been reset.

The people currently surviving were just the first generation.

And the achievements they accomplished during their lifecycles determined the grades of their offspring.

“ ... ”

Yeongwoo felt a nauseating feeling in his stomach, similar to when he first checked his fate log.

However, this bizarre world didn't give Yeongwoo the luxury of calming down.

A sound similar to some kind of emission came from the sky, and something fell along the black column of light on the other side.

'Is that the merchant?'

A 'merchant' falling from somewhere outside the sky.

In the past, just witnessing such a situation would have terrified him, and he would never have dared to approach.

But the current Yeongwoo was a completely different existence from before the reset.

'Obviously not a person, it's the guy called a merchant.'

Yeongwoo stared at the approaching black column of light, narrowing the distance little by little.

「The second mutant in Sangju has been eliminated, so basic welfare will be applied to this area.」

According to the system message he saw earlier, this merchant was also a source of basic welfare, a reward for defeating the mutant.

Yeongwoo, based on this, was focusing more on what this entity was selling rather than its identity as a merchant.

'Regardless of where that guy came from, he'll probably offer something helpful to the survivors.'

However.

Faput!

Gradually, as Yeongwoo caught the sight of 'merchant' into view.

“ ....!”

He had to admit that he was arrogant.

The first encounter with an 'alien.'

Unconsciously, Yeongwoo drew his sword.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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### **Chapter 35**

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 35: Alien (3)

Alien.

Intelligent life is believed to exist on celestial bodies beyond Earth.

Therefore, the being in front of me must be an alien.

I saw it clearly coming down from somewhere in the sky along with a black pillar of light.

And that 'somewhere' is likely a part of the vast universe.

So, Yeongwoo couldn't help but doubt his eyes.

'That thing was living in the universe...?'

What kind of place was the universe, after all?

Yeongwoo felt as if his concept of the universe, which he had known, shattered in an instant.

Because the actual appearance of the alien was too different from what he had imagined.

If the being that appeared had been equipped with advanced gear or had a form like a cluster of light, it might have been understandable.

But the real alien that appeared was...



-Quaaaaaa...!

Huge rocks emitting a chilling scream.

They occupied the intersection of the city without resting, shouting incessantly.

Whether it was because of the bizarre sounds or the violent vibrations of the air in the area, Yeongwoo saw his sword trembling.

“ ... ”

These rocks, reaching a height of 4 meters, had a chaotic spiral pattern like clam shells, standing in a row with about the width of a human forearm between them.

-Quaaaaaa...!

The strange screams continued.

Yeongwoo, holding his sword in front of the 'rocks' about twenty meters away, suddenly realized something.

The appearance of these rocks was slightly different, and they even had their own unique tones.

In other words,

'It's not a merchant here, but... it's the upper part of the trade.'

Each of these large rocks was an alien merchant.

In other words, Yeongwoo was facing extraterrestrial merchants.

'One, two... four, five.'

The total number of rocks that visited Earth as merchants was five.

'Anyway, did they come here to trade? What should I do?'

Amidst the continuous screams, Yeongwoo felt his sword gradually calming down.

In the meantime, he had adapted to this mysterious scene.

But the method of trading with the rocks from outer space was still unclear.

Unlike the exchange office he saw on the first day of the reset, they didn't provide rules in his mind, and they didn't seem to use human language.

Just making eerie noises that felt like squeezing one's heart.

“ ...”

Therefore, Yeongwoo reluctantly walked towards the rocks.

‘If I try to make contact, they’ll show some reaction. Even if they look like rocks on the surface, they must be intelligent beings.’

It was purely a deduction from a human perspective, but surprisingly, it was a valid thought.

-Gooooo...!

As the distance between Yeongwoo and the rocks decreased, the sounds they produced began to change.

And when the distance between the two sides approached five meters.

-Swoooooosh...!

The cries that filled the space suddenly stopped as if it were a lie.

And then.

Swoosh.

The space between Yeongwoo and the rocks was torn vertically.

Thud!

“ ....?”

When Yeongwoo realized that the shape of this ‘torn space’ resembled an eye, already, within the pitch-black eye hole, a white pupil was rising.

So, this... really, that eye had noticed him.

Just an eye of something that was definitely not human, using eyelids to form the empty space.

‘What... what should I do.’

Suppressing the instinct to step back, Yeongwoo stood firmly in place.

Then, the white pupil that had been staring straight ahead for a while moved slightly to the side and looked at Yeongwoo.

‘...Ugh.’

It was at this moment that a system prompt appeared in Yeongwoo’s field of vision.

「The intermediary requests permission to access data for Jeong Yeongwoo 07. Do you approve?」

[Requested Data]

|Unique Code

|Language Used

‘Unique code and language used...? Does this mean it’s necessary for mediating the trade with those rocks?’

Through this ‘request,’ Yeongwoo could vaguely realize that even the extraterrestrial beings that began appearing after the reset have their own hierarchy or work system.

In other words, the ‘eye’ introduced as a mediator is undoubtedly a more powerful being than a human, right?

And yet, it is still asking for permission to access that side’s data.

‘It didn’t even ask me directly. The system just informed that they want access.’

In other words, Yeongwoo was unknowingly under the protection of the system.

Of course, he didn’t know specifically what was providing the protection.

It could be the beings from the council that first notified about the reset, or there might be some kind of security program embedded in the Earth itself.

Anyway, the important thing is.

‘At least these guys won’t be able to harm me.’

As the thought reached this point, Yeongwoo felt a bit relieved.

The uneasiness that had been creeping up gradually subsided.

‘But to make a trade.’

Permission must be granted for the access to the two pieces of data that the mediator requested.

Staring intensely at the strangely white eyes of the mediator, Yeongwoo approved the request.

‘Data access granted.’

Then, the white eyes of the mediator flashed for a moment and instantly turned blue.

Swaat.

What happened next was an unexpected ‘declaration.’

—Greetings to the human of Earth, the strongest in Gyeongbuk, Jeong Yeongwoo 07.

‘Huh...?’

Despite the strange voice, the content was very polite.

But what could that mean?

When Yeongwoo tilted his head in response to the introduction made by the alien, the other party continued speaking.

—I am Kubu, the guardian of Tenta and the owner mediating this trade.

‘Ah, is it some kind of universal courtesy to exchange greetings like this.’

After hearing the introduction of the mediator ‘Kubu,’ Yeongwoo nodded silently.

—The mediation fee for this trade is 20% and is included in the product price. The trading partner is the representative upper part of Charugo.

—Will you proceed with the trade?

As Yeongwoo couldn’t fully understand the content except for the fact that the mediation fee was 20%, he nodded once again.

‘Charugo? Is that the name of the planet where those rocks live?’

While Yeongwoo was having such thoughts, the mediator Kubu blinked his eyes quickly three times, and in response, the previously silent rocks began to make sounds.

However, this time, the sounds were much lower and more subdued.

-Eooo....

-Uueeem....

-Gaaaah...!

The fact that the tones of each of the five rocks were more distinctly differentiated was a noticeable feature.

“ ... ”

As Yeongwoo quietly listened to the rocks' chorus, Kubu soon spoke.

—The product list is complete.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Poof!

After Kubu's line, something like blue spots suddenly appeared in front of Yeongwoo and rapidly changed shape.

In the form of human characters.

Sss, sssss.

'Ah, this is.'

It didn't take Yeongwoo long to understand the meaning of the blue characters.

It was a quite straightforward price list.

1 — 「Extractor」 – Ancient One-Handed Hammer

【Changes equipment into a slot gem.】

◇ 40,000 Karma

2 — 「Black Wind Cloak」 – Hero's Cloak

【Nullifies black magic.】

◇ 100,000 Karma

3 — 「Void」 - Artifact One-Handed Sword

【-Empty slot-】

【-Empty slot-】

◇ 300,000 Karma

4 — 「Blank Check」 – Unique Currency

【Once, it transforms into touched currency.】

◇ 1,100,000 Karma

5 — 「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

◇ Legend Achievement 1

‘Oh my goodness.’

Not a single ordinary item.

Moreover, the prices started from 40,000 Karma.

