

With The Gods 121

Chapter 121

Even after YuWon stood up and left, Hargaan stayed there for a while. He drank a few more cups of coffee while waiting for a call.

And soon...

Vwooong—

His player kit that he had on the table rang.

“Don’t even ask. It’s all gone to shit,” Hargaan answered in a grumbly tone.

He had failed at persuading YuWon. Even though he knew YuWon wasn’t someone who could be persuaded, it was still a shame. In the end, YuWon had made up his mind and would interfere in this fight.

“My friend doesn’t think of it like that.”

“He’s an incredible friend.” Hargaan’s voice contained a bit of pride. He shrugged his shoulders and lifted his cup again. “How is Uncle?”

“Won’t you regret it, brother?”

“Well, that’s true.”

“Yes, yes. Understood,” Hargaan replied absentmindedly and finished his tea. “Ah, and I’ve told that friend to watch out for Britain right now. I told him not to go anywhere and hide if possible after reaching the 25th Floor.”

“He said it’s fine.”

A tone mixed with worry.

Hargaan hesitated after hearing that, then asked, “Is that what you think as well, brother?”

“It was the same during Chryses’s situation, and Hypnos and Theseus as well. Who could have guessed they would lose?”

Olympus was wary of YuWon. There was just a ceasefire right now due to the battle of wits between Zeus and Poseidon, but it still stood.

“Although this is really baseless...” He thought of the form of YuWon, whom he had met during the Tutorial, he really couldn’t imagine a situation where YuWon would lose. “It might be no different this time either.”

* * *

And so about a month later...

The 24th Floor’s test had started.

“Woah, luckily we’re all on the same team.”

As soon as the test started, Mamos had slowly snuck up next to YuWon.

As they both had to climb to at least the 25th Floor, it was quite a fortunate situation for both YuWon and Mamos.

There was a vast field of green grass, and in the middle of this stood about ten players including YuWon and Mamos.

“After this test, it’s the 25th Floor.”

“So are we going our own ways after that?”

“Probably.”

“It’s a bit of a shame.”

“You’ll probably change your mind on that pretty soon.”

The next destination was right in front of them. And to get there, they needed to safely pass this test.

[The test for the 24th Floor is starting.]

[Stop the ‘Big Cows.’]

[The number of Big Cows summoned will increase per stage.]

[Whenever a stage ends, you will receive points equal to 10 times the stage number.]

[Whenever a Big Cow is killed, you will receive 5 points.]

[By consuming 10 points, you may summon a Big Cow against a team of your choice.]

[A team cannot leave their designated area.]

[If they leave or declare forfeit, they will fail the test.]

[When only one team is left, that team will pass the test.]

[Stage 1 will start in 5 minutes.]

“So is it a defense test this time? It’s the first one since the Tutorial.” Mamos smiled as if he was entertained by this.

Defense. Just as its name suggested, it was a test that put importance on defense and surviving as long as possible.

A huge circle was created around YuWon and the nine other players. It was a big circle with about a 100-meter radius. This line was probably the designated area for this test.

[Unspent Points: 10]

The first 10 points were given out simultaneously. This amount was only enough to summon a single monster.

“Isn’t this hella easy?”

“Yeah. Our team has Kim YuWon as well...”

“How long has it been since I’ve been carried like this?”

YuWon’s teammates had mostly stopped being nervous.

A simple test, and with the famous Kim YuWon as one of their teammates, they were thinking that passing the test wouldn’t be hard at all. However...

“Well.” YuWon looked at the herd of white light that could be seen outside the circle.

“Is that really the case?”

“What?”

“It’s starting.”

Mamos looked outside the circle after seeing YuWon gesture with his chin.

It was then that messages came flooding in like a tidal wave.

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning...]

[...]

“Uh...? Wh-What?”

“Just how many...”

“One, two... damn it. I can’t even count them all.”

“Moooooooo—!”

A huge cow covered in brown fur approached them. Its eyes were red and bloodshot, and its size was as big as an elephant.

And soon after...

Rumble, rumble—

The angry bulls came charging at them.

These guys held hostility against all things that lived and moved. There were a lot of them, and considering it was Stage 1, there really were too many.

“What just happened?” Mamos had an expression of curiosity rather than panic. He had confidence that just this number would be no problem for him and YuWon.

“Everyone was thinking the same thing.”

Rumble, rumble—

The Big Cows came even slower.

“‘Let’s kill the team that we think will win first.’ Or something like that.”

“Then in reality, it’s our team against the other nine teams.”

“That has ended up being the case.”

YuWon had thought about this. It wasn’t just him who had to pass the test somehow and get to the next floor, but every other player had the same desire.

They had all ended up joining hands against the huge enemy known as Kim YuWon. No matter if this was in the spur of the moment or decided before the test even started, the fact that their goals were the same remained.

“Then, please show us.”

Pshoooo—

Demonic energy seeped out of Mamos’s body.

“Even if a hundred insects gather, they are still insects in the end.”

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

[Stage 9 will start in 5 minutes.]

Shooooo—

The Big Cows turned into smoke and dissipated. Monsters that were used as ingredients in a test would disappear instantly thanks to the system the moment the test ended.

Flop—

“Fuu, fuah—”

“Huah, I-I’m gonna die...”

“Just how many are going to come in the next round?”

The tired teammates all fell to the ground and sat there.

It was close to about a thousand Big Cows. The base number of Big Cows increased every stage. On top of that, because of enemies using the points acquired from slaying Big Cows, the number of Big Cows getting summoned increased exponentially.

“If this continues... Aren’t we actually doomed?”

“There isn’t a team that’s failed yet, right?”

“Probably. We’re the only ones being attacked...”

In this test, you could only attack your opponents by summoning monsters for them. That was the rule, and the moment one broke it, they would fail this test.

The teammates all looked at YuWon and Mamos, who were standing at the very edge of the boundary.

As they were watching them, the two were strangely still lively.

“I don’t think this will end any time soon.”

A bead of sweat started to drip down Mamos’s forehead. He was starting to pant a little, meaning he was getting a bit tired as well.

Next time, an even bigger number of enemies would charge at them.

“Hold on for a little longer.”

“Until when?”

“’Til Stage 10.”

“This is passable, right?”

“Weren’t you talking about a hundred insects or something just earlier?”

“That was then.”

“I thought you had a bit more demon in you...”

While they were conversing, the five minutes had passed.

Vwong, vwoong—

A swarm of white lights appeared with the circle at the center.

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning...]

[...]

Just like every other time, a huge number of Big Cows were summoned. Now, they couldn't even be counted. Just guessing by the size, it was probably close to a thousand big cows this time.

"It's quite unsightly."

"Just hold on for a little longer."

Mamos stopped resting and pulled out his demonic energy again.

"Why are you telling me to hold on?"

"Since we started this, we might as well pass with good grades."

"Is that really it?"

"Tell me if you think you won't be able to bear it."

"It's getting a bit tiring."

The "Demon of Lies" Belial wasn't really ranked highly in terms of combat strength among the other Demon Kings. His abilities shone in areas like lying and confusion, areas outside of battle.

As his bloodline, Mamos was the same.

YuWon noticed that the demonic energy he felt from Mamos was definitely much weaker than when they first started.

"...Really?"

After contemplating for a second, YuWon nodded his head.

Stage 10.

It had been quite a while since the test had started, and they were taking the attacks of the other teams as well. It would be odd if they weren't tired.

If so...

"Then I'll do it alone."

Vwooong—

Fwooosh—

Around YuWon, spheres of purple light started to float up.

One, two, three, four...

Seeing the increasing number of spheres, Mamos's eyes went wide.

"Are those Mana Blasts?"

"Why?"

"Why do you have so many of them?" After internally counting all the [Mana Blasts] that YuWon had created, Mamos spoke as if he was muttering to himself, "Seventeen of them..."

Seventeen [Mana Blasts.] Additionally, every single one of them contained significant destructive power.

“Just what is your mana stat? No, before that... Is it even possible to control all these Mana Blasts at once...?”

[Mana Blast] was the most basic skill and ability that represented players. Since the consumption of mana was high and the effective conversion to damage was low, it wasn't used much, but its power was certain.

“Talk later.”

Fwooosh—

Fwooosh—

The [Mana Blasts] floating around YuWon were blazing.

“Clean these things up first.”

The [Mana Blasts] had borrowed the power of [Holy Fire] and spread out in all directions towards the Big Cows that were charging in from a distance.

Bang—!

Fwoosh, boom—!

“Moooooooo—!”

The Big Cows were eliminated instantly.

Looking at this scene, Mamos went into shock.

Fwooosh—

Every time a [Mana Blast] landed, an explosive wave of flame propagated in all directions. In the wake of the flames, only black burnt corpses of the Big Cows remained.

The [Mana Blasts] shot out without rest.

Vwooong—

Actually, the number of [Mana Blasts] were starting to increase.

‘Nineteen total with that one.’

YuWon closed his eyes.

As his sight disappeared, his concentration greatly increased. His senses that had split into nineteen started to multiply as they spread out.

Fwooosh—

‘Twenty with that.’

The twentieth [Mana Blast.]

Although a single increase in [Mana Blasts] wouldn't increase the destructive power that much, the meaning of its existence was huge. The number of Mana Blasts were directly related to the player's mana-controlling ability.

Using the [Mana Blasts] to eliminate the Big Cows instantly, YuWon felt a new sensation.

[Master of Mana]

A skill that increased sensitivity and control over mana.

He hadn't felt this skill properly since it had been absorbed into his body so naturally, but [Master of Mana] was giving its support to every skill that YuWon was using.

On top of that...

[Rank: S+]

[Proficiency: 21.49%]

Now, the proficiency had increased quite a bit, and its effects were much greater than before.

Vwoong—

Another [Mana Blast] was created.

Before he returned, the total amount of [Mana Blasts] YuWon could make was 50.

Although he couldn't make as many now due to his lacking stats compared to that time, a sense of greed was created within him.

'Just how many can I make?'

Incinerating the constant charge of Big Cows, a smile appeared on YuWon's face.

Chapter 122

Mamos couldn't even believe what he was seeing after he saw it, and he had seen many things before.

The Demon Lord Belial was both his father and mother, the one who created him. He had also seen the myriad of demons around Belial.

The strength of a Ranker wasn't something that was exceptionally great from Mamos's point of view. He had grown up seeing power that normal players couldn't even begin to imagine.

However, there were Rankers, and then there were High-Rankers.

'This is possible?'

Fwooosh—

Boom—!

Another one.

The [Mana Blast] created another pillar of flame and burnt the body of a charging Big Cow to a black crisp. The Big Cow that was enveloped in the fire struggled for a second before collapsing to the ground with a thud.

It was astonishing. However, the most astonishing thing was the number of [Mana Blasts] that appeared near YuWon.

Fwoosh—

Another one appeared. This was now the thirty-second.

It was already difficult for most High-Rankers to make this much. Although, of course, their destructive power couldn't really be compared to those of the High-Rankers.

‘Is his mana control that good?’

There were only two criteria to creating [Mana Blasts.]

Firstly, one required a large amount of mana, meaning their stat needed to be high. If one's mana stat was high, even if they created only one [Mana Blast,] its destructive power would be massive. This was something that could be possible as one took their time to level up and pass tests to climb the Tower.

Secondly, they required a level of control over their mana. However, mana control was a totally different thing. This could only be refined and honed by the players themselves.

An overwhelmingly high mana stat would allow the player to have some level of control over their mana, but YuWon was showing the complete opposite implementation.

“This is unfair.”

Mamos was feeling the same feeling the other players felt when they saw him. This was a true display of overwhelming talent.

Fwoosh—

The thirty-third Mana Blast appeared.

Yuwon slowly opened his eyes and looked around at the [Mana Blasts] that were orbiting around him. It was as if he was watching a large group of fireflies or will o' wisps.

‘Thirty-three.’

When he first started to make the [Mana Blasts,] he had thought that twenty would be the limit. But he had ended up creating thirty-three.

‘It's not S-rank for nothing.’

Even with the same mana stat, it was true that, depending on one's level of mana control, the effectiveness and use of the spells would differ quite severely. And the [Master of Mana] skill had significantly amplified his ability to manipulate that mana.

Sensitivity and domination over mana. It was as if mana was willingly following him. It had practically become another sense just as if he was moving his hands or a part of his body.

‘If the Arcane Power stat and the skill combined...’

Fwoosh—

The last one. A total of thirty-four [Mana Blasts] were created.

‘The actual effect doesn’t seem to be additional but multiplicative.’

Vwoong, gwoong—

The thirty-four [Mana Blasts] all intermittently emitted mana. They rained down on the remaining Big Cows.

BOOOOM—!

Bang, bang, bang—!

The cries of the Big Cows were drowned out by the sound of the explosions.

