

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

### **#Chapter 81 - Read Level 4 Human in a Ruined World Chapter 81**

#### **Chapter 81**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 81: Let Them See Gwanak (5)

Kwaaaah!

Negwig's high-speed driving was truly amazing.

The buildings passing by on both sides looked like lingering scars.

However, there were side effects as well.

That is.

"Kyaaah!"

"It's, it's a monster!"

"Has the mutant already...?"

It was highly unsuitable to pass through crowded places.

In various parts of Gwanak-gu, there were crowds of "monster entrepreneurs" police officers waiting for the monsters to appear and their customers gathered together.

However, amidst this, something riding on an iron horse approached, emitting steam, causing a commotion all at once.

"Help me!"

"What are you doing? Stop it quickly!"

Customers urged Gwanak police officers, who were monster entrepreneurs, to act quickly, and some of them ran away without even looking back.

"Damn it."

With the situation like this, Gwanak police officers couldn't help but draw their swords.

They naturally didn't think the opponent would be human.

-Kwiieeek!

Of course, Negwig didn't go around hitting people.

Kwak!

Just before colliding with people, he leaped high forward.

Shiaaaat!

"Huh?"

"Ugh!"

As the officers who were in combat posture raised their heads, white steam was seen drawing a huge arc all the way to the far distance.

And the unidentified intruder had already disappeared from sight.

\* \* \*

'He leaves traces everywhere he goes'

In just a few hours in Seoul, at least a thousand witnesses were made.

'It shouldn't be that difficult for Gangnam's Strongest Sword to find me.'

Yeongwoo looked back while hanging on Negwig's back, but he couldn't see the scene from earlier.

It was because the distance was too far.

Instead, the red pillar of light, the problem, was now really close.

Kwaaaah.....!

The sound of the pillar of light shooting was reaching his ears.

'He's already come this far from that distant place...?'

It was amazing, but there was no time to gauge Negwig's maximum speed.

[00:01:33]

It was supposed to be 1 minute and 33 seconds before the mutant arrived here.

‘Where is the Strongest Sword of Gwanak?’

As he turned his head towards the direction where the sound of the pillar of light was coming from, he saw a sturdy bridge over the river on the other side, dimly lit.

It was because the symbol of Gwanak’s mutant was hanging down at the spacious intersection beyond.

Kwaaaah.....!

The red pillar of light swirling fiercely with the momentum to swallow everything.

“.....”

Yeongwoo briefly glanced at the pillar of light, then noticed a middle-aged man in a suit sitting in the middle of the bridge over the river.

And above the man’s head was a shining title.

『Gwanak’s Strongest Sword.』

‘That’s him.’

Gwanak Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik 01.

The man was obviously staring at the red pillar of light without knowing that an outsider had arrived.

Upon this, Yeongwoo subtly pulled Negwig’s reins.

-Kwiiik!

As Negwig lifted his head along with the reins and snorted, the Strongest Sword on the bridge finally turned around.

“.....”

The man’s eyes touched the black iron horse, then shifted to a vague point.

[00:01:21]

He was probably checking the mutant timer.

1 minute and 21 seconds.

As the man slowly stood up from his seat, Yeongwoo slowly urged Negwig forward towards the bridge.

“I didn’t expect a guest. It’s not a good time. I am Jo Sangik.”

Gwanak Strongest Sword Jo Sangik 01 greeted while keeping his gaze fixed in the air.

Estimated to be in his early 50s, he looked very neat in a navy suit with a military blue tie.

“Nice to meet you. I’m Jeong Yeongwoo.”

In contrast, Yeongwoo, wearing sports attire with various equipment scattered around, looked utterly perplexing.

-Shiit.

Even the Serpent of Greed wrapped around his wrist stared at Jo Sangik with a flickering tongue.

More precisely, it was staring at the huge sword he held in his right hand.

It was the snake’s characteristic to always gaze at rare items.

‘Is that mutant equipment?’

Yeongwoo was also curious about the identity of the sword, but he put off the question for more important matters.

“I’ve come to deal with the mutant.”

“So it seems.”

Both Strongest Swords checked the timer simultaneously.

[00:01:07]

1 minute and 7 seconds.

After checking the time, Jo Sangik was the first to speak.

“It seems to be your first time in Seoul.”

“Yes. But I’ve heard the stories roughly.”

“Then you must know that you are about to violate the regulations.”

All disputes within Seoul could only be resolved within the meeting in Yongsan Park.

And the Strongest Sword of each area had priority over mutants in their respective regions.

So, for Yeongwoo to confront a mutant in Gwanak-gu, he would have to attend the meeting first, claim the position of Gwanak’s Strongest Sword, and then officially engage in combat.

However, Yeongwoo didn’t have the luxury to wait until the meeting at 3 p.m.

“If you concede, I won’t have to violate the regulations.”

As Yeongwoo uttered these words and dismounted from Negwig, his shoes, the unique-grade footwear called “Illusion,” made a clinking sound as they hit the ground.

Clang!

At that moment, Jo Sangik showed signs of hesitation for the first time.

It was common sense in this world that beings of the Strongest Sword level inevitably remained barefoot.

Gwanak Strongest Sword Jo Sangik also exposed his bare feet as much as his body, incongruent with the suit he wore.

Usually, he wore shoes, but since they would inevitably burst when fighting mutants, he deliberately waited barefoot.

“...So what you’re wearing now is also equipment. May I ask where you’re from?”

Finally, Gwanak Strongest Sword showed curiosity about Yeongwoo’s background.

Yeongwoo responded by patting his chest.

Paah!

『Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword』

“...Hmm.”

Jo Sangik, upon seeing Yeongwoo’s title, involuntarily groaned.

It was because he had also agreed to the basis of his opponent’s ongoing confidence.

Gyeongbuk...

As a unified Strongest Sword of a major region, it was natural not to fear a Strongest Sword of a single district in Seoul.

[00:00:48]

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Now, there were 48 seconds left.

Jo Sangik looked at Yeongwoo with a much more anxious expression than before.

Then, for the first time, he uttered a sentence mixed with emotion.

“Why did you come specifically to Gwanak?”

“...?”

“As Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword, you must be stronger than me. Since there’s only one life, I have no choice but to step back.”

“...”

Although Gwanak Strongest Sword was likely mistaken, Yeongwoo pretended to sleep on it for now.

“But ultimately, because of this, the position of Seoul National University will greatly diminish during the meeting.”

“Is it because the Gwanak’s Strongest Sword might become about 3 million karma weaker compared to other Strongest Swords?”

As Yeongwoo asked this, Jo Sangik chuckled.

“Simply put, yes. But it’s not such a simple matter.”

“I understand.”

Yeongwoo vaguely understood what Jo Sangik was trying to say.

The Strongest Swords’ meeting would be a tense atmosphere.

Participants would all be murderers who had spilled blood on their hands, and among them, there would be crazies who transcended common sense.

However, since they didn't yet know each other's strengths properly, they were just testing each other under the pretext of regulations.

At least, that's what Yeongwoo, who had experienced many Strongest Swords in the provinces, thought.

[00:00:21]

21 seconds left.

Now it had become a time where even talking felt like a luxury.

"There's no other way."

Swish.

In the end, Jo Sangik stepped aside and opened the way.

Without even exchanging a single blow, he conceded the mutant solely based on the opponent's title.

"You're giving up too easily."

"Isn't it better than dying? If I die, Gwanak will turn into a lawless zone again within two days. There won't be anyone trying to maintain order."

Because he carried such a heavy burden, he couldn't afford to take risks.

"..."

Yet there were stories heard at the outskirts of Seoul that hinted at great arrogance.

It was said that Seoul University had essentially taken on the role of the government's leadership.

Perhaps the idea of gathering Strongest Swords in one place also originated from this side.

[00:00:09]

Now there were 9 seconds left.

Clang.

Yeongwoo took a step forward and asked Gwanak Strongest Sword Jo Sangik.

“But what did you do before? You seem too old to be a Seoul University student. Are you perhaps one of the professors?”

At this, Jo Sangik’s expression momentarily went blank.

Then, with a gaze reminiscent of a professor looking at a disciple, he said.

“I was the Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance. I’m also one of the directors at Seoul University.”

“Ah.”

His extensive background explained many things.

Perhaps it was someone from the Ministry of Planning and Finance who came up with the absurd plan of carrying Strongest Swords on their backs and conducting the monster business to make money through reconnaissance quests.

A former Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance.

A current Strongest Sword.

There was a reason why Strongest Swords, akin to monsters, quietly obeyed all sorts of regulations.

\*Kwwoooong!\*

Eventually, the red pillar of light on the other side of the bridge began to push the surrounding air, swaying.

[00:00:02]

Only 2 seconds left.

\*Kwarung!\*

A dazzling bolt of lightning struck from the distant sky connected to the red pillar of light.

The mutant assigned to Gwanak-gu was preparing to descend.

‘Luckily, I received the mutant, but... Can I handle it alone?’

Yeongwoo, fixing his gaze above the pillar of light, drew the black sword from his waist.



\*Chwaah!\*

Of course, he could call his mutant friend Yeongtae again and use “Blue Blood” for strength doping.

But the upcoming fight was not just any ordinary one.

‘Another option is right in front of me.’

\*Kwajjik!\*

Finally, a sound like the tearing of the sky was heard, and from the top of the pillar of light, a chilling groan echoed.

「Grrraah...!」

It must be the voice of the mutant.

However, Yeongwoo wasn’t looking at the pillar of light at that moment.

“Deputy Minister, if you’re okay with it, let’s make a deal.”

His gaze was now fixed on Jo Sangik.

“Why are you suddenly talking about a deal? Right, right over there...!”

Jo Sangik, who had been watching Yeongwoo from above, suddenly panicked.

“Ugh!”

At the same time, a tremendous movement was felt from above the pillar of light.

\*Swaeaeaeaeak!\*

It seemed a mutant was descending from beyond the sky.

“H-Hey!”

While Jo Sangik was screaming, Yeongwoo elaborated on the terms of the deal.

“If you help me eliminate the mutant, I’ll scatter 30,000 karma throughout Gwanak-gu.”

“...?”

“If you can find just 100 Seoul University students, it’ll be 3 million karma.”

“...What?”

A 52-year-old Jo Sangik, who was a former Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance and the current Gwanak's Strongest Sword with both civil and martial skills, suddenly realized.

Perhaps he had been deceived by the grandiose title of his opponent.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 82**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 82: Stubborn (1)

“Are you really saying that you don't have the ability to fight mutants on your own? At this point?”

Jo Sangik's angry face turned red.

“Then what about the title...? How did you become the Strongest Sword in Gyeongbuk?”

A voice full of confusion.

Nevertheless, he had already taken a combat posture.

Because it was more important to kill the mutant within this intersection than to engage in a clumsy fight with that crazy Strongest Sword right now.

Just a little away from here are the Gwanak-gu residents performing the “Seoul Rotation”.

Although the police, who also act as monster hunters, are escorting citizens, in front of the mutants, whether they are police or citizens, they are all just a punch away.

Therefore, the current top priority was to exterminate the mutants.

‘Let's kill the mutant first, and then think about that guy later.’

Jo Sangik muttered inwardly as he gripped his sword.

And in the meantime, the mutant of the third day descended from the sky and landed in the middle of the intersection.

Kwooooong!

“Ugh.”

As soon as the mutant landed, a storm of black dust swept through the area, and the two Strongest Swords had to step back, covering their faces with their hands.

It was because asphalt fragments scattered in all directions as if a grenade had exploded.

Ting, ting, ping!

The metallic equipment worn by Yeongwoo emitted strange sounds incessantly.

Asphalt fragments were pounding against the surface of the equipment.

Of course, parts of the body not covered by the equipment had to endure it with bare flesh.

Pup, pup!

Even Yeongwoo, whose durability had been raised to thousands, felt a tingling sensation, so if an ordinary person were standing here, their body would have been torn to shreds.

“Let’s solve the mutant problem first and then talk again. We can’t let that guy escape from here under any circumstances.”

Jo Sangik’s voice came from the dust.

Although they would have to cooperate unavoidably, it meant that civilian casualties would not be tolerated.

Upon this, Yeongwoo also nodded while drawing his sword.

“Okay. I don’t want innocent people to suffer either.”

Of course, there was no discussion about the options that would be given after defeating the mutants.

Therefore, there was also a possibility that Jo Sangik would launch a surprise attack after the mutants were cleaned up.

‘But by then, my abilities won’t be easy to deal with. I’ll be able to end the Strong Tiger’s Early Appearance Challenge with this battle.’

The karma reward obtainable from the Strong Tiger’s Early Appearance Challenge was a whopping 5 million.

After obtaining this, even if he were to engage in a solo showdown with Jo Sangik, he wouldn’t fall behind significantly.

‘But it’s a story after surviving from the mutant.’

Yeongwoo placed his hand on another sword that he hadn’t drawn yet, watching a huge presence rising from within the front dust.

Thud!

「Underdog」 – Mutant one-handed sword

【Increases damage to targets larger than the user by 25%.】

Underdog.

This weapon was taken from the now deceased Chungju’s Strongest Sword.

The reason Yeongwoo laid his hand on this sword was because the mutant’s size this time was clearly larger than his own.

Thud!

With an ominous friction sound, something with a large shadow began to walk out of the dust cloud.

Thud!

The heavy footsteps of the opponent could be felt.

Kwoong!

From the second step onwards, both Strongest Swords could see the opponent’s name tag.

[Businessman – Kim Taejoon]

‘Kim Taejoon? Could it be that Kim Taejoon...?’

