

# **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 151 - Chapter 150**

## **Chapter 151: Chapter 150**

The true disaster had begun.

Rumble!

The ground and all the buildings in Yamri Village began to twist and turn, resembling a stormy sea.

[Harmakan's sorcery isn't just a simple illusion! It has physical power, so be careful!] As Arsha, still held captive by Beru, warned, Harmakan's magic circle, completed thanks to countless deaths, was demonstrating the pinnacle of illusion magic.

[Successor of the Iron Body Monarch! Seeing you struggle will entertain me!]

Crack!

With the eerie laughter that reverberated through the red sky. Harmakan's giant hand brutally tore off a building and swung it down at Suho. Who unphased charged forward and sliced it in half with his sword. Next came a large bus, which exploded in front of him.

Kwarurung! Boom! Boom!

Debris scattered in all directions and through the dust, an armored division, Harmakan's Death Knights, launched a full-scale attack.

Graaaaaaagh!

"Euaaaack!"

"Wh-what are these things?!" The villains who had surrendered to Suho were terrified, scrambling to defend themselves against the Death Knights' attacks.

But no matter how they looked at it, they had no chance of winning. The ground beneath them was shaking, and rubble was raining from above; it was a true cataclysm unfolding all around them. The legions of Death Knights charging relentlessly numbered at least in the hundreds. In contrast, there were only a few dozen of them... They were overwhelmingly outnumbered and at a severe environmental disadvantage.

"Th-this must be a dream!"

"A nightmare!"

Moreover, the villains, lacking experience in fighting monsters, had no idea how to deal with these enemies.

"The armor is empty inside!"

"I've heard of these before! They're monsters called Living Armors!"

"Who cares about their name?! Tell me how to kill them!"

"The armor! We have to destroy the armor!"

"Who doesn't know that?! Tell us how to destroy it!"

"A tanker needs to hold the line while the damage dealers..."

"But the armor is too tough!"

The chaotic battlefield was filled with the villains' desperate cries and frantic struggles. Just then, one of the villains with some dungeon experience recalled something and shouted,

"No! The gaps! When fighting Living Armor, you have to aim for the gaps in their armor!"

"The gaps in the armor!" The villains' eyes lit up at this seemingly useful information.

"Y-yeah! Aim for the gaps in the armor...!"

Suddenly.

"Move!" Suho's voice boomed from above.

As the villains looked up, their eyes filled with terror.

"Ru-run...!"

Suho, having caught the large bus Harmakan had thrown at him with both hands.

Kwaaang! ...slammed it down onto the cluster of Death Knights.

Boom! Crash!

The Death Knights scattered like bowling pins. Those in the center being crushed and flattened. Suho landed amidst the terrified villains, revealing his teeth in a wide smile.

"These are all my prey."

Swish! Vulcan's Horns, which had been briefly stored in his inventory, reappeared in Suho's hands.

"H-he's crazy..." As he kicked off the ground and charged forward, the villains who had barely managed to retreat were left speechless.

"We were trying to fight that guy...?"

"Is the outside world hell...?" They truly regretted their escape.

But despite Suho's impressive display, the fight wasn't easy.

Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!

'The swords aren't as effective as I thought.' Death Knights struck by Vulcan's Horns had their armor dented, but the damage wasn't significant.

'Their defense is higher than I expected.' Their armor was thick, and its surface was slippery, causing his attacks to glance off instead of digging in.

[Do you think my soldiers will fall to such meager attacks?!] With Harmakan's eerie laughter, the Death Knights that had been knocked back rose again, unharmed, and attacked Suho.

Whoosh!

A Death Knight swung its sword in a wide arc. Suho ducked under the attack and lunged forward, releasing Vulcan's Horns from his grip. With his bare hands, he grabbed the knight's head and ripped it off.

Crack!

As he held the empty helmet in his hands. He could clearly see the inside of the armor, swirling with an ominous aura, or rather, a soul. Suho grinned, revealing his teeth, as he stared at the sinister energy within.

"If the outside is hard."

Swish! Vulcan's Horns, which he had dropped, flew back into his hands.

"The inside must be soft." Suho reversed his grip on the sword and thrust it into the empty cavity.

...! A silent scream erupted from within the armor.

[You have defeated a Death Knight.] A system message appeared as Suho pulled the sword out grinning.

[That's just one. There are hundreds more left.] Warned Beru

"I know. And it seems these guys can't be turned into shadows?"

[Yes, unfortunately. It seems their souls have been consumed by the Demonic Spirit's wicked sorcery. ]

As Beru lamented the lost opportunity, a message appeared above the slain Death Knight. [The mana is corrupted, Shadow Extraction is impossible.]

It was the same as with the demon souls...

But... "No problem. We can still make use of them." Suho looked at the empty cavity of the headless Death Knight with a mischievous smile.

"Que."

[Yes.]

"Get in there."

[As you command.]

Whoosh! Que emerged from the shadows and slipped into the empty Death Knight armor. Suho then placed the helmet, which he had ripped off earlier, back onto Que's head and grinned.

"Now we have a recycled Que Knight."

[The name is a bit... ahem.] Que seemed to have something to say but held his tongue.

But regardless of the name, Que looked pretty impressive in Death Knight armor. Black smoke seeped out from the gaps in the sturdy armor, creating a unique and intimidating appearance, distinctly different from Harmakan's Death Knights. Especially when a long spear formed of black energy materialized in Que Knight's, or rather, Que's hand.

[The Master's enemies are my enemies.]

Swish! Que swung his weapon, piercing the helmet of a Death Knight that was charging towards them.

Crack!

[Master! I, Que, shall protect your back! Fight without worry!] Que declared confidently, charging into battle with newfound vigor.

[As expected of my liege! At this rate, we can upgrade all our forces in no time!] Beru clapped in admiration.

But before he could finish his sentence, the Shadow Assassin, Kang Taeshik, vanished. Moments later, the helmet of a nearby Death Knight was ripped off. Kang Taeshik then dove into the empty armor and began an invisible struggle with the spirit within.

Crack! Thwack! Thwack! Thwack! Crack! After a brief flurry of slashing sounds, a message appeared.

[You have defeated a Death Knight.]

"Oh. Not bad." Suho was impressed by his soldiers' unexpected initiative.

Kang Taeshik quickly emerged and dashed towards another Death Knight to claim its helmet.

Suho then infused the empty armor with the Shadow Soldier, Mino. Although the armor shouldn't have fit his size, it miraculously adjusted to his frame, as expected of armor specially crafted by the Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan.

[Umuuu-! ] Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

As soon as he donned the armor, Mino charged towards the enemies, trampling them all. Suho also started to slowly equip the rest of his soldiers with armor. Harmakan, witnessing this, couldn't help but panic.

[H-how is this possible?! How are my Death Knights...! ]

"You should have behaved yourself."

[Graaaaaagh! ] Enraged, Harmakan's giant hands erupted from the ground once more, tearing off entire buildings and hurling them at Suho.

Boom! Boom! Boom!

It was a reckless attack, but its power was overwhelming and they were still vastly outnumbered.

But.

'I'm getting used to their patterns.' Suho skillfully maneuvered Gray, dodging the incoming buildings.

And while all of Harmakan's large-scale attacks were focused on Suho, his Shadow Soldiers were steadily reducing the number of Death Knights.

"Unbelievable..." The villains, scattered and fleeing, were at a loss for words at the sight.

But the one who was most shocked was Arsha, still held captive by Beru. [No, how is this...?]

The Suho who had hindered her in the past and the Suho standing before her now were completely different. It wasn't just about strength or speed.

[His level has changed. How is this possible for a human...?] She was simply bewildered.

[What in the world happened to him...?]

And then she came to a realization. She had always thought humans were the most primitive and weak race... But among them, there existed a being she should never provoke. She was sure that with her current strength, or rather, her abilities, it was impossible to ever stand against Sung Suho.

[Death Knight defeated.]

[Death Knight defeated.]

[Death Knight defeated.]

.....

[Level Up!]

[Level Up!]

"Yes!" Thanks to the sheer number of Death Knights, his level was rapidly increasing.

[He's quite impressive. Why not capture him and make him a Shadow Soldier? Let's have him turn all the remaining villains into Death Knights and then kill them all.] Beru whispered to Suho, suggesting a wicked scheme to take advantage of Harmakan.

Beru had no human compassion, as he wasn't even human. And since Harmakan could only turn evil souls into monsters, it was natural for Beru to be tempted. However, while the corrupted spirits of the Death Knights couldn't be turned into Shadow Soldiers, it was uncertain whether the same applied to Harmakan himself.

[We'll have to kill him first to find out.]

And then, Beru's eyes, which had been scanning the surroundings with his antennae twitching, suddenly lit up... [Found him.]

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 152 - Chapter 151**

### **Chapter 152: Chapter 151**

Meanwhile, the White Tiger Guild, which was following the villains, was facing significant difficulties.

"Vice President, we've lost track of the villains again."

"...Is that so?" Baek Miho frowned at the guild member's report. The area around Jisan Prison in Pocheon was particularly dense with forests and mountains. For the past two days, the White Tiger Guild had been meticulously tracking all predictable movement routes of the villains along the Hantan River, including Bojongsan, Bulmusan, and Eunjangsan Mountains. But the results were always the same.

"Teams B and C also reported losing the trail."

"...I see." Baek Miho nodded and looked at the mountain ridge bathed in bright sunlight with a complicated expression. The dense forest. It was the perfect environment for the villains to hide, but they were nowhere to be found. She gathered all the clues they had discovered so far in her mind.

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'The villains who escaped from Jisan Prison scattered at some point.'

At first, seeing the traces, she considered the possibility that the villains had a conflict of opinions and split up right after the breakout. Realistically, that was the most likely scenario. They were a group united solely for the purpose of escape, and their leader, Hwang Dongsuk, was only a C-rank villain. It was unlikely that his leadership could maintain control over the villains indefinitely.

'But all those scattered traces disappeared? And not a single one remained?' Could this be a coincidence?

'No way.'

There was a distinct purpose behind the villains' actions. And that purpose could only lead to one conclusion. "...It doesn't seem like they split up. It looks like they scattered and then agreed to regroup at a specific location."

The guild member nodded with a heavy expression at Baek Miho's words. "I think so too. It's hard to believe, but it seems all 500 of them are moving with a single goal in mind. We don't know what that is, but the most likely possibility is..."

"Hwang Dongsoo, right?"

"..." The guild member fell silent at Baek Miho's words. He had no choice but to be careful with his words.

If an S-rank villain was involved, this was no ordinary matter. Baek Miho let out a quiet sigh and continued, "The possibility of Hwang Dongsoo's involvement in this incident is increasing."

"I heard you received information from Hunter Sung Suho that the likelihood of that is low."

"Yes, I did."

Baek Miho recalled the information Suho had given her. 'Hwang Dongsuk and Hwang Dongsoo aren't on good terms.'

This was the information Suho had obtained as soon as he met Kang Taeshik, and in return, Baek Miho had shared all the routes the White Tiger Guild was currently searching with Suho. Thanks to that information, Suho, with Gray leading the way, began looking for villains in the remaining areas, excluding the ones the White Tiger Guild was already covering. As previously agreed, they were sharing information and cooperating.

Baek Miho was greatly relieved after hearing from him. In fact, the most significant reason other hunters were hesitant to help with this incident was the possibility of Hwang Dongsoo's involvement.

"There's also the possibility that the information is wrong. Or rather, no matter how strained their relationship is, a brother wouldn't want to see his own sibling die."

"Blood is thicker than water... is that what you're saying?" At the guild member's words, Baek Miho's expression turned grim.



The thing she worried about the most was becoming more and more likely. The power of an S-rank Awakened was truly a force of nature. Hwang Dongsoo was someone the White Tiger Guild couldn't handle without their leader.

'Of course, if we went all out, we could probably injure him...' But in return, they would have to risk their lives. They might even face annihilation.

'In the end, only another S-rank can deal with an S-rank.'

Having organized her thoughts, Baek Miho finally made a decision. "We need to request support from my father, I mean, the guild master."

"Yes! I'll contact him right away!" As soon as Baek Miho finished speaking, the guild member immediately tried to contact the White Tiger office.