‘Basic welfare... it seems that trading with merchants was not originally intended for ordinary people.’

Currently, the majority of people are struggling to earn even the 1,000 Karma they have to pay as taxes every night.

In other words, trading with extraterrestrial merchants was limited to the powerful individuals who succeeded in hunting monsters in this area.

Of course, even being Jeong Yeongwoo, he couldn’t afford to buy all the presented items.

‘My current total assets....’

104,000.

Fortunately, or unfortunately, it could be considered a stroke of luck.

If he had invested in his abilities every time he earned money, he wouldn't have saved up even this much.

'I can only buy one of the Extractor or the Black Wind Cloak. To properly use the merchant, I also need to pay attention to cash holding.'

However, it wasn't as if Yeongwoo had no income.

He indirectly learned how to fill the 'empty slots' on his current equipment.

'It seems like using the Extractor to extract the effects of equipment and transfer them to empty slots.'

It was a common method seen in games, so understanding it was easy, but at the moment, there was a more important product than the Extractor.

That was.

2 — 「Black Wind Cloak」 – Hero's Cloak

【Nullifies black magic.】

◇ 100,000 Karma

'Black magic. Probably strange weather that occurs at night.'

And Yeongwoo was currently in a state where he had an achievement that could only be accomplished by avoiding strange weather.

[Nocturnal]

|Spend a night outside of your residence.

'With the cloak, I can break the achievement on nights when the black magic rain falls. I must buy that.'

Especially since there was no guarantee that the next merchant he met would sell the same product.

'Number 3 is useless for me without an Extractor, and anyway, I don't have enough money. The same goes for number 4....'

As Yeongwoo scanned the list again, his gaze stopped abruptly at the last product.

5 — 「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

◇ Legend Achievement 1

Although it was the highest-rated equipment, fortunately for Yeongwoo, it was immediately purchasable.

‘Bought with a legendary achievement? What exactly does that mean?’

As Yeongwoo asked this silently in his mind, the mediator Kubu understood and explained.

—One achieved legendary-grade achievement will be completely deleted from your data. As a result, the progress of related subsequent achievements may become impossible, and the number of completed achievements will also be deducted.

‘Ah... then what happens to the rewards received for achieving achievements?’

—Already paid achievement rewards will not be collected.

In other words, in exchange for one achieved legendary-grade achievement, Yeongwoo could immediately pull in a high-grade piece of equipment, without knowing what significance it might hold in the future.

‘It’s like betting on the future. If bringing in the equipment now can result in a bigger profit, then it’s right to make the trade. If not, it could be a loss....’

Poof!

As Yeongwoo opened the achievement window, the achievement profile unfolded at the top of his field of view.

【Your achievement inclination is “Stubborn.”】

||Completed Achievements: 4

|Caller of the Golden Rain [Legend]-First

|Forgive Your Enemies [Hero] – #46

|Excellent Social Worker [Legend]-First

|Golden Fund [Legend]-First

Out of the 4 completed achievements, there were a total of 3 ‘Legend’ achievements.



However, strictly speaking, the only one that could be sold was 'Excellent Social Worker.'

'If I mess with the Golden Rain-related achievements, I might even lose the Golden Flood achievement.'

On the other hand, the achievement 'Excellent Social Worker,' which involved sending mutants away, did not lead to subsequent achievements even after completion.

Perhaps it was a standalone achievement?

'If that's really the case, it would be better to sell it when I can. The number of completed achievements or whatever doesn't mean anything if I die tomorrow.'

Due to constantly spreading the golden rain, Yeongwoo had lower stats compared to other Strongest Swords.

Therefore, it was natural for the Serpent of Greed, which seemed helpful for equipment farming, to catch his eye.

'I'll waste more time if I think about it further. I'll buy the Black Wind Cloak and the Serpent of Greed.'

Once Yeongwoo made up his mind, Kubu blinked and confirmed his intention to purchase.

In response, Yeongwoo approved the purchase without hesitation, and shortly after, two of the five rocks responded with high-pitched sounds.

-Quuiiiii...!

-Paaaahhh!

'It seems like the trade has been successful.'

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 36**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

## Chapter 36: Alien (4)

In the eerie high-pitched sound, Yeongwooo saw his achievement profile changing.

Strange.

[Your achievement tendency is “Stubborn.”]

||Completed Achievements: 3

|Caller of the Golden Rain [Legend] – First

|Forgive Your Enemies [Hero] – #46

|Golden Fund [Legend] – First

The number of completed achievements, as acknowledged, decreased by one, and the legendary achievement ‘Excellent Social Worker’ disappeared.

The karma he possessed also decreased to 4,000.

‘Became a beggar in an instant.’

But before Yeongwooo could silently conclude this to himself.

Paah!

His left shoulder and left wrist flashed, and promised items were sequentially worn.

「Black Wind Cloak」 – Hero’s Cloak

【Nullifies black magic.】

「Serpent of Greed」 – Epic Compass

【Always seeks rarity.】

‘Wow.’

Even if the Black Wind Cloak was unexpectedly a thick cloth cloak, Serpent of Greed was enough to surprise Yeongwooo.

-Shit!

Because it was a real snake.

You could see vitality in each greenish-blue scale.

While the creature twisted and turned, wrapping around Yeongwooo's left wrist, it did not flinch, keeping its head pointed north.

[Always looks for precious things.]

Whatever it was, it meant that something precious was in that direction.

'Now, what I need to do.'

Continue moving to different areas, using Serpent of Greed to farm equipment while clearing Golden Rain-related achievements...

'If it's north, it's the same direction I was heading anyway. Anyway, sooner or later, I'll reach Seoul.'

Yeongwooo's current location is Sangju, Gyeongsangbuk-do.

If he continues north from here, he would reach regions like Mungyeong and Chungju.

After that, turning west, he could visit Anseong, Pyeongtaek, and Suwon one by one, or if he chooses to keep heading north, he would go through Yeosu, Icheon, and Gyeonggi-do Gwangju.

'Then, via Seongnam to enter Seoul.'

Seoul, the largest city in South Korea.

What might be happening there now?

"..."

As Yeongwooo stared in the direction of Seoul, Kubu, who had been tearing through the air for a long time, spoke.

-The transaction is complete. If it was a satisfactory transaction, please designate me as the main intermediary.

'Main intermediary?'

-If you designate me as the main intermediary, there is no need to reauthorize data access, and the existing 20% commission will be reduced to 10%.

'The commission is halved. But in return, Kubu will be the intermediary for the next transaction.'

It seemed not much different from having a main bank for transactions.

‘But the fact that you can designate a main intermediary means there are other intermediaries, right? In the first place, other intermediaries’ commissions could be much cheaper.’

It was a question disguised as a mutter.

In response, Kubu remained silent for a while, then blinked his eyes twice.

– The content of available products varies depending on the intermediary’s status.

Perhaps he wanted to convey that his status was higher than other intermediaries.

But it wasn’t the answer Yeongwooo was looking for.

“If you reduce the second-time commission further, I will designate you as the main intermediary. You may not know the significance of Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword, but as a trader, my status is by no means low.”

The latter half of his statement was partly true.

Wasn’t Gyeongbuk the official strongest in a large-scale area?

And that was just on the second day of the reset.

It would be hard for anyone to deny that he was a relatively promising trader.

Perhaps because of this, Kubu stopped talking again and blinked his eyes.

Although it was challenging to perceive any signs from Kubu, who only showed his large eyes, at least for now, he seemed somewhat perplexed.

– Additional reduction of the commission is impossible. Instead, I will provide you with different benefits as the main intermediary.

In the end, Kubu presented his own compromise.

‘It’s difficult for an additional reduction... or is it impossible? There must be something.’

Yeongwooo inwardly agreed.

Whether Kubu’s status was genuinely high or there was a law of intermediaries, it wasn’t for ordinary reasons, his intuition told him.

‘If it’s a different kind of benefit...?’

In response to Yeongwooo's inquiry, Kubu blinked his eyes again.

– I will show you all the top lists of those who bid at the current time, allowing you to directly choose the trading partner.

In other words, it meant allowing him to preview and choose a trading partner among those who bid.