Yeongwoo’s pupils dilated.

It was because there was someone with exactly that name among the famous people he knew.

It was Kim Taejoon, the founder and CEO of the major game development company VC Soft.

Commonly known as TJ.

Even people who weren’t familiar with games had heard his name, as VC Soft’s games had been hits one after another, but they also had a notorious reputation for their aggressive microtransactions.

‘But still... Was he considered for annihilation?’

After all, it was a system where if you received a relatively large number of votes, you could be listed, so nothing was impossible.

‘I never thought I’d meet Kim Taejoon like this.’

Until he went down to Gumi, Yeongwoo had been doing game broadcasts in Seoul, so it was a strange feeling.

And it seemed that Kim Taejoon, the main character, felt the same.

「Ah... I feel weird.」

Kwoong!

As Kim Taejoon completely emerged from the dust cloud after the third step, his towering figure, reaching three meters in height, was revealed.

Skin made of ivory-colored granite.

Shoulders overly broad, and arms even more exaggerated than that.

Although his lower body also looked sturdy, it couldn’t compare to the upper body that seemed as if a mountain had been placed on it.

“A... a golem?”

As Yeongwoo muttered without realizing it, Kim Taejoon, who heard him, looked at him.

Then, he raised his hand made of stone and inspected it, widening his eyes.

「My goodness. It's really a golem.」

Yeongwoo confirmed from this dialogue that the mutant he was facing right now was indeed 'Kim Taejoon.'

Which mutant in this world would not be impressed by the fact that they had turned into a golem?

Considering Kim Taejoon's childhood involvement in game development, it was entirely possible.

Thud!

Then, Kim Taejoon turned his head and surveyed the entire intersection neatly cleared.

Then.

「This is the place to raid me.」

The current situation was condensed into a very simple sentence.

「More importantly, where are the others? How long has it been since the reset?」

It was common for mutants to be curious about the passage of time.

However, for the first time, Kim Taejoon was also asking about the whereabouts of other people.

It didn't seem like he was looking for people to massacre, judging by the nuance.

“It's now the third day since the reset. And the others are safe. We're the only ones who came out to greet Taejoon.”

As Yeongwoo explained this, Kim Taejoon's expression brightened.

「Three days...? Really? Where are the people?」

Then, Jo Sangik interjected with a stern voice.

“Why are you looking for people? You can't leave here anyway. Why do you think we're here?”

To Gwanak's Strongest Sword Jo Sangik, Kim Taejoon was both a source of abundant karma and a disaster threatening civilians just by his presence.

In other words, he was a target that must be killed here, no matter what.

On the other hand, Kim Taejoon's perspective was different.

「If it's only been three days, my family must be somewhere safe. I don't intend to harm anyone, so please just let me find my family.」

“Ah...”

Upon hearing Kim Taejoon's words, Yeongwoo immediately understood the situation.

Hadn't he experienced a similar case in Mungyeong?

It was the story of Jang Daemyung, who had returned as a mutant just to meet his father again.

‘That's right. From the mutant's perspective, it's like they've been separated from their families in an instant. They might prioritize confirming the safety of their families over seeking revenge.’

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Even Yeongwoo, an orphan of heaven, had moved to find his father upon learning of his existence.

So what about someone who had originally been within the fence of their family?

Yeongwoo felt a touch of sympathy.

However, Jo Sangik's subsequent response couldn't be considered wrong either.

“Yes. I understand what you mean, but realistically, it's impossible. Even if I were to send you, Taejoon, would the other Strongest Swords just sit idly by? And it's absurd to even think about finding family members whose whereabouts are unknown in the first place.”

At this, Kim Taejoon, who had been silently listening, suddenly frowned in anger.

「My wife and children know that I'll come back as a monster. So if I just make it known that I'm here, they'll find a way to come to me.」

“...!”

It was a statement that couldn't be made without tremendous trust.

In this absurd conversation, Yeongwoo was deeply moved.

But as he watched Kim Taejoon's increasingly distorted body, he sensed that the end of this conversation was approaching.

"Taejoon."

As Yeongwoo calmly interjected into the conversation between the two, Kim Taejoon responded with a much rougher tone than before.

「What is it?」

"As the gentleman said, it's almost impossible for you to find your family in your current state. In Seoul, there are dozens of other Strongest Swords besides us."

Of course, Kim Taejoon would have been willing to kill all those Strongest Swords if necessary to find his family.

So Yeongwoo quickly added:

"But there is another way. It may not be to your liking, though."

"What do you mean by that?"

With a stern expression, Jo Sangik interjected, while Kim Taejoon showed interest.

「What is it?」

Yeongwoo then extended his right hand.

"It's a handshake."

"A handshake?"

Jo Sangik reacted with utter surprise, while Kim Taejoon's face brightened slightly.

「A handshake... I've heard that it's used when one regrets returning as a mutant. But how does that become a solution?」

Kim Taejoon made his right hand glow blue and displayed an icon of a door on his palm.

"What...?"

In an unprecedented event, Jo Sangik widened his eyes, and sensing a glimmer of hope, Yeongwoo extended a pumpkin-colored magic lamp towards Kim Taejoon.



“If you shake hands with me... um, that is, you can become something like the genie of this lamp. Like Genie.”

This was the best explanation Yeongwoo could offer.

“It won’t be for a long time, but I can summon you twice a day, Taejoon. Usually, I call for help during battles, but... I can also call you when I find your family, Taejoon.”

By Yeongwoo’s standards, Kim Taejoon was not a criminal.

He hadn’t returned as a mutant to commit murder, nor had he committed any major crimes as a human.

So Yeongwoo didn’t lie to lure him.

As mentioned earlier, it was a method that Kim Taejoon probably wouldn’t like.

「In other words... it’s like entrusting my family’s search to a complete stranger and willingly confining myself to that belief.」

“That’s the idea. But there’s no better alternative. Even if you kill us and escape from here, you’ll have to fight other Strongest Swords again. The whole world will attack you, Taejoon.”

「I’ve already experienced that firsthand. Do you have anything else to say?」

Kim Taejoon demanded the final word.

As expected, the negotiation had failed.

At this, Yeongwoo nodded as if to acknowledge, then pointed into the empty space and said seriously:

“...It can’t be helped. This battle will be conducted with the support of the intergalactic weapons brand Dogo.”

「...Huh?」

“I am Jeong Yeongwoo 07, a human being of the Earth and the strongest man of Gyeongbuk.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## Chapter 83

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### Chapter 83: Stubborn (2)

As Yeongwoo revealed the support of Dogo, a wedge-shaped logo was drawn along the trajectory of the blade when he pulled out 'Underdog'.

Whoa!

Kim Taejoon's eyes widened at the clearly impressive effect, but it was Jo Sangik who was the most surprised among the audience.

Although he had met various Strongest Swords through the assembly, this was the first time he had seen something like this.

'What on earth is this person...?'

The feeling of strength still didn't come through.

But there was definitely something.

Something different from mere strength.

Sut!

Finally, Yeongwoo spoke as he held the Underdog.

"The friend who is with me right now didn't reach out from the beginning. So let's settle things first."

It was a statement implying that his thoughts might change after being hit.

Kim Taejoon, who had been looking down at him, raised his granite chin and turned his eyes to the sky.

「Well, can you handle me? I feel like the heavens have given me enough power.」

Then, with a colder look than before, he looked at Yeongwoo again.

「If every Strongest Sword is going to attack me from now on, then I should take care of you two first.」

Kim Taejoon was very quick to make decisions.

「I'm sorry.」

With this significant statement, his pale white body writhed.

Ttuk.

At the same time, an unbelievable message appeared in Yeongwoo's field of vision.

「The sensory value has temporarily increased from the existing 600 to 2,144.」

The Golden Flash had stolen Kim Taejoon's sensory value of 1,544.

This meant that his basic sensory value exceeded 3,000.

‘Nonsense!’

There was no time to be silently shocked.

The Gyeongbuk Sword Law was immediately ordering to depart in response to the opponent's attack.

Taat!

As Yeongwoo hurriedly moved back, almost at the same moment, a rock fist came down and struck the ground.

Kwajak!

“Ugh!”

“This...!”

Both Yeongwoo and Jo Sangik were astonished at the unbelievable speed of the attack.

‘Why is it so fast?’

If that attack had come towards them, could they have dodged it immediately?

Facing a combat power markedly different from that of the second day mutant, Jo Sangik felt a chilling sensation down his spine.

「Guaat!」

Meanwhile, Kim Taejoon, who had punched the ground, swept the ground upwards, sending asphalt waves towards the two Strongest Swords.

Kwakwakwakwak!

Although the vision of both Yeongwoo and Jo Sangik turned pitch black for a moment, the Strongest Sword's technique worked even when their sight was completely obscured.

The order to maneuver sideways to avoid the attack was transmitted to both Yeongwoo and Jo Sangik.

Tat!

Pat!

As the two of them instinctively withdrew their bodies in different directions, Kim Taejoon realized that the consecutive two evasions were not a coincidence.

「The world has become interesting. So this is what it means to be a Strongest Sword.」

However, the two Strongest Swords didn't hear that line.

They were already swinging their swords at Kim Taejoon from both sides, trying to corner him to the death.

Whoosh!

Finally, the first attack from the two Strongest Swords commenced.

Jo Sangik swung his Gokdo, while Yeongwoo wielded the Black Sword, aiming forcefully at their opponent's torso.

However, strangely, the only battle mark that appeared in the sight of the two Strongest Swords was all destruction.

This meant that the current attack would at best disrupt the posture of the opponent.

And indeed.

Crash!

Before the blades of the two Strongest Swords could touch Kim Taejoon's body, they were both grabbed by his hands.

“Ah...!”

“Ha.”

Yeongwoo was surprised that even Jo Sangik, whose abilities were obviously much higher than his own, had his sword caught.

Conversely, Jo Sangik sighed at the fact that the level of the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword was not significantly different from his own.

Moreover, both Strongest Swords couldn't even pull their swords out of Kim Taejoon's grasp.

“Do... Do you have no other tactics?”

As a bewildered Jo Sangik seemed to ask Yeongwoo to come up with something more, Yeongwoo extended the length of the Black Sword to five meters, increasing the distance between him and Kim Taejoon.

Shyaat!

A kind of emergency escape.

Then, instead of Kim Taejoon, Yeongwoo threw Underdog high into the air above his head.

Swish!

“What's going on right now...?”

While Jo Sangik made an incredulous expression, Yeongwoo even let go of the handle of the Black Sword he was holding.

Next.

Bang!

He dashed straight towards the back of Kim Taejoon, who was still facing off against Jo Sangik.

“This guy...!”

In a manner that looked like an escape to anyone, a curse burst from Jo Sangik's mouth, and at that moment, Kim Taejoon's expression changed strangely.

「Huh...?」

It was because the Black Sword he had been holding suddenly began to produce tremendous power.

As if it would burst out at any moment.

So Kim Taejoon strengthened his grip on the sword with even more force.

Swish!

His body was forcefully pulled backward.

「Ah!」

The Black Sword, receiving a remote retrieval command, began to return to its owner while still entangled with Kim Taejoon.

Thud!

As the center of his body became disoriented and his two legs began to grind against the asphalt floor, Kim Taejoon's face showed bewilderment for the first time.

In addition to this.

Whoosh!

From the dark sky above, a tremendous sound of destruction resounded.

It was the Underdog that Yeongwoo had thrown high returning.

‘What’s all this?’

Even Jo Sangik, who was hanging on to Kim Taejoon along with his sword, was equally astonished.

Although he had asked for something more from the Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, he hadn't expected such a skill.

Swiftly, Kim Taejoon let go of both the Black Sword and the Gokdo, regaining the center of his body.

Then, he barely managed to strike down the Underdog that flew at him like a bullet.

Boom!

With a tremendous roar, flames erupted. At the same time, granite fragments wrapped in dust scattered in all directions.

「Huh...?」

Kim Taejoon's left palm was partially cracked from hitting the Underdog.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It was a moment that proved the effectiveness of the formidable weapon, Underdog.

【Increases power by 25% against targets larger than the user.】

And it was also a moment that confirmed that Kim Taejoon's granite body was not invincible.

‘But why isn't the infliction of pain activating?’

Yeongwoo tilted his head as he looked at the returning Underdog covered in dust.

Didn't the Golden Punishment inflict pain just by touching the opponent's body with the weapon?

But this time, Kim Taejoon, despite the damage to his body, showed no signs of suffering.

‘Could it be that those rocks are all some kind of shield?’

If that were the case, it meant that until that outer shell was completely removed, the Golden Punishment couldn't be utilized.

“ ... ”

As Yeongwoo was about to sigh in the darkened vision, Kim Taejoon attacked Jo Sangik alone this time.

He had decided to reduce the opponent's numbers from the head.

「Die!」

Kim Taejoon, who had sustained injuries from the two unions, was much more excited than before.

Even though there were dozens more Strongest Swords outside this intersection, he was deeply disappointed that he couldn't even suppress just two of them.

Bang!

Kim Taejoon's furious fist pounded the ground in succession.

It was due to the advice of the Gwanak's Sword Technique to only avoid instead of blocking the sword.

However, it didn't mean there was room for counterattack.

Kim Taejoon was a monster who exceeded both strength and sensory values of most Strongest Swords.

Bang!

"This, hey!"

Having barely evaded Kim Taejoon's third attack by a hair's breadth, Jo Sangik finally requested support from Yeongwoo.

"Weren't we supposed to cooperate earlier? What happened?"

