

## With The Gods 141

### Chapter 141

“You know me, right?”

Hearing this, YuWon put his all into controlling his facial expression.

Of course he knew him. Very well at that.

When Zeus's [Lighting Bolt] fell, his conclusion that Son OhGong's clone would help out was also drawn from that knowledge. However...

‘At this point in time...’

He couldn't have known him. That was normal.

“Of course I know. ‘The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.’ The High-Ranker currently fighting with the Heavenly Realm.”

So YuWon answered with Son OhGong's story that everyone know.

“But I heard that you stopped your activities a long time ago?”

It was a standard reply. Son OhGong's title of “The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal” and his situation of fighting the Heavenly Realm. And even the fact that he had stopped his activities long ago was widely known by everyone. However...

“No, not that.” Son OhGong wasn't asking a question like that. “You... Are we acquaintances?”

It was a weird phrase. ‘Acquaintances’? Unless one was suffering from memory loss, there was no way someone would ask that question.

Yuwon had a baffled reaction. Son OhGong's response was too weird.

‘So he's not here just because of Cinder Eyes.’

At first, YuWon had thought that OhGong had come to look for him because of this skill. [Cinder Eyes] could only be obtained with the [Monkey's Eyes] with a hidden piece. This meant that YuWon had the [Monkey's Eyes] as a skill from the start.

The [Monkey's Eyes] was a skill that Son OhGong's family, the monkeys of Mount Huaguo, possessed. However, only Son OhGong currently had this skill.

The conclusion that Son OhGong wouldn't just watch as the [Lighting Bolt] fell was drawn from this reason.

‘I thought it was because... he wouldn't let a player who had Cinder Eyes die...’

He had already thought about how he would explain himself in that situation.

There was not a single player who had purchased [Monkey's Eyes] from the Tutorial up to this point. From the beginning, [Monkey's Eyes] was far too expensive for its mediocre effect to buy in the Tutorial.

But in any case, it was true that one could buy this skill from the Tutorial. And YuWon had thought that he would be able to use that to smooth out the conversation...

“Explain clearly what you mean by that.”

“Can’t you read between the lines? Are you an idiot? What can’t you understand?”

“‘An idiot,’ huh... I never expected to hear that from you.”

“Look at this.” Son OhGong’s lips curled upwards with an expression that said he expected this. “As I thought, you really do know me, don’t you?”

“...”

Yuwon furrowed his brows without saying anything.

He had uncharacteristically made a mistake. He needed to act like this was the first time he was meeting him, but he had reverted to his old speech patterns because of what Son OhGong said.

‘It really is hard to act in front of this guy.’

Yuwon looked into Son OhGong’s eyes.

His gaze was full of intent. He had definitely said, “As I thought.”

Yuwon didn’t know why he came looking for him, but it was certain he knew something before coming here.

“You... What do you know?”

“I can see what your half of the eyes can’t see.”

Fwooosh—

Vwwwwing—

Arcane Power flowed out from both his [Golden Cinder Eyes] and enveloped Yuwon’s body.

“Even more so if we have the same eyes.”

It was a familiar feeling. The feeling of being completely found out and seen through. The feeling of being naked in front of someone else didn’t feel too good.

‘Then...’

Fwooosh—

Yuwon’s eyes turned red.

In that moment...

[Cinder Eyes resists Golden Cinder Eyes.]

[Resistance failed.]

He hadn’t expected too much, but as he thought...

‘It doesn’t work.’

[Cinder Eyes] was a skill at a lower tier than [Golden Cinder Eyes.] From the start, it was impossible for an unevolved skill to resist the evolved skill.

In this moment, Son OhGong was looking at something through YuWon's eyes. Although he didn't know what that was...

"So? What do you see in that fancy eye of yours?"

"The me that you know."

Inside Son OhGong's golden iris, another world was reflected through it.

"I can see my main body standing next to you."

[Golden Cinder Eyes.] The unique skill that can peer through the truth, only possessed by Son OhGong in the entire Tower.

That skill had allowed him to look into YuWon's eyes into a different world.

"You definitely know my main body. And very well at that. No?"

YuWon shut his eyes for a moment. It really didn't feel good to have his everything seen through by someone else.

How could he put this?

But Son OhGong wasn't someone you could trick by making excuses.

"...You're right." In the end, YuWon nodded. "In the world I was in, you and I knew each other."

"The world you were in?"

It wasn't an easy sentence to fully understand. Especially for someone like Son OhGong who wasn't that smart in the first place.

Maybe that was why Son OhGong just ignored it and continued asking, "So? How did we know each other?"

It seemed that not even the [Golden Cinder Eyes] were able to see the whole truth.

After contemplating for a second, YuWon gave an answer.

"We were friends."

His [Cinder Eyes] that were looking into Son OhGong's lit up.

[Cinder Eyes resonates.]

It was a feeling he hadn't felt for a long time.

"An antagonistic friendship."

Resonance.

Son OhGong looked at YuWon's slightly opened eyes.

He wasn't looking through YuWon's eyes anymore. YuWon was showing OhGong himself through the two similar eyes.

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Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

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The distant skies and the view of the training grounds disappeared.

The scene that started to play in the two people's eyes was that of YuWon laying down on top of a rock and Son OhGong standing in front of him.

"What are you?"

"..."

"Are you sleeping?"

Son OhGong questioned YuWon, who had laid down in his spot.

OhGong had gone for a quick bathroom break, but someone had come in and started sleeping with a sleeping mask on.

"I'm not asleep yet."

"Then get up and get out of here. This is my spot."

"The sun shines the best here," YuWon, who had just found a good spot to take a nap, replied with an annoyed tone.

Seeing this, Son OhGong asked, baffled, "I didn't kill you after acting like that?"

"Yeah. I wonder."

Rumble—!

Suddenly, a lighting bolt fell from the sky.

It couldn't compare to Zeus's [Lighting Bolt,] but after it hit the ground, it split the rock YuWon had been laying on.

The rock instantly disappeared.

"Get up."

Pang—

Son OhGong hit his palm with his fist.

"I know you aren't dead."

Bzzt, bzzzt—

Inside the deep pit that was just created, surrounded by the electricity that hadn't faded yet, YuWon stood up.

And right after that, a battle started.

Rumble—!

Their fight lasted for quite a while.

And this scene seemed to be enjoyable for Son OhGong.

“Oh, you fight well.”

As Son OhGong spectated the fight with an excited expression, he asked, “But is that really you? It's quite different from the you right now.”

“That's when I had been a Ranker for a few decades.”

“A few decades? You're not even a Ranker now, though?”

Bang—!

YuWon and Son OhGong's fists collided.

The mountain crumbled underneath them, and lighting bolts fell like rain from 「Flying Nimbus.」

“That's really you?”

Son OhGong had also become a Ranker pretty quickly. He was the one who took the shortest time to become both a Ranker and then a High-Ranker.

But even then, seeing YuWon's growth rate was enough to surprise Son OhGong.

“So, who won?”

“I lost.”

No matter how fast one's growth was, the opponent was “The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.”

YuWon lost to Son OhGong in their first fight. After the fight ended, Son OhGong didn't kill him, and they were able to fight again after a few years.

“Around this time...”

The fights repeated multiple times. On about the tenth time, YuWon was able to get his first victory.

“Maybe you got a little attached to me, so you started to follow me at some point.”

“My main body? Why?”

“How would I know? Only you know why you did it.”

After some time, it had become natural. Not friends but not enemies either. YuWon, who had never built a team before, started to move alongside someone else.

“I was annoyed at the start. That someone was next to me. I wasn't used to it.”

YuWon had never stayed together with someone else. Not even back in his youth at the orphanage. Everyone treated him with discomfort, which led to either neglect or violence, and he felt uncomfortable having people around him.

That was probably why he climbed the Tower alone.

“Then why did you move around with me? Did you open up your heart to me?”

“How could I get rid of someone who couldn’t even die? We went around together because there was nothing I could do.”

Shwooo—

The vision Son OhGong was seeing through YuWon’s eyes changed. He saw the figure of YuWon trying to get rid of Son OhGong, who had just been following him around like it was a normal thing to do. And the repeated fights.

It really was difficult to see if they were friends or enemies.

“But while we were doing this, the wall broke.”

Rumble—

When the calm sky had started to shake, YuWon and Son OhGong both felt the disgusting feeling nearly simultaneously.

The wall that never wavered broke for the first time, and entities no one could have ever imagined poured in from the outside.

“After that, we simply fought, and fought again. It really was easier for us to get closer when we fought together rather than fought each other.”

The monsters beyond comprehension that were eating up both the world and its Rankers. Looking at them, Son OhGong narrowed his eyes.

“What... are those?”

The monsters he could see weren’t the real Outer Gods but an image created through YuWon’s vision.

“Outer Gods. Gods from outside the Tower... They were called a lot of things.”

“So they’re all gods, in any case.”

“They were existences that deserved to be called as such.”

There definitely were a lot of beings inside the tower that called themselves gods. The “Big Three” gods of Olympus, Odin and Thor of Asgard, The “Three Precious Children.” They all called themselves gods and showed off abilities worthy of that title.

However...

Not one of them could truly be called a god.

“Just how... can something like that exist?”

Son OhGong's face went white.

The twelfth clone was different than the true Son OhGong, the main body of "The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal." That was why he became afraid of the Outer Gods shared with him through YuWon's eyes. Because rather than being explained to him through words, he was directly feeling what they were.

"Did you fight against those things?"

"It wasn't just me."

The people that sat around each other. Odin, Hercules, Chronos, Asura, Son OhGong... And YuWon. They sat together and started to talk.

"Everyone here fought together, and we lost."

"That doesn't make sense."

They were all High-Rankers. And a few of them were beings that Son OhGong, who had no interest in the world, knew as well. In particular, there was probably no Ranker who didn't know Odin's face.

"Really? You lost even though everyone gathered like this?"

"We lost horribly as well."

Most of the Rankers that fought against the Outer Gods died, and only a minority were able to survive.

It wasn't a fight they could win.

That was the conclusion everyone came to.

That was why this gathering happened.

"Let's decide now..."

The one who asked for the gathering was Odin.

He began to speak while looking at two of the people, YuWon and Son OhGong, "...On the one who will be sent back to the past."

## **Chapter 142**

"On the one who will be sent back to the past."

The meeting started.

They had narrowed it down to three candidates.

The hero of the Gigantomachy, Hercules.

The High-Ranker called "The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal" as well as "Victorious Fighting Buddha," Son OhGong.

And the High-Ranker that appeared out of nowhere without any achievements or stories about him, Kim YuWon.

The one who was selected after the meeting concluded was YuWon.

There was only one reason.

“Who cares what happened in the past? The one who killed the most Outers should go.”

A simple but concrete truth.

If they were sending someone back to fight against the Outer Gods, they needed to send the one who had killed the highest number of them.

The tasks that needed to be done after going back in time were already clarified, and so the meeting ended like that.

Shwoooo—

And with that, the world reflected in the resonance of the [Cinder Eyes] faded as well.

Pulse—

His eye throbbed.

[The proficiency of Cinder Eyes has greatly increased.]

Maybe it was because of the resonance with [Golden Cinder Eyes,] but this was the first time the abilities of [Cinder Eyes] were enhanced this much. Thanks to this, its proficiency increased greatly, and he felt the side effects of [Cinder Eyes] for the first time in a while.

YuWon covered his throbbing eye with one hand and said, “That’s the gist of it.”

“You...”

Since this much was revealed, there was no way not even Son OhGong couldn’t know.

“...Came from the future.”

“That’s right.”

YuWon nodded.

The aching in his eyes slowly faded.

“The incident in Britain was also another task I needed to do. Lancelot created a huge scene later down the line.”

“So you’re saying, this is all part of that plan you guys cooked up?”

“That’s right.”

“How’s the progress?”

“So little that I can’t even call it progress yet. Right now, I’m only at the stage of patching up holes.”

Hearing YuWon’s words, Son OhGong let out a sigh.



A future that had already been doomed once, and the present that now needed to be changed.

“What are the odds?”

“The odds of winning?”

“Yeah.”

“I don’t know. Right now, it may or may not be 1%.”

“Just that much?”

“It’s important that we even have a possibility now. I just said it—right now, I’m only at the stage of patching holes.”

“Wow, damn. This is really too complicated.” Son OhGong scratched his head as he scrunched his face. “If my main body was here right now...”

An utterance of regret.

Then...

“Your main body is on the 50th Floor, right?”

Son OhGong was shocked. This was information that no one should currently have had.

“How do you know that?”

“...Looks like the clone is the dumber one. How do you think I know?”

“Ah, right. You would be able to know.”

YuWon had come from the future. On top of that, Son OhGong had just found out how YuWon was able to come back to the past.

All the information the many High-Rankers that had controlled the Tower had was inside YuWon’s head right now.

Shiver—

As he finally fully understood what this meant, Son OhGong felt a chill up his spine.

Just looking at strength alone, his current self would be fine, even though he was still just a clone...

‘Just what is going on inside his head?’