'Then, was the meeting just one of the randomly selected bidders earlier?'

As he learned that there might be several types of merchants other than the rock he saw a while ago, a strange feeling ran down his spine.

'All right. I'll designate you as the main intermediary.'

As Yeongwooo nodded, his vision flashed, and the system message appeared.

'I have designated Kubu as the main intermediary.'

Then, Kubu personally raised his greetings.

– Thank you! All transaction procedures have been completed. Please step back.

"...?"

As Yeongwooo raised his eyebrows and took a few steps back, two of the five rocks disappeared, and the remaining three began to howl.

– Kwaaaah...!

It was the same cry he heard when he first discovered the top.

Only the rocks that couldn't sell their products remained here.

In other words, the latecomer would only encounter the products left by the person in front.

Sssat!

Perhaps having finished his duties, Kubu closed his eyes deeply and disappeared without a trace.

'So, being an intermediary is a part-time job.'

The first negotiation with an alien.

As a mere human, it was undoubtedly a very rare experience.

\* \* \*

1:29 PM.

Having completed the transaction, Yeongwooo immediately started running north.

It was to visit the next city, 'Mungyeong.'

'If I'm lucky, I might encounter another mutant in Mungyeong...'

As Yeongwooo was thinking this while swiftly crossing somewhere in Sangju, his expression suddenly hardened.

It was because the thought of Gimcheon City, which had turned into a living hell due to the mutant being left unattended all day, came to mind belatedly.

For the majority of people, it was a stroke of luck when a mutant was captured in time.

Moreover, it seemed that Sangju City, where Yeongwooo currently was, had also started to become a living hell.

"Uh, ahh!"

"Save us!"

At the moment Yeongwooo was about to leave the city center, screams flooded in from somewhere.

'What's this?'

As Yeongwooo turned his head, frightened people poured out between the buildings on the other side.

And soon after, following them.

Kuduuduudu...!

A lone Dullahan, mounted on a common horse, chased after them.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

'...That's.'

The Dullahan was much smaller than Kim Hyunho, the Mayor. whom Yeongwooo had encountered earlier.

It was one of the monsters that appeared in today's Sangju City along with the mutants.

Because Yeongwooo had defeated Sangju's Strongest Sword Dokgo Sehwan and his subordinates, the monsters hadn't been dealt with properly.

'I can't see the monster mark... Is it one that broke away from the group?'

Yeongwooo dashed out like an arrow towards the opposite side of the fleeing people, slashing the Dullahan with a single stroke.

Kwaaaaah!

As a result, the people who had been running away, stopping one by one, cautiously approached Yeongwooo with uneasy eyes.

"Th-thank you..."

"You're our lifesaver."

Despite these expressions of gratitude, they continued to scan their surroundings with anxious eyes.

It was because they were conscious of the Dullahan, not knowing when it might reappear.

In the midst of this, one person, who had been staring at Yeongwooo's face, widened his eyes.

"Uh...!"

Next, he urgently searched his pocket and pulled out a golden coin.

"Uh, it's really him!"

The commemorative coins that Yeongwooo had distributed in the city, engraved with his face.

"What's right?"

"Oh."

"Um, are you by any chance...?"

People began to gather, taking out golden coins from their pockets.

“Is this Mr. Jeong Yeongwooo?”

“It seems like it.”

“This person is the newly appointed...”

The last line omitted the word ‘Strongest Sword,’ as they were all well aware of how Strongest Sword was inherited.

However, everyone knew that the newly appointed Strongest Sword had sprinkled karma in this city and had just saved them.

Because of this, people thought of Yeongwooo as a good person who would use his power for their benefit.

So, without much wariness, they gathered around Yeongwooo.

However, Yeongwooo, on the other hand...

Jjalk!

While picking up the commemorative coins left by the Dullahan that died a while ago, he asked this.

“Why do you still have commemorative coins? You could have used them to boost your stats and fought against monsters.”

In response, people hesitated, fidgeting with the golden coins.

“W-well, it’s too dangerous, you know?”

“What if we got into a fight and died for nothing?”

Most of them nodded in agreement, sharing similar thoughts.

However, Yeongwooo found it difficult to understand their attitude.

“Isn’t it better to survive even if only half of you live than all of you dying? Now, there’s no one else here to catch monsters for you.”

Yeongwooo’s words caused a stir among the crowd.

“What do you mean?”



“W-We have Mr. Yeongwooo.”

In response to these confused remarks, Yeongwooo furrowed his brow.

He knew that if he made up his mind, he could easily slaughter everyone here and collect the commemorative coins.

However, he refrained from doing so due to a hint of conscience and a bit of optimism as a human.

At least some of them could use the commemorative coins as a stepping stone for survival.

But the people in this place had already lost their fighting spirit, only thinking about relying on the strong.

If that was the case, was there any meaning in letting them live?

They were likely to die soon anyway.

It might be better to kill them now and at least gain some money...

“...!”

Yeongwooo unintentionally tightened his grip on the Black Sword in his hand and closed his eyes tightly.

Then.

Click!

With lightning speed, he stabbed the black sword into his belt.

The movement was so fast that everyone around him twitched, and some sensitive ones felt as if they momentarily sensed danger and took a step back.

“Do you plan to live your whole life relying on the mercy of others? This is no longer a world where you can do that. Now that there’s no law or ethics, the strong can do anything, and the weak can be subjected to anything. The current situation is no exception.”

Yeongwoo, having the power to kill everyone in the audience without facing any consequences, had the strength to avoid revenge.

But even Yeongwoo, in the past, was once at the bottom of the food chain.

He seemed so weak that he could be preempted and attacked, even after obtaining the Early Bird.

“ ... ”

After finishing his words, Yeongwoo moved through the crowd to head north, the original destination.

Everyone instinctively stepped back, clearing the way for him.

They looked at Yeongwoo with eyes filled with lingering regret.

Surviving in a city without the Strongest Sword was never easy.

But the citizens of Sangju were not in the worst situation yet.

Chuuk.

Gradually, as Yeongwoo firmly stepped on the ground to leap forward...

Ping!

With the system's unique alarm, the second basic welfare was applied.

「As of the current time, daily quests are applied in Sangju City.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 37**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### **Chapter 37: Unfamiliar World (1)**

Daily Quest.

Literally, a mission assigned every day.

In conventional games, it is generally used as a device to encourage continuous user logins, so the mission difficulty is not high.

At most, it's about killing a few 'basic mobs' or pulling weeds in the village garden.

But here, isn't it a reality where the 'user' is constantly logged in?

Then, what meaning does a daily quest have in the real world?

'Well, it's one of the basic welfare systems, so it must be a positive institution.'

However, contrary to Yeongwoo's thoughts, the people behind him were all staring into the void with expressions of fear.

Regardless of welfare or whatever, they were all afraid of any changes happening in this world.

Nothing that happened so far had been friendly to humans, and even the system that guaranteed the right to survival, like the nighttime lodging, turned out to be a living hell when you actually went to the scene.

So.

"Daily quest...?"

"What is it this time again?"

"We don't need this... Please leave us alone!"

No one in the audience was optimistic about the future due to the daily quest.

In reality, it was never an easy quest, to say the least.

[Daily] "Scout"

[Mission] Approach within 10 meters of the monster.

[Reward] 3,000 Karma

[Daily] "Economic Activity"

[Mission] Pay compensation to others and receive Karma.

[Reward] 1,000 Karma

[Special] Relatives cannot be designated as trading partners.

"Approach a monster?"

“This is some kind of suicide mission.”

“This is not a joke.”

Sure enough, those who saw the ‘Scout’ quest had a bewildered reaction.

It was understandable, as everyone in this place either lacked the courage to fight monsters or remained as ‘civilians.’

“But the second quest seems doable, right?”

“Well... The reward is a bit generous, though.”

When some mentioned the ‘Economic Activity’ quest, the attention of the people shifted there.

“If you receive Karma from someone else, does it count as completion?”

“Do we just need to exchange currency with each other?”

“Oh... Should we give it a try?”

After a somewhat heated discussion, a group randomly selected a trading partner and started exchanging the same amount of currency.