YuWon could feel mana draining out of his body. He had strained himself too much because of his desire to see how many [Mana Blasts] he could create.

‘Ten would’ve been enough.’

Thirty-four [Mana Blasts] were overkill.

[Mana Blast] was a skill with high mana consumption, and it drained more focus per the number created. Although it had the upside of being able to divide one’s power over a large amount of area, the show YuWon put on just now was definitely unnecessary.

After reducing the amount of [Mana Blasts,] YuWon heard a wave of messages.

[You have eliminated a ‘Big Cow.’]

[Heaven-Slaying Star’s completion rate has increased by 0.001%]

[You have eliminated a ‘Big Cow.’]

[Heaven-Slaying Star’s completion rate did not increase.]

[You have eliminated a ‘Big Cow.’]

[Heaven-Slaying Star’s completion rate did not...]

Even while eliminating the Big Cows, the increase in the completion rate was as insignificant as ever.

But as he held onto the hope that the completion rate would one day be filled...

‘It’s nearly there.’

The completion rate had nearly reached the end.

[Completion Rate: 99.994%]

The thousandth position. It was at an incredible number.

The reason he had dragged out the test this long wasn’t just for the test grade.

[Heaven-Slaying Star.] The skill that was obtained after defeating Suruhtra in the Tutorial. Just as it was an A plus-grade skill, the expectation for it was immense. The stats obtained as the completion rate increased weren’t bad either, but this skill was still just ‘incomplete’ for now. Just what would it become after it was completed?

As he didn't know what the situation would be when he arrived in Britain, YuWon wanted to obtain as much strength as possible.

'0.006% left.'

It really felt within arm's reach.

YuWon left the points he had acquired as they were. If he ended up using those, this test would end in an instant.

But it wasn't time yet.

'Everyone be patient.'

YuWon stood up and waited for the next stage.

The remaining 0.006% completion rate. If possible, he was planning on filling it before the test ended.

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

"This is easy."

"Yeah. It's a complete snooze fest this time as well."

"Is this test for free?"

The confidence of Team 1 was through the roof.

It was already Stage 12. The number of Big Cows that appeared had already increased to about fifty. Although it was a bit harder compared to the start, blocking this many still wasn't that hard.

Big Cows were just big—they really weren't monsters that were hard to hunt.

"But it'll be hard to get to the twentieth stage."

"It'll probably end before that comes."

"I guess. Even if it's Kim YuWon, it'll be hard for him."

"Our team leader is so smart in this sense. He thought of eliminating Kim YuWon's team first."

The first person to come up with the idea was the team leader of Team 1, Mekkel. Before the test started, he contacted the other teams to make a suggestion. It was to eliminate Kim YuWon's team before anything else.

"Since there's only one team that can advance to the next floor anyways, it's natural to eliminate the strongest team first."

Hearing the others praise him, Mekkel felt proud and prepared for the next stage.

[You have used 200 points.]

[In the next stage, 20 Big Cows will be summoned.]

[The target team is Team 2.]

200 points. Including the bonus points from the stage, that was the points acquired after defeating sixteen Big Cows.

Mekkel wasn't just a schemer. Even as a player on the 24th Floor, he was quite skilled.

'It's about time he gets eliminated.'

Even if it was Kim YuWon, his stamina wasn't infinite.

The test was constructed in a way where the higher the stage number, the more monsters that needed to be defeated increased. And with the points acquired from defeating these monsters, one could summon many more monsters against another team.

And as the stages went by, Team 2 needed to defeat exponentially more monsters. Even if Kim YuWon was an incredible player, he still wouldn't be able to kill them all.

'Still, it's honestly amazing that he's survived until now.'

Stage 12.

Kim YuWon's team had been attacked by all the other teams until now. It was an incredible feat to have survived all that.

[Stage 13 will start.]

The five minute break had ended.

However, the shorter the break, the better it was. Because that would make Kim YuWon's team bleed out faster.

"Then, let's go clean up these p—"

It was then...

[Summoning 'Big Cow.']

[Summoning 'Big Cow.']

[Summoning...]

The same message rang multiple times.

The eyes of the players, including Mekkel's, went wide.

"Huh?"

They had forgotten about this.

It wasn't just their team that could summon the Big Cows.

Kim YuWon's team also could. It was just that it hadn't happened until now, so they had forgotten about it.

‘He’s started his attack.’

He felt a chill go down his back.

During this long time, Kim YuWon hadn’t summoned Big Cows a single time. Why?

‘Was he attacking the other teams until now?’

Killing one Big Cow gave you five points. Using ten points, one could summon a Big Cow against another team. If Kim YuWon hadn’t spent any points until now, he would’ve amassed an unbelievable amount of points.

“Dammit.” Mekkel became impatient.

Thankfully, the number of summoned Big Cows weren’t that many. About forty-something. If it was only this much, it wasn’t impossible to survive.

“Don’t be scared! This is honestly better!”

Bang—

Mekkel slammed the great ax that he had worn on his back on the ground.

“We can just kill those guys and summon even more monsters against them. Then they’ll definitely die next time!”

This much was definitely bearable.

Up to this point, Mekkel and the other teams all thought the same thing.

* * *

‘They should be able to block this much.’

Forty monsters against each team. That was the number of additional monsters summoned against them.

These Big Cows would become additional points for them, and when that happened, they would summon even more against him.

“I’ve spent all the points.” After finishing his summons, Mamos approached YuWon. “But why so suddenly? You told us not to use any points at the start. I thought you would use all of them at once to attack.”

“This way, the other teams can fight back as well.”

“Fight back?”

YuWon gestured with a nod.

More Big Cows started to get summoned with white lights. By fighting back, he meant this.

“No way... Are you getting them to summon more?”

“The number should increase in the next stage.”

“Aren’t you tired?”

“Not yet.” YuWon approached the charging Big Cows. “I should still see it to the end even if I have to do a bit more.”

[Completion Rate: 99.999%.]

It was getting really close. If he ended the test without completing it, he would regret it terribly. That was why YuWon elected to use this test to the limit.

Dash—

Yuwon jumped above the herd of Big Cows.

There were about a thousand of them here.

Yuwon jumped into the middle of them and created [Mana Blasts.]

Vwoong, vwoooong—

About a dozen [Mana Blasts] were best for hunting these Big Cows.

Boooooom—

“Mooooooooo—!”

The Big Cows thrashed around in pain and died without being able to make a sound in the storm of fire.

Yuwon used one hand to control the [Mana Blasts] and the other to swing his sword.

Slice, crush—

[You have eliminated a ‘Big Cow.’]

[Heaven-Slaying Star’s completion rate did not increase.]

[You have eliminated a ‘Big Cow.’]

[Heaven-Slaying Star’s completion rate did not...]

The unfortunate messages continued.

In the last stage, not even a 0.001% increase was seen in the completion rate, and it was stuck at 99.999%.

‘Is it really impossible?’

As the hunting went on, his expectation started to die down. The completion rate might have been impossible to increase by hunting these monsters alone.

Boom—!

Sweat started to form on YuWon’s brow as he continued to charge through the herd of Big Cows while firing [Mana Blasts.]

Just how many had he killed during this test? Three thousand? Four thousand? It was hard to keep track of them all. The doubt that it might have been impossible after all this reared its head in YuWon’s mind.

But then...

[Heaven-Slaying Star's completion rate has increased by 0.001%.]

[Heaven-Slaying Star's condition has been met.]

[Demonic Body has been obtained.]

[New stat 'Demonic Energy' has been implemented.]

[Demonic Energy has increased by 20.]

The message he had been waiting for had finally come.

Chapter 123

"Huh?"

Mamos felt a weird presence. He had suddenly smelled a familiar scent coming from YuWon, who had been hunting the Big Cows.

'Demonic energy?'

Mana and demonic energy had different characteristics. They might have seemed similar at first glance, but unlike mana, demonic energy had a more destructive nature to it. This was the inherent power of demons, just like how angels had holy power.

'Surely not, right?'

Crash—!

As the last remaining Big Cows were incinerated by YuWon's [Mana Blasts,] Mamos had a chilling thought. If it was one time, he could've ignored it as a mistake, but if one became two, the situation would change.

"What the... Really?" Mamos opened his eyes wide and looked closely at YuWon.

Swish, shwooo—

The unrestrained demonic energy from YuWon danced around his body.

Most people wouldn't have been able to tell with their naked eyes, but being from a bloodline of a Demon King, Mamos could definitely feel it. Demonic energy was definitely flowing from YuWon.

"It doesn't make sense..."

Mana and demonic energy. For there to be a player who could wield both of them to exist... Was it possible if they were a child of both a human and a demon?

No, that wasn't it. Even if that was the case, it was still an impossibility. Blood would be mixed, and they were bound to be born inheriting the strength of the stronger blood.

The other teams seemingly hadn't been able to deal with them yet as the test continued.

Mamos carefully approached YuWon. "What happened to you?"

Although it was a random question, YuWon immediately recognized why he asked. Although other people might not have noticed, it was obvious that Mamos would have been able to.

“I don’t know either.”

“You don’t know?”

“I became like this after getting a new skill.”

Hearing YuWon’s answer, Mamos was surprised. “Skill? It’s possible to handle demonic energy through a skill?”

“I’m curious about that as well.”

YuWon was also surprised.

Demonic energy. He hadn’t ever expected that he could acquire it through a skill.

[Demonic Body]

▷ Rank: S-

▷ Proficiency: 0.00%

▷ The body of demon. Can handle demonic energy.

▷ Able to acquire demon-exclusive skills.

▷ Demonic energy increased by 20.

[Demonic Energy: 20 (Special)]

▷ Can’t be increased by leveling up.

▷ Can be used by all skills.

After checking the skill and stat, YuWon could only let out a laugh.

What kind of skill was this?

‘A skill that creates a new stat. This is my first time seeing this type of skill.’

Demonic energy was a power only demons could control. This was a fact known by the Rankers who knew the systems of the Tower. This also included YuWon.

However, this skill created demonic energy just by learning it.

‘It can’t be increased by level-ups. So does it increase my stat by increasing the proficiency?’

With [Heaven-Slaying Star,] the stat increased with the completion rate. This might mean that [Demonic Body] also increased his stats through the same method.

‘It’s also possible to use this and another stat at the same time. The problem is increasing its proficiency...’

As it hadn’t been long since he acquired this skill, he also hadn’t gotten used to demonic energy yet.

This really was a gratuitous gain. It was fine to be satisfied with this right now.

Well, then...

“Let’s start finishing this. I’ve gotten what I wanted with this.”

“Huh? What?”

“What do you mean ‘what’.”

YuWon checked the points he acquired up until now.

[Points: 24355]

“Let’s finish this test.”

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

“Huah, haah—”

“It-It’s over...”

“Fuah—I thought I was going to die.”

Stage 13 had finally ended.

Mekkel and all his teammates fell on their backs in exhaustion. Thankfully there were no casualties, but for the first time, someone was injured.

“Next time might be really hard.”

“Dammit, is the test done for this time as well?”

“It’s too early to give up. We’ve gotten a lot of points this time as well.”

“Ah, that’s true.”

There was hope.

Thanks to the increased number of Big Cows summoned this time, they could obtain more points to summon them elsewhere. This time, they could probably summon twice the number of Big Cows.

“The other teams would be in the same situation, right?”

“Probably. I don’t think there’s a team that’s been eliminated either...”

“Maybe there are some teams that didn’t keep their promise and are saving their points?”

“Aren’t we the same as well?”

“Well, yeah, that’s true.”

There were still a decent amount of points they had saved up. They were the points to use against the other teams after Kim YuWon’s team was taken down.

However, after feeling threatened for the first time, their thinking changed.

Mekkel used all the points he had saved up.

“Don’t save any this time and use them all. Or don’t expect to survive to the next stage.”

“Ok.”

“Understood.”

“We’re also tired now.”

The team members used all their points as well.

Next round, the number of Big Cows summoned would probably be greater than all the other times they were summoned.

“You’re done for.”

With this, they would be able to eliminate Kim YuWon’s team.

Mekkel was sure of it.

But then...

[Stage 14 will start.]

Vwoong, vwoong-vwoong—

The white lights started to appear.

Mekkel didn’t think much of it since he had seen it thirteen times already.

However, there was a big difference.

“What the...”

“Just how many are gonna spawn?”

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning ‘Big Cow.’]

[Summoning...]

[Summoning...]

[...]

Messages started flooding in without stopping, one after the other.

Seeing the countless number of white lights and the endless herd of Big Cows, they could only then confirm that something was definitely wrong.

The scenario they had been dreading all this time had appeared before them.

“Mooooooooo—!”

Rumble, rumble, rumble—!