...But YuWon was no different from a complete specimen created by the heart and soul of countless Rankers.

“What is it?”

“No, it’s nothing.” Son OhGong scratched his head again. “So, I just remembered. Back then, you said you’ll help me, right?”

“That’s right.”

“Did you also say that because you know what situation my main body is in?”

YuWon nodded.

It was obvious. There was a major reason he had been selected and not Son OhGong. That was because, even if Son OhGong was to be sent to the past, there really wasn't much he could do.

“You're trapped inside the Marble Mountains.”

“Damn it. Now I can't not trust you.”

Son OhGong was an immortal existence. At least, there wasn't anything inside the Tower that could kill him. So, in the end, the Heavenly Realms that were fighting him had decided to seal him away.

However, there were only a few people even in the Heavenly Realm who knew of The Great Sage's whereabouts.

“I'll help you. In return, you'll help me.”

At this, Son OhGong was dumbfounded.

“But I already helped you once?”

“That's not enough.”

Saving Son OhGong, who had been sealed by the Heavenly Realm, and blocking one [Lighting Bolt] from Zeus were two different magnitudes of effort.

Son OhGong also knew the calculations didn't match up.

“Then, don't you need to climb to the 50th Floor first?”

“That's true.”

“From what I know, you just got to the 25th Floor.”

“I'll get there in no time. Don't worry.”

Hearing YuWon's confident tone, Son OhGong shook his head. Maybe it would've been difficult for other players, but for YuWon, the 50th Floor wasn't that hard to get to. YuWon was also currently more skilled than most Rankers.

“Well, let's leave it at that...”

No matter how fast he could climb, the 50th Floor was still a long ways away.

There were multiple worlds on each floor, and there were still a lot of things YuWon needed to do in between. Climbing wasn't the most important thing to him right now.

“Then, what's next?”

“Next...”

Rumble—

The cloudless sky quaked.

Noticing the rumbling earth and shifting sky, YuWon smirked.

“Just in time.”

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Translator - Jreaming

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Crack—

The sky opened, and through it descended a vast army.

Neigh—!

Clack—

Many white horses ran through the sky.

“Oh, that’s...”

“The guardian guild of The Round Table.”

There was only one guild that would come down to a lower floor riding white horses.

“Asgard.”

Long ago, Arthur received a sponsorship from Asgard and built a guild. From that point onwards, The Round Table became the hands and feet of Asgard, and they were able to construct Britain on the world of the 25th Floor at a rapid pace.

The inclinations of the two guilds were quite similar. Asgard, which desired order, justice, and peace. And The Round Table, which upheld chivalry.

The two were in a symbiotic relationship for a long time, and that relationship continued to this day.

“But why is Asgard here?”

“It’s because Lancelot made contact with Olympus.”

“The Valkyrie were sent just because of that?”

This was not at all a minor issue. However, Asgard was also famous for being slow to act. It was because when they moved, it would be for of an incident that could shatter the order of the Tower.

“If it was simply that The Round Table went over to Olympus’s side... then they wouldn’t have moved.”

“Then?”

“Ragnarok.”

“Ragnarok?”

Hearing a new word, Son OhGong had a curious expression.

“It is expected to start here.”

“The start of Ragnarok was probably when The Round Table fought against the giants?”

“Is there a Ranker from The Round Table here?”

Ragnarok.

The incident that led Asgard to its destruction.

Demons and giants and Asgard. The war between them started absurdly because of The Round Table, the guild that they sponsored.

The Round Table attacked the demons and giants, and this turned into a huge fight, which it seemed like they were expecting.

“Why did The Round Table attack the giants?”

“Because Lancelot was the guild leader of The Round Table at that time.”

“So what?”

“Olympus. Does that explain it a bit more?”

“Ah, those bastards again...”

Asgard was one of the biggest competing guilds against Olympus. Also, they were the only guild to advocate for peace and order. It was natural for Asgard to then become a nuisance in the eyes of Olympus. This was why Olympus planned ‘Ragnarok’ to eliminate Asgard.

‘Use Lancelot to make The Round Table fight against the demons and giants. If Asgard intervenes in that fight, then an all-out war will officially start.’

The number of Rankers from Asgard, demons, and giants that perished in that war was so many that one could say this great war dealt a huge blow to the total combat capabilities of the Tower itself.

‘But with this, we’ve avoided one incident.’

Since the demons and giants weren’t completely taken care of yet, Ragnarok couldn’t be said to have been completely stopped. However the catalyst that would have been used had been dealt with.

In the castle where Lancelot stayed, there were piles of documents detailing the disputes they’ve had with the demons that had been mentioned during The Round Table Conferences. It also contained many items that were obtained through the illicit connection with Olympus as well.

‘Since he’s a smart guy, he’ll know what to do next.’

Among the people YuWon knew, Odin was the smartest of them all.

Since he’d done this much for Odin already, he should already have determined what to do next.

Yuwon turned away.

The direction he looked to was different from the direction the Valkyries were coming from.

“What, aren’t you going to meet the people from Asgard?”

“I’ve done what I needed to do here. There isn’t much I can do if I interact with Asgard right now anyway.”

“Weren’t you going to go fight Olympus? This is a good opportunity.”

“Who cares if a fight happens? It’s not like a fight between the major guilds will happen on the lower floors.”

“...That’s true.”

Currently, YuWon had obtained the authority to climb the 25th Floor. Even if the war between Asgard and Olympus were to commence right now, it was impossible for YuWon to participate in it.

“And... the war probably won’t happen.”

“Why?”

“Asgard won’t declare war even if they have conclusive evidence. They’ll try to end it with the least amount of damage and cost. Even if a war were to break out, that would only happen after a few years or even a few decades from now.”

“Then you’re saying they will end up going to war?”

“No.” YuWon shook his head. “I’ll take them down before that happens.”

The cracks had already started to appear.

Asgard had confirmed who their enemies were, and the planned efforts that Olympus had piled up were starting to crumble.

After having the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 stolen, Poseidon and Zeus, the “Big Three” gods and the core of Olympus, were too busy keeping each other in check.

A lot of things had changed.

Yuwon finally felt that he had taken a new first step.

Although his reunion with Merlin was joyous, he couldn’t stay any longer. He had rested as much as he could and had honestly wasted more time than expected.

It was time to climb again.

“But is there a test today?”

“Probably not.”

“Then?”

Yuwon said while looking at the empty training grounds, “That isn’t the only way of going up.”

Rumble—

The floor of the training grounds shook.

Just as when the sky opened when the Valkyries of Asgard appeared, the ground cracked open.

[You have requested a private meeting with the Administrator.]

The flow of mana that shook the earth felt familiar.

“An Administrator, huh?”

Having figured it out already, Son OhGong looked into the space that had been split open.

[You used 1,000 points.]

[The Administrator is deliberating.]

[.....]

[The Administrator accepts your request for a meeting.]

A slow decision.

Well. A thousand points was an amount that was unbelievably small to call upon an Administrator on the 25th Floor.

However...

‘Looks like he at least has a conscience.’

Because of this incident, the Administrator owed a small debt to YuWon. Which meant, no matter how low the price was, he couldn’t reject the request.

“This is the first time I’ve been in such a ridiculous situation. Accepting a private meeting for only a thousand points...”

Boom—

A large man in a bit of a shabby outfit walked out of the rift in space.

He looked between YuWon and Son OhGong multiple times, then looked to the Valkyries of Asgard that were descending from the sky in the distance.

“The Great Sage and Valkyries as well. What a disaster.”

It definitely wasn’t a scene one should be able to see on the 25th Floor.

However, the Administrator stopped caring about it because the one who called him right now wasn’t Son OhGong or the Valkyries.

“Well, whatever.” The Administrator’s gaze finally landed on YuWon. “Why did you call me?”

At the question, YuWon answered, “The test.”

Another method of climbing the Tower without taking the set test on that floor.

“I want to take it directly from you.”

Because from the beginning, all tests originated from the Administrators.

## Chapter 143

The first time talks of taking the test directly from the Administrators came near the end of the meeting.

“Although it’ll be difficult, this is the fastest method.”

The person who suggested it was Odin.

He was the one who had lived in the Tower for the longest time. And back in his time, the system of taking a test through a test examiner acting as a proxy for the Administrator didn’t exist.

That system was created a few hundred years after Odin had become a Ranker, a direct path that was much safer and much easier to take to become a Ranker.

However, rather than the long and winding silk road, Odin suggested the thorny but faster path.

“If you become certain, take the test from the Administrator. Then you won’t need to care about test schedules or anything else.”

Using this path, the rate at climbing the Tower would become much faster.

There was one problem, however.

“▷ You want to take the test from me?”

“Yes.”

“▷ It’ll be quite expensive.”

It was the enormous price to take the test.

A test prepared just for one person naturally required a lot of points. If a standard test took a hundred players and a hundred points from each, a test from the Administrator for one person would take ten thousand points.

It was the height of inefficiency. You would be using tens of thousands of points to buy from ten days to at most a month faster than normal.

However...

“It doesn’t matter.”

This didn’t apply to YuWon. He already had more than enough points. He acquired the materials to complete the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 and even earned a million points from an unexpected place. On top of that, while he was completing the Administrator’s test, he could continue to earn points during that time.

“Please set the difficulty sufficiently hard and a high-level reward as well.”

“▷ Quite the pick condition.”

“Couldn’t you do at least that much? There was that incident this time as well.”

“▷ ‘Incident’? You mean the Lightning Bolt?”

“Why did you allow that?”

“▷ If I didn’t, he would have thrown the Lighting Bolt many more times while suffering the penalty. Then your chances of survival would have disappeared entirely.”

Zeus was definitely an existence who could take the penalty and erase Camelot. He was also someone who wouldn’t be wary of an Administrator either.

But the odds would change if it was a test facilitated by the system. Not even Zeus could continue to throw [Lightning Bolts] while ignoring the test. The difficulty of the test couldn’t be higher than the set reward.

“▷ Maybe he was wary of Poseidon, but he didn’t particularly want to suffer a large amount of the penalty. The million points and rewards were all paid by Olympus. A reasonable difficulty and a reasonable reward. There was no reason for me as an Administrator to refuse this.”

Unless one broke the law, the Administrator would never take action. Not even if that would lead to the destruction of a lower floor. The actions taken within the laws of ‘order’ they were talking about were the tests.

YuWon let out a sigh and shook his head. “You guys have already gone insane for the tests.”

Maintaining order within the Tower and officiating tests—the Administrators took priority of these two.

In addition, if something didn’t break their laws, they didn’t take issue with it, even if it was most immoral or absurd.

A reasonable difficulty with a reasonable reward. If that was fulfilled, the Administrator would stand on anyone’s side because no matter what, the Administrator was always neutral.

“▷ Keke. You’re not wrong. That is our role.”

“Then please get on with that role of yours.”

YuWon requested the Administrator for a test. It was the fastest way up. YuWon made up his mind to follow this path from the 25th Floor onwards.

“▷ Alright, sure. A high difficulty and high-level rewards...”

After thinking for a bit, the Administrator nodded.

“▷ I do have something like that right now.”

Snap—

The Administrator snapped his finger.

“▷ Follow me.”

Shwoooshh—!



The environment in front of him instantly changed. In an instant, many scenes came and went. After the dizziness and nausea, he had finally arrived at the top of a castle wall.

“▷ This is the border of this nation.”

He could see the scene beneath him. YuWon looked at the dead and black-colored forest.

“▷ This is the end of this world. Officially, anyways.”

“Are you saying it hasn’t been developed further than this?”

“▷ Yeah. The level of the monsters beyond this point is quite high.”

Britain had made a lot of effort into expanding their world since long ago.

No, not just Britain with the 25th Floor but most other floors also did. As players continued to enter the Tower and its population increased, they needed more and more land as well.

But that soon ended. At the end of their endless expansion, Britain chose to stop rather than continue on.

It was only because of one reason. It was too difficult to expand beyond the forest before them.

‘The highest floor where you could see the Wall of the World was only the 3rd Floor. The wall of the 25th Floor couldn’t be seen even when it finally came crumbling down.’

The closer one got to the Wall of the World, the more monsters and stronger existences there were.

The reason Britain stopped expanding their borders was because they became too tired to fight more.

“▷ Looks like they’re trying to restart their expansion after resting for a few years.”

The Administrator was like a god that ruled over this world. He knew of the situation in Britain, and he gave a fitting test to YuWon.

“▷ Help the people here and cross over the forest. How’s that? Can you do it?”

[Create a path through the forest within 1 year.]

[You can receive help from the pioneers.]

[Will you accept ‘World Development’?]

“▷ Just like you requested, a high-difficulty test, and I chose good rewards for it as well. How’s that?”

A long-term test that might take a year to complete.

To YuWon, who wanted to climb the Tower as fast as possible, this wasn’t good at all.

Yuwon turned his head and looked at the Administrator.

He was smirking.

‘So he’s telling me to screw off.’

Although he couldn't know all the Administrators of all the floors, the Administrator of the 25th Floor was an annoying guy. Asking if he liked it after giving such a long-term test...