The currency used in this exchange was a commemorative coin with Yeongwoo’s face engraved on it.

Until Yeongwoo distributed the coins, everyone here was basically penniless.

“...”

Yeongwoo, curious about the results of the experiment, stayed in place and watched without leaving.

“Let’s exchange simultaneously.”

“Should we count the numbers?”

Two people attempting the commemorative coin exchange in front of everyone.

Even though it was an agreed-upon exchange, one of them was unusually tense.

This was because his physique was much smaller than the opponent’s.

If, by any chance, the opponent only received his coin and didn't give his own in return, it would be difficult to snatch it back on the road.

Of course, with many onlookers and even the Strongest Sword here, such a thing would never happen...

Still, from the perspective of the weaker party, he couldn't help but feel anxious.

"All right, let's count the numbers."

The smaller one extended his left hand and counted loudly.

"Three! Two! One...!"

As soon as the counting ended, two commemorative coins were exchanged, with one in each hand.

"Oops."

"Uh-huh."

Looking at the expressions of the two experimenters, it seemed like nothing had happened.

Following this, the remaining people who were planning to conduct mutual exchanges as part of the experiment stepped back by a step.

"It seems simple exchange won't work... It has to be a real transaction."

"It's mentioned in the quest too, to pay compensation."

"Hmm."

The commotion inside the venue resumed.

Then, the larger of the two who had just attempted the exchange made a new proposal.

"I have one thousand coins. I'll give you this, so could you massage my arm for a moment? After the trade is over, you must return the coin."

Upon hearing this, the smaller person designated as the trader nodded reluctantly, with an expression of discomfort.

Although this was also part of the experiment, it didn't feel good to have to massage the other person's arm.

Moreover, the received money had to be returned as it is.

“...Let’s give it a try.”

But what can you do?

It was the other party who had 1,000 coins.

“Yes, then.”

Eventually, the larger person extended his robust arm toward the other party.

Soon, an insincere massage lasting about ten seconds was carried out.

“Should we stop here?”

Detecting that the opponent’s complexion was gradually stiffening, the smaller person withdrew his arm, and the crimson coin was extended.

Then, in an instant, all the attention of the audience focused on the person receiving the coin.

“Ah!”

A noticeably different expression from the previous experimenter.

Subsequently, with a clinking sound, a crimson coin fell from the empty air.

Indeed, the quest was completed.

“Oh?”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

“As expected, you have to do something for it.”

“Well, if you agree in advance with each other...”

Although the atmosphere inside the venue rapidly became tense, Yeongwoo realized through the subtle tension between the recent traders that, while it was fine as part of an experiment in front of everyone, achieving such harmony with a perfect stranger might not be easy.

\* \* \*

The ripple effect of daily quests on people's lives seemed more significant than expected.

The impact that daily quests had on people's lives seemed to be greater than expected.

As I came out onto the road in the northern outskirts of Sangju City, I saw people who would normally be busy looking for jobs looking at each other and engaging in transactions.

Of course, not everyone was finding business partners and enjoying 'basic welfare'.

"Is there anyone who can help me complete my daily quest...?"

"Can anyone help me complete my daily quest...?"

"I'll give you 500 coins. Looking for a daily quest helper."

Daily quests were one-time deals, so those who had already found a trading partner to complete their quest didn't need to risk dealing with another person.

Naturally, there were inevitable losers in this situation.

"If you help with the quest, I'll even add some money."

Thunk!

Yeongwoo quickly navigated through the chaotic scene.

People in every corner of Sangju City were looking for trading partners for their daily quests, and occasionally, there were scenes of disputes during the exchanges.

'At least now we can manage the daily taxes, so the survival rate should go up a bit.'

But it still fell short of the minimum cost of living.

The nightly ordeal wasn't just about taxes; it also included the nightly lodging to avoid the abnormal climate.

Renting a small motel room, similar to the one Yeongwoo experienced before, cost a whopping 3,000 Karma.

Although shared accommodations were available, who would offer a room rented with their hard-earned money for free?

'Generally speaking, there is no other way. They have no choice but to take on the scout quest.'

[Daily] “Scout”

[Mission] Approach within 10 meters of the monster.

[Reward] 3,000 Karma

As Yeongwoo rode out of Sangju City, he looked at the quest prompt on the left with a tired expression.

It seemed like all of this was predicted and created as a quest.

Why?

Why torment people like this?

Thud!

Finally, a large highway appeared on the right, and a sign bid farewell to Sangju City.

‘Is this the end of Sangju?’

After Sangju, it would be Mungyeong.

Since the sun was still high, Yeongwoo and the trees along the roadside cast short shadows.

Unlike the bustling urban area, Yeongwoo was the only one riding on the highway, allowing him to feel a momentary peace.

But even that was short-lived.

「The Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk (Advanced) has appeared!」

「All Strongest Swords of Gyeongbuk (Advanced) will receive real-time information about your location.」

“What...?”

Zoom!

Unconsciously, Yeongwoo made a sudden stop, glanced around, and then resumed running along the road.

‘If it’s the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk (Advanced), someone has collected three Strongest Sword titles like me.’



Yeongwoo was about to add, “How already?” but stopped himself.

It was also true that he, with an unremarkable background, was also the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk (Advanced).

‘In any case, someone like me is already traveling between cities, cutting down the Strongest Swords. Now, someone is receiving real-time information about my location.’

On the other hand, Yeongwoo didn’t know the opponent’s face or name.

Therefore, even if there were assassins waiting in Mungyeong, he had no way of knowing.

‘Endless, truly.’

If he said that he wasn’t afraid of the challenger who might appear at any moment, it would be a lie, but it was a situation he had anticipated.

‘Now, anyone I meet could be an enemy. I have to be careful.’

As Yeongwoo pondered this, a noise emerged from the road ahead.

“...?”

A low hum, a mechanical sound, to be precise.

This is a sound that is difficult to hear on the road on the second day of reset.

‘Who’s driving again?’

The only rolling vehicle he had seen before was driven by the wife of Sangju’s Strongest Sword.

‘Is it her again?’

Not long after the engine noise was detected, a gray SUV appeared in Yeongwoo’s sight.

And it also meant that Yeongwoo, running on two legs, was gradually catching up with that vehicle.

Yeongwoo must have been very surprised to see two people driving cars in this crazy world, but in fact, the owner of the car in front of him was probably more surprised than him.

Screech!

As expected, the SUV's chassis shook violently for a moment, and soon the engine noise changed.

It was accelerating to put some distance between itself and the lunatic running on the road in broad daylight.

'Driving too fast... Is there enough fuel?'

Watching the receding vehicle again, Yeongwoo increased the force on the soles of his feet and thighs.

Thunk!

Then, Yeongwoo's bare foot mercilessly crushed the asphalt road surface, and for a moment, the widening gap on both sides seemed to be closing again.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The source of this content is free(w)ebnov(e)l

## **Chapter 38**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### **Chapter 38: Unfamiliar World (2)**

Worse than a nightmare.

Being chased by a man as fast as a car.

And this wasn't even a dream.

So, Myeongho kept alternating between the front windshield and the rearview mirror.

'No way. A person faster than a car?'

Current speed, 83 kilometers per hour.

For Myeongho, this situation already exceeded the maximum speed he had ever experienced in his life.

Since he completed his driving test six years ago, this was the first time he had taken hold of the steering wheel.

“...Hyung!”

From the passenger seat, his younger brother Yoonho shouted with his eyes half-turned.

It meant, “Can’t you go faster?”

Vroom, vroom, screech!

In the meantime, the unidentified monster visible through the rearview mirror was getting closer.

“Damn it.”

In the end, Myeongho crossed his psychological limit.

He unconsciously applied more pressure to the accelerator pedal while adjusting the throttle on the fly.

Vroooooom!

The unleashed engine roared, forcefully propelling the car forward.

The needle on the speedometer in the driver’s seat skipped several marks in an instant, and soon the vehicle reached a speed of 100 kilometers per hour.

“Myeongho!”

A shout, as if coming from the back seat.

It was Myeongho and Yoonho’s mother, Myeongae.

And right on cue, something ominous flew threateningly from the rear of the vehicle.