Of course, Yeongwoo hadn't deliberately refrained from participating in the battle.

It was just that Kim Taejoon's fists had made Jo Sangik move back and forth, prolonging the perceived time.

"Hold on a little longer, I'll figure something out."

As Yeongwoo said this, he was already close to Kim Taejoon's back.

'It seems difficult to penetrate that outer shell with the Black Sword, so I'll have to keep attacking with the Underdog.'

The Gyeongbuk's Sword Law also proposed tactics that were not much different from Yeongwoo's thoughts.

After throwing the sword again, it suggested attacking remotely.

But how many more times would he have to use that method to chip away at Kim Taejoon's outer shell?

'Before that, I might get hit first. It was really close earlier.'

Perhaps Gyeongbuk's Sword Law couldn't find a sharp answer either and was repeating the same advice as before.

After all, it couldn't advise suicide against an unbeatable opponent.



“ ... ”

Although Yeongwoo had some doubts about the guidance of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law for the first time, there was no other way.

‘Well, I have no choice. Let’s see how Kim Taejoon responds this time.’

In the end, Yeongwoo decided to follow the advice of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law once again.

Whaam!

Then, after throwing Underdog high above Kim Taejoon’s head...

Crash!

He dashed forward with the Black Sword gripped in both hands.

“Hyuap!”

A diagonal slash with all his might.

Simultaneously, he recalled the previously thrown Underdog from afar and executed a dual-sided attack.

Splatter!

When the formidable noise, similar to before, echoed, Kim Taejoon, who was chasing Jo Sangik, stopped his pursuit and looked back.

「Am I going to fall for the same trick twice?」

Then, he easily caught Yeongwoo’s Black Sword, which was swinging with the Dogo’s spiky pattern.

Thunk!

The same development as before.

And then, Kim Taejoon deflected Underdog, and it was Yeongwoo’s turn to elongate his Black Sword and retreat.

“ ....!”

However, the hologram shown by the Gyeongbuk Sword Law stood still and did nothing.

As if there were no further instructions.

What?

Is it leaving it up to me?

Or perhaps...?

「I got you.」

In that brief moment of confusion for Yeongwoo, Kim Taejoon's massive hand firmly grabbed Yeongwoo's torso.

Originally, he should have used his right hand, which had just dispatched Underdog, to grab Yeongwoo.

However he hadn't planned to defend himself in the first place.

「This is like giving away flesh and scraping the bone.」

Thud!

As Kim Taejoon exerted force in his grip, blood spurted from Yeongwoo's mouth, staining Taejoon's forearm.

“Urgh!”

And simultaneously, as Underdog returned to Yeongwoo, it struck Kim Taejoon's right wrist, which was holding Yeongwoo.

Thaang!

With a resounding impact, flames erupted under Yeongwoo's chin, and soon the sound of Underdog hitting the ground was heard.

Tik.

The full-force attack was successful, but it failed to penetrate Kim Taejoon's body.

“You... fool!”

Jo Sangik swung his sword at Kim Taejoon's back with a desperate face, but Kim Taejoon didn't even flinch.

「I told you, I feel like I've been given enough power by the heavens.」

Kim Taejoon wore a triumphant expression.

But then, not even a second later...

「Huh?」

Suddenly, he opened his mouth wide and rolled his eyes twice.

As if someone had eaten spoiled food without realizing it.

「What's this?」

A strange energy enveloped his entire body.

Then, he immediately felt his hand holding Yeongwoo getting hot as if it were on fire.

「Ugh!」

Kim Taejoon instinctively pushed Yeongwoo away, but the mysterious pain was already spreading up his arm and throughout his body.

「W-What did you do?」

As Kim Taejoon expressed his confusion, Yeongwoo, who was sprawled on the ground, managed to open his mouth amidst the intense pain.

“One of my persuasion methods.”

Then, he raised his bloody arm and grabbed the horn hanging around his neck.

“And this.”

The whistle approached Yeongwoo's lips.

“It's my last resort.”

Beep-beep-beep!

Finally, Yeongwoo blew the whistle, and the sky began to open once again.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## Chapter 84

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

### Chapter 84: Stubborn (3)

This time, it was entirely the credit of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law.

It was when Yeongwoo realized that he could inflict pain with his own blood.

「Golden Punishment」 – Legendary Bracelet

【Inflicts pain on enemies.】

The special function of the Golden Punishment only activates when the weapon or body of the owner, Yeongwoo, directly touches the opponent.

No, at least that's what he knew until now.

‘Well, blood is also part of my body.’

During the second attack on Kim Taejoon, the fact that Gyeongbuk Sword Law did not provide the next guide was a loophole in itself.

To apply pain to Kim Taejoon, protected by the outer layer of granite, Yeongwoo had to let his blood flow into the cracks on his surface.

Therefore, although it was generally suicidal behavior, it was a subtle solution that only Yeongwoo could achieve while still alive.

「Slime Core」 – Mutation Bracelet

【Regenerative power increases dramatically.】

He was the owner of the bracelet that made even his broken body stick back together.

Of course, if Kim Taejoon had struck Yeongwoo's head, the result would have been much different.

‘But I succeeded. I survived again.’

The characteristic of large area Sword Techniques like Gyeongbuk is that they plan tactics considering the characteristics of other equipment owned by the title holder.

And this characteristic matched well with Yeongwoo, who possessed numerous equipment but had low stats.

Even Jo Sangik, whose abilities numbered in the thousands, could not inflict significant damage on Kim Taejoon.

“.....”

As the sky opened with the call of the whistle, and the surroundings darkened, Yeongwoo turned his head to observe Jo Sangik's movements.

And then, far away, he saw him running towards them.

‘Oh, no way.’

At this point, Yeongwoo realized that his worst fear, ‘Jo Sangik's betrayal,’ was finally becoming a reality, and he widened his eyes.

In fear, he had also called for Yeongtae.

But in reality...

“Hey, are you okay?”

Jo Sangik's business was purely to ensure Yeongwoo's safety.

Or more precisely, to seek advice on how to deal with Kim Taejoon, who had suddenly begun to twist his body.

“Yes. I'll be fine with a little rest. I'll be able to move in a bit.”

Although Yeongwoo replied like this, Jo Sangik's expression showed that he didn't believe him at all.

“A little... rest?”

Even from an external perspective, Yeongwoo's ribs were shattered, and his internal condition looked far from good.

“Yes. Just a little rest. And my friend will take care of that time.”

Yeongwoo raised his chin and pointed to the empty space.

Then, right on cue, a thunderous cry was heard from the end of the sky.

「Yaaaaaaah!」

Former mutant, Hong Yeongtae, had returned to this world.

Crash!

Boom!

With a loud landing noise, another asphalt storm swept through the area, and at that moment, Yeongwoo was deeply moved to see Jo Sangik blocking the debris with his own body.

“Sir...”

“It’s Just basic courtesy.”

As the distant storm passed, another name tag shone in the dust.

Swooosh!

[Friend of Jeong Yeongwoo07 – Hong Yeongtae]

“Is that the friend you just mentioned...?”

“Yes.”

Before Yeongwoo could finish his sentence, the name tag fluttered, and Yeongtae walked out, brushing aside the dust cloud with his hand.

Thud, thud!

His footsteps carried a weight not much lighter than Kim Taejoon’s.

And the figure that appeared shortly after was almost on par with Kim Taejoon.

Hong Yeongtae.

A giant humanoid with a height of 3 meters and the head of a hyena.

「Ha-ya...!」

As soon as Yeongtae set foot on the ground, he took a deep breath.

Having spent an eternity in the realm of returnees, this moment of calling felt truly dreamlike to him.

And then...

「Huh...? Kim Taejoon?」

He showed a surprised expression upon discovering a creature of the same height.

Because the opponent was a giant made of granite?

No.

Yeongtae also knew Kim Taejoon from VC Soft.

Another name for Yeongtae was BJ Pagle.

As a former notorious internet broadcaster, Yeongtae knew very well who Kim Taejoon, a figure synonymous with the gaming industry, was.

「Why is Kim Taejoon here?」

As Yeongtae asked this, he belatedly noticed Yeongwoo on the ground.

「Why are you always in a strange state.」

Yeongtae's line makes Jo Sangik imagine many things.

In response, Yeongwoo barely raised his upper body and asked his friend.

“I'm worried about it. Please stop him.”

The 'him' Yeongwoo pointed out was Kim Taejoon, who was throwing punches towards them.

Although still affected by the infliction of pain, he wasn't in a state where he couldn't fight at all.

Whoosh!

With a white trail, accompanied by a heavy sound of impact, Yeongtae grabbed Kim Taejoon's torso in a panic.

「No wait, what the fuck? Teacher, why are you doing this?」

As he turned his long snout towards Yeongwoo, he looked to confirm whether he was simply trying to stop this mutant or fighting with intent to kill.

“Can you win? It'll be troublesome if you kill him, because I want to recruit him if possible.”

As Yeongwoo made this request, Yeongtae chuckled with his characteristic sinister smile.

「Oh, a new friend candidate.」

Of course, it was just their hope.

Before Yeongtae's laughter could fully fade away, Kim Taejoon punched him in the snout.

Bam!

Then again.

Slam!

This time, an uppercut landed on Yeongtae's jaw.

「This...!」

Angry, Yeongtae growled and assumed a fighting stance with both arms, but the ensuing result was clear.

Bam!

Kim Taejoon's straight punch hit him right on target.

As the target of the attack switched from Yeongwoo to Yeongtae, Kim Taejoon's sensory values normalized.

「What kind of gamer kid fights this well?」

Bam!

Unlike Yeongtae, who swung his arms with brute force, Kim Taejoon, despite struggling with tremendous pain, landed accurate blows every time.

Wham!

“If you keep going like this, your friend will fall first.”

As Jo Sangik, armed with a curved sword, was about to join the fray.

Thud!

Yeongwoo, who had been barely sitting, reached out and retrieved the Underdog.



“When Kim Taejoon starts to notice me, help me out then.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

It was a story about intervening after the sensory deprivation kicked in, but Jo Sangik was too preoccupied with examining Yeongwoo’s now clean body to notice.

“What’s going on? You, no matter how you look at it, seem like a human...”

Before the follow-up remark that it didn’t seem so, Yeongwoo’s body sprang forward.

Thwack!

“Ugh!”

Although his body wasn’t fully recovered, there was a pain as if his whole body was twisting, but Yeongwoo had no choice but to endure it.

Because Kim Taejoon, who was still there attacking Yeongtae, was likely enduring even greater pain.

He didn’t want to lose to his opponent even in a mental sense.

“Mr. Kim Taejoon!”

As Yeongwoo called out his opponent’s name, Kim Taejoon, who was breaking Yeongtae’s jaw, turned his head with a surprised expression.

But it wasn’t because he was startled by Yeongwoo’s rapid recovery or the golden light flowing through his carotid artery.

Amidst all this, he was astonished by Jeong Yeongwoo’s absurd consistency in addressing his opponent with ‘Mr.’

Whether it was a stubborn concept or a habit.

「What a stubborn guy.」

As Kim Taejoon withdrew his hand from Yeongtae as if to finish the fight, a warning of golden light flashed in Yeongwoo’s vision.

「The sensory values have temporarily risen from the original 600 to 2,144.」

Kim Taejoon began to target Yeongwoo again.

And this meant...

“Yeongtae! We only have now!”

It meant Kim Taejoon’s senses were shattered.

Whoosh!

Eventually, as a granite fist flew towards Yeongwoo, the hologram of the Gyeongbuk Sword Law appeared.

This time, the guide was not a suicidal strategy but evasion followed by counterattack.

Unlike before, Kim Taejoon’s combat power had dropped significantly, so there was room for counterattack.

And indeed.

Thud!

As Yeongwoo dodged the fist and simultaneously Yeongtae’s claws pierced Kim Taejoon’s waist.

Crunch!

「...Ugh.」

Kim Taejoon, who received Yeongtae’s first effective blow, groaned.

Not because of the pain, but because he realized that this hyena’s attack could damage his granite outer shell.

「What’s this? Surprisingly effective?」

Was it because they were both mutants?

The granite outer shell, which could withstand most weapons, was pierced by Yeongtae’s nails as if it were paper.

And then came Yeongwoo’s counterattack.

Whoosh!

As he slashed Kim Taejoon’s thick forearm with the Underdog, a shallow but bleeding wound appeared, with fragments flying out.

“...!”

Therefore, if a few more strikes were to be made, it might be possible to see inside Kim Taejoon's tough shell.

「Th-this can't be. Why...?」

Kim Taejoon's conclusion wasn't much different, as terror crept onto his face.

If things continued like this, not only would he be unable to confirm the life or death of his family, but since the reset began, he would only suffer unilateral attacks and eventually perish.

「What the...! What did I even do?」

As the assurance of power vanished, rage filled the void left behind.

Finally, he became a true mutant in every sense.

Nevertheless, the Gyeongbuk Sword Law recognized the opponent as human and scattered hologram guides.

Whoosh!

A granite fist tore through the air fiercely.

As Yeongwoo dodged according to the hologram, Yeongtae dashed forward like lightning and bit into Kim Taejoon's forearm.

Crunch!

Like his claws, the teeth deeply embedded in Kim Taejoon's body brought out a pile of granite chunks.

Then, for the first time from Kim Taejoon's body, something other than a whitish rock emerged.

It was...

Sizzle!

A white vapor.

No, it looked like steam.

“Huh?”

「Ah!」

As white steam spewed from the torn arm, Kim Taejoon's energy, which had been raging as if to destroy the world, quickly dwindled.