And a moment later, a reply came. "The chairman said he'll head to Pocheon as soon as possible!"

Baek Miho breathed a sigh of relief at those words. The reason Baek Yoonho, the leader of the White Tiger Guild, hadn't participated in this incident from the beginning was simple...

He was busy.

It wasn't simply a matter of how expensive his time was. The few S-rank Hunters were constantly busy dealing with the most dangerous dungeons in the country and no one could replace them. That's why tasks that required fieldwork, like this one, were usually handled by the vice president, Baek Miho. It was the most efficient way, and also the most effective way to protect citizens from dungeons and magic beasts.

But... 'We've done all the fieldwork we can.'

Their efforts so far hadn't been in vain. By confirming all the areas they had searched were clear, only a few regions remained. And one of them was...

'Yamri.'

Baek Miho was currently leading the guild members towards the small village in Pocheon that they hadn't searched yet.

Then she suddenly remembered. 'Oh, that's right. This is the direction Hunter Sung Suho said he would search.'

That meant he must have passed through that village as well. And since he hadn't contacted them yet, it was highly likely that he hadn't found any traces in the village

either. From a distance, Yamri looked too peaceful for anything to have happened there. Baek Miho smiled bitterly and gave an order to the guild members.

"Let's pass through quickly so the citizens don't get alarmed."

They entered Yamri Village, and just as it looked from the outside, the village was quiet and peaceful. It was typical of remote places. The quiet atmosphere, with not even a single person walking around...

Shiver!

"What's this?" Baek Miho suddenly tensed, sensing the strange atmosphere and the same went for the beast-transformation hunters of the White Tiger Guild.

"Vice President! Something's strange!"

"I can't sense any human presence in the village...!"

Meanwhile...

"The White Tiger Guild?"

Suho, who was continuing the battle while following Beru's directions to find Harmakan, also spotted the White Tiger Guild. Baek Miho was leading them into the Yamri Village. However as Suho approached them amidst the chaotic battle, something unexpected happened.

Ding!

[Cannot exit the dungeon. Defeat the boss or use a Hearthstone.]

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"Hmm? What's this?" Suho tapped the invisible wall blocking his path with a puzzled expression.

Knock, knock!

"A barrier?"

But then something even stranger happened.

"Vice President! Something's strange..."

"I can't sense any human presence in the..."

The White Tiger Guild members, on the other hand, were able to walk through the transparent wall without any issue. And as they crossed the border, their figures completely disappeared from Suho's sight.

"Huh?" His eyes widened.

It seemed that this invisible wall separated this space from the other side. When Suho tried to force his way out, another message popped up.

Ding!

[Cannot exit the dungeon. Defeat the boss or use a Hearthstone.]

[Could this be...?] Beru, realizing the situation, touched the transparent barrier with a grave expression.

"Do you know something?"

[It seems we've entered an Instance Dungeon.]

"Instance Dungeon?"

Suho looked puzzled. As far as he knew, there were two types of dungeons: normal dungeons accessed through gates and field-type dungeons. But an Instance Dungeon? Leaving aside whether such a dungeon existed, he hadn't even stepped foot in a gate in the first place.

"Did we pass through a gate without realizing it?"

[That's not the issue. An Instance Dungeon isn't a real, physical dungeon.]

There was another reason why Beru was so serious. [Instance Dungeons were developed by Candiaru, the architect of the System. And their sole purpose was to help Sung Jinwoo, the vessel of the Shadow Monarch, grow stronger!]

Suho's expression hardened at Beru's explanation.

"A dungeon developed by Candiaru? But how did Harmakan create it?"

Meanwhile, Harmakan's giant hands continued to attack Suho, who was trapped in the village. He dodged the attack and his eyes gleamed.

"Well, I guess I'll have to ask him directly."

[Yes... I found him. He is in the abandoned house at the edge of the village.]

The moment Beru finished speaking, Suho immediately turned and ran. The house at the edge of the village. It was the only building that hadn't been affected by the spatial distortion caused by Harmakan's magic. The old man was hiding there. Even in this natural disaster, he vigorously smashed the wall of the only unharmed commercial building and entered.

Bang!

[This guy! You finally found me!] Harmakan, who was hiding in it, gritted his teeth and muttered a spell.

[But finding me doesn't mean you can kill me! Because the magic circle has already been completed!] Harmakhan quickly spread his hands and activated his shamanic formation.

Aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!

Numerous ghosts flew from his hands and attacked Suho. However, he was not fooled.

"It's just an illusion."

As he evaded the ghosts, he reached out and sent Vulcan's horn flying sideways.

'Rulers power!' Brilliant beams of light began to hack through the entire space, creating countless straight lines.

Bang!

An amazing thing happened. Vulcan's horns were stuck in the empty air. And, the real Harmakan hiding there began to slowly materialize. With Suho's sword piercing the middle of that bony body.

[You, how...] At that moment, a strange thing happened.

The moment Harmakan, who was the center of this shamanc circle, was directly attacked. An invisible wave centered on his body spread out in all directions.

Ring! Ring!

[Contaminated mana is purified.]

[Contaminated mana is purified.]

The souls of the Death Knights, which had been contaminated by Harmakan's sorcery, began to be purified one by one. But now, that wasn't what he was concerned about.

[This, this power... ..]

Harmakan looked down at the horns of Vulcan that had pierced him with a look of great embarrassment. His surprise was not simply because Suho had not been fooled by his illusions and had found the place where he was hiding. It was because he noticed that the identity of the power that enveloped Vulcan's horn was the 'Ruler's Authority'.

[How on earth are you using the skill only Rulers can wield... !] Harmakhan shouted at Suho with a shocked expression.

Originally, the Ruler's Authority was not simple telekinesis. And as the name suggests, that power could only be used by rulers... It was a symbol of angels born of light, and a unique ability that enabled them to fly. The soldiers of the sky they commanded could fly using wings, but the rulers could fly without them. But how? How on earth could a mere human use this great power?

[Could it be that he is a vessel for one of them? No, it can't be.]

Harmakan, who confirmed Suho's appearance with his own eyes, was able to make sure. It's clear that he's an unusual human being, but he's been using the power of a Rakan and iron body Monarch from the beginning. A power that is the exact opposite of the rulers. Then all of a sudden

[No, wait.]

Soon after realizing the shocking truth, Harmakhan's eyes began to slowly become stained with fear.

[No, that's impossible]

Descendant of the Fang monarch?

Descendant of an iron body Monarch ?

No, it can't be!

It was absolutely impossible to inherit the power of lords born in darkness and at the same time use the authority of a ruler born in the light. But there was just one exception.

[You can't be the shadow lord... !] At those words, Suho, who had been running to defeat the specters and Death Knights around him and put an end to Harmakan, hesitated. Then he mumbled with a slightly embarrassed expression.

"... Oh, I was caught."

Swoop.

Suddenly, his eyes looked around at the Death Knights who were lying around.

"Then it doesn't matter."

[Shadow extraction is possible.]

[Shadow extraction is possible.]

Numerous messages floating above the shadows of the purified Death Knights.

Suho raised the corner of his mouth with a slightly relieved expression.\

"Arise."

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At that moment, countless shadows surrounding Harmakan began to stand up at once.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

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### **Chapter 153: Chapter 152**

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

Hwang Dongsuk's soul screamed in agony, tears of blood streaming down in the darkness. His entire body, except for his face, was bound by blood-soaked chains. The chains not only coiled tightly around his body but also pierced through his soul, some even taking root within it. These chains were the curse of punishment that Harmakan had engraved on Hwang Dongsuk, a prison of guilt where he was eternally trapped, even in death.

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaah...!"

He wailed in pain. There was no escape from this endless torment for his soul. All he could do was scream, cry, suffer, and clench his teeth, shedding bloody tears in this hellish prison that squeezed his very essence.

Then, he heard it.

"Arise."

Finally, the voice of salvation called out to his soul from above. Hwang Dongsuk raised his head, tears still flowing. Snap! The chains broke. Harmakan's curse, which seemed eternal, was disappearing. His limbs were freed. Hwang Dongsuk rose. But...

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaah...!"

The tears of blood streaming from his eyes didn't stop. The chains of the curse were broken, but the prison of guilt that had confined him still gripped his soul tightly.

The Demonic Spirit's Armor.

The curse of the Death Knight, specially crafted by Harmakan to imprison evil spirits. Even though the chains were broken, this armor continued to squeeze Hwang Dongsuk's soul to its limits, inflicting excruciating pain. However, for a Death Knight, pain was power itself. Ironically, the more pain Hwang Dongsuk felt, the stronger the armor he wore became. Thanks to that...

[Armored Shadow Soldier Lv.1] Elite Grade

Hwang Dongsuk's soul, clad in the Demonic Spirit's Armor, rose from the shadows, tears of blood still flowing. Even as a Shadow Soldier, his pain remained, and the number of demonic soldiers like him gradually increased.

[[Armored Shadow Soldier Lv.1]

[[Armored Shadow Soldier Lv.1]

[[Armored Shadow Soldier Lv.1] ...

"Graaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

Dozens of Death Knights, wearing full-body armor billowing with black smoke, let out horrifying screams. It was a scream of pain and a roar of anger towards Harmakan, who had forced them into these terrible cages.

"All forces, attack." At that moment, Suho's command sounded.

["KwaaAAAAAAAAAAAA!"]

["KwaaAAAAAAAAAAAAH-!"]

They rushed forward competitively, their murderous intent filling the air, and Harmakan couldn't help but panic at their onslaught.

"Th-this...!"

Harmakan hurriedly summoned spirits to counter their attack. Swish! At the same time, he pulled out Vulcan's Horn still embedded in his body, causing blood to spurt out. Harmakan used the blood to draw a rune in the air and chanted a curse.

"Evil spirits who dare defy me! Be cursed!" At his words, the stench of blood spread from him in all directions.

[The Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan, Harmakan, uses Skill: 'Damage Amplification'.]

[Increases the damage taken by those cursed.]

[Even normal attacks will inflict critical wounds.]

'Damage Amplification'? Suho's eyebrows shot up at the successive system messages. Harmakan's curse had been applied to all the Shadow Soldiers. As a result, the attacks of the specters he controlled began to inflict far greater damage.

Simultaneously, Harmakan unleashed a new curse. "The land of death shall descend upon this place!"

[The Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan, Harmakan, uses 'Skill: Exploitation'.]

[Harmakan recovers hp equal to 2% of the damage he inflicts on his opponents.]

Every time the Demonic Spirits attacked the Shadow Soldiers, Harmakan's wounds were healed little by little.

Beru, amazed by this spectacle, shouted to Suho, [My liege! He's quite proficient in curses!]

"Indeed. His combos are something else too."

As expected of a Grand Shaman. Increasing harm done to enemies and then absorbing a portion of that amplified damage... It was a rather troublesome combo.

But...

"It's meaningless against me." Suho smirked, glancing at the messages appearing before him.



[Curse detected.]

[Cleansing curse with the effect of Blessing:'Health and longevity'.]

[3, 2, 1... Cleansing complete.]

Whoosh! The curse Harmakan had placed on Suho was instantly washed away and disappeared. The blessing 'Health and longevity', bestowed upon him by the Great Spellcaster Kandiaru, had overcome the curse of the Grand Shaman, Harmakan.

"It's clear who's superior between the two." At the same time, Harmakan also noticed this and looked at Suho with a shocked expression.

"Kandiaru's blessing?! You're definitely connected to the Shadow Monarch! Could it be... Are you his successor?!"

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At first, he was in shock, but soon Harmakan's eyes were filled with greed as he licked his lips, looking at Suho.

"Kueh-kueh-kueh! What a windfall! I thought I only suffered losses today, but to discover such a valuable research subject!"

FWOOOOOOOOOOOSH!

All the specters around Harmakan swirled and were sucked into his body. And with that, his presence before Suho became even larger.

Rumble!

[The Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan, Harmakan, manifests.]

"...!"

Harmakan emerged from the body of the Yamri Village's head he had possessed, revealing his true form.

["Graaaaaaaaaah!"]

["Graaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"]

At that moment, the Death Knights and Shadow Soldiers, freed from the specters, charged towards him with explosive momentum.