Swiiish!

At the alarming sound, Myeongho turned his gaze to the driver’s side window, witnessing a black and giant blade shattering the side mirror as it passed by.

“This is insane...!”

Realizing that the length of the problematic blade was an astounding several meters and that it had just stuck into the road on the other side, Myeongho slammed on the brakes with all his might.

Screeeech!

The friction produced an ear-piercing noise as the vehicle slid for a long distance, coming to a stop just before making contact with the embedded blade on the ground.

“Huh, huh.”

Myeongho, gripping the steering wheel tightly, still couldn't believe the size of the towering black sword.

Not long after, a man with a bizarre appearance appeared, pulling out the sword.

“W-what is that...? Is that some kind of mutant?”

Yoonho, on the passenger side, instinctively muttered while drawing the axe from his waist.

It wasn't surprising, considering that no one in this place, including Yoonho, had ever seen a human with such an appearance.

Upper body tied with ropes, unidentified handles covered with a black cloak, golden gloves and bracelets that sparkled unnaturally in the sunlight, a blue-green snake wrapped around the left arm, and for some reason, the menacing bare feet...

Because of the unfamiliar and chaotic appearance, the three people in the SUV couldn't realize until the end that a noose was hanging around the neck of their opponent.

On the other hand, Yeongwoo, who clearly looked like a 'monster.'

'What is this? Surprisingly more peaceful than I thought.'

Feeling puzzled by the fact that the occupants of the SUV were just sitting quietly in their seats and staring at them.

As far as Yeongwoo knew, there were only two types of people who could drive a car in this situation.

Indulging in luxury, a remarkable and influential person, or someone under the protection of that influential person.

Therefore, even though the car came to a stop, the fact that there was no preemptive attack from the other side was unusual for him.

Shi-ling.

Yeongwoo cautiously approached the driver's side after adjusting the length of the black sword as it originally was.

Then.

Thunk.

The driver's seat door opened, and Myeongho walked out with both hands raised.

"Wait, just a moment! Surrender, surrender!"

Although Myeongho was unarmed, Yeongwoo couldn't feel at ease.

There were still two silhouettes inside the car.

"...Over there."

Pointing inside the vehicle, Yeongwoo, Myeongho flinched and spoke in a very polite tone.

"Ah... it's my mother and my younger brother. I'll ask them to come out slowly."

Myeongho gestured inside the wide-open driver's seat, and the front passenger seat and rear seat doors opened in turn, revealing two more people.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo had no choice but to acknowledge that they were indeed a real family.

"..."

The three people's faces were strangely alike.

The two stiff-looking men seemed to be around Yeongwoo's age, and the woman who came out of the back seat appeared to be in her forties.

A warm and kind-hearted woman, Myeongho's mother.

"W-what's going on?"

When the woman finally asked, Yeongwoo realized that he had no particular reason for stopping the car.

He had thought that the person in the car would be the first to attack.

But the actual opponent they faced...

“...”

Yeongwoo alternated his gaze between the middle-aged woman and her two sons, muttering a line that he never imagined would come out of his mouth.

“I apologize if I surprised you. I’m just...”

He tried to continue his words, but it wasn’t easy.

There was no special reason for stopping the car in the first place.

On top of that, the opponent looked decent, making the situation even more awkward.

“...”

Seeing Yeongwoo struggling to speak, the woman who had been observing him cautiously asked.

“Are your legs okay?”

“...Yes?”

Yeongwoo received the question and realized that both of his legs were trembling.

Chasing the vehicle for a considerable time had exhausted the strength in his lower body.

It was also an indication that his capabilities were not sufficient to overtake a speeding car.

‘I wasted energy on something unnecessary. There’s still a long way to the next city.’

With a perplexed expression, Yeongwoo glanced at the road extending northward.

Then, the woman spoke again.

“It seems there was a misunderstanding. My kids wouldn’t do anything bad.”

With these words, the woman’s eyes shone rather sharply.

It seemed like she hoped Yeongwoo wouldn’t cause trouble for them.

“...Ah. Yes, I must have misunderstood.”

Click.

As Yeongwoo put the black sword back into its sheath with a troubled expression, the woman finally let out a long breath of relief.

In truth, she had been in a very tense state as well.

After all, considering the current situation and the fact that the opponent was undoubtedly a skilled individual who could easily take down her two sons, it was only natural to be cautious.

“Ah... Thank goodness. It was a misunderstanding.”

Suddenly, the eldest, Myeongho, approached the driver's side door with a very cautious gesture.

This was an act requesting approval from the monster in front of him.

It meant that they could now leave this place.

“Oh.”

In response, Yeongwoo, realizing he was still standing in the middle of the road, took hesitant steps sideways.

Then, Yoonho, who had seemed ready to draw his axe at any moment, opened the back seat door boldly.

“Mom, please get in quickly. The road is long.”

It meant, “Let's escape before that crazy guy changes his mind.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

However, the middle-aged woman, instead of getting into the sedan right away, just stared intently at Yeongwoo.

After a while, she made a statement that left everyone gaping.

“Um... If your destination is the same, would you like a ride?”

“Mom...!”

Yoonho expressed his disagreement with fiery eyes, and Myeongho gently shook his head, trying to dissuade his mother.

Yeongwoo, too, couldn't accept the proposal from the woman.

No matter how uncomfortable Yeongwoo's legs seemed, it didn't change the fact that this side was a dangerous individual and an outsider to their territory.

'If it were me, I would have quietly driven away.'

While Yeongwoo wore a puzzled expression, the woman, looking at her two sons, spoke to Yeongwoo again.

"Is there harm in helping each other? You mentioned that what happened earlier was a misunderstanding. And who knows what we might encounter next..."

It was a hint that having this monster join them would be a significant help in terms of firepower.

Then Yoonho got angry and tried to say something, but then he shut his mouth.

Although he had planned to say that he and his brother alone were sufficient, it seemed that it wasn't enough, proven by this monster.

Even someone known for being a troublemaker who frequently got in fights knew how to distinguish a formidable opponent.

And the monster in front of them was such an opponent.

Seeing Yoonho's defeated expression, the woman turned to Yeongwoo again.

"Is it okay if we go together? We're heading to Chungju. We can drop you off if you want."

"..."

It was overly kind, but, in any case, it was a proposal that wouldn't harm Yeongwoo.

'It might be okay to travel comfortably for a day.'

If he followed this road straight up, he would reach Mungyeong, and if he continued through the city, he would reach Chungju.

Since Yeongwoo had planned to visit both Mungyeong and Chungju, there was no issue with the route.



So, in the end, he nodded his head.

“Okay. I also have some business in Mungyeong and Chungju... Let’s go together for now.”

With the mention of having business in Chungju, the two brothers flinched, but they didn’t oppose further.

As the opponent also expressed the intention to ride together, there was no choice but to accept, knowing that opposing it would be futile.

‘If there’s business in Mungyeong too... I’ll figure out a solution when the time comes.’

Myeongho, thinking about alternatives while opening the driver’s seat door.

Yoonho, still glaring at the unwelcome guest with a discontented face.

And Myeongae, suggesting Yeongwoo to take the back seat with a bright smile.

That’s how the uncomfortable ride-sharing began.

\* \* \*

Vroom...!

As the SUV once again began to run with the engine sound, Myeongae initiated introductions.

“I’m Jeong Myeongae. Those are my kids. Jeong Myeongho and Jeong Yoonho.”

Perhaps thinking that her sons wouldn’t act too friendly with the stranger, Myeongae introduced them instead.

Then, as if it were the fourth turn, she looked at Yeongwoo directly.

“Ah... Yes. I’m Jeong Yeongwoo.”

Jeong Yeongwoo.

As soon as she heard his name, Myeongae exaggeratedly widened her eyes.

“Oh, it’s the same Jeong family! Fate must be fate.”

There were some looks of disapproval from Yoonho in the passenger seat, but Yeongwoo couldn’t see it.

This was because Myeongae immediately threw a question at him.

“Can you tell me which Jeong family you’re from? Maybe we’re even from the same main family.”

Seemingly trying to find any connection to intertwine in a friendly manner.