Thunk!

He was even unknowingly about to break into a cold sweat.

This was probably...

“Blood? Is this the power source?”

Even though the outer shell was so solid, it was only made up of such gas inside...

Despite not knowing what it was, if all of it were to be released, it seemed certain that Kim Taejoon would also perish.

「Why, why is this happening?」

Yeongtae belatedly covered Kim Taejoon's forearm with his hand, but was unable to completely stop the steam from escaping.

“Mr. Taejoon!”

Yeongwoo dropped his sword to the floor and approached Kim Taejoon, his granite facial muscles contorting.

「Stop saying that. You didn't even know me.」

He did not attack Yeongwoo with his other arm.

As Yeongwoo first said, it was because he knew that the game was lost.

「Was I really just a raid monster...? Why is the world like this? Aren't you the ones who deserve the punishment?」

As white steam began to billow from the torn arm, Kim Taejoon muttered to himself.

In response, Yeongwoo, while looking at the nearly destroyed arm of his opponent, said:

“I'm not sure if it's enough punishment, but everyone is living in a terrible world. Mr. Taejoon... including your family.”

「This bastard...」

As Kim Taejoon was about to rage again at the mention of family, Yeongwoo took out a fountain pen, 'Wanted Poster,' from his pocket and raised it.

“With this, I can find anyone you want. But, only if they’re alive.”

It meant that he had the ability to find the Kim Taejoon’s family he so desired.

Their life or death status included.

At this, Kim Taejoon’s boiling voice somewhat subsided.

「So, are you asking me to enter that conch shell, like that guy?」

As Kim Taejoon said this, looking at Yeongtae, the latter smiled with his elongated jaw.

“Yes. That’s one of the few options left for Mr. Chairman.”

As Yeongwoo said, Kim Taejoon didn’t have many options left.

Either perish as he was or become Yeongwoo’s ‘friend’ to at least maintain existence for the time being.

“...”

Sizzle!

Even in the midst of this, Kim Taejoon’s life was rapidly fading away, and eventually, his granite palm began to emit a blue light.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The source of this content is free(w)ebnovel

## Chapter 85

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 85: Stubborn (4)

「In the end, it seems my life’s conclusion is a bad ending.」

Said Kim Taejoon, raising the return button with a bewildered expression.

In reality, tragedy was inevitable from the moment his name was put forward as a candidate for elimination after the first screening vote.

Even if he had killed the two Strongest Swords here and gone to find his family, there wouldn't have been a happy ending waiting for him.

However, it wasn't the worst-case scenario just yet.

"You still don't know the ending. It's only the third day of the reset, and you're still alive."

Said Yeongwoo, causing Kim Taejoon to give a bitter smile.

「You speak so easily. It's easy for you because it's someone else's problem.」

Kim Taejoon replied, as if urging to quickly finish the task, he clapped his hand where the exit icon was displayed.

In response, Yeongwoo bowed deeply to Kim Taejoon.

"If there's good news, I'll be sure to deliver it."

Good news.

At least to Yeongwoo, it had an ambiguous meaning.

The promise to inform Kim Taejoon when he found his family, and...

'Somewhere out there, isn't there an item to turn friends back into humans? Somewhere in this universe.'

Of course, it was only Yeongwoo's wishful thinking.

That's why he couldn't voice it out of fear of false hope.

"Please take care, chairman."

Eventually, Yeongwoo shook hands with Kim Taejoon.

Thunk!

Suddenly, a blue light flashed, and Kim Taejoon's imposing figure began to fade.

Sssss!

Kim Taejoon, the chairman of VC Soft and the third-day mutant of Gwanak-gu, was being incorporated into Yeongwoo's friend.

「Ah...!」

Then, Youngtae's body also became faint following Kim Taejoon.

His summoning time had also expired.

「Let's definitely meet again.」

Youngtae said, his voice filled with regret, and then...

Sshreek.

They disappeared without a trace.

“Ah... this is really...”

Jo Sangik looked at the spot where Kim Taejoon and Youngtae had been with eyes full of emotion.

There are no words to express it, but it was because they were the same person.

He, too, had come to regard mutants as humans.

However, the time for sentimentalism was brief, as a golden sphere appeared on the ground, indicating the disposal of the mutants.

Pfft!

「The mutant has been defeated.」

「Select a reward to complete the process.」

Followed by the appearing guidance message.

For Yeongwoo, this was the fifth time facing the sphere.

So, choosing to spread Karma again would mean achieving the 'Golden Flood' achievement.

Swish.

As Yeongwoo silently looked at Jo Sangik, he gave a typical bureaucratic smile and stepped back.

“As agreed, the choice is yours, Mr. Yeongwoo.”

Of course, there was no clear agreement between the two on the binary choice.

Therefore, it was just a natural agreement through the battle with Kim Taejoon.

Jo Sangik voluntarily conceded.

“Thank you.”

Yeongwoo also bowed to Jo Sangik, then raised his hand towards the spinning golden sphere in the air.

Thump.

As the sphere spun faster, it revealed the disposal reward.

<

>

「Rock Guardian」 – Mutation Gem

【Slot: Reduces all physical damage】

<

>

[3 million Karma]

Or

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

‘Finally.’

Yeongwoo ended up facing the binary choice even in Seoul after all the twists and turns.

[Golden Flood]

[Call for golden rain in five or more areas. (4/5)]

After briefly reviewing his achievement history, Yeongwoo focused on the spinning golden sphere and spoke.



“Deputy Minister.”

“Yes.”

“Has there ever been golden rain in Seoul?”

“Golden...? I didn’t catch that properly. Could you repeat it?”

Judging from Jo Sangik’s reaction, he seemed to be hearing about golden rain for the first time, let alone seeing it.

While he knew there was an option to spread Karma, he didn’t know in what form it would be spread.

“Well, then you can take a look now. This is the method you were curious about earlier, how I became the Strongest Sword of Gyeongbuk.”

With that, Yeongwoo ended the binary choice.

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

Then, the sphere began to vibrate and suddenly soared into the sky.

Swoosh!

The sphere moved so fast, leaving a golden trail behind, that from below, it seemed as if a long golden streak was drawn across the skies of Gwanak-gu.

“Wow...”

Jo Sangik’s mouth hung open in disbelief at the unexpected performance.

Until now, whenever he had chosen the ‘Exclusive 3 Million Karma,’ the sphere had simply melted away into the air.

‘So, this was the right choice.’

Jo Sangik swallowed hard, watching the sphere soar even into the far corners of his vision.

And then, with a bang!

“Huh.”

His pupils were immediately tinted with gold.

The sphere exploding as it reached the sky's edge filled the entire sky with a golden hue.

“Wow...!”

52-year-old Jo Sangik exclaimed like a child.

It was perhaps inevitable for him to witness a scene so beautiful for the first time since the reset.

Moreover, it was just beginning.

From the point of the sphere's explosion, a wide expanse of golden rain began to fall towards the ground.

Ssshhhh...!

The sound of the golden droplets falling was like rain, and the sight was indeed reminiscent of actual rainfall.

“Golden... Golden rain. So this was what it meant.”

Jo Sangik finally understood what Yeongwoo had pronounced earlier.

And the fact that there had never been golden rain in Seoul.

If there had been even a single instance of golden rain in any area, it would have undoubtedly been discussed at the Strongest Sword assembly.

And that meant...

‘...Ah.’

Everyone in the adjacent areas must be witnessing the golden rain falling over Gwanak-gu.

So, undoubtedly, it would be a topic of discussion at the Strongest Sword assembly scheduled for 3 p.m. today.

For a moment, a shadow appeared on Jo Sangik's face, but the events that followed took away his attention.

《Gyeongbuk First Sword ‘Jeong Yeongwoo07’ gave up his monopoly on 3 million karma and gifted 30,000 karma to all Gwanak residents.》

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

《Prepare for the distribution of 30,000 Karma commemorative coins shortly.》

“Commemorative coins?”

As Jo Sangik muttered in astonishment, Yeongwoo turned to him and said,

“Grab them quickly since they appear in an instant.”

“What’s that supposed to...”

Before Jo Sangik could finish his sentence, a clinking sound came from above his head.

And then...

Pfft!

Three coins, truly shining with a golden hue, appeared in mid-air.

“Huh.”

Though still inexperienced, Jo Sangik was a Strongest Sword with a total stat of thousands.

So, even though surprised, catching three suddenly dropped coins was quite an easy task for him.

Thunk!

Snatching the coins with lightning speed, Jo Sangik spread his hand to reveal the face of Jeong Yeongwoo<sup>07</sup> engraved on the coins.

“No... How is this possible?”

“Well, if mutants and Strongest Swords are possible, why not this?”

After a quick glance at the commemorative coins in his hand, Yeongwoo tossed them into the air behind him.

Swoosh!

Instantly, from across the street where the Negwig was parked, another golden object shot out like a bullet.

Thunk!

It was none other than a relic-grade slave golden goblin.

“ ... ”

Seeing the goblin take the coins, Jo Sangik didn't even feel the need to question what it was.

Now, Yeongwoo seemed almost otherworldly to him.

And, to a large extent, it wasn't far from the truth.

Pfft!

[Quest Complete – “Strong Tiger's Early Appearance”]

[Reward Given]

|5 million Karma

As Yeongwoo had expected, the quest system, which deemed mutants as targets with a total stat of over 3,000, completed the mission handed down by the dogo.

And, as promised.

Zoom!

“Huh?”

A sound came from the sky.

Zzziiiiing!

A tiny bolt suddenly jolted with terrifying force.

“Whoa.”

“What the...”

Thinking it was another attack, both Strongest Swords panicked.

But, as the unidentified bolt stopped near them, they realized there was no need for alarm.

“What... What is this?”

Unable to resist, Jo Sangik threw the question at Yeongwoo.

In response, Yeongwoo approached the problematic bolt.

Zzzzzz...

Now emitting a soft buzzing sound, the object, spinning at about 1.5 meters above ground level, was...

‘...A card?’

It was a rectangular card about the size of a palm.

So, it was a credit card from the human world.

Yeongwoo briefly looked at where the object had come from across the sky before picking up the mysterious card.

Tap!

Then, the number 5,000,000 appeared faintly on the card made of black metal.

“...5 million.”

“5 million? What does that mean?”

“It’s Karma.”

This card was a completion reward for a quest given by the extraterrestrial weapon supply company Dogo.

Perhaps even this remarkable flying card was a form of product placement.

Yeongwoo quickly scanned his surroundings and tucked the card into his pocket.

Having dealt with the mutants in the area, merchants would likely appear soon.

Therefore, after checking the merchandise, he planned to decide how to use the 5 million.

“Now, what’s left...”

As Yeongwoo murmured, Jo Sangik’s eyes widened.

“What else could there be...?”

From dealing with mutants to summoning ‘friends’ and even performing at the level of golden rain from the sky.

They had even seen a card coming from beyond the sky.

What else could there be?

“There’s one thing left, the most important thing. But, there won’t be any more surprises.”

Saying this, Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to the flashing alarm message in front of him.

[Achievement Unlocked: Golden Flood]

|Achievement Grade: Legendary

|Achievement Rank: First

「The recommended achievement list has been updated.」

「There is 1 unclaimed achievement reward.」

Finally, Yeongwoo had achieved the main achievement that had led him to traverse various areas.

The so-called Golden Rain Route.

The first reward was the ‘Golden Flash,’ a sensory deprivation ability, and the second reward was the ‘Golden Punishment,’ which was almost equivalent to asymmetric warfare and inflicting severe pain.

Then, what about the third?

Looking at the golden equipment on his arm, Yeongwoo spoke.

“Claim reward.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

## **Chapter 86**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 86: Stubborn (5)

As Yeongwoo accepted the compensation, his upper body immediately began to glow brightly.

Crack!

“What?”

Jo Sangik, who had been watching over him, was surprised to the point of astonishment, and then something was seen being put on Yeongwoo’s upper body.

Click!

It was none other than a golden armor.

The third reward item of the Golden Ratio Route was a chest plate.

「Golden Oath」 - Legendary Breastplate

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

【Accumulated Golden Ratio: 5】

\*‘Golden Flood’ bonus.

‘Attack power...? It’s neither power nor strength, so what is attack power?’

The item tooltips in this world are never written in vain.

For example, the tooltip for Underdog is ‘Increases power by 25% against targets larger than the user.’

Therefore, if the Golden Oath simply reduced the destructive power of the opponent’s attacks, the expression ‘power’ would have been used.

‘Then does attack power have a more complex meaning?’

Even if it was purely a decrease in power, it was clearly an equipment with an unreasonable option.

‘It’s completely defensive equipment. When I take the initiative, it’s as good as useless.’

Perhaps it was a perfect effect for those walking the Golden Ratio Route.

In a world where all powerful people are choosing to monopolize 3 million people, wouldn’t it be a perfect move to attract hate to go around spreading karma alone?

“Deputy Minister, is there any kind of hierarchy among the Strongest Swords who attend the meeting?”

“Yes?”

Jo Sangik made a puzzled expression at the sudden question.

But he still gave an answer.

“If I were to say that there is no hierarchy at all, it would be a lie... However, since they have never directly competed with each other, I can only say that there is an implicit hierarchy.”

“Then, where does the Deputy Minister’s hierarchy lie? I know it’s a rude question, but I’m asking because I need to know.”

“.....”

Jo Sangik hesitated for a moment at Yeongwoo’s question.

Then he glanced briefly to the north, in the direction of Yongsan Park.

“Well, it would be around the middle, wouldn’t it?”