The Administrator didn't stop his antics there.

“▷ I'll tell you right now, but getting help from The Great Sage is cheating. You can only accept help from the pioneers that are from Britain.”

There were only two choices. Give up here and wait for the test day or attempt the long-term test of developing this region.

The Administrator looked at YuWon with an amused expression.

But then...

“Other than that, I just need to complete this with my own ability?”

“▷ Yes.”

“Should be fine then.” Hearing the Administrator's answer, YuWon smirked. “I'll take this test.”

[You have accepted the test 'World Development.']

[You used 30,000 points as the test fee.]

[Faster completion will guarantee more rewards.]

[9760 : 00 : 00]

The test had started.

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

As soon as the test started, YuWon immediately began to descend the castle wall.

And around that time, a cloud came down from the sky.

Yuwon's eyes turned fiery red. [Cinder Eyes] was resonating.

“I was wondering where you went.”

Son OhGong came down on his cloud. He was lying down with a hand on his chin.

“You got a test from the Administrator? What is it?”

“World Development. I need to get through that forest there with the people here.”

Below the castle wall were the soldiers and knights that protected the border. A few of them were people who were born and raised on the 25th Floor. A few of them were players who had given up on climbing and stayed on this floor.

“That forest?”

Fwooosh—

Son OhGong’s [Golden Cinder Eyes] looked through the distant forest.

His eyes that could see through truth were one of the representative skills with [Thousand-Mile Eye] that could see long-distance.

In this moment, Son OhGong’s eyes were looking at something much further than what YuWon could see.

“Maybe it’s because it’s the edge of the world, but there’s some interesting guys here.”

He had an excited expression. There was no way someone like him who loved fighting would give up this opportunity.

“Should I help you?”

How great would it have been if he could help? No matter if he was a clone or not, with the skills he displayed when he blocked the [Lighting Bolt,] Son OhGong was more than enough to clear out this forest. Just one swing of his 「Ruyi Jingu」 would send hundreds and thousands of monsters living in the forest to their deaths.

But it didn’t even need to be considered.

YuWon flicked his hand and gestured to him to leave.

“It’s fine, so go. I’ll get in big trouble if I receive your help here.”

“Why?”

“The only thing I’m allowed in this test is my own abilities and the pioneers of Britain. Everything will go down the drain if you interfere.”

“What’s a drain?”

The end of the conversation was nowhere to be seen.

This was all just a waste of precious time for YuWon. He continued to go down the stairs of the castle.

Then...

“Wait, stop right there!”

The knights who found YuWon grabbed their hilts and walked up to restrain YuWon.

“Who are you? How did you get here?”

It was a prim and proper knight. But he didn’t seem like a Ranker considering his nonthreatening aura. The knights at the level of a Ranker would probably not be out here but rather in the barracks within the nation.

At the knight's question, YuWon responded calmly, "I'm in the middle of a test. I ask for your cooperation."

"Test...?"

The knight had an expression that said 'What nonsense is he saying?'

A test?

There was only one thing this could mean.

"There were a few times a test had happened at the national border, but from what I know, it isn't the test period right now."

The knight looked around at his fellow knights to check. But as expected, everyone confirmed what he thought.

His suspicion against YuWon grew.

But then...

"Huh...?"

"Isn't that Kim YuWon?"

A few of the soldiers recognized him.

Although most didn't know his face, the knights seemed to have heard of him as their reactions became favorable.

"If it's Kim YuWon..."

"I heard that he was in the capital right now?"

The edge of the world was quite far from the capital city of Camelot. Even using all kinds of transport methods, it would take at least three days to get here.

But since YuWon had appeared here so suddenly, it was natural to find it weird.

'I guess it's helpful in cases like this.'

Although he looked like a suspicious intruder, his fame was helping out quite a bit here.

Maybe not with Rankers, but Kim YuWon's fame among the lower floors was considerable. On top of that, his face was also fairly well-known due to the Grand Martial Arts Tournament.

"What test are you taking?"

"I received it directly from the Administrator."

"Directly from the Administrator? Does something like that even happen?"

The knight looked around again with a surprised face.

At his silent look of asking if anyone knew, they all shook their heads. There was no way someone here would know information that most old Rankers didn't know either.

After not receiving a concrete confirmation, he turned back and sighed.

“Anyways, so you did receive a test?”

“Yes.”

“What is it?”

“I heard that there are plans to soon continue development again.”

“That’s right.”

Seeing that only he was continuing to talk, he was probably the highest ranking knight there.

After calculating the dates in his head for a second, YuWon said, “Let’s finish that in half a month.”

## **Chapter 144**

Fifteen days.

It was an unbelievable time frame.

Right now, the plan to get through this forest was at least one year, at most three.

And no matter if Kim YuWon, the celebrity of the lower floors, joined forces, it was impossible to shorten that time frame to just fifteen days.

“Looks like you don’t know our situation here that well.”

Walloc, the knight in charge of the 3rd division of the pioneers, laughed rather than becoming annoyed. He was going to just let it slip as a suggestion by someone who didn’t really know the situation.

“If you really are the Kim YuWon we’ve heard about, I’m truly thankful for your help, but this isn’t something that can be done that easily.”

Right now, the number of Rankers among the pioneers was about ten. Even Walloc, the captain of this division, was a player who had climbed quite high, above the 60th Floor.

So it was impossible for Kim YuWon to finish this in 15 days when the pioneers were looking at a minimum of one year.

“If you’re thinking of helping us because you think it’s easy, it’ll be better for you to give up now. It won’t take fifteen days but at least a year, or even more than that...”

“When do we start?”

Walloc thought YuWon wasn’t listening to him at all.

He furrowed his brows and shook his head.

In any case, Kim YuWon would still be of great help in the development here. There was no reason to refuse.

“If this really is a test, then take out your player kit and another way to prove your identity. It is a bit strange that you appeared here when you should be in Camelot

right now. And we will start..." Walloc looked around at the other soldiers who had equipped themselves, "...today."

\* \* \*

There was nothing special to prepare to join the pioneers. YuWon was always prepared to fight anyways. Although there may have been more important things to do, that wasn't his concern.

'How long will this take?'

The pioneers would set out after lunch break.

After being assigned lodging after his identity was confirmed, YuWon pulled out the food and drinks stored in his inventory and ate a simple meal. And after lunch was over...

Step—

"We're finally starting again."

Walloc walked towards the forest and let out a nervous breath.

The undeveloped areas of the 25th Floor.

Although expanding the world was an honorable act that one could take pride in, he could never get used to the nerves even after all this time.

"Will you really be alright?" Walloc asked YuWon who had just recently joined the group.

Neither a knight nor a soldier but as a mercenary, YuWon had taken it upon himself to take the foremost position in the pioneering party.

"I'll be fine."

YuWon's position was the most dangerous of the pioneers' formation. Maybe he had taken that spot because he was that impatient.

Walloc felt a little uneasy.

'I hope we don't have any accidents.'

YuWon was a player with a promising future. Although Walloc himself had failed at becoming a Ranker, from what he heard from the rumors, YuWon would certainly become a Ranker. No, if he put in the effort, it was definitely possible for YuWon to become a High-Ranker.

"Then, let's move."

Dong—!

At Walloc's command, the bell was rung, and the departure was made known.

Step—

Just as expected, YuWon seemed to have been waiting because he moved first.

Bzzt—

‘Just in time.’

After laying down for five days, his condition felt pretty good. No, it felt even better than before. It felt as if he could start flying right there and then.

‘I still have some energy left.’

It had only been a few hours since he had woken up from his coma, but he felt like his body was full of energy.

There was only one reason. It was because of his increase in stats.

Bzzt—

Electricity flowed out of YuWon’s body. It caused a prickling sensation.

“Uh...?”

“Uh, huh?”

The soldiers who had been following stepped back in confusion so that they wouldn’t get swept up by the electricity.

Walloc became flustered and shouted, “What are you doing right now?!”

Although he definitely heard him, YuWon didn’t answer. His eyes only looked forward.

‘So it feels like this.’

Lightning-attribute mana was definitely not common. As a type of mana that was rare even among Rankers, the Ranker representative of lightning was Zeus.

Just looking at its power, it was one of the strongest attribute types.

And currently, Yuwon’s Arcane Power stat had increased by three up to 105.

YuWon felt his power and stretched his hand forward.

At YuWon’s strange actions, Walloc asked, “I asked what you—”

Boom—

He flinched.

Footsteps could be heard among the black, rotten trees. Eyes could sometimes be seen between the trunks.

“Grrrrr—”

“Kyaaaah—!”

A boundary was forming at the edge of the forest, warning them not to come closer.

Only then did Walloc remember—right now, they were the invaders.

“Is this your first time being a pioneer?” Yuwon asked as electricity erupted from his body.

Bzzt—

Walloc flinched in surprise.

YuWon had hit the mark. Walloc usually stayed inside Camelot. This was his first time, and he had joined as a commanding officer of this pioneering party.

“A moment of hesitation or panic will lead your party to death. That is why the commander must never falter.”

One couldn't think of Britain's knights as just normal players or Rankers. They were the ones who fought systematically and as a group more than any other force in the Tower. That was why in large scale battles, they were able to perform better than the sum of their individual skills.

That was true even in their fight against the Outer Gods.

But it would be quite problematic if they showed signs of panic at that time like they did now.

Hearing YuWon's advice, Walloc felt ashamed and lowered his head.

“...Sorry.”

YuWon nodded as his response to the apology.

Step—

One step, two steps forward.

After leaving the group, he approached the many eyes that flashed in the forest.

“Wait, if you move alone...” Walloc stopped himself from saying he shouldn't go by himself.

Bzzzt—

The electricity flowing across YuWon's body became stronger.

If before it was difficult to stand next to him, now it felt like you couldn't even approach him. The density of mana flowing in YuWon's body had become overwhelming.

‘It's just as I heard... No, maybe even beyond that.’

Walloc had thought that YuWon, who wasn't even a Ranker, standing at the front would be dangerous. But that wasn't it at all.

This much was enough. The level and purity of mana flowing out of YuWon's body was on a different level than those seen of the average 25th-Floor player.

Walloc was soon confident that even if an accident did occur, YuWon wouldn't die that easily.

Right now, he felt anticipation rather than worry.

‘Will he really be like in the rumors?’

Bzzt—

Electric mana gathered in YuWon's palms, and coalesced.



At that moment...

[‘Fragment of Lightning Bolt’ reacts with ‘Kyneē.’]

[‘Divine Dark Crystal’ reacts to ‘Fragment of Lightning Bolt.’]

Fwaaaaaah—!

The ball of lightning gathered in his hand turned black.

Dark-attribute mana and lightning-attribute mana had combined.

“What...”

Walloc’s eyes went wide with shock at seeing the two different types of mana combining together.

He could understand a change in the mana’s attribute. That was something most players who climb the Tower could accomplish.

But handling two different types and even combining them was a completely different matter.

‘That level of control is hard for most Rankers to even attempt...’

Bzzzt—

The electricity flowing around YuWon’s hand started to form into a shape.

He had heard about it before.

The High-Ranker that was acknowledged as the “King of Olympus” and self-anointed the ruler of the entire Tower, one of the Rankers who existed on the highest floors of the Tower, used a power that looked similar to this.

The Ruler of the Skies.

The one who stood on the clouds in the sky and threw down bolts, punishing the earth below.

The God of Lightning, Zeus.

The thing in YuWon’s hand was similar to that.

“One, two...”

YuWon’s stance was just like that of someone throwing a javelin or long spear.

The black lightning bolt left his hand.

“Three.”

And then...

Flash—!

The black electric current flashed in the direction of the forest and scorched everyone’s eyes.

Rumble—!

And not too far away, there was an electric explosion.

C-Crack—

Crunch—!

The trees of the forest all crumbled in an instant and went up in flames. The electric mana spread through it fiercely, and its range increased to outside the forest.

“...!”

“Th-That’s insane!”

“Dodge!”

Walloc pulled out his sword and exuded mana in front of himself to lessen the damage. The skill was that powerful even though he wasn’t in its target area.

‘A Ranker? He wasn’t Kim YuWon?’

No, there was no way. He had checked the permitted floor number on his player kit, and it even matched the face that appeared in the Grand Martial Arts Tournament.

The one in front of him was definitely Kim YuWon. But...

‘Is this really a player on the 25th Floor?’

He had heard a lot of stories about “the strongest player.” Walloc had thought that it was an exaggerated descriptor.

There were many rulers that had climbed the Tower while obtaining lots of achievements, including “The Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal” who had defeated a Ranker even when he was a player... But calling a rookie who hadn’t even climbed to the half-way point the strongest was too much of an exaggeration.

But looking at this now, he felt that maybe the stories weren’t doing him enough justice.

“What are you doing?”

Looking at the soldiers who had taken a step back, YuWon gestured to the wide-open path and spoke.

“Let’s go.”

Walloc was baffled by what he said and muttered internally, ‘It’s because of you.’

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

It had been three days since the World Development started.

YuWon continued along with the pioneers and focused on making a path.