But her plan didn’t unfold as smoothly as she thought.

“Well, I’m not sure. The name was given to me at the orphanage, so it might not be a real Jeong family name.”

“Ah... I see.”

Myeongae, who had been speaking without hesitation, couldn’t continue with anything more this time.

So, this time, Yeongwoo brought up a new topic.

“But why are you going to Chungju?”

“Oh, that... Well...”

For some reason, Myeongae hesitated to speak.

The front-seat passengers, Myeongho and Yoonho, also coughed awkwardly, showing discomfort.

“Uh, my kids’ father is there.”

“Your husband? It seems like he’s out for work.”

“Well, it’s something like that. His company is located in that area.”

With Myeongae’s last words, Yeongwoo realized that her husband wasn’t simply away for work.

‘There must be something going on, or maybe they’re already divorced.’

If that were the case, it would explain why she suddenly became reserved.

Words like divorce and orphanage had a quite close connection, after all.

“By the way.”

Myeongae, trying to dispel the strange atmosphere, made an effort to change the topic.

“You also mentioned having business in Mungyeong and Chungju, right? Do you know someone there or something like that?”

“Well, about that.”

As Yeongwoo was about to dodge the question, a new message appeared in everyone’s sight.

Pat!

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

[The highest-ranked ‘Jang Chunyong16’ in this area. 1st place, Defense 96 times.

“Oh, we’re already in Mungyeong.”

Myeongho muttered while scanning through the windshield, gripping the steering wheel.

And Yeongwoo told Myeongae with the name Jang Chunyong in mind.

“Yes. I have someone to meet here.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 39**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 39: Unfamiliar World (3)

Jang Chun-yong 16, Rank 1, 96 Defenses.

Yeongwoo felt the heat inside the car rising frighteningly as the identity of Strongest Sword was revealed, thanks to Yoonho in the passenger seat who opened his mouth with a rather aggressive tone.

“Rank 1? Doesn’t that mean it’s incredibly powerful?”

Upon hearing this, Myeongho, gripping the steering wheel, responded while keeping an eye on the road.

“Absolutely. It’s better not to enter the city if possible.”

It was not just expressing concern but an attitude that seemed to be formulating a plan.

Even Yoonho, in a difficult situation, exuded a spirit that seemed willing to face a duel with the Strongest Sword if necessary.

So, Yeongwoo reconsidered the strength of the two brothers.

‘Maybe they’re stronger than they look.’

At first glance, the armament of Myeongho and Yoonho seemed quite poor.

Myeongho’s weapon was undoubtedly a sword pulled from the mountains, and Yoonho had only a single-handed axe.

Myeongae, who was riding in the back seat, didn’t even have a weapon.

The unmistakable symbol of a strong individual, the Early Bird, was nowhere to be found.

‘But they might have awakened later. Realizing that if they don’t become stronger, their mother’s life is in danger.’

Perhaps their mother was a powerful motivation for growth.

Yeongwoo imagined the scene of the two brothers charging into the turmoil of the exchange at the currency exchange office with their mother behind them.

Then he asked Myeongho.

“Have you ever met him before? The Strongest Sword.”

“Yes? Strongest Sword?”

Myeongho made a puzzled expression at the unexpected question and then shrugged his shoulders.

“Well, not yet. I don’t want to meet him. Besides, there’s probably only one Strongest Sword in the area... would it be that easy to meet him?”

With a laugh, Myeongho finished his sentence with a light tone.

Then, Yoonho, who had been quietly listening to their conversation, suddenly asked Yeongwoo a question.

“Then have you met him? The Strongest Sword.”

“.....”

In response, Yeongwoo looked into the other person’s burning eyes and then moved his gaze out the window.

“No. If I had, I wouldn’t be alive like this. If it’s the Strongest Sword, he’s probably the strongest person in that city.”

“Oh, boring.”

Yoonho, spewing out a snort, turned his head back to the front, unlike Myeongho, who continued to steal glances at Yeongwoo through the rearview mirror.

Come to think of it, it wouldn’t be strange at all that the uncomfortable guest in the back seat was a Strongest Sword from another region.

At first, with a grotesque appearance resembling a mutant and a level of martial arts that was absurdly high, and above all...

‘He had several Early Birds.’

This was fairly solid evidence.

Unless he had taken them by killing other strong individuals, there was no way he could carry several precious Early Birds around.

‘So, could it be that I’m carrying a Strongest Sword from somewhere right now?’

Right next to his mother.

“Sigh.”

As Myeongho jerked his body for a moment, the steering wheel he was holding shook, and the car swayed.

Thunk!

“Ah, what’s wrong? Why is it like this?”

While Yoonho, who almost bumped his head against the window, grumbled, Yeongwoo, who had been looking at the sky beyond the window, spoke again.

“Hey, right now, Strongest Sword might not be the problem.”

“What? What do you mean...?”

“Yes? What’s that...?”

Checking Yeongwoo’s reflection in the rearview mirror, Myeongho realized that the other was looking up at the sky and shifted his gaze to the area above the driver’s side window.

Then he saw it.

“Ugh!”

A beam of light was pouring down into the sky far away, towards Mungyeong City.

\* \* \*

Current time: 2:11 PM.

Yeongwoo, checking the time on his wristwatch, raised an eyebrow.

‘I thought 1 PM was the time for monster appearances, but is there a difference in each region? Or...’

It could be that the monsters that appeared about an hour ago haven’t been dealt with yet.

‘But considering the number of light pillars, it’s too many. Is Strongest Sword a bit weak here? No, then he should have died sooner.’

It was a phenomenon that was difficult for Yeongwoo’s common sense to comprehend.

In an area where only one Strongest Sword was holding on so steadfastly, why weren’t the monsters being dealt with?

Moreover.

“Oh my goodness.”

As the distance between the vehicle and the city decreased, another red light pillar appeared on the other side.

The mutant is also alive.

‘Where the hell is the Strongest Sword? What is he even doing?’

Yeongwoo clenched his teeth, suspecting where the Strongest Sword of Mungyeong City might be hiding.

It was a different situation from the time of Gimcheon, where there was no proper Strongest Sword, and the succession of positions kept happening.

This time, there was a Strongest Sword capable of fighting against mutants, but the person wasn't fulfilling their role.

“.....”

It was truly strange.

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo and the Jeong family in the SUV, who had covered their bodies, were heading towards the entrance of Mungyeong City.

Vroom...!

In the escalating engine sound, Myeongho, gripping the steering wheel, glanced at the rear through the rearview mirror and spoke.

“When we encounter monsters, we need to get out and fight. It would be troublesome if the car breaks down.”

It was a statement clearly made with Yeongwoo in mind.

Yeongwoo could run at a speed similar to a vehicle with just his two legs, but it wasn't the case for the Jeong family, especially since they were carrying their mother, a non-combatant.

And Yeongwoo, well aware of this, nodded.

“Yes, that's not a problem. However...”

After lifting his head slightly, Yeongwoo added.

“What about you two? Have you fought many monsters?”

It was a question born out of concern for Myeongae, who was relying on her two sons for survival, but Yoonho in the passenger seat took it as a provocation and got irritated.

“Why? Are you worried that we can't handle even one monster on our own? Don't worry about it. We've been managing just fine without your concern.”

“...Yes. Then that's good.”

Yeongwoo stopped speaking and closed his mouth.

After all, he would soon see firsthand the level of the two brothers' combat capabilities.

'The monsters on the second day are different from those on the first day. If they haven't raised their stats a lot, it might be difficult to handle.'

Even if it was Myeongho and Yoonho, Yeongwoo couldn't help but feel uneasy, thinking about Myeongae, their mother, might be attacked by the monsters.

But it wasn't a role he could continue to play for this family. Yeongwoo could only hope that the two brothers were strong enough.

"Oh, already."

Eventually, a dejected voice came from Myeongho in the driver's seat, and the vehicle suddenly came to a noisy stop.

Screech!

"...What the hell. What's that now?"

Yoonho pulled out his weapon with a determined expression, matching the timing.

Seeing this, Yeongwoo slightly turned his upper body to assess the situation ahead.