...KWAANG!

Surprisingly, they were all thrown back with a repulsive force even greater than that of their charge.

"Keh-ha-ha-ha!" At the center of it all, Harmakan burst into laughter, a grotesque energy swirling around his body.

[The Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan, Harmakan, uses Skill: 'Thorn of Pain'.]

[Harmakan shares all the pain and damage he receives with the attacker.]

"Thorn of Pain?" Suho frowned as the Shadow Soldiers were instantly annihilated by a single attack.

'A skill that reflects all the damage and pain he receives back to the attacker.'

Of course, Harmakan himself couldn't escape the pain and damage either. But the problem lay in the 'Damage Amplification' and 'Exploitation' curses he had used earlier.

'He shares the pain, but amplifies the damage the opponent receives, while healing himself with the Exploitation skill?' That combination of skills was incredibly efficient and malicious.

"...This guy is really interesting."

Suho chuckled and pulled back all the Shadow Soldiers who were recovering from their injuries. He then ordered all his Shadow Soldiers to eliminate the remaining Death Knights swarming the village and... It was time to go all-out against the boss monster.

"Esil!"

Swish! Vulcan's Horn, which Harmakan had thrown away from his body, flew through the air and landed in Suho's hand.

Esil, responding to his call, immediately turned into her Spirit Form.

[Vulcan's Horn devours the demon's soul.]

[Item: 'Vulcan's Horn' equipped.]

[Buff: 'Destruction Desire' applied. Damage done increased by 300%.]

"D-Demon's Horn?!" Harmakan's eyes widened in shock as two horns suddenly sprouted from Suho's head.

"How can the Shadow Monarch's descendant use the power of a demon noble?!"

But it was too early to be surprised. Spirit Possession, Giant's Armor, Grasslands Wind, Iron Body Technique... Suho applied all the skills to his body, and with each one, Harmakan's eyes grew wider in disbelief.

"This is impossible! Even if you're the descendant of the Shadow Monarch, how can a mere human body wield such diverse powers?!"

Fwoosh! The enlarged Suho, his silver hair fluttering, walked towards Harmakan.

"You know what? I heard my father was a Necromancer. So, what does that make me?"

Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump! Thump!

Suho's two fists, enveloped in the Iron Body Technique, began to rain down on Harmakan in earnest. Each blow triggered a tremendous explosion, and the shockwaves ravaged the surroundings.

"Y-you! It's useless!" Harmakan gritted his teeth, enduring all the attacks, and shouted,

"Even if you have Kandiaru's blessing, the 'Thorn of Pain' is a curse on me!"

[The Grand Shaman of the Demonic Spirit Clan, Harmakan, uses Skill: 'Thorn of Pain'.]

[All pain and damage Harmakan receives is shared with the player.]

At that moment, blood spurted from Suho's mouth, who had been relentlessly attacking. The stronger Suho became, the stronger the backlash he received. Seeing this, Harmakan's lips twisted into a grotesque smile, and a strange laughter erupted.

"Keh-keh-keh! Alright, I acknowledge you're quite something! But let's see how long you can last!"

Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam! Bam!

Of course, Harmakan, who was receiving Suho's attacks head-on, was also bleeding from his mouth. But he was confident.

"Do you know?! This is an Instance Dungeon created with Kandiaru's legacy! And I am the king of this dungeon! That means all the spirits who died in this land give me power!"

Instance Dungeon. Kandiaru's legacy, discovered by chance in the Spirit Realm. Since he began researching it in earnest, Harmakan's power had grown tremendously. It was the reason he, a mere clan leader, could rise to the position of Grand Shaman.

"You only have Kandiaru's blessing, but I'm different! I, Harmakan, am the disciple of Kandiaru, the greatest shaman of the Demonic Spirit Race!"

Kandiaru's disciple. The implications of those words were enormous. The Great Spellcaster Kandiaru, who designed The System, was once feared even by the Monarch of the Demonic Spirits. Even discovering a part of Kandiaru's legacy was enough for Harmakan to become the Grand Shaman. So, even if Kandiaru's blessing protected Suho... This land of death, the Instance Dungeon, was also Kandiaru's legacy...

"Keh-ha-ha! Come at me with all your might! The stronger your power, the more it will eventually consume you..."

But at that moment.

"You talk too much."

Shiver! Harmakan couldn't help but feel a chill at Suho's words.

'W-wait a minute.'

Something was strange. Come to think of it, Suho hadn't stopped attacking even for a moment, despite sharing all the pain. Did it hurt? Of course, it did. But...

'So what?' Suho was smiling, even with blood trickling from his lips.

"I'm confident in my endurance too."

Whenever Suho was about to sleep, Beru would sit beside him and tell him stories of the past. Most of those stories were Beru's firsthand experiences, but some were about Sung Jin-woo's younger days, which Beru had heard about.

'My father had a job change quest.'

He said his father's first job was Necromancer. It was probably a job assigned to increase his power gradually until the vessel was suitable, according to the system's design. However, his father's growth surpassed the system's design, and he was able to change jobs directly to the Shadow Monarch. At that time, his father's level was only 40. But Suho was already past that, approaching level 50, and yet no job change quest had appeared... The reason was obvious. The leveling system was solely designed to create the vessel of the Shadow Monarch. The job change quest was just a facade, a mere step for his father to grow into a suitable vessel. That's why Suho couldn't become a Necromancer, a Shadow Monarch, or anything else.

[Job: None]

Suho's eyes shone intensely as he looked at the top of his status window, which had always been blank.

'...So.' Even without a job. Even without a job change quest. So what?

'I can decide for myself.'

For now, he just needed to trust the sturdy body his father had passed down to him, use all his strength to crush and shatter the enemy before him, and move forward. That was all he needed to do for now.

"So for now, I'm a Barbarian."

2

Barbarian. A warrior who endures all pain with sheer resilience and relentlessly attacks powerful enemies.

"That's what I've decided."

Ding!

[Skill: 'Martial Arts Lv.1' acquired.]

2

Suddenly, even greater power surged into his fists.

"Kuaaaaaaaaaah!" Finally, a scream of pain erupted from Harmakan's mouth.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 154 - Chapter 153 Chapter 154: Chapter 153**

The village was quiet. It was excessively quiet, almost peaceful. At least, that's what Baek Miho thought before she knew the truth.

"Vice President! This house is also empty!"

"There's no one inside these shops either!"

With each report, she frowned and looked around. 'I can't figure this out. What on earth happened in this village?'

It was unthinkable, but if they had found even a single corpse, there might have been a clue to what had transpired. However, despite thoroughly searching every corner of the village, they hadn't found a single person, nor could they locate any signs of violence.

'How is this even possible?'

The situation was absurd. If all the villagers had left, there should have been at least some footprints or traces of their movement. But there was nothing. It was as if... as if all the citizens of this village had vanished in an instant, like they all evaporated.

"Vice President, none of the villains from Jisan Prison have skills that could cause such a phenomenon."

"...Yes, I know."

In the end, only one thing came to mind in this unreal situation. "Is there any chance a Gate opened somewhere in this village?"

"That's the most plausible explanation, but there's no blue fog."

"..."

Indeed. There was no sign of the blue fog that usually emanated from a Gate, making it difficult to believe a dungeon had appeared. Baek Miho, with a grave expression, picked up her phone as she listened to the continuous reports from the guild members searching the village.

3

"First, I need to contact the Association..."

Crack! At that moment, a crack appeared in the clear sky above their heads.

"...!"

"Th-there!"

"Look at the sky!" Someone shouted, and all the Hunters looked up.

Crack! Crack! Crack! In that instant, the crack in the sky widened, splitting and shattering like glass, collapsing downwards.

Rumble!

"Wh-what?!"

"Everyone, gather!"

"Yes!"

At Baek Miho's stern command, the White Tiger guild members scattered throughout the village gathered around her at an incredible speed.

2

"Prepare for battle!" But even before the order was finished, the White Tiger guild members, already in full readiness, had their eyes burning with fighting spirit.

But even more surprising events unfolded next. The transparent barrier that had been enveloping the entire Yamri Village like a dome shattered into pieces.

Shatter!

"...!"

"Ugh!" The White Tiger guild Hunters were startled and covered their noses.

"Th-this smell...?!"

Suddenly, the stench of blood filled the air from all directions. They had expected the ground to cave in or buildings to collapse when the sky crumbled, but their predictions were completely off. The village's landscape remained unchanged. The only difference was that the people who had vanished without a trace had reappeared. But their reappearance was far from peaceful. Countless corpses, their bones exposed, lay scattered across the blood-soaked ground. A gruesome scene of carnage, as if their life force had been sucked out, unfolded in the village.

"Could these all be the missing citizens...?"

"...!"

"P-people!"

The Hunters saw it. Amidst this horrific scene, a lone man stood tall in the center. Baek Miho immediately recognized him and her eyes widened.

"Hunter Sung Suho?!"

"...Ah."

Suho finally raised his head and looked at the White Tiger guild Hunters staring at him. He met Baek Miho's gaze and gave a faint smile.

"Perfect timing. It was getting tedious counting them all. Could you help me out? Are there 500?"

"...What?" At Suho's words, the Hunters were taken aback and looked around at the corpses.

"Then, could all these bodies be...?" Their eyes widened in horror.

Gasp! "Villains!"

"All these corpses are villains!"

"What?!"

"I-it's true!" Surprisingly, electronic anklets were attached to the ankle bones of all the dead bodies!

"Then, could all these villains have been...?"

"Defeated by him alone?" Everyone's gaze focused on Suho once again. Amidst the countless gazes filled with shock and awe, Suho merely ran his fingers through his sweat and blood-soaked hair and sighed.

"Yuck. I feel sticky." Even with leveling up, only his health recovered. His clothes were still drenched in blood and sweat, so it was only natural to feel uncomfortable.

'I need to go back and take a shower.'

"..."

Flinch. As Suho slowly walked towards her, Baek Miho almost stepped back instinctively, barely managing to stop herself. Something was strange.

'I definitely didn't feel this way when we met yesterday.'

What had happened to him? No, what was he? It was too strange. The Suho she encountered today felt like a completely different person from the one she met yesterday. Baek Miho's senses, heightened by her Beast Transformation skill pushed to its limits, were screaming at her to run away from Suho right now.



"Baek Miho."

"...Yes?!"

Suho chuckled at Baek Miho's startled reaction and walked past her. Then, he simply said, "Please take care of the aftermath here. As you can see, I'm alone... Oh, and all the bounties are mine, right?"

"W-wait a minute!"

"...?"

Baek Miho, mustering her courage, hurriedly stopped Suho and asked the most important question.

"If all these bodies are villains, where are the citizens who lived in this village? Could they all be dead...?" At that, Suho briefly lowered his head and gazed at his feet.

"...?" Baek Miho's gaze followed his, but there was nothing there except his shadow.

"Could the citizens all be buried underground...?"

"Ah!"

"Eek?!" Baek Miho screamed in surprise as Suho suddenly raised his head. Then, she quickly covered her mouth with both hands, and Suho grinned.

1

"Fortunately, it seems there are quite a few people still alive. Go towards the village hall."

"...!"

As Suho said, they found a considerable number of people collapsed and unconscious at the village hall. They all looked pale, as if their life force had been drained by a vampire, but they were still alive.

"What in the world..."

"How..." All the White Tiger guild members, including Baek Miho, looked at Suho again with questioning eyes. But Suho just shrugged and changed the subject.

"Maybe there was a villain who could absorb the life force of others? It would be wise to gather them if they wanted to use them whenever necessary and manage hostages effectively."

"...?" That couldn't be. The White Tiger guild had all the information on the Jisan Prison villains. There was no such skill among them. Then what was it? Was there really someone who had been hiding such a skill, just as Suho suggested?

"Vice President." The guild members who were searching near the village hall returned to Baek Miho and reported.

"We've found a significant number of deceased citizens' bodies in this area."

"The cause of death for the citizens matches the skills of the villains listed in the information we received."

"We haven't seen any other bounty hunters around."

"At least... not any other Hunters."