Hundreds of cows shook the earth. It was on an entirely different scale to the previous thirteenth stage. It was at least three, no, four times as many.

Baffled at seeing the sea of Big Cows laid out before him, Mekkel muttered to himself. “This... Nah.”

* * *

Atop the corpses of the Big Cows, YuWon waited for the messages.

And soon...

[Team 1 has been eliminated.]

[Team 4 has been eliminated.]

[Team 7 has...]

The messages he had been waiting for continued.

‘200 per team. I think one team might survive.’

This was a possibility. Even if they weren’t of high-quality bloodlines like Hargaan or Mamos, if a player with a decent level of skill was on a team, it wasn’t that impossible to survive.

But even then, the outcome would still have been the same.

Just as he predicted...

[Team 10 has been eliminated.]

Although it was far later than the other teams, the final team was eliminated from the test.

While blocking the wave of monsters, they were probably thinking about the next stage.

‘If we block this time, then we’ll advance to the next stage, then the next, then the next...’

With all the other teams being eliminated, as the only team left against YuWon’s team, which had survived while all the other eight teams were there, they didn’t have the confidence to be able to win.

[You have passed the test of the 24th Floor.]

[You obtained 50,000 points.]

[You obtained an additional 54,360 points.]

[You have obtained Cloudwalk.]

The test pass message.

The rewards weren’t that interesting. The additional points YuWon had acquired were twice the amount of points he had accumulated. Just above 100,000 points in total.

Although it wasn’t bad, the following reward wasn’t that good.

‘Cloudwalk. A skill that upon use instantly makes your feet light and creates an invisible path in the sky.’ YuWon let out a sigh. ‘It’s a lower ranking skill than Hermes’s Treads. This will just eat into my mana.’

Although this skill might see use once or twice sometime in the future, in necessary situations, it would be better to use [Hermes’s Treads] instead.

In the end, the only thing he obtained after passing the 24th Floor’s test was 100,000 points.

[Moving to the 25th Floor.]

Shwooo—

The figures of all the players who passed started to fade.

It was the same for YuWon.

They could see something like the scene changing right in front of their eyes. With the authority to move to the next floor given to them, the other players were being moved as well.

Shwaaaaa—

The feeling of ascending through the Tower was always interesting no matter how many times he did it. It was the same feeling as when one went on a long journey, like a young child who only lived in a small town or city getting to know the wider world. It was as if the world he could perceive and step into had widened.

“Oh...”

“Is this the 25th Floor?”

“Britain is known for its good tourist spots.”

“This is Britain?”

“Is it?”

The players who just arrived at the 25th Floor started to look around as if they were tourists, seemingly having forgotten the test they just endured.

The first thing they noticed was the sky that was clearer and bluer than any other floor. Small, snow-like motes of clouds, clean and refreshing air. The gentle cries of birds and the verdant mountain range that could be seen in the distance. It was truly a beautiful world.

The place the players had arrived at was atop an altar. And at the top of this altar stood statues that represented Britain.

“Woah...”

“So are these the famous Knights of the Round Table?”

“It’s pretty cool.”

Close to 150 bronze statues surrounded the altar. They were the knights that represented Britain. Every single one of them was a Ranker, the swords and shields that protected Britain. And among them, stood the biggest bronze statue.

“That statue...” Mamos pointed at the bronze figure that stood out the most. “Is that person King Arthur?”

The great knight who was holding up the brilliant sword Excalibur. The man with flowing blonde hair atop the white horse was but a statue, but one could feel his majesty just from looking at it.

It started to feel real.

Arthur. The one called the “King of Knights.” The great master of The Round Table who established Britain. Right now...

“—That’s right. That was my body.”

He was inside 「Kyneē,」 still desiring a new body.

‘Have you not gotten over such a petty thing?’

“—It’s not petty! Is it that difficult for you to procure me a body that’s at least a bit human-like?”

‘If you’re fine with the cow I hunted earlier...’

“—Cough.”

Arthur quickly closed his mouth.

Rather than a quadruped like that monster, he seemed to still prefer something biped like the Orc.

“That’s probably it.”

“I heard that the current king of Britain is Lancelot, but I guess they haven’t changed the statue yet.”

“He’s still just a temporary king.”

After Arthur disappeared, the vacant seat of the King of Britain was given to Lancelot. But at the end of the day, it was still a temporary position until Arthur returned.

The throne of Britain had been in a state of vacancy for the past thousand years.

“Still, I am a bit curious.”

Mamos looked around at the world of Britain that was more beautiful than any other world. Being born a demon, he had only recently realized that such beautiful worlds existed.

“Arthur, who created this world, and Lancelot, who ruled for over a thousand years. I wonder what kind of people they are...”

“That won’t be difficult.”

“Pardon?”

Clip, clop—

Noisy clopping was heard, and YuWon turned his attention to the path that led up to the altar.

“You’ll see him soon.”

Three white horses and the knights wearing heavy plate armor riding them. Their horses were making noise as they went up the road, approaching the players who had just arrived in their world.

“The Round Table I know doesn't just sit around.”

Chapter 124

“Are those the Knights of the Round Table?” Mamos had an amused expression.

Pure white armor and horses. They definitely looked emblematic of “The Round Table.”

“Not all of them.” YuWon looked at the foremost knight in the group that was approaching them. “One of them is.”

At least one of them was a Ranker that was worthy enough to sit at the Round Table. And just by being able to sit at the Round Table, they would be among the top one hundred strongest members of the group.

Clip, clop—

The horses came closer.

YuWon saw the face of the knight in the front and tried to remember him.

‘Who was it...’

A face that tickled his memory. It was someone he had definitely seen at least once before.

As he looked through his memories, a name came to mind.

‘Knight Pervial. The 31st Knight of the Round Table.’

But why had he come here personally?

The distance between them was quickly reduced, and Percival spoke while still on his horse, “Are you the ones who have come up after passing the test this time?”

A Knight of the Round Table was asking them personally. It was something an ordinary player couldn’t even dream of.

In terms of “coolness,” there wasn’t a guild that people longed to get into more than The Round Table.

“Yes!”

“My name is Tual.”

“I am Oren.”

“I am Ellie Rosamond. As a pureblood...”

They fussed about, trying to introduce themselves. It was an understandable reaction.

‘If I garner favor with a Knight of the Round Table here...’

‘I’ll be able to become a member of The Round Table.’

‘If I’m able to become a Ranker of The Round Table, I’ll be able to get into any of the Big Guilds. And since The Round Table is one of the fastest growing guilds right now, it might also be okay to stay here forever.’

They were all dreaming their own dreams.

However, the actual Knight of the Round Table didn’t really pay them much attention.

“What about you two?”

His attention moved to YuWon and Mamos.

They couldn’t really dodge his question since he was asking so openly and directly.

“I am Kim YuWon.”

“Mamos.”

Yuwon had thought that Mamos was a soft kid, but he had replied quite coldly.

Percival looked at Mamos for a bit then got off his horse.

“I am Percival. Welcome,” he greeted the players that had arrived at the 25th Floor.

A polite and courteous attitude was an uncommon trait for a Ranker who had climbed to the top of the Tower. Even more so if they were from a large-scale guild like The Round Table.

However, this was the natural mentality of the Knights of the Round Table—chivalry. This was also the mentality of the first monarch of Britain, Arthur.

“Percival?”

“Have you heard of him before?”

“He’s part of the upper half of the Rankers of The Round Table. I’ve heard of him a few times before.”

“Hoh...”

Seeing that his name was known to players from the lower floors, he had some influence within The Round Table itself as well. If he found someone favorable, that person would probably be able to get into The Round Table immediately without much hassle.

“It’s good to see everyone. Maybe because you’ve all only just gotten here, but you all feel like fresh younglings. Hahaha.” After laughing heartily, Percival looked around at the ten players. “I have come here on the orders of His Majesty. He is looking for a

player among the ones who have climbed this time to fill the empty seat in the Round Table.”

An empty seat in the Round Table. This was enough to put the players into shock.

‘By an empty seat in the Round Table...’

‘Does he mean a Knight of the Round Table?’

‘Is he saying he’ll pick a prospect for the guild? From among us?’

‘Since Kim YuWon is already known to not join any guild, it could be me...’

Everyone was thinking the same thing. Although The Round Table mobilized to scout YuWon, the chance that the guild would fail was decently high this time as well. So then there was a possibility that the empty seat could be filled by them.

Just by being a part of The Round Table, one would be able to wield an incredible amount of influence and authority.

“Well, we’ll talk about the details at a later time. First, aren’t you tired after just finishing the test? Although Britain is not far from here, let’s go together.”

“That’s good with me!”

“M-Me too!”

“I’ve always wanted to come to Britain at least once.”

This was quite the normal reaction, even if they weren’t trying to get into Britain. As Britain controlled half the world, it was a big enough country where one could say they controlled the entirety of the 25th Floor. Wanting to visit such a place was naturally on a lot of people’s bucket lists.

The only ones that didn’t immediately accept the offer were just two people.

“Bro, what are you going to do?”

One of them was Mamos. He was a little uncertain about the current situation.

“It smells a bit fishy.”

“Let’s go for now.”

“I think they’re trying to slowly break you down and lure you to their side. I can see it so obviously.”

A Ranker had personally come to guide players. Even if it was a Knight of the Round Table that put importance on chivalry, this was still a rare occurrence.

One could assume they had a certain goal with this, such as scouting out a specific player.

“Lure me...”

YuWon looked at Percival with doubtful eyes. He certainly looked like one of the world-renowned 'Knights of the Round Table' as he kindly answered all the questions the other players were asking him.

It wasn't odd for The Round Table to scout YuWon for their guild since even bigger guilds than them had tried to scout him before.

"Well. Who knows what will happen."

But he couldn't think too lightly on this.

"Because that place is a giant 'net' made to catch you."

Hargaan had told him to be wary of Britain. He recommended YuWon not remain there after arriving on the 25th Floor and move straight to the 26th if possible. Britain had laid a net to capture YuWon for certain.

Perhaps...

"Mamos."

"Yes?"

"This is just a 'what if'..."

Yuwon then talked about some situations that came to mind.

"Nah, no way."

"That's why this is just a 'what if.'"

"Hmm... I understand. I'll keep it in mind for now."

As Percival started to guide the others, Mamos looked at Percival's back with a doubtful expression.

"I really don't think they'll be that dishonorable."

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

Click, clop—

The players including YuWon and Mamos followed the footsteps of the three horses.

Britain wasn't too far away. From the start, the point at which the players had arrived after completing the test was on the border between Britain and another country.

They soon arrived at a city surrounded by high walls.

The capital of Britain, Camelot.

After walking for a few hours, they arrived at the ramparts which were guarded by many knights and soldiers in rows.

“We’re here.”

Neigh—

Percival turned and stopped his horse and looked at Mamos.

“But there is a problem...”

Mamos looked around his surroundings. Then he noticed a second later that Percival was looking at him.

“Me?”

“Yes. You.”

Mamos was curious about what he meant, and Percival spoke in a regretful tone, “Unfortunately, Britain severely restricts the entry of demons. It’s hard for a demon whose identity we haven’t confirmed yet to enter.”

“What? What year is this? Isn’t this racism?”

Mamos’s expression turned very dark. Even though he still had the face of a ten-year-old, demonic energy flowed out from the emotionally hurt Mamos.

The players that had come with him were teammates that had fought next to Mamos. Seeing him become enraged, they tensed. If a fight were to happen right now, they couldn’t guarantee that they would come out unharmed as bystanders.

“Did Britain have such a law?”

This was a law that even YuWon was hearing for the first time.

Realistically, unless it was under special circumstances such as a war, you couldn’t restrict a specific race in the Tower. If that happened, they wouldn’t be able to survive the arrows of criticism.

Not just anywhere, but Britain was going out of their way to restrict a race of players. At least in YuWon’s memory, this had never happened before.

“This is a bill that was implemented after consideration after the sudden disappearance of the first king of Britain. As this is a sensitive matter, I hope you understand.” After saying that, Percival turned to YuWon quietly. “Of course, the story would change if you vouch for that man.”

“What? Fuck! Hey, do you know who my father is?”

It was a statement as childish as he looked. Since he couldn’t win in a fight against a Ranker, he had brought up his background and lineage.

But the opponent was one of the Knights of the Round Table. He was someone who could just ignore most backgrounds.

“Naturally, I do not. However, no matter who your father is, the laws of Britain will not change.”

“My father is Belial! You bastard!”

Seeing Mamos’s enraged shouting, Percival looked surprised for the first time.

The “Monarch of Lies” Belial. One of the Seven Demon Lords that led the big guild Demon Lords. He was also one of the High-Rankers in the top 100, so the power he possessed was comparable to that of The Round Table.

And this child was the son of Belial.

“You dare doubt my identity?”