It was a very defensive answer.

‘But that means he’s not at the bottom.’

Yeongwoo thought.

Since Jo Sangik had said he hadn’t seen the Golden Ratio before, he must have chosen only the 3 million karma monopoly for the past two days.

Therefore, the total karma he possessed was at least 6 million.

Converted to ability points, it would be 6,000 points.

‘Judging by the fact that there are no particularly conspicuous items other than the curved sword, it seems that he invested most of his karma in ability points....’

By simple calculation, Jo Sangik’s expected average ability value was approximately 1,500.

It is a whopping 300 higher than his strength, which is the highest among Yeongwoo’s four major abilities.



『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo 07』

[Strength] 1,200 (19+1,181)

[Endurance] 850 (21+829)

[Durability] 1,050 (13+1,037)

[Sense] 600 (24+576)

In other words, if you compare it with other abilities, the difference will be much wider.

Yeongwoo, who had thought this far, nodded his head and stood to look directly at Jo Sangik.

“Then would you like to try attacking me?”

“... “What do you mean?”

“It is the same as I said. Attack me with the intention of killing me. Just once.”

“Is it because of the armor’s abilities?”

Indeed, Jo Sangik was sharp as always.

Upon this, Yeongwoo nodded again.

“Yes, that’s correct. But I won’t die with just one blow.”

Even if I imagine the worst-case scenario where my body might be torn about, it’ll be just about bearable.

Of course, it would be incredibly painful, but once that time passes, I can get back up again.

‘I need to properly understand what abilities this equipment I obtained this time has.’

Eventually, after mentally preparing himself, when Yeongwoo signaled with his eyes, Jo Sangik raised the sword with a solemn expression.

“Are you really okay...? I might not have been much help in the fight against the mutant, but things could be different in individual combat. Don’t forget who I am.”

It meant not to overlook the fact that the person who would soon be facing them with a sword was the Strongest Sword.

“Yes. I’ve considered it thoroughly. Let’s begin.”

With Yeongwoo’s repeated approval, Jo Sangik also nodded.

And then.

Swish!

He truly swung the sword.

Swish!

「Your sensory value has temporarily increased from the original 600 to 1,360.」

“...!”

The sensory value of Jo Sangik that Yeongwoo confirmed through sensory deprivation was about 1,400.

Truly the Strongest Sword of Seoul.

However.

‘What...?’

But when he actually saw his attack, it was incredibly slow.

It seemed like it could be blocked even without the help of Gyeongbuk Sword Law.

Could it be this slow after being subjected to sensory deprivation?

And wasn’t the speed of an attack originally within the realm of strength?

But this wasn’t a speed that could come from a strength of over 1,500.

Blame.

Eventually, when Yeongwoo dodged the dodge with simple movements, Jo Sangik’s long scroll cut through the empty space.

Swish!

“...Huh?”

Just like Yeongwoo, Jo Sangik felt something was off.

Upon this, Yeongwoo requested again.

“One more time. This time, with the intent to truly kill.”

“Yes.”

A sharp killing intent flickered in Jo Sangik’s eyes, with his subtly wounded pride, and this time, his blade cut through the air without warning.

Swish!

It was a diagonal slash harder to dodge than a straight cut.

He was really serious about it.

However.

‘Still slow.’

Even this time, Jo Sangik’s attack felt incredibly slow.

‘It’s not just reducing power, it’s reducing attack ability.’

Yeongwoo, who deduced this much, immediately swung the Black Sword to parry Jo Sangik’s blade.

Clang!

Then, something unexpected happened even to Yeongwoo.

“Ugh...!”

Jo Sangik’s expression contorted in pain as he held the sword.

“Are you alright?”

As Yeongwoo approached in surprise, Jo Sangik touched his own wrist and spoke.

“Oh, it’s nothing. I guess I was a bit careless because I didn’t expect it to be this strong. My wrist feels a bit numb.”

“You’re strong?”

Yeongwoo started to ask, but soon closed his mouth.

Even if he didn't reveal it to Jo Sangik, his strength value was supposed to be significantly lower than Jo Sangik's.

And even if he was careless, once you let go of the weapon, it was gone.

There wouldn't be any burden on his wrist.

Therefore, what this result meant was...

'My strength didn't increase. For a moment, the Deputy Minister's strength and durability decreased.'

【Reduces enemy attack power by 50%.】

Yeongwoo finally seemed to understand what this tooltip meant.

'All abilities used for attack.'

[PR/N: HOLY.]

From the strength used to wield the weapon, the endurance to support this strength with the body, and even the senses for accuracy and stamina to be used in small amounts.

It was an effect that shattered all the abilities that composed an attack.

'This is truly an unreasonable item. At least in terms of defense...'

Not only Jo Sangik but also any other Strongest Swords in Seoul would be unable to withstand it.

'Some may have already defeated mutants, so they're much stronger than Deputy Minister Jo Sangik, but now I have 5 million too. I can match their level.'

Just as Yeongwoo was about to touch the card containing a large sum of money in his pocket, all of Yeongwoo's ability scores began to increase by 100 each.

「Your strength value has increased from the original 1,200 to 1,300.」

「Your stamina value has increased from the original 850 to 950.」

「Your endurance value has increased from the original 1,050 to 1,150.」

「Your sensory value has increased from the original 600 to 700.」

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Yeongwoo's completion of the Golden Flood achievement synchronized with the achievement window, raising all his ability scores by 100, thanks to the Epic ring.

'Oh my, I wasn't even thinking about it.'

As Yeongwoo belatedly opened the achievement window, he noticed that the completed achievement count had increased from 5 to 6.

[Your achievement tendency is "Stubborn."]

||Completed achievements: 6

'It's still stubborn.'

Yeongwoo chuckled as he looked at his achievement tendency.

It reminded him of the first Golden Ratio incident, where the system determined his tendency as "Stubborn."

'I wonder how Yechan is doing.'

As he recalled the first Golden Ratio, Yechan, who was sitting next to him at the time, naturally came to mind.

So, he briefly considered using his fountain pen to check his location, but soon gave up on the idea.

There was a much more pressing issue at hand.

'Now that I've completed the Golden Flood, a new achievement should have been added.'

The recommended achievement list had a maximum of 4 slots, and one of them needed to be completed to reveal a new achievement.

Therefore, now that the Golden Flood had been completed, a new recommended achievement should have appeared.

'It's highly likely to be related to the Golden Ratio route... Could the next one be 'Golden Rain in 10 regions'?''

Because he had already started walking the Golden Ratio route, it would be awkward if an entirely different type of achievement appeared.

‘Well, let’s take a look for now.’

The final task of this mutant battle.

With half anticipation and half worry, Yeongwoo unfolded the recommended achievements.

Swish!

[Nocturnal]

|Spend a night outside of your place of residence.

[Jeweler’s Touch]

|Wear two rings of hero grade or higher on your index and ring fingers each. (3/4)

[Complete Orphan]

|Find and eliminate your parents. (1/2)

[Golden Journey]

|Summon the Golden Flood in the next area.

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

\* \* \*

Thunk.

...

...

Thunk!

...

Thud, thunk!

‘Who on earth is making all this noise?’

Taejoon frowned in his sleep, then abruptly woke up, startled.

“Huh!”

Suddenly, an eerily white ceiling came into view, almost giving him chills.

“Wh-what?”

Instinctively, he sat up and reached out to touch the floor, only to realize that the texture of the ground felt strange.

“Ugh!”

To his surprise, just like the ceiling, the floor was made of an unidentified white material.

And not only that. The walls surrounding him and the modest door attached to one side of the wall...

‘T-There’s a door!’

As soon as Taejoon realized that there was a doorknob in this strange space, he instinctively ran towards it.

Thunk!

Since it was only about 10 square meters, it only took a few steps to reach the doorknob.

Thump!

Soon, the doorknob was in his hand.

Without hesitation, Taejoon pulled the doorknob, opening the entrance buried in the white wall.

Swish!

But before he could step outside, he stumbled back into place, landing on his backside.

“Oof...?”

Because, even outside the door, it was still an entirely white space.

Moreover, unlike the room with walls and a ceiling, there were no walls or ceilings outside, making it seem like an infinite space.

There was simply an endless expanse of bright white background.

Because of this, there was no way to gauge up or down, making it impossible to tell whether what he was looking at was the floor or empty space.

“W-What the...? Where is this?”

It wasn't until after Taejoon had crouched outside his room that he noticed another man sitting outside.

“Ah!”

As Taejoon saw the man and let out another scream, the man's face lit up with what seemed like genuine joy.

“Hyung! I've been waiting for so long, for real!”

“...Huh?”

“It's me! It's me! Can't you recognize me?”

The man had a mischievous expression, looking like he was in his early twenties at most.

He was wearing something that looked like white pajamas, which seemed incredibly odd.

“.....”

Taejoon blinked for a moment, then involuntarily shut his mouth.

“No way.”

“You seem to have guessed it right.”

“Are you... that creature from before?”

Due to his lack of composure, Taejoon referred to him as a “creature” instead of by his name, but the other person didn't seem to mind at all.

“Yes, that's right! I'm Hong Yeongtae!”

Hong Yeongtae.

He was a friend... no, a captive of Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword, Jeong Yeongwoo07.

So, this place is...

“Oh, crap.”

Taejoon muttered under his breath.



He had simply thought it was a long dream.

“This is that prison.”

As Taejoon said this, Yeongtae sniffed and forced a smile.

“It’s not that bad now that you’re here, Hyung. There was nothing like this before you came.”

Yeongtae pronounced “like this” as he gestured to the endless space outside the room with his hand.

“That... wasn’t here before?”

“Yes. Until you came, there was only my room here.”

“...”

His room, he said. So does that mean there’s another room like this?

Taejoon felt like he was about to get dizzy.

“Come out quickly, Hyung! There’s nothing there anyway.”

Yeongtae waved his hand eagerly, calling out to Taejoon.

After hesitating for a while, Taejoon finally stretched his foot out of the room.

Then.

In the distance to the left, he could see another square white building.

And Yeongtae, jumping with joy, was already running towards it.

“What... what’s in that room...?”

As Taejoon looked around the still dark white space, he asked, and Yeongtae, now much further away, answered in a voice louder than before.

“There’s an hourglass!”

“An hourglass...?”

“There’s also a menu board!”

“.....?”

“Next, I’m going to save up money to buy a TV!”

Yeongtae’s voice sounded even further away.

But the word “TV” clearly reached Taejoon’s ears.

“A TV? There’s a television here?”

As Taejoon asked this, Yeongtae was already jumping into his room.

“.....”

So, in the end, Taejoon...

Clang!

...started chasing after Yeongtae.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 87**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 87: Wave (1)

What is a mutant?

Superficially, it was obviously a monster.

Because it had the power to crush any human being with just one finger.

Moreover, it generally harbors hostility towards the world.

Why?

Because the masses that make up this world killed them.

An anonymous unilateral attack carried out under the guise of annihilation voting.

So Hyunsik didn't think the return of the mutants was an attack on this world.

If you really had to define it.

‘...it's more like a counterattack.’

Those killed by the masses come back and kill the masses.

It was truly a terrible world, but Hyunsik could accept it.

‘We brought this upon ourselves. Did we think we could get away with killing people like that?’

And above all.

Ku-woong!

Hyunsik was strong.

To the point where nothing in this world felt like a threat.

In fact, this was the decisive reason why Hyunsik was persuaded to accept the “reset”.

At least he was still the protagonist of this world.

Just like before the reset happened.

“Tsk.”

Hyunsik clicked his tongue and looked down at the huge creature beneath him.

About 3.5 meters tall.

Thick arms and legs reminiscent of logs, covered with sharp scales.

What Hyunsik was looking down at now was Pastor Kim Wongil, who had manifested himself as Lizard Man in Gangnam-gu.

“Pastor, since we're here, let me ask you something. Is there really a God?”

As Hyunsik kicked Kim Wongil's neck with his foot, Wongil's long snout, which stretched far away, weakly opened.

「...Now that I think about it, this is hell. Just stop it.」

Although Kim Wongil spat out a seemingly desperate line, Hyunsik paid no attention and stepped on the opponent's forehead.

Squelch.

「Ugh, aah!」

“I asked you, do you think there's a real God? Do you still believe that?”

Hyunsik growled as he exposed it.

Jeong Hyunsik, 52 years old.

Currently the Strongest Sword in Gangnam.

At the same time, he was also a former second-generation chaebol.

He was the youngest son of the founder of Taewon Group, the third largest conglomerate in Korea.

The reason Hyunsik didn't run for the extinction vote after the reset was purely because he had no external exposure.

While his older brother and sister each managed the group and its flagship subsidiaries, Hyunsik was merely a director at Taewon's smallest subsidiary.

Thanks to this, he was able to avoid trouble just by blocking a dozen or so lives in “individual filtration”.

“My brother and sister, who were big shots, became dragons. But what about you, huh? You're just a lizard. What happened to you?”

Pwack!

As Hyunsik kicked Kim Wongil's waist hard, there was no response this time.

“Oh, is he already dead?”

It was natural for his death to be formalized after completely overpowering his opponent and beating him for a long time.

Shwaaat!

Finally, as Kim Wongil's body disappeared cleanly, his death was formalized.

Pastor Kim Wongil of Gangnam's large church “Purem” has passed away.

“.....”

Of course, Hyunsik didn't have any strong emotions towards Kim Wongil, or anything like that.

No, it was rather the opposite.

Whenever Purem Church conducted large projects, Taewon Group had been allocating huge advertising expenses under the guise of donations and offerings.