Rumble—!

YuWon threw another lightning bolt.

The loud thunder drowned out the screams of the monsters. The mana that escaped his body created enormous explosions as they left his fingertips.

‘It’s electrifying.’

These past few days, he felt that he had been flying high for the first time in a while.

An Arcane Power stat of 105.

He’d been able to escape that stuffy feeling after exceeding the three digit mark, but compared to before he returned, the mana was just like a handful of sand.

But as expected, he could feel the differences in the individual increases in the stat after exceeding triple digits.

It had been a while since he’d had fun moving around like this.

Bzzzt—

The 「Fragment of Lightning Bolt」 that took shape in his palm. The time it took to create one shot wasn’t that long.

‘Is it about 30 seconds still?’

YuWon thought back to Zeus’s [Lightning Bolt.] That incomprehensible power that had the strength to completely obliterate an entire city.

This was a skill that was created by thinking about that. But its strength was still unbelievably lacking, and it took too long to create as well.

‘This is good for practice.’

The forest, the target of the development, didn’t seem to end no matter how hard YuWon expended his strength.

Rumble—!

After throwing another lightning bolt, YuWon started to make the next one.

And Walloc, who had been watching all this, continued to have a flustered expression on his face.

‘He’s truly like a monster.’

Although it looked like he couldn’t use it too quickly, the lightning bolts YuWon was throwing were more powerful than any skill Walloc had seen before.

Actually, it wasn’t just him—the other soldiers and knights were also glancing at YuWon. But...

‘Still, this speed is nowhere fast enough to finish in fifteen days.’

No matter how impressive it was, it was impossible to accomplish what YuWon had stated at the start. Although he was skilled, some things were truly impossible.

But then...

Swooop—

A shadow covered his body.

“Kaaahk—!”

A huge black snake appeared out of nowhere and lunged to swallow Walloc’s head.

He had been spectating YuWon as he was fighting, but he put strength into the hand holding his sword.

The huge snake that was dozens of meters long bared its large fangs and swiftly moved.

But then...

Shwoop—

A man in a black outfit who he hadn’t seen before appeared, flying in front of Walloc and punching the snake with an uppercut.

Crack—!

“...?”

The snake was flung into the air.

Walloc had been ready to swing his sword, but now he just made a confused face.

The man wore an outfit he hadn’t seen before. Although he couldn’t tell who this person was, it was certain that he wasn’t from Britain.

“Who are you?”

At Walloc’s question, the man turned his head.

How old was this guy?

One thing was certain. As he had been climbing the Tower for a long time, Walloc could tell this person was a Ranker.

And in the next moment, the man who had sent the huge snake flying with just his fist opened his mouth.

“Where is the Vice-Lord?”

## **Chapter 145**

“‘Vice-Lord’...?”

Who was he talking about?

Hearing the way he spoke, the man was probably from a martial realm. The aura and the way he composed himself made it obvious he was a Ranker.

Seeing that he had fire in his eyes, he was probably in a hurry.

“Just who are you talking about?”

“Our vice-lord, the Vice-Lord.”

“If it’s the vice-lord...”

“I am named the Fist Lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult, Pung BaekLim.”

At BaekLim’s self-introduction, Walloc’s eyes went wide.

‘The Heavenly Demonic Cult?’

Although it was a world on a lower floor, the Martial Realm had a special place that was different from other floors. It had a guild composed of many Rankers and one High-Ranker—The Heavenly Demonic Cult. The cult leader of that place was known as the High-Ranker of the Martial Realm.

And as the Fist Lord, he would be one of the four Rankers that represent the Heavenly Demonic Cult.

‘I did hear that they started becoming more active after being quiet for a long time...’

But he could never have expected them to come here to a different floor. And...

“Why are you looking for your vice-lord here?”

“I received an order to come here.”

Walloc had just thrown out the question of why, but the Fist Lord had received a direct order.

“Here...?”

“Yes. He definitely—”

“Fist Lord.”

Someone interrupted Pung BaekLim’s sentence and approached from behind.

It was YuWon.

After turning his head, BaekLim’s expression brightened.

“Hahaha! You were here?”

“You were bothering the wrong person, so I came quickly.”

Hearing the two have their conversation, Walloc had a confused expression.

‘He’s the vice-lord?’

Walloc’s eyes turned to YuWon.

He was the Vice-Lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult.

He still couldn’t believe it.

‘If it’s the vice-lord... Isn’t that the next highest position after the cult leader?’

Walloc could tell just by how the Fist Lord in front of him was treating YuWon with respect. Kim YuWon was the second-in-command of the Heavenly Demonic Cult.

“Where’s everyone else? It shouldn’t be just you who came.”

At YuWon’s question, Pung BaekLim smiled.

“Of course. It was your command after all. How could I come by myself?”

Pung BaekLim turned his head.

YuWon also looked in the same direction.

Step, step, step—

The sound of many footsteps and the sight of many people.

Walloc looked in disbelief.

BaekLim wasn't alone.

The many soldiers of Britain who had come into the forest for the development all looked that way.

Thousands. No, maybe tens of thousands. A number of people many times more than the pioneers that had been enlisted for this development were approaching YuWon.

And then...

Tap—

...They all knelt in front of YuWon and repeated, “Our great Vice-Lord!”

“Our great Vice—”

“Stop.”

YuWon's voice cut through the horde of the Cult's martial artists that were repeating what Pung BaekLim had said. His voice was low and quiet, but it was still clearly heard.

At that one word, the place became as quiet as if the sound had been cut by a sword.

YuWon looked at the thousands of cultists that were kneeling in front of him.

The Vice-Lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult. The title that granted absolute command over all in the Heavenly Demonic Cult. It was a title that he hadn't used a single time after acquiring it. But now...

YuWon decided to use the power of that title for the first time.

“I command you as the Vice-Lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult.”

This test definitely had the restriction of not being able to receive help from outside forces. The ones he could receive help from were the knights and soldiers that were part of the pioneers. Other than that, YuWon needed to pass this test with only the abilities he possessed.

And the effects of “Vice-Lord of Heavenly Demonic Cult” was definitely an ability YuWon possessed.

“From now on, help the pioneers here...” YuWon looked around at Walloc and the other pioneers. “Make a trail through the forest as fast as possible.”

Tang—

As soon as the command was made, Pung BaekLim hit his palm with his fist.

“We heed your command!”

And in the next moment...

“WE HEED YOUR COMMAND!”

The loud shout of thousands of cultists echoed out.

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

Most of the cultists of the Heavenly Demonic Cult were players. Born in Mount Heaven and gathered under the banner of ‘faith,’ they climbed the Tower and became players and then returned to Mount Heaven.

Additionally, all the cultists gathered here were people who had climbed above the 25th Floor before. Also...

‘The number of Rankers is better than expected.’

Among them were Rankers who had climbed to the top of the Tower as well.

It wasn’t just an empty rumor that the Heavenly Demonic Cult had half the combat power of the entire Martial Realm. Even excluding the Heavenly Demon who was a High-Ranker, they had incredible amounts of strength. A player group composed of elites.

And it wasn’t just the Fist Lord Pung BaekLim, but the Spear Lord Baek MuGang was here as well.

YuWon was able to witness the power of the Heavenly Demonic Cult again.

‘Will we really be able to finish this within fifteen days?’

The personnel who had heeded the call from the Heavenly Demonic Cult was five times the number of pioneers. They also exceeded the pioneers in terms of the number of Rankers and each player’s ranking.

The pioneers were only made up of normal knights and soldiers that weren’t part of the Knights of the Round Table, but the ones who had arrived from the Heavenly Demonic Cult were their elites.

‘The Martial Realm that joined forces with the Heavenly Demonic Cult were nearly as strong as the major guilds. The cultists have also started to climb the Tower again.’

A player climbing the Tower held deep meaning. As each member became a Ranker and increased their skills, so did the overall fighting power of the guild.

In addition to that, this was the Heavenly Demonic Cult that put their warlike characteristics first.

YuWon could feel it again. The power of the title of the “Vice-Lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult” that he had been forgetting this entire time. To command a force this large was truly an incredible power.

“...I’ll need to go greet him sometime later.”

If YuWon had only joined the pioneers by himself, then it would have taken at least half a year to complete this test. But with the addition of many cultists, he was able to decrease the time as much as possible.

The message that was sent to the Heavenly Demon.

And after only a few days, this many cultists had gathered.

This scene was created through the power of the vice-lord title and the loyalty shown by the cultists to the successor of the Heavenly Demon.

‘I’ve already checked how to get through...’

Boom—

A head appeared behind a tall tree. It was a black-skinned orc that was as big as a giant.

“The problem is just how fast we’ll be able to finish this.”

“Grrr—”

The orc bared its fang and showed aggression towards YuWon.

Its size was impressive but so was the flow of mana that covered its skin. To cut through that, one needed a stronger and sharper mana that could pierce through the mana surrounding it.

And right then...

Bzzzt—

YuWon’s hand held just the thing he needed.

Flash—

Rumble—!

Blinding yellow light exploded out from the monster’s body.

Following this, deafening thunder was heard, and the monster’s chest was charred black.

“Gaaaah—”

The monster’s mouth was open wide as it stumbled, and as smoke came off the leather and skin on its body from being cooked, it slowly fell down.

Boom—

As the massive body fell to the ground, the earth echoed.

YuWon immediately prepared his next [Lighting Bolt.]

The eyes of the new people there saw this.

“...Oh.”

Pung BaekLim forgot about his outstretched fist as he observed YuWon’s fighting form.



\* \* \*

It had been ten days since the World Development started.

The creation of the path proceeded swiftly. After the Heavenly Demonic Cult joined the process, it progressed at a speed that couldn't be compared to before.

Due to the sudden increase in personnel, the Heavenly Demonic Cultists could only spend their time in hurriedly made tents.

And in one of them, YuWon was contacting Merlin.

The first point in question was about the compensation for the cultists of the Heavenly Demon Cult for participating in the development. Since the cultists also had Rankers among them, their labor wasn't particularly cheap. If possible, YuWon wanted them to be paid their due... Of course, with someone else's money.

After the death of Lancelot, Merlin was put in the position of King of Britain.

Thanks to YuWon's connection to Merlin, he was able to secure a decent number of points for the cultists. Although it was only a few dozen points per day, it wasn't too bad as a wage.

And then, at the end of the tenth day...

Due to the test becoming a long-term endeavor, YuWon had ended up missing the deadline for getting the item.

‘...I'll need to get him a bit more this time.’

Naturally, Hephaestus wasn't one to wait a long time.

He left the item to Merlin and went back down to the lower floor. Since he had completed the item, he didn't have a reason to stay in Britain any longer.

Time passed, and the fifteenth day since the start of the development was nearly here.

[You have passed the test ‘World Development.’]

[You obtained 50,000 points.]

[You have received additional rewards based on time.]

[You obtained 150,000 points.]

[The next additional reward has been delayed.]

[You are now able to teleport to the 26th Floor.]

A long-term test called 'World Development' that originally would've taken one year. Since it had been completed this early, the points received were also incredibly high. It would've been quite sad if he only received 200,000 points after spending a year on this test, but since it was completed so early, it wasn't bad at all.

And so, after the test ended...

YuWon called Pung BaekLim and Baek MuGang to the middle of the developed forest.

"Fist Lord. Spear Lord."

"Sir!"

"Sir."

At YuWon's summon, Pung BaekLim and Baek MuGang approached him and kneeled.

"You've done well. Share this among your subordinates."

[You used 50,000 points.]

[You used 50,000 points.]

YuWon gave the two men 50,000 points each, a total of 100,000.

The cultists of the Heavenly Demonic Cult that had gathered there had followed these two people.

Since they were many in number, this amount of points wasn't too much, but it was enough for them to spend a night joyously with drinks.

"This much money..."

The two men's eyes went wide.

Normally, this test would've only given out about 50,000 points. With a duration of one year, and the difficulty of the test also being decently high.

However, the reason YuWon could achieve such a great result was truly because of the Heavenly Demonic Cult's help.

'Nothing is uglier than a boss with shallow pockets.'

In reality, he had saved half of it for himself, but it didn't look like that to these two.

100,000 was enough money to build a pretty large new sect in the Martial Realm.

"I accept it with honor."

"..."

Unlike Baek MuGang, Pung BaekLim seemed to be in deep thought.

YuWon noticed and asked, "What is it?"

At YuWon's question, Pung BaekLim's expression changed a few times. And finally...

"...If this is the reward for the work this time, I wish to receive it in another way."

Pung BaekLim looked resolute as the look in his eyes changed.

Eyes burning with fighting spirit.

With that, mana filled with fighting spirit started to exude from Pung BaekLim's body.

"Please forget our positions for a moment and fight against me, Vice-Lord."

## **Chapter 146**

"Fist Lord!"

The first person to react to Pung BaekLim's unexpected action was Spear Lord Baek MuGang.

He was enraged at Pung BaekLim's reckless act of displaying combative intent towards the vice-lord. Baek MuGang even pulled out his weapon.

"Stop."