“That’s...”

“Do you want me to tell my dad? Huh?”

It really was extremely childish. YuWon was getting secondhand embarrassment from just hearing what was being said.

However, Percival, who was the one actually being confronted by Mamos, was sweating because of this predicament.

It was understandable since that ‘dad’ of his was one of the Seven Demon Lords.

“You probably won’t have to worry about his identity.”

At YuWon’s words, Percival hurriedly nodded his head. “Th-That seems to be the case.”

“Then let’s go inside. I don’t think I need to vouch for him any more than this.”

“...Yes. Let’s go.”

After hesitating for a second, Percival turned his horse again.

Now, there really wasn’t a need to check his identity. If he continued to have a problem with his race and persecuted Mamos here, it could grow into a fight between the Monarch of Lies and The Round Table.

Rumble—

The castle gate slowly lifted.

Inside, the capital of Britain, Camelot, revealed itself.

And while the castle gate was opening...

Vwing—

YuWon’s player kit rang.

Turning to his side, he could see that Mamos was moving his fingers and sending YuWon some messages.

YuWon typed into his player kit and replied.

He seemed to have been pretty pissed as his typing speed was quite fast.

After replying vaguely, YuWon immediately put his player kit back into his inner pocket.

The castle gate had completely opened.

He could see a lot of people moving around inside. Among the tightly packed buildings, YuWon could see a tall castle that looked as if it touched the sky.

They were here.

Step—

And just like that, YuWon took a step into the “Heart of Britain,” Camelot.

And at that moment...

[?'s Egg is bearing its teeth.]

[?'s Egg is begging for food.]

The Outer God egg that YuWon had rang.

Chapter 125

A reaction had come. It was the reaction he was waiting for, and the Egg fulfilled its role this time as well, just like last time.

‘So it’s here too.’

The head of 《Yamata no Orochi,》 obtained from the test on the 1st Floor.

The [Holy Fire,] which had been nestled within the Heavenly Demonic Cult in the murim of the 10th Floor.

And now in Britain on the 25th Floor.

The vestiges of the Outer Gods were rooted in more places than he initially thought.

‘The problem is what form it’s in and where...’

[?’s Egg cries out.]

[?’s Egg wriggles.]

[?’s Egg is...]

The messages were blaring.

YuWon furrowed his brows as he felt the Egg’s wriggling movement from inside his inventory.

‘I got it, I got it.’

[?’s Egg is urging you to hurry.]

Did this mean its incubation was nearly completed? Its head seemed to have gotten bigger as it sent quite a bunch of different messages.

Well, since it hadn’t eaten for a while, it must have been quite hungry. YuWon had told it he would soon let it eat an Outer God, but a lot of time had already passed since then.

‘Since my Heaven-Slaying Star is complete, it really is just this guy left.’

This nameless Egg was a reward he had gotten after finishing the Tutorial. Although he hadn’t expected anything grand, he ended up getting an egg that he didn’t even know what was inside it. Whether it had a chunk of gold or a bomb that would explode, that was something no one knew.

But YuWon had decided he would definitely hatch this guy. He had made this decision after it greedily ate the corpse of 《Yamata no Orochi.》

‘This might grow to become the natural enemy...’ YuWon’s eyes sparkled as he looked inside his inventory, ‘Of the Outer Gods.’

* * *

Percival guided YuWon into the castle.

“His Majesty wishes to see you.”

By ‘His Majesty,’ he meant the one currently being treated as Britain’s king, Lancelot.

As one of the High-Rankers of The Round Table with Merlin, Lancelot was the second person to receive the title of “King of Knights,” after King Arthur.

“Although it’ll be difficult for him to see you today, could you give us some time?”

“Seems like His Majesty is swamped with his duties.”

“He is quite busy due to matters of the nation.”

There was no reason for YuWon to decline.

“Sure.”

The castle was large with many empty rooms. YuWon was assigned one of them.

He had separated from Mamos beforehand. Although Percival thought he was YuWon's companion and wanted Mamos to go to the castle as well, the reply that he got in return was cold.

"How dare a disgusting demon like him try to enter?"

It was a reply that had no room for negotiation, and so YuWon was the only one who entered the castle in the end.

"Why are you so quiet?" YuWon asked Arthur after getting into his room.

Although he must have been filled with emotions, Arthur hadn't talked a single time after entering Britain.

"—This place hasn't changed at all."

"Are you talking about the castle?"

"—Yes."

"It looks to be an old building."

"—It is old. It's at least older than me."

He seemed to be deep in reminiscing. After existing as an Undead for over a thousand years, he had finally smelled the scent of his home.

"—Although it looks like all the other places have changed."

"Are you talking about outside the castle?"

"—Back when I was here, it felt more like a countryside town."

A countryside town? It wasn't something YuWon could imagine properly. The Camelot of the present was one of the top five biggest cities in the Tower.

"—But why did you come here? I definitely remember Olympus warning you."

"Didn't you say you had someone you needed to meet?"

"—You mean Merlin?"

"Yes."

"—You came all the way here just to meet that one friend?"

"Didn't you request it of me? That you must meet him again."

Even though YuWon hadn't said anything wrong, Arthur still felt something was off.

"—Although that's true... I didn't expect you to be so stubborn. I thought you were more the calculative type."

Although he hadn't been with YuWon for a long time, Arthur had a decent eye for people.

"Did I look like that?"

“—That’s right. Exceedingly so. All your actions had a goal, a reason, a plan, and had certainty. You had the skill to back it up as well.”

Shwooo—

Arthur’s soul left 「Kyneē」 and circled around YuWon. He stopped in front of him and asked YuWon a question.

“—Were you a bit more emotionally driven this time? Why? Because of me?”

“Although that had something to do with it...”

“—Then?”

“You saw me wrong from the start.”

Even at the sharp cut off answer, Arthur just reacted as nonchalantly.

“—Well, even if you have the talent, since you don’t have the experience, it’s understandable that you are driven more by emotion.”

Arthur’s mood became brighter as he continued to talk.

“—But if you want to be a Ranker, you can’t fight with your emotions. You need to maintain your heart like a calm pond without ripples...”

“That isn’t it.” It looked as if he would continue to talk for a long time, so YuWon cut him off. “I’m saying I didn’t come here without any thought.”

“—What?”

“Watch me closely...” YuWon observed the Britain that could be seen far below outside the window. “As I flip Britain upside down.”

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

The Round Table had a total of 150 knights. They were all Rankers, and the closer they were to the 1st seat, the higher their rank was.

The 149th knight of the Round Table, Pendrac. He was the knight that was most recently chosen to be in The Round Table.

‘I’ve finally made it here.’

It was a seat that was given to him not long after he became a Ranker. It was thanks to the effort he put in by making his name known in the lower floors and entering into The Round Table early on before he became a Ranker. Although it was the lowest position, he had put his name in with The Round Table. Just that was enough to set his life on the royal road.

“Hmm~ hahh.”

Pendrac walked around the castle garden and smelled the flowers. It was sweet and refreshing. It felt like this flowerbed and the beautiful garden were all his.

It was then...

Rustle—

Thwip, drop, drop—

A branch fell on his head, and then the leaves, and then the dust and sand that were mixed in with them.

Shooo—

The good feeling he had disappeared, and a chill filled the air.

Pendrac lifted his head.

He could see a ladder and a young maid on it. She was probably tending to the garden.

“I-I-I-I... I’m sorry!”

Was she just about 20 years old?

The maid with freckles on her face hurriedly climbed down the ladder while repeatedly apologizing as she descended. She ended up falling off it.

Tumble—

“Ack! Ughhh...”

Thankfully, she fell on her backside and didn’t get injured much.

Pendrac quickly got up from his spot and approached the maid.

“You’re sorry?” he said with a chilling voice. “About what?”

The maid hurriedly stood up.

Although it was the first time she was seeing him, he had the insignia of a sword on his chest, which symbolized being a Knight of the Round Table.

“I-I dropped a branch... on sir knight’s head...”

“You know well,” Pendrac nodded with a satisfied expression.

Seeing his kind expression, the maid’s expression also started to get brighter.

All the knights of Britain learn chivalry. That meant protecting the poor and facing the strong in battle.

She might be forgiven.

But that hope quickly faded.

“If you did something wrong...”

Shwing—

“You must be punished.”

The sword was slowly pulled out from the scabbard.

The maid’s face went pale.

Seeing the maid slowly step back, Pendrac wore a sickening smile.

“Don’t worry too much. I won’t cut off your head for something like this. Yeah, let’s see...” Pendrac’s gaze swept past the maid’s arms and legs. “Where should I...”

Thwip, drop, drop—

A pile of leaves and branches fell on top of Pendrac’s head, even more than the previous amount. There were so many that it looked like they made up Pendrac’s hair.

“My goodness, what a blunder.”

Pendrac craned his neck. He saw pale white hair, a face full of wrinkles, and clothes made of ragged cloth.

The one who dared to mess up his hair was the old gardener who managed the garden.

“I apologize. Mistakes happen more now that I’m old.”

“Apologize...?”

Pendrac’s eyes flashed with anger.

A young maid and an old gardener. Even if he cut them down, it wouldn’t be hard to manage the consequences since he was one of the Knights of the Round Table.

“Well, it’s good that you know your wrongdoings.” Pendrac moved his sword.

“Especially for you, I’ll only take two of your legs.”

Shwing—

The sword slashed, aiming for his legs. It was going to cut them clean off.

The maid who was startled couldn’t move but to scream, and the old man didn’t react and just stood there.

However, what occurred next was unbelievable.

Clang—!

It sounded as if the sword had hit a sturdy steel block.

The old man’s legs didn’t get cut. Rather, a small crack appeared on Pendrac’s sword.

“So the cost for the sin of dirtying your hair is two legs?” The old man narrowed his eyes. “Then, let’s see what your sins weigh.”

Only then did Pendrac sense something was off.

He had thought the old man to be just an ordinary gardener. However, there was no way an ordinary gardener could have blocked his sword like it was nothing.

At that moment, Pendrac's eyes went wide.

"You... Are you..."

There was only one person in Britain who was a Ranker and also looked that old.

The one who created Britain and The Round Table with the "King of Knights" Arthur. Titled the "Great Magician," the Ranker who had been guarding Britain for the longest time.

"Merlin?"

"So you at least know my name."

Pendrac's face froze.

Merlin was someone that not even Lancelot, the current king of Britain, could mess with. As a High-Ranker with a decently high ranking, some even joked that he was half of Britain's military might.

But he had just tried to slash that Merlin.

"I-I-I... I apolo—"

"Looks like you know you should be sorry." Merlin smiled and nodded with a pleased expression.

Seeing his kind face, Pendrac thought for an instant that this could end peacefully, since Merlin wasn't injured at all either.

However, that expectation disappeared in an instant.

"If you did something wrong..."

Pendrac felt as if he had heard this before.

"You need to be punished, right?"

It was the same thing Pendrac had said to the maid just then.

* * *

"Tsk, tsk." Merlin clicked his tongue as he walked through the garden. He muttered the phrase he had been repeating a lot recently, "It's the end times, the end times."

He also muttered something along the lines of "Kids these days" and then said the same things he had heard from his own elders when he was growing up.

"Is that right?"

"It is true."

A reply came from the empty garden.

Merlin stopped walking and turned his body. In that place stood a young man.

“Do you have business with me?”

“I do.”

“This is my first time seeing you.”

YuWon didn’t drag it out and directly introduced himself, “I am Kim YuWon.”

Merlin mumbled YuWon’s name multiple times before asking, “Are you perhaps the new player who just came up?”

“Yes.”

“I feel like I’ve heard your name before. Lancelot, did that guy invite you?”

Merlin talked about Lancelot, the current king of Britain and the guildmaster of The Round Table, as if he was talking about a young child.

In truth, since he talked like this even when Arthur was king, no one criticized him for it.

“Sure. Why were you looking for me? It looks like you searched for me on purpose, so it doesn’t seem that you only wanted to see my face.”

“It’s about King Arthur.”

Merlin’s expression froze.

Arthur.

As a long time had passed, that name had become Merlin’s weak spot.

“If you want to ask me about that friend, then go back. I don’t want to remember someone who I was purposely forget—”

Shwing—

As YuWon had pulled out half the sword, Merlin’s gaze wavered.

“That sword. Where did you get it?”

Chapter 126

Merlin had a troubled expression. He looked like he was angry, and he also just looked surprised as well.

Although YuWon couldn’t tell for sure what emotions Merlin was feeling, it was certain that his gaze was wavering.

The bait had been hooked.

Well, he had no choice but to bite because the sword YuWon had pulled out was originally Arthur’s.

“Didn’t you just tell me to go back?”

“Do you think I’m playing with you right now?”