In other words, the two “organizations” had a business relationship.

But still, since the other party was fundamentally a religious figure, Hyunsik had expected at least something.

“It's all nonsense.”

Thinking about how Kim Wongil, as soon as he arrived on this land, had sought out people to tear apart, Hyunsik spat on the spot where he had been.

Pfft!

Suddenly, a golden sphere appeared there.

「You have defeated the mutant.」

「Please select your reward to complete the procedure.」

“Hmm.”

Without hesitation, it's the 3 million monopoly.

As Hyunsik chose to receive the payment, the golden sphere disappeared into thin air.

And around that time.

Vroommmm...!

The sound of a vehicle engine could be heard from afar.

‘What's this?’

The current time, 1:14 PM.

Just a moment ago, as this place was being illuminated by the mutant marker, so any sane Gangnam resident couldn't be here.

Ordinary people would be scared of mutants, and if they were armed thugs, they would be scared of the Strongest Sword.

That is to say.

‘Is it an outsider?’

Sometimes there were inspectors from rural areas who entered through strange roads without going through checkpoints.

Vroommmm...

Eventually, the problematic vehicle entered Hyunsik’s field of view and began to slow down.

They had also spotted Gangnam’s Strongest Sword.

A gray Avante.

It seemed like a modest car compared to the cars driven by experts from other regions, so Hyunsik chuckled.

Thunk.

The driver’s seat door of the Avante, which had completely slowed down, opened.

And what came out of it was...

‘Huh? Where have I seen this face before?’

It was a face even Hyunsik knew.

Of course, by Hyunsik’s standards, he was a minor character, so he didn’t know his name or status.

“Um... Director.”

Suddenly, the man who came out of the car cautiously walked about 10 meters towards them.

“.....”

He looked to be in his mid-thirties.

Seeing his hand trembling slightly, Hyunsik was suddenly engulfed by a ominous premonition.

Referring to this side as Director instead of the Strongest Sword meant that he was either an employee of Taewon Group or one of the people who had bid for the Gangnam-gu monster business rights.

But if he was the one who won the Gangnam-gu monster business rights, he should have been more familiar than this.

‘If he’s neither someone who catches monsters in Gangnam nor our employee...’

In that case, the remaining possibility is that he belongs to Gangnam-gu but hasn’t secured the monster business rights.

In other words, he’s likely a thug who goes down to Gyeonggi Province to make money.

And among them, there’s also Jeong Gysang, who has proclaimed his independence while maintaining his family’s dignity.

“How did you come here?”

As Hyunsik was about to step forward to greet him, the man was startled and waved his hands.

“Oh, no! Um, I mean...”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The man stopped about 5 meters away from Hyunsik.

Then.

\*Thud!\*

Suddenly, he fell flat on the ground, banging his forehead against the floor.

‘Oh, no way.’

Seeing the man’s behavior, Hyunsik unconsciously clenched his teeth.

He expected what the man would say next.

Did his son challenge the mutants to a fight?

If not, the monster might have been particularly strong that day.

Due to his stubborn personality, he might have clashed with outsiders and gotten into a fight.

Of course, all of this could just be speculation.

But if it wasn't any of these, why would an unknown extra suddenly appear and bang his head on the ground without even being prompted?

"I asked how you got here?"

Hyunsik's voice trembled slightly this time.

Still lying on the ground with his forehead pressed against it, Lee Jangho<sup>73</sup>, replied to Gangnam's Strongest Sword.

"Your son's gone. And I... am the only witness."

Jangho, who feared the wrath of Executive Director Jeong, or rather the Strongest sword of Gangnam, stated as clearly as possible that he was the 'only' witness.

He thought the enraged Strongest Sword could kill a person with just his breath.

However, contrary to Jang Ho's expectations, the Strongest Sword didn't go mad.

Instead, he immediately asked about his son's whereabouts.

"Where is my son now?"

\* \* \*

1:31 PM, Gwanak-gu.

Yeongwoo was staring at the air beyond the intersection.

It was because a black light pillar representing the location of the merchant had finally been shot down.

Since it would be after 8 PM, when lodging services and abnormal weather notices appeared, it was essentially the end of the main event.

"Now, would you like to meet the merchant?"

Jo Sangik asked as he followed Yeongwoo, looking at the merchant's mark.

In response, Yeongwoo shifted his gaze to Jo Sangik.



“Since you are the Strongest Sword in this area... the merchant’s priority is with the you. Of course, if you permit, I would like to meet him.”

In fact, this was also a statement made because the new equipment wasn’t urgent.

Since he had obtained armor that could tear apart the opponent’s attack power, for a while, the efficiency of pure power would be much higher.

“Well, I’m not rich right now, so I don’t think meeting the merchant right away would be meaningful.”

Jo Sangik joked half-seriously.

It was a reminder of how his 3 million, which he thought he would get because of Yeongwoo’s golden rain in the area, had evaporated.

“If you go back to school and explain the situation, they’ll probably gather karma and give it to you. Anyway, if Gwanak-gu is going to voice its opinion at the meeting and continue to deal with mutants, they need a strong Strongest Sword.”

Then Jo Sangik’s eyes fell on the magnificent armor Yeongwoo was wearing.

“By the way, what are you going to do in the future, Mr. Yeongwoo? Are you going to roam around Seoul and sprinkle golden rain?”

Jeong Yeongwoo is a very noticeable figure.

And there will definitely be a request for clarification on the ‘Golden Rain Witness’ during the meeting scheduled for 3 p.m. today.

So, Jo Sangik wanted to bring Yeongwoo to the meeting as much as possible.

That way, they wouldn’t get caught up in any future disputes that might arise.

“ ... ”

On the other hand, Yeongwoo couldn’t easily speak up.

He knew that Jo Sangik wasn’t a bad person, but he didn’t trust him enough to confide in him. And above all else...

[Golden Journey]

| Call for Golden Rain in the next area.

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

Because of the fourth Golden Rain achievement, his mind was in turmoil.

'Foreign area... Does that mean places like China or Japan? If North Korea counts as foreign, I could give it a try.'

Regardless of whether it was a foreign judgement or not, the important thing was that the achievement system was considering mutant elimination in foreign areas.

The existence of such achievements meant that the country's Strongest Swords could also fight overseas.

'What does this mean...'

Yeongwoo blinked, then decided to stop dwelling on meaningless thoughts.

After all, there was still work to be done in Seoul.

"If you allow me, I should meet the merchant here first. And as agreed, we should also look for Kim Taejoon's family."

And he also had to find his own father, although he didn't mention it explicitly.

"Oh, right. That's a good idea."

Sangik nodded approvingly at Yeongwoo's suggestion.

"To find Kim Taejoon's family, it would be best to seek assistance from the government."

This was essentially a suggestion for them to attend the meeting.

"That's..."

As Yeongwoo was about to cautiously bring up the issue with Gangnam's Strongest Sword, Sangik's expression suddenly changed.

"Um?"

Sangik, who had been smiling comfortably, glanced into the air for a moment before his expression hardened.

Then, with surprised eyes, he looked at Yeongwoo and said in a trembling voice.

"Are, are you...?"

"What's that about..."

Yeongwoo wondered as he asked, but he somehow knew why.

Even though he didn't know the exact form it took, Sangik had received some kind of intelligence.

For example...

"It's been reported that the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword was found decapitated. Near the expressway in Bundang."

"I see."

Seeing no signs of surprise from Yeongwoo about the decapitation news, Sangik shut his mouth.

"Tha no way...."

"Like you said, some gangsters stopped us near Bundang, so I killed them."

"You mean all 14 people?"

"I think that's about it."

"Then, what about the body? It must have been lying there with its head cut off. Could it be that you left it there?"

"After killing the monster, do you hold the funeral?"

This meant that Yeongwoo had left the bodies of 14 people, including the decapitated son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword, on the roadside.

"Crazy..."

Sangik paused for a moment, unable to utter the word 'bastard' before taking a breath.

Because now he had to say something really important.

"We're screwed. Gangnam's Strongest Sword is running wild right now. Since he said he saw his son's body... there's nothing we can do."

"But why 'we'? It's strictly my affair."

As Yeongwoo questioned, Sangik almost got angry, but managed to calm himself down.

"A little while ago, you sprayed Golden Rain in Gwanak-gu. Fuck, everyone must have seen it."

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 88**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 88: Wave (2)

Golden Rain.

It was a kind of parade that could only be seen if the one who defeated the mutant gave up three million monopolies and decided to give thirty thousand karma to everyone.

Of course, no one in Seoul had ever called the golden rain before, and even on a nationwide scale, it was not common.

So, Jo Sangik couldn't help but be impressed by the golden rain that fell in Gwanak-gu.

From the conditions for the appearance of the golden rain to the actual scene of rain, it was like honey rain in this hell-like world.

Is this what they call a miracle?

But the impression he felt at the time was fleeting.

Now, to Jo Sangik, the golden rain was synonymous with disaster.

"Why did the golden rain appear only in Gwanak-gu on the day the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword died... It wouldn't seem strange to anyone, would it?"

When Jo Sangik said this with a pale face, Yeongwoo asked.

"So, what happens now?"

"The Seoul Alliance will demand an explanation from me for this incident. What is the identity of the golden rain, who brought it, and whether that person brutally murdered Jeong Hyunsik's son."

"Then why don't you just tell the truth? I, an outsider, defeated the mutant without permission and called the golden rain."

“.....”

At Yeongwoo's words, Jo Sangik let out a deep sigh.

“Then how am I still alive?”

“...Pardon?”

“An outsider who killed fourteen young men he encountered on the street came up to Gwanak-gu and took away the mutant, so how can Gwanak's Strongest Sword be alive?”

“That's... at that time, in conversation...”

Yeongwoo, who was about to continue speaking straightforwardly, could only shut his mouth.

“It doesn't make sense when you say it like this.”

That's right.

From the perspective of a third party, it was a completely unconvincing story.

An outsider who boldly killed even the son of Gangnam's Strongest Sword didn't touch Gwanak's Strongest Sword?

Moreover, Gwanak's Strongest Sword just watched quietly as the outsider who suddenly appeared killed the mutant...?

‘I wouldn't have believed it myself.’

As Yeongwoo seemed to understand the situation, Jo Sangik finished his words.

“In Jeong Hyunsik's eyes, I'll look like Yeongwoo's accomplice. It means that there is a very high probability that he will try to kill us together without discriminating.”

“Together,” meaning that Yeongwoo, who is a murder suspect, would naturally be killed.

And above all.

“Jeong Hyunsik is currently the interim leader of the Seoul Alliance. So, most of the Strongest Swords will stand on Jeong Hyunsik's side.”

“So you're saying no one will stop Jeong Hyunsik.”

“I'm glad I don't have to jump in alone.”

“It seems like you receive a lot of hate, Deputy Minister.”

“Not all Strongest Swords participating in the meeting want order. There are people who want to enjoy power recklessly.”

Jo Sangik feared that this incident would act as a detonator and destroy the order of Seoul.

“But avoiding the meeting would be the worst choice. If so, Jeong Hyunsik will come directly to Gwanak-gu.”

If such a thing happened, it would lead to a massacre at Seoul National University.

Imagining a horrific development, Jo Sangik frowned.

“Then are you saying you’ll willingly attend today’s meeting?”

“Do you have any other options? I have to go and explain as much as I can.”

“.....”

Upon hearing this, Yeongwoo checked the time on his watch.

The current time was 1:36 PM.

There was about 1 hour and 20 minutes left until the meeting of the Strongest Swords, which was supposed to take place in Yongsan Park.

“But, sir...”

“Yes?”

“Is Gangnam’s Strongest Sword really that strong? Why do you think we’ll lose?”

“...?”

“You mentioned earlier, ‘we’re screwed.’”

“Well...”

As Jo Sangik couldn’t find the words to say, Yeongwoo continued for him.

“We haven’t reached that point yet. We’ll have to see what happens in the long run. And I haven’t lost in a one-on-one fight yet.”

Of course, this could be the first and last defeat.

“They might have earned three million today... but how much did we earn? Thirty thousand per person, so at least thirty million. No, we might have earned hundreds of millions. But does losing make sense? Money is power. Gwanak-gu is the wealthiest neighborhood in Seoul right now.”

“.....”

It seemed true, but it also sounded like a fallacy.

While it was true that Gwanak-gu attracted a lot of money, wasn't that money divided among the residents of the area?

Money wasn't accumulated here.

“So what do you suggest?”

Jo Sangik asked, looking confused.

To which Yeongwoo pointed south, towards Seoul National University, and said.

“We need to fundraise. If you want to receive another thirty thousand karma next time, ask each person to contribute just ten thousand now. Didn't Seoul already do something similar? They called it the Seoul rotation.”

“.....”

It was a vague plan, but Jo Sangik couldn't find a way to refute it.

Because the words themselves were very reasonable.

Returning a certain amount after distributing the golden rain was no different from helping the residents of each district break the quest and then charging a fee.

The only difference was that, from the residents' perspective, the side of the golden rain was overwhelmingly safer and potentially ten times more profitable.

“But they said they need a strong Strongest Sword to voice Gwanak-gu's opinion at the meeting, right? So, this is also for the public good. It has legitimacy, and it's an immediate response to the crisis we're facing. It seems entirely feasible to raise enough funds.”

Furthermore, wasn't Jo Sangik a figure who sought the livelihoods of not only the residents but also the citizens through the Seoul rotation?

After saying this much, Yeongwoo checked his wristwatch again.