YuWon stopped MuGang from going further.

No matter what was said, Pung BaekLim's fighting spirit wouldn't be quenched. It didn't seem to be a spontaneous decision as his lowered fist was clenched shut.

"Then, would it be fine to do it now?"

Since the additional reward was delayed, it wasn't like he could just go to the next floor right away. After giving these two their rewards, YuWon had planned to go pick up the item, but he wasn't in a rush at all. The spar wouldn't take that long either.

At YuWon's permission, Pung BaekLim's expression became bright.

"Thank you!"

"Well, it's not much. Let's start right away. Spear Lord, take care of the surroundings so no one else gets swept up."

"But, Vice-Lord..."

"That's an order."

Baek MuGang faltered for a second but then lowered his head and maintained his distance.

Pung BaekLim also stepped back about twenty paces from YuWon.

The surrounding area instantly became an arena for the two of them.

Bzzzt—

Blue electric-type mana flowed into Pung BaekLim's hand.

Looking at this, YuWon was amused. Now that he thought about it, the attribute of mana that Pung BaekLim controlled was also lightning. A rare attribute...

'Fist Lord Pung BaekLim climbed to the spot of one of the Four Heavenly Lords last.'

Because of this, he was assessed as the weakest of the Four Heavenly Lords, but Pung BaekLim was considerably high in rank among Rankers. He was the strongest in the Heavenly Demonic Cult in the way of fist techniques.

Also, this wasn't the 10th Floor but a stage on the 25th Floor.

"I won't be using the Heavenly Demon's Spirit."

Pung BaekLim's eyebrows twitched a little.

[Heavenly Demon's Spirit] was the worst skill in terms of compatibility against a martial artist of the Heavenly Demonic Cult. All the skills they learned under the [Heavenly Demon's Spirit] made it so that they couldn't attack the [Heavenly Demon's Spirit] directly.

Actually, YuWon had used the [Heavenly Demon's Spirit] on the 10th Floor against Pung BaekLim and fought him in a tight match. But now, YuWon had proclaimed that he wouldn't be using that [Heavenly Demon's Spirit.]

"I feel like you're underestimating me too much... Is what I would like to say," Pung BaekLim couldn't help but agree with YuWon. "But thank you for your consideration."

During the past roughly ten days, he had continued to observe YuWon's fighting form amongst the pioneers.

It was marvelous. Just how strong had he become in such a short time?

The power of the lightning bolts that were thrown one by one with practiced ease was enough to surprise him.

Yuwon definitely wasn't below him anymore. It would be close even without the [Heavenly Demon's Spirit.] And if he did use [Heavenly Demon's Spirit,] the outcome was obvious.

"Then..."

Bzzzt—

Lightning flowed through Pung BaekLim's body.

It wasn't just the electric energy that he was wielding, but also a sign of the penalty. He was going to handle the penalty from the start and bring out his power.

"I'm coming."

Bang—!

A divot was created in the ground as Pung BaekLim's body bounded forward.

And simultaneously lightning exploded from YuWon's hand.

Bzzzt—

Crash—!

The two different-colored electric forces collided and created sparks.

Pung BaekLim stared at YuWon, who was also creating lightning, with fire in his eyes.

The battle quickly continued.

YuWon was using his fists rather than his sword.

Weirdly enough, YuWon's fists weren't too awkward, even though his main weapon was definitely a blade.

"Will you not be using the Holy Fire?"

The symbol of the Heavenly Demonic Cult, and the power that represented them—[Holy Fire.] YuWon had become the vice-lord of the Heavenly Demonic Cult because he had that ability.

Pung BaekLim wanted to experience that power for himself. However...

"I'm practicing this right now."

YuWon's response was different from what Pung BaekLim expected.

"Are you saying you have no intention of taking this seriously?"

"We'll see."

"Those words you said just now..."

Words that hurt his ego.

"You will regret it."

Vwoong—

Crack—!

Another blue bolt was created from Pung BaekLim's hand.

YuWon's eyes shifted to Pung BaekLim's fist. It was a familiar feeling.

[Sky-Destroying Lightning]

Crash—!

The powerful strike that extended in a straight line. It was the first fist technique used on YuWon in the Heavenly Demonic Cult's test.

'It's much more powerful compared to back then.'

As the floor was different, so was the limit on his power that BaekLim was allowed to use. Just looking at its power, it was much stronger than the first time.

But just because it was a bit stronger didn't mean YuWon had to dodge it like before.

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

[Constitution is being converted into Strength at a high rate.]

Shwooo—

Rather than a sword, YuWon threw his fist just like Pung BaekLim.

Rumble—!

Pung BaekLim was surprised at the sound of thunder that exploded out of midair.

He had thought that YuWon would dodge like last time, but he didn't. Rather, he had done the opposite.

Swish—

The one that was being cut into was his arcane power.

“What is...”

Just looking at power alone, he was someone who had confidence in his strength compared to even the Sword Lord among the Four Heavenly Lords.

Yet his fist technique had been overcome like this.

Bang—!

His fist was deflected upwards.

Even in terms of arcane power or strength, he had lost in both.

“That's impossi—!”

As he was shouting that it was impossible...

Bang, rumble—!

YuWon's fists continued to pummel BaekLim's body.

He had brought up his hands to barely block the flurry of blows, but he couldn't handle it, and his body shook. It felt like his hands in the guard up position were about to break.

‘A stupid amount of strength.’

After the battle against YuWon, Pung BaekLim didn't miss a single day of his training. At that time, YuWon was a player who had just come up to the 10th Floor, but Pung BaekLim had gotten a pretty big shock due to that fight.

That was why he pondered everyday. He thought of how much difference he and YuWon had in terms of power.

If it was a real battle and not just a test, would the outcome have been different?

He wanted to fight.

And that wish was finally granted...

Crack—

‘I can't let it end so easily like this.’

Pung BaekLim lowered his raised arms.

Crack—!

The shock that he took to the face, it was like his chin was being disconnected. In an instant, it felt like his head was spinning, and his consciousness was fading.

But he grit his teeth and endured it.

Thanks to this, although he got hit once, it gave him the opportunity to throw a punch.

Bzzzzzt—!

Lightning exploded from his fist.

If he couldn't land even a single blow, his pride wouldn't let him live.

[Hundred-Step Lightning Fist]

Pung BaekLim's fist extended forward.

Slowly but accurately.

It felt as if time had stopped.

Fwoosh—

He saw a curious image right before his eyes as he looked at YuWon. The lone thing that could move in this stopped time...

‘What is...’

A flow of purple fire that instantly covered YuWon's body and started to squirm and move as if it was alive.

The flame formed itself into an image of the most terrifying thing that Pung BaekLim had seen during his life until now.

The Heavenly Demon, Lord Cheon MuJin.

The flames took on that form and ate up Pung BaekLim's body.

Fwoooosh—!

“Uwaaaaak!”

After having shouted without realizing, Pung BaekLim took a few steps back in surprise.

Time that had been stopped for a moment started again. The image that he had seen just then disappeared without a trace, and only the flames that covered YuWon's body remained.

The fist that he had thrown just hit empty air before he took some steps back.

“Huak, huk—”

Pung BaekLim's body went stiff.

He was just barely able to avoid collapsing on the ground on his back, but in that moment, he understood completely. Just then, if YuWon had willed it, his head would've been blown to pieces by YuWon's fist.

“I-It is my loss.”

Pung BaekLim lowered his head and accepted his defeat. He still couldn't calm his thumping heart.

And so he asked, “That...” The purple monster that he had seen behind YuWon. “What was that?”

The moment he came face-to-face with it, Pung BaekLim's body had frozen solid.

But he wasn't able to get that answer from YuWon. The question came back the same.

"What did you see?"

"Pardon?"

"I'm asking what you saw."

What did he see?

Pung BaekLim thought back to the fiery image behind YuWon. It was something he couldn't dare not know.

"The Heavenly Demon..."

Because that was their god.

"I saw the cult leader."

"Really?"

[Holy Fire] showed one's deepest fear. It also consumed that fear to grow, so someone who feared the [Holy Fire] must be ready to face an even stronger flame.

The image that Pung BaekLim had seen was Cheon MuJin. It looked like he was more afraid of Cheon MuJin than anything in the world.

"In any case, it was fun. It was helpful as well."

Compared to the Knights of the Round Table, Pung BaekLim would rank pretty high amongst them. BaekLim probably wouldn't falter even if he fought both Thal and Lollit at once.

'I've come a long way.'

The spar against Pung BaekLim had become the opportunity for YuWon to compare his current self to his past self.

He had really become much stronger. Maybe even above most Rankers.

With the increase in stats, the many skills that he aimed for, and the two crystals, now he was ready to clash against the upper floors.

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

YuWon returned to Camelot after asking Son OhGong for help.

The speed of 「Flying Nimbus,」 which he hadn't ridden for a while, was still dizzyingly fast.

"Urk—"



“Are you gonna throw up?”

“Drive a bit safer.”

It only took ten minutes for him to fly back to Camelot. When thinking of the distance, it truly was close to instantaneous.

Still, this was a 「Flying Nimbus」 controlled by a clone, but if it was the main body, it wouldn't have taken even half that time.

It was definitely the fastest method of travel inside the Tower.

“But why aren't you going straight to the next floor?”

“The reward calculation hasn't finished yet.”

“The reward? Why not?”

“They probably didn't expect me to finish this early.”

No matter how great a High-Ranker was, it would be impossible to finish the World Development test this fast.

Maybe if it was Son OhGong, but there was a reason the test duration was a year in the first place.

But YuWon had passed the test before fifteen days had even passed.

The Administrator wouldn't have expected it either.

As always, a test that had finished outside of the norm would have its reward delayed.

“And I have something I need to get from here.”

“Need to get?”

“The Stone of the Sea.”

“The Stone of the Sea... Ah, that thing? I heard it was famous in the lower worlds. So you had it?”

Son OhGong wasn't that surprised even after hearing about the 「Stone of the Sea」

The legend of obtaining power on the level of the gods was something only those who would rely on it for power needed. In the first place, Son OhGong wasn't one to rely on an item like that.

Of course, YuWon's thoughts were a little different.

‘I might act like that as well if it was a normal item.’

In the future YuWon knew, the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was forged into an item called the 「Trident」 under the hands of ten famous blacksmiths.

But from what YuWon knew, the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 wasn't fit to be a ‘weapon’ in the first place.

“If I had had the Stone of the Sea and made an item with it...”

That was a long time ago.

This was something that Hephaestus had said after he had found the broken  
「Trident」 after Olympus disappeared.

“Rather than make a spear like that, I would’ve made a set of armor.”

## **Chapter 147**

“You suddenly went to the pioneers, and now you’re back just as suddenly.”

Merlin knew where YuWon was, and after having received the report, he looked at him in surprise. YuWon had traversed the distance that would have taken a few days to travel in nearly an instant.

“Was it thanks to Flying Nimbus?”

“I thought I was going to die riding it on the way here.”

YuWon talked about the things that had happened to him. Merlin took some time to relax from the kingly affairs and documents and listened to the happenings of the pioneers.

“So we’re indebted to the Heavenly Demonic Cult.”

“You could say it’s to the entirety of the Martial Realm.”

“Well it’s true that the two of them can’t be seen as separate entities now.”

It was now widely known that the Heavenly Demonic Cult and the Martial Realm had joined forces. Now the Martial Realm had a High-Ranker of their own, and they had become a guild that possessed an incredible amount of Rankers, enough that not even most major guilds could mess with them. The world was now talking about the Martial Realm in the same vein as the major guilds.

“I’ll be sure to repay this favor in the future.”

“How’s The Round Table?”

“Don’t even get me started. After Asgard came in and flipped everything upside down, a few even said they’d leave the guild. Even now, I don’t know who will stay and who won’t.”

The Round Table was basically the foundation that maintained the survival of Britain. They were the Rankers who represented Britain and also the loyal knights that served the king.

But the current Britain had neither Arthur nor Lancelot. In some sense, it was natural for knights who no longer had someone to serve to leave.

“Lancelot, that mad bastard, to be plotting something like that...”

“To be fair, it was Olympus.”

At YuWon's words, Merlin nodded and let out a deep sigh. Not even the great Merlin was able to deal with Olympus easily.

"I feel as if I am being swept up by a huge wave. A wave that I cannot easily escape."

"It'll calm down soon enough." He wasn't just offering empty consolation. "I'll make it so."

Hearing YuWon's confident proclamation, Merlin looked at him for a second.

If anyone else had said this, he might have scoffed at them, even if they were a High-Ranker. And this had been said by a player who had just climbed to the 25th Floor. But even so, Merlin couldn't dismiss him because he was the one who had completely flipped Britain on its head in just a few days.

No. Maybe he put it back to how it should have been.

"...Good. I truly hope so."

Being finished with the conversation, Merlin lifted his hand into the air.

"This is what you were waiting for, right? Take it and climb up."

Shwoooo—

A long, broad coat appeared in the air. The dark navy-colored coat floated above YuWon and fell down.

Plop—

The coat was draped on his outstretched arm.