Merlin’s eyes went white. A frighteningly tranquil mana swirled around him.

Fwooooo—

Rumble, rumble—

Light winds blew, and in an instant, a rain cloud formed in the sky.

Merlin's Arcane Power was strong enough to alter even the weather. This wasn't even a skill but the result of the flow of mana that changed with his emotions.

Seeing this spectacle, YuWon remembered Merlin's title.

It was "Great Magician," the title that Merlin alone possessed in the Tower.

"It's a little awkward here, so let's talk inside."

Yuwon sheathed 「Excalibur.」

Step, step—

He turned around and walked into the castle like nothing happened.

The rain clouds that had gathered overhead turned white again.

Merlin stared at YuWon's back for a bit and then followed after him.

But then, YuWon turned around.

"What now?"

"I don't know the way."

Although he had been to Britain before, today was the first time that YuWon was entering the castle.

"Let's have some tea."

* * *

Merlin took YuWon and went to the castle's reception room.

A large 60 pyeong* room. It was the place where most knights and nobles had meetings over tea. As a place that could accommodate dozens of people in it, it was far too spacious for just two people.

Clack—

Merlin put down his cup after taking a sip of his tea.

The maid that brought the tea stepped outside, and now it was just the two of them in the room.

"Explain now." Merlin said out loud the thoughts he had been holding back, expressing that he had waited long enough. "How did you get that sword?"

"I found this relic by chance."

"A relic..."

Merlin's expression was conflicted. But unlike the first time, he didn't get too worked up. Seeing that YuWon was holding Arthur's sword, he could guess up to a certain point.

"It's honestly more refreshing now that I know for sure."

Sadness, longing, relief, and other such expressions appeared on Merlin's face.

YuWon gave him some time to sort out his emotions, which would take quite a bit to do. Even more so since the news was something he had been waiting for for over a thousand years. Even a few days or weeks wouldn't be enough.

It was just because YuWon was in front of him right now that Merlin quickly got through them and asked, "Do you know that friend? How did you know to come find me?"

Hearing Merlin's question, YuWon shook his head. "I only got to know him a few months ago."

"...Is that so." After answering without thinking, Merlin felt something was odd.

"Only got to know him a few months ago? The King of Knights?"

"King of Knights" Arthur. Just looking at his rank when he was alive, he was just a knight that couldn't even become a High-Ranker. However, his talent and the feats he had achieved were above what most High-Rankers had done. Arthur was the Ranker who constructed The Round Table on the 25th Floor within the vicinity of the big guilds and became the first king of Britain.

More than anything else...

"You didn't know the King of Knights but knew his sword..." Merlin narrowed his eyes. "Something is off."

If YuWon hadn't known Arthur, he wouldn't have been able to recognize the sword and came to find Merlin. On top of that, this was the first time Merlin and YuWon were meeting.

The story didn't match up. It was a situation where doubt would naturally arise.

However...

"I feel like you're misunderstanding something."

Shwoo—

Black smoke flowed out of 「Kyneē」 from the back of YuWon's hand.

Merlin didn't see the smoke because he was still staring at YuWon's eyes.

"When I said I got to know him, I didn't mean I learned what kind of person he was."

"Then what do you mean?"

"I meant I conversed with him for the first time."

Merlin's gaze shook minutely.

"No, wait. Was that friend alive then?"

"Not that..."

As expected, rather than words, showing Merlin would be more direct.

"But something like this."

YuWon nodded his head, looking behind Merlin.

And simultaneously, Merlin felt the minute flow of mana behind him.

Shwaaa—

The black smoke gathered.

Now, not just YuWon but Merlin could see it too.

Psshhh—

The smoke settled into its color and form.

Nose, mouth, and empty eye sockets formed the small skull.

The undead Orc showed itself.

[You have summoned ‘Arthur.’]

It was a hideous form. Not a human but the body of an Orc. It was honestly a relief that he at least had clothes on. If not, this would have looked a dozen times worse.

“You are a necromancer? You have a valuable skill set.”

Bzzzt—

Unusual mana flowed out from Merlin’s body. From his perspective, he felt YuWon’s action to summon the Undead was a threatening move.

But of course...

“So what are you going to do? Are you going to bully me?”

Even then, Merlin didn’t think that YuWon could harm him.

He had heard multiple times that YuWon was incredible. There were even rumors that he was the strongest player ever.

But from Merlin’s position, YuWon wasn’t the ‘strongest,’ but just another player.

“Of course not.” YuWon smirked.

Seeing that he wasn’t being hostile, Merlin made a curious face at what YuWon was trying to do.

“Let’s converse now.”

“‘Converse’...?”

Merlin’s eyes went wide. There was a thought that flew through his mind for an instant.

Arthur’s sword.

Necromancer.

Then...

“Old man.”

Hearing the Undead’s first few words—

“It’s been a while.”

—Merlin broke down sobbing.

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

YuWon left the area to let Merlin and Arthur have their reunion.

He could just see and hear whatever Arthur was seeing and hearing, so he would know what the two were talking about, but YuWon didn’t do that. He didn’t want to disturb their reunion.

And after sufficient time passed, YuWon went back into the reception hall.

“You terrible child... This...”

Merlin was still crying.

He was always kind and mature, and sometimes showed an eccentric side, but this was the first time YuWon had seen Merlin like this.

‘Looks like he was pretty torn up.’

Arthur called Merlin ‘old man’ only when they were alone. Only Merlin knew this fact. Publicly, Arthur called Merlin ‘Sir Magician’ and showed him respect.

Although he was an Undead that looked like an Orc made of bones right now, Merlin didn’t seem to care about that at all.

“Old man, calm down. It’s not like a dead person has come back to life, so why are you like this?”

“Then how do you explain your form right now?”

“Now you’re talking properly.”

Merlin wiped away the tear tracks on his face with one hand. He glanced sideways and saw that YuWon had entered the reception hall again.

“Ahem.”

“Ah, don’t mind me.”

“...Please forget that.”

His shame finally caught up to him.

YuWon nodded and replied understandingly. Of course, they were only words, but this scene was something that could never be forgotten.

“More than that, old man.” Arthur’s voice became serious. “I have something to say.”

“Hmm...”

“What is it?”

Merlin looked at Arthur’s form awkwardly.

“It’s quite weird seeing you try to be serious with that body.”

“That’s because that guy...!”

Arthur ground his teeth and turned his gaze to YuWon. Although he didn’t have eyes, Arthur was probably staring at YuWon with eyes full of anger.

The Orc made of bones was angry.

It was quite a funny scene.

“So? What’s the thing you have to say? Who’s the guy that killed you?”

Merlin looked ready to go out and fight right that moment if he was asked to.

Arthur shook his head. On top of that being unnecessary, the target of revenge was also dead now. If he had to, he could take vengeance against the Three Precious Children, but even for Merlin, they were too powerful.

“No. I don’t need something like revenge now.”

“I beg to differ.”

“Then do it later. The person we need to take vengeance on is not on that side.”

“Then?”

“Lancelot.”

Crack—

The Orc bared its fangs.

“That bastard killed my son.”

“...What?”

Merlin’s eyes went wide, and mana started to flow unnaturally around him.

Tap—

But then YuWon grabbed Merlin’s shoulder from behind.

Merlin turned his head.

“Please calm down. If you make a commotion here, this will just become known to unnecessary people.”

“Then are you telling me to stay still after hearing something like this?”

“You still need to stay calm. For now.”

“For now...”

Maybe it was because he had been surprised quite a few times in a short period of time, but unlike his normal temperament, Merlin was quite fidgety right now.

Well, the incident of the son of the King of Knights disappearing was one of the biggest incidents in Britain. Arthur had been enraged because of this, and Britain fell into sorrow for a while.

And not long after that, Arthur disappeared as well.

‘Unfortunate that the King of Knights’ other nickname was the “Knight of Tragedy.”

The unexplained disappearances of both the father and son. Tragedy didn’t even begin to describe it.

At least it looked like Arthur knew of Lancelot’s betrayal in the end.

But that end came when he died at the hands of Susanoo without being able to tell anyone.

“Then is Lancelot the one who killed you as well?”

“There’s no way. Do you think I would get done in by someone like that?”

“That’s true. You were stronger back then.”

““Back then?”

“That guy, Lancelot. He’s a High-Ranker now. He climbed up the ranks pretty quickly.”

He had become one of the two High-Rankers of Britain. Lancelot wasn’t the same as when Arthur knew him from before. No matter how quickly Arthur became famous as the King of Knights, it was impossible for him to defeat Lancelot in his current state.

Above all...

“And he’s the current king of Britain.”

Hearing YuWon’s words, Merlin nodded. “Yes. That is the biggest problem. If you just kill him without a plan, Britain and The Round Table might collapse.”

Merlin had the power to fight The Round Table by himself. But even though that was possible, it wasn’t reasonable to go to war against The Round Table just because of Lancelot.

In the end, they needed a way to drag Lancelot out.

“Arthur, how about you going out and facing him?”

“Then he’ll say that I’m being controlled to slander him. Undeads need to follow the commands of their master.”

“Hmm... That is true.”

From what Arthur had said about Lancelot, he was someone who was unworthy of sitting on the throne.

The reason Lancelot killed Arthur's son was definitely in preparation to overthrow Arthur and become the king of Britain. On top of that, it was becoming pretty hard to deny that Lancelot was unrelated to Arthur's death.

The worries began to pile up.

Then YuWon spoke up. "There is a way."

"A way? What is it?"

"When is the Round Table Conference happening?"

Merlin spoke after thinking of the time it would happen, "About... ten days."

"Could a person not part of The Round Table also attend?"

"It's usually impossible, but if I help you, nothing is impossible."

"Then that's good."

The biggest problem was being able to attend the Round Table Conference. But if he could get in, then there was indeed a way.

"On that day, let's flip the Round Table."

Chapter 127

The long hall was covered by a red carpet.

A man dressed in red dragon robes walked through the spacious golden royal palace.

Step, step—

The man was being guided by two knights onto the throne, which was hard but wide, an extravagant seat.

Flap—

The man took off the long dragon robes.

He had green hair, a small mole under his eye, and a sharp, smooth jawline.

Lancelot sat on his throne for the first time in a while.

Only after this did the Knights of the Round Table speak up.

"Has your work been done?"

"Yes."

"It's a relief that you are safe and sound."

"It's thanks to you all."

Lancelot took time to take a deep breath after sitting on the throne.

A spacious and beautiful castle. The heart of Britain and the center of Camelot. And the most noble seat inside.

‘Exhilarating.’

The seat of the king was always sweet to sit on, no matter the occasion. It was natural since he was given everyone’s respect, and they all looked up at him. The seat that was more addictive than any drug—that was the seat of the king.

“Has anything happened while I was gone?”

“Nothing of note has happened.”

Receiving the report of the two knights, Lancelot nodded in satisfaction.

He replied with something befitting a king of a nation, “Put the wellbeing of the citizens as the top priority. That is the will of the King of Knights.”

“Your will is our command.”

The two knights knelt in front of Lancelot.

They were the Knights of the Round Table, Thal and Lollit. These two were loyal subjects to the King of Knights that had sat at the Round Table since long ago.

Using the phrase “the will of the King of Knights” was the easiest way to make them move.

Lancelot asked a question of the knights that took the 31st and 42nd seats of the Round Table, “What happened with that man?”

“Are you talking about the new player that came up?”

“Yes. That Kim YuWon.”

“Yes. He has currently been invited to the castle under the command of Your Majesty. But... how did you know him?”

Lancelot had presided on this seat for a long time. As the king of Britain, there was only one scenario where he would need to leave the king’s seat.

“I was able to acquire information about him through Asgard.”

That was to meet the major guild Asgard that was above The Round Table.

“From Asgard?”

“Does that mean Asgard is also looking out for that player?”

There were quite a lot of rumors about Kim YuWon. A lot of major guilds had already contacted him, and it was a well-known fact that many had scouted him to join their guild.

On top of that, the thing that made Kim YuWon even more famous was the fact that even after all that, he wasn’t part of a single guild.

The strongest player without allegiance.

It was obvious that he would be tasty prey for many major guilds.

“That’s not it.”

Lancelot's expression changed.

"...I heard terrifying news."

"What is it?"

"Asgard was researching his supporter. It was strange no matter how much they thought about it. For a player with unknown origins and backgrounds to be able to become this strong this fast..."

It was quite odd. How was a player who wasn't even a pureblood able to sweep through every record and climb the Tower this quickly? And how was he able to become that strong as well? It was something that was impossible unless he was receiving support from someone.

"While doing that, they discovered a terrifying truth." Lancelot wore a saddened expression. "It was... that YuWon's supporter had something to do with the death of the King of Knights."

"What...?"

"Is that... true?"