"...I see." Baek Miho nodded, her mind still in turmoil. What exactly had happened in this village? The citizens killed by villains outside the village hall and those trapped inside, their life force drained. But...

'One thing is certain.' Hunter Sung Suho. This man had indeed killed all 500 villains. And as a result, he had saved the lives of all the surviving citizens. He was... a hero.

4

"Hunter Sung Suho." Baek Miho, having grasped the situation, walked towards Suho, who was about to leave for home. She bowed deeply and said,

"Thank you."

"..."

"The citizens of this village were able to survive only thanks to you." As Baek Miho finished speaking, the White Tiger guild Hunters standing behind her also bowed to Suho in unison.

"Thank you."

"Thank you."

"Thank you."

'White Tiger Guild.' Their solemn expressions made his face turn serious as well. Suho could see a glimpse of why they were the most respected guild in Korea...

Countless Hunters focused solely on money when raiding dungeons. No one criticized their actions. It was only natural for those with abilities to pursue wealth. But at least, the Hunters standing before him were different. They were Hunters who genuinely wanted to protect the citizens by hunting magical beasts. Feeling their sincerity, Suho also bowed deeply in return.

1

"..."

\* \* \*

Suho sat leisurely on a mountainside far from Yamri Village, watching the White Tiger Guild rescue the survivors.

[...My liege.] Suddenly, Beru's voice came from behind him.

[It seems this one still has some energy left.]

"Lift one leg."

[...Yes.] At Suho's command, Harmakan, who had been lying face down with his head bowed, hurriedly lifted one leg. His trembling leg looked pathetic.

1

[Harmakan Lv.1]

[Elite Knight Grade]

2

Thanks to leveling up after defeating Harmakan, the number of Shadow Soldiers Suho could store had increased. As a result, he immediately extracted Harmakan's shadow, and this was the outcome.

'Elite Knight grade, huh.'

No wonder it was so hard to deal with him. Harmakan had become the highest-grade soldier Suho had ever obtained. However, a high grade didn't necessarily mean high defense. Harmakan's true power lay in his potent curses and magic, so even this simple physical punishment caused him immense pain. Considering all the evil deeds he had committed, Suho planned to continue this 'training' from time to time...

4

[Master.] At that moment, another Shadow Soldier materialized out of thin air and knelt before Suho, bowing his head deeply.

[Please, bestow a name upon me...]

'Ah, right. I forgot about this one.'

Suho's gaze fell upon him. It was Kang Taeshik, the former bounty hunter. He had proven his talent as a Shadow Assassin in actual combat. But the name floating above his head had changed from before.

[?? Lv.5]

[Knight Grade]

'I guess it's because the number of Shadow Soldiers I can store has increased. But he's already leveled up that much?'

He started at level 1, so just how much had he accomplished in a single day? Suho pondered for a moment, looking at Kang Taeshik's soul, solemnly awaiting his judgment. A name... a name... After a brief moment of contemplation, Suho smiled and spoke.

"Kira." The name of a character from an old cartoon who killed without hesitation suddenly came to mind.

8

"From now on, your name is Kira."

5

[Thank you, Master.]

As Suho gave him a name, the Shadow Assassin Kang Taeshik bowed his head even lower. At that moment, the information above his head was updated.

[Kira Lv.5]

[Knight Grade]

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 155 - Chapter 154 Chapter 155: Chapter 154**

"Alright, then..."

After giving Kira his name, Suho's gaze shifted to the side. There was a reason he was still lingering near the village even after resolving the Jisan Prison incident.

Bzzzzzzzzzz.

It was because of Queen Bee Arsha, who had inadvertently discovered Suho's true identity.

[Suho, my main body has already left this village. So... it's pointless for you to keep searching for me... Kweek!]

Beru squeezed Arsha's waist, and the doll-sized Arsha's body crumpled. But it was all an act. The clone was merely a collection of bees, a hollow shell connected only mentally to her main body. Crushing it wouldn't cause her any pain.

[My liege, we must find and kill her. If this Queen Bee colludes with Itarim's apostles in the future, it will be a disaster.]

Beru's expression was grave. When Suho revealed his Shadow powers while fighting Harmakan with all his might, Arsha, who happened to be nearby, also realized his true identity. That's why, as soon as the Instance Dungeon disappeared after defeating Harmakan, Suho immediately dispatched all his Shadow Soldiers to search for Arsha's main body. However, even with Gray's keen senses and Esil's help, finding Arsha's main body wasn't easy. The reason was simple: the entire area was covered in dense forests and mountains. Pocheon City, with its abundance of insects living in the woods, was the perfect hiding place for bees.

Tsk... Suho clicked his tongue and stopped looking for Arsha's main body. It didn't mean he had given up entirely. Capturing and killing her would be the most convenient solution... But there was a second option.

'This might turn out to be even better than eliminating her.'

"Arsha." Suho looked intently into Arsha's tiny eyes and asked directly,

"You're doing all this because you're curious about my exact relationship with Querehsha, aren't you?"

Flinch.

Arsha's small body trembled as Suho hit the nail on the head. She looked up at him with an awkward expression.

[...You knew.]

As Suho said, Arsha's clone could disperse into countless bees and escape at any moment. So why was she still obediently captured by Beru, chattering away?

"You could sacrifice your subordinate bees and escape even if it means your clone dies, there's no other reason for you to stay here willingly."

Suho had already guessed. "You really are curious about my relationship with Querehsha..."

[...Sigh. As expected of Suho.] Arsha finally sighed and revealed her true intentions.

[Yes, that's right.]

Arsha's voice trembled with tension. She had lived her entire life striving to become the successor of the Queen of Insects, the Plague Monarch, Querehsha. But for some reason, she could sense a trace of Querehsha's energy from Suho, which left her extremely bewildered. Of course, the energy was so faint that it was like a pheromone, undetectable to anyone but other insects.

'...It definitely wasn't like this when we first met.' Arsha recalled her first encounter with Suho. Back then, only the scent of a beast emanated from him.

'So I naturally assumed he was the descendant of the Fang Monarch...'

But the problem arose afterward. When Suho fought her lancer, Lee Minsung, she sensed another energy besides the beastly scent. A poisonous aura was surging from his entire body. However, at the time, Arsha didn't think the poison was Querehsha's energy.

'I thought it was just the poison from Lee Minsung.' But... the moment she saw Suho up close today, Arsha was certain.

[Suho, could you be...]

"Wait." Suho interrupted Arsha and said firmly,

"It's not difficult to satisfy your curiosity. It's not a big secret anyway."

Arsha's eyes momentarily sparkled with anticipation. But seeing her reaction, Suho gave a mischievous smile and continued,

"But even if I were to answer honestly, would you believe me?"

[...]

Arsha fell silent with a serious expression. Based on her own experiences, humans were a race that could lie without hesitation. Their lies were so cunning that they far surpassed the mimicry insects used to deceive their enemies.

"So." Suho gave a meaningful smile and added a condition.

"How about we make a 'Vow of Sincerity'?"

[...?!] Arsha's eyes widened in surprise.

[How do you, a human, know about the 'Vow of Sincerity'?]

Vow of Sincerity. It was a pact that even Rulers and Monarchs couldn't break, preventing them from lying to each other until the contract was terminated.

[That's because I taught him.] Beru puffed out his chest proudly.

1

Lately, Beru had developed a habit of telling Suho stories from the past whenever he lay down to sleep. It was a kind of instinctual behavior for an ant. Just as ants diligently catch and feed food to larvae until they mature, Beru still saw Suho as a larva needing care and was eager to teach him whenever possible.

[Sigh. Alright. For the sake of mutual trust...] Arsha finally accepted Suho's proposal. But there was a problem.

[But how do you plan to make the Vow of Sincerity? It can't be used without power comparable to a Ruler or Monarch...]

"That's not a problem." Suho grinned and raised his eyes.

"Right, Querehsha?" As if on cue, a response came from afar.

Ding!

[The Queen of Insects, the Plague Monarch, casts 'Vow of Sincerity (Negotiation)'.]

[If the 'Vow of Sincerity (Negotiation)' is accepted, the participants cannot lie to each other.]

[Will you accept the 'Vow of Sincerity (Negotiation)'?] (Y/N)

[...!] Arsha shuddered and trembled. Suddenly, Querehsha's energy, emanating from Suho, reached out and exerted its influence on her!

[H-how is this possible?! This is... Master Querehsha's...? You are indeed!]

Suho, with a meaningful look, pressured the flustered Arsha for an answer.

"Come on, make the vow."

[I-I vow.]

Then, Suho also chose to accept. And at that moment.

Ding!

['Vow of Sincerity (Negotiation)' is established.]

[Until the contract is terminated by mutual agreement, the participants cannot lie to each other.]

[The Queen of Insects, the Plague Monarch, observes this situation with great satisfaction.]

Even Querehsha, who usually disliked Suho, couldn't help but welcome this situation. It meant that Suho had decided not to kill Arsha, who had a high chance of becoming her successor.

'Let's see if you can only tell the truth.'

Suho opened his mouth to test the vow's effect.

"I'm um..." It worked. The moment he tried to utter a lie, his mouth was forced shut. Satisfied, Suho asked Arsha,

"Alright, let's begin. Arsha, what are you so curious about?"

[Are you the priest of Querehsha?] Arsha asked the question she had been waiting for. Suho nodded readily.

"Yes. I became the priest of the Queen of Insects, the Plague Monarch, and received Querehsha's blessing."

[As I thought!] Arsha's eyes sparkled with eagerness as she made a request.

[Then, please make me Her...]

"Now, it's my turn."

Suho firmly cut off Arsha's words, and his expression made her tense up.



"I have many questions for you."

[...Ask me anything. I'll answer them all.] Arsha bowed her head obediently. The role of a priest was to choose the next monarch. She had to impress Suho to inherit Querehsha's power.

"Then I'll ask. Arsha, are you in league with Itarim's apostles, or the Itarim themselves?"

[No, absolutely not.]

"Then do you intend to side with Itarim in the future?"

[No. That will never happen.]

Arsha's tone was firm.

[My only desire is to succeed Querehsha and become the Queen of Insects. I can assure you that none of those who claim to be the successors of the Monarchs will side with the Outer Gods.]

"Why is that? Is there no possibility of exceptions?"

[Of course... I can't speak for all races, but the Outer Gods' goal is to devour all the remaining magic power in our world. The moment their goal is achieved, we will all become their next meal, mere mana.] And that was what nobody wanted. Suho stroked his chin and nodded.

"Hmm. That means there's no need for us to be hostile towards each other."

[That's right. So please...]

"But you know, that 'us' doesn't include humans, does it?"

[...] Arsha's mouth was forced shut at Suho's question. Then, she sighed and opened her mouth again.

[That's correct. I intend to kill and use humans whenever necessary in the future.]

"Then I must kill you."

Shiver.

Arsha couldn't help but feel fear, knowing Suho was serious. He was the descendant of the Shadow Monarch and had Querehsha's blessing. If he truly wanted to end her life, she would eventually be caught and killed.

[W-wait! I promise to only kill humans classified as villains!]

"Then you could just frame them as villains before killing them, right? Human laws are imperfect."

[...]

[What do you want me to do? Tell me, and I'll obey.] Arsha finally surrendered completely to Suho. She looked at him with pleading eyes and made an earnest request.

[I'll become your slave. Even if I inherit Querehsha's power, I'll serve you forever until I die.]

"...That's an interesting proposition."

Shudder.

Suddenly, an intense murderous intent erupted from Suho.

[Skill: 'Bloodlust' activated.]

Whoosh!

[Kyaaaak...!]

Arsha screamed in terror at the overwhelming killing intent, amplified by Querehsha's blessing. Suho's black eyes, filled with the abyss, looked down at Arsha with an arrogant gaze.

"Until you die? Aren't you essentially a collective of countless bees? If even one bee dies, that vow will be broken."

[I-I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I never intended to play such tricks!]

"Really? Then appear before me in your main body right now."

[Th-that's...]

"Why? You don't want to?" Suho asked with a smirk.

"Are you scared? Afraid that I'll kill you right away?"

[Will you... promise not to kill me?]

"No, I intend to kill you anytime."

[...]