Then, they saw the imposing silhouettes of the monsters on the second day in Mungyeong City.

Occupying the road leading to the outskirts of the city were beings with a hefty silhouette.

"Orc...?"

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Yeongwoo unconsciously muttered, and hearing that, Myeongae asked with a somewhat tense voice.

"Orc? What's an orc?"

In response, Yoonho in the passenger seat intercepted, as if fishing for Yeongwoo's answer.



“It’s just like a monster in games... Don’t worry too much about it.”

Myeongho, shifting gears to neutral, added with a tone similar to his younger brother.

“They’re just weak mobs... It should be fine.”

But is it really okay?

Yeongwoo, who had encountered a 2-meter tall goblin as the first monster, couldn’t agree with the opinions of the two brothers.

‘Even goblins weren’t easy to deal with... Will orcs really feel like weak mobs?’

Of course, leaving aside creatures like dragons and facing goblins, trolls, orcs, it seemed that the monster system in this world was not significantly different from people’s general perceptions.

However, the problem was that these monsters were no longer confined to games or novels.

Thunk.

Meanwhile, Yoonho was opening the passenger door with an axe in hand.

On the other hand, Myeongho, gripping the steering wheel, remained in standby.

Yeongwoo, with a puzzled tone, asked.

“Aren’t you going out with your brother?”

“Ah... I’m not much help, and in case there’s a problem, one of us needs to survive to bring our mother with us.”

“Ah, I see.”

Having heard Myeongho’s explanation, Yeongwoo nodded.

In other words, the Jeong family’s combatant was only Yoonho at the moment, and Myeongho’s role was to reverse the car if his younger brother died while fighting and leave the scene.

‘Focusing the stats on one side does have its advantages.’

Yeongwoo glanced at Myeongae next to him and left the backseat door open, stepping outside.

He doesn't like Yoonho very much, but he still should pay a fair share of the ride.

Thunk.

As Yeongwoo stepped onto the road barefoot, Yoonho, who sensed his movements, turned around.

"...What's up?"

"I'm here to help. It seems you're about to fight these guys for the first time."

"It's not because you're greedy for money, right?"

Yoonho came out aggressively as expected.

Of course, Yeongwoo understood Yoonho's position of needing to gather karma to protect his mother.

But Yeongwoo was no ordinary person either.

"If I really wanted to be greedy, I would have killed you guys first. If I did that, the car would be mine. Don't keep provoking me."

Staring at the SUV in the back with a cold expression, Yoonho's face finally showed fear.

"W-what are you talking about... That's inhumane."

"That's why you should also maintain some rationality. Don't you understand the situation?"

Saying this, Yeongwoo looked past Yoonho's shoulder.

Suddenly, the disorderly gathered orcs had formed ranks and were walking steadily toward them.

The distance between them and this side was approximately a hundred meters.

'What the hell, these guys.'

A strange sense of frustration washed over Yeongwoo.

Even though they had clearly noticed this side, their cautious approach in maintaining formation, different from the previous monsters that rushed haphazardly, was what caused the discomfort.

“These guys are a bit...”

As Yeongwoo was about to warn Yoonho, intending to say more.

Thunk!

Yoonho rushed fiercely toward the orcs.

“They’re moving! We need to...!”

In Yoonho’s mind, he needed to stop the orcs from approaching the vehicle where his mother was.

-.....

On the other hand, the orc group remained unfazed, even though they saw someone charging at them with an axe.

Not only were they undisturbed, but rather...

Clank, clink!

They began to pull out large rectangular shields from their backs, readying their guards.

Like well-trained soldiers.

“Huh...?”

Yoonho, who rushed forward, was momentarily taken aback by their calm movements, and Yeongwoo, who was following at a suitable distance, also sensed something suspicious.

‘It feels like we’re falling into a trap.’

And sure enough.

Vroom!

One orc on the far right of the formation blew a horn.

Following that, a sinister whistling sound echoed from a distance.

Shuuaaang...!

“What the hell is this noise?”

“ ... ”

Yoonho and Yeongwoo didn't need more than a second to directly confirm the source of the whistling.

Without hesitation, one orc on the far right blew a horn, and in the next moment, dark points, about a dozen in total, appeared in the sky behind the orcs.

Soon after, they rained down towards Yoonho and Yeongwoo.

Shuuuaang!

It was none other than spears.

'That must have been a bombardment request.'

Since they could already see long spearheads, Yeongwoo hastily raised his black sword to prepare for defense.

Swoosh.

Yeongwoo's current sensory perception was 100.

Even though more than ten spears were pouring down from above, there was no change in his sensory perception value.

Since the opponent hadn't specifically targeted Yeongwoo, the sensory theft ability didn't activate.

'Crazy.'

The moment Yeongwoo realized this, he quickly raised his shield to cover his head.

With a sensory perception value of around 100, he judged that he couldn't parry the falling spear blades in mid-air.

Thud, thud, thud, thump!

However, the orc side's bombardment was also poorly aimed, with most of the attacks hitting the ground around Yeongwoo.

Only one spear struck the outer surface of his shield.

Crash!

“Ugh...!”

Tremendous impact surged through Yeongwoo's arm, spreading across his entire body.

If he hadn't raised the shield, he would have been pierced through by the spear.

Then, what about Yoonho, who didn't even have a shield?

Thud.

As Yeongwoo raised his head, he saw Yoonho standing in an awkward posture about ten meters away.

His legs trembling on the ground.

And there were spears that barely missed him embedded in the ground around him.

In other words, Yoonho was alive purely due to luck.

'He's incredibly lucky. But there will be another attack next. And then I'm in danger too...'

The moment Yeongwoo thought about clearing out the orcs in front of him before the next bombardment, the orcs moved first.

Shuffle, shuffle, shuffle!

Simultaneously, they opened their guards and shouted.

-All units, charge!

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 40**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 40: Unfamiliar World (4)

-Whhhhaaoowwww!

With a thunderous roar, Yeongwoo could only wear a blank expression as the orcs charged towards them.

‘Didn’t they just say it was an all-out attack...?’

He wondered if he had misheard, but soon the orc commander’s words struck like a hammer.

-Vanguard! Raise your shields!

-Execute the infantry and secure the tanks and remaining humans!

It was astonishing enough that orcs were speaking human language, but the meaning behind their words was even more unusual.

‘Infantry... Are they referring to us?’

Following the recent orders, Yeongwoo saw two orcs at the forefront of the formation raising their shields.

Clang!

The term ‘tank’ likely referred to the SUV behind them, so the ‘infantry’ marked for execution seemed to be...

‘They must be talking about us, the ones who came to protect the tank. The plan seems to be to kill the infantry and capture the people inside the tank.’

But why were they trying to capture some and not kill all of the enemy?

While puzzled, the immediate crisis demanded attention.

-Kraaah!

-He’s dead!

The orc vanguard had already overwhelmed Yoonho.

“Ik...!”

Yoonho, whose spirit had long been broken, stood still as his shield, only to be pushed back by the powerful force.

‘Geez, he’s already lost his fighting spirit.’

Having experienced similar situations through training, Yeongwoo knew which lines would be effective.

He immediately put them into action.

“Jeong Yoonho! If you die, your mother will...!”

However, Yeongwoo himself was also a target for immediate execution by the orcs.

“Grraaah!”

Before Yeongwoo could finish his lines, an orc rushed towards him with a menacing shadow.

「Sensory values have temporarily increased from the original 100 to 134.」

「Sensory values have temporarily increased from 134 to 168.」

Golden flashes of sensory enhancement messages appeared consecutively, accompanied by the holographic guide of Gyeongbuk Sword Law.

—Break

—Break

—Kill

‘This is insane.’

Due to the large number of opponents, finding the optimal sword technique was complicated, but with the rising sensory values, Yeongwoo’s guide execution ability was close to miraculous.

Shiririt!

Swiftly dodging between the creepy iron spikes, he skillfully targeted the orcs’ necks.

His movements were clearly that of a sword genius to anyone watching.

Perhaps because of that, when Yeongwoo pierced the neck of the fourth orc, someone from behind screamed for help.

“Yeongwoo, help!”

“...?”