One must never raise their voice in the presence of the king. That was the law of Britain and the code of chivalry followed by the knights that protected the king.

Even so, Thal and Lollit forgot about it for an instance and half-stood from where they were sitting.

It was natural. For the first time in a thousand years, a clue about King Arthur's death was found.

"We're not fully certain. Asgard is still slowly and quietly digging into his background. So this fact must only be known by you two. If something happens, the efforts we've put in until now may be in vain."

"Are you telling us to keep this a secret?"

"Yes. But..."

Crunch—

In his rage, Lancelot had broken an armrest by crushing it with his hand.

"I can't just let him be like this."

Hearing this, Thal and Lollit both looked at each other. Only then did the two of them understand why Lancelot called them in privately.

Clang—

The two knights knelt on one knee.

"Please give us your order, my lord."

They awaited Lancelot's command.

* * *

Thal and Lollit left the castle.

Lancelot stayed seated on his throne.

“Hmm~ haah.” Lancelot took another deep breath.

Just by sitting on this seat, he felt ecstasy enough to melt his mind.

“As I thought, this seat is the best.”

He sat there for a while and satisfied his ego.

Although he was only king for a short time, Lancelot felt that that time was far too long.

“Stupid fools. Not even able to differentiate between friend and foe.” The corner of Lancelot’s mouth tipped up in a smirk.

When he was talking about Arthur’s death, the expressions on Thal and Lollit’s faces were quite entertaining. They seemed to still hold a grudge against something that had happened over a thousand years ago, and vengeance had clouded their minds.

After checking the two had left the castle, Lancelot pulled out his own player kit from his inventory.

He called someone.

“It’s Lancelot.”

Report.

A low baritone voice.

Even though it was over the player kit, Lancelot was still very nervous.

“Just as you said, I sent two of them.”

Who did you send?

“Thal and Lollit. The 31st and 42nd on the Round Table.”

And their motive?

“I’ve planted a seed of vengeance about Arthur’s death. They’ll probably not care about the penalty and just charge in.”

Rankers shouldn’t attack players. And if they did, they would receive a penalty per the will of the Tower.

But that was a problem afterwards.

Thal and Lollit were loyal followers of King Arthur who would give up their lives for him if given the chance. Since these two had been implanted with the idea of ‘revenge,’ the result was already decided.

“For the crime of harming a player, the two will be personally sent away to deal with that. A dog that can no longer hunt will be disposed of.” Lancelot smirked. “When that happens, The Round Table won’t be put under restraints from the Administrator.”

Well done.

“Thank you.” Lancelot answered while bowing his head as if he was honored.

And before the call ended, he said the same thing he always did.

“For the Sea of Olympus.”

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

Late at night...

It was a time where everyone had fallen asleep. The lights in the city had gone out, and the sounds had died down as well.

But YuWon was awake. He was only laying down on his bed with his eyes closed.

“It’s starting from the first day.”

YuWon opened his eyes.

A guest had come to him.

Knock, knock—

Someone knocked on the door. They didn’t just barge in and even knocked. How kind.

But unlike the gesture, YuWon could feel strong bloodlust from the person on the other side of the door.

‘I guessed it would happen within a few days of me coming here...’

Fwoosh—

[Cinder Eyes reveals the unseen.]

YuWon stood up from his spot and looked at the guest outside.

‘But they’re faster than I thought.’

The person had enough strength in their hand to burst through the door at any time. Mana was being suppressed and distributed to all the muscles in their arm, and the bloodlust aimed at him was simmering inside them like a volcano.

It was different from just readying their strength. It was rage and bloodlust and other extreme emotions that were boiling from their heart.

‘They’re not moving because of a simple command. Their actions have a definite goal and motive.’

An enemy like this was tricky. However...

‘I need to go through it once anyways.’

After listening to what Hargaan said and after deciding to come to Britain, YuWon had thought of situations like this.

No, compared to the situations he was preparing for, this was much tamer because at least he wasn't being ambushed late at night while he was asleep.

YuWon opened the door and stepped outside.

There were two people that had knocked on the door and were waiting for YuWon.

"Are you Sir Kim YuWon?"

Knights in heavy armor.

This late at night when the sun had disappeared, armor wasn't something to be wearing right about now.

"That's right."

"Follow us for a bit," Thal and Lollit said and glared at YuWon. "We don't want to make a scene here."

Their will to drag him if he declined was obvious.

He was opposing two Rankers, and Knights of the Round Table at that. They looked to be in high seats as well. And he wasn't just facing one but two of them, so they seemed pretty determined for this.

"Sure."

YuWon's words were short. There was no need to be courteous to people who came and found him first with hostile intent.

Thal and Lollit walked to a training ground far from the castle. This was originally a place used for knights and soldiers for training. That was why it was enough for three people to fight to their hearts' content.

"Thank you for obediently following us."

"It's better for me to dance with my sword here as well."

If a fight had occurred inside the castle, no matter the reason, a problem was bound to happen. If the problem grew bigger, it was possible that he wouldn't be able to attend the Round Table Conference that would happen in ten days.

That was an outcome that must be avoided at all costs.

"Now, I'll ask you a few questions."

Shwing—

Thal pulled out his longsword from his hip.

"And, in the case that you do not answer or tell me a lie, I'll cut off a limb."

"What is it?"

“Which group killed the King of Knights?”

It was an unexpected question.

“Why do you ask me that?”

“Yeah.”

Flick—

Thal’s sword scraped by and cut YuWon’s shoulder.

“...So be it.”

He didn’t seem to cut with intent as it wasn’t that hard to dodge. The penalty didn’t even activate. That was how lightly and weakly he swung it.

‘A simple threat.’

The attack just then was only to warn him that this wasn’t a joke. The real attack would probably come next.

“I’ll ask again. Who is the one that killed the King of Knights?”

YuWon looked at Thal and Lollit’s eyes.

Rage and resentment.

Their eyes had completely blanked. There was no talking with people whose rationality had snapped.

YuWon thought for a second.

Just how was this situation concocted?

The answer wasn’t too difficult.

“Did Lancelot send you?”

“You dare...”

Hearing YuWon say the name of the king without respect enraged Thal and Lollit once again.

From their perspective, YuWon was the enemy of the King of Knights, and he had just disrespected the current king of Britain as well.

‘Not coming here himself but rather igniting vengeance among his subordinates...
He’s quite tricky.’

A short contemplation.

‘To resolve this misunderstanding, I only have the choice of showing Arthur to them like I did with Merlin. But...”

YuWon looked at Thal and Lollit’s eyes again.

Right now, that method wouldn’t work either.

‘If I showed them the undead Arthur now, they would only become sure of their delusions.’

The missing Arthur had returned as an Undead.

Lancelot had told them about an outside culprit that was connected to YuWon, and then YuWon controlled Arthur as an Undead. Rather than remove the misunderstanding, this would only deepen it.

For now, before the conversation even started, he needed to hide Arthur’s existence. Even if he thought using Arthur would solve the misunderstanding, he couldn’t right now.

And so, the only thing YuWon could do right now was one thing.

YuWon’s hands reached in and pulled out the two swords he had inside his inventory.

‘I’ll suppress them.’

Chapter 128

He had no intention of killing him. If possible, he wanted to capture YuWon alive to get some information. That was why Thal thought to only cut his arms and legs.

‘He’s faster than I thought.’

His eyes sparkled looking at YuWon’s movement as he dodged his sword.

He had heard his name many times.

Kim YuWon. The one called the strongest player.

As such, he would have a certain level of skill, and he suspected that the last attack would be blocked or dodged. But Thal didn’t expect him to dodge this easily.

It was then...

“Did Lancelot send you?”

...He said a phrase to trigger Thal and Lollit.

“You dare...”

Thal’s eyes flashed with rage.

YuWon wasn’t just related to Arthur’s death, but now he was disrespecting Lancelot, the current king of Britain.

“Let’s see if you can continue flapping that mouth after your arms and legs are cut off.”

Bzzt, bzzzz—

The flow of mana in Thal’s body increased in speed.

With that, penalty was activated and made his body suffer.

Thal had already made up his mind. And for now, the penalty wasn’t too bad.

Shwack—!

The blade's edge flew at YuWon's leg. Unlike before, this strike was aimed with true intent to take off a limb.

But then...

Clang—!

The blade was flung to the side, and Thal felt a great shock to his hand.

His eyes went wide, and just after, he could see only a black screen in front of his eyes. His sight was covered.

His senses and thoughts that had been dulled by rage had slowed his decision-making for an instant.

In that moment...

Smack—!

Thal heard the sound of a hit and saw YuWon skidding back as his body was struck away.

YuWon had one hand stretched in front of him. The thing that had darkened his vision just then was his palm.

“Are you alright?”

After entering into the fight, Lollit had calmed his boiling mana.

He was different than Thal, who had just rushed in with anger.

YuWon clicked his tongue with regret.

‘It would’ve been nice if I could’ve taken care of one first quickly.’

Ignoring a player who hadn’t become a Ranker yet was a common trait that was natural for a Ranker to have.

It couldn’t be helped. They were existences that had become Rankers after ascending beyond a mere player. Also, even among players, they were those that had made themselves known and saw the light of talent to climb to the top of the Tower.

Since that was the case, they were the ones who knew the difference between players and Rankers the best.

Thal was also subconsciously thinking this just then and let his guard down against YuWon.

‘They had a cautious one.’

Even in this enraging situation, Lollit had taken a cautious stance in battle and took it seriously, even though he knew his opponent was a player.

Although his ranking was lower, this type of enemy was more troublesome for YuWon.

“Don’t relax.” Lollit replayed YuWon’s movement over and over again in his head.

“He’s not normal.”

Shwooo—

With the flow of mana, the penalty was activated and put a load on his body.

The will of the Tower was absolute.

Lollit and Thal, every time these two people recklessly used their power to attack YuWon, the Tower forced the penalty on them.

However, they had already decided to grit through something like this.

Thal thought back to the previous scene and nodded.

“Understood.”

Step—

Lollit stepped forward.

YuWon lifted his sword and pointed it at Thal in the back.

“Is that guy not moving?”

“It’ll be a dent to our pride if we fight two-on-one against a player who’s not even a Ranker.”

“Looks like you’ve already forgotten what you just said before.”

“Don’t worry.”

Bang—

Rumble—

As Lollit stomped the ground, the earth cracked around him, pushing upwards.

“I won’t ever let myself become careless.”

As if proving his statement, Lollit increased his spirit.

[‘The 42nd knight of the Round Table’ threatens you.]

[‘The 42nd Knight of the Round Table’ requests ‘Single Combat.’]

[The Arena activates.]

Rumble—

The training grounds started to slowly change.

A high rampart appeared before their eyes. YuWon and Lollit stood in the middle of the empty field, and there was only one spectator, Thal.

‘Single Combat...’

This arena was probably a type of illusion created by Lollit’s skill.

The surrounding area appeared to be part of a battlefield but without any soldiers.

‘A type of skill that optimizes one-on-one duels. The effect of the skill breaks if a third party interferes.’

[Single Combat] was a skill with a tricky use condition. Activating it wasn't difficult, but it had the condition of being strictly 1v1. It was a skill with too easy of a dissolution condition, but in situations like YuWon was in right now, it was a different matter.

"Take your stance."

After creating the arena, Lollit waited for YuWon to lift his sword and get ready to fight.

After observing the arena created by [Single Combat,] YuWon looked at Lollit and Thal in turns.

Thal didn't seem to have any intention of butting in as he sat in his seat and waited for his turn with his arms crossed.

YuWon smirked.

"So this is chivalry?"

"Are you laughing at it?"

"Are you even trying to win? You still don't seem to be taking this seriously."

"Yes. We have always won with this method."

He wasn't wrong. This was probably how Britain and The Round Table existed as it did now.

But that was something only those who were qualified were allowed to say.

"The ones who've won like this aren't you guys."

Showing off their strengths on a platform built by those who gained peace and safety long ago in the past... It was laughable.

"Starting now, I will make you understand."

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

Clang—!

YuWon's blade struck the shield. Its sturdiness could be felt through the handle and climbed up to his wrist.

['Shield of the Round Table' protects your target.]

The effect of the skill affecting his armor wasn't ordinary.

It was hard. YuWon needed an even greater strength to break through.

[Your arm has been imbued with the power of a giant.]

[Constitution will temporarily substitute Strength.]

Crunch—

After having its proficiency increased, [Gigantification] didn't look as obvious from the outside like before. But the muscles in YuWon's arm became more sturdy and stronger as they became condensed.

Clench—

YuWon clenched his left hand which had 「Kyneē」 on it.

He gathered up his strength and punched forward.

Boom—!

“...!”

Feeling the shock spreading all over his shield, Lollit's expression faltered. He nearly got pushed back.

