

# Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 221 - Chapter 220

## Chapter 221: Chapter 220

The whole world was in an uproar.

- What, what's this?!
- What the hell is going on?!
- Did a dungeon break just happen?!
- What is this, really?!

People all over the world watching the live video couldn't help but be astonished as they saw the frozen last scene. An army of thousands suddenly rising from the empty ground! The overwhelming pressure from the shadow soldiers, with black smoke billowing from their bodies, seemed to be felt even beyond the screen.

- What, what is that? Could that be one of the variants that Siddharth Bachchan experimented on humans with?"
- Is that really it? They even have wings like dragonids!
- There were some without wings too.
- Hey, you Chinese! Keep showing us what it was!

The captured image of that last moment began to spread throughout the world. And the news reached the ears of various influential figures around the world.

\* \* \*

– Russia.–

"Huh? What's this again? China?"

"It happened in Manipur, India, Prime Minister."

"Hmm."

Yuri Orloff, Russia's strongest S-rank Hunter and the country's de facto leader, narrowed his eyes and stared intently at the screen his secretary showed him. Thousands of black shadows. Yuri Orloff's eyes gleamed like a snake's as he

scrutinized the sight of the obviously ominous magical beasts. The calculator in his head started working.

3

"If it's Manipur, there's no chance it will reach us, right?"

"Yes. Considering the distance and the fact that China is in between, we've determined there's no chance it will reach our country."

"What if this isn't a dungeon break?"

"Th-That..." The secretary stammered, a little flustered by Yuri Orloff's sharp question.

"If these black creatures aren't ordinary magical beasts, there's a slight possibility that it's a Hunter's summoning skill..." Even as he answered, the secretary thought it was ridiculous. Could one Hunter control this many summons?

'That's impossible.'

Summoners were mediocre guys who could only play a supporting role in battle. Even if an irregular appeared among them, how much mana would be needed to summon this many? Could a human body even withstand that amount of magic power...? But it wasn't like there was no method of achieving it at all.

'No way.' A single possibility came to the secretary's mind as he stopped mid-sentence. Wasn't the man standing right in front of him proof of that?

"If this is really a Hunter's skill, it's highly likely that they're using a method of drawing in external magic power."

"External magic power... Heh. That's my specialty."

"..." The secretary flinched as Yuri Orloff's gaze turned to him. His back was drenched in cold sweat from his chilling gaze.

Gulp.

He should be used to it by now, but whenever he stood before this man, he felt like a frog in front of a snake.

Russia's Prime Minister, 'Yuri Orloff.'

2

This old man, now smiling genially at him, was the one who suddenly took office as Minister of National Defense a year ago. At the time, he had no political experience, but no one considered that a disadvantage. Because he was an S-rank Hunter. Who would object to a superhuman, a walking strategic weapon, taking the lead of national defense? Especially his main skill, 'Barrier,' was the most essential ability in Russia, where dungeon breaks frequently occurred due to the vast landmass. Moreover, his barrier magic circle was maintained by absorbing surrounding magic power, and the more concentrated it was, the more robust and massive the barrier became. In short, the stronger the opponent, the more powerful his skill became. As soon as he became Minister of National Defense, he drew magic circles in Russia's major cities and created wide-area barriers. Although a large amount of magic stones collected by other Hunters were consumed in the process, Yuri Orloff, hoarded all the achievements and glory for himself, gaining the nickname 'Savior' and the enthusiastic support of the entire nation. But in retrospect...

The source of all the problems was giving control to a superhuman with the power of an S-rank Hunter. Even if it was a support type, the strength of an S-rank was beyond imagination. Thus, Yuri Orloff, who gained the support and welcome of the entire nation, seized the post of 'Prime Minister,' the second-highest position in the country, less than half a year after becoming Minister of National Defense. The previous Prime Minister was found dead the very next day, but who would dare to step up?

'Actually, all the citizens knew who the culprit was, but they had no choice but to keep their mouths shut if they didn't want to die.'

3

Yuri Orloff, suddenly became Prime Minister right after the previous one died, as if he had been waiting for it. Even though he blatantly revealed his ambition, no one could object. It was because of a single sentence he declared along with his claim to the position.

– Don't worry! As long as I'm here, Russia will be safe forever!

2

That's right. There was no choice in the first place. Russians were already living under the protection of the wide-area barrier he created. If this man had tried to become president, there would have been opposition. That would be a coup. A Hunter's rule by force was an act that would be condemned both internationally and locally. Perhaps even the International Hunter Association would have intervened to stop him. But strangely, Yuri Orloff didn't want the presidency. What he aimed for was the position right below that, the Prime Minister, so there wasn't much opposition from the people. He was still responsible for national defense, after all. But Orloff's secretary had recently learned the hidden truth that other countries didn't know yet.

'...This man has already made the president his puppet.'

2

The president, who happened to be the nation's highest authority, had a lot to lose, and that was his weakness. Even his own life was like a candle in the wind before an S-rank Hunter. On the other hand, Orloff had nothing to lose. He had been single until this age, and his parents had long since died of old age before the Cataclysm. Therefore, there was no way to stop his ambition, either by force or strategy.

'Russia already belongs to Yuri Orloff.'

No one would know if it wasn't revealed. It had been a long time since Russia became a world where everything was possible through force, and on the surface, the country maintained the same peace as before.

'As long as I keep my mouth shut.'

"So, are you saying that someone with an ability like mine has appeared?"

Flinch.

The secretary, startled by Yuri Orloff's voice, spoke cautiously.

"...It's just a hypothesis."

"What are the chances that he's Russian?"

"Extremely low. In the first place, it happened in India, and there are rumors that he's either a Chinese or Korean Hunter. Circumstantially, the Korean side is more credible."

"Korea... Tsk. Of all countries, it had to be the ones right below us."

Yuri Orloff drained his wine with a displeased expression and threw the glass on the floor.

Clang!

The secretary's shoulders flinched at the sharp sound of the glass shattering.

"Go on. Keep reporting as new information comes in."

"Yes, sir."

After the secretary left, Yuri Orloff, left alone, opened a new bottle of wine, took a swig and then turned his gaze to look out the window, where he had a panoramic view of the city.

Smirk. A faint smile crept onto his lips.

"...Should I kill him?"

3

Army and barrier.

Spear and shield, the worst possible matchup.

It would be perfect if he could bring him over to his side. But then it was obvious who would become the supporting role.

"I need to collect more magic stones." Yuri Orloff's eyes gleamed ominously.

3

\* \* \*

— America —

"Haha. Look at this guy? He really made a scene this time." Thomas Andre chuckled and spoke to Laura as he read the news on his tablet. As expected, Laura was shaking her head and sighing.

"This is a first. A man causing more of a stir than you, Thomas."

"Oh, Laura! That hurts my feelings! Even if I'm an old man, I can still get things done!"

"Don't get competitive about that kind of thing, please."

Thomas Andre thoroughly enjoyed Laura's disgusted reaction and turned his gaze back to the tablet with a mischievous smile.

"Thanks to China, he had quite the debut. I don't know if this will be poison or not, but one thing's for sure." Although his lips were smiling, his fierce eyes gleamed like that of a predator.

"This will be the trigger for the vermin hiding in the shadows to crawl out." Whether intentionally or not, Sung Suho had practically declared an all-out war against the world. Against the apostles of Itarim and the Outer Gods cultists, who had been lurking like insects all over the Earth.

Crack! Crack!

Thomas Andre clenched his fists and snarled.

"Alright. I'll accept that challenge."

"So it's not a competition... Sigh."

The hunt for vermin had also begun in America.

\* \* \*

– North Korea –

"Association President! I think you need to see this!"

"What is it?" Association President Woo Jinchul turned his head at his secretary's voice.

Kaboom!

Behind him, a super-large rock golem was collapsing with a tremendous explosion. No one was surprised by the sight, as if a building was being demolished. It was none other than Korea's strongest Hunter, Choi Jong-in, who was leading the subjugation of the magical beasts.

"Something big seems to have happened in India."

"...Hmm?"

Association President Woo Jinchul, who received the tablet from his secretary, pushed up his sunglasses. Then, an emotion rarely seen appeared in his sharp, hawk-like eyes.

Astonishment.

"W-Wait! Is this...!"

"...Association President?" Everyone around him couldn't help but be bewildered by his reaction as he checked the tablet again in a fluster. It was because no one here had ever seen Association President Woo Jinchul so flustered.

In the first place, why was Association President Woo Jinchul praised in Korea? He was someone who predicted and prepared for all possible scenarios, as if he was living his second life. In fact, his predictions were almost always accurate, making people wonder if he had a skill like prophecy or foresight. His greatest achievement was undoubtedly bringing Korea's strongest Hunter, Choi Jong-in, who was currently active in North Korea, into the Association immediately after his awakening. He also immediately

enacted the Hunter Act to prevent villains from running rampant outside the law. It was Woo Jinchul who calmly went through all the procedures and created various bills during that turbulent time, more so than any politician. But this epitome of calmness, was now extremely flustered and astonished, at a loss for what to do.

"H-How could this happen! Could it be that he has returned? No, it's a bit... Wait, could it be?!" Woo Jinchul, who had been rambling to himself for a while after seeing the broadcast capture, finally found it. The face of the Hunter who had blown up the giant magical beast like a balloon with one punch before the thousands of shadow soldiers appeared.

"...Haha." Finally, a hollow laugh escaped Woo Jinchul's lips. It ended up being good. Unfortunately, it wasn't the face of the man he had been waiting for all this time. But... He could figure out who this Hunter, who looked so much like him, was. And what the identity of the 'ant', so small next to him that he could barely be seen even after zooming in on the screen was. Woo Jinchul could sense quite a lot of things. He adjusted his sunglasses and calmly spoke.

"Secretary Jung."

"Yes, sir."

He handed the tablet back to Secretary Jung, who was tense due to his unusual behavior, and said, "Could you find one person from the list of Hunters registered with our Association? If there is any information related to him, I need everything, even the smallest details."

"Alright. But who..."

"Sung Suho." The only son of his old friend, comrade, and the 'him' he respected and eagerly awaited. A somewhat empty yet relieved smile appeared on Woo Jinchul's lips as he mentioned his name.

"It seems we've left the house empty for too long." It looked like quite a lot had happened in the past few months.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 222 - Chapter 221**

### **Chapter 222: Chapter 221**

Everyone got busy.

The flare Suho shot up in India caused a huge ripple effect across the globe. Many people in each country started to move with their own purposes. Of course, among them, the busiest person was Suho. He led thousands of shadow soldiers and relentlessly subjugated the magical beasts of the Loktak Field.

[Follow me!]

[Kyaaaaa!]

It was truly an unstoppable force.

No matter how vast the land.

Despite five dungeon breaks occurring simultaneously.

No magical beast could survive before the immortal army led by Greed, Iron, and Sita.

[Bow down.]

[Kyaaaaa!]

The magical beasts with dragon blood in their veins trembled instinctively before Suho's authority.

Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash! Slash!

Magical beasts that weren't dragonids recklessly rushed in, unaware of their impending doom, and were slaughtered. No matter what kind of response they made, everyone was equal in the face of death.

Ding!

[Level Up!]

There was no stopping the overwhelming numbers. Suho eventually succeeded in leveling up with the massive amount of experience points.

'The hard work paid off.'

The blue fog that had covered the Loktak Field was slowly disappearing. As the gates were closed one by one, the dimensional rifts that had been opened due to overlapping of gates were gradually closing as well. The mana of the Outer Gods, which had been flowing endlessly through those gaps, was cut off like a faucet being turned off.



"Look at that! The fog is clearing!"

"Oh my god."

"Is this really happening...?"

The Hunters of the Indian Association, who witnessed the whole scene with their own eyes in the field, were so surprised that they couldn't close their mouths.

'He's really purifying this vast field alone...!'

It was absurd. Unreal. They knew the power of an S-rank Hunter was great, but the ability of Suho they witnessed was completely off the charts. Until now, in their standards, China's Liu Zhigang was among the strongest S-rank Hunters, with particularly high combat power...

'But this is on a completely different scale!'

'Did people know?'

'That young man.'

Because of a single Hunter named Sung Suho from Korea, the standard of strength that the whole world had been thinking of had fundamentally changed!

"...Can we even call that person an S-rank Hunter?" Someone unconsciously uttered a single sentence.

Flinch!

"...!" At that moment, both the person who spoke and all the Hunters who heard it flinched and looked at someone and that someone was Liu Zhigang!

If you wanted to interpret it that way, those words could be taken as an insult to him, a true S-rank Hunter! But something unexpected happened.

"Heh. Of course that's ridiculous."

'Huh?' He didn't seem offended at all.

Rather, Liu Zhigang, who was leisurely watching Suho's battle with his arms crossed behind him, smiled faintly and muttered upon hearing the Indian Hunters' words,

"It's a huge insult to even call that level of power S-rank."

"...!" The Hunters' eyes widened at his shocking statement.

'S-rank, you say?!

'What did I just hear?'

Everyone couldn't help but tense up at the shocking statement that made them doubt their ears. Who in this world would dare to say such a thing? The S-rank itself meant 'off the charts.' It was a title given only to those powerhouses who possessed 'immeasurable' magic power that couldn't be accurately assessed by the magic power measuring device invented by humans. But, "how dare you say something like S-class?" No matter how much of a 6-star Hunter Liu Zhigang was in China, that statement was a huge insult to all S-rank Hunters around the world. Liu Zhigang, not caring about their reactions, simply opened his mouth with a nostalgic and wistful expression, as if reminiscing about the past.

"National Level."

3

'...!'

Suddenly, an unfamiliar term popped out of his mouth. A ranking system that everyone once knew, but was making its first appearance in this world. The great title given only to a few of the world's strongest, who could represent an entire nation with their existence alone and face a whole country with their individual power!

"Yes. Sung Suho, that guy is already an S-rank above S-rank. He has become a National Level Hunter."

"...National Level?" The Indian Hunters tilted their heads at the unfamiliar term.

Liu Zhigang just chuckled at their puzzled reaction. There was no need to explain it to them one by one. 'It's just a matter of time.'

Yes.

Everyone would realize eventually as time passed. Liu Zhigang recalled the memory of when he first met Sung Suho's father a long time ago. The chilling shock the world felt when Sung Jinwoo revealed all of his power.

'...This makes me excited for no reason.' Liu Zhigang smiled quietly to himself, recalling the intense emotion he had long forgotten.

2

Yes. It was just a matter of time. Even if he didn't step up, the whole world would eventually call Sung Suho. The world's first National Level Hunter.

\* \* \*

Exactly 3 days later.

The news that the Loktak Field had been completely purified reached Korea.

[Hmm.] The shadow assassin, Kira, smiled faintly as he watched the news.

[He'll be returning soon.]

Kira was in Korea, his position switched with Suho's when he used the 'Shadow Exchange' skill after following Rio Singh to India. But for the past few days, Kira hadn't received any orders from his master.

Wouldn't he be like an incompetent soldier if he just stood idle? So he was doing what he did best.

What was that?

Murder.

"Keuk...! S-Save me..."

Slash!

Once again, someone's neck was severed in a dark alleyway.

Thump!

The headless body slumped to the ground. The crimson blood flowed on the ground.

[Well, the police will take care of the body.] Kira smirked and turned his head, asking,

[Are you alright?]

"Th-Th-Thank you..."

[I'm not going to kill you, so report it to the Association when you calm down.]

"...Hiccup." The woman huddled in the corner of the alley was pale with fear so terrified she could barely breathe.

Kira nonchalantly spoke to her, [Do you need the villain report number?]

"I-I k-k-know..."

[Then that's it.]

Kira turned his head back after the woman answered. There, the colleague of the man he had just killed was desperately crawling on the ground.

[You're enduring that? You're quite tenacious. Do you have a tanker skill or something?]

Drag—

A trail of crimson blood followed him as he crawled across the ground, desperately trying to escape from Kira.

1

"Ugh... why..."

The man's face was a mess of tears and snot. The black demon was coming for him, following the red path created by his own blood. He cried out in terror.

"Why are you doing this to us?!"

[Oh, you're not seriously asking that, are you?] Kira inquired leisurely, and the man, gasping for breath, screamed in rage.

"Don't pretend to be innocent! You, you're a murderer too! Just leave us alone! We were just going to... to play with her for one night!"

2

[Villain number 521. Kidnapping. Rape. Organ trafficking.]

Flip.

Kira skillfully flipped through the villain registry, just as he did in life, comparing the man in front of him with the face in the registry, and nodded.

[Yes. You're right. You've never actually killed anyone yourselves. You kidnap men and hand them over to organ traffickers, and sell women to brothels. I'm asking this sincerely. This can't be more profitable than being a Hunter, so why do you do this?]

"Wh-what..."

The man desperately racked his brains as he pressed his hand against his bleeding wound. He found a glimmer of hope in the demon's dry tone.

'He's asking why we do this if it's not profitable?'

'Does that mean he'll join us if it is profitable?' Maybe if he gave the right answer, he would be spared.

"...Because it's easier!"

[Easier?]

"Y-yes! It's obviously easier to hunt civilians than to risk your life hunting dangerous magical beasts! Even if it pays less, this is much..."

[So you are a weakling?]

"Y-yes!"

[Makes sense. Good answer.]

"...!"

The man rejoiced inwardly as Kira nodded in agreement.

'I-I'm alive!'

[The weak should die, shouldn't they?]

"Y-yes! In this day and age, if you're weak..."

[Yes. If you're weak, your organs will be harvested, you'll be raped. And you might even meet someone like me and get your head cut off.]

"...What?"

Slice.

In an instant, the man's head was separated from his body and rolled on the ground. Looking directly at his wide-open eyes, still filled with bewilderment even in death, Kira chuckled and said,

[No hard feelings, right?]

Kira, who was a villain hunter in life, couldn't break the habit even in death. This wasn't something that would displease his master, so he could do it as much as he wanted. It was even easier now that he had become a shadow soldier and was free from human laws.

Besides, what was the most troublesome part of villain hunting?

Hearing their sad story after catching them. Or that they were falsely accused, and the real culprit was someone else. But now, he could just melt into the shadows, observe the situation, confirm that they were truly bad guys, and kill them.

[Good. Today was productive. Hey there, did you report it?]

"Yes, sir." The woman nodded hurriedly, her face still pale with fear. Kira sternly admonished her regardless.

[Be careful at night from now on, and only walk on well-lit roads. And don't just be wary of men. You know that even women can become villains if they awaken, right?]

5

"Y-yes."

[Good. Then you can go.]

"My, my legs..."

[Ah, have you lost your strength? Then take a rest. I've killed all the villains around here, so it'll be safe tonight.]

"Heek..."

It seemed like he had scared her even more, but Kira disappeared into the darkness without a care.

At that moment...

'Shadow Exchange'

[Huh?]

Kira blinked, and Suho appeared in his place. In shock.

"Kyaaa!"

"...Huh?"

Suho, who returned to Korea, widened his eyes at the sight of the woman foaming at the mouth and collapsing. The surroundings... were a bloodbath.

"Kira, you..."

What the hell had he been doing?

2

But Kira had already been teleported back to India.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 223 - Chapter 222 Chapter 223: Chapter 222**

Korea was suffering from an untimely 'serial murder case'.

"A report has

Korea was suffering from an unexpected 'serial murder case'.

"We've received a report!"

"Again? Doesn't this guy ever sleep? Or eat?!"

1

Day and night, headless corpses were being discovered everywhere. Report calls were constantly flooding the Association. Because of this, the staff were having hectic days.

"Why is this guy working so hard?!"

It was truly chaotic. A world where a serial killer roamed freely day and night, committing murder as a hobby. But surprisingly, there was no public unrest. Rather, welcoming responses and an atmosphere of cheering for the murderer were the majority.

3

– Kya! Another one down today!

– Tsk tsk, the news is slow. He's already made three hits today.

– (Related article link) 'Vigilante Update'

– Kya! He really made three hits!

- Busy, busy! Like everyone in modern society!
- He's working hard. I respect him.

It couldn't be helped. The corpses that were being discovered were all vicious villains or criminals who deserved to die. There were no exceptions. Even if a corpse wasn't on the villain list, once an investigation was launched, their heinous criminal acts were always revealed. The fact that unregistered villains were committing crimes in the shadows was being revealed day by day. It was only natural that the popularity of the serial killer, who tracked down those guys and mercilessly beheaded them before disappearing, was skyrocketing.

People called him 'Vigilante.'

Testimonies from citizens who narrowly escaped death thanks to the Vigilante also followed.

- (Breaking news) 'Thank you to the person who saved me.'
- (Interview video) 'He is my lifesaver.'
- (Personal opinion) 'I hope he never gets caught.'
- (News) Vigilante! South Korea is now a villain-free zone!
- Haha, to think a vigilante we only see in movies appeared in our country.
- The police and Association Hunters must be frustrated, but it's good that those who deserved to die are gone.
- Vigilante-nim, we support you.
- 222'nd dead. We support you.
- Please be a righteous killer again today.

Thanks to this, only the police and the Hunter Association were frustrated.

"They're saying such frustrating things!"

"What's the point of having laws if this is how it's going to be?"

"It's the end of the world. A serial killer is treated like a superstar."

South Korea was a country strictly governed by law. This act of ignoring the law and punishing criminals directly was clearly illegal. Crimes had varying degrees of severity,



but the Vigilante was resolving all of them with murder. For now, the targets of his crimes were limited to villains, but no one could guarantee that the Vigilante's blade wouldn't suddenly turn towards innocent citizens.

"But... like this comment says, he's only killing those who deserve to die so far."

"Hey! Are those words that should be coming out of our mouths?"

"So, sorry."

"Tsk." The seniors were scolding the newbie who had misspoken and was now cowering.

"Why doesn't anyone know what this guy looks like, even though he's so openly rampant?!"

"They couldn't see because it was dark? Does that make sense? They're obviously hiding his identity because he helped them!"

"One thing's for sure, he has a stealth skill. It doesn't make sense that there's no CCTV footage of him despite his rampage."

Sip.

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, who was leisurely watching the busy staff from behind, took a sip of his instant coffee and leaned against the window. Then he turned his gaze to look outside, where darkness had fallen.

"..."

The world was going crazy, but the instant coffee was still sweet. After the Cataclysm every day was a battlefield for the Association staff due to the urgent incidents that kept flooding in. As he ran around busily, he got promoted, his seniority increased, and he even became the Chief Director.

'Life is unpredictable.'

Life was strangely rolling along. It seemed like just yesterday when he took the police exam, became a rookie detective, and followed his scary senior around, arresting criminals.

'...I've been thinking about those days a lot lately.'

Criminals suddenly being found dead? He didn't understand why they were making such a fuss about something so trivial.

'It was common in my day.'

In the past, many guys came to surrender, begging to be arrested, because they were afraid of being killed if they didn't.

1

'...Heh. Those were truly romantic days.' He recalled the glory days when they achieved the highest arrest rate in the country.

Sip

Of course, if he said these things out loud, he would be called an old geezer. Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, who was sipping his coffee with a chuckle, was now staring blankly at the glass door entrance out of habit. As if waiting for someone. His gaze deepened. This place, which was once the Jungbu Police Station, was incorporated into the Hunter Association when Woo Jinchul became the President. But only the signboard changed. As he blankly stared at this place, which remained the same inside, faded memories he had forgotten while busy resurfaced.

'...Where are you and what are you doing, brother?'

1

It had been over five years since Detective Sung Jinwoo, his respected senior, and legend of the violent crimes unit, suddenly disappeared. Looking back, all the moments he spent with him were the most brilliant and shining times of his detective career. He missed those days terribly.

3

'I'm sure you're doing well wherever you are, but could you please come back soon?'

Yes. Lee Se-hwan wasn't really worried. He was always a mysterious person. That's why no one was too worried when he suddenly disappeared. They firmly believed that he had gone off to solve some case on his own, as always. They had no doubt that he would suddenly appear one day with a carefree expression, bringing a string of criminals with him. But even after more than five years, he still hadn't returned...

Creak.

"...Huh?"

For a moment, Chief Director Lee Se-hwan doubted his eyes. The door suddenly opened, and a familiar face walked in. Dragging a string of thugs who looked obviously shady!

"B-Brother? No, no...!"

He suddenly came to his senses, swallowed his words and looked at the person again, rubbing his eyes. He was too young to be Sung Jinwoo! But that face...! He looked so much like him that he could be mistaken for his son, huh?

"Huh? Uh... uh?"

"Hello. My name is Sung Suho. I have something to report..."

"It really is you!"

The Association staff couldn't help but be surprised as Chief Director Lee Se-hwan suddenly rushed towards Suho. And...

Hug.

"Uhaha! You're Suho!"

"Uh? Yes?" Now it was Suho's turn to be surprised.

Lee Se-hwan was a colleague who had worked with Sung Jinwoo for a long time. He knew his son's name. He had even seen pictures of him when he was young. Of course, this was the first time he had seen him all grown up. He couldn't help but burst into tears as soon as he saw Suho's face. It was because he saw a lot of his father in his appearance.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I'm being emotional. Ahem. You're Sung Jinwoo's son, right?"

1

"You know my father?"

"Of course, I do. I was your dad's subordinate, kid! Uhahaha!"

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan let go of Suho and introduced himself with a hearty laugh.

"I see. Hello. I'm Sung Suho."

Suho had unexpectedly met his father's subordinate. But when he thought about it, it wasn't strange. Until two years ago, this was the police station near the house where his father had worked for a long time, and those who awakened among the police officers at that time were transferred to the Hunter Association. It was only natural that there would be a few people left who knew his father. Although it was a bit awkward, Suho first handed over the guys he had caught to the Association staff.

"I caught them on my way here. They seem to be villains, but I guess he didn't kill them because they were small fry."

"Hmm?"

The Association staff tilted their heads at the words with a strange implication. And they noticed that the villains who were dragged in by Suho were terrified. After checking their faces one by one, they were indeed small-time wanted criminals, just as Suho said.

'But why are these guys so scared?'

Judging from their expressions, they looked like victims who barely survived a brutal murder scene, not villains.

"Oh, and if you go to this address, you'll find a few bodies. A report should have already been filed, so if you check..."

"Could it be the Vigilante?!"

Suho smiled bitterly and shook his head at the burdensome gazes that were almost frantically focused on him.

"I don't know about that."

He drew a line, not wanting to get involved in something troublesome.

'Kira, this guy, how much has he been up to in the past few days?'

When he sent him out to hunt villains with Harmakan, the body disposal was handled cleanly, so it didn't become such a big issue. But now that he had been left alone, Kira had become quite a celebrity.

1

'I'll deal with him later.'

But it was also hard to scold him for his wrongdoing. Because it seemed like he only killed those who truly deserved to die, probably because he was afraid of being rebuked by Suho later. These small-time criminals left at the scene were proof of that.

'Wait.' He suddenly had a bad feeling.

'Don't tell me he is now in India?'

Kira was indeed currently in India. There, he would be hiding in Rio Singh's shadow and following him, as originally ordered. Rio Singh had decided to stay in India for the time

being to sort things out. And he had sent other shadow soldiers along with Liu Zhigang, who returned to China. Like this, whenever he had the chance, he had to spread shadow soldiers all over the world so that he could immediately teleport with Shadow Exchange whenever traces of Itarim were found, like this time. But looking at the situation, it didn't seem likely that Kira would stay put in India.

'Well, I will handle it somehow.'

He didn't intend to stop him as long as he didn't cross the line. It was a common saying in the Hunter industry that for every villain eliminated, 100 innocent lives could be saved. Of course, he heard this from Kira but...

"Anyway."

Putting Kira aside, Suho brought up the real reason he came here. Fortunately, the person who was said to be his father's subordinate seemed to be in a high position. Suho glanced at the name tag hanging on Chief Director Lee Se-hwan's neck and formally introduced himself.

"Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, let me introduce myself again. I am Sung Suho, the representative of Woojin Guild. I came here for a different matter."

Pause.

"...What?"

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, who had been happy to see Suho's face and how much he resembled his father, stiffened at Suho's words.

"You're the representative of Woojin Guild?"

Ah, that changed things. A strange light appeared in Chief Director Lee Se-hwan's eyes as he looked at Suho anew. He had been so caught up in his joy that he realized it belatedly. Come to think of it, this guy's name was 'Sung Suho.'

'He really... takes after his father.'

A chuckle escaped his lips.

2

been received!"

"also? No, this kid doesn't even sleep? "You don't even eat?!"

Decapitated corpses are found here and there day and night.

Report calls come to the association from time to time.

Because of this, the Hunter Association employees were having a hectic day.

"Why on earth are you so eager?"

It wasn't really a fuss.

A world where serial killers are on the loose day and night, committing murder as a hobby.

But surprisingly, there was no confusion among citizens.

Rather, the prevailing reaction was a welcoming response and an atmosphere of support for the murderer.

-Hey! You did something today too!

- The news is late. You have already jumped 3 times today.

-Related article link) 'Vigilante Update'

-Hey! You really jumped 3 times!

- Busy, busy! modern society!

-You work hard. I respect you.

1

It had to be that way.

The bodies that were found were all either vicious villains or criminals worth dying for.

There were no exceptions.

Even if the body was not on the list of villains, when the investigation began, the criminal activities that were committed behind the scenes would be revealed without a doubt.

Day by day, it was being revealed that the criminal activities of unregistered villains who had not registered as hunters were

running rampant in the shadows.

In a way, it is natural that the popularity of a serial killer who searches for such people one by one mercilessly cut off their heads, and then suddenly disappear, is skyrocketing.

People were calling him 'Vigilante'.

There was a series of testimonies from citizens whose lives were saved thanks to Vigilante.

-Breaking News) "Thank you to the person who saved me."

-Interview video) "He is the savior of my life."

- Statement of conviction) "I hope you don't get caught until the end."

-News) Vigilante! Korea is now a villain-free zone!

- Haha, a vigilante group that we only see in movies has appeared in our country.

-The police and association hunters will be upset, but it's good because those who don't deserve to die are dead.

-Vigilante, I support you.

-222 I'm rooting for you.

-Please become a righteous murderer today as well.

Thanks to this, only the police and the hunter association were frustrated.

"You're really saying crazy things!"

"If it's going to be like this, why is there a law?"

"Don't say anything, don't say anything." "It's a crazy world where serial killers are popular."

The Republic of Korea was a country strictly ruled by law.

This act of ignoring the law and directly punishing criminals was clearly illegal.

There are serious crimes, and Vigilante was only resolving the punishment through murder.

Although the target of the crime is now limited to villains, no one can be sure when a Vigilante will suddenly start attacking good citizens.

"Well, still... ... "Like this comment, they are still only killing those who are worth dying for."

"You bastard! "Is that what comes out of our mouths?"

"S-sorry."

"Use it."

These were seniors who got into trouble with new recruits who were crushed after saying the wrong thing and were unable to get their money back.

"No, why does no one know what's wrong with a guy who goes on a rampage like this?"

"You couldn't see it because it was dark? Does that make sense? "It's clear that they are hiding their identity just because they helped them!"

"First of all, it is clear that he has stealth skills. "It doesn't make sense that they are going on a rampage to this extent and there is no footage of them being caught on CCTV."

Hello.

Director Lee Se-hwan, who was leisurely watching the busy-looking employees from behind, leaned against the window with a cup of mixed coffee in his mouth.

Then I turned my gaze and looked out the darkened window.

"... ... ."

The world was going crazy, but mixed coffee was still sweet.

After a cataclysm occurred around the world.

Every day was a battlefield for the association's employees because of the urgent incidents and accidents that came flooding in every day.

As I ran around so frantically, I got promoted, my salary increased, and I even became head of the division.

'I don't know the history of life.'

Life goes on in such a strange way.

It seems like only yesterday that I had to take the police exam, become a new detective, and follow my scary senior around to catch criminals.



'... ... 'I've been thinking about that a lot lately.'

Criminals suddenly found dead?

I don't know why they're making such a fuss because it's such a strange thing.

'It was common in my time.'

In the past, many people even came to us and surrendered themselves, crying and begging for them to be

arrested.

They say that if you don't embroider, you too will be eaten or something.

'... ... Hehehe. 'That was a truly romantic era.'

It was Director Lee Se-hwan who was reminiscing about the glory of the past when the arrest rate was ranked first in the country.

Hello.

Of course, if I say something like this out loud, I'll be called old-fashioned.

Director Lee Se-hwan, who was just sipping coffee and sighing alone, was staring blankly at the glass door entrance, as was his habit.

As if waiting for someone.

His eyes gradually deepened.

This place, which was once the Central Police Station, was unusually incorporated into the Hunter Association when Woo Jin-cheol became the association president.

But only the signboard changed.

As he stared blankly at this place, the interior of which was still the same as before, faded memories that he had forgotten because he was too busy come to mind.

'... ... Where on earth and what are you doing, brother?'

It's already been over 5 years.

A legend in the violent world who was a heavenly senior and colleague to Director Lee Se-hwan.

'Detective Sung Jinwoo' suddenly disappeared.

Looking back, all the moments he spent with him were the brightest and most brilliant moments during my detective career.

He missed those days terribly.

'I'm sure you're doing well wherever you are, but could you please come back soon?'

Okay. There is nothing to worry about.

Because he was always a very curious person.

So when he suddenly disappeared, no one was too worried.

He firmly believed that he would have gone off to solve a case on his own, as always.

He did not doubt that one day, he would suddenly catch criminals like candy with a carefree face.

But it's been like that for over 5 years.

He still hadn't come back.

Squeak-

"... .. uh?"

For a moment, Director Lee Se-hwan could not believe his eyes.

Suddenly the door opened and a familiar face came inside.

Grab those guys who look tough at first glance like candy!

"Hmmm, brother? no no... ..!"

Suddenly he came to my senses.

Director Lee Se-hwan collected the words he had spoken in an instant, washed his eyes again, and looked at the other person.

He's too young to be Sung Jinwoo's older brother!

But that face... ..!

They look so much alike that it's hard to believe they're not brothers, huh?

"Uh? "Uh huh?"

"Hello. My name is Sung Suho. I have something to report... .."

"That's right!"

The association's employees couldn't help but be quite taken aback by the sight of Director Lee Se-hwan suddenly running towards Suho in a huff.

and.

Wow!

"Hahaha! "You are Suho!"

"Huh? yes?"

This time it was Suho's turn to be embarrassed.

Se-Hwan Lee was a colleague who had worked with Jinwoo Sung for a long time. He knew at least his son's name.

He also saw pictures from when he was young. Of course, it was his first time seeing him grow up like this.

As soon as he saw Suho's face, he couldn't help but burst into tears.

It was because his face overlapped with his father's.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I am in charge. Huh. "You are Sung Jinwoo's son, right?"

"Do you know my father?"

"I know. I was your father's direct subordinate, you bastard! Hahaha!"

Director Lee Se-hwan released Suho from his tight embrace and introduced himself with a chuckle.

"I see. hello. "My name is Sung Suho."

It was Suho who suddenly met his father's subordinate.

But if you think about it, it wasn't strange.

Just two years ago, this was the police station near the house where his father worked for a long time, and among the police officers there at that time, those who had awakened were assigned to the Hunter Association.

It was only natural that there were one or two people left who knew his father.

It was a bit of an awkward situation, but Suho first handed over the people he had caught to the association employees.

"I caught them on the way. "I think he was a villain, but I guess they didn't kill him because he was a common criminal."

"Hmm?"

The association employees tilted their heads at the words, which had a strange meaning.

A little later, he noticed that the faces of the villains who were brought in by Suho were terrified.

After comparing their faces one by one, they were indeed wanted miscellaneous criminals, just as Suho said.

'But why are these guys so scared?'

If you look at the faces of these guys, they don't look like villains, but rather like victims who barely survived the scene of a brutal murder.

"Oh, and if you go to this address, there will be a few corpses. It must have been reported a long time ago, so check it out... .."

"Could it be Vigilante?!"

Suho shook his head with a wry smile as he looked at the burdensome gazes that were focused on him at the same time, almost as if he was convulsing.

"I'm not sure about that either."

I felt like it would be a hassle, so I drew the line.

'Kira, this guy, how much have you messed up in the last few days?'

When he was sent out to hunt villains with Harmakan, the corpses were handled neatly, so it didn't become this big of an issue.

However, when Kira was left alone, he became a very famous person.

'We'll see later.'

However, it was still ambiguous to criticize the mistake.

It seems like he was worried that he would be scolded later, so he only picked and killed the people he really wanted to kill.

These miscellaneous criminals who remained at the scene are proof of that.

'For a moment.'

Suddenly he had an ominous feeling.

'Could it be in India?'

Kira is now in India.

There, as per your original orders, you will hide in Rio Singh's shadow and follow him around.

Rio Singh decided to remain in India for the time being to sort out the situation.

He also sent other shadow soldiers in the shadow of Liu Zhigang, who returned to China with the promise of a better future.

In this way, shadow soldiers had to be spread throughout the world whenever the opportunity arose, so that whenever and

wherever traces of foreign religion were discovered, they could be immediately dispatched through shadow exchange like this time.

However, looking at the situation, it seemed unlikely that Kira would remain calm in India.

'Well, I guess I'll figure it out.'

I had no intention of stopping him as long as he kept the line.

It was an established belief in the Hunter industry that for every villain lost, the lives of 100 innocent people could be saved.

Of course, this is also something I heard from Kira.

"Anyway."

Kira took his mind off work, and Suho brought up the real purpose of coming here.

It was fortunate that the person who was my father's subordinate seemed to be a high-ranking person.

Suho glanced at the name tag hanging around Director Lee Se-hwan's neck and formally introduced himself.

"Director Se-hwan Lee, let me introduce myself again. I am Hunter Sung Suho, the representative of the Woojin Guild. "The reason I came here was because of other business."

Stop.

"... .. what?"

Director Lee Se-hwan, who was just happy to see Suho's face because he looked like his father, his expression hardened the moment he heard Suho's words.

"You are the representative of Woojin's guild?"

Ah, this makes a different statement.

Director Lee Se-hwan looked at Suho again and Lee Chae appeared in his eyes.

I realized it a little late because I was overjoyed.

Come to think of it, this guy's name is 'Sung Suho'.

'Anyway, really... .. 'I wonder if it's someone's son.'

He burst out laughing.

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 224 - Chapter 223 Chapter 224: Chapter 223**

Jungbu Police Station. This place, now transformed into the Hunter Association headquarters, once housed a legendary violent crimes detective known as the 'Ghost.' With an arrest rate of 200 percent, he was a mythical figure in the Korean violent crimes unit. Not only did he solve his own cases, but he also tracked down the culprits of the past unsolved ones to the ends of the earth. Before this 'Ghost,' even the most vicious criminals and gangsters became meek as lambs. And when Lee Se-hwan was still young. When he was just a rookie detective. Having applied to the Jungbu Police Station's violent crimes unit, He was fated to become the direct subordinate of the infamous 'Ghost Detective.' Yes it was fate. Lee Se-hwan could confidently assert that all the moments he spent with that senior were not bad luck or misfortune, but 'fate.'

"Is this the new guy?"

"Yes, that's right. This is Lee Se-hwan."

No matter how much time passed, he would never forget their first meeting. The suffocating pressure. Lee Se-hwan froze, looking up at his senior who was a head taller than himself, an average Korean male in height.

"I'll go train this guy."

"Go ahead, go ahead."

A brief exchange about him took place, and Lee Se-hwan was led outside by the 'Ghost' senior.

"S-sir! Wh-where are we going?" As Lee Se-hwan hurriedly followed behind and asked urgently, his senior kept walking and responded with a question instead of an answer.

"Why did you become a police officer?"

"Ah... I..." After a moment of hesitation, Lee Se-hwan recalled the dream he had forgotten while wrestling with drunkards during his time as a patrol officer.

"Because I wanted to catch bad guys..."

"I see." Suddenly, the Ghost stopped walking. And a strange smile appeared on his lips as he looked back at Lee Se-hwan.

"That's what we're going to do now." A smile that put your heart at ease just by looking at it.

"That's why I became a police officer too." Those words completely changed Lee Se-hwan's life from then on.

"Are you coming?"

"Of course, sir!"

And so, Lee Se-hwan became the official partner of the Ghost Detective. And they spent many years together. Why was he able to become the Chief Director of the Hunter Association after the Cataclysm...? Of course, there was a strong recommendation from Association President Woo Jinchul, who was a former police chief, but there was only one reason why no one objected to that bold personnel decision.

It was because Lee Se-hwan was the longtime partner of 'Detective Sung Jinwoo.' An A-rank Hunter, a former violent crimes detective who learned how to catch criminals directly from the Ghost. That was the current Chief Director Lee Se-hwan. And as time passed...

"Huh."

Now, standing confidently before him was a guy who looked exactly like his Ghost senior when he was young. 'Sung Suho.' His son.

'...He's the spitting image of his father.' Chief Director Lee Se-hwan couldn't help but let out a hollow laugh.

Yes, this pressure. That faint confidence that naturally emanated without the need for special gestures or a pose. Even the smile on Sung Suho's lips was the spitting image of that unique smile his father often wore. Seeing that in front of him, a sudden doubt arose in Lee Se-hwan's mind.

'...Could it be that Jin-woo had awakened before anyone else back then?' If so, quite a few questions that he couldn't understand until now would be explained. That elusiveness...

'No, no.' He lost a bit of his confidence.

'Even though I've become an A-rank Hunter now, I still don't have the confidence I could do what he did back then. If he was an S-rank Hunter, then maybe...'

Of course, there was no way to confirm the truth now, as the person involved had disappeared. Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, who was lost in memories, returned to reality.

"...Anyway, Suho... No, Representative Sung Suho of Woojin Guild. What is the purpose of your visit to the Association?" Even though he was the son of a close friend, since he came to the Association as a guild representative, there was a need to be polite.

"No, no. Before that..." But before hearing Suho's answer, he had to address the most important point.

"Are you 'the' Sung Suho?"

Lee Se-hwan's eyes, which had been filled with joy at seeing the face that resembled his brother, now turned sharp. It was because so much was at stake with the name 'Sung Suho' in Korea right now. International relations, public opinion, etc. On top of that, an urgent order had even come from Association President Woo Jinchul in North Korea.



(Urgent Security Order)

Investigate everything about Sung Suho!

Thanks to that, the Association had been busy investigating that person these days. There were countless people with the same name as 'Sung Suho' in South Korea, and there were more of them registered as Hunters than one would expect. But since a photo of his face had been released, it wouldn't be too difficult.

However, the problem was the departure record. There was no one named Sung Suho among the Korean Hunters who went to India by plane. And this time, there was no entry record either, yet he suddenly appeared here, so the Association was just confused about what was going on.

"Sung Suho was confirmed to be in India until this afternoon. Then unless our information is wrong, he's a completely different person. Then we have to start the investigation all over again..."

"There's no need for that."

"Does that mean...?" Suho nodded confidently.

"Yes. I just got back."

"...!" Not only Lee Se-hwan but also all the nearby Association staff stared at Suho with wide eyes at that answer.

– Oh my god!

– The real one had appeared!

'The' Sung Suho, who was currently causing the biggest stir worldwide, had come to the Association himself!

But who was Chief Director Lee Se-hwan?

"Ahem. Then first."

He, the partner of the legendary detective Sung Jinwoo, didn't forget his duty even in this confusing moment. He took out his handcuffs with sharp eyes like the Ghost.

"It's a serious crime to illegally enter India, so I'm arresting you, Sung Suho, for violating international law."

"Ah."

"...Just kidding. Anyway, be prepared because India might demand a huge fine later. Of course, judging from the current public opinion, the reward might be greater. Anyway, if you're really 'the' Sung Suho, the reason you came to the Association headquarters is..."

1

Suho smiled. Even without an answer, Chief Director Lee Se-hwan was already gesturing to his subordinate to bring something. It was a magic power measuring device. Suho nodded.

"Yes. I came to have my magic power re-measured."

"I see. There is no way a C-rank Hunter could do something on the level of what was observed in India. We had a hard time investigating because of that. Did you reawaken recently? Ah, sorry. I've used informal language again."

"You can speak comfortably."

"No. I can't do that." Chief Director Lee Se-hwan shook his head with a firm expression and held out the magic power measuring device to Suho.

"I have to be polite to someone who might become an S-rank Hunter..."

"Here."

'He's still speaking informally.' Suho chuckled and placed his hand on the measuring device. Then, a faint light began to emanate from the fist-sized black magic stone embedded in its top surface.

Shuuuu – As the light intensified, the numbers displayed on the magic power meter started to rise rapidly. Beads of sweat formed on the foreheads of Chief Director Lee Se-hwan and the Association staff. But then something unexpected happened.

Crack!

"...!"

Suddenly, cracks appeared in the magic stone, and it eventually shattered.

"Th-this can't be!"

"The measuring device exploded!" People couldn't help but panic.

S-rank Hunters were beings with immeasurable magic power that couldn't be evaluated by human-made devices. But even for an S-rank Hunter, they had never seen or heard

of a case where the device itself exploded like this. Moreover, even after shattering in Suho's hand it was still emitting strange heat and melting into a puddle. As if it fell into lava!

"It... It could be a malfunction. Bring a new one!"

"...Yes!" Soon, a new magic power measuring device appeared before Suho.

Crack!

It exploded in his hand without fail. And it was melting like lava again.

"Suho, how do you have this kind of power..." Lee Se-hwan looked at Suho with a bewildered expression. His eyes were filled with concern.

"How are you able to contain it all in that body..."

It was common for Hunters' mana to have attributes. For example those who used fire or water magic. There even were Hunters who had no attributes or multiple ones at the same time. But even then, there was a limit. He had never heard of mana that could melt the magic power measuring device itself. Moreover, it was immeasurable! He couldn't even imagine how a Hunter could be alive while harboring such heat-filled mana within their body, immeasurable as it was.

"So does this mean I've become an S-rank Hunter now?"

3

And he was even saying that so calmly! Chief Director Lee Se-hwan closed his eyes tightly at the question, as if Suho himself wasn't surprised by this strange phenomenon.

"Yes, Hunter Sung Suho. You are now a nationally certified S-rank Hunter." But as he said those words, a sense of doubt arose in his mind. Was it okay to put a being with such power in the same category as other 'ordinary' S-ranks?

\* \* \*

Although the Vigilante incident was quite a stir, it was actually just a trend that the media was forcibly pushing.

Vigilante? He was just a guy who killed hundreds of villains in a few days. Was it amazing yes...? So what?

Meanwhile, in India, a single Korean Hunter had just conquered an entire large-scale field. In other words, it was a matter of national pride.

– Korean Hunter Saves India!

– Kyaa! Bartender! Another bowl of national pride here!

2

– Ah, has the whole world finally realized it? This is Korea's potential.

The name Sung Suho was already a hot topic in the Korean media. But there was one strange thing.

– But who the hell is Sung Suho? Does anyone really know?

– Why doesn't anyone know such a great Hunter?!

Despite his fame, Sung Suho's personal information was completely controlled. There was only one picture circulating. A single picture taken from the Lee Min-Sung villain incident and his name written in the article. And as if they had a contract, all the media suddenly started to focus on the Vigilante. The corpses of the brutally murdered villains and their evil deeds were so sensational that it was quite effective. There was a reason for this. It was because of an urgent order from the Association President, who was currently in North Korea.

"Immediately classify all information about Sung Suho as top-secret." In short, the order was made to control the information. And that wasn't all. The Association President even tightly sealed the mouths of the large guilds that had worked with Sung Suho before.

"The timing of releasing information will be decided solely by Sung Suho himself."

– Why is he going this far? – They couldn't understand the reason at all. But Woo Jinchul they knew was not someone who acted without reason. That's why they were even more curious about what the Association President wanted.

– Is he trying to buy as much time as possible? For what?

But even the Association President Woo Jinchul hadn't anticipated:

That Sung Suho, who was in India, would instantly return to Korea with Shadow Exchange.

That Sung Suho would come to the Association headquarters himself.

And that he would confidently reveal his purpose much sooner than expected.

"Now that I've become an S-rank Hunter..." Suho, who had his magic power re-measured, formally stated his purpose.

"As an S-rank Hunter, I request the right to conquer North Korea." Sung Suho declared his intention to go to North Korea.

2

'...!'

That's right. North Korea, a land that had become a super-large field dungeon, just like India's Loktak Field, or even worse. The starting point of the vast apocalypse that stretched through North Korea to China and Russia.

"Government approval is required."

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 225 - Chapter 224**

### **Chapter 225: Chapter 224**

From the beginning, Sung Suho wanted the right to conquer North Korea for one reason: leveling up.

At the current point in time, North Korea was the hunting ground where he could gain the most experience points. Moreover, it was a field-type dungeon that no guild could monopolize. In other words, if Suho could go there, he could focus solely on leveling up with his shadow army without worrying about any complications. But North Korea was North Korea...

'...It's not a place just anyone can go to.'

Even though the world had become like this, South and North Korea were still in a state of ceasefire; the war hadn't ended yet. Furthermore, due to its special circumstances, North Korea was a region that was even more difficult to access. What were those special circumstances? You could say it was the same situation as with the Loktak Field that Suho had just visited.

The Loktak Field was a super-large field type dungeon created because they couldn't stop the simultaneous dungeon breaks in time, and its area gradually expanded until it eventually crossed the border into a neighboring country. That's where the problem arose...

Since a single monster field was located in the territory of two countries, Hunters entering it often encountered their counterparts from other nations while pursuing

magical beasts. Such cases, almost 100 percent of the time, ended in armed conflict due to opposing interests.

Even within the same country, competition between guilds was fierce, so no wonder it was even worse between Hunters of different nationalities. And they were walking weapons of war. Armed conflict between Hunter guilds of different countries on the border was the beginning of a war in the truest sense of the word.

"...But North Korea is in an even more complicated situation than the Loktak Field. You know that, right?"

"Yes, I know." Suho nodded silently, listening to Chief Director Lee Se-hwan's detailed explanation.

To summarize:

- 1) Immediately after the Cataclysm, the whole North Korea became a field dungeon.
- 2) The area gradually expanded upwards and downwards over time.
- 3) Hunters from South Korea blocked the lower part, but the upper expansion eventually crossed the Chinese border.

...Up to this point, it was exactly the same situation as the Loktak Field, but there was one more problem involved.

- 4) At the same time, the field dungeon originating from China also crossed the North Korean border.

"Actually, China has far more field type dungeons than North Korea. As was the case with India too, large countries are prone to that."

In fact, there weren't many countries in the world as safe as Korea. The fact that the country's area itself wasn't large meant that if a dungeon break occurred, it was easy for Hunters to get there in time and take care of it. But for countries with enormous landmasses it wasn't that simple. No matter how many Hunters there were, due to the large population. The physical distance between gates in countries like China, India, and Russia was vast. No matter how hard the Hunters in such countries worked to get to the gate on time, they often missed the deadline of dungeon breaks...

- 5) So in the end, inevitably the monster field from North Korea and the one originating from China merged...

"Because of this situation, China can now claim that the North Korean territory connected to their monster field is their land."

The North Korean government had disappeared, and the country was now a territory without an owner. It was truly a no man's land. Therefore, from both China's and South Korea's perspective, the moment they conquered the North Korean field dungeon, they could claim it as their own land just by planting their flag.

"The moment you enter North Korean territory, you have to keep in mind the possibility of clashing with Chinese Hunters. No, you should assume you will definitely clash. China is eager to swallow up North Korean land. Well... Our country is in the same position."

Sip.

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan took a sip of his instant coffee and continued with a bitter expression.

"But the problem with North Korea has recently gotten even worse."

"You mean Russia."

Lee Se-hwan crumpled his paper cup and said, "Yes. I see you've been watching the news."

North Korea bordered not only China but also Russia. Until now, the monster field hadn't reached their border, but it recently crossed into Russian territory. The result was this, a three-way battle.

"These days, South Korea, China, and Russia are engaged in a fierce territorial dispute over a single super-large field dungeon that spans their borders."

This was the reason why Association President Woo Jinchul went to North Korea in the first place. Compared to China and Russia, South Korea was a very small country. The real dispute was between China and Russia. But if Korea let its guard down even for a moment, either the Chinese or Russian flag would be planted on North Korean soil.

"Association President Woo Jinchul's goal was to stay out of the conflict between the two countries and only protect North Korea. But it seems it's not that easy, as he hasn't been able to return for months."

"..." Suho seemed to understand why Woo Jinchul was struggling.

'Void Gate.' The gate leading to the dimensional gap that inevitably occurred in places where several dungeons overlapped. It was highly likely that Itarim's apostles were attempting to invade Earth through such holes all over the world.

[My liege, it seems you must go to North Korea, even if it's not just for leveling up.] Beru, sensing the seriousness of the situation, whispered to Suho.

The super-large field dungeon that stretched through North Korea, China, and Russia was rare even on a global scale. With that much overlap, it wouldn't be strange at all if Itarim's apostles were already roaming around there.

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, having finished all his explanations, asked Suho with a genuinely worried expression, "Do you really want to go to North Korea, knowing all this? The magical beasts are a problem, but you'll also be fighting Chinese and Russian Hunters."

"Yes. It doesn't matter." At Suho's immediate answer, Lee Se-hwan asked again with an even more bewildered expression,

"Why do you want to go? If you were lucky enough to reawaken as an S-rank, you could just stay in Korea and rake in money and popularity? There are plenty of dungeons to conquer domestically."

He sincerely wanted to dissuade Suho. It was partly because he was the son of his respected senior, but he also didn't want to send such a talented person to North Korea and get him involved in a dangerous and complicated situation. But Suho had no intention of changing his mind. Instead of answering, he stared at Lee Se-hwan and asked,

"Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, you said you were my father's colleague, right?"

"Yes."

"I forgot, but now I recall asking my father as a child why he chose to be a police officer."

"...!" Lee Se-hwan's expression stiffened as he heard those words. And the conversation he had with Sung Jinwoo came to mind reflexively.

– Why did you become a police officer?

– Ah... I...

"Do you know what my father answered?"

"...Because he wanted to catch bad guys?"

"No."

"No? Then?"

"He said it was just a hobby."



"...?!"

Ignoring Lee Se-hwan's bewildered reaction, Suho chuckled. He had completely forgotten, so why did he remember it now?

– My Hobby is Police Work.

At the time, he didn't understand his father's answer, which he dismissed as a joke...

– But my specialty is Hunting.

Only after learning what his father's real job was did Suho realize the true meaning of that answer.

Smirk.

"That's why I'm going."

"That's what we're going to do now."

"...!"

Why was it? Why did Sung Jinwoo's answer, etched in Lee Se-hwan's memory, and the unique smile he had at that time overlap with Suho's words and expression now?

\* \* \*

In order for the government to grant permission to enter North Korea, a total of two steps are required:

The first is the approval of at least five S-rank Hunters in Korea. The reason why it's required is the conflict of interest between guilds. It also serves as proof of one's qualifications. By revealing one's strength to the S-rank Hunters, they can show that they have what it takes to go to that dangerous place.

Only after passing that could they move on to the second step, 'Public Opinion.' And actually, the first step was the difficult one. Once the first stage was passed, the second would usually work itself out.

And today all the S-rank Hunters in Korea, putting aside their busy schedules, started to gather at the Hunter Association one by one to test Sung Suho. They were curious about the new S-rank Hunter and wanted to find out whether he was qualified to go to North Korea. Among them was the representative of the Black Tortoise Guild, who was involved with Suho in various ways.

"Are you Sung Suho?"

"...?"

"Nice to meet you. I'm S-rank Hunter Hyeonmoo Gang."

Hyeonmoo Gang, who arrived at the Association first, offered a handshake to Suho. With a meaningful smile. His gaze swept over the person, who had dealt a huge blow to his guild in various ways.

'I was waiting for this, but it's a shame. If he's an S-rank, that's a different story. It's much more beneficial to have him on our side.' Hyeonmoo Gang calculated inwardly and shook Suho's hand with an even wider smile.

"Haha. Well, now that we're both S-rank Hunters, let's forget about the trivial things that happened between us. So, how much do you want?"

"What do you mean?" At Suho's puzzled expression, Hyeonmoo Gang's eyes gleamed with an even more meaningful look.

"We're currently on an aggressive recruitment drive. Forget about that North Korea nonsense, how about joining our guild? I'll give you any amount as a signing bonus. How about a Runestone that allows you to summon two more beasts?"

"..."

"Oh, your expression has frozen. It's only natural. It's something that any summoner would covet. Ah, I guess you wouldn't have known about the existence of such Runestones since you just became an S-rank Hunter?"

Hyeonmoo Gang had just finished conquering an S-rank dungeon. Acquiring information was a challenging endeavor and many hunters didn't know even the most basic facts. That's why he was so confident.

'An S-rank summoner wouldn't dare refuse my offer. This kind of Runestone is something you can't buy with money.'

Hyeonmoo Gang had no doubt that another S-rank Hunter would be added to his guild today.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 226 - Chapter 225**

## Chapter 226: Chapter 225

All S-rank Hunters in Korea received a sudden call from the Association and showed similar reactions.

– A new S-rank Hunter has appeared?

– Who is it?"

They were all curious.

This person's information was currently confidential, and it was stated that they could only find out their exact identity by going to the Association in person. But the brief explanation that followed was quite eye-catching.

– What? Reawakening?

– A C-rank Hunter reawakened as an S-rank? Did they save the country in a past life or something?

1

However, what came next was the problem. The request for the right to conquer North Korea.

– What? They demanded the right to enter North Korea right off the bat?

– Tsk tsk. How naive.

All the S-rank Hunters couldn't help but scoff or click their tongues at this. It was certainly a curious thing for a lower-mid rank Hunter to reawaken as an S-rank, but it was understandable. Reawakening wasn't common, but it did happen occasionally. However, declaring that they would go to North Korea right after becoming an S-rank was a completely different matter.

– Pfft. How immature.

– Does he think he's something special?

3

– There are always guys like this among those who win the lottery."

– Well, I don't blame him for feeling that way. It's natural to get a big head after a sudden rise in status.

– He probably feels like he's some chosen hero."

2

You didn't even need to be an S-rank. Regardless of strength, all Hunters experienced a similar feeling the moment they awakened their abilities. That thrilling sensation of being chosen by God! The noble sense of mission to protect this world with your own hands they all felt it.

– Kya. Good times. But it's all fleeting.

– It's like a kind of eighth-grader syndrome.

Reality wasn't so rosy...

– Sigh. North Korea, my foot. We're busy enough just protecting our own country.

Even when you became an S-rank, the difficulty of the dungeons you conquered and the amount of money earned were the only things that changed; in the grand scheme of things, what Hunters did was all the same. In fact, higher ranked ones had to work even harder than their weaker colleagues. Dangerous dungeons were occurring here and there at this very moment, and the number of S-ranks was insufficient. Even if they left mining and small-scale hunting to lower ranks, it was ultimately the S-rank Hunters' responsibility to deal with the boss monsters directly. Otherwise, the lives of innocent guild members would be endangered, and the number of useful subordinates would gradually decrease. You didn't even have to consider the preciousness of life; just thinking about the cost of Hunters, the damage that even one death would cause to the guild was incalculable. So who was the busiest? Obviously the mere nine S-rank Hunters who were running themselves ragged across the country, catching magical beasts that others couldn't handle.

2

– If he knew how busy we were, he wouldn't even mention North Korea.

– This is why newbies are so cute.

1

– That's why there's a procedure to get the approval of five S-rank Hunters for the conquest of North Korea.

1

– As expected, Association President Woo Jinchul made the law really well.

There was a reason why people praised Woo Jinchul. The Hunter-related regulations he created all had legitimate reasons and were effectively used for the stability and peace of South Korea.

"Well then, shall we go see him?"

"I need to see the face of this naive kid who's so full of himself."

The S-rank Hunters, putting aside their busy schedules, started to gather at the Association one by one. But among them, there were those who immediately realized the identity of the newbie as soon as they received the call. It was Baek Miho and Lim Tae-Gyu.

Baek Miho wasn't an S-rank Hunter, but she happened to be next to her father, Baek Yoonho, so she checked the information with him and couldn't help but widen her eyes.

"D-Dad! I think this is Hunter Sung Suho."

Baek Miho and Lim Tae-Gyu had already recognized him in the Loktak Field broadcast from China. It was curious how Sung Suho, who was in Korea until recently, suddenly went to India and was doing all that, but they were even more startled after witnessing his true power shown in the video. People were surprised to see Suho blowing up a giant magical beast like a balloon with one punch, but the truly shocking part was something else. The last scene...

Countless shadow magical beasts that filled the screen and beyond! The public mistakenly thought it was a dungeon break, but those who had fought alongside Suho at least once all knew what his summons looked like.

'Oh my god. How did he become able to summon so many...? Since when...?'

'Could it be that he was always able to do this, but he was hiding it...? But why?!'

Baek Miho and Lim Tae-Gyu couldn't get over the shock for a while. As far as they knew, the number of shadow soldiers Suho could summon until now was only about ten. But suddenly, that number had increased a hundredfold.

"Th-that's right! It makes sense if he reawakened!" They didn't know when he returned to Korea and even got re-measured, but Sung Suho was an elusive person.

"Dad! Can I go with you?"

"...Why?"

"I want to see with my own eyes if this person is really Hunter Sung Suho."

"..." Baek Yoonho felt uneasy as Baek Miho hurriedly followed him.

"Miho, don't tell me..." A father's vague anxiety about his daughter... The realization that Sung Suho was the only grandson of his respected senior, Sung Il-hwan... Baek Yoonho suppressed his complicated feelings and asked Baek Miho as calmly as possible,

"...Do you have a thing for younger men?"

10

"What are you talking about...? Anyway, let's hurry before it's too late."

3

"W-wait!" Baek Yoonho hurriedly followed his daughter, who was already heading to the Association, and asked,

"Why are you in such a hurry?!"

"Why are you asking? The Association must have contacted the Black Tortoise Guild too. Don't you know how much Representative Hyeonmoo Gang has been grinding his teeth at Hunter Sung Suho?"

"...!" Baek Yoonho's eyes suddenly turned serious.

"We need to hurry." He couldn't predict what S-rank Hunter Hyeonmoo Gang would do if he met Suho.

\* \* \*

In retrospect, the bad blood between the Black Tortoise Guild and Suho ran deep. At the beginning and end of that long history was a man named 'Lee Young-ho,' who was now dead. Once Section Chief of the Black Tortoise Guild's 2nd Management Division' He was the one who tried to recruit Suho and failed.

And as a result, he was targeted by Suho's uncle Yoo Jinho, the CEO of Korea's top game company, Ahjin Soft. Because of that, the Black Tortoise Guild, which wanted to form a business partnership with Ahjin Soft, was rejected. And he was the one who tried to kill Suho in a dungeon as revenge for all that... and failed miserably. The root cause of all those incidents was Section Chief Lee Young-ho. But the biggest problem here was that the person involved couldn't take responsibility because died recklessly in the dungeon. In the end, it was Guild Master Hyeonmoo Gang who had to clean up the mess.

1

'...CEO Yoo Jinho is a really tenacious man.' Hyeonmoo Gang shuddered as he recalled that time.

When Suho went missing in the Pyeongtaek dungeon after getting entangled with Section Chief Lee Young-ho. CEO Yoo Jinho, enraged, called the Black Tortoise Guild and demanded,

– Get me the Guild Master!

S-rank Hunter's authority?

Overwhelming power?

So what. That meant nothing to the enraged CEO Yoo Jinho. Even if Hyeonmoo Gang was a superhuman with S-rank power, that power was only needed when dealing with magical beasts. The moment he used it against a civilian outside the dungeon, he would become a wanted criminal. As long as Hyeonmoo Gang didn't want to become an S-rank villain himself, it was absolutely impossible for him to pressure Yoo Jinho with force in Korea, a law-abiding country.

Then what was left?

Money.

Yoo Jinho happened to be the CEO of the most famous game company in Korea and a leading tycoon who developed the world's first virtual reality game. Before him, the Black Tortoise Guild was nothing more than a newly established company that had only been around for two years. And the only strength that this new company had was the CEO's incredibly high value. Then it was just like a dispute with a large individual contractor. A company against a company. Magic power or whatever, outside the dungeon, it was a large corporation that was the bully.

"Get me the Guild Master right now."

"Yes? I-I'll connect you to the Guild Master..."

Fortunately just before Yoo Jinho, who was growling ferociously like a beast that lost its family, started his sword dance, news arrived that Suho had returned safely. After that, everything went smoothly.

What Section Chief Lee Young-ho did was revealed. And as compensation, the Black Tortoise Guild had no choice but to hand over 10 dungeons they owned to Suho. They weren't much individually, but it was quite a painful expense for them. However at the time no one knew that it was just the tip of the iceberg.

'...He holds grudges.' Hyeonmoo Gang clenched his eyes shut as he recalled the tenacity of CEO Yoo Jinho he had experienced.

Although Sung Suho himself had completely forgotten about the Black Tortoise Guild while dealing with the Foreign Religion, Yoo Jinho's revenge had just begun.

'How dare they try to kill Suho?' Yoo Jinho indeed held a grudge for a very long time.

– The CEO is an S-rank Hunter?

– A large guild?

'So what.' From Yoo Jinho's perspective, the Black Tortoise Guild was nothing more than a company with an incredibly valuable CEO.

To give an example based on Yoo Jinho's younger days, each guild was like a part of an MCN (Multi-Channel Network) company established by a super-large internet broadcaster with a huge number of subscribers, just doing things a little differently. Of course, in about 10 years, the influence of Hunter guilds would increase significantly, but that time hasn't come yet.

On the other hand, Ahjin Soft was a leading large corporation. And as the difference in company size was enormous. There were countless ways Yoo Jinho could 'legally' pressure the Black Tortoise Guild. As a result...

The Black Tortoise Guild was on the verge of collapse these days. All the processes and results were extremely just and legal. Hunter or whatever, there was no company dirt could not be dug up on.

"...Haha. Well, now that we're both S-rank Hunters, let's forget about the trivial things that happened between us. So, how much do you want?" Because of that, Hyeonmoo Gang was more desperate than ever.

From the moment he arrived at the Association to recruit a new S-rank Hunter and realized that he was 'Sung Suho,' the cause of all those incidents. Hyeonmoo Gang made up his mind.

'Yes. It's rather fortunate that he's an S-rank. There's only one way for our guild to escape from that tenacious Yoo Jinho and make a comeback. To have Sung Suho in my hands and control him!' He decided to recruit Sung Suho into the Black Tortoise Guild no matter what.

Woojin Guild?

Ahjin Soft backing them?



So what if it was Yoo Jinho?

If Sung Suho decided to join the Black Tortoise Guild on his own, what could he do? Hyeonmoo Gang had a rune stone that allowed a hunter to have two additional summons!

3

'An S-rank summoner wouldn't dare refuse my offer. This kind of rune is something you can't buy with money.' Those were Hyeonmoo Gang's thoughts while shaking hands with Suho with a meaningful smile.

And at that moment. Other S-rank Hunters started arriving at the Association.

Lim Tae-Gyu of the Reaper Guild.

Baek Yoonho of the White Tiger Guild.

Seo Jiwoo of the Blue Dragon Guild.

Ma Dongwook of the Fame Guild.

And even Baek Miho, who followed Baek Yoonho.

"Hyeonmoo Gang! Step away from Hunter Sung Suho right now!"

"...Baek Miho?" Hyeonmoo Gang's expression distorted as he saw Baek Miho suddenly blocking Suho with a determined look.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 227 - Chapter 226**

### **Chapter 227: Chapter 226**

The White Tiger and The Black Tortoise Guild were rivals known throughout the country. They had similar numbers of Hunters, similar brand value, and their names were both derived from the Four Guardian Beasts, the White Tiger and the Black Tortoise. Because of this, the two guilds were always mentioned together. But this was truly unfair to the Black Tortoise Guild.

- Our guild was created a year earlier!
- And 'Black Tortoise' wasn't even from the Four Guardian Beasts.
- It's just taking 'Hyeonmoo' – (in Korea meaning black turtle-snake) from Hyeonmoo Gang! We just named it after the guild master's name!
- That's right.

It was just a straightforward name. But then one day, a year later a guy named Baek Yoonho left the Guild and established the 'White Tiger Guild,' named after himself. From then on, people started mentioning the White Tiger and the Black Tortoise together.

That's when the Black Tortoise Guild started having headaches.

- Friendly competition? That's not the problem. Competition between guilds is perfectly okay. The issue is Baek Yoonho.

'What? Baek Yoonho, that hypocrite, made another donation?!'

It was maddening. A new guild established a year after their own. They should just stick to hunting and making money. But the White Tiger Guild started doing too many good deeds.

Conquering unprofitable fields.

Rescuing low-rank Hunters.

Taking care of the miners' welfare.

As a result, the White Tiger showed a rapid growth rate and people started praising Baek Yoonho. So the Black Tortoise Guild was suddenly compared to them and criticized just because they had similar names. In terms of sales alone, the White Tiger could never beat the Black Tortoise Guild. Because they mostly did things that didn't make money!

On the other hand, their brand value was quickly surpassed. Even low-mid rank Hunters who had just awakened admired the White Tiger Guild and were eager to join them. As a result, their office was always overflowing with applicants, while the number of Hunters applying to the Black Tortoise Guild, which was only being criticized, gradually decreased. Then, when the White Tiger Guild announced that they would only recruit Hunters with beast transformation skills, the number of applicants to the Black Tortoise increased again, but that was also annoying to Hyeonmoo Gang. At that time, beast transformation Hunters were treated as half magical beasts and feared by the public, so Baek Yoonho's bold decision to embrace them personally gained him great favor with the people. It was only natural that the technically innocent Black Tortoise Guild was

once again compared and became the subject of gossip. For these reasons, strictly speaking, the two guilds weren't on bad terms; it was a one-sided dislike from the Black Tortoise Guild towards the White Tiger.

"Baek Miho." Hyeonmoo Gang glared at her blocking his way, with displeasure.

"What are you trying to do?"

"What are You trying to do to Hunter Sung Suho?"

"I'm just making a recruitment offer to a new S-rank Hunter. And I'm offering very generous terms."

"Not a slave contract?"

"...Baek Yoonho." Hyeonmoo Gang's expression crumpled once again at the sight of Baek Yoonho, who appeared beside Baek Miho.

"Slave contract? What nonsense is that?"

"You know that better than anyone, don't you? There are rumors in the industry that the Black Tortoise Guild forces slave contracts on Hunters."

"Ha! That fake news..."

"Fake news? A 10-year contract. A huge penalty for leaving the guild. Can you confidently say that's fake news?"

Flinch. Hyeonmoo Gang's expression twitched momentarily at Baek Miho's words, but he stepped forward with an even more brazen look.

"There's clearly a confidentiality clause in the contract, but I guess there were some loose-lipped people. Yes, there are indeed such contracts. But what's wrong with that?"

"What?"

"It's a contract that the Hunters themselves decide on and sign. A penalty for leaving? So what? We gave them a huge signing bonus, so it's a natural clause, isn't it?"

"Natural? It's only been two years since the Cataclysm, how is tying Hunters down for 10 not a slave contract?" Suho scratched his cheek as he watched them fiercely bickering.

'...There's no room for me to intervene.' It was awkward. He had no intention of signing a contract with anyone anyway, whether it was the Black Tortoise Guild or anyone else.

More importantly, Suho was more concerned with how many S-rank Hunters had gathered at the Association.

'...Don't tell me those five are all of them.' He needed the approval of five S-rank Hunters to go to North Korea. But only five had gathered...

He turned his head to look at Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, who had arranged this meeting. But he was busy talking with his subordinates, and only shook his head...

"Yes. It seems like this is all of them. The other S-rank Hunters are either in the middle of dungeon raids and can't be reached, or they've expressed their intention to decline because they're busy."

Indeed, it was rare for S-rank Hunters to gather in one place except for a reason like today. They were so busy that it was difficult to coordinate their schedules, and the opportunity cost was also enormous. And if a dungeon break occurred somewhere far away, who would take responsibility for the many civilian casualties that would result? So even in a case like today, only five S-rank Hunters responded to the Association's invitation.

"Still, consider yourself lucky that we managed to gather five. The problem is that everyone here has to agree for you to go to North Korea..." At Chief Director Lee Se-hwan's words, Suho looked at each of the five S-rank Hunters, excluding Baek Miho.

First, Lim Tae-Gyu of the Reaper Guild. He looked at Suho and asked,

"Suho, I don't see Dogyuun. Where is he these days? Don't tell me you took him to India too?"

"...He's been working hard at the gym these days."

7

"Oh, is that so? That's good. Moderate exercise is good for your health."

3

"Yes, of course."

It wasn't moderate at all, but having strong legs would certainly be good for his health. Thanks to the mummy bandages and healing potions, there was no need to worry about him dying.

"..." Still, Suho couldn't help but avoid Lim Tae-Gyu's eyes.

Anyway, the other four.

Baek Yoonho and Hyeonmoo Gang, who were busy having a staring contest. But it was the man and the woman behind them that caught Suho's eye. Seo Jinwoo of the Blue Dragon Guild. And Ma Dongwook of the Fame Guild.

2

"It doesn't seem like it will be easy, does it?" Lim Tae-Gyu spoke up from beside Suho, as if reading his mind.

"I guess not."

"Even if Baek Yoonho and I agree, the other three won't readily acknowledge you. We S-rank Hunters are rivals competing with each other for guild interests, and at the same time, we don't want another S-rank to go to North Korea and die." Lim Tae-Gyu crossed his arms leisurely and leaned against the wall as he continued his explanation.

"Aside from national prestige and security issues, if the number of S-ranks decreases, the rest of us will become even busier. You might be comfortable with your many summons, but we're so busy that we feel like we are dead on our feet... But asking seriously, just how did you get so many summons?"

"Well, it kinda turned out like this."

"Don't avoid the question. That's why I came here. If you answer that properly this time, I'll allow you to go to North Korea or wherever. Ah, on the condition that you don't take Dogyuun." Lim Tae-Gyu was a father worried about his son. Even while his son was currently on the verge of being killed by Ammut even before reaching North Korea. As they say: Sometimes ignorance is bliss.

3

"Anyway, to get the consent of all five people gathered here, you need to prove your strength, and you'll have to meet the demands they each present. If there were more people, it might be different, but since only five have gathered, you're at a disadvantage."

[My liege. Ignore the laws of these insignificant humans. There's also a way to sneak in by ourselves for the greater good.] Beru peeked out from beside Suho and whispered like a devil.

[You mustn't be tempted by such demonic words! If you get caught, Master will be put on the wanted list as an S-rank villain! Why don't you just kill everyone here and destroy the evidence? Shall I secretly stab them with a poisoned needle?] From the other side, Que, a former villain, peeked out and whispered like an 'angel'.

5

[The Queen of Insects, the Plague Monarch Querehsha, has her eyes gleaming.]

"..." Suho silently shoved Beru and Que back into the shadows.

Just then, Seo Jinwoo and Ma Dongwook approached Suho and spoke.

"Wow, who were those guys just now? I heard you're an S-rank summoner, are those your summons? They look similar to the black guys we saw in the Loktak video...? Don't tell me...!?" Seo Jinwoo, the representative of the Blue Dragon Guild, was a Hunter specializing in close combat, her whole body full of fighting spirit and muscles. She seemed to have stopped by after conquering a dungeon, fully equipped with gauntlets and armor stained with magical beast blood.

On the other hand, Hunter Ma Dongwook of the Fame Guild was a gentle-looking old man with a relaxed outfit, as if he had come out for a stroll, with no armor in sight. But the problem was his size.

"Huh. You're the new S-rank Hunter!" The incredibly large old man approached Suho with a kind smile. Then, he suddenly started touching his shoulders and arms in admiration.

"Oh! Your body is very firm! Excellent physique! Oh my, I apologize. I'm Ma Dongwook. I lead the Fame Guild in Honam." As he belatedly offered a handshake after abruptly feeling up Suho's body, he also greeted him and shook his hand. But...

"Nice to meet you. I'm Sung Soo..."

Squeeze.

"...?" Suddenly, Suho felt a tremendous grip from Ma Dongwook's hand. As he looked up with a puzzled expression, Ma Dongwook's eyes, looking down at him, were now filled with a playful glint.

"I was curious. Did you really blow up that huge magical beast with these delicate fists?" Unlike Seo Jinwoo, Ma Dongwook's only interest was strength. Although the black magical beasts, known to the public as a dungeon break, were debatable, the scene of Suho blowing up a giant magical beast like a balloon with one punch was broadcast live worldwide.

"Let's see if you can withstand my strength. That's my only condition."

Rumble! A mountainous pressure began to emanate from the gigantic S-rank Hunter who was gripping Suho's hand.

'This power... He's serious.' Suho wasn't fazed, as it was a similar situation to when he first met Thomas Andre.

'It's not like I haven't met one or two old men who liked to show off their strength.' Suho chuckled and asked Ma Dongwook,

"Is that really your only condition?"

'Oh? You can withstand this...?'

"Of course! If I send someone who can't even endure my level of strength to North Korea, how could I sleep at night... Ugh?!" Suddenly Ma Dongwook, who had been laughing heartily and putting even more strength into his grip, changed his expression.

"Ugh...!" Something shocking started to happen.

"...?!"

Baek Yoonho, Baek Miho, and Hyeonmoo Gang, who were in the middle of their staring contest, stopped talking and stared at them with wide eyes. Ma Dongwook gritted his teeth, his face turning red. He, who had started this as a joke, was now using his magic power to withstand Suho's strength. Then a calm voice asked.

"Chief Director Lee Se-hwan."

"Huh?!"

"Do you have an A-rank Healer at the Association right now?"

Lee Se-hwan, who was frozen in surprise, snapped out of it and hurriedly responded to Suho's words, "O-of course. Why?"

It wasn't common for S-rank Hunters to gather like this. And since they were always with those weaker than them who they had to protect. Things like this always happened at such gatherings. Establishing hierarchy, or sparring to evaluate each other's strength for training purposes. That's why Chief Director Lee Se-hwan had an A-rank Healer on standby for emergencies this time as well. For reference, such a person had the ability to regenerate even severed limbs.

"Then it's alright." A faint smile appeared on Suho's lips as he heard the answer. And...

Crack!

"...!" A silent scream escaped Ma Dongwook's lips.



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 228 - Chapter 227**

### **Chapter 228: Chapter 227**

Awakened people instinctively understood their newly obtained powers and could use them according to their own nature. And in the case of Ma Dongwook, who had walked the single path of a martial artist all his life, that nature was 'strength' itself. Tremendous monstrous strength. The moment he awakened as an S-rank, the most powerful skill befitting that strength was engraved on his body. Skill: 'Gigantification'

Crack! Crack!

Sensing the threat, Ma Dongwook's body instantly swelled up. The loose clothes he was wearing tightened and then tore apart. And the judo techniques that had been deeply ingrained in his body through tens of thousands of practice sessions over the past decades were used against Suho.

Fwoosh!

A fierce wind brushed past his ears. Ma Dongwook used his monstrous strength to reverse Suho's force and pull his body. And with that momentum, he slammed him to the ground. Or rather. He tried to...

'...Huh?'

Whoosh!

'What just happened?' Ma Dongwook saw his vision flip upside down. The astonished expressions of the people looking at him flashed past at high speed. And for a brief moment, he saw stars.

Crash!

"Keuk?!" A sharp scream and pain followed belatedly. He might have even blacked out for a moment.

As Ma Dongwook came to his senses, he finally realized. The one who was miserably slammed to the ground wasn't Suho, but himself.



"...Huh." Pain aside, a hollow chuckle escaped his lips. Superior physique and expert technique. But Suho had pure strength that overwhelmed all of that.

Thud!

The moment he let go of Ma Dongwook's hand. His arm went limp like a corpse. It flopped around like a mollusk.

"...!"

And all hell broke loose. He could see the medical staff and the A-rank Healer who were waiting in the distance rushing towards them. And through their words, Ma Dongwook learned that all the bones in his hand and arm were shattered.

\* \* \*

"Uhahaha! I can't keep up with you young guys!"

"...Are you alright?"

"Of course, I am! Why are you all making such a fuss over a few broken bones? I'm the toughest tanker in our country! Hahaha!"

"Luckily it wasn't worse. Haa." Chief Director Lee Se-hwan breathed a sigh of relief as he watched Ma Dongwook, who was being treated by the A-rank Healer while laughing heartily.

And as he wiped the sweat from his forehead he discreetly turned his head. There, he saw the S-rank Hunters, who were frozen with expressions far more serious than his own. He felt a bit better seeing they were as shocked as him, though he felt sorry for Hunter Ma Dongwook.

'He really takes after his father... Thanks to Hunter Ma Dongwook, he had quite the initiation.' Was it even right to call this an initiation?

'...He's really crazy.'

'He overpowered Ma Dongwook with pure strength?'

Even Lim Tae-Gyu and Baek Miho, who knew Suho's strength, couldn't calm their surprised hearts. If they had competed using combat abilities or skills, they wouldn't have been this surprised. He wasn't just bragging; Ma Dongwook really was the strongest S-rank tanker in Korea. Both in terms of pure power as well as durability. Ma Dongwook, this man who looked like a gentle, bearded grandpa from the neighborhood, possessed monstrous strength that could break the neck of an A-rank magical beast with his bare hands. But Sung Suho had overpowered him in a pure contest of strength.

'He was even using the Gigantification skill, but he was still helpless.'

'Just how strong is he, if he can do something like this?'

Those who had been wondering if the magical beast that Suho had blown up like a balloon in the India video had weaker defense than it seemed now had their minds completely wiped clean. On the other hand, Ma Dongwook suddenly seemed to be quite fond of him.

"Hahaha! Sung Suho, you are a real gem! Do you want to join our guild..? No, how about becoming the Guild Master instead of me? I am getting to old to fight magical beasts anyway." He joked, fiddling with his hand that was still numb even after treatment. Then, sensing the strange atmosphere surrounding Sung Suho, he burst into laughter.

"Haha. I'm the one who got hurt, why is everyone so serious?"

"..."

"..."

The S-rank Hunters, who witnessed Sung Suho's strength thanks to Ma Dongwook, remained silent. Among them, there was one person who was especially pale. It was Hyeonmoo Gang. His hand, which had shook Suho's just a moment ago, was trembling slightly. He was so pale that he didn't even realize he was covered in cold sweat.

'...What kind of crazy person wrote that nonsense about Sung Suho being a summoner in his profile?' It was a mistake to naively trust the Association's information in the first place.

'What? S-rank summoner?'

'Are they crazy?'

He overlooked the possibility that person's abilities might change upon reawakening. It was a rare case in the first place, so it wasn't strange for any kind of variable to occur.

Glance. Hyeonmoo Gang's gaze unconsciously turned to Seo Jiwoo of the Blue Dragon Guild next to him.

'Seo Jiwoo... Come to think of it, that woman is also a reawakened person.'

In Seo Jiwoo's case, she became younger with reawakening. As her physical abilities reached the extreme at the S-rank level, she unexpectedly started looking like like she was in her 20s. But her real age...

'...She requested the Association to keep her information private, so no one knows.'  
The Association was lenient towards S-rank Hunters.

Anyway, whether he was originally a summoner or whatever, the current S-rank reawakened Sung Suho had become a tanker with strength surpassing Ma Dongwook. And he must have 'intentionally' hidden that fact. Perhaps he was aiming for this very situation. He needed to make a strong first impression on the other S-rank Hunters to easily persuade them about conquering North Korea.

'I've been completely fooled.' Hyeonmoo Gang's face burned with shame. What did he say earlier? He proudly presented a summon-related rune stone to a tanker who relied on brute strength even more than Ma Dongwook!

'Damn it!'

But he couldn't give up now. To escape from the clutches of that tenacious CEO Yoo Jinho, he had to win over Sung Suho! He racked his brains desperately.

'What Sung Suho wants is to conquer North Korea. There's still a chance.'

He had already sensed that the other S-rank Hunters, except for him, were favorable towards Sung Suho. But even if these four approved him going to North Korea, if Hyeonmoo Gang cast a opposing vote, Suho wouldn't be able to achieve what he wanted. Of course, even if he opposed it, Suho could go around begging the other S-rank Hunters who didn't participate today.

'But that's not going to happen.' He could be sure.

The S-ranks who didn't come today weren't interested in Sung Suho. Rather, they were probably glad that a new S-rank Hunter had appeared to lighten their workload, so no one would welcome him suddenly leaving for North Korea.

'Then my vote is the deciding factor. Let's see. If the rune stone doesn't work, should I try asking him to join our guild as my condition?' Of course, the others would object if he did that. Judging from the current atmosphere, they all seemed to want Sung Suho to join their own guilds.

'But I'm different.' His goal wasn't to recruit Sung Suho in the first place. He simply wanted to use Sung Suho to escape from Yoo Jinho's clutches.

'Recruitment or whatever, I'll do anything as long as I can use Sung Suho as a bargaining chip with CEO Yoo Jinho. It's rather easier if he's a tanker, not a summoner. I can offer him something like expensive armor.'

As seen with Ma Dongwook, just being strong wasn't enough to fight magical beasts barehanded. Rather, the more powerful you were, the more problematic it became. If you swung a sword with that brute strength, the blade would quickly become dull or even break. The gauntlets Seo Jiwoo was wearing were also consumables. It was natural for the durability of the armor and weapons you wore to decrease the more you fought. That's why you needed sturdy weapons forged with expensive materials.

'And our guild has a lot of high quality weapons that tankers would go crazy for.' But, the moment Hyeonmoo Gang's eyes gleamed with confidence again...

"Huh. That's strange." Ma Dongwook, finally fully healed from his injury, looked around the Association's gymnasium where they were gathered with a surprised expression.

"What kind of building is this? The floor is fine even after all that commotion. Is this building entirely made of magic stones?"

"...?!"

"Yes, that's right. It's a gymnasium that was recently completed for training Association Hunters and various special purposes."

"...!" As Chief Director Lee Se-hwan nodded and answered, Hyeonmoo Gang's eyes widened in shock.

Only then did the other S-rank Hunters, who had been focused on Sung Suho, realize something they hadn't paid attention to and looked around with their mouths agape.

"Oh my god. Is this real?"

"It must have cost an astronomical amount of money to build a building of this size with magic stones."

"Does the Association have that kind of money?"

It was unbelievable. Even large guilds like theirs couldn't afford to build a training ground of this size in their guild quarters. It had only been two years since the Cataclysm. Even large guilds didn't have the financial resources to invest this much money in a building alone.

Well... They were making more than enough money, but they were busy spending it on making and repairing weapons for their guild members, which broke down quickly after just one dungeon raid as well as other expenses. Of course, they also had sturdy training grounds for their hunters, but they couldn't even dream of anything this size. To

build a training facility of this big, they would need to diligently save up for at least three, no, five years...

"Wait. Is this... again...?" At that moment, a name suddenly came to everyone's mind. The initials that always followed such groundbreaking things.

"What has the Association President Woo Jinchul done again?"

"Did he get government support or something?"

"No, it would take at least a year to build a building."

"There's no way the country would have granted such a huge amount of money last year? There's a government budget!"

Chief Director Lee Se-hwan, quite pleased with their surprised reactions, answered with a grin. "Yes. Of course, it wasn't government support, we had a good investor. This building was part of a project that the Association President started before he left for North Korea."

"Project?"

"Investor?"

At those words, everyone, including Baek Yoonho, raised their eyebrows.

"Investor? Don't tell me the Association, which should remain neutral, has started receiving investments from private companies?"

"What's the difference between the Association and private guilds like us then?"

"Ah, there seems to be some misunderstanding." Chief Director Lee Se-hwan could fully understand the S-rank Hunters' reactions.

'...I was also quite surprised when I heard it from the Association President about this.'

As they claimed, it was an international rule that the Hunter Association, which represented a country, should not be affiliated with any organization. The Hunter Association held the abilities and information of all Hunters in their country, so there was a concern that if they received investment from an individual or a specific group, that information could be misused for someone's personal gain. However...

"As you all know our Hunter Association was the first one created in the world. It was even launched much earlier than the International Hunter Association."

"So what?"

"Why are you bringing that up all of the sudden?"

"Ahem. So..." Chief Director Lee Se-hwan wasn't intimidated by the S-rank Hunters at all and simply conveyed the truth he knew with a confident smile.

"Our Hunter Association is the only organization in the world that is exempt from international law."

"...What?"

"What does that mean?" The Hunters, sensing something strange in his words, froze.

Association President Woo Jinchul. He was originally a police chief, and he created the Hunter Association with the government's permission just as the Cataclysm begun. He was a national hero who took the lead in working for the rights of Hunters and the safety of citizens. Could it be that he...

"In short, the Hunter Association of Korea is like a national-level personal guild of Association President Woo Jinchul, created with the government's approval."

"...!"

"Of course, as you all know, the Association President has never used the Association for any personal gain. That's why you all never realized anything, but as I said the Hunter Association belongs to the Association President. So he can receive investments from anyone if he wishes. And naturally, there's no problem with international or domestic law."

The S-rank Hunters gathered at the Association were speechless at the somewhat shocking statement. It was difficult for them to interpret the legal implications of what they had just heard. Did that mean Association President Woo Jinchul could give orders to all Hunter guilds in Korea if he wanted to?

There's no way the law was that lenient, right?

No, never mind that, why did Woo Jinchul do such a thing?

Amidst everyone's confusion. There was one person who wasn't fazed. Sung Suho.

"So... who is that investor?" Even as he asked, Suho had a feeling he already knew the answer. And as to confirm his suspicions a voice came from behind them. The door to the gymnasium opened before Chief Director Lee Se-hwan could even speak.

Burst!

"Suho! You rascal, you went to a dangerous place again without telling me?!"

"...Uncle."

"Please greet him with respect. This is CEO Yoo Jinho, an investor of the Hunter Association of Korea."

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 229 - Chapter 228**

### **Chapter 229: Chapter 228**

Woo Jinchul, was revered as a national hero in South Korea.

So the shock that the S-rank Hunters felt upon learning the secret the Association President was hiding was immeasurable. The Association, which should have remained neutral, was being supported by a private company behind the scenes!

But as soon as Suho saw Yoo Jinho who appeared after opening the door, he could vaguely understand the reason. Woo Jinchul. The Association President, a longtime friend and colleague of his father, Sung Jinwoo, was someone who lived with all the memories of the bygone timeline that had now been forgotten. What was the first thing that came to his mind when the Upheaval occurred in this world?

'...That my father is not here.'

That's right. The first emotion he felt was an endless sense of anxiety. Because Sung Jinwoo, who protected the Earth with his strength and noble sacrifice, was suddenly missing in this world.

\* \* \*

A world without Sung Jinwoo! Could there be anything more unsettling and ominous? This was a very real anxiety that only Woo Jinchul, who had personally experienced all the calamities of the past era, could feel. If Sung Jinwoo wasn't here, who would protect this world in his stead?

'No one.' Woo Jinchul could say with certainty.

There was no one who could replace Sung Jinwoo. Therefore...

'Believe.' He just had to believe that Hunter Sung Jinwoo would definitely return!

'Then, for the time being, let me do what I can.'

So he started doing what he was most confident and familiar with; Creating an association. But there was a problem here too...

'This time, there's no Go Gunhee.' Unfortunately, Association President Go Gunhee, who created the Korean Hunter Association in the previous world, had already passed away from old age. Go Gunhee, the chairman of a large corporation, had poured his vast fortune into establishing the Korean Hunter Association in the previous world.

4

Government support?

Other investors?

He could use his own money; why would he need those?

If there were no investors, there would be no external pressure.

If there was no support from a specific political party, it would be possible to remain neutral.

And Go Gunhee was someone who could do that from the beginning. The Korean Hunter Association, born without any help from anyone, was established solely for Association President Go Gunhee, by Association President Go Gunhee. But even in that position, he did not use all that power to rule or control the Hunters. There was no need for that in the first place.

Personal greed?

Desire for fame?

Those were things that only nouveau riche needed. Go Gunhee was already the head of a large corporation who had attained all the wealth and fame with his own power when he was young, so he desired nothing. The only thing he earnestly wished for was...

'To fight alongside the young people to protect the world.'

That was the association of Go Gunhee, which existed solely for that upright and noble sense of mission.

'...But I am not Chairman Go Gunhee.' Woo Jinchul knew his shortcomings. He didn't have the capital or power like Chairman Go Gunhee.



Police chief?

Superintendent General?

With such mediocre influence, he would only be swayed by the government. So he desperately racked his brains to compensate for his shortcomings, and eventually, he was able to find an alternative. The answer was always close by.

'Yoo Jinho.'

That's right. Yoo Jinho, the only colleague and subordinate of Sung Jinwoo from the previous era. In this timeline, he was even married to Sung Jinwoo's younger sister and was family. Woo Jinchul had become acquainted with Yoo Jinho early on through Sung Jinwoo in this world. They weren't very close, but they had shared a few drinks together with Sung Jinwoo. And...

'Yoo Jinho of Ahjin Soft' He was the CEO of Ahjin Soft, Korea's most famous game company and the creator of the world's first virtual reality game. With enormous financial resources.

'Yes. Let's get investment from him. This way, there won't be any problems even if Hunter Sung Jinwoo returns.' ...This was the reason why Woo Jinchul approached CEO Yoo Jinho for personal investment while creating the Association.

Although he didn't have the memories of the past era at that time, the 'project' that Woo Jinchul presented was enough to persuade Yoo Jinho, who had transformed into a thorough businessman. No, rather, his eyes gleamed with interest at the proposal.

"This works out well. I'll invest 10 times the amount you requested. I have more money than I know what to do with anyway."

"...?"

At this point, Woo Jinchul, who made the proposal, was curious. Yoo Jinho didn't know Sung Jinwoo's true identity and didn't have the memories of the past era, so what on earth made him so trusting?

"It's not about trust. It's to protect our company." But Yoo Jinho's answer was completely different.

"The power of Hunters is growing even at this moment. I hear that in some weaker countries, they reign like kings. In such a situation, how long can laws and public authority protect us?" Yoo Jinho's voice was heavy.

"So I was thinking of gathering trustworthy Hunters and forming some like a Guild when the opportunity arises. But it's only natural for an association that unites all Hunters in Korea to be created first." And he smiled meaningfully as he unfolded the 'project proposal' that Woo Jinchul had handed him.

"In that sense, this 'virtual reality training project for Hunters' you proposed seems to be very beneficial to our company. However, let's increase the scale a bit."

"...?"

"I think it would be good to release this as a game to the public as well, not just for Hunters."

"You mean to non-awakened people?"

"Yes. I want to give our company's users the experience of becoming Hunters themselves and running around dungeons, hunting magical beasts, at least in the game. We are fundamentally a game company, after all."

Woo Jinchul pondered the unexpected words for a moment.

"...You mean you'll disclose all the information provided by the Association to the public as well. But if this fact becomes known to the public later, we could be criticized."

"I'll take responsibility and defend you then. That's what I earn money for. The 10 times investment amount includes all those risks."

"..." Woo Jinchul was quite impressed.

He was working under wrong assumptions. The man sitting in front of him was no longer the immature young master who just followed behind Sung Jinwoo. Unlike the past era when he was born as just a second son of a conglomerate owner and didn't know the ways of the world, Yoo Jinho of this era had grown up and become a proper adult, no, a giant. And although he didn't seem to realize it himself, his grown-up appearance was like...

'Chairman Myunghan Yoo, ranked No. 1 in the business world'

That's right. Unknowingly, Yoo Jinho was following the same path as his father. A thorough businessman who abandoned all the privileges and advantages of being from a rich family and grew Ahjin Soft, which he established, from scratch, into a leading large corporation. That was the Yoo Jinho of the present era. And he emphasized the first thing Woo Jinchul had said to him.

"And don't forget our contract. You promised that you will use all the power of the Association to find my missing brother and sister-in-law once the Association stabilizes."

"Of course. That is my top priority above all else."

Shake.

Woo Jinchul and Yoo Jinho's eyes met as they firmly shook hands after making all the agreements. Thus, the Hunter Association of Korea, with Woo Jinchul as its president, secured enormous financial resources, just like during Go Gunhee's time. And from then on, it was able to maintain strict neutrality without being pressured by any external forces.

No, it wasn't neutrality. The Association was originally created for Woo Jinchul's very personal purpose.

World peace?

Citizens' safety?

Checking the villains?

Those trivial reasons were all secondary. From the beginning, Woo Jinchul's purpose for creating the Association was one thing.

'Help Hunter Sung Jinwoo!'

That's right. The Hunter Association of Korea would belong exclusively to Sung Jinwoo as soon as he returned, and Woo Jinchul had made the best preparations he could for that purpose. To unite the Hunters of Korea, no... All the people of the world.

'That way, everyone in the world can move as one, centered around Hunter Sung Jinwoo.'

...It wasn't like that in the past era. Various countries and Hunters didn't believe in or acknowledge Sung Jinwoo's power for their own reasons. All that scoffed at his strong warning to flee were completely destroyed and annihilated by the Dragon Emperor's army. And because Woo Jinchul clearly remembered that tragedy...

'This time!' He would prepare thoroughly. He didn't even dare to dream that this would help Sung Jinwoo's battle in any way. He just hoped that they wouldn't hold Sung Jinwoo back. To achieve that they at least had to unite and at least listen to him and run away properly!

...And just like that. Ahjin Soft's enormous investment funds flowed in. And in return, using the information on Hunters and the detailed mapping data of numerous dungeons provided by the Association, The "Solo Leveling" was born. A simulation training project for Hunters and a virtual reality game that perfectly simulated real dungeons.

2

"The game is finally complete."

2

With the game completed and Yoo Jinho's memories of the past era restored, there was no longer any need to hide his relationship with the Association. And there was no longer any need to vaguely wait for Sung Jinwoo to return to Earth. Although he was still lacking, there was his son, who was steadily growing, inheriting his power.

'Yes. We have Suho.' Therefore, shouldn't the adults clear away the cumbersome things that blocked the path he wanted to take?

"We are starting to recruit Hunters to participate in the closed beta test." Yoo Jinho declared to the S-rank Hunters gathered in the gymnasium with a confident smile.

"However, only those who agree with Suho's conquest of North Korea."

1

Smirk.

Yoo Jinho's face as he winked at Suho resembled someone. Someone who seemed blunt and extremely cold when working, but was actually a huge softie... Like 'Chairman Myunghan Yoo.' And the impact of those words was enormous.

"C-CEO Yoo! Is the Solo Leveling game really complete?"

The S-rank Hunters gathered here were all representatives of large guilds, and they had been paying attention to the 'Solo Leveling' game that Ahjin Soft was developing for a long time. Wasn't the situation that the Black Tortoise Guild messed up because they bothered Suho and ended up being targeted by Yoo Jinho, related to that very project? But precisely because of that, the Black Tortoise Guild didn't know the more specific details about the Solo Leveling game. Suho suddenly remembered what he had heard from Yoo Jinho's employee.

"Yes. If that game does well, the Hunter guilds that helped will gain a lot of good publicity. I can't say more than this; it's confidential, so please ask the CEO directly."

Promotional effect and money. It would increase the brand value for Hunter guilds, and in return, the game company would gain realism that could excite the players. That was why Ahjin Soft was trying to collaborate even with the high value Hunters.

'...So that confidential thing was the simulation training.' Suho nodded.

At that time, he couldn't ask about the game in detail because he was busy restoring Yoo Jinho's memories. But even if he had known, he wouldn't have been interested. He could only gain experience points and level up through actual combat. However, unlike Suho, ordinary Hunters couldn't help but feel differently about the value of Yoo Jinho's virtual reality game.

– Is it really possible to do simulation training in virtual reality? What's the synchronization rate?

– Oh my god. So we can gain real-life experience against magical beasts without worrying about getting hurt or dying?

– If it's virtual reality, our weapons won't be damaged no matter how much we train. We can even practice various strategies against the same boss monster!"

The S-rank Hunters' faces were filled with anticipation and excitement at the news that the game was complete. Unlike the Black Tortoise, the guilds that already had a close cooperative relationship with Ahjin Soft knew about the simulation. But they never imagined that a project of that scale would already be completed.

CEO Yoo Jinho confidently answered their barrage of questions.

"We've prepared more than you can imagine."

"CEO, please let us..." Suddenly, Hyeonmoo Gang was raising both hands in favor of Suho's conquest of North Korea.

*CREATORS' THOUGHTS*



Craftyprogamer

## **Solo Leveling: Ragnarok [FAN TL] Chapter 230 - Chapter 229**

### **Chapter 230: Chapter 229**

Yoo Jinho's plan was quite similar to Woo Jinchul's goal in a macroscopic sense.

'If Woo Jinchul wants to unite Hunters by creating an association, I'll unite them with money.' The virtual reality simulation training project was something any Hunter would be tempted by. Especially the heads of large guilds where most Hunters were concentrated.

"CEO Yoo, can our guild participate in that project too?" Starting with Hyeonmoo Gang, other S-rank Hunters also expressed strong curiosity and interest.

"I want to participate as well. If there's a limit on the number of people in the beta test, I want to try it first. I'll gladly hand over my data."

In fact, S-rank Hunters were the ones who didn't have a proper place to train freely. If they used their full strength, the entire surrounding area would be devastated. So in short, it was a natural disaster-level nuisance. There was a reason why Liu Zhigang, who wandered around China and freely unleashed his power everywhere, was called a crazy old man. S-rank Hunters, who knew this reality better than anyone, couldn't help but accept the conditions offered by CEO Yoo Jinho.

"North Korea? I'll cheer you on."

"They say you should seek out hardship when you're young, so why should an old man stop you? Have a safe trip."

"I agree. He's a newbie who's stronger than Grandpa Ma Dongwook, so he'll be fine."

"Wait, aren't you going to answer my question...? I'm asking what happened in India!?"

The S-rank Hunters actively gathered around Suho and showed their friendliness.

"Thank you all."

Although Lim Tae-Gyu was a bit bothersome, Suho was able to obtain the unanimous approval of the five S-rank Hunters thanks to Yoo Jinho. However, just like Association President Woo Jinchul, Yoo Jinho's goal in completing the virtual reality training program wasn't to have other Hunters help Sung Jinwoo or Sung Suho in battle. Rather, the opposite.

'It's to give them a taste of the true horror that humanity will face in the future.' Yoo Jinho looked at the S-rank Hunters who had lost all memories of the past era with a bitter gaze.

When Woo Jinchul first brought this project proposal two years ago, Yoo Jinho joined hands with him despite not knowing about the past. But from the moment all his memories returned thanks to Suho, Yoo Jinho put all his company's efforts into the Solo Leveling project. The direction of which had become much clearer than before.

'It's training on the surface, but it's actually closer to evacuation drills.'

"We've prepared more than you can imagine." They couldn't even comprehend the true meaning behind his words. So, they looked forward to it.

The game he created would have an incredibly high difficulty level.

'I've implemented an overwhelming difficulty that even S-rank Hunters can't handle.'

So they would despair and be frustrated before it. They would thoroughly realize their powerlessness and struggle to simply survive. To give as strong of a warning to all of humanity as possible, Yoo Jinho had even implemented survival quests in the game where they had no choice but to desperately run away within the time limit.

'...This is the best preparation I can do. Jinwoo.'

Yoo Jinho missed Sung Jinwoo more than ever today. He recalled the memories of the previous era that none of the people gathered here remembered, with a bitter expression. Especially when the battle with the Dragon Emperor was imminent. The interview where Sung Jinwoo strongly warned the world.

– Please get away from the Gates. As far as possible. Please flee as far as you can.

– Flee far away!

Those words from Sung Jinwoo were enough to move the world. At the warning that a number of magical beasts beyond human understanding would pour out, terrified people struggled to get away from the Gates. All the roads were quickly blocked by cars, and the streets were filled with deafening honking. But the greater the movement, the greater the opposing force...

Not everyone trusted Jinwoo's words.

– Tell him to stop talking nonsense!

– Hunter Sung Jinwoo! No matter how much you scare people with gibberish, you won't be able to monopolize all the Gates. I'm not scared one bit!

'The ignorant are brave.'

That's right. Humanity was ignorant. People who didn't know much usually couldn't even comprehend how much knowledge they lacked. That's why they were reckless, empowered by ignorance. The only thing left of countless Hunters and countries who dismissed Sung Jinwoo's warning and were arrogant enough to fight the Dragon Emperor's army directly, were their desperate screams and despair burned into Yoo Jinho's memory.

'...So this time, I'll let them experience beforehand... What true fear is...'

How powerless humanity was against extraterrestrial invaders. And when the reality of that fear truly comes to humanity.

'...This time, may everyone flee without a word.'

May they absolutely trust Sung Jinwoo and Sung Suho's words and desperately flee this time... This was the true goal of Project: 'Solo Leveling' planned by Woo Jinchul and himself.

'...Of course, the best-case scenario would be that such a day never comes. Then this will remain just a fun game until the end.'

Yoo Jinho smiled brightly at the S-rank Hunters who were all eager to participate in the closed beta test, unaware of his true intentions. He also gave Hyeonmoo Gang, who was looking at him with pleading eyes, a chance.

"Representative Hyeonmoo Gang. If you're that eager, would you like to participate in the beta test yourself?"

"Yes? Are you really allowing our guild to participate?" Hyeonmoo Gang's expression brightened rapidly.

But Yoo Jinho held a grudge. He had no ill feelings towards Hyeonmoo Gang personally, but the price for his failure to manage his subordinates and endangering Suho was high.

"Yes. If you wish, I'll give you the first trial voucher, Representative Hyeonmoo Gang. We need data from S-rank Hunters to improve the game's completeness anyway."

"Thank you! CEO Yoo!"

Again, ignorance was brave. He guaranteed that Hyeonmoo Gang would be the first to experience the extreme difficulty and taste despair. But when it came to holding grudges, Beru was no better than Yoo Jinho.

[Kieek! Don't think this is the end! Hand over the additional summon rune stone you mentioned earlier!]

"...!" Hyeonmoo Gang was startled and stepped back as he saw the black shadow suddenly appearing in front of him and yelling.

'How?! I couldn't even sense him approaching until he was right in front of me!'

Despite the ferocious aura, it was a summon of a tiny size. Still he couldn't help but feel goosebumps. Regardless, Beru grabbed Hyeonmoo Gang by the collar and threatened him with an even more menacing expression.

[It's only two, but you should know what a great honor it is to be of even a little help to our Master!]



"I-I'll give it... Please someone... Please get this summon off me..." Hyeonmoo Gang, who was suddenly grabbed by the collar by Suho's small and precious summon, was at a loss for what to do. It was quite awkward to shake off this small hand in this situation.

Then a savior appeared. S-rank Hunter Seo Jiwoo of the Blue Dragon Guild.

As the important conversation ended, Seo Jiwoo, who had been interested in Beru since his first appearance, pointed at him and spoke to Suho.

"Hunter Sung Suho. I've been curious, I heard you're also a reawakened person like me? Was that summon with you before reawakening? So you reawakened as a combat type? What's your new skill? What kind of changes have there been?" She had been holding back, but Seo Jiwoo had a lot of questions she wanted to ask from the moment she first saw Suho.

"Haha. Sorry for the barrage of questions. Actually, I was very happy to hear that the new guy was a reawakened person."

Suho, suddenly bombarded with questions from Seo Jiwoo, subtly pulled Beru away with one hand stopping him from threatening Hyeonmoo Gang, and answered,

"I was actually curious too."

[Kieek...!]

"That's great! Then shall we have a chat since we're in the same boat? It's commonly believed that reawakened people appear occasionally, but in reality, most of those cases are just measuring device errors. This is the first time I've seen a case like yours or mine where someone suddenly becomes so much stronger... With this much difference, there's no chance of it being a measurement error."

"..."

Seo Jiwoo poured out words without pause once she had the chance. But Suho was also genuinely curious.

'In my case, I used being a reawakened person as an excuse because of the leveling up system, but how did this person really reawaken?' Moreover, her situation was special. She became younger with reawakening. In many ways, Seo Jiwoo's case was just as interesting to Suho as his was to her. And as if sensing his thoughts, she asked the question most important to her first.

"Ah, right! Then can you answer this first? Do you also have memories of the moment of reawakening?"

"The moment of reawakening?"

"Yes. It's a very important matter to me." Seo Jiwoo's eyes, which had been sparkling with excitement, turned serious. And she carefully continued, recalling the moment of her reawakening.

"Hunter Sung Suho, are you... someone who woke up from Eternal Slumber like me?"

"...Eternal Slumber?"

"Eternal Slumber?!"

Seo Jiwoo's words evoked a more intense reaction from Yoo Jinho than from Suho. Yoo Jinho pushed aside the other S-rank Hunters he was dealing with and immediately joined the conversation.

"Hunter Seo Jiwoo! Is that true? You're someone who woke up from Eternal Slumber?"

Seeing Yoo Jinho's serious expression, Suho recalled the phenomenon called 'Eternal Sleep Disease' that had recently started occurring around the world. This symptom, nicknamed the 'Eternal Slumber' meant a phenomenon where people who couldn't adapt to the mana mixed in the air due to the increasing number of Gates opening across the globe suddenly fell asleep and didn't wake up for days, months, or even forever. It was relatively recent that the medical community named it 'Eternal Sleep Disease.' Until then, the number of people who suffered from it was so small that it was difficult to statistically confirm that it was a magic-related phenomenon. But these days, the number was gradually increasing. The medical community, sensing the seriousness of this, belatedly developed a life support device using magic stones to barely keep them alive until they woke up. Suho, who was well aware of this fact, found something strange in Seo Jiwoo's words and asked,

"You reawakened after waking up from Eternal Slumber? As far as I know, Eternal Slumber only occurs in those who are constitutionally unsuitable for mana, but Hunter Seo Jiwoo..."

"That's right. I'm a case where I contracted Eternal Slumber while already awakened and active as a Hunter. Judging from your reaction, Hunter Sung Suho, you seem to be a different case." Seo Jiwoo looked a little disappointed at Suho's reaction. And there was a good reason for that.

"It's not just me. All my colleagues who were with me in 'that place' that day fell into Eternal Slumber despite having mana adaptability. I'm the only one who woke up."

"Where is that place?"

"A double dungeon."

"...!"

At Seo Jiwoo's words, Suho and Yoo Jinho's expressions changed drastically. Even Beru, who was stealthily coming out to threaten Hyeonmoo Gang again, reacted sharply. Although at this moment, the three of them were all thinking of completely different things.

'If it's a double dungeon, could it be a Void Gate?'

'There's no way there's another Architect's legacy, is there?' A mix of emotions surged through Beru, but he was sure. The double dungeon that Seo Jiwoo and her colleagues entered couldn't be the double dungeon that Sung Jinwoo entered in the past, the Cartenon Temple. Then what happened to the Hunters who entered it and fell into Eternal Slumber?

Yoo Jinho was equally confused. 'Just like in the past, the number of people falling into Eternal Slumber is increasing in this era as well. But even back then, the only ones who woke up on their own were Jinwoo's mother and my father...' Instead of Yoo Jinho, who didn't know the specific reason, Suho asked Seo Jiwoo the essential question.

"How did you wake up from Eternal Slumber?"

"Hmm. I gave the same answer to the medical staff, but I don't really know. I just woke up somehow."

"You don't know the reason at all?"

"Yes. That's why I wanted to ask you. If you went through the same thing as me, I thought you might know how to help my colleagues who are still asleep."

The higher the expectations, the greater the disappointment. Looking at Seo Jiwoo, who lowered her head with a bitter expression, Suho pondered for a moment and asked again,

"Then did you have any dreams while you were asleep?"

"...Dreams?"

"Yes. In my case, the trigger for reawakening was a 'dream'." Suho answered with one word, summarizing his experience.

It wasn't a lie. You could say he had accepted the current leveling up system in a dream he had during puberty because of his father.

"Dream... Yes, I did have a dream." Seo Jiwoo's expression turned serious at Suho's question. She recalled a distant sensation she had experienced while she was in an endless sleep due to Eternal Slumber.

"...A black sea."

"Sea?"

"Yes. An endless black sea. There was no land anywhere, just a vast ocean where I was drifting aimlessly. All I could do there was float like a corpse." Seo Jiwoo wrapped her arms around herself as if even recalling that moment gave her goosebumps.

"Then I barely managed to grab onto something and desperately clung to it." And as soon as she finished those words.

[The King of Dragons, the Monarch of Destruction, smiles faintly.]

"What I clung to was a giant... tree that had its roots deep in that black sea."

At that moment, Suho realized what the Dragon Emperor was about to say.

"...The World Tree."