"But I promise not to kill you if you don't give me any reason to."

[Such an easy to circumvent promise...]

"If you don't like it, you'll live as a mere insect forever, not Querehsha's successor."

[...]

Arsha felt a deep sense of despair at those words. The truth was... she had known from the beginning. That in this conversation she would be at a huge disadvantage. Suho held all the cards. Arsha desperately wanted something from him, but Suho wanted nothing from her. No even worse, the only thing he wanted was her death. That's why she had to endure this... She could only describe it as bullying. Of course, if she complied, the reward would be substantial.

2

'I'll be able to become the Queen of Insects, which I've longed for so much.'

So, Arsha's answer had been decided from the start. In the end, with an extremely humiliated and desperate expression, she nodded.

[A-Alright...]

"Hmm?"

But at that moment.

[Kieeeeek?]

"...!"

[...]

Snap!

Suho, Arsha, Beru, and even Harmakan, who was undergoing punishment... They all widened their eyes and turned their heads in the same direction.

[My liege!]

[Someone is approaching!]

Shhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!

Someone with tremendous magic power was rapidly approaching them along the mountain ridge! And that power was...

[S-rank!]

"Could it be Hwang Dongsoo?!"

The second reason Suho had remained in the vicinity was the possibility of Hwang Dongsuk's brother, Hwang Dongsoo, appearing after hearing the news.

"Everyone, hide!"

The moment Suho gave the order, all the Shadow Soldiers disappeared.

KWAANG!

Finally, 'he' arrived before Suho. But it wasn't Hwang Dongsoo.

"Such a pungent smell of blood!"

The moment he spotted Suho, he unleashed a ferocious aura and threw a punch with his white, fur-covered fist without hesitation.

KWAANG!

"...!"

Suho hurriedly dodged the attack, and the newcomer roared at him, baring his teeth.

Growl!

"You dodged that? You're definitely a villain!"

1

"Uh, no, I'm not?"

1

"I'm Suho."

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 156 - Chapter 155**

### **Chapter 156: Chapter 155**

"What do you mean, you're not?!"

Boom!

The middle-aged man who had suddenly appeared didn't stop his attacks on Suho. His name was Baek Yoonho, the guild master of the White Tiger Guild and an S-rank Hunter. He had rushed to Pocheon as soon as he received Baek Miho's request for support.

'She said Hwang Dongsoo might be involved in the Jisan Prison breakout! And now I find this strange guy!'

His presence was truly unsettling. Baek Yoonho could bet everything on Suho being a villain. The ominous aura he had sensed the moment he entered Pocheon! The pungent smell of blood emanating from this suspicious guy he found while following that aura!

'There are only two kinds of people who give off such an eerie smell!'

A villain, or a bounty hunter who hunts villains. And Baek Yoonho was 200% certain that Suho was a villain. It was obvious, wasn't it? Someone skilled enough to dodge his, an S-rank's, attacks couldn't possibly be chasing mere villains. Besides, there was one more thing. Clear evidence that solidified his belief that this suspicious guy was a villain.

"You're not a villain? Do you think I'll fall for such a flimsy lie?! Reveal that ominous power you're hiding!"

Baek Yoonho relentlessly pressured Suho, who effortlessly countered his attacks. However, it was because Baek Yoonho wasn't using his full power yet. The S-rank Hunter's true strength was far beyond this. He was still holding back, wary of the 'ominous' power Suho was concealing.

"Ominous power?" Suho's brow furrowed at those words.

'It must be...'

[He's probably talking about Harmakan, my liege.] At Beru's whisper, Suho sighed softly.

Indeed. Harmakan, a Demonic Spirit, was a being whose very existence was ominous, corrupting the souls of others and using their despair as the source of his power. Suho had taken him in as a Shadow Soldier because he was useful, but he hadn't expected it to lead to such a troublesome misunderstanding.

'Just you wait, Harmakan.' Suho inwardly gritted his teeth, and Harmakan, sensing his displeasure, trembled in fear within the shadows.

Bzzzzzz.

[...]

Moreover, there was another reason for Suho's bad mood.

'Of all times...' Taking advantage of the chaos, Arsha had transformed into ordinary bees and was observing the situation from a distance.

"Where are you looking?! How dare you act nonchalant in front of me?!"

"Ugh." The continuous attacks from Baek Yoonho left no room for distraction. Suho grumbled and thought of the most efficient way to end this pointless fight.

Whoosh! Suho immediately changed direction and started running at full speed.

2

"Stop right there!"

Baek Yoonho, seeing Suho flee, chased after him with ferocious speed. He was genuinely dumbfounded. Who was he? He was Baek Yoonho, the strongest Beast Transformation Hunter alive. Surely, this villain knew that too.

"You might have avoided being caught initially, but you don't seriously think you can fool my senses and escape, do you?!"

Of course, if the opponent were an S-rank villain like Hwang Dongsoo, it would be a different story. But this young man was clearly not Hwang Dongsoo. No matter what power he was hiding, how dare he turn his back on an S-rank Hunter?! But...

'Wh-what's this?'

Something was strange. No, it was very strange!

'Why is he so fast?'

Baek Yoonho couldn't help but be flustered. No matter how much he chased, the distance between him and the fleeing villain didn't close. Of course, playing tag in a dense forest was tricky. The irregularly grown trees made it impossible to run in a straight line. In such situations, agility was usually more helpful than strength. However... seeing the guy running ahead, he couldn't make such excuses.

Crack! Crash! Boom! Boom! Boom!

"...What a brute."

The young man was running in a straight line, not dodging any trees but smashing through them with his body.

6

'Is he using some kind of running or dashing skill?'

No. It didn't feel like he was using any skills. Baek Yoonho, who had been constantly wary of the power Suho was hiding, could sense that he wasn't using any skills right now.

'...No, that can't be. It must be a skill.' Yes, it had to be a skill. If it wasn't, how could he do such a ridiculous thing with just pure strength...?

Shiver.

'W-wait a minute. Come to think of it!' A sense of foreboding washed over Baek Yoonho as he chased Suho.

'Could he be heading...?!'

As if to confirm his fears.

"...!"

Suddenly, the dense forest ended, and his vision opened up. And beyond that, a small village came into view. There, he saw the White Tiger guild members diligently rescuing the survivors of Yamri Village.

"Oh no!" Baek Yoonho, realizing Suho's intention, panicked. He immediately unleashed his full power.

Beast Transformation.

Complete Transformation.

His entire body began to morph into a monstrous form. Baek Yoonho hated showing this hideous appearance to others, so he rarely went all out unless absolutely necessary. But now wasn't the time for such concerns. At the end of the villain's path...! Baek Miho, his daughter and the vice president of the White Tiger Guild, was in the village, commanding the guild members!

'Despicable bastard! How dare he try to take my daughter hostage!'

KWAOOOOH!

The moment his Beast Transformation activated, his speed increased dramatically. And finally, his sharp claws were about to slash the villain's back.

"Hmm? Hunter Sung Suho?"

Baek Miho, sensing a familiar presence, turned her head and blinked.

"Why are you back? Did you forget something?"

"I'm here to deliver your father."

6

"...My dad?"

Gulp

At that moment, Baek Yoonho froze. And he was utterly bewildered, but in a completely different sense than before.

"...D-dad? You said dad?"

1

"..."

"..."

An awkward silence hung in the air amidst the rescue operation in Yamri Village, where numerous ambulances and healers were coming and going.

"..."

Of course, the only one with an awkward expression here was Baek Yoonho. And before him stood Baek Miho, arms crossed glaring at him.

"...Dad." Flinch... Baek Yoonho's shoulders flinched at his daughter's cold words.

"Aren't you going to apologize?"

"N-no. I really felt it, you know? I really sensed an ominous aura from him..."

"Then what kind of aura was it?"

"...I don't feel it at all now, though."



"Then maybe he picked it up while fighting villains here."

Baek Yoonho, intimidated by his daughter's sharp gaze, averted his eyes and muttered in a sulky voice.

1

"But, you know, he reeks of blood all over..."

"That's obviously the blood of the villains."

"..."

"And of course he smells like blood when he's covered in it like that."

"..."

"Do you know? It was 500. The number of villains Hunter Sung Suho faced alone today."

"..."

Baek Miho's words were undeniably true, and Baek Yoonho's gaze sank lower and lower with each argument she made.

"And he couldn't even go home and shower because of someone."

"Honey, but still, you should use honorifics..."

"Hmph."

"..."

Baek Yoonho, having failed to gain any ground, lowered his head again. But even amidst this, he still couldn't shake his suspicion of Suho. Logically, it didn't make sense, but his senses were far more accurate than logic.

'The aura I felt wasn't a mistake.' And it was definitely something ominous, something a human couldn't possibly possess. In the end, Baek Yoonho decided to trust his instincts.

"Dad, stop it."

"Hey."

Ignoring his daughter's words from behind, he strode towards Suho. He reached out and grabbed Suho's shoulder, saying,

1

"Your name is Sung Suho, right? I heard you're a C-rank Hunter?"

Hah, as if. This guy, a C-rank Hunter? A mere C-rank Hunter defeating 500 villains alone? That was more absurd than a stray dog turning out to be a boss monster of a dungeon.

"False ranker." Baek Yoonho growled softly into Suho's ear.

A very small number of Hunters could control their magic power. If they wanted, they could lower their rank during the magic power measurement. These Hunters, who hid some of their magic power and received a lower rank than their actual one, were commonly called 'false rankers.' And...

"Most false rankers are twisted killers who enjoy massacres."

"...What are you trying to say?"

Baek Yoonho, seeing Suho's nonchalant expression, gave a meaningful smile and exuded an intimidating aura. He carefully imprinted Suho's face in his mind and pressed him further.

"Go to the Association right now and get re-evaluated. Of course, even then... I'll keep an eye on you. So be careful with everything you do... Hmm?" But something was odd. Eyes, nose, mouth... Baek Yoonho's expression grew increasingly strange as he memorized Suho's face.

"W-wait. Wait a minute!"

He hurriedly pulled out his phone from his pocket.

"No, th-that can't be..."

With trembling fingers, he opened an app on his phone and checked the profile picture of his most respected senior. And there it was...

[Chief Sung Il-Hwan]

A picture of his senior's 'beloved grandson' was proudly displayed on his profile. Baek Yoonho's eyes widened in disbelief.

1

"...Huh? Huhhh?"

"...?"

Suho couldn't help but look puzzled at Baek Yoonho, who had suddenly turned pale.

4

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 157 - Chapter 156**

### **Chapter 157: Chapter 156**

If you were to stop a passerby in Korea and ask them who Baek Yoonho is, you'd get a variety of answers.

"S-rank Hunter."

"Guild Master of the White Tiger Guild."

"Korea's best Beast Transformation Hunter."

But if you were to ask them what kind of person Baek Yoonho was, the answers would be surprisingly similar: A hero.

That's right. The head of a large guild? An S-rank Hunter? There were Hunters with such titles all over the world. But none of them fought as sincerely for the safety of the citizens as Baek Yoonho did. Hunters were always driven by money, and they all became rich because of it. Of course, such pragmatism wasn't a bad thing in this blatantly capitalist world. But even in such a world, it was only natural for a guild that genuinely stepped up to save citizens, sacrificing rational self-interest, to be praised by them. The recent villain incident was a prime example. The White Tiger Guild was the only one to dedicate themselves fully to a case that all other Hunters neglected, claiming it was a waste of time and wouldn't bring in any money. That was precisely why people respected Baek Yoonho. And so, Baek Yoonho was a hero, the pride of Korea, recognized by all its citizens.

2

However,

Baek Yoonho wasn't always seen this way. When he first awakened as a Hunter, the ability he gained was 'Beast Transformation.' A skill that allowed one to transform their body into a beast-like form and gain savage power. In the early days of the Cataclysm, people didn't look kindly upon Baek Yoonho, who possessed this skill. In fact, even Hunters with the lower-level skill that didn't fully transform them into beasts, faced cold stares. The reason was perfectly logical and understandable. It was terrifying! The ability to transform into a monster, just like the magical beasts pouring out of the Gates!

"Who knows when these hunters will suddenly become real monsters."