It was very shocking for him.

He was only paying attention to YuWon's sword, but his barehanded attack wasn't normal either.

‘He wasn't a swordsman?’

YuWon changed his stance to throw another punch.

Against an enemy with a shield, using both hands was much better than just swinging his sword because an enemy with a shield up would have their vision impeded by it.

‘Although Kyneē is a tool to use the power inside the Divine Dark Crystal...’

Clench—

He put strength into his fist again.

‘The material used to make it is adamantium.’

Bang—!

“Kugh...”

Lollit took a step back from the strength of YuWon's fist.

Just how was he so strong? After a weird flow in mana, he suddenly became much stronger.

The shield shook a little.

With this, he couldn't just keep taking hits.

Vwong-vwong—

Magic power gathered in the shield.

With that, Lollit, who was holding the shield, burst forward.

‘A charge?’

Bang—!

Although it was an impact that happened in close proximity, YuWon's body was flung back.

Thanks to planting his feet into the ground, he was able to stop himself from flying back too far, but the impact wasn't average.

Ache—

YuWon looked at Lollit again as he felt the shock in his wrist.

‘It's strong enough to break down a castle wall.’

All of Lollit's abilities, stats and skills included, were to increase his strength and shield.

It felt as if he was facing a giant tank. Without penetrating that shield, it was impossible to defeat Lollit.

Clasp—

Lollit grabbed his sword with one hand, and presented the shield with the other.

A charging stance.

“So he wants to fight with strength?”

Strength against strength. This was the method Lollit had chosen.

It wasn't a bad plan.

Honestly, it was something YuWon wanted. Because if it was strength, YuWon was quite confident in it.

Womp—

Underneath his skin, YuWon's muscles wriggled as they accepted the mana.

He couldn't handle [Gigantification] properly all this time because of his low proficiency with it and his lacking Constitution stat. Because of the high difficulty of the skill itself, he was only able to use half of the effects.

But unlike before, his proficiency with [Gigantification] had increased quite a bit, and as his level increased, so did his stats.

This much was enough.

[Constitution will temporarily substitute Strength.]

[You have enough Constitution.]

[Your body has been imbued with the strength of a giant.]

[You have succeeded in Gigantification for the first time.]

His entire body had the strength of a giant coursing through it.

YuWon sheathed his sword and hit his fists against each other.

Bang—!

“Come at me.”

* * *

Bang, bang-bang, boom—!

Shield and fist collided.

There were only brief moments where they weren't in contact as YuWon punched again and again, and Lollit took his attacks with his shield. The fight between the two had no technique nor structure.

They collided again and again while clenching their teeth.

Crack—

Vwoong—

After retreating back, Lollit put mana into his shield again.

This giant shield made of blue mana was the skill that allowed Lollit to sit at the Round Table.

‘This is the last.’

This time, he swore to finally push back that musclehead.

He gathered strength into his legs and while grasping his shield tightly, he charged forward.

Fwooosh—!

The strength to knock down a castle.

But Lollit wasn't the only one charging in.

Vwooong—

YuWon's fist stretched forward.

The two chargers finally collided.

Bang—!

Crunch, crack—

With the impact, the ground was dug up, the earth risen into the shape of a circle.

A collision between strengths.

In that moment, the blue insignia of The Round Table was drawn on Lollit's shield.

[‘Shield of the Round Table’ protects your target.]

Lollit's skill increased the strength and durability of the shield and had the ability to disperse and absorb the impact. Charging using the shield made his defensive strength his offensive strength as well.

But the actual result of the collision was the opposite of the skill's effect.

Drip—

Lollit's body was pushed back.

One step.

Two steps.

“Kugh...”

Lollit held up his shaky arms.

An attack using a shield ended the moment you were pushed back. On top of that, his pride wouldn't allow losing in a competition of strength against a player.

Creak—

He planted his feet firmly into the ground and pushed back with all his might.

He withstood it. He wasn't being pushed back.

But then...

Bang—!

Immediately after, he felt a shock through his shield.

Falter—

“Huak—!”

His knee nearly buckled for an instant.

But that single shock wasn't it.

Bang, bang-bang-bang-bang—!

The punches continued.

Crack—

Cracks started to appear on the shield, and the strength in his hand was slowly leaving him.

‘What is this idiotic...’

“If you really thought I was with the ones who killed Arthur...”

It was unbelievable. This was a player?

“If you really wanted to take revenge, then you should've given up something like chivalry when you fought me. You should've ganged up on me or used some tricks. You shouldn't have held onto something like ideals.”

Bang—!

The force acting on the shield became stronger and stronger.

His body was shaking and his shield was breaking.

This wasn't defensible.

“Trying to fight alone.”

The voice behind the shield came closer and closer, and at that...

C-Crack—

“You were not taking this seriously enough.”

Bang—!

...The shield shattered.

Chapter 129

In an instant, the scenery around Lollit changed. Somehow, the surrounding area turned back into the training grounds.

Lollit's skill [Single Combat] had ended.

Drop—

After falling to the ground, Lollit looked up. Right above him was Thal's face.

"What just..."

The situation wasn't hard to parse together.

The shattered shield, Thal and YuWon facing off against each other.

In the final moment where YuWon's fist would've hit Lollit in the face, Thal had saved him.

"What that guy's saying is right." Thal helped Lollit get up. "From here on, we'll fight together."

"I haven't lost yet."

"You need to know when to concede. Your shield has broken. And..."

Drip—

Thal looked at the blood flowing from Lollit's body.

"The penalty has already started."

"Kugh..."

Lollit bit his lip at feeling the shock of the penalty coursing through his body.

Although this was the world they lived in, it was unavoidable to receive a penalty from the Tower against a player who wasn't a Ranker.

Although the injury YuWon gave him wasn't bad right now, due to the penalty, Lollit's body was worn ragged.

"The penalty won't be as great if you just focus on defending. I'll lend you my shield."

Tang—

Thal took out a shield from his inventory and dropped it on the ground.

It was quite robust, but compared to what Lollit used originally, it was nothing.

"We'll fight together."

Lollit would focus on defense, and Thal would focus on attack. This meant that the one who was taking on the penalty would now be Thal.

Although it wasn't a bad plan, this could be considered the same as hiding behind his teammate.

Crack—

It was a total humiliation.

But there wasn't any other method to use either.

Lollit picked up Thal's shield and gripped it tightly.

'So now comes the main part.'

Taking on just one person wasn't that difficult. Using [Gigantification] was enough for YuWon to take one down. But the story changed if there were two enemies.

Just like he thought...

Vwoong—

Serious Arcane Power could be felt from Thal's body.

He probably understood that dragging out this fight would only become more disadvantageous for them due to the penalty.

"We'll finish this as fast as possible."

For a moment, it looked as if Thal's sword was getting longer.

No. It didn't just look like it.

[Colossal Sword]

The huge sword which was now a few dozen meters long was similar to the [Arcane Sword] that YuWon used, but it was a completely different skill in quality.

Crash—!

With one swing from Thal, a long line was ripped into the floor of the training grounds.

The dug-up ground got flung at YuWon, but rather than block it, he moved to the side to dodge it.

As expected, rather than Lollit with his high defense, Thal was much stronger.

"So, a sword this time."

Yuwon pulled out his sword.

Since he didn't have a shield, he had no way to stop Thal's sword other than by blocking with his own.

"Sword against sword..."

Thal's sword flashed.

"Ridiculous."

Ping—

The giant, long sword flew like a flash of light, looking as if it was magic from a decent distance away, faster than expected.

Shwack—!

YuWon dodged the sword by jumping upwards.

And in that moment, Thal smirked.

“Got you.”

Bzzzt—!

The penalty on Thal’s body became stronger. It reflected the strength and [Arcane Power] that was being poured into his next attack.

Shwing—

Lines were drawn like spider webs.

It was a sword that looked to be impossible to dodge, but after swinging it, Thal didn’t feel the sensation he expected to at his fingertips.

‘What?’

It was definitely unescapable. There was no place to dodge, and YuWon didn’t block it either.

But there was no slashing sensation either.

Thal quickly found out the reason.

Fwip, fwap—

He saw Yuwon’s form in the air.

There were a few floating-type skills that came to mind, but there was none that Thal knew of that allowed him to move so speedily and freely in the air like that.

[Activating Sky Steps.]

[Your movement speed increases by 100% for 5 seconds.]

[For 5 seconds, you can step on air.]

「Hermes’s Treads.」 Among the items that YuWon possessed, for a very short amount of time, it was the item that could create the most difference.

[Sky Steps,] a skill that let you step atop empty air where there was no foothold. Also, within this short time of five seconds, it had the effect of greatly increasing his movement speed.

‘Two seconds now.’

After dodging the short but incredible attack...

‘Close the distance.’

Flap—

YuWon closed the distance once again.

Thal’s sword moved. And in that moment, YuWon’s shuttered senses opened wide.

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

[Activating Sensory Field.]

He could see clearly and feel clearly. The trajectory of Thal's sword. Even the direction and timing he needed to move.

Shwoop—

He lowered his head to maintain his speed and flew in closer.

Thal drew his sword, and both of them were now within distance where they could attack each other.

“Kugh...”

Thal's sword slashed downward.

It was long past the time he had given up the thought to slash only one arm and one leg. Now, he swung down with the conviction to slash YuWon's body in twain. But...

Clang—!

YuWon's sword actually deflected Thal's sword upward instead.

‘What is this strength...!’

Although he knew relatively how strong YuWon was as he was spectating on the sidelines before, it really was an idiotic amount of strength. He could understand how Lollit's shield was broken so easily like that.

Thal's body was wide open.

YuWon's sword thrust in at that opportunity.

At that moment...

[‘Shield of the Round Table’ protects your target.]

Clang—!

A blue shield blocked for Thal in front of him.

YuWon frowned a little and turned his head.

Lollit's defense.

If given some time, there was no problem breaking through just as he did before, but it wouldn't be as easy to do that this time.

“Thal!”

“I know!”

Thal swung his sword again.

One shield and one sword. The two moved as if they were one body.

It was precise. The joint effort of the two felt like facing a monster with four arms, four legs, and two heads.

But YuWon knew of a monster much stronger than this.

‘Compared to Asura...’

He was used to chaotic battles.

Son OhGong and Asura.

YuWon was someone who had already fought against the top fighters the Tower had to offer. On top of that, his condition right now was much better than at those times.

Fwoosh—

[Cinder Eyes predicts the battle.]

One of the abilities of [Cinder Eyes,] battle prediction.

YuWon ignored Lollit’s shield and dodged Thal’s sword.

Although the effects of [Sky Steps] were over, Thal actually felt that the YuWon he was facing now was much faster than before.

‘What is this movement...?’

No matter how he swung his sword, he couldn’t catch YuWon. It felt as if he was facing not a human but a ghost. It felt as if he was swinging into thin air.

He felt contact on his blade sometimes, but he couldn’t erase the feeling that he was just missing.

Of course, it wasn’t just him who was frustrated.

‘How tricky.’

The combination of offense and defense. It was hard to both aggressively or defensively attack this combo. YuWon’s options were either breaking their unity, or separating them. Or...

‘To break through with even greater strength.’

It was a shield that wouldn’t be broken with full-body [Gigantification] alone.

That meant he needed to pull out his remaining power.

A method came to mind.

‘Let’s try.’

A way to increase his strength that wasn’t through a skill.

A smile started to appear on YuWon’s face as he pummeled Lollit’s shield.

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

Lollit's two legs were firmly planted in the ground.

Bang—!

The shock felt from the sword was definitely extraordinary, but at least he was getting used to it to a certain degree now.

‘Thal will stop his attacks right about now.’

Flick—!

At the continuous sword slashes from Thal, YuWon's attacks stopped for a moment.

It was expected. Even if YuWon's strength was great, there was no way for him to push through and ignore the attacks that were aimed for his neck.

“Huuu, huak—”

Drip—

Blood flowed down Thal's body.

His arm was shaking, and his endurance was running out. As time passed, the effect of the penalty was getting stronger and stronger.

‘I need to aim for a final strike.’

Grip—

Rather than a shield, Lollit grabbed a sword with his other hand. He couldn't keep defending any more.

In this situation, time was their enemy. The only thing important now was quickly ending this battle.

It was then...

“Lollit.”

Thal, who was breathing heavily, called out to Lollit.

“Just... buy me some time.”

Lollit's eyes grew wide. He recognized that Thal had put his determination into something.

“How long?”

“As long as you can.”

“Will you be alright?”

Thal's body was already under too much stress from the penalty. There was a chance that the following final attack could lead to his destruction.

“There's a chance you might die every time you fight, right?” Thal gritted his teeth.

“We need to try.”

“...Alright.”

Bang—!

Lollit nailed his shield into the ground.