“Sir, now there’s 1 hour and 17 minutes left. Gwanak-gu should be in the middle of the Seoul rotation, so the residents should be gathered. If we move quickly, we can handle it. Besides, there are quite a few experts at Seoul National University. Send them out in all directions to collect money.”

“Well, that’s true, but...”

While Jo Sangik responded hesitantly, he was secretly amazed by Yeongwoo’s adaptability and boldness.

Indeed, being a Strongest Sword of a major district wasn’t something anyone could do.

“But is it true that you are making this proposal knowing exactly that it is Gwanak-gu’s money?”

Even if fundraising succeeds, the story is that they won’t give that money to Yeongwoo.

At this, Yeongwoo nodded.

“Of course, as I promised at the beginning.”

“T-then, what will you be doing while I’m raising money?”

Jo Sangik asking this meant that he implicitly accepted Yeongwoo’s proposal.

At this, Yeongwoo showed a slightly relieved expression.

“I need to meet with the merchant. But before that, I need to talk to my colleagues.”

“Colleagues...?”

Could such a monster really have colleagues?

As Jo Sangik looked at him with eyes of disbelief, a car horn sounded from behind.

Honk, honk!

“Ah.”

Turning back at the abrupt sound, Jo Sangik saw a patrol car approaching from the other side.

Finally, it was Taeyoung and Jongsu who came to find Yeongwoo.

\* \* \*



“Ah, nice to meet you. I’m Jo Sangik.”

As Jo Sangik offered a warm smile and reached out his hand, Taeyoung shook it with a somewhat formal face.

“I’m Kwon Taeyoung from the Icheon Police Station.”

Taeyoung’s eyes were fixed on the title above the opponent’s head.

『Gwanak’s Strongest Sword』

Therefore, Taeyoung also knew well that this guy was the actual owner of Gwanak-gu.

But how were both an outsider intruder like Yeongwoo and this guy still alive?

‘I’m sure I saw the golden rain earlier.’

Meanwhile, Jo Sangik was gauging the opponent’s strength through his handshake.

‘But how come the local patrol officer with the Strongest Sword...? He seems like a completely ordinary person...?’

Jo Sangik cautiously completed the handshake, fearing he might break Taeyoung’s hand.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

And then.

“I’m Kim Jongsu from Andong.”

“Yes. Nice to meet you for the first time.”

Kim Jongsu from Andong...

This time, his power was far greater than the previous patrol officer’s.

He wasn’t on par with the elites at Seoul National University, but he could still handle monster hunting activities well enough.

“I’m not sure about the background of the two companions. I would like to have a more in-depth conversation, but we’ll have to postpone it to another time. There’s something very important I need to take care of.”

“We’ll meet again soon.”

Jongsu gave his characteristic cheeky smile.

At this, Jo Sangik also smiled slightly, then turned his head back to Yeongwoo.

“Will you be going straight to the meeting venue from here?”

Now, the question was about how they would each participate in the meeting, as they would likely be torn apart.

“It might be safer to go together... but... we don’t have much time.”

After a moment of thought, Yeongwoo replied.

“I’ll go to the meeting venue first.”

“...Is that okay? Jeong Hyunsik might arrive first.”

“Then I’ll have to challenge him to a duel. I heard anyone attending the meeting can challenge anyone else for the position of Strongest Sword.”

This was what Yeongwoo had heard from the inspectors at Yangjae Interchange.

—If you want to become a Strongest Sword, you can challenge anyone attending the meeting, and if you want to engage in monster business, you can transfer the business rights through a duel with the current owner.

They had advised Yeongwoo, an outsider, to participate in the meeting.

“I understood that being able to challenge for the position of Strongest Sword meant a one-on-one duel.”

“Yes. For now, that’s true, but...”

Jo Sangik’s voice trailed off.

Jeong Hyunsik would undoubtedly want to personally avenge his son, and in an official duel, the other Strongest Swords wouldn’t be able to interfere recklessly.

Unless Jeong Hyunsik requested assistance and broke the rules.

“So what role do I have to play in the meeting? If you’re going to have a one-on-one duel with Jeong Hyunsik.”

As Jo Sangik asked this, Yeongwoo expressed the same concern.

"If by any chance I overwhelm Jeong Hyunsik, he can request support from other Strongest Swords. So please prevent that from happening."

After all, if Yeongwoo were to be completely defeated by Jeong Hyunsik, it would be difficult for Jo Sangik to survive as well.

Moreover, some Strongest Swords who wanted to create a new district without a master would rush in at this moment.

"...Understood. See you soon in Yongsan."

Having completed the series of agreements, Jo Sangik nodded his head.

Then, he dashed southward at an incredible speed.

Vroom!

"..."

Now, the only ones left at the intersection were Yeongwoo, Jongsu, and Taeyoung.

After a while, Jongsu, as if curious since earlier, asked.

"What happened in that short time...?"

To this, Yeongwoo shrugged his shoulders.

"Well, Seoul is a complicated place, whether then or now."

Then, he looked at Kwon Taeyoung from Ichon Police Station and asked.

"Taeyoung, you're still a police officer, right?"

"...Of course. As you said, Seoul may seem complicated, but..."

"Then, I have a favor to ask."

"What kind of...?"

As Taeyoung gestured for him to continue, Yeongwoo scratched his chin.

"Could you find some people for me?"

"People?"

“Yes. While I attend the meeting and settle matters, it would be helpful if you could find the family of Representative Kim Taejoon.”

“If it’s Kim Taejoon...”

“He’s the chairman of VC Soft.”

Upon hearing this, Jongsu, who still seemed unsure, chimed in instead of Taeyoung.

“Brother, you don’t mean that TJ, do you?”

“Yes, that’s him.”

From the third-day mutant in Gwanak-gu, Kim Taejoon, to the series of battles and forming ‘friendships.’

When Yeongwoo summarized what happened at this intersection, Taeyoung’s face stiffened.

“It’s such an important promise... Do you know the whereabouts of his family?”

Even if he’s a police officer, it’s not an easy task to find people based on just one clue like Kim Taejoon.

So, Yeongwoo took out a pen and said.

“If they’re still alive, we can find out now.”

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## **Chapter 89**

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

Chapter 89: Wave (3)

「Wanted Poster」 – Epic

【Seek what you desire.】

|Father

A magic pen that finds what you desire.

Yeongwoo briefly looked at the phrase 'father', which was currently set as the search target, and then quickly re-entered the target.

'Will it still search properly even with two conditions attached?'

Kim Taejoon's, family.

From the beginning, it was unclear how an item from space would perceive the overarching concept of 'family'.

In the human world, the category of family includes not only blood relations but also relationships like spouses and adoptive parents.

'Whatever it is, if I can find even one member of the family, that would be fortunate.'

With a slightly anxious heart, Yeongwoo re-entered the search target of the wanted poster.

Then, the wanted poster in the form of a magic pen vibrated for a moment and displayed a system message.

「A new search target has been entered. Would you like to update the results?」

To update the results meant to erase the arrow pointing to 'father' currently displayed in front of him.

"Y-yes... Confirm."

As Yeongwoo confirmed the update, the wanted poster shone brightly.

Pah-at!

Then the search arrow, which had been pointing north, began to tilt eastward.

Ssssh.

"Huh...."

"Brother, what's going on?"

Now the arrow was pointing northeast.

Considering the current location, which is based in Gwanak-gu, northeast would be.

“Seocho, Gangnam, Gwangjin, perhaps. Then is Guri City next?”

On the other hand, VC Soft’s headquarters are in Bundang.

So Yeongwoo expected the arrow to tilt south.

Swish.

Yeongwoo then pointed the arrow direction with his hand.

“Is there anything related to VC Soft or chairman Kim Taejoon in that direction? It seems to span Seocho, Gangnam, and Gwangjin.”

Upon hearing this, Jongsu looked at Yeongwoo surprisingly.

“Brother, VC’s first office was in Nonhyeon-dong. That’s why Kim Taejoon built a memorial there.”

“Oh, Nonhyeon-dong.”

“Gangnam-gu.”

Gangnam-gu.

It’s the stronghold of Jung Hyunsik, who lost his son.

As fate would have it, Jongsu also pointed out this fact.

“It was right under the nose of Gangnam’s Strongest Sword. But they say it’s darkest under the lamp. There shouldn’t be any problem quickly finding the family and bringing them back.”

Of course, Yeongwoo agreed with this assertion.

At least by this afternoon, Gangnam’s Strongest Sword should be tied up in Yongsan.

“Are you okay, officer?”

“I don’t have experience in investigations... but this is close to handling complaints. It brings back childhood memories, and I like it.”

Taeyoung said this while unconsciously feeling the gun at his waist.

It was a keepsake of Kim Byungcheol, the chief of Icheon Police Station, with a bullet in it.

“Gangnam is also a relatively well-organized area like here. But just in case, it would be better to move with Mr. Jongsu.”

“Yes, brother. It’s about time to pay for a meal.”

“Understood.”

With both men nodding without hesitation, Yeongwoo intended to pay them for their security.

However, Jongsu vehemently refused and took out a golden coin from his pocket.

“You have already provided enough for security. And the money you gave last time is still here.”

Jongsu’s current wealth amounted to a whopping 147,000 karma.

In fact, among ordinary people, he was considered quite wealthy.

“Right now, abilities would be more useful than cash. Keep only the minimum and invest in your abilities.”

As Yeongwoo said this, dotted lines appeared along Jongsu’s body contour.

He had started investing in abilities as soon as he heard Yeongwoo’s words.

Meanwhile, Taeyoung, still a bit concerned, spoke with a stiff expression.

“If we find Mr. Taejoon’s family, where should we go next?”

This was quite a difficult problem.

If Yeongwoo were to be killed by Jeong Hyunsik, then the reunion of Taejoon’s family would become problematic.

‘My name was on the nametag along with Yeongtae’s. So if the owner changes, the chances of our friends disappearing are high.’

Perhaps he would be released from his indenture and become a mutant again.

And secondly, if Yeongwoo were to assassinate Jeong Hyunsik.

‘In that case, I would become the Strongest Sword of Gangnam. It’s unimaginable, but... it would be a very good thing for the chairman and his family.’

In this case, it would be better for Kim Taejoon’s family to stay in Nonhyeon-dong as it is.

And lastly, if for some reason both Yeongwoo and Jeong Hyunsik were to survive the reunion.

In that case, since Yeongwoo wouldn’t be able to summon his ‘friends’ in Gangnam, it was imperative to bring chairman Kim Taejoon’s family.

Therefore, the conclusion was reached.

“It would be best to bring them to Seoul National University.”

They decided to rely on Seoul National University, which was relatively neutral.

\* \* \*

1:52 PM.

Yeongwoo, who had dispatched the two to Gangnam, now set out for his final appointment in Gwanak, a meeting with a merchant.

– Creak.

From the iron horse Negwig to golden goblin.

Anyone could see that it was an unprecedented change, but fortunately the road to meet the merchant was quiet.

It didn’t seem like the merchant’s symbol itself appeared in the same places as monsters or mutants.

“What, what is...?”

“Ahh!”

However, there were occasional sightings of Gwanak-gu residents running away in terror at the sight of the iron horse.

“...Huh? What’s going on?”

And occasionally, instead of fleeing, some people stared directly at Yeongwoo’s face.



They seemed to have noticed the resemblance between the face engraved on the commemorative coin he had just obtained and the creature.

“.....”

Upon Yeongwoo's awkward nod, the other party also bowed their head slightly and went on their way, a few bizarre incidents like this happened a couple more times before.

Sssaaaat...!

Finally, they arrived at a park where a black pillar of light had taken hold.

‘Merchants generally appear in secluded places.’

Yeongwoo glanced around, relieved to see not a single ant in sight.

Monsters and mutants didn't care much whether they appeared on the street or on top of buildings.

After all, wasn't this world theirs to destroy?

In contrast, merchants seemed to choose places that caused the least disturbance to the worlds they visited.

Was it because they were coming to trade?

Clack, clack.

As Yeongwoo slowly pushed the iron horse into the park, he saw a black pillar of light descending in the center of the spacious playground.

‘Looks like I'm the first customer after all.’

After confirming once again that there was no one nearby, Yeongwoo leaped off the iron horse.

Thud!

At that moment, the silhouette within the pillar of light twitched and turned towards Yeongwoo.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

The merchant who had arrived earlier had noticed the arrival of his trading partner.

‘He’s not as big as I expected.’

Of course, whether he would end up trading with the merchant remained to be seen.

As the distance between Yeongwoo and the merchant shrank to within 10 meters, the space in front of the pillar of light split open, revealing the mediator, Kubu.

Sllurp.

– It is an honor to meet you again, the strongest in Gyeongbuk, Mr. Jeong Yeongwoo07 from Earth!

– I am Kubu, the mediator of this transaction and the guardian of Daro, representing the Tenta Tribe.

The greeting was almost memorized by now.

However, Kubu’s appearance, with eyelids as his only facial feature, still didn’t feel familiar.

– The mediation fee for this transaction is 10%, included in the price of the goods. Three upper parties have bid for this transaction in total.

– Would you like to see the list of bidding parties and their proposals?

The perks of being a primary mediator were still in place.

“Yes, please show me.”

As Yeongwoo nodded, Kubu’s eyes blinked widely.

And then.

Squiggle!

The space between Yeongwoo and Kubu distorted, and soon three fist-sized objects appeared there.

‘That’s the list of bidders...?’

As Yeongwoo approached the unidentified objects, which had been unrecognizable until just now, they began to transform into different shapes.

Shirring.

It was none other than...