"With the appearance of Gates, are people gradually turning into monsters too?"

"What if they suddenly transform and attack us?"

"Shouldn't we execute them before that happens?"

"No, at least we should lock them up while they still have some humanity..."

1

At the time, countless concerns about Beast Transformation Hunters stirred up public opinion online. This trend continued until the Hunter Association was established, and Chairman Woo Jinchul publicly expressed his support for Beast Transformation Hunters. But even his words couldn't completely erase people's fears. Moreover, the problem was that even the Hunters themselves shared these concerns. Who could guarantee that they wouldn't lose control and transform into monsters? So they always felt ashamed of their abilities and lived in constant fear of losing their minds.

And Baek Yoonho was no exception. He had an exceptionally large physique and a fierce expression that made it seem like he could crush magic beasts with one hand. Because of his appearance, people always looked at him with a mix of fear and apprehension. But there was someone who gave Baek Yoonho courage during those times.

"Yoonho."

Baek Yoonho, who had lived his entire life as a firefighter until the Great Cataclysm, looked up. He saw his most respected senior, Chief Sung Il-hwan, standing there with a warm smile, his hand resting on Baek Yoonho's shoulder.

"...Yes, Chief." Baek Yoonho met Sung Il-hwan's eyes. The hand on his shoulder was rough with calluses from years of service.

A veteran. Or a master strategist. No matter how he was called, Chief Sung Il-hwan was an exceptional firefighter who always displayed an unparalleled presence at fire scenes.

He looked at Baek Yoonho's face and offered advice in his usual calm and reliable voice.

"Nothing has changed, whether you've awakened or gained some ability. No matter what people say, you're still a firefighter, and my subordinate, Baek Yoonho. So just like you've always done..."

Chief Sung Il-hwan, his face smeared with soot, continued with a faint smile. "Save people."

1

At those words, Baek Yoonho felt like he was struck by lightning. Truthfully, anyone could say something like that. But who was the one talking?! It was Chief Sung Il-hwan, who had dedicated his life to saving people for decades! It was coming from the mouth of someone who had lived by those very words. And Baek Yoonho had witnessed it all from up close.

No further words were needed between them.

"You're a firefighter, aren't you?" Looking into Chief Sung Il-hwan's smiling eyes, a confident smile finally appeared on Baek Yoonho's face.

And on that very day. A hero was born in Korea.

S-rank Hunter Baek Yoonho. He immediately went to the most famous guild in Korea, the Grim Reapers, and started tearing apart magical beasts on the front lines, utilizing his Beast Transformation skill. Even his fellow guild members feared his intense and terrifying power.

'It doesn't matter.' Baek Yoonho didn't care. Wasting time worrying about such gazes was pointless when tearing apart one more magical beast right in front of him meant saving more people.

'Just save people.' And that was the most important lesson he had learned from following and watching Chief Sung Il-hwan for decades. It all happened just two years ago. And then, last year...

In just one year, Baek Yoonho gained immense fame for his remarkable achievements and established his own guild. But his actions weren't driven by money. Quite the opposite. His beliefs clashed with the Reaper guild leader, who, like other Hunter guilds at the time, pursued only profit. Baek Yoonho gathered all the Beast Transformation Hunters in Korea who were still struggling with prejudice and founded the 'White Tiger Guild,' dedicated to rescuing citizens.

The reason he went to such lengths? It was simple.

"You're a firefighter, aren't you?" The last words he heard from Chief Sung Il-hwan. That calm and profound voice was still deeply engraved in Baek Yoonho's heart.

\* \* \*

"...Sob! So, hiccup! Chief Sung Il-hwan told me, hiccup, that I'm a firefighter...! Sob!"

1

"I know, I know, so please..."

"Dad, stop crying. The guild members are watching. And please blow your nose."

"Sniff!" Baek Yoonho, deeply engrossed in his nostalgic story, took the tissue Baek Miho handed him and blew his nose loudly.

But seeing the tears still streaming down his face Baek Miho sighed softly and handed him the entire roll of tissues. Then, with a genuine expression, she apologized to Suho.

"I am sorry, Hunter Sung Suho. My father's getting older and more emotional these days."

"Yeah, I understand." Suho wore a bewildered expression. The contrast between Baek Yoonho's charismatic entrance and his current state of tears and snot was too jarring. On the other hand, it was also intriguing.

'What a coincidence. I never imagined my grandfather would know Hunter Baek Yoonho.'

Suho knew that his grandfather, Sung Il-hwan, had worked as a firefighter his entire life before retiring. But naturally, he didn't know all of his grandfather's former colleagues. To think that the famous Baek Yoonho was his grandfather's subordinate. While Suho found it fascinating, for Baek Yoonho, this revelation was a significant matter.

Sniff!

"Ahem. S-Suho?" Baek Yoonho, after blowing his nose vigorously once again, approached Suho hesitantly. His tone was completely different from before, as cautious as if handling a fragile glass ornament.

"Ahem. It seems there was a slight misunderstanding between us earlier. Surely, Chief Sung Il-hwan's grandson wouldn't stray down the wrong path. Of course, of course." Baek Yoonho knew better than anyone about Chief Sung Il-hwan's character. He himself had been inspired to dedicate his life to saving others after just a few conversations with him.

'His grandson would never go astray. I was mistaken earlier. Of course, of course.' With that thought in mind, Baek Yoonho glanced at Suho and spoke.

"S-so, you wouldn't tell your grandfather about this minor incident, would you...?"

"Ah! Come to think of it, I haven't called my grandfather in a while!"

"Oh my! Wait! Calm down!" Baek Yoonho panicked as Suho suddenly took out his phone. But no matter how surprised he was, he didn't try to snatch the phone from Suho's hand by force. Instead, he hovered around Suho, sweating profusely and trying not to even touch a single hair on his head.

"Tsk..." Seeing this, Suho gave a mischievous smile and put his phone back down.

1

"Haaa..." Baek Yoonho let out a sigh of relief, his face almost lifeless, and Suho's smile grew even wider.

'This worked out well. To think the great Baek Yoonho would owe me favor'

Having to face Itarim's apostles in the future, the more powerful allies he had, the better. He had become close friends with Thomas Andre, but since he was active in the US, it would be difficult to get help from him in urgent situations. Suho briefly organized his thoughts on how to 'handle' Baek Yoonho and finally made a decision.

2

"Guild Master Baek Yoonho, don't worry, I won't contact my grandfather about this."

"R-really? Hahaha! I knew it! You take after your grandfather, with such a generous personality!"

"But I have a favor to ask."

"Hmm? A favor?" Baek Yoonho, who had been greatly relieved, grew anxious again at Suho's condition. But surprisingly, Suho's request was quite reasonable.

"Could you find Hwang Dongsoo for me? He still hasn't shown up here, so I think I'll have to search for him myself."

"...Find Hwang Dongsoo?" Baek Yoonho's expression hardened at those words.

"Why are you looking for Hwang Dongsoo?"

"Does a bounty hunter need a specific reason to catch a villain?" With that answer, Suho presented his 'Association-certified bounty hunter' license.

"...I see." Baek Yoonho nodded in understanding after checking the license issued by the Association. But he still felt uneasy.

"We were planning to find Hwang Dongsoo anyway, so leave it to us. But I have one question."

Baek Yoonho's eyes were now filled with suspicion, just like before Sung Il-hwan's name came up. Saying he would catch Hwang Dongsoo meant he was confident in facing even an S-rank villain himself. If that were true, why would he hide such power and act as a C-rank Hunter?

"If you find Hwang Dongsoo, will you handle him alone?" At his direct question, Suho tilted his head as if he didn't understand.

"I'd be happy if you killed him yourself. It's only right for an S-rank Hunter to take care of an S-rank villain, right?"

"Ah, so that's what you meant." Baek Yoonho finally dropped his suspicion. But Suho's next words made his eyes widen again.

"But please leave Hwang Dongsoo's body intact."

3

"...Huh? Why the body?"

"Oh, I want to see the body. Just for a brief moment."

"...?"

'Chief Sung Il-hwan. Just what kind of grandson did you raise?' Baek Yoonho thought he should give his chief a call after a long time.

1

[Beloved Grandson ♥] The profile picture of the chief, enjoying his retirement, was filled with love for his grandson. That made it even more confusing.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer



# **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 158 - Chapter 157**

## **Chapter 158: Chapter 157**

The internet was buzzing again, with news articles flooding the web almost every day.

"Breaking News: Case Closed! 'The Great Jisan Prison Breakout.' "

"Breaking News: 500 Villains Completely Eliminated! South Korea is Safe!"

1

"Special Report: Asking the White Tiger Guild 'Who is the Hunter who defeated the villains?' "

"Interview: Vice President Baek Miho's Statement, 'He is a hero.' Sparks Controversy."

People's reactions to the news articles that began to dominate the internet were more heated than ever.

"Wow... this is seriously crazy; the White Tiger Guild didn't catch the villains??"

"What does this mean? If it wasn't the White Tiger Guild, then who caught all those villains?"

"Are you illiterate? It says someone else solved the case, and the White Tiger Guild only handled the aftermath."

"Yeah, but who is that someone??"

"It was only one person?."

"LOL, this is insane. So one Hunter wiped out 500 villains?"

2

"At this point, isn't that Hunter a villain too?"

"Real talk, that's a massacre."

People's opinions were largely divided into two camps. Eliminating the villains from Jisan Prison was undoubtedly a good thing, and the person who accomplished it deserved to be praised as a hero. However, the problem was that the number of villains

he killed was too high. Someone who massacred 500 living people in a single day couldn't be normal.

"At the very least, he's a murderer."

"But it's okay because he killed villains, not people, right?"

"Oh, so villains aren't people?"

"?? : Villains have human rights too!"

"Fact 1: All those human rights groups that said that are now dead."

"Fact 2: They were killed by the very villains they wanted to protect."

"Related Link: 'I killed them because they were pathetic.' "

"Related Link: 'How dare you try to protect us? You incompetent fools.' "

...There used to be many organizations advocating for the human rights of villains. But due to various incidents and massacres caused by villains, the general consensus now accepted the Hunter Association's stance that 'villains are classified as humanoid magical beasts.'

Still...

There had to be a limit.

"Unpopular opinion: Killing 500 people is a bit too much, even if they were villains. If he was that strong of a Hunter, he could have captured them alive and sent them back to prison."

"LOL, armchair saint has arrived. What if they escape again? Will YOU catch them?"

2

"No!! So who is this person?? Why won't they reveal their identity? They're a hero!"

"Tsk tsk, would you reveal your identity in this situation? People are trying to paint him as a murderer instead of praising him as a national hero, lol."

"Plus, Hwang Dongsuk died in this incident. He's probably desperately hiding his identity, afraid of Hwang Dongsoo seeking revenge."

"LOL, Hwang Dongsoo is scary."

" ... "

\* \* \*

Late at night. S-rank villain Hwang Dongsoo was reading the internet news in his hideout when he suddenly stopped. There was a list of villains who had died in this incident.

C-rank villain Hwang Dongsuk (Deceased)

"...Huh." The corners of his tightly closed lips twitched, revealing his white teeth. A chuckle escaped his lips at the absurd news.

"My brother is really dead?"

Hwang Dongsuk was his older brother, whom he had parted ways with two years ago. His brother had suddenly awakened and abandoned him without hesitation, calling him useless for not being a hunter. That's why, even when Hwang Dongsoo awakened as an S-rank, he never even thought about seeking his brother out to reconcile. But that didn't mean he wanted to receive news of his brother's death like this.

2

"...He was quietly locked up in prison, then suddenly broke out and got killed in three days? By one person?"

When he heard about his brother's escape, he didn't think of helping him. He's cunning, so he'll probably hide well on his own, he assumed, and didn't give it much thought. But if his brother was dead, that was a different story. As his younger brother, he had to at least avenge him.

4

'...But I have no idea who did it.'

He had searched all related articles, but the White Tiger Guild was thoroughly concealing the identity of 'that person.' As someone mentioned in the comments earlier, it was clear they were worried about Hwang Dongsoo's retaliation. However...

"There are no eternal secrets in this world."