Turning his head at the spine-chilling plea, he saw Myeongae, who had jumped out of the car, with a horrified expression.

“Ah.”

As Yeongwoo turned away as if avoiding fire upon seeing Myeongae’s tear-stained face, he noticed something on the opposite side.

“Heuk, heuk...!”

There, struggling desperately between the legs of the orcs, was Yoonho, his face covered in blood and bruises, unable to compete with them.

Then, soon after.

“Grraah!”

One of the orcs surrounding Yoonho viciously swung a large axe.

Swish!

From top to bottom.

It was a motion similar to someone chopping up a fish, and indeed, the same thing happened in reality.

Thunk!

The sound of metal hitting the ground echoed as Yoonho’s head awkwardly fell at an unnatural angle.

“...Uh.”

Yeongwoo instinctively knew.

That Yoonho’s upper body and head had just been separated.

And soon after, Myeongae, who was near the vehicle, also learned of this as an orc kicked Yoonho’s torso.

“Ah... No... Yoonhooo!”

A scream so piercing that it felt unbearable emanated from her petite figure.

The high-pitched sound was miraculous considering her small stature.



Perhaps because of that.

Ssyeeaaah...!

Soon, the familiar sound of artillery from the sky was heard from the other side.

‘These crazy bastards.’

The orc reinforcements had launched a secondary bombardment in the direction where screams were heard.

There was no time to warn Myeongae.

Boom!

Desperately, Yeongwoo leaped, grabbing Myeongae who was still screaming, and narrowly avoiding the rain of projectiles.

And not long after.

Quack, quack, quack!

Several javelins rained down from the sky, hitting the spot where Myeongae had been.

At that moment, Yeongwoo, who had hidden behind the SUV along with Myeongae, could clearly see the spears piercing through the front and rear seats of the car.

“Heuk, heuk...”

Fortunately in misfortune, Myeongho in the driver’s seat miraculously survived.

With both hands raised on the steering wheel, he looked with a pale face at the shattered windows inside the vehicle.

Then, the remaining orcs who had been holding their shields over their heads started approaching the vehicle, murmuring to each other.

– We almost died too.

– Why did they bombard us without warning?

– Some human made an incredible noise earlier. It sounded like a distant flute.

– Foolish creatures.

As the voices of the orcs approached, Yeongwoo cautiously spoke to Myeongae, who seemed absent-minded.

“The first son is still inside the car. I’ll bring him out, so please don’t move from here.”

“...”

Naturally, there was no response from her, and Yeongwoo emerged from behind the vehicle, drawing his black sword.

Swish.

Upon noticing him, the orcs, who had witnessed Yeongwoo single-handedly dealing with four orcs earlier, hesitated and stood still.

Moreover, conveniently, there were only four orcs left in this place.

– Hey.

Eventually, one of the orcs pointed at Yeongwoo with his chin and spoke.

– Just go.

“...What?”

– Just go.

Swoosh.

The orc raised his axe, indicating the road behind Yeongwoo.

It meant that they wouldn’t fight him, so he could pass through.

“What are you saying, you crazy bastards.”

Yeongwoo, seeing several kill marks already applied in his field of vision, prepared to attack with a sharp expression.

Then the orcs made a gesture of embarrassment, and simultaneously, Yeongwoo’s figure shot out like an arrow.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Swoosh!

-Uh!

-Watch out...!

Before they could assume a defensive posture, the body of one of the orcs at the forefront crumpled, followed by a squelching sound.

Swish!

The common blade, now extended to a length of 5 meters, swept through the area.

-Uh!

-What's happening...?

-Pl-please spare us!

The startled orcs showed various reactions.

Their reactions were so vivid that even Yeongwoo, accustomed to fighting monsters in games, could mistake them for real humans in a battle.

'What is this... It looks so realistic.'

Yeongwoo had always thought that creatures like orcs were artificially created entities for the role of monsters in games, somewhat like NPCs.

However, the expressions and eyes of the orcs he just saw held something more than just well-crafted consumable entities.

Perhaps it was an attachment to life or something resembling a soul, which shouldn't be present in entities programmed as consumables.

Of course, even this might be a sign that the monsters were exceptionally well-crafted consumables.

But what if they were not?

If these creatures were truly existing beings, then what were they, and where did they come from?

"..."

Shyaat!

In the end, Yeongwoo swiftly took down three orcs, and just before piercing the neck of the last one, he halted the sword.

Thud.

The orc, anticipating death and having closed its eyes, slowly raised its eyelids.

-...?

Again, a very realistic reaction.

Instead of attempting to counterattack, the orc, with the blade stopped in front of its throat, looked at Yeongwoo with eyes filled with confusion and surprise.

-You... What...?

Too shocked to articulate words properly, the orc's realistic response added to Yeongwoo's confusion.

Yeongwoo asked while holding the sword to the orc's neck.

"What are you? Why did you come here?"

Yeongwoo was quite confused because he had never imagined that the day would come when he would interrogate orcs in his life.

-We are...

Eventually, the last orc moved its large green jaw and opened its mouth.

-Pioneers.

"What?"

Yeongwoo was even more bewildered by the unexpected word that came out of the orc's mouth.

It was astonishing that the orc had the intellect to define itself as a pioneer, but even before that...

'Pioneer means they have a homeland they left.'

The orc's homeland.

No, can creatures created by humans as fictional entities, like orcs, have a homeland in the first place?

“How did you go on a pioneering journey? You’re supposed to be imaginary, right? You’re orcs.”

While Yeongwoo was speaking, the orc reacted strongly to the word ‘imaginary.’

-You’re the ones...!

“...?”

-You are the beings from imagination. Aren’t you the ‘humans’ from the Carmolay mythology?

Though fleeting, a sense of pride seemed to flash in the orc’s eyes.

At least, it was sincere.

From the orc’s perspective, in this situation, the protagonist was the orc itself, in a similar position to Yeongwoo.

‘What is this...?’

At this point, Yeongwoo could only come up with a ridiculous hypothesis.

Perhaps...

Neither humans nor orcs were real races that existed.

Had they been imagining each other as fictional entities all along, and now they were actually encountering each other for the first time?

‘But there are clearly origins of monsters here. Tolkien created it, and the lore added by D&D and Warhammer series exists as actual history.’

Of course, this could be the same from the orcs’ perspective.

Didn’t their mythology include the appearance of humans?

‘What on earth is going on?’

A strange sensation crept up his neck.

Various questions flooded his mind, but it became increasingly difficult to keep the orc in check.

Tsutsuk.

The reason was soon apparent – Myeongae, who had been hiding behind the vehicle, discovered the orc in front of Yeongwoo and let out a scream.

“Aaaah!”

It was a loud scream, as if anticipating a third bombardment, and the orc seemed well aware that this was the signal to abbreviate its own fate.

-Wa-wait, just a moment.

With a very pitiful expression, the orc pleaded for mercy from Yeongwoo.

-Please spare me. We can communicate well. Let's resolve this through conversation.

However, Yeongwoo's blade had already cut through the air.

Swat!

Swiftly beheading the orc, Yeongwoo immediately shouted to Myeongho in the driver's seat.

“Start the engine! If you don't want to die here, step on it...!”

“Ah!”

Myeongho, who had been absent-mindedly listening to the peculiar conversation between the two races, regained his senses only after Yeongwoo's command.

Clunk!

As he shifted the gear back to drive and stepped on the accelerator with all his might, the rear passenger door swung open, and Yeongwoo's mother seemed to be thrown about.

“ ... ”

For a moment, Yeongwoo felt his chest tighten, but he couldn't protest to Myeongho.

All he could now do....

‘Sigh.’

All he could do now was press the accelerator with all his might.

Kwak!

The SUV carrying the three of them passed over the orcs and Yoonho's corpse, jolting roughly, as if a boat encountering waves.

Perhaps that's why.

Even Myeongho's hands gripping the steering wheel felt damp, as if soaked in water.

[TL/N: Rip Yoonho. 3 chaps.]

[PR/N: Okay but what IF myeongae is yeongwoo's mother?? Then wasn't yoonho his step-sibling? I have a feeling they might be related ngl.]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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