Shutter—

Simultaneously, 「Kyneē」 on his hand reacted.

The item created using the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 Its form was none other than a coat.

"He named it Tríaina, telling you to definitely get the last one as well. Its form is like this because he knew you'd want more comfortable clothing rather than armor."

"It's perfect."

The 'last one' Hephaestus had talked about was probably the 「Divine Sky Crystal」

「Tríaina」

The form of the item wasn't bad. As a coat, it would be more comfortable to wear compared to normal types of armor, and it wouldn't get in the way either. It also had the advantage of covering a larger portion of his body. But best of all, it was light. It didn't compare too badly with the weight of 「Kyneē」 a glove.

‘If Kyneē was made by condensing adamantium, was this made by expanding it instead?’

It probably couldn’t be helped since Hephaestus only had a limited amount of materials. Even so, YuWon thought it was amazing that he chose to create the item using only adamantium rather than adding other impurities. If that had happened, it would’ve interfered with bringing out the power of the 「Divine Sea Crystal.」

The important thing now was the effect of the item.

[Tríaina]

▷ Clothing made from the true Divine Sea Crystal and adamantium. Has the essence of the ocean imbued in it.

▷ Classification: armor

▷ Can rule over all oceans.

▷ Can change mana to water-attribute mana.

▷ Summon ‘Sea.’

▷ Resistance against water-attribute mana increased by 50%.

▷ 30% amplification in water-attribute mana.

▷ Consumption of water attribute mana decreased by 30%.

▷ Applies “Ocean’s Blessing.”

Its effects hadn’t changed by much.

[Summon ‘Sea’] no longer had the ‘restricted’ effect, and a new option named [Ocean’s Blessing] was applied.

Yuwon checked the skill applied to 「Tríaina.」

[Ocean’s Blessing]

▷ Rank: S

▷ Classification: passive

▷ The power of the seas always protects your body from harm.

A short and sweet description. It didn’t seem that great of a skill just by what it said, but the skill’s rank was considerably high at S.

He wouldn’t be able to tell just like this.

Swoop—

After draping 「Tríaina」 over his body, YuWon unsheathed the sword at his hip.

Merlin made a puzzled face at his sudden movement. “Hmm? What are you doing right...”

Shwack—

Merlin's eyes went wide with shock.

After pulling out his sword for no reason, YuWon had swung it straight at his arm.

Whack—!

A blunt noise.

“What are you doing right now?!”

In response to Merlin's shout of surprise, YuWon just nodded. “It's fine.”

“What?”

“I was checking its effect. How its defensive properties and the skill attached to it are.”

“You cut your arm just to check that?”

“But it didn't get cut.” YuWon shrugged his shoulders as he resheathed his sword.

“It's still armor made of adamantium, even if it looks like this. It won't be easy even if someone tried their best to cut me.”

“Haah...”

Merlin wore a baffled expression.

Even if it was true, YuWon really had just swung at his own arm with the intent to cut it. He could only see this as the man standing next to him attempting self-harm.

“And even if this was made of paper, I wouldn't have been cut too badly.”

“What does that mean?”

“I'm being protected... by something.”

The sound that was made when he tried to cut the coat wasn't just because of the defensive properties of 「Tríaina」. When he made up his mind to cut his arm, a buoyant force could be felt pushing against his sword. An impressive amount of force at that.

The power that instinctively protected his body, [Ocean's Blessing.] This was the best ability 「Tríaina」 possessed.

Following this...

“Please step back for a second.”

Shutter—

Yuwon turned and looked at Merlin while feeling the mana coming from 「Tríaina」.

“This may be a little dangerous.”

“What?”

Shwaaaa—

A sound was heard.

It sounded like the ocean.

In an instant, blue waves surrounded YuWon. The scene around him, including Merlin, disappeared from sight, and a white, unclear something appeared in front of YuWon.

‘Is it... a body?’

It was standing with its back to YuWon. It was as if there was a reason he couldn’t see its front side.

This wasn’t the first time YuWon had experienced a phenomenon like this. When he had first obtained the 「Divine Dark Crystal」 and equipped the adamantium 「Kyneē」 on his hand, the moment the strength that was dormant within the Crystal was released from the item, YuWon was able to see the ‘eye’ of some being. And now...

YuWon was looking at that existence’s back.

Bzzzzt—

A familiar feeling was flowing through 「Tríaina」 into him.

And in that moment, as if waiting for it, the Egg awoke.

[?’s Egg cheers.]

[?’s Egg opens its mouth.]

The brat greedily ate up the power.

And in that moment, YuWon asked the unknown one, “What are you?”

...

“You don’t have a name, and now you can’t even talk? You’re not a monster nor a human. You’re not just a simple item either.”

There were many items that possessed consciousness in this world. They were called ‘ego items,’ and even if they were rare, they weren’t impossible to find.

But the one in front of him was definitely different.

That was why YuWon wanted to know.

“You... just what are you?”

Bzzzzt—

The Egg was eating up the power without a care in the world.

There wasn’t a lot of time left.

No response came.

And as the egg was nearly finishing its feast...

**Is this...**

The dormant 'something' turned its head.

**The second one.**

And in that moment,

Fwaaaaah—!

The blue waves that had covered YuWon's body disappeared, and the original scene returned.

He felt as if all his strength had been drained from his body.

YuWon thought back to the face of the thing that had turned its head towards him. But then...

'What did it look like?'

He had definitely seen the face. But he couldn't remember it.

This wasn't a simple problem of him having a bad memory or something like that. It wasn't like the being didn't have a face, like a white sheet of paper. He just really couldn't remember its face.

'I wouldn't feel as frustrated if I was at least able to see its face.'

As long as it wasn't a face he recognized, it didn't really matter what it looked like. The important part was why it was revealing itself through the item and why it possessed the powers of the Outer Gods.

'Did it say "second one"?''

Thankfully, only the face was the part he couldn't remember. The words it said were engraved into his mind.

The 'second one' it talked about was probably in regards to the 「Divine Dark Crystal」 and the 「Divine Sea Crystal」.

It was definitely waiting for the third one, the 「Divine Sky Crystal」.

'I can find out if I gather the third one... is that what it means?'

It wasn't an easy condition. Unlike the 「Divine Dark Crystal」 that he had obtained by chance and the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 that wasn't owned by anyone, the 「Divine Sky Crystal」 was an item owned by Zeus.

It also had to be the symbol of Zeus, the [Lighting Bolt.]

'This will be difficult.'

And as YuWon was contemplating his frustration, a message he had been waiting for appeared.

[?'s Egg's incubation rate has increased.]

[Incubation rate: 95.94%]

The increase in its rate was much smaller than before. It seemed that not all the fragments had the same size or power.

He was only lacking 4% now.

Since there weren't many opportunities left to meet Outer Gods, he had wanted to hatch it using this opportunity, but it came a little short.

'Well, I still have a method of filling up the remaining bit.'

It would be in the not-so-distant future.

YuWon thought of that time and decided to let it go.

"What... was that?"

Merlin had brought out his mana to protect himself from the sudden unexpected situation, just as Hephaestus had. He looked like he was about to throw spells at the energy that had surrounded YuWon.

"It's all done."

"What is?"

"I don't know either. Although I do want to know."

It was the truth.

At YuWon's answer, Merlin didn't inquire any further.

There were two meanings to this answer. Either he really didn't know, or he did but didn't want to share any further. Either way, Merlin had no intention of asking any more.

"Well. There will always be one or two things you won't understand in this Tower..."

Not intending to dig up someone else's secrets.

Just as with stats and levels, it was normal for someone to keep secrets they knew only to themselves. Going around talking too much about themselves was a good way to invite an early death.

"Fine. I already know you're a special one."

After putting the coat on, YuWon didn't sit down again.

Merlin still sat where he was and looked up at YuWon looking down on him.

"Will you be going now?"

"Yes."

"You really don't rest even for a day. I don't know why you're in such a hurry..."

After clicking his tongue, Merlin lifted the near-empty tea cup and stood up from his seat.



“Come visit again when you have time.” After sitting back amongst his pile of documents, Merlin continued, “By then, a statue of you should be here as well.”

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

The reward for the test was decided after the Administrators finished their meeting.

Skills and stats. Between these two, YuWon had selected the stats.

The reason was because rather than a few random skills, the certainty of a stat was greater.

[Your strength increased by 1.]

[Your constitution increased by 1.]

These two stats were increased. And with this, strength and constitution had both reached 100.

On the 26th Floor, YuWon instantly attempted the next test.

[You have passed the test of the 26th Floor.]

[You have obtained 20,000 points.]

Keeping his goal of climbing as fast as he could in mind, YuWon continued to take the tests.

The 26th Floor, and then the 27th... All the way to the 30th Floor.

It had taken just under fifteen days to climb five floors.

Yuwon continued to climb the Tower that way.

And so, half a year passed.

## **Chapter 148**

The 41st Floor.

While the test was taking its course, a few players had gathered together.

“Will this really work?”

“I’m telling you it will. I’ll say it bluntly, what’s so impressive about Kim YuWon? Hasn’t it been a while? Since the 25th Floor that he’s been seen on the rankings?”

“But still...”

“Even if I don’t know what methods he used to climb the Tower like that, it’s a fact that our team’s value will increase the moment we get him.”

The three-syllable name of ‘Kim YuWon’ on the opposing side.

He, among the 200 players here, was the only one who hadn’t created a team. The reason was simple.

“I don’t make teams.”

Like that, he had declined all the offers from other teams to join them.

It was as rumored. The strongest player that didn’t work with anyone else.

But that was old news at this point.

“Well, Kim YuWon’s achievements are a story of the past now. There are a few people who’ve seen his face from time to time, but he can’t make the same records in the tests like before...”

“Also, at that time, apparently there isn’t a single person who’s said that they took the test with him?”

“From what I heard, he climbed the Tower using an illegal method.”

“There’s also a rumor that he’s the secret son of an Administrator...”

“That’s huge news. Isn’t he all of it then?”

They cackled and laughed as they created their plan.

Kim YuWon. Those three syllables. It was already publicly known that that name of his was slowly quieting down.

As a player, their rankings in the tests were proof of their skills and worth. The reason that the title of “strongest player” was attached to the front of YuWon’s name was because he had gotten first rank on all the tests on all the floors.

But now, that name had long disappeared. Now, Kim YuWon was just a player who was the strongest player a long time ago.

“Then I’ll take it that everyone’s in agreement.” The player who led this team, Yucal, stood up from where he was sitting. “Let’s go.”

\* \* \*

Crackle, crackle—

Fwooosh—

A dark night.

A figure of a person sat under the trunk of a tree next to a burning brazier.

YuWon, who had been turning the charcoal with a stick, bit into a big, cooked fish.

“He’s over there.”

“Shh. He’ll hear you.”

“I used a Silence skill so he shouldn’t be able to hear us. But don’t go outside its range.”

The eight players muttered to each other after seeing the number above YuWon’s head.

“Fifty...”

“That’s a lot.”

“But he didn’t get as much as I expected.”

The test of the 41st Floor was to gather summoning stones scattered in each area and gain points after defeating summons above a certain level.

“It’s impressive that one person was able to get that much, but it’s still a lot less than the amount we got.”

“Looks pretty doable?”

Fifty was a decent number of summoning stones to have. There probably wasn’t another player taking part in this test that had gathered as many.

But it was still understandable that the players thought YuWon was a feasible target.

“Take your positions. Just in case, we’ll still go after him at the same time.”

“Alright.”

“Be careful not to get spotted as well.”

The eight players all moved as one. They had worked together for a long time now, and they had prepared a lot for this test too. This much coordination was expected.

But then...

“It’s funny.”

Having looked like he was enjoying his meal without a care in the world, YuWon suddenly muttered to himself.

Shwing—

“I could just easily separate a little like this. Why didn’t I think of it before?”

Flick, catch—

The stone was lightly tossed upwards and caught.

In the eyes of the players approaching YuWon, the number above his head was reflected.

“Eight hundred—”

[817]

The summoning stone count was calculated in addition to the stone the player held when they first entered the test. That number would be displayed above the player’s head, and it was also used as a way to determine a player’s combat capabilities.

But YuWon hadn’t used the summoning stone he had gotten at first. He had been holding another summoning stone he had taken.

It was a lure to attract other players.

“Is it eight this time?”

‘This time.’ It meant that this wasn’t the first time.

They only realized at that point that this was one big, elaborate trap.

After realizing this, the leader of the group shouted, “Damn it, run!”

At that moment...

Fwoooooosh—!

Purple fire erupted around them.

Surprisingly, the trees in the forest didn’t burn, but they could instinctively tell that this was a flame hotter than any fire they had seen before.

“U-Uwaaaaah...!”

“Aack! D-Don’t come closer!”

“Save me!”

The players screamed when faced with the flames. Some saw monsters in them and would collapse with the whites of their eyes showing, while others would aimlessly swing their swords.

And in the middle of that...

Fwoosh—

The flames parted, and YuWon walked through.

“You have two choices.”