Hwang Dongsoo grinned and rose from his bed, his massive body towering over it. The thick gold necklace around his neck clattered. As he opened the bedroom door and walked out, the luxurious lobby of the mansion unfolded before him. This place was once the secret villa of a corrupt politician, and now after he killed him and took over,

Hwang Dongsoo's third hideout. He walked through the empty lobby, out of the building, and made a phone call.

It connected quickly.

"Yes, Mr. Hwang Dongsoo. What can I do for you?" A business-like voice came from the other end of the line. Hwang Dongsoo asked directly,

"I want information."

"Are you perhaps looking for information about Hwang Dongsuk's death?" Hwang Dongsoo chuckled at the expected response.

"You're good at business. Yes, I want to know who killed my brother. I'll pay you any amount."

1

"We could negotiate an appropriate price. But if you don't mind, could you help us with something this time?"

"Help you?"

"Yes. We have a bit of a troublesome request." Hwang Dongsoo frowned at those words.

"You know I'm being chased by the Association, right?"

"Yes. Of course, we understand your situation, Mr. Hwang Dongsoo. That's why the task we're asking you to handle is in a remote countryside, far from the city, where you won't be noticed."

"...Tsk." Hwang Dongsoo clicked his tongue in displeasure at the business-like tone, as if they had been waiting for his call and had their lines prepared.

'Those sly bastards.' Of course, thanks to them, he had been able to live comfortably without being caught by the Association so far.

"It's a task that someone like you can easily handle. We'll provide you with the information you want as soon as you finish."

"Alright, just tell me where it is."

"It's in Yangpyeong, not too far from where you are now."

1

\* \* \*

[Entering the Shadow Dungeon.]

The next day, Suho returned home, had breakfast, and immediately entered the Shadow Dungeon. The internet was in an uproar over the Jisan Prison incident, but Suho's daily life remained unchanged. This was all thanks to the White Tiger Guild doing their best to conceal information about him. Of course, it was impossible to keep everything a secret forever, as many White Tiger guild Hunters had witnessed Suho in action. Regardless of public opinion, Suho's identity would eventually be revealed to the masses. But at least they could delay the release a bit, allowing Suho to disclose it when he wanted.

[My liege, Greed is powerful. To make him your Shadow Soldier, you must become just as strong as him.]

3

"I know, I know. That's why I'm here training so hard."

Hwang Dongsoo, who was once his father's Soldier 'Greed.' To successfully extract him as a Shadow again, whether they met and fought directly or the White Tiger Guild found and killed him first, Suho's own stats were the most crucial factor.

[Skill: Shadow Extraction Lv.2]

[Shadow Power. No mana required.]

[Extracts mana from a lifeless body and turns it into a Shadow Soldier. The failure rate increases in proportion to the target's stats and the time elapsed since their death.]

[Level 2 effect 'Shape Transformation': you can freely change the appearance and shape of Shadow Soldiers.]

[Extractable Shadows: 50/50]

'Shadow Extraction skill has a failure rate.'

Suho recalled the harrowing experience in Egypt when he unsuccessfully tried twice to extract the 'Venomous Giant Sand Centipede.' The centipede was beyond his level at the time, and he almost failed the extraction completely.

'There are three extraction attempts in total. To successfully extract an S-rank Awakened within those three attempts, I need to become much stronger than I am now.' That's why Suho came to Ammut's Pyramid today.

As always, he was here to practice the Iron Body Technique for his daily quest. But when he arrived, he found a pitiful mummy who had been forgotten by everyone, continuing his lonely training.

3

"Groan..."

[Keh-ha-ha! That's it! Keep running! Even if your leg bones are crushed and your spine is shattered, you can still run!]

"..."

The mummy, or rather, Lim Dogyoon, was trudging through the labyrinth within the pyramid under Ammut's terrifying laughter. To call it hard training was an understatement; it was pure torture. Of course, Suho also repeated the same routine every day as his daily quest. But the intensity varied each time. Ammut adjusted the gravity field to increase the difficulty of the training in proportion to Suho's stat increases. So he also endured excruciating pain every time he trained. However, he was the son of the Shadow Monarch, Sung Jinwoo. With the leveling system on top of that, his potential was limitless.

But what about Lim Dogyoon? He was just an ordinary E-rank Hunter. His physical abilities and recovery were only slightly better than an average person, making him the weakest among Hunters. He had only one special talent: the 'Running' skill.

[You don't need push-ups! Just run until you're about to die! No, don't you dare to stop, or you'll really die by my hand!]

"Eek..." Lim Dogyoon's face paled rapidly as he felt Ammut's genuine killing intent right behind him.

He had already surpassed human limits. Even with his limbs tattered, practically a half-corpse, Lim Dogyoon continued to run and run. But he somehow managed to survive. The Mummy's Bandages wrapped around his entire body were a wicked, no, useful item that forcibly held his broken body together even if his bones shattered and his muscles and ligaments ruptured.

2

"I don't think that's how it's supposed to be used..."

[Nonsense! This bandage is Kandiaru's masterpiece, purposefully designed to be used this way!] Ammut retorted with a hearty laugh at Suho's muttering.

[You know, I enjoy watching insignificant creatures like him struggle to become stronger. Usually, they end up dying, but!] He looked at Lim Dogyoon, who was still running inside the pyramid despite being near death, with a very satisfied expression.

[Those who somehow survive that pain, will be able to unleash their strength.]

"..."

Suho couldn't help but nod at the resonating truth in those words. No matter what anyone said, Lim Dogyoon was continuing this harsh training of his own will. As a result, his leg muscles were bulging as if they would burst. Without the help of the leveling system or status window.

He was simply running. With the sole determination to become stronger.

[Now, let's start the daily quest.]

Nod.

Suho's training began.

And.

[Hmm.]

Behind them, the newly recruited Shadow Soldier, Harmakan, was observing the pyramid with gleaming eyes.

[Could this place be... the great shaman Kandiaru's...?]

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 159 - Chapter 158**

### **Chapter 159: Chapter 158**

In the Shadow Dungeon. A silent world of rest, painted in black and white. The flapping of bees' wings unexpectedly created a subtle noise.

Bzzzzzzzzz.

[...Truly amazing.] Queen Bee Arsha let out a small exclamation of admiration as she walked through the Shadow Dungeon.

[So this is the world of rest ruled by the Shadow Monarch.]

Surprisingly, she was currently inside the Shadow Dungeon in her 'main body'. Although the conversation between Suho and Arsha had been briefly interrupted by Baek Yoonho's sudden intrusion, Suho eventually managed to summon Arsha's main body before him. Since she was in no position to disobey his orders, she had no choice but to comply.

The result was her current state. From now on, Arsha's main body would be confined to the Shadow Dungeon. In other words, she had been taken hostage, captured, imprisoned, ... . No matter what you call it, Arsha's main body could no longer leave the Shadow Dungeon without Suho's permission.

However, her worker bees still remained outside, and she could observe the world through them. But that was all. With her main body trapped here, it was difficult to exert her full power. Reconnaissance was the best she could do.

'...But this isn't necessarily a bad thing.'

Arsha hadn't realized it when she was being intimidated by Suho and tormented by her own thoughts, but she was quite pleased with her current situation.

'I am being oppressed and taken advantage of, but the perks are surprisingly good.'  
Arsha's ultimate goal was, of course, to inherit the power of the Insect Queen, the Plague Monarch Querehsha. But her top priority was 'survival.' In that sense, this Shadow Dungeon was the safest place imaginable.

'Most of all, I like that I don't have to pretend anymore.' This alone made Arsha content with her current situation.

In the past, after falling to Earth through a dimensional crack, she chose to blend into human society by disguising herself as a human. She acted like a human and catered to their whims. It was not adaptation but parasitism. It was shameful. She, born as a Queen Bee, had to live by imitating mere humans. But no matter how strong she was, she couldn't fight against all the humans on Earth. That's why she had to increase her subordinates and build a force strong enough that she wouldn't have to hide anymore. To reign as a true Queen Bee.

But not now. Within this Shadow Dungeon, she no longer needed to pretend to be human. That fact pleased her the most. Of course, there was one problematic factor: Suho. With her main body trapped here, Suho could now kill her anytime he wanted.

"I intend to kill you anytime. But I promise not to kill you... If you don't provoke me."



[Did I really agree to that...?] A very unfair and one-sided contract. Arsha's eyes trembled with anxiety as she recalled Suho's vow.

But what could she do? In this situation, she had no choice but to do her best not to get on his bad side. After all, even when she was outside, she was always running away from him.

[Hmm. This seems like a good spot.]

After wandering around the Shadow Dungeon for a while, Arsha stopped when she found a suitable location. It was a corner of the Shadow Dungeon, a bit away from Ammut's Pyramid. After carefully examining the surroundings, she smiled in satisfaction and stretched out her hand.

[Take flight, my worker bees.]

Bzzzzzzzzt. The bees she had brought with her flew up from her body all at once.

Arsha solemnly declared to them, [In the name of Queen Bee Arsha, I command you. Work diligently, my worker bees. Let us build our new kingdom here.]

Bzzzzt.

Since things had turned out this way Arsha decided to make a comfortable palace for herself in this corner of the Shadow Dungeon. The main material for the hive was Arsha's magic power, and the rest could be gathered from the surroundings.

After some time...

A hive, already showing its basic framework, was gradually taking shape before her. Perhaps due to being too accustomed to human life, the queen bee's chamber was being built more like a cozy and elegant princess's room than a beehive.

[Hehe. This is nice, very nice. I'll put a bed here. Queen size would be good. And over there, a tea table and a sofa...]

2

The worker bees buzzed diligently, carrying out Arsha's detailed instructions. She couldn't hide her satisfaction. But then, a sudden thought crossed her mind.

'Maybe it wouldn't be so bad to live like this forever... Hmm? What am I thinking...?' Arsha quickly dismissed the idea, reminding herself that it wasn't befitting of a queen bee. But deep down, she knew...

The life of a queen bee was all about living comfortably in a safe place and leaving all the unpleasant and dangerous tasks to the worker bees. Arsha, grateful to Suho for providing her with such a comfortable space, sent a command to her worker bees scattered throughout Korea. It was the same order Suho had given her.

'My worker bees! Find Hwang Dongsoo quickly!'

That's right. Suho wasn't relying solely on the White Tiger Guild; he was also using Arsha's worker bees to search for Hwang Dongsoo's location.

The worker bees outside the Shadow Dungeon, upon receiving the queen's command, flapped their wings even harder and dispersed throughout the country.

\* \* \*

While she was building her hive, Suho finished his daily quest and walked out of Ammut's Pyramid.

[You've worked hard.] Beru approached him first, followed by Suho's Shadow Soldiers gathered behind him.

Suho's gaze swept over them. Excluding Beru, he had currently stored a total of five Shadow Soldiers.

Shadow Lancer Quay.

Shadow Minotaur Mino.

Shadow Minotaur Tau.

Shadow Assassin Kira.

Shadow Shaman Harmakan.

Among them, the strongest was undoubtedly Harmakan, an Elite Knight-grade soldier. However, from Suho's experience fighting him directly, his specialties were spells and curses. To utilize him effectively in the future, Suho needed to properly understand the full extent of Harmakan's abilities.

"Harmakan, tell me about your abilities."

[Yes, Master.] The shadow's explanation followed, and it could be broadly categorized into three areas:

- Necromancy

- Curses (Debuffs)
- Instance Dungeon Activation

[...However, the necromancy to summon specters is only possible when there are souls of the deceased nearby.]

"So, it's an ability with situational limitations."

[That's correct.]

Suho recalled how Harmakan had used the specters of the dead in Yamri Village to attack. Back then, Harmakan used human souls, but in dungeons, it seemed he could use the souls of magical beasts for necromancy.

'But necromancy overlaps with Shadow Extraction.' Strictly speaking, the Shadow power was far superior to necromancy.

"Then, in the future, I'll extract strong magical beasts as Shadow Soldiers and use the souls of the remaining mobs as materials for necromancy."

[Understood. And the curses I use are...]

"Ah, let's see that with our own eyes."

[...]

Harmakan felt a sense of foreboding at Suho's sudden grin and quickly looked around. The other Shadow Soldiers had surrounded him in a circle.