In that moment, his shield enlarged with blue mana. It now looked not like a shield but a rampart.

As he activated his skill, sparks exploded out from Lollit's body.

Bzzt, bzzzzt—!

“Kugh...”

Feeling a level of the penalty he hadn't felt before for the first time in his life, Lollit grit his teeth. It was a level of pain that was hard to withstand. The will of the Tower was speaking directly to him, telling him to not mess around anymore.

‘I can't do that.’

Thal had put his life on the line. He, who was directly attacking a player, was probably withstanding a level of penalty stronger than he was.

That meant that Lollit couldn't just sit around either.

With death on the line, Lollit shouted, “Hurry!”

“I know!”

Rumble—

In the sky above, a huge, transparent sword made of mana fell down.

Thal had grabbed his sword and thrust it into the ground.

If Lollit's skill was the greatest shield he had, this was the greatest sword Thal had.

‘With this one strike...’

‘We'll end it.’

Thal used a powerful skill, and Lollit was standing protecting him.

If this ended in failure, the fight would end.

Now, YuWon was the one who needed to block.

However...

Step—

Yuwon instead took a step towards the duo.

“He's... coming toward us?”

“Is he committing suicide?”

The range of the sword was different from last time. Despite taking an intense level of the penalty, this was one of the most powerful skills Thal had.

Even if the skills YuWon had shown were incredible, there was no chance he could face this head on.

“Just what makes him so confident...”

Bzzzt—

An odd air swirled around YuWon. An incredible amount of Arcane Power was felt, enough to make them forget that he was just a player, not a Ranker. A completely different feeling was coming from him.

‘This sensation is familiar.’

‘But there’s no way...’

Step—

He came even closer. The sensation became even clearer, and they had to believe the unbelievable.

One of the rulers of the Tower. The existences that were born together with giants and dragons, those who have a special power.

“Demonic Energy...”

Demons.

Demonic power could be felt in conjunction with Arcane Power from YuWon’s body.

Chapter 130

An impossible situation had occurred.

Arcane Power and Demonic Energy. These two incompatible sources of energy were present together.

[The effect of Arcane Sword increases.]

[The effect of Sensory Field increases.]

[The effect of Cinder Eyes...]

With the activation of Demonic Energy, all the skills YuWon was using also increased in effectiveness.

However, unlike Arcane Power, the Demonic Energy stat was still only a measly 20. Naturally, as it was lower than the other stats, it was used up much faster.

But even then, the Demonic Energy seemed to not want to lose to Arcane Power. Even though it was lacking, it was burning quite fiercely, blasting as hard as it could.

‘I only have a short window to use it.’

At most, it was only a minute.

As expected, it would be difficult to do anything big with just 20 stats’ worth. But this was still better because in this short time, it was able to bring forth more explosive power.

“Since it looks like both of us are running out of time...”

[Cinder Eyes] was able to see the flow of mana that was enveloping the sword floating in the air.

On the 25th Floor, using this much mana, and against a player at that, was the same as accepting death.

Although Chryses did the same on the 1st Floor, Thal was overexerting even more.

“Let’s do this.”

Crack—!

The strength in YuWon’s legs increased. The ground under him buckled and sank, and the force pushing off the ground became stronger.

Bang—!

YuWon kicked off the ground and closed the distance in an instant.

At that moment, Lollit strengthened his grip on his shield.

And so...

Clang—!

YuWon’s sword and Lollit’s shield collided.

“Ugh...!”

The large shield, which was big as a castle, shook.

If he hadn’t used his skill, his shield might have been knocked out of his hand. That was how strong of an impact it was.

Bang—!

His arms were shaking. The ultimate shield started to crack, and the strength in his arms started to give as the shield wavered.

‘I can’t withstand him like this.’

Although he was overextending right now as well...

Bzzzzt—

He couldn’t just let his defenses be broken.

“Kuaaaaah!”

Accepting the penalty, he brought up his Arcane Power to the limit.

Although he was just defending right now, the Tower saw this as a ‘battle’ against a player.

The shield became sturdier, and the penalty grew stronger as well.

However, in the end...

“It’s done.”

He was able to stop YuWon until Thal’s skill could be activated.

Crack—

Thal plunged his sword in reverse grip into the ground, and with it, the giant sword hanging in the sky started to move as well.

“This is the end.”

YuWon, who was busy attacking the shield, looked up.

The sword created by condensing massive amounts of mana looked like divine punishment from the heavens.

[‘Judgment of the Round Table’ descends.]

Rumble—

The flow of mana was so fierce that it shook the entire training grounds.

YuWon couldn’t tell how much penalty Thal had endured, but when he looked over the shield, Thal’s body was in a mess. It wouldn’t have been odd if Thal just collapsed then and there.

If this was a skill that was activated by a knight who was worthy to sit on the Round Table while taking that much of the penalty, its power would be fearsome.

‘That is dangerous.’ He couldn’t just ignore it and continue to pummel the shield. ‘For now, I need to block...’

As he was making that decision...

[The effect of Cinder Eyes increases.]

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

Fwoosh—

To his eyes, the scene changed while looking at the sword. He could see through the densely packed flow of mana.

The eyes to see through the essence. Through them, YuWon was able to see things he hadn’t seen before. For example...

‘I can see it.’

The weak point of that giant sword that Thal had just created.

Shwing—

He still had enough Demonic Energy left, just enough to make one or two moves.

‘If it’s like this...’

Clench—

If it was like this, then it was only natural for his decision to change.

This was doable.

‘Hit it.’

Bzzzt—!

Arcane Power poured out of 「Kyneē.」

He squeezed out all his remaining Demonic Energy and concentrated it at the point of his blade.

Compared to the giant sword striking downwards, YuWon's sword was just a dot.

Booom—

As the two swords collided...

Flash—!

A blinding light shone out from the center of the training grounds.

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

Boooooooooom—!

Vwoong, vwoong, fwooooo—

The two sources of Arcane Power collided and overturned the training grounds.

To prevent himself from flying away with the strong winds, Lollit put strength in his shield again and protected his body.

“Thal! Are you alright?”

There was no reply.

Glancing to his side, Thal was on his knees while holding onto his sword that was struck into the ground.

There was no response.

A flash of panic went through Lollit as he brought his hand up to Thal's nose.

Thankfully, he was still breathing.

“Phew—”

Flop—

Strength left his legs as he sat down where he was standing.

Although it wasn't as much as Thal's, Lollit's body was also damaged quite a bit from the penalty. Several veins had burst on his body, blood flowing out of them, and he couldn't put strength into his arms or legs. Right now, it was hard to even try to stand up.

But still...

‘We somehow won in the end.’

The Arcane Power and Demonic Energy that could be felt from YuWon was definitely threatening. Since he was able to use both types of powers at the same time, even if he had the same stats as them, he would be able to put out much more power. But even still, it was unexpected that the gap between them was this much.

‘But with this, it seems we won’t be able to find the one who killed His Highness.’

With it ending like this, it was like they were only able to half-avenge him. It wasn’t a satisfying conclusion.

Still...

‘But we have a clue.’

Although the fight was short, he was able to get one clear indication.

Strength that was impossible for someone born a human to obtain—Demonic Energy.

There was no story of someone being able to obtain Demonic Energy through a skill. If a player was able to handle Demonic Energy, there was definitely something wrong with them. Demonic Energy was like the demons’ inheritance.

Lollit was able to confirm that the demons were the ones backing YuWon.

“I’ll need to look deeper into this.”

“Deeper into what?”

Hearing the voice coming from inside the tangled mess of mana, Lollit was startled into standing. However, the strength in his legs soon gave out, and he collapsed in an unsightly manner onto his backside again.

Flop—

“Ugh...!”

Strength refused to go into his legs. He smacked his leg with one hand to put some energy into it, but nothing changed.

As he lifted his head, he could see YuWon approaching him.

“How could this...?”

“It definitely was dangerous.”

Crack—

YuWon popped his stiff wrist. The shock was considerable.

“It also hurt quite a bit.”

However, he had not even a major injury, he wasn’t even bleeding. Seeing this, Lollit was shocked. He hadn’t expected YuWon to face it head on.

“Damn it!”

Punch—!

Lollit punched his knees again.

He needed to stand up.

Punch—!

If he stayed sitting like this, it would be the end not just for him but Thal as well.

“Uwaaaah!”

“Are you putting on a show?”

Lollit, who was punching his knees as if he wanted them to break, looked up.

He could see YuWon who had approached until he was right up in his face.

YuWon sheathed his sword and settled all the Arcane Power he had brought out.

“You’ll injure your knee like that. Stop it.”

“...?”

Lollit had a dazed expression, not understanding the situation. Since the fight had ended, he definitely thought his and Thal’s heads would be sent flying.

“Why aren’t you ending this?”

“Are you telling me to kill you?”

“Isn’t that how it normally is?”

“Well, it is...”

This was more annoying than just fighting. What useless explanations. However, it wasn’t like he couldn’t explain himself.

“Just like I told you before, I had no relation to the death of the King of Knights. It started from a misunderstanding, so there’s no need to go out of my way to kill you.” YuWon’s gaze landed on Thal, who was collapsed on the ground. “On top of that...”

“—Don’t kill them. You mustn’t!”

YuWon frowned from hearing Arthur’s voice ringing loudly inside his head. Although he had replied that he got it, Arthur had continued to repeat the same words.

Thal and Lollit.

It was because these two were followers of Arthur from a long time ago.

‘I’m doing what you said,’ YuWon answered frustratedly and shook his head.

He said, “No, it’s fine. You won’t believe me even if I continue to explain.”

“Are you still claiming that you aren’t until the end?”

“That’s right. The sins you have committed right now, solve them later through your court of law. Let’s do this within the laws of Britain.”

Hearing him confidently talk about doing this through legal measures, Lollit lost his words. For an instant, he even thought, 'Is he telling the truth?'

'Then did His Highness lie? No, there's no way. Then does that mean Asgard leaked false information?'

His head was filled with conflicting thoughts. The disparity between the information he received from Lancelot and what YuWon was saying now...

He fell into conflict, unable to choose a side to deem correct.

But then...

"Yeah. That's a good way. Through the law."

Someone had walked up behind the exhausted Thal and Lollit.

Lollit turned his head, and his eyes became so wide they looked like they would pop out.

"Y-Your Highness!"

"What a mess," the green-haired man muttered while surveilling the training grounds

YuWon looked at his face. It was just like the one he had been hearing about.

'Lancelot. The Knight of Betrayal.'

A High-Ranker of The Round Table, and the King of Britain. The Ranker who was like the icon of betrayal appeared before them.

"My apologies."

Lollit was barely able to kneel in front of Lancelot who had approached him.

Kneeling and maintaining his manners in that state, YuWon was amazed at the knight's mentality toward his king.

Lancelot looked down at Thal, who was collapsed on the ground, and Lollit who was out of strength.

And then...

"Yeah," he spoke more coldly than ever before. "You should apologize."

"...Pardon?"

"Apologize for the sin of daring to taint the name of The Round Table of Britain doing something like this."

"...!"

YuWon's eyes opened wide. An unbelievable scene was occurring before him.

Slash—

"Receive the death penalty."

A thin line of blood appeared on Lollit's neck. His eyes were wide open and looked at Lancelot with an expression of disbelief.

"Why...?"

Shick—!

Lollit's head was sent flying, and a fountain of blood shot upwards.

It was the same for Thal on the ground. With his body sliced in twain, he wasn't even able to leave a 'Why' like Lollit.

It all happened in an instant.

"Tsk. They brought too much shame to this country."

As if he was looking down at disgusting bugs, Lancelot looked away from the two corpses and sheathed his sword.

Clack—

"Are you alright? You look to be quite shocked," Lancelot greeted YuWon with a warm smile.

Right after that...

"—Lan...ce...lot!"

Arthur's voice roared like a lion's inside YuWon's head.

It was an intense rage. It made him feel like he should walk up to Lancelot right this instant.

But he couldn't do that.

YuWon ignored Lancelot's greeting and turned away.

He couldn't attack YuWon right now anyway. If that happened, Thal and Lollit's attack on him wouldn't be unrelated to Lancelot, and if that happened, he would receive punishment from the Administrator.

'Hold back for now.'

YuWon suppressed Arthur's soul. He felt like if he left Arthur be, he would come out by himself and attack Lancelot.

YuWon knew how much anger Arthur had right now. Although Thal and Lollit were YuWon's enemies, they were still faithful subordinates of Arthur.

Even though dying of ignorance was a common thing in the Tower, it at least shouldn't have been Lancelot who killed them.

'For now, hold it in.'

Even as he turned his back, he could feel it. With this, he was confident.

[?'s Egg bares its teeth.]

Lancelot's body contained an Outer God.