Yuwon looked at the numbers above each of the players’ heads.

“You don’t need me to tell you, right?”

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

[153]

Maybe because they were the team that had survived until the end, but their numbers were higher than expected. YuWon was thinking that he would have to wait a little longer, but thanks to this, he was able to reach the number he had set as his first goal.

“Who would’ve guessed that I would get ambushed twice during the same meal?”

This would have been unthinkable before.

‘They’re looking down on me quite a bit.’

It was understandable. From the 25th Floor to the 41st Floor, he hadn't taken an official test a single time. Naturally, this would make him not appear on the rankings for a while, and the players he had encountered one by one had thought that he had been passing the tests with grades that weren't on the rankings. However...

'I only took this test since it happened to be the test day.'

All this was because he had only been taking the Administrators' tests all this time.

After having joined the test that luckily fell within his time frame, he looked at the number of stones he'd gathered with a satisfied expression.

"The tests you take with multiple people really are the best."

[1,020]

"Someone will deliver things to me even if I'm just sitting here."

If he had taken the path he had been going, it would've taken a bit longer for him to have gathered 1,000 stones. Disregarding his skill, YuWon only had one body, and mathematically it was more effective for multiple people to spread out and gather summoning stones than one person.

That was why YuWon made a plan. Since the flies would gather towards him anyways, he would use those flies.

YuWon put mana into the summoning stones in his hand.

Then the main part of the test started.

[Using 'Summoning Stone.']

[How many will you use?]

The test of the 41st Floor was an advanced version of the 'capture the flag' test. Look for and steal stones... And use the stones gathered to defeat the summoned target and gain points.

"All."

[Will you use 1,020 Summoning Stones?]

"Yes."

YuWon used up all the summoning stones he had right now, which was honestly the majority of the summoning stones that existed in this test.

It was set that the more summoning stones one used, the stronger the summon would be. And only after defeating that summon would one obtain the points required to pass the test.

[You have used 1,020 Summoning Stones.]

[Summoning 'Demon Lord – Diablo.']

Shwaaaaaaaaa—

A bloody energy started to spread out from the summoning stone.

Although the number of summoning stones was high, a stronger being than expected appeared.

‘So Diablo appears at about a thousand stones.’

It was a fearsome name.

Diablo. The head of the guild Demon Lords and one of the top 20 highest ranked high-rankers.

‘Although it wouldn’t be the real one.’

The test of the 41st Floor was created with the cooperation of the demons. The demons summoned through the summoning stones were mostly beings among demons on the lower floors or actual demons who existed on the higher floors.

It was the same for the guy that was being summoned right now. Although a thousand summoning stones was an impressive number never before seen until now, it wasn’t impressive enough to actually summon Diablo.

Sure enough...

“...It’s taking too long.”

Shwaaaaa—

The mana pouring out of the summoning stone wasn’t normal. And that wasn’t the only problem. Continuously, as if it wasn’t accepting the summon, it just poured out mana like a broken machine atop YuWon’s hand for a long time.

And after a nondescript amount of time...

“➤ What a bother...”

As if he had just woken up, a groggy voice was heard.

“➤ I was sleeping pretty well. What are you?”

Shwoooo—

The blood-colored energy gathered in one place and created long arms and legs. It had the form of something in between a human and a beast. A tall demon with red leather and two horns.

Although it looked different than YuWon remembered, this was definitely ‘Diablo.’

“From what I know, don’t the demons have a cooperation pact with the Administrator of this floor?”

“➤ Ah, right. We did.”

From what YuWon could tell, it was probably set that if someone used 1,000 stones for summoning, Diablo would come.

From the way he answered, Diablo had probably completely forgotten that the demons had the contract with the Administrator of the 41st Floor.

“➤ I didn’t expect there would be a guy crazy enough to gather that many.”

Only then did Diablo’s gaze looking at YuWon change.

One thousand summoning stones.

It was easy to say, but gathering a thousand summoning stones by oneself was nearly impossible. It was nigh impossible to gather that many within the limited time frame, and even if one did gather them, there was even less of a chance that they would use all the stones by themselves because to gather that amount, they would usually need a team.

“➤ It’s crazy that you even used that much at once.

Normally, you only needed ten stones, fifty stones max to pass the 41st Floor’s test.

Although there was no limit to the amount you could use at once, it was known that the more you used, the stronger the demon that was summoned would be. And defeating the summoned demon was the final part of the test.

Naturally, there was no player that was so stupid as to summon a demon they couldn’t defeat.

“➤ Small human. Just who are you? Just how—why did you summon me?”

“Isn’t it obvious since I’m taking the test?”

All tests existed for someone to move upwards. This was true for YuWon as well.

Diablo smirked.

“➤ But I ended up being summoned.”

To a player who wished to climb upwards, he was nothing but a disaster. Even if it wasn’t his true self, it was impossible for a player to defeat a Demon Lord.

An absurd test to defeat no other demon but Diablo himself.

Although YuWon didn’t know how much the demons were being paid for it, this was an even bigger gap in difficulty than Suruhtra.

“That’s what I’m saying.” YuWon had to sigh.

Rather than being frustrated at his current situation, this sigh was more towards the Administrators who didn’t set up their test difficulty properly.

“➤ Hehe. Looks like you know who I am.”

“Is there anyone who doesn’t know the name Diablo?”

“➤ Then, what do you think you need to do now?”

Flit—

As if he had just drunk a bowl of blood, a scarlet red tongue licked his lips.

Diablo lowered his body to level his eyes with YuWon’s.

He was the demon that held the most pride and strength. He had lived his entire life being worshipped, so he found it natural, and now he awaited YuWon’s reaction.

However...

“Obviously, I...”

Clack—

Unlike his expectations, YuWon pulled out his sword against Diablo. No matter the opponent...

“...Need to take your head.”

Yuwon's reason to take the test to climb the Tower wouldn't change.

## Chapter 149

Diablo looked at the sword that YuWon drew with confusion.

“➤ You're quite the odd one.”

Shutter—

His two horns grew longer and curled like a mountain goat's. Bloody wings spread from his back through his skin. The moment his blood-red eyes met YuWon's, he felt his innards churning.

“➤ Challenging me even after knowing who I am.”

[You have entered 'Diablo's Tainted Sanctuary.']

[Your senses are paralyzed.]

[Resisting status effect: dominated.]

Diablo's control oppressed the space around them. He had declared the area as his own territory and then started to move his creaking fingers.

“➤ Let's start the test.”

'Status effect: dominated' had the special ability to control anything that entered the area as he pleased.

In reality, it was closer to hypnosis that turned someone into a puppet rather than a status effect.

'How unpleasant.'

Maybe if Diablo was in his true body, but this much wasn't enough to control YuWon. But it also wasn't a good idea to fight inside an area that was designated as his sanctuary.

Although the system wasn't currently telling him, the effect of the sanctuary wasn't just domination.

A space made for demons. This area was now suited for demons like the ocean was suited for fish.

'First, break the sanctuary.'

[Cinder Eyes attempts to resist 'Tainted Sanctuary.']

[Successfully resisted.]

[Holy Fire burns 'Tainted Sanctuary.']

Fwoosh—!

Flames ignited the air and filled the sanctuary. The fire ate up the bloody mist, and the effect of the sanctuary started to disappear.



Shwooo—

As the eye of 「Kyneē」 opened, arcane power poured out from it. And with it...

“Then...”

Bzzzzt—!

A black lightning bolt was created in YuWon’s hand.

“Let’s start.”

Rumble—!

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

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In the forest lit up by purple light...

Fwoosh—

A fist flew out from within it.

Fwip—

Bang—!

Sword and fist collided. In that moment, a spray of blood jetted out from the trembling purple flames.

Fwip—

The fist got cut.

But Diablo showed no reaction to it and swung his tail.

Vwooong—

Clang, crack—!

As the tail smashed on the ground, the earth was dented, and a thick cloud of dust formed.

The [Holy Fire] that had been surrounding them disappeared. After having jumped upwards to evade the tail, YuWon struck down at Diablo’s head with his sword again.

Clang—!

It sounded like metal clashing against metal.

Fwip—

With that, another part of Diablo’s skin was cut, and new blood flowed again.

Crashhhh—!

The mana flowing from the 「Divine Dark Crystal」 ate up Diablo's flesh. Diablo glared with wide-open eyes and opened his mouth.

Fwaaaaaaah—!

An abnormal amount of mana started to condense within his mouth. Immediately after, a jet of flame hotter than magma exploded out from his mouth.

Crackkkkkkkk—!

The flames melted the cliff and ate up the [Holy Fire.]

Diablo looked around looking for YuWon.

“➤ Where did you run this time?”

Tap—

YuWon walked on air and looked down at Diablo.

Although this was a fragment created for the test, it was still befitting of the head of the Demon Lords guild. He looked as if he didn't feel a single ounce of fear against [Holy Fire.]

‘So he's saying there's no way he would feel fear against such a thing as Holy Fire.’

Although it was a foreign power, there was no way that Diablo would get scared of a random flame. The body might have been different, but his mind was still the same.

[Activating Sky Steps.]

[Movement speed has increased by 100% for 5 seconds.]

[You can walk through the sky for 5 seconds.]

The duration of [Sky Steps] was five seconds. During that time, YuWon flew through the sky and generated a lightning bolt in his hand.

Bzzzzt—!

Arcane power exploded from his palm.

As that started to coalesce, only then was Diablo able to detect YuWon.

“➤ You!”

After raising his head towards YuWon, Diablo opened his mouth. The burning flames spewed out again.

And with that, YuWon launched the lightning bolt downwards.

Rumble—!

Fwaaaaaaah—!

Lightning and fire. The two forces crashed into each other. The black lightning bisected the wave of fire and hit Diablo's body.

Bzzzzzt—!

“➤ Kuaaaaaah!”

Diablo roared.

On top of the force that had burned his entire body black, YuWon's lightning didn't only have electric-attribute mana. The attribute of 「Kyneē」 was dark.

After being hit by the lightning bolt, Diablo's body started to corrode, and his muscles ruptured.  
Tap—

After throwing the lightning bolt, YuWon landed on the ground.

Even after being hit by that, Diablo hadn't collapsed. Rather, he gathered his strength and struck down at YuWon with his fist.

Bang—!

Rumble—

The shock quaked the earth.

But no matter how strong the strike, it didn't mean anything if it missed.

Diablo's eye rolled to look to the side.

In that moment...

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

Shwak—

The sound as he felt his arms become lighter.

Flop—

Two arms fell to the ground lifelessly.

Diablo raised the stump that was starting to bleed and muttered.

“➤ ...Impressive.”

Crackle—

Diablo's body started to crumble.

A corroding body, severed arms, and even his two broken horns. Diablo's body had become a mess. He, who had been set as the final boss of the 41st Floor's test, was dying like this.

As if giving up, he lowered the remainder of his attached arm.

“➤ Seeing that you're taking this test, you must be a player. What are you?”

“Is that important?”

“➤ It is important. Because I have come to like you a lot.”

Diablo's eye that was glued to YuWon swayed.

It was an unpleasant gaze. The instinctive need to have everything he wanted. That was one of the characteristics of the Demon Lord Diablo.

“➤ Come to the Demon Lords Guild. The moment you become a ranker, I'll give you the seat of the next Demon Lord.”

Giving the seat of a Demon Lord to a human. It was a truly shocking offer.

At least from what YuWon knew, there had never been a Demon Lord like this.

Demon Lords were a guild made up of only demons. Also, the seat of a Demon Lord was representative of a demon that was a core leading power in the guild. The moment one sat on the seat of a Demon Lord, they would be able to command demons.

“I am a human.”

“➤ I know. But you're also a demon as well.”

Hearing that, YuWon stopped for a second and sighed.

He didn't use that power in case he would get wound up in something bothersome. Demonic energy was known as an exclusive power that only demons possessed.

And so, Diablo seemed to have noticed that YuWon contained demonic energy.

However...

“No.”

Whether that was true or not, YuWon's answer was the same.

“I am human.”

“➤ ...Are you refusing?”

“Yeah. And I've heard too many offers similar to yours. Sorry, but I'm not joining anywhere.”

Hearing that, Diablo's eyes went wide for a moment and then found peace. After that, he smirked.

“➤ I see. So you're Kim YuWon.”

The reason his name didn't come to Diablo's mind at first was because he didn't care too much about human affairs. He only had interest in demon players or rankers, and when he heard stories about other things, he would just let them go in one ear and out the other, ignoring them.

“➤ Can't trust rumors these days. Although in this case, the rumors were too understated.”

“I'll take that as a compliment.”

Diablo was an aggressive and destructive demon, but that didn't make him an enemy.

Demons spent every day in conflicts and battles. This was also the reason they had made a contract with the Administrator of the floor and were summoned there. To demons, fighting and dying was just daily life.

Also, they didn't hold grudges against people they lost to or if they died by underhanded methods. This was the same for their head, Diablo.

YuWon didn't have a particular desire to create a hostile relation with Diablo.

'It'll become troublesome if I become this guy's enemy.'