‘...Oh.’

Earthly items.

Each bidder had crafted an object that Earthlings would recognize in their own way.

‘Unbelievable.’

Yeongwoo sifted through the objects imitated by the aliens, feeling like a judge.

The first one was...

‘A statue?’

It was a figure of a person sitting on a sturdy chair, but upon closer inspection...

‘...A king. It’s a king.’

It depicted the figure of a king seated on a throne, even wearing reasonably well-made royal attire.

The material seemed to be of a strange substance, neither clay nor stone.

In any case, what they seemed to be appealing to was Yeongwoo, their trading partner – their understanding of humans seemed to be high.

Considering Yeongwoo was Korean, they had sent a representation of a ‘king,’ a concept that had existed only in the past but was still conceptually used today.

Thus, the items they offered were likely closely related to human characteristics.

‘They must be very meticulous people.’

However, Yeongwoo’s thoughts changed as soon as he saw the second item.

Shirring.

The second one was made up of countless grains of sand, moving alone as if it were truly alive.

Shit!

The second bidder had sent a flying bird.

A bird that seemed almost perfect, from the subtle movements of its feathers to the delicate trembling of its beak.

‘Incredible technology.’

However, Yeongwoo couldn’t exactly determine what they were trying to appeal to with the bird. Perhaps they simply liked the concept of a bird among Earth’s various contents.

‘Now, onto the next one.’

As Yeongwoo turned his eyes to the third item, he suddenly felt a chill run down his spine.

‘W-what is this?’

The third one wasn’t an object but rather a kind of scene.

A night sea that seemed as though thunder would strike at any moment.

In the midst of it, a huge whirlpool was visualized, swirling wildly.

“.....”

Although it was clearly a depiction of a part of Earth, Yeongwoo felt a sense of dread.

At the same time, he also felt a desire to see the items that these beings were presenting.

“These people... no, I will trade with these bidders.”

As Yeongwoo pointed to the problematic sea landscape, Kubu blinked his eyes.

– Are you sure about this?

“Yes.”

As Yeongwoo nodded again, Kubu’s eyes briefly flickered towards the empty space.

Then.

– In accordance with the request of Jeong Yeongwoo07, I return the Shameel bidder and call forth the prisoners of Rohm.

As Kubu finished speaking, the black pillar of light vanished, and the silhouette that had been visible inside was lifted up into the sky.

Then, almost immediately.

Whoooo...!

A thick, oily substance poured out from the inside of the pillar of light.

‘Is that the merchant?’

Yeongwoo stared blankly at the “prisoners of Roam,” which filled the entire pillar of light from bottom to top with darkness.

Then Kubu rolled his eyes and said.

– The list of items is complete.

The merchant, the prisoners of Roam.

Whether they were actually prisoners somewhere or if the name “prisoners” was just a title for the bidder, there was no way to know.

But judging from the items they were selling.

‘They’re definitely extreme individuals.’

1 — 「Broken Scale」 – Unique Ring

【30% reduction in muscle strength.】

【Endurance and senses increased by 40%.】

◇ 680,000 Karma

2 — 「Masochism」 – narrative gem

【Slot: Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

◇ 1,700,000 Karma

3 — 「Rohm’s Bottom」 – Legendary Sword Technique

【Fight like a prisoner.】

◇ Local martial arts

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

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## Chapter 90

[Translator – Night]

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Chapter 90: Wave (4)

“Hmm.”

The sea was somewhat expected.

It was understood that the items provided by the other party would not be typical.

However, this exceeded Yeongwoo’s expectations by two levels.

‘A merchant selling legendary-grade items.’

Until now, the highest grade of goods offered by all the merchants encountered was Epic.

Moreover, those items couldn’t be purchased even with a lot of Karma.

It was only possible to exchange them for Legendary achievements.

However, this merchant not only sold Epic-grade items for Karma but also possessed Legendary-grade items.

This was an unprecedented transaction.

3 — 「Rohm’s Bottom」 – Legendary Sword Technique

【Fight like a prisoner.】

◇ Local martial arts

‘Rohm’s Bottom... But what does it mean to fight like a prisoner?’

Does it mean to fight cruelly and viciously?

Whatever it was, it certainly didn’t sound like a refined combat style.

“.....”

Finally, when Yeongwoo's gaze fell on the price of “Local Martial Arts” of Legendary Swordsmanship, a new message appeared in the empty space below.

Faahh!

[Exchangeable] Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship – Unique Grade

[Non-Exchangeable] Icheon Swordsmanship – Relic Grade

[Non-Exchangeable] Yeongdeok Swordsmanship – Relic Grade

...

...

...

[Non-Exchangeable] Gumi Swordsmanship – Relic Grade

That was none other than the list of martial arts possessed by Yeongwoo.

Including the ones directly collected by Yeongwoo from Gumi, Gimcheon, Sangju, Mungyeong, and Chungju, and the Yeongdeok, Cheongsong, and Yeongju swordsmanship handed down to him.

And even the Icheon Swordsmanship of Kim Byungcheol, which was sacrificed to him.

“.....”

As Yeongwoo looked at the long list of swordsmanship laid out like a grave, he felt a tingling sensation in his chest.

He had thought he had tried not to live wickedly in his own way, but seeing this, he realized that the people he had killed so far were by no means few.

There were a total of ten martial arts in Yeongwoo's possession, including nine swordsmanships that existed as the guardian martial arts of each region.

And the Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship obtained during the process of collecting them.

‘Among these, the only one I can exchange for that prisoner's swordsmanship is Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship.’

Moreover, the grade of Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship was Unique.

It was a martial art that was two grades lower than Rohm's Bottom, which was of Legendary grade.

'I thought the title of Gyeongbuk's Strongest Sword was Epic, so I assumed the swordsmanship would be Epic too, but it was just a concept of sub-options.'

In the midst of this, Yeongwoo learned another thing.

In any case, that problematic swordsmanship had to be bought.

'There's a high chance that I'll be fighting against Gangnam's Strongest Sword in an hour, so I have to go to the assembly with all the available forces.'

As he had already exhausted all the summoning counts of his friends today, this trade was practically the last chance to create a variable.

"I'll buy Rohm's Bottom first."

When Yeongwoo decided to buy the swordsmanship, the intermediary Kubu blinked his eyes.

—Confirmed. Would you like to see other items as well?

At this, Yeongwoo's gaze returned to the list of goods.

1 — 「Broken Scale」 – Unique Ring

【30% reduction in muscle strength.】

【Endurance and senses increased by 40%.】

◇ 680,000 Karma

Broken Scale.

As it was a unique ring, if Yeongwoo were to buy it, he could complete one achievement.

[Jeweler's Touch]

|Wear two rings of Hero-grade or higher on your index and ring fingers. (3/4)

Now, all he needed was one more ring of Hero grade or higher.

"But the value of strength is too high. It's a stat that affects the speed of movement."



Moreover, the sense increased by the scale ring was a stat that had always been Yeongwoo's advantage.

'In terms of total stats, it's definitely a gain... but in actual value, well, I don't think it's worth 680,000 Karma.'

At least, it was not a valuable item on this side.

Yeongwoo considered the broken scale as a trap item and skipped it.

'So, what's left?'

2 — 「Masochism」 — narrative gem

【Slot: Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

◇ 1,700,000 Karma

The last item, Masochism.

In fact, as soon as Yeongwoo saw the list of items earlier, he had thought that he must buy Masochism.

Thanks to the slime's nucleus, his regenerative ability was almost inhuman.

Of course, it would be best to end the fight without bleeding at all...

'But there's no way I'll end up like that against Gangnam's Strongest Sword. And with 25% strength... it's right to be in a bleeding state, even if I have to self-harm.'

In fact, he was worried that his blood might clot too quickly due to his fast regeneration.

It was a terribly gruesome idea, but Yeongwoo was sincere.

"I'll also buy Masochism."

As he finished the transaction by mentioning his second purchase, Kubu blinked his eyes twice.

—Alright. I'll confirm the deal as it is.

With Kubu's declaration, the common oils within the column of light began to bubble.

And then.

Acquired!

Yeongwoo's Karma balance decreased from 5,046,500 to 3,346,500.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]

1,700,000 Karma had been transferred immediately.

And then.

Sizzle!

A bubbling pool of hot oil formed at Yeongwoo's feet, then pushed a palm-sized red gem onto the ground.

Swoosh.

As Yeongwoo bent down to pick up "Masochism," Kubu, who judged that the item had been safely delivered, blinked his eyes and said.

—All transactions have been completed safely.

"Yes, thank you for your hard work. Both sides."

Yeongwoo said this, looking at the merchant's side, but the quietened pool of oil showed no reaction.

\* \* \*

Masochism and the legendary swordsmanship, Rohm's Bottom.

Yeongwoo, who bought both items from unidentified prisoners, immediately used Masochism as soon as the deal was over.

Flicker!

「Fearful Cat」 – Epic Compass

【Indicates a threatening object.】

【Strength increases by 25% when bleeding.】

Yeongwoo inserted the gem into an empty slot on the epic compass "Fearful Cat," just like he did with the kekidite.

He could see that a new tooltip had been added.

From now on, his strength would increase by 25% while bleeding.

‘But does this really work?’

A radical effect befitting an epic grade.

Yeongwoo briefly looked at Fearful Cat, which had become something he could never abandon, and then belatedly brought up the tooltip of the title.

Ping!

Then, he saw that Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship had indeed disappeared, replaced by an unfamiliar message.

「Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword」 – Epic Title

【The Majesty of the Strongest Sword】

【Voting Rights】

【Rohm’s Bottom】

‘A legendary swordsmanship under an epic title.’

Could it still be called Gyeongbuk’s Strongest Sword if he no longer used Gyeongbuk Swordsmanship...?

He had his doubts for a moment, but it was probably for the best.

It was much better than becoming a wandering spirit all the way to Seoul.

‘Now, all that’s left is how to spend this money.’

\* Available Karma: 3,346,500

Yeongwoo’s current cash was about 3.34 million Karma.

In terms of stats, it amounted to 3,340 points.

Finally, he could raise his average stats to around 2,000.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 1,300 (19+1,281)

[Stamina] 950 (21+929)

[Endurance] 1,150 (13+1,137)

[Senses] 700 (24+676)

‘The top priority stats are strength... followed by endurance and stamina.’

To properly utilize his strong strength, he needed evenly distributed endurance and stamina to control that power.

While there were no issues with everyday movements, when he had to continuously output maximum power like in a duel with the Strongest Sword, an enormous amount of stamina was consumed, and there was considerable strain on his body.

‘Anyway, I can always steal senses from my opponent, so it’s not urgent right now.’

Furthermore, in practical terms, his strength would increase by more than 25% due to Masochism, so Yeongwoo invested 1,500 points into strength and evenly distributed the rest to stamina and endurance.

『Character: Jeong Yeongwoo07』

[Strength] 2,800 (19+2,781)

[Stamina] 1,850 (21+1,829)

[Endurance] 2,050 (13+2,037)

[Senses] 700 (24+676)

\* Available Karma: 46,500

When his strength level, which was initially only 19 and previously only 1,300, soared to 2,800 in an instant, he felt nauseous for some reason.

‘I wasn’t human before, but now my output has doubled. How much stronger can I get like this?’

Moreover, his current stats were close to those of the second day’s Strongest Sword in Seoul.

Therefore, the Strongest swords that monopolized the third day’s mutant would have an additional ability score of at least 2,000 points.

‘At this point, aren’t the real threats not the mutants, but the Strongest Swords? They’re practically bombs residing in the city.’

There might be a reason why Gwanak's Strongest Sword, Jo Sangik, was wary of the Seoul Alliance.

“.....”

Having finished distributing his stats, Yeongwoo naturally looked northward, having completed all his tasks in Gangnam.

Then, Negwig, who understood Yeongwoo's intentions, approached him and let out a strong breath by his side.

“Snort!”

Now, it was time for Yeongwoo to meet the Strongest Swords of Seoul.

\* \* \*

2:23 PM.

The Strongest Swords of Seoul were all smiling knowingly.

They were getting ready to attend the assembly when they received a strange message from Gangnam's Strongest Sword.

《If you encounter a stranger riding a horse, please bring them to the assembly hall alive. Please.》

This was the function of Gangnam's Strongest Sword's signature equipment, “Wave.”

「Wave」 – Unique Ring

【Voice transmission to the Strongest Sword of the acquired area.】

|Area: Seoul

A truly unique item that allows any Strongest Sword in Seoul to send their voice to anyone.

It was all thanks to this item that Jeong Hyunsik played a central role in the Strongest Sword assembly.

However, because the content of this message was so absurd, the reactions of the Strongest Swords were vastly different.

“Riding a horse? Has the Strongest Sword gone senile?”

Some mocked Jeong Hyunsik behind his back.

“Even Jeong Hyunsik is asking for a favor...? What on earth is going on?”

“If we ask Gwanak, we might get an answer. Something happened there today.”

Some sensed that something unusual had happened, thinking about the sender’s position.

And even those who had not yet participated in the assembly.

“Something interesting seems to be happening.”

“No, is there really someone riding around deliberately? Why...?”

“What’s going on at the assembly?”

As a result of this message, they seriously considered attending the assembly.

They couldn’t tolerate the idea of a “stranger riding a horse.”

Meanwhile, Yeongwoo, the protagonist of the widespread “equestrian rumor” that spread throughout Seoul in no time, was...

Kwaaaah!

Riding on Negwig’s back, rushing towards the Dongjak Bridge.

[Translator – Night]

[Proofreader – Gun]