[M-Master?]

"Everyone, attack."

[...!]

KwaaAAAAAAAAAAAH! As soon as the order was given, the Shadow Soldiers launched a fierce attack on Harmakan.

[Th-this is...! ] Harmakan, flustered, hurriedly began casting curses. System messages appeared one after another before Suho's eyes.

[Harmakan uses Skill: 'Damage Amplification'.]

[Harmakan uses Skill: 'Exploitation'.]

[Harmakan uses Skill: 'Thorn of Pain'.]

"Yes, that's it." Suho nodded, confirming the effects of Harmakan's curses that he had experienced firsthand.

'Damage Amplification is a debuff. Exploitation absorbs health. Thorn of Pain reflects damage.' They were quite interesting skills, even upon second glance.

In game terms, Harmakan could be considered a debuff-specialized Necromancer. And just as debuff users in games couldn't show their full potential without party members, the same applied to Harmakan.

[Kwaaah!] As a result, Harmakan was being beaten one-sidedly by the other soldiers without being able to launch a proper counter-attack. It was a disgraceful sight for someone who was supposedly an Elite Knight-grade.

But in this process, 'Thorn of Pain' shone.

[All pain and damage Harmakan receives is shared with the attacker.]

1

KWAANG! At that moment, Kira's body exploded and was thrown back after landing a powerful blow.

Harmakan was also hurt, but Kira, with his relatively weaker defense, was the first to fall.

Seeing this, Suho smirked. "You're a tanker, not a Necromancer."

'But what if he changed the approach?' Suho decided to change tactics.

"Harmakan! Can you apply Thorn of Pain to all the other soldiers?"

[Kwaaah! Yes, yes! I can do it anytime!] Harmakan answered his question diligently while still being attacked by the soldiers.

"Then use it on all of them!"

[Harmakan uses Skill: 'Thorn of Pain'.] With those words, a curse aura enveloped all the soldiers, and Suho ordered them to attack each other this time. A chaotic melee ensued.

[KwaaAAAAAAAAAAH!]

[Haaap!]

Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash!

Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

As if they had a lot of pent-up frustration towards each other, the Shadow Soldiers attacked one another without hesitation. And with each attack, their own bodies exploded in turn. But even amidst the chaos, they didn't stop their attacks, like berserkers...

[Like cockroaches...] Queen Bee Arsha, witnessing the fierce battle from afar, clicked her tongue and went back to building her hive.

Meanwhile, Suho's mana rapidly depleted as the damaged soldiers' bodies quickly regenerated. His eyes sparkled as he observed this.

"This is good." Thorn of Pain, which reflected the damage received, had excellent synergy with the Shadow Soldiers.

No matter how much damage the Shadow Soldiers took, they could always recover. Of course, this was under the premise that Suho's mana could support it.

"...I should focus on the Intelligence stat from now on." He immediately invested all the rewards he received from today's daily quest into Intelligence.

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*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 160 - Chapter 159**

### **Chapter 160: Chapter 159**

"Now, finally..." It was time to check out Harmakan's third ability.

"Harmakan, explain what is the Instance Dungeon."

It was the ability Harmakan used to transform the entire Yamri Village into a world similar to a dungeon. Harmakan claimed he learned this ability after repeatedly studying Kandiaru's legacy, which he discovered by chance. That's why he called himself

Kandiaru's disciple. At Suho's question, Harmakan, his body battered and bruised from the soldiers' attacks, answered.

[Yes, Master. The Instance Dungeon is a spell that distorts the existing dimension to create a 'reverse world.']

"What's a reverse world?"

[To put it simply, it's like a world beyond the mirror. It creates another dimension similar to the surrounding environment but entirely different. Ah, come to think of it...!]  
Harmakan suddenly looked around with a realization. Where was he now... ?

Wasn't this the world of rest, the Shadow Dungeon, beyond Suho's shadow?! In a sense, the ruined city existing in this black and white world could also be seen as a world similar to an Instance Dungeon. It resembled the landscape of the Earth where Suho lived, yet it was completely different.

Harmakan apologized to Suho and retracted his previous statement. [Ah! I am sorry, Master! The analogy was wrong! It's not a world beyond the mirror, but a world beyond the shadow!]

Harmakan shuddered as he realized where Kandiaru had drawn inspiration to create the Instance Dungeon technique. [The order was reversed from the beginning! Kandiaru must have developed the Instance Dungeon spell by imitating this Shadow World! And its ultimate purpose was...!]

"Leveling up." Suho finished his sentence and nodded.

"He must have developed it for my father's leveling up."

[It seems so!]

Until now, Harmakan had mistakenly believed that the purpose of the Instance Dungeon was to create his own world. As the central figure of that reverse world, he could reign as a king. But now he realized he was wrong! He wasn't a king. He was just a boss monster, a mere tool to provide massive experience points to the player who came to conquer the Instance Dungeon!

[Moreover, after observing it earlier, I realized the pyramid is just the same.] Harmakan pointed to Ammt's Pyramid.

[It is also filled with traces of Kandiaru's relentless research to develop the Shadow Monarch's vessel.]

"That makes sense." Suho nodded at his words.

The Iron Body training ground, the Instance Dungeon. In the end, the result of all that research was the leveling system his father used. And ironically, the 'incomplete traces' of Kandiaru's efforts were drawn one by one towards Suho. And as a result.

[Master, the Instance Dungeon I independently mastered has the characteristic of attracting beings with evil souls in the vicinity.]

"Evil souls, like villains?"

[Yes. They can deceive with their mouths, but souls cannot lie. I can confidently say that nothing surpasses my magic in discerning evil souls.] Harmakan, who favored evil spirits, grinned confidently, revealing his teeth.

[In other words, using my Instance Dungeon, we can gather villains for you to hunt comfortably, Master.]

[Excellent! I thought he was a wicked fellow, but he also has such a remarkable and useful talent!] Beru, who suddenly appeared, nodded in satisfaction. Then, with an even more sinister smile than Harmakan, he urged Suho.

[My liege! This is wonderful! I was frustrated with the slow leveling speed, but now we can really accelerate! From now on, let's kill every villain and evil spirit we see and become stronger!]

"Arsha." Suho looked up while listening to Beru's nagging, and a swarm of bees above his head gathered into a small, doll-sized figure.

[Yes, Suho. You called?]

"How's the search going?"

[I've spread my bees everywhere, but we haven't found any traces yet. However, I've located a few villains, just in case they're related to Hwang Dongsoo..]

[Kyaaaak!]

[Kyaah?!] Arsha screamed as Beru suddenly snatched her with a frightening momentum. Beru held Arsha high like a trophy and showered her with praise.

[You've done well! What a useful little bee! My liege! It seems your soldiers are finally starting to work together. Let's go level up right away!]

"Do we have to?"

[Kieeek?]

Suho's reaction flustered Beru.

[A-aren't you going to level up?]

"Of course, I will. But we've already achieved our goal of hunting villains. If we just want to level up, entering a dungeon is more efficient."

That's right. Like for most Hunters, bounty hunting had become less profitable than other activities for Suho as well. But that didn't mean he had to let the villains he had already found escape. Suho grinned and said,

"I still get experience points even if my Shadow Soldiers kill them, right?"

[Kieeek! Of course!]

"Then let's split into two teams. I'll hunt in the dungeons, and the villains..."

The Shadow Soldiers tensed up as Suho's gaze swept over them one by one, awaiting his orders.

"Que."

[Yes! Master!] At Suho's call, the lancer Que stepped forward and knelt.

"I'll leave the villains to you. Take Harmakan and Kira and deal with them. Can you do it?"

[O-of course! Leave it to me! I'll take care of them perfectly and even extract information from them before they die to find traces of Hwang Dongsoo!]

Que trembled with excitement at Suho's command. To think he, a mere Knight-grade, was given the order to command Harmakan, an Elite Knight-grade, as his subordinate! Looking immensely proud, he gazed down at the new soldier, Harmakan, who was stronger than him.

[Kueh-kueh! See this! I am Que, the Master's first knight!]

[H-how could this be...] Harmakan felt immense humiliation at the blatant display.

Beside Que and Harmakan, whose fortunes had taken opposite turns... Kira simply smiled quietly. [Murder...]

6

\* \* \*



Amidst the public uproar over the Jisan Prison incident, a dark cloud loomed over the villains who had been operating nationwide, evading the Association's eyes.

"...So, the capital area is still dangerous, huh."

"That's what I'm saying. Heh."

"After all, any Hunter who makes money eventually moves to Seoul, right? The Hunter Association headquarters is in Gangnam too."

"That's why it's safer to do villainous acts on a nationwide tour, like us." Far from Seoul, in the middle of a town market where the food used to be sold to travelers, the villains were leisurely chatting.

"Ah, the weather's so nice today." Crunch. A villain took a big bite of an apple and looked up at the sky with a relaxed expression. The warm sunshine, the pleasant breeze... This was how happiness looked like.

Except...

The smell of blood was carried by the wind. The marketplace was full of red puddles. Corpses lay scattered about in horrific states. This place, peaceful just this morning, had turned into a living hell overnight due to a sudden attack by a group of villains. But the perpetrators themselves were sitting leisurely, chatting amongst themselves.

"Ugh... These devils..."

"Oh? There's still someone alive? You're quite tenacious." A villain's lips curled up as he saw a survivor crawling on the ground, struggling for breath. Then. Stab.

"There, it's over now." The villain, having cleanly ended the survivor's life, took another bite of his apple with a refreshed expression. Crunch.

"Those captured guys were idiots from the start. How would anyone know who we are if we kill all the witnesses like this...?"

Shiver! The villain eating the apple suddenly jolted up and looked around. Something had changed. The gentle breeze had stopped. The sunlight felt strange. But...

"Wh-what?! What's happening?!"

"Why are you making such a fuss?" His companions tilted their heads in confusion at his sudden outburst. That's right. On the surface, nothing had changed. The smell of blood, the corpses, and his comrades who had been working together for months... But something definitely felt different.

"Sh-shit! What's that on your... ?!"

"What? What's wrong with him?" The villain who felt no change was simply puzzled as his comrade yelled at him. And then.

Slice.

"...Huh?" The head of the villain still sitting calmly was cleanly severed.

Thud! His head tilted to the side and rolled on the ground.

"Wh-what the fuck?!"

"Uwaaaak!" Finally sensing the danger, the remaining villains jumped up and started looking around cautiously. At that moment, a voice whispered into their ears.

[One.]

1

"Wh-who's there?!"

Slash!

The villain, startled, turned around only to have his neck sliced as well.

[Now two.]

The voice that came like the wind again contained a hint of satisfied laughter.

"Everyone, be careful! It's an assassin-type Hunter!"

"Use detection skills!"

"Aaaah! Shit, what's that?!" The villains were horrified.

Swoosh! They saw specters rising like mirages from the corpses they had killed.

[Heh heh heh. There are many souls who hold grudges against you.]

Necromancy. Along with Harmakan's sinister laughter, countless specters grabbed the villains' ankles and strangled their necks.

"G-ghosts?!"

"Damn it! Whatever it is, let's get out of here...!"

[You can't.]

Shing! Que suddenly appeared and pierced a fleeing villain's thigh with his spear. Then, he grabbed the terrified villain's hair with his rough hand, lifted his head, and met his eyes.

[I really enjoy chatty fellows.]

"H-hic..." The villain's face turned pale with fear at Que's sinister smile. Whose eyes had reverted to those of Lee Minsung, the former vice-president of the Reaper Guild and an A-rank villain.

Grining Que asked him, [Now, spill everything you know. If you stop talking, I'll rip your tongue out of your mouth.]

Not to be outdone, Harmakan grabbed the soul of an already dead villain with his wicked hand.

[Tsk tsk. As expected of a Knight-grade. You can even ask questions after killing them.]

[...]

Que clenched his teeth.

\* \* \*

Ding!

[Level up!]

"Huh? Already?" Suho suddenly leveled up. He was in the middle of going through guild establishment paperwork with Yoo Jinho's secretaries and scratched his head in confusion.

"...Just how many are they killing?"

South Korea was steadily becoming a villain-free country.

2

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer