

SPELLCRAFT 941

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 941: The Hunter Association [Pt 1]

'This world's technology never ceases to amaze me.' I smiled, looking out the window as I cruised in a vehicle called a car.

Kuzon looked unfazed by the whole thing, though I could see his eyes occasionally darting out the window.

We were in the back seat of the car, watching the landscape as it changed.

'This truly is a different world. Look at the buildings, and the applications of technology. It reminds me of the Fairy Capital. Well... not exactly, but...'

It truly was fascinating, at least from an explorative perspective.

'But, from a Magical one, it's nearly lackluster.' I almost sighed in disappointment.

Even though the alternate world I found myself in at the start of this mad journey had underdeveloped Magic, I still learned some pretty nice applications to it.

However, I had been spreading my senses in a wide range, trying to see any of such unique attributes.

Unfortunately, none of them existed.

'I guess it has to do with this world's unique history.' I smiled.

Thanks to the memories I just recently obtained, I had a fair idea of what happened here.

... And how it became the way it was.

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In the Year 2012, over a decade ago, a sudden occurrence happened.

The world experienced the first visit of Dimensional Energy—an otherworldly power that tore through space and warped reality.

Unfortunately, this energy was not on their side in the slightest.

The interaction it had with the world was none other than catastrophic—the creation of Gates!

These Gates, a byproduct of too much Dimensional Energy coagulating in one area, served as a gateway to other dimensions.

These Dimensions were dubbed Dungeons, and Monstrous beings existed on the other side.

Initially, the humans of this world didn't know what to make of this development, thus they suffered gravely for it.

In a bid of trial and error, they finally learned some ugly truths.

These Gates had a time limit. Once a week passed and the 'Boss' wasn't defeated, the Gate would spill over the monsters into the real world, causing what was known as a Dungeon Break.

Modern technology barely had any effect beyond the gates, or even none at all, thanks to the density of Dimensional Energy.

As a result, the humans had to resort to something more drastic.

Implementation of Dimensional Energy.

It started out as a desperate attempt, but the infusion of Dimensional Energy into people altered them greatly, making them capable of superhuman feats.

This was called an 'Awakening'

Those who successfully Awakened held the Titles of Hunters, thus making it their profession to stop the Monsters in the Gates.

Still, only about one percent of people held a compatibility for this great power, making the rest inept, unable to ever Awaken.

That wasn't all, though.

Even among those who Awakened, there were different levels of compatibility they had, which affected how much power they would be able to display.

These were divided into Classes (Ranging from F Class to S Class). As the times progressed, more technology was developed to combat the Dungeons, and so even the Gates got classified based on their danger levels.

It had been over a decade since the first incident, and mankind has made sufficient progress already.

.... Though it was not nearly enough.

After all, within every advancement for good, there was always the possibility of evil.

There were quite a few groups that sprung up as a result of this power that they received from the Dimensional Energy.

Brokers were one of them, but those were just lowlifes trying to bypass the established system in order to obtain illegal profit.

There existed a much worse organization, though not much was known about it. However, their scale of operations was global, and they held a lot of influence.

They were known as... The Shadows Of Light—a terrorist group that opposed the order of society.

No one knew the face of their leader, nor the identities of their members.

However, they were infamous in this world.

Dungeon Breaks. Terrorist Bombings. Mass Shootings.

They had caused a lot of chaos in this world. It was already clear as day who the villains in this world were.

All that remained was rooting them out.

Agencies like the Special Seoul Security Service, and even the Hunter Association, were in charge of stopping their activities and bringing ensuring the safety of humans.

And, right now, we were heading to South Korea's Hunter Association Headquarters.

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We arrived at a rather massive building, locked within a much bigger compound. The entire area was well protected by numerous officials, and I could see smaller buildings and vehicles in the compound.

Since we were in the Director's car, however, neither I or Kuzon experienced any difficulty entering the building.

"As you'd expect, we have our Headquarters in Seoul. However, even though my office is somewhere around here, I would like you to have an audience with our Chairman. Is that fine?" Director Baek asked.

What a nice man. Not only was he courteous, but he also appeared very humble in his speech.

'Hmm...!' I smiled, nodding to tell him it was fine.

Kuzon shrugged, and so we were taken to the uppermost floor in order to meet the most important man in South Korea's Hunter Association.

I wasn't having any big expectations, considering they'd be a total stranger, but this was the best time to get whatever information I wanted so we could peacefully leave this place.

Once we used the Elevators, we arrived at the topmost floor, and Director Baek guided us to a very large hallway, where a room was already waiting for us.

It had glass walls, and it was empty as well. It appeared to be something used for a group meeting, but so far we were the only ones present.

"Our Chairman will be here shortly." He bowed slightly.

'I thought we were going to meet him. So he's coming to meet us instead?' I didn't say anything, but smiled once more.

~This is a waste of time...~ Kuzon's thoughts echoed in my head, to which I shrugged aside.

'You think so? Well, maybe you're right...'

However, motives were essential to every action. And just as Kuzon had his reasons for his whatever he would rather do, I had mine as well.

"Let's wait a little longer."

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Chapter 942: The Hunter Association [Pt 2]

"Good afternoon great visitors. My name is Sung Do Gong, and I am the Chairman of the Hunter Association."

Chairman Sung was an elderly man who was most likely in his sixties. His grey hair, and the wrinkles on his face, proved his age very well.

He had a scar on his forehead, as well as another slash scar that cut through one of his eyes.

'He must have seen a lot of action back in his days.' I smiled, watching his polite greeting to both me and Kuzon.

It wasn't long after we got into the room that he entered, which meant he must have been on standby somewhere closeby already.

This was his territory, after all.

~They just wanted us to sit first before calling their leader.~ Kuzon's voice echoed in my head.

'I was thinking the same thing. It's not that bad, though.'

The Chairman was dressed simply. He had a formal white shirt, with a black tie firmly clinging around his neck. His dark official trousers and shiny black shoes also gave him a lot of class.

Finally, he had something called a 'wristwatch' on his hand. It looked quite luxurious, so I paid it some notice.

Since he must have already been briefed on our names, we simply greeted him in return.

"I'll get straight to the point, then. Someone we suspect to be one of your comrades arrived in this world over a month ago. Her name is Aloe Vida. Does that ring any bells to you?"

"Of course." I quickly responded with a smile. "She's our comrade."

"Yes. The reason why we're here in the first place." Kuzon seemed to be sending a layered message with his words, but I ignored it anyway.

"I see. So it's true then."

"Indeed. Can you tell us the details surrounding her arrival here? Also, about her whereabouts." I asked.

I could easily extract the information from them, but I believed in order.

"I don't know much of the details. Director Baek was one of the few who had direct contact with her."

All of us turned our attention to the Director, who sat at the corner of the room.

"I did have some form of contact with her, but the one who had the initial contact with her is currently with her on a mission. He's a 'Guide', after Miss Aloe Vida saved his life in a Dungeon, they have been inseparable." Baek replied in his usual official tone.

"I can tell you what I know, though."

"Please do."

And so, he began.

Apparently, Aloe arrived directly in front of a Gate when she first appeared in this world.

The Gate had suddenly gone through something called an 'Evolution', increasing its difficulty to something only known in theory as an SS Class Gate.

This gathered the attention of all the higher-ups, and they sent their Strongest Hunters to stop it.

Aloe apparently entered the Dungeon to save them, but by the time she got there, only one survivor remained.

"The Survivor's name is Sung Han Soo... my grandson." The Chairman smiled at me as I analyzed the story.

Apparently, despite his low rank as a Hunter, having barely crossed the threshold of an F Class Hunter, he settled for being a Dungeon Guide.

That was just a very glamorous word for being a pack mule. Essentially, he carried all the supplies that the real Hunters didn't want to be bothered with, and he also served as a scout.

That meant, he was most likely serving as bait a lot of the time.

'How did someone like that survive in the Dungeon for so long?'

"I gave him an S Class item for protection." The Chairman said once again. "It's the only one I had that doesn't require him to possess any power for him to use it."

So, that was why he so confidently threw himself into danger.

'How interesting...' A smile formed on my face.

"By the time Miss Aloe Vida arrived at the scene, the barrier was about to run out, and according to him, he knew he would die. Thankfully, she defeated the Monsters and saved him from—"

"How easily?" I interrupted the Chairman's words

"Excuse me?"

"How easily did she defeat the monster?" I asked.

A monster capable of tearing down an S Class barrier had to at least be an A-S Class monster. It was also most likely not the Boss of the Dungeon, considering it was labeled an SS Class Gate.

Therefore...

"One hit. It was defeated in one hit." Director Baek answered for the Chairman.

"I see." Nodding to myself. "And how long did it take her to defeat the Boss?"

Director Baek and the Chairman stared at each other for a while before sighing.

"That was the Boss."

"I thought you said it was an SS Class Gate."

"It was..."

"If that's the case, then—"

"The monster was most likely toying with him, which is why the S Class barrier lasted so long. However, after observing what was left of the Monster—its Core, we can definitely see that it was a beast far above the S Class threshold."

"And where is the Core now?" I asked.

"That's confidential informa—"

"It's fine, Director. The Core is currently undergoing transport to 'The Zenith' for further investigation."

'The Zenith...' My thoughts echoed. Unfortunately, I didn't have much information about them other than the fact that they served as the International body of each country's Hunter Association.

"Thanks to these very chaotic times, our world has finally achieved Global Peace. We all cooperate with one another to combat the crisis. That's why The Zenith exists. It is the glue that binds all the country's Hunter Association."

I thanked the Chairman for his brief explanation on the Zenith.

"So, who's in charge of the Zenith? I mean, which nation?"

In the end, even if they all claimed to be cooperating, wouldn't one country be benefiting the most, by standing at the very helm of power?

"Before I answer that, may I ask you a question, Mr. Leonard." The Chairman spoke rather seriously.

"Of course."

"From what you see in this world... who do you think holds the most power?"

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Chapter 943: World Affairs

"From what you see in this world... who do you think holds the most power?"

Was this a trick question? I could see the merit of asking something like this to test me, but the answer was quite obvious wasn't it?

It seemed to be the government.

'All Hunters register within the Hunter Association, and it's a public agency dedicated to protecting the citizens.'

They received their salaries from the government, and depending on their contributions and ranks, had other benefits.

'Since only the government possesses the technology 'Awaken' a person, those who undergo the process have to sign an exclusivity contract with them, ensuring they use their newfound powers for the greater good, as Hunters.

It gave them obligations and rules to follow.

Therefore, the government—The Hunter Association—was in charge... at least, on the surface.

"I'm not sure by what you mean." I smiled instead. "It does seem like it's the government, right?"

"Indeed. That's what it seems like. But the real answer is just the opposite."

The twist was just as I expected.

"Hunters are the true people in power. Think about it. Without the power to enforce those regulations and obligations, which Hunter will listen to the Hunter Association?"

That was the major issue. A civilian government could not hope to control those who had way more power than them. The Unawakened could never put the Awakened on a leash.

'In the end, the more powerful still triumph.'

"That is why powerful Hunters occupy the helm of the Association, and most positions of authority. As the chairman of this country's Hunter Association, I am an S Class."

I understood what he was implying.

"My subordinates respect my authority, and they also fear my power. Having someone powerful occupy the topmost position gives order to those at the bottom of the hierarchy, don't you agree?"

It made sense. I could definitely see why such a system operated.

The question I asked him earlier also began to answer itself. If an S Class was the one who stood at the top of the Hunters Association in South Korea, then the situation had to be similar all over the world.

And if that was the case, then the one who stood at the very top of The Zenith wouldn't simply be a country, or a nation's power, but an individual or group of individuals who possessed the greatest power.

They were probably too powerful to remain affiliated with a country, thus they were perfect for being independent and unbiased for a cooperative union of the nations.

"The one who heads the Zenith is the strongest Hunter in the world. His name is Chad." Chairman Sung smiled at me. "Does that answer your question?"

"It does. Thank you." With a smile plastered on my face, I responded.

'Chad, huh? I see...'

"You said Aloe Vida went on a mission with your grandson, right? Where did they go? Also, does that mean Aloe agreed to join the Hunter Association?"

The one who spoke was Kuzon, and it seemed he was more interested in Aloe's whereabouts than anything else.

I completely understood his line of reasoning.

"A-ah, not really. She's more of a contracted worker, since it'll help her gain access to information she wouldn't otherwise have, and she will be compensated for her services."

Aloe had been in this world for over a month. She had to earn a living somewhat, and also find ways to investigate her arrival in this strange place, as well as the possibilities for her return.

Since she was a smart lady, I knew she would have chosen the most optimal option.

"Miss Vida is very powerful. She's on the level of S Class Hunters, maybe even higher than your average type. We only have a few individuals who are capable of that, even on a global scale, and most of them are centralized in The Zenith." Chairman Sung explained even further.

Why did it feel like The Zenith wasn't simply a form of united nation gathering, but more of an enforcer.

'The fact that they transported their rare SS Class Monster Core to them, despite it being their country's property, and the fact that most of this world's strongest occupied positions there; everything seemed awkwardly strung together.

"How many S classes do you have in South Korea?" I asked, narrowing my gaze on the old man.

"... I'm the only one left."

'Ah, I see...' He used an interesting choice of words there.

"What happened to the others? They left for the Zenith, didn't they?"

"H-how did you know?"

"It's obvious. I'm guessing they offered your Hunters a more enticing deal than you people in the Hunter Association. Besides, since the Zenith is also meant to protect the lives of the people as a public organization, they aren't violating their contract."

In fact, one would say they were adhering to it.

"Your country, as well as the other countries, are under the Zenith. If your Hunters choose to switch boats, they aren't jumping from one boat to another, but are simply leaving a small canoe that is aboard a massive ship."

That was what described this situation best.

"You are right." The Chairman sighed, his hands trembling a little.

"Unfortunately, we've passed the point of no return. That's why Miss Vida is so important to this country. So far, she has helped out in many Dungeon Break incidents, and she has also assisted in Dungeons. We owe her a lot."

It was a shame that Kuzon and I had now arrived to take her away. I could see the glimmer in the eyes of the Chairman as he spoke.

Clearly, he had the same worries I thought he did.

'Without Aloe, these people will be sitting ducks. And judging from the worried expression of the Chairman, it seems there's still more to be done—probably even bigger than anything this far.'

I could already make a guess. However, until he was willing to talk, it was best I kept my mouth shut.

"Thank you for all the information, as well as your hospitality."

"Haha, it's no problem. You all could have chosen to cause us problems, but you decided not to. I am thankful for that." The Chairman rose to his feet to shake us.

'I can sense his fears and worries. He's concerned for his people, isn't he?' My thoughts echoed as I gripped his hand for a handshake.

'Forgive me, Chairman. I have to do this.'

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Chapter 944: Grave Disaster

Our handshake concluded, and it was Kuzon's turn.

He also shook the chairman, not showing a hint of pleasantry or disgust.

It seemed like he just didn't care.

"Once Miss Vida is done with her mission, we'll contact you. In the meantime, we will show you to the suites you'll be lodged in. Of course, it's up to you if you want to—"

"Thank you. We don't mind at all." I gave a smile and nodded at the Chairman.

Kuzon and I followed Director Baek out of the room, leaving only the Chairman seated there.

A lot seemed to be going on in his mind, and while I was probably not the only one who noticed, no one showed any intention of doing anything.

'It's in times like these that people should be given time alone, I suppose.'

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Chairman Sung Do Gong sighed as he stared emptily into the blank space before him.

He was all alone in the vast conference room, causing a lonely feeling crept up on his aging heart even more.

'Looks like we're in quite a mess.' His thoughts echoed.

South Korea had a very positive start, especially considering how many other nations had it worse when it came to the arrival of Dimensional Energy.

Unfortunately, with the constant poaching of the Zenith, and the increased risks of the Dungeons, the danger levels began to skyrocket.

They seriously lacked manpower, and it was incredibly difficult to generate more Hunters to join their labor force.

Considering how they required the purest kind of Dimensional Energy to inject into people in order to produce the safest, most assured result, it took a long time to generate a dosage.

They lacked the manpower to mine more from high-tier Dungeons, since majority of the Hunters were too focused fighting with their lives on the line to ensure there was no Dungeon Break.

That was why more focus was given to the Boss than the actual resources they could obtain.

'And even if we do secure the Energy needed, then what?'

Being a Hunter in South Korea was synonymous to courting death these days.

The mortality rate had risen by over sixty percent just this year alone, and it was constantly on the upward slope.

Many citizens were reluctant to sign up for such a job that made death almost guaranteed for them.

'Its why Han Soo decided to play his part as a Hunter despite being a weak one...'

Chairman Sung worried for his grandson, but he also held deep love and respect for him.

'After his father died a Hunter, he's pursuing the same path. He has that fiery spirit. If only he had more compatibility...'

Sung Han Soo had the makings of a hero. His ideals and determination already made him a very strong moral warrior.

It was just unfortunate that he was weak.

"I'm thankful that Miss Vida saved his life. If not, I would have lost my last remaining family member..."
He whispered.

These were dangerous times—far more dangerous than the public were led to believe.

'The Shadows of Light... those bastards keep striking us where it hurts the most.'

The worst part was that they were Awakened humans, most likely renegade Hunters who chose to remove themselves from the System.

However, with the increasing number of Awakened criminals, even down to the Brokers, the situation wasn't so simple any longer.

There was a growing suspicion that an alternate means to become Awakened, besides going through the Hunter Association, existed.

If that was the case, it would spell doom for the nation's security.

Unfortunately, the Hunters who could solve these problems were already spread to thin..Everyone was too busy dealing with Gates and Dungeon Breaks that they hardly had time for anything else.

'If only we had more powerful Hunters...' Chairman Sung knew he couldn't even think so naively any longer.

If an S Class was Awakened in South Korea, the Zenith wouldn't let the matter die down. Since they had access to every nation's information, Chairman Sung couldn't bypass their oversight function without resorting to illegal or unapproved means.

That would only serve to further implicate the Hunter Association and sully his country's name.

He couldn't afford to do that.

'Fortunately, they don't know about Miss Vida yet.' And he had planned on making things remain that way.

Unfortunately, even their final bright ray of hope was beginning to crumble.

"Her comrades are here to take her away. Damn it..."

He knew he had no right to try and keep someone like her in his country. He knew it was very selfish of him to even think of it.

Yet... yet... Chairman Sung was desperate.

'The two S Class Gates that we just detected... I can't stop them alone.'

They could request help from the Zenith or other nations, but that would mean the division of the profit gained.

And at the moment, the country desperately needed the returns from Dungeon exploration.

'We tried to hold on to the SS Class Monster Core for as long as we could, but since we don't have enough information and technology to properly implement it, we had no choice but to lend it to the Zenith for economic gain.'

That was how badly they required finds. It had become a big mess.

'Will those two give us more time? At least, until the situation stabilizes. I'm not sure, but maybe I can try to reason with them?'

While it seemed like one named Jared Leonard was very reasonable and courteous, the other one called Kuzon Midas didn't appear to care for their world.

It created a conflict of interest, and the Chairman feared that even the ones who could be willing to show compassion would rather listen to their comrades than help total strangers.

"Haa... I'm at my wits end here." He sighed once more.

He knew South Korea's situation wasn't unique. A couple of other nations had spoken of the same issues, and he suspected that a lot more were keeping theirs hidden.

And while all of these were occurring, The Zenith kept expanding.

'Was it a mistake to try unifying the world?' He couldn't help but think to himself.

Whatever the case may have been, it was quote literally too late for regrets.

"I can only hope to—"

>DING!<

>DING!<

>DING!<

Chairman Sung instantly ceased his murmurs and stared at his blaring watch with bulging eyes.

His brows twitched and his face instantly morphed into that of worry.

"N-no way..." With a quivering voice and a look of sheer anxiety, his thoughts exploded.

"A Dungeon Break?!"

That was just the start of the terrible news, though.

By expanding the screen of his watch to form a holographic panel in front of him, Chairman Sung could see the location of the occurring disaster.

"N-no..."

It was occurring in Busan, which would take anyone from Headquarters a great amount of time to reach.

"Our Hunters there can't handle it alone!"

That was because the Gate that existed there wasn't a mere B or even A Class Gate.

"An S Class Dungeon Break!"

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Chapter 945: Dungeon Break [Pt 1]

"Your lodging will be in the Hunter Association Headquarters, but do not worry. We have prepared the finest suite for the two of you, worthy of even the VIPs that we receive as guests."

I didn't trust Director Baek's words. Considering how well they spoke of Aloe, and the assumption that we weren't inferior to her, it was only natural that the Hunter Association went this far for us.

"We assumed that the two of you would prefer staying together, so we prepared a three-room suite. It's grand, with..."

As Director Baek kept explaining more about the suite, my thoughts were elsewhere.

Slowly, a smile formed on my face, and my gaze tilted backward.

'Looks like it's about time...'

"PLEASE WAIT!" A voice suddenly sounded from behind us.

It was a familiar tone, though it lacked the finesse and calmness that I previously attributed to it.

We all turned in response to the man who called for us, witnessing an elderly man who was sweating as he looked at us.

"C-Chairman?!" Director Baek looked in surprise, while Kuzon also seemed a bit surprised by this development.

It was to be expected, considering the length he went to in order to keep his dignity as Chairman, and the pride of the Hunter Association.

To think such a man would look so ragged now was something one could consider unexpected.

"The Gates... there is a new development..." Despite talking about Hunter business, Chairman Sung's gaze was on Kuzon and I, though—specifically me.

"What do you mean by that sir?"

"A Dungeon Break. An S Class one!"

Director Baek instantly stiffened as soon as he heard this. His body shook considerably, and sweat appeared on his face.

"I didn't get a beep on my device, so that means it isn't in Seoul. T-then—"

"It's in Busan. I've already informed the Hunters here to begin preparations for backup, but... we won't get there nearly on time."

It was no wonder the Chairman was worried. This was a catastrophe!

"Why are you telling us this?" Kuzon's voice leaked out, his deadpan expression once again giving away the fact that he didn't care.

"P-please... help us. I know it's shameless for me to ask you of this, but please. Please help us this once."

From the grave tone of the Chairman, the Hunters in Busan weren't strong enough to handle an S Class Dungeon Break by themselves.

His earlier explanation also gave the impression that the Hunters were already spread too thin. Most of them would be in Dungeons, or getting treatment after venturing into a Dungeon. That meant they would be highly understaffed.

'Plus, there's only one S Class Hunter left in Korea.'

That already spelled doom for Busan. In such a situation, I could understand why the Chairman was so worried.

'In this world, while they have fast means of transportation, there's no Teleportation.' In fact, Magic didn't really exist here.

Just Special Abilities.

"Fine. We'll help you." I finally spoke, realizing there wasn't really any point in wasting time deliberating on the matter.

My mind had long been made up.

"What do you think, Kuzon? Should I go alone?" I smiled at my dear Midas partner.

"Haa, whatever. I'll come along. I want to experience this S Class Dungeon Break myself anyway."

I smiled at him, glad he took me up on my offer. Kuzon was a very fickle individual, who simply did whatever he wanted to do.

So far he had been very cooperative. That was a very big relief.

"Alright, then. Let's go."

Utilizing the Arcana Spell of [The Tower], which I had already mastered without the use of my Original Magic, I instantly created a blue warp in space around me and Kuzon.

"See you guys soon."

>VWUUUMMM<

And so, with the warbling hum, Kuzon and I vanished from the premises.

'Ah, I forgot to ask for the coordinates...' I found my thoughts trailing as we traversed through space.

Well, it didn't really matter. I already knew where we were heading.

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"T-they really are amazing..." Chairman Sung whispered, seeing how the two beings were right in front of him one second, and the next, they were already long gone.

He was in sincere awe.

"What should we do now, Chairman?"

"Inasmuch as we trust those two, we have to play our part. We are still the Hunter Association of Korea. Gather the Hunters that are available, and prepare the equipments we require. Even if it's danger control, or backup, we need to help out in one way or the other."

Chairman Sung didn't want to seem like a helpless pushover in front of their heroes.

'Besides, we need to at least make some effort into trying to help, else it will appear suspicious.'

In the end, Jared Leonard and Kuzon Midas were unaffiliated with the Hunter Association.

That made them completely private individuals.

"As the Association that protects the public, we must play our part."

It was with this rationale that Chairman Sung and Director Beak moved into action, determined to do whatever they could to save the people of Busan.

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[Shopping District, Busan, South Korea]

"Hold the fort!"

"Don't let them get past the barricade!"

"Tch! They're too strong!"

"Where's backup?"

"On their way!"

"We need more hands on deck!"

"KEUK!!!"

"ARRRRGHHHHHHHHHHH!!!"

The shouts and screams of the Hunters of Busan echoed loudly in the particularly populated district where the Dungeon Break had unfortunately manifested.

Usually Gates had to have been active for a week before Dungeon Breaks occurred, but recently, there had been strange cases of Dungeon Breaks that defied this rule.

The S Class Dungeon Break before them was one of such.

"We're still evacuating the citizens. Don't let up on the barrier!" The leader of the assault team yelled, his sharp gaze on the influx of monsters that were pouring out of the large Gate in front of them.

Despite his energetic words of optimism, even he knew it was impossible to win in this situation.

'Are we all going to die here?'

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Chapter 946: Dungeon Break [Pt 2]

"ROOOOOOAAAAARRRRRRR!!!"

The air in Busan was thick with tension as the Gateway, a swirling vortex of otherworldly energy, crackled with an eerie luminescence.

Emerging from its depth were a torrent of nightmarish creatures, their grotesque forms silhouetted against the fading sunlight.

"Grand Orcs..." These were the strongest kind of Orcs recorded in the Hunter database, and there were hundreds pouring out of the Gate without pause.

The Busan Hunters, elite in their own right, still considered their inadequacy as they stood their ground against the emerging monsters.

As the guardians of their city, they couldn't let up now.

"CHAAAARRRGEEEEEE!!!" The roaring echoes of their Commander's voice instantly resonated within them, and they all sprang into action, their faces etched with determination but tinged with trepidation.

>BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!<

Their first barrage, filled with the full force of the defensive line drawn by the Hunters, ultimately ended in failure.

"Damnit..." The Commander groaned at himself.

Commander Lee, a Veteran A Class Hunter, with grizzled features and a commanding presence, surveyed the chaos unfolding before him.

His heart sank as he witnessed his comrades, armed with an array of unique abilities and advanced gears, being ruthlessly overpowered by the overwhelming horde of monsters.

The ground shook beneath the weight of their advance, and the once vibrant cityscape of Busan now resembled a war-torn wasteland.

Without hesitation, Commander Lee barked out orders, his voice cutting through the cacophony of battle.

"Form defensive lines! Hold the line at all costs! We cannot let these abominations overrun us!"

The Hunters, battered and bruised, rallied around their leader, summoning their last reserves of strength.

The commander's eyes flickered with a mix of apprehension and determination as he unsheathed his gleaming sword. With each swing, he carved a path through the grotesque horde, his movements fluid and calculated.

His combat skills were honed through years of experience, but the sheer magnitude of the onslaught threatened to overwhelm even his formidable prowess.

"Skill Activation: <Full Burst!>

Instantly, his whole body was shrouded in misty white light. His eyes glowed brightly, and every aspect of himself intensified in power.

With this, perhaps he would stand a chance...

"ROOOOOOOOOAAAARRRRRRRRR!!!!!"

A monstrous creature, towering over the rest, charged at Commander Lee with an ear-splitting roar. Its leathery wings unfurled, casting a shadow that blotted out the fading sunlight.

"An Evolved Grand Orc?!" Shock radiated his face to see such a terrifying land creature gaining the ability of flight.

'Damn it! Damn it all!'

The commander gritted his teeth and braced himself, steeling his resolve. He parried the creature's bone-shattering blow, his muscles straining under the force. The clash of steel echoed through the air, a testament to the intensity of the struggle.

"Guh!" Recoiling from the pressure, he leaped far away, using the force he had built up to spin fight into the sky.

"Skill Activation: <Heaven Rendering Strike!>

With a full-powered swing, he managed to behead the massive beast.

"Haaa... haaa..."

Unfortunately, Commander Lee had no chance to rest.

"GRRRRRRRRR...."

"GRRRRRRRRRRRRRR..."

"GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRFRRRRRRR..."

More of the Evolved Grand Orcs emerged from the Gate, almost as if there was an unlimited amount of them.

"Damn it all!"

>BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!<

Once again, he pushed himself to battle, never failing to strike and slash his way through the monster horde.

With the barrier rendered ineffective, they were the last line of defense that stood between the monsters and the evacuating citizens.

So many had been injured, and the Commander knew a lot of the Hunters were already dead.

Still, he couldn't stop his body from moving and attacking.

"Dieeeeeee!"

>SWOOOOSSSSHHHH!!!<

Blood stained the landscape, both those of the monster and his comrades.

Yet, for every monster that fell beneath the commander's blade, two more took its place. The Hunters fought valiantly, their powers unleashed in a desperate bid to stem the tide, but they were outnumbered and outmatched. The once proud defenders of Busan were reduced to a harried, retreating force.

"They're too much. At this rate..."

As the relentless horde closed in, Commander Lee's heart weighed heavy with the weight of defeat.

He glanced over the beleaguered city, its streets littered with rubble and the screams of the terrified echoing in his ears.

'They already broke past our defensive formation. Shit!'

The people he had desperately tried to protect were inevitably going to fall prey to the monsters, and he could do nothing to stop them.

All within the span of minutes, all of this catastrophe had been wrought.

This was the danger that an S Class Dungeon Break brought.

"Is this the end?" he wondered, a flicker of despair clouding his steely gaze.

The monsters would lay waste to Busan at this rate.

The innocent citizens would die, and the death of his comrades would have been in vain.

Was that really what he wanted?

'NO!' Even amidst the chaos, a spark of determination ignited within the commander's heart.

He knew that he had to rally his forces, to inspire them to fight with every ounce of strength they had left. With a resolute voice, he called out, "To the last breath, my comrades! We will not let Busan fall! Our city, our home, will not be devoured by these monstrosities!"

His words resounded through the ranks, filling the air with a renewed sense of purpose. The Hunters, battered and bruised, found strength in their commander's unwavering resolve. With a collective battle cry, they launched a final, desperate charge against the horde, pushing back against the encroaching darkness.

"Alright, that's enough." A strange voice suddenly echoed in the air.

And in the split second that the Hunters tried to unravel the mysterious sound...

>BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMMM!!!<

Lightning filled bursts of golden energy descended from the sky, shattering the earth and instantly vaporizing the group of Evolved Grand Orcs that had gathered there.

In one single strike, all of them were annihilated.

"A-ah...??" Commander Lee's jaws dropped in disbelief.

He couldn't believe it, but, could it be that—?!

"You can rest easy now, Commander." A blond teenager floated down from the sky, donning a white cloak, and looking coolly at the horde of monsters.

"Backup has arrived."

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Chapter 947: Godlike Power [Pt 1]

Kuzon and I arrived a bit late, and we witnessed a bit of the struggle the Hunters went through.

It didn't last very long, though, as my dear Midas friend decided to finally intervene.

In a rather flashy descent, Kuzon destroyed both the land around him and the monsters that occupied said land, electrifying everything with his golden burst of energy.

Rather than follow his example at an overwhelming entrance, I calmly approached the Commander and gave my calmest smile.

"You can rest now, Commander. Backup has arrived."

With that, I used [The Star] to control the bodies of the Hunters in close proximity to the monsters, drawing them away from the savage bunch.

Once that was done, I used [The Pope] to create a massive dome around the Gate and monsters, ensuring none of them could get past the walls I made.

"W-who are you...?" The Commander behind me finally managed to mutter, his eyes bulging in shock at the many things I was able to achieve in mere moments.

By forcefully retreating the soldiers and creating a barrier to contain the chaos, I ensured there would be no more casualties on the chaotic battlefield.

He was probably impressed by that.

"Just think of me as someone you can trust. Gather all the Hunters and take a look around. There could be innocent civilians under the rubble. Ensure they are taken care of, and ensure the area is clear of any innocent. I assume you understand what that means, don't you?"

"Y-yes. I get it." He nodded at me almost instantly.

Rather than allow him time to ask me so many questions, it was better to keep him busy with more work.

"My partner and I will handle the monsters. Ensure you and your men do your jobs well too."

With that last statement of mine, I flew away from the monster horde.

I could hear stutters from the Commander, uttering words akin to "Thank you."

Seeing the clouded expression on his face brighten up brought a small smile to my face.

It wasn't a bad feeling at all.

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"C-commander... who was that?"

"They look like foreigners."

"Are they from the Zenith?"

Commander Lee heard his subordinates speculating and murmuring among themselves.

He wished he could answer their queries, but he was just as confused as they were. There was no news about backup from the Zenith, so he couldn't conclusively say they were responsible.

'But... which other Country has people they can easily dispatch to another place like this?'

Judging by the lightning strike from the heavens that the golden-haired teenager used, and the gravity powers coupled with the barrier the blonde used, they were most definitely S Class Adventurers.

'And at such a young age too.' There was no doubt on his mind that they were rare talents.

The type that the Zenith would want for themselves.

'But why have I never heard of them, nor seen them before?'

The answer eluded him. However, before he had the chance to further explore his thoughts, duty called.

"There's no time to slack around! Search high and low, and be thorough with your search. Ensure there are no civilians caught in the chaos!"

This was the only thing he and his subordinates could do.

And so, while they ensured the people were safe and sound, Commander Lee hoped that the two strangers would help save their city.

'Please, heroes...!' With that fleeting thought, the commander joined in the search.

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"What took you so long?" Kuzon asked me as I appeared beside him in a flash.

"Was talking with the Commander a little. I also used Spellcraft to handle a bit of the loose ends."

This world had energy floating around, albeit thinner compared to my original one. However, thanks to the Dungeon Break, dimensional energy was flowing quite abundantly.

Tapping into it was no problem.

"Looks like the monsters keep pouring out of the Gate. How do you want to handle this?" Kuzon asked.

"It'll be too boring, and pointless, if we eliminate them before they manage to rear their ugly heads. Let's just defeat them as they come." I responded with a smile.

There was something else, and I wondered if Kuzon had already realized it.

~You realize we're being watched, right? By those guys in those suspicious black robes.~

I smiled once I heard his thoughts.

'So you noticed. As expected.'

~Seems like you plan on doing nothing about them. Why? They're most likely the ones behind this incident. I suspect that they're—~

'Shadows of Light. Your hunch is most likely right. Though there's something else...'

The monsters beneath us were already growling impatiently, some pounding on the barrier I made in a futile attempt to leave.

'In any case, just ignore them. Right now, our focus should be the eradication of the monsters here.'

~Oh? Want to make it a contest?~ Kuzon grinned, an excited gleam showing in his eyes.

'A contest? Really? Wouldn't this be too easy?'

"GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR..." As soon as I sent my telepathic message, a beastly growl suddenly echoed in the vicinity.

Kuzon and I took our gazes to the sound's origin, and we found the most interesting sight thus far.

Emerging from the open Gate was a massive creature—dark green, with bulging muscles and spikes protruding from its skin.

His body was well guarded with heavy metal-like armor, and its glowing red eyes showed how immersed it was in its primal instinct.

It had a terribly deadly club on one hand, and a battle axe on the other, standing over five meters tall.

"ROOOOOOOOOAAAAAAAAARRRRRRR!!!"

The murderous roar of the beast incited all the other Orcs, causing them all to glare in our direction, leaking out reddish energy from their bodies.

Now commanding the horde of creatures, the Boss grinned in perverse delight, licking its ugly lips in anticipation.

It amused me.

"Looks like that's the Boss." A chuckle escaped my mouth.

"I call dibs."

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 948: Godlike Power [Pt 2]

"[Blitz: Cloak Model]" I grinned, instantly shrouding myself in a golden lightning cloak.

"That's similar to my—"

"Yeah. Exactly."

Without wasting much time in response, I launched myself at the Boss Monster, leaving the rest of the small fries for Kuzon to handle.

Knowing him, he would take care of them all in no time. Perhaps he could even do it in a shorter time, but we sort of established an unspoken rule to only use our base abilities.

Which meant... no Arcana abilities or transformations like Mage Mode.

Certainly no Original Magic.

'This doesn't count since I'm just covering myself in a Spell.'

I was constantly exploring the various applications of my existent Spells, so this variation was something that I had developed in my head, but hadn't gotten the chance to use.

'Blitz is a combination of Light and Lightning Magic. Using those properties on myself will make me much faster than normal, and it'll also improve my damage potential.'

In a flash, I was already face to face with the Grand Orc Boss, watching it's disgusting lips curl up in a stupid grin.

"GRRRRRRUUUUUUU!!!"

Lifting it's heavy club to pummel me to the ground, it rushed toward me with immense ferocity.

>BOOOOMMMM!!!<

Rather than the club shattering my bones and forcefully sending me falling, the entire thing shattered in that hit.

"G-GURUUUU?!"

"Pathetic." I smiled at the shocked Monster.

Its trembling hand dropped the remnant of its broken weapon, instead grabbing the axe on his grasp with both his hands.

A fierce look of determination formed on its face and the weapon was wildly flung in my direction.

The beast must have had the expectations that I would be cut down by such a dull and crude blade, but—

>KLANG!<

The contact of my fist with the giant axe only led to the the latter shattering and breaking apart.

'Well, I did use a bit of Strengthening and Protective Magic, just in case, but it's as expected...'

The Axe seemed to have some Mana emanating from it, but it was hardly worth much.

'This world would consider it a Magic Item, though, and it'll fetch for a great price. It's really...' I almost sighed in exasperation.

In any case, that was an irrelevant distraction. My focus returned to the Boss Monster.

'Now that you have no weapons, what will you do?'

"ROOOOOOOOAAAAARRRRRRR!!!" Ah, of course... it was going to roar.

As soon as it concluded its roar, its slimy green skin began pouring out ominous dark red energy.

Like blood, but even more malevolent, the energy seeped out of its skin, and its rageful face became even more ominous.

Its muscles twitched, and then bulged. Its size also seemed to be increasing at a rapid pace.

'So this is its trump card, huh?'

In a mere couple of seconds, the Boss had transformed into twice its initial size, now a giant that stood ten meters tall.

It had horns now, and its skin was bright red, with black tattoos all over it.

'Its more akin to a Demon than and Orc now...' I gave a smirk of amusement.

I noticed a glow in its mouth, and instantly understood it was going for a breath attack.

'There's no harm in seeing it try, but... naaa!' I generated a barrier around its face, causing the breath attack it burst out to backfire, damaging its ugly facade instead.

"GUUUURRRRRRAAAHHHHH!!!"

Its deafening cry did not bother me in the slightest.

I simply watched it recover from the smoky mist that enveloped its face.

I could see some of its bones peeking out, but they were soon covered by flesh thanks to its healing factor.

'Interesting.' It brought a lot of thoughts to my mind.

Was the Boss' healing factor unlimited? If not, how long would it last before reaching its limits.

My guess was that it had to do with its Mana capacity, and so far it seemed like the monster still had a lot.

'Maybe stalling and letting it wear itself out would be a nice way to go about it, but I've grown bored already.'

I smiled, raising my hand a little. "[Blitz: Spear Model]."

Instantly, a bright golden lightning spear formed on my open hand. It sparkled and crackled, leaking out pure destructive power.

"Perfect." I gripped it tightly, already aiming at my choice location.

'I don't want to damage the Monster Core since it'll be useful to these people, so maybe...'

The Boss Monster roared once more, leaping at me in a futile attempt at revenge. Unfortunately for the poor soul, its life was practically over.

"Hut!" I flexed my muscles and launched the Blitz Spear, sending it charging in an unstoppable straight line.

>WHOOOOOOSSSSHHHH!!!<

Like a stroke of golden light, or more akin to a single horizontal line of ascending lightning, the spear pierced the Boss's head, electrocuting it's entire body, while exploding right at the center of its brain.

>BOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOMMMM!!!<

In a massive burst of Blitz, the Boss Monster lost its head, and it's entire body's nerve connections and synapses exploded beyond repair.

In short... it was my victory.

"Fuuu... now that it's over, what about Kuzon?" I smiled, looking around me.

What else did I expect from him? As soon as I observed my surroundings, I realized that all the other Orcs were long dead.

Not a single one was left alive.

'Hm? Looks like the Gate is closing...' The portal began shrinking in size, a testament that we won.

I disabled my Magic Buffs, descending to observe the dead monsters. It seemed they were all electrocuted to death.

"Looks like you're done on your end too." Kuzon suddenly appeared before me, a confident smile locked on his face.

"Pretty much."

"Pfft. Showoff." He grinned wider. "Still, I wonder what would happen if we had another rematch."

I didn't know if Kuzon was making a subtle challenge, or simply giving a statement of curiosity. However...

"I wonder what would happen indeed."

... He wasn't the only curious one among us.

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 949: A Constellation's Thought

Kuzon had been watching Jared's lackluster fight with the Boss Monster while he easily took care of the mobs.

Using [Dark Lightning Surge] a couple of times was enough to kill all of them. He would have used a stronger Area Of Effect Spell, but he was worried about damaging the Cores, so he went lighter.

While he did this, though, he had a fleeting thought.

'I wonder who's stronger between the both of us now...'

It was a thought he didn't know how to properly resolve. As such, he involved someone he would have normally liked to be quiet.

... His Familiar, the Leo Constellation.

~You're stronger, of course. You have me—a Constellation.~

As expected, Leo's response was very biased.

~I'm being serious. He lacks the raw power and potential you have thanks to my presence. The amount of Aether I possess alone is more than mere humans can gather in multiple lifetimes.~

That's right. Kuzon knew this quite well already, thanks to his training with Crazy Neron.

Other than Aether herself, the Constellations were known to be the ones that had the most Aether.

It was too vast to be properly quantified.

~Of course, since you're limited, there's only a certain amount you can tap into. And, there, I think, does the problem lie.~

'Hm? What do you mean by that?' Kuzon's face twisted a bit in apprehension.

~As much as I'm sure you have more raw power and Aether reserve than your friend over there, it's still uncertain who would win in a fight.~

'Oh?'

~That man has a higher proficiency in using Magic than you. He can use everything in his arsenal with far higher efficiency. His fighting prowess and intelligence exceeds yours as well. Then... there's the issue of the Arcanas.~

Sure, Kuzon couldn't be harmed thanks to his Arcana's effects, and he could also command others thanks to his second—well, first to be exact—one.

However...

~Jared has all the Arcana Spells, including yours. It's possible to void your effects if he utilizes the Spells properly.~

'Hold on... for real?!'

~Yes. And with his knack for tweaking Magic, I'm sure he will begin to make improvements and changes to the Spells as time goes on.~

"I see..." Kuzon slowly found his thoughts leaking out.

~The fact that he was able to synchronize his Arcanas with any world's frequency without the guidance of someone, unlike you, shows the vast difference in your abilities. I'd say you have the advantage... because of me... but as time goes on, the gap will only increase.~

Kuzon didn't know what to feel at this point. He considered Jared a friend, and someone he respected simply based on their similarities and differences.

However, if there was something that was integral to their relationship, it was the hierarchy.

Kuzon had always been the stronger one.

'I don't want to lose to him.' His thoughts echoed stubbornly.

~Hehe! That's the spirit. I guess you should work on getting used to my power. Maybe start developing your Primeval Magic too.~

Kuzon could only nod at the Constellation's words.

He could stop Jared from catching up to him by simply putting in more effort into his own development.

'Looks like I'll need to get even stronger.'

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While dwelling within Kuzon, The Constellation Leo sighed to himself.

Of course, he made sure his thoughts weren't visible to Kuzon, so he could have an internal session in privacy.

He also shut out Kuzon's thoughts so he could have a quiet ambiance in his vicinity.

'That Jared... he's really something.' Leo's thoughts echoed in his domain.

Inasmuch as he treated the subject so flippantly, it was an incredible feat for Jared to have synchronized his Arcana Spells, which would make him nearly invincible in his original world, to other worlds.

This was the kind of crazy nonsense he would have expected from Neron, but not a second-hand Singularity.

'He's definitely surpassing our expectations.'

The first time Leo and the other Constellations really noticed Jared was during his fight with the Nether.

After Jared nearly concluded the fight by harnessing the power in his universe, their interests were already piqued.

Of course Leo realized Aether was assisting him by possessing his body, but it was still incredible—especially since Aether had only ever possessed two others in the history of existence.

'Merlin and Neron.' Those two were hot cake among the Constellations, yet Aether chose a nobody as her third.

It clearly meant Jared was special.

'The only reason none of the Constellations have approached him yet is because of Neron.'

Neron overshadowed Jared, and since the two were close to each other, they often preferred Neron.

However, it didn't mean they had completely lost interest in Jared at all.

It only meant they were keeping their eyes out for him.

What surprised Leo the most, however, was that Jared had even attracted the attention of 'that' one, as they all often referred to their most eccentric sibling.

'She's also looking at him, huh? That's a surprise...'

She was someone who never even bothered with Neron.

Her and Old Man Neron never got along, even when the other Constellations settled for a truce contract with him.

'Even though I am selective of Hosts, I have had quite a couple of them since existence started.'

However, this Constellation was the was the only one that had never chosen a single Host since her dawn.

'I wonder... what'll happen to him. Will she choose him? Or will it be nothing more than fleeting interest?'

It was something Leo looked forward to more than anything else.

After all, Constellations existed to find Hosts and serve them, and this particular one considered herself pure and unsullied—a virgin in every right.

The moment she found someone to dedicate herself to... their bond would be eternally transcendent.

[SPELLCRAFT: Reincarnation Of A Magic Scholar](#)

Chapter 950: Two Heroes

"Those two... just who are they?"

By the time the Busan Hunters returned to the scene of destruction, after ensuring the safety of every single citizen, they were met with a corpse party.

All the Monsters were dead, without any discrimination.

There was hardly any struggle or large-scale battle here.

It was simply a massacre.

'This is amazing! This is such good news for the Association!' Commander Lee smiled, his widening eyes growing even further in sheer disbelief.

The profit gained from this alone, especially from the Boss Monster, would go a long way to alleviate the financial burden they had been experiencing for so long.

Still, the fact that the two strangers were the ones who took care of most of the monsters, it was only obvious that they would be taking a bulk of the profit.

They would have to pay Tax, but still... it wasn't the same as the Association having the rights to the total profits.

Commander Lee completely understood how things were, though. It was the law, and it was only right that the one who hunted should have the right to their prey.

The most important thing now was that the Dungeon Break had finally been extinguished.

'It's a shame that a lot of my comrades had to suffer death and grievous harm to make this a reality...' His thoughts trailed.

"Have you calculated the total number of civilian deaths and injuries? What about the same figures for our Hunters?" Commander Lee turned to the Hunter that approached from behind.

"W-well, about that..."

"Just give it to me straight. I want to know." He gritted his teeth as he spoke.

While all that happened was nothing short of a miracle, the staggering deaths that were bound to result from this venture would be nothing short of heartbreaking.

"T-the thing is... there are none who are injured or dead, sir."

"What?"

"We checked thoroughly. We couldn't find a single dead or injured. We're currently doing a head count for the Hunters, since we know how many were dispatched, and their information. So far, it seems all of us are accounted for."

"H-how is this possible...?" Commander Lee muttered.

It was impossible! He had heard sounds of his comrades dying. He had definitely heard their screeches and desperate screams.

Sure, he was busy killing the monsters to focus on a single one, but he was certain there were fatalities.

And yet...

"Are you serious?" He muttered.

"I am, sir. As for the civilians, we haven't found a single corpse or injured body. At this point, it's very doubtful that there are any."

It all sounded very unreal. In the history of Dungeon Breaks, there hadn't been a single S Class disaster that didn't leave a trail of dead bodies in its wake.

This was literally the first time he had ever heard of something so ridiculous.

"I-I see. Well, keep doing the head count and all of that. Is there anything else you have to report?" He spoke, a tired smile on his face.

He had seen way too many miracles today to remain the same.

"Yes sir. We found this letter drifting in the air, covered in some sort of energy. It's addressed to you, Commander."

The Hunter handed over a letter to him, and sure enough, it was addressed to "Commander Lee."

"This is my name... yeah... well, thanks." He could hardly make coherent statements at this point.

His mind was too muddled with thoughts and assumptions at this point.

What was real? What wasn't? He could hardly figure it out.

That is, until he read the letter.

~Commander Lee;

You should know who this letter is from. Just wanted to inform you that we have no interest in the spoils, so just treat them as the Hunter Association's property.

We're unaffiliated with your country, or other countries, so just think of us as individuals who wanted to test our strength... or something like that.

I certainly hope you, and everyone else, end up being okay.

This shouldn't be a time for mourning, after all.

That's all I wanted to say. Good work today.~

Seeing the contents of the letter brought a trembling sensation to Commander Lee's body, and he found himself covering his mouth and stifling his gasp.

"It was... them? They... but how?"

Healing abilities? Resurrection abilities? The first was extremely rare, and the second didn't exist.

"But if they're Healers, they wouldn't have had such amazing offensive abilities."

Everyone knew Hunters specialized in certain fields based on their Classes.

Commander Lee was a Warrior, specialized as a Swordsman. He had most of his abilities stacked in that respect.

'A Healer of this level... shouldn't have been able to defeat so many monsters.'

Just the two of them were enough to handle an S Class Dungeon Break.

They claimed not to belong to any nation or group, which made sense since Lee would have heard of them if that hadn't been the case.

"Haha... what an absurd miracle." He couldn't think of any other world to describe what he had just experienced

Still, despite his relief, his curiosity remained persistent.

'Just... who are they?'

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In a large expanse filled with luxuries all covered in darkness, two figures entered, bowing to greet a third person who was already in the room.

He was seated on a glamorous sofa, his legs crossed and resting on a footstool. He also had a wine in his hand, and a blue glow radiating from his eyes

"Boss... the mission failed." One of the men said, his tone sounding grave.

"..." The seated one said nothing

"There were some unforeseen elements that disrupted the plan. Two strangers appeared out of nowhere to—"

"I understand." The deep voice of their leader caused the men to instantly keep their mouths shut.

He snapped his fingers, and suddenly, a holographic screen appeared in front of him, visible also to the two who trembled in his presence.

"I saw it all." The man smiled. "These two..."

The screen in front of him displayed two heroes fending off the attack of the monsters spilling out of a Gate.

Their attacks packed heavy punches, and their blows were destructive.

"... It seems we'll need to make a few changes."

His grin grew wider. "You watched them from your safe distance, didn't you? What do you think of their power?"

For a brief moment, there was tense silence.

"They were incredibly powerful, easily S Rank. However..."

"They won't be a match for us—the Seven Stars of the Shadows of Light."

The man nodded, his grin expanding even further.

"Good. Well then, I suppose it's time for your next assignment."

Dropping his wine cup while interlocking his hands, he began exuding the authority and power befitting the leader of the Shadows Of Light.

The light in his eyes flickered with malevolence, and his voice rang deep and hollow as he spoke.

"Eliminate them."