Fwoosh—

A blood-red flame ignited Diablo's body. This was not [Holy Fire] controlled by YuWon but Diablo's own flame.

His form began to disappear within the fire.

“➤ If you change your mind, you're always welcome, so visit my guild. I'll reserve the offer for now.”

Tap—

A small horn fell to the ground.

YuWon picked it up and asked, “Do you grind your horns or something?”

“➤ ...Don't you go around making jokes like that.”

Even while saying that, his laughter could be heard from within the flames. A moment later, the flames that had been scorching hot died down and disappeared.

YuWon looked at Diablo's horn in his hand for a second and then put it into his inventory.

'I'll probably find a use for it.'

In any case, a gain was a gain.

The feeling that Diablo held towards him wasn't resentment or vengeance but a friendly one. If it ever came to a time that he needed to use the Demon Lord's strength, this might become useful.

[You have defeated the 'Demon Lord – Diablo.']

[You obtained 1,000,000 summoning points.]

[As the maximum amount of points was obtained, your test will automatically end.]

[You have passed the test of the 41st Floor.]

[You obtained 100,000 points.]

[You obtained 'Diablo's Horn.' You may obtain favors from demons using the item.]

[You received the blessing of the 'Demon Lord of Fire and Destruction.']

[Your proficiency with Demonic Body has increased.]

[Your demonic energy increased by 20.]

[Will you move to the next floor?]

An increase in demonic energy. It was a pretty meaningful reward for YuWon, who hadn't expected a stat increase. The reward this time probably had something to do with the final boss being Diablo.

'So this was part of the reward as well.'

Yuwon thought of 「Diablo's Horn」 that was now in his inventory.

He had thought that Diablo just didn't have a favorable impression of him, but that didn't seem to be the case.

Even as he felt disappointed, a sense of anticipation was felt.

The reward he received after defeating a fragmented copy of Diablo. If it was something given out of good will, then its worth would definitely not be low. The Tower's system wasn't one to reward a big achievement with a small prize. It was sure to reward players appropriately.

"It's better than a random skill or item."

Although the test wasn't over yet, he had maxed out the criteria required by defeating Diablo. There was no reason to stay here any longer.

"Let's move."

\* \* \*

The first thing he felt after moving to the 42nd Floor was the stagnant, stuffy air.

His surroundings were a wide temple made of marble. The sky was clear and wide.

Yuwon raised his head and looked up.

It was dark, and the only light that shined was a small sphere in the sky. Even then, the light was so faint that it wasn't even as good as the moon on Earth.

What illuminated his surroundings were the torches that were lit everywhere.

"It always sucks to be here."

Yuwon furrowed his brows at the suffocating feeling in his chest.

The world of the 42nd Floor wasn't that popular among the players. Including the stuffy air, this world didn't even have daytime.

"That's what I'm saying."

Step—

Footsteps were heard.

As if they were waiting for him prior, someone suddenly appeared from a place nearby.

"I don't know how uncle lives here like this. More than anything, isn't it too damp?"

Woo—

As they approached, their face was illuminated by the torchlight. A familiar face filled with shadow and talking in a forced, pleasant tone.

Hargaan looked at YuWon and greeted him. "Welcome to Hell."

Hell. That was what many rankers called the world of the 42nd Floor.

## **Chapter 150**

"Welcome to Hell."

"..."

"I'm cringing just thinking back to it now."

At YuWon's silence behind him, Hargaan didn't say anything for a long time. His face was distorted and red. He was probably embarrassed by what he said.

"I said it because it was good to see you."

"So you do that when you're happy to see someone."

"No..."

There was nothing he could say. No matter what he said, even he knew what he said was embarrassing.

Saying 'Welcome to Hell.' If he had said this on any other floor, he would have been made fun of even more than this.

"It's just that this world is called that."

"That's true." YuWon agreed on that point. "It's an embarrassing name, but it's also a definitely scary place."

"Caw—!"

A bird flew through the air.

As they looked up at it, half of its body had rotted away, and its bones were showing. Its size was bigger than most adult humans, and this world was composed of things like that.

'Ignoring the lack of greenery and food, even breathing is hard here.'

A truly barren world.

Hargaan was guiding YuWon through such a place.

"But is it really ok?"

"About what?"

"You. I heard something happened on the 33rd Floor?"

As expected, Hargann had sharp ears. He had a pretty good source of information from inside Olympus.

Hargaan was climbing the Tower quite quickly, and as his rankings recorded on each floor increased, so did the number of Olympian rankers trying to make connections with him. In truth, Hargaan was attaining higher rankings than when Zeus was a player.

“Did I?”

“There probably isn’t a guy who has opposed Olympus as much as you. So...”

“I’m not changing my decision,” YuWon said as he looked at the cave he could see in the distance.

It was a peculiar cave. In this flat, empty wasteland, a single cave mouth that led underground could be seen.

That was the entrance to the real part of this world.

Step—

Seeing YuWon take the initiative and walk in front, Hargaan sighed. But since YuWon himself had made the decision, there wasn’t a particular way to stop him.

Well, even though he knew all this, Hargaan was the one to contact him first.

‘I didn’t really expect that he would pick up though.’

Hargaan ended up deciding to follow behind YuWon.

The mouth of the cave was wide. Seeing it from up close, it was probably a few dozen meters long.

As soon as he stepped inside the cave, a bottomless stone staircase that led down appeared.

Step, step—

As he walked down the stairs, the silent cave echoed.

How many minutes had passed?

YuWon looked at the endless staircase and asked, “Are you sure this is the right one?”

“I am.”

“Looks like you’ve been here a few times.”

“Well, yeah. This is a symbolic place within Olympus afterall.”

Since he was certain about the path, they were going down the right one. But YuWon felt something was off.

‘It’s still too deep.’

A staircase that continued on for dozens of minutes.

YuWon had come to the 42nd Floor once before. Since it was an unpleasant world, he had only passed through once while climbing the Tower, but he hadn’t returned a single time after.



There were multiple entrances into Hell scattered throughout the world. A cave-like entrance underground like this one wasn't that rare either. YuWon had thought that this cave was another one of those entrances, but that didn't seem to be the case.

"What a grand greeting."

"What?"

"Those guys."

"Grrrrrr—"

At the bottom of the stairs, in a place so dark that his eyes couldn't see yet, he could hear the cries of some beasts.

"Were there always that many?"

Bzzzt—!

At YuWon's question, Hargaan immediately spread his electricity out to their surroundings. With that, the heads of the huge beast showed themselves under the continually long staircase.

Sniff, sniff, sniff—

"Bark, bark, bark—!"

"Huh...?"

Fifteen heads. But unbalanced with that number, there were only five bodies.

The monster with three heads and one body—Cerberus.

"Why are there so many of them?"

Cerberus was known as the guard that inhabited the lowest level of Hell. These three-headed beasts were famous for their near-immortal life force.

"...This is a problem." Hargaan seemed troubled.

He was a skilled being, currently at the 62nd Floor and possibly the one who would become the fastest ranker in history. However, even he was troubled by Cerberus.

It wasn't simply because the sky was dark that the world of the 42nd Floor came to be known as 'Hell.' This world was filled with dangerous monsters that would normally appear on the highest floors of the Tower.

'Is it like a welcoming ceremony?'

Yuwon felt the gaze of someone looking at him. It was like saying that he would only be worthy of entering if he was able to deal with at least this much.

If it was anyone else, he would've considered it ridiculous, but the one who existed below had more than enough rights for that.

'I should reply in kind.'

YuWon stopped himself while pulling out his sword. He had thought of something.

‘Let’s try that.’

Shwoo—

He took his hand away from his sword and started to walk down the stairs.

Immediately...

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

Pfsssssh—

Blue mana flowed from YuWon’s body and spread out like steam. The three-headed dogs that were approaching him flinched and backed off.

“Grrrrrr—”

They bared their fangs while growling threateningly.

YuWon stretched his hand towards one Cerberus.

At that moment...

“Bark—!”

One of the dogs lunged its heads at YuWon. The moment its pick-like, sharp teeth surrounded his head, YuWon’s fist moved.

Crunch—!

“Whine—!”

The sound that came out of Cerberus’s mouth was uncharacteristically quite cute.

Its body was shunted upwards, and as if taking that as the signal, the other dogs also attacked YuWon.

“Bark, bark, bark—!”

“Kuang—!”

A total of fourteen heads were now attacking YuWon.

YuWon didn’t go anywhere and stood his ground. The only things that moved were his fists.

Crack, punch, smack, smack—!

Crunch—!

The heads that charged in were crushed, and teeth were shattered by his fists. Another head was squeezed under his armpit.

Crunch—

“Knng, whimper—”

Cerberus cried in pain.

YuWon expected the other ones to charge right after him, but their reactions were different.

[Cerberus becomes suspicious of your nature.]

[Cerberus is fearful of ‘Gigantification.’]

They were afraid.

The ones that, even if they died, would not give up their roles of being gatekeepers. But these Cerberus had become afraid of YuWon.

“What?” YuWon increased his strength, squeezing Cerberus’s head while staring at the others. “Does it remind you of old times?”

“Whimper—”

Cerberus bowed their heads.

YuWon looked at them and let go of the head that was being crushed.

Flop—

The Cerberus that had been flung by his punches sat on the ground. It was a sign of surrender.

‘That worked well.’

YuWon relaxed the arm that he used to squeeze one of the heads.

These guys were all seeing someone within YuWon.

Hercules.

The hero of Olympus that led the Gigantomachy to victory. Long ago, he was the one who taught hundreds of Cerberus a lesson using only his body. The ones here would have been part of that lesson.

YuWon thought that Hercules’s conditioning went very well.

“This much should be enough.”

YuWon looked at the dogs that were bowing with their tails tucked between their legs, then turned his head.

“What do you think?”

In the opposite direction of where the Cerberus were. An empty space with nothing in it.

Fwoosh—

Looking at that space, YuWon’s eyes turned red.

\* \* \*

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

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[Cinder Eyes reads the truth.]

[Cannot be read.]

Flicker—

Something in his vision faded.

Although something was definitely there, he couldn't see through it at all.

But of course, he did know what was there.

“As rumored, you have a good eye.”

Fwoosh—

The shifting, flickering space opened, and someone walked out.

The Cerberus that were lying low all got up one by one and got behind him.

If YuWon was able to subjugate these Cerberus with strength, this man was able to suppress them with just his existence alone.

A tall man, two meters in height. Black hair and a mustache that flowed far below his chin. One cloak of black fabric that covered his body.

The “Ruler of the Underworld” and one of the “Big Three Gods” of Olympus, Hades patted the heads of Cerberus.

“You guys got hurt needlessly because of me.”

“Whimper—”

“Knng, knng—”

Unlike in front of YuWon, Cerberus turned into puppies before him. It was because he was the owner of this world.

‘That’s Hades.’

This was YuWon’s first time directly seeing Hades. Unlike other rankers of Olympus, Hades didn’t really move outside. However...

“A guy you can trust within Olympus...”

After receiving a request to recommend an internal helper from Olympus to YuWon, Chronos picked one person.

“Hades. That guy will be decently trustworthy. He won’t break the rules, and he’s honest to a fault.”

“Is that the only reason?”

“Didn’t I tell you?”

That day, YuWon was able to know how Chronos was able to get outside his world.

“The one who saved me and the one who was imprisoned by Zeus was that guy.”

The one who saved Chronos even while fighting Olympus.

Among the “Big Three Gods” of Olympus, the only high-ranker who was sane.

Also, the one worthy of the title of No.2 in Olympus.

Hargaan came down the steps and greeted him while bowing.

“I, Hargaan of Olympus, greet the ‘Ruler of Darkness.’”

“I’m getting tired of that greeting after hearing it so many times.”

Hargaan seemed nervous as he didn’t immediately stand straight and waited.

In an instant, the stuffy air became heavier. Hades didn’t say anything, neither did he raise his energy, but the force of his existence couldn’t be hidden.

And some time passed.

“Stand straight.”

At Hades’ command, Hargaan stood upright and looked at him.

“It must have troubled you coming here. My apologies for making it inconvenient.”

“No. It was fine.” After sternly replying, Hargaan looked in the direction YuWon was standing. “My friend here did all the work anyway.”

“Well,” his eyes looked at YuWon’s face, “that is true.”

He had been observing YuWon and Cerberus’s fight.

The player that he had only heard about through rumors. Since he was the strongest player, there were many stories about him.

As someone who knew the internal affairs of Olympus very well, Hades had known that YuWon was also the one who blocked Zeus’s [Lighting Bolt].

But there was a major difference between hearing about something and seeing it with his own eyes.

Was YuWon just as he had heard about? Did he have the skills to fight against a ranker of Olympus and win, even being skilled enough to block Zeus’s [Lighting Bolt]?

Hades wanted to check and had tested him using Cerberus.

“So how was I?” YuWon asked Hades, knowing that already.

Then...

“I can’t believe it even after seeing it with my own eyes.”

The response wasn’t that different from what he expected.

“That this was the guy that blocked Zeus’s Lighting Bolt.”