

With The Gods 191

Chapter 191

-Weren't we supposed to be working together?

YuWon realized he was holding back too much.

He didn't know how, but he must have found out about the situation here.

Of course, it was only a matter of time before Amaterasu found out, but it was much quicker than he thought.

"I can't leave them alone when they're following me."

- These are the guys I sent.

"I know."

-You knew and you did it? You want to fight me now.....

"I don't want anything to do with them. Murderers, thieves, lowlife bastards. I don't care what you do with them, but don't get me involved with them."

-W-What?

"I'm hanging up. Goodbye."

YuWon immediately put the gambler's kit in his inventory.

There was no point in arguing. It had already pissed him off, but he held onto the sword anyway.

Until he got his hands on the Mirror of Yata.

Amaterasu would never, ever kill YuWon.

'Still, there's not much time.

Half a year at most.

Maybe a year.

Maybe until then, Amaterasu will wait and see YuWon.

Whether or not he will definitely help find Yata's mirror.

And if he takes too long, or deems it unnecessary, he will draw his sword.

'Then....'

"To fight the Three Precious Children, you must first collect two of the Three Sacred Treasures. Especially if it's on the 44th floor."

There was only one Sacred Treasure left.

'Let's go get it.

* * *

Thud!

A marble table shattered. The jars on the table fell to the floor, shattering and spilling clear liquor all over the floor.

A fiery glow emanated from Amaterasu's eyes as he struck out with his fist.

"That son of a p*ta....."

The call ended abruptly.

It meant there was nothing more to say. He hadn't expected it to come out like this, even ending the call so blatantly.

'Once I find the Three Sacred Treasures, I will definitely kill you.'

It didn't matter if his background was Asgard, the Celestial Demon Cult, and so on.

After gathering the Three Sacred Treasures anyway, there was no reason to fear the giant guilds.

Kirik-.

Leaning back in her chair, Amaterasu looked up at the ceiling.

'I've finally made it this far.'

One of the Three Sacred Treasures was in his hand.

The other, Kusanagi's sword, had been taken by Susanoo, and with Kim YuWon's appearance, she had one last clue.

A face emerged above Amaterasu's black pupils.

'That guy has Kusanagi's sword.'

Susanoo.

The strongest of the Three Precious Children, who was like his brother.

As a High Rank player ranked 57th, he had a similar ranking to him, and had defeated him once even with his Sacred Treasure, while Susanoo had yet to find the Sword of Kusanagi.

What if he had wielded Kusanagi before he was killed by Yamata no Orochi's poison?

What his rank would have been, I wasn't sure.

'If he, and not me, gathered the Three Sacred Treasures....'

He wondered what kind of monster would be created.

Closing his eyes, he remembered Susanoo swinging his sword as he strode across the battlefield.

He felt very safe knowing that he had his back. With a sword in front of him, he couldn't be so afraid.

He was a sword demon.

He wielded the sword like a demon, and everyone feared him like a demon.

That's how he got his nickname, and he thought it was very appropriate.

When they first found one of the Three Treasures, the Magatama Jewel (Note: Formerly called Yasakani no Magatama).

Tsukuyomi, Susanoo and Amaterasu met to discuss who should have it.

No.

They tried to discuss it.

"You two take care of it."

Susanoo said in a rough voice as she wiped the blood off her sword with a cloth.

"I don't care. It's not like you can slice someone with a jewel like that."

The power of the Magatama Jewel was not worthy of such words. And Susanoo knew that all too well.

Still, Susanoo paid no attention to the Three Sacred Treasures.

He had always been like that.

He wasn't interested in articles or anything. Being strong was not a concern.

He only wanted one thing.

To rush into battle, dance his sword, slash and slash.

"Cheeky."

Pudeuk-.

A thousand years ago.

Amaterasu, who obtained the Jewel of Magatama, rose to 60th place in the Rankings.

That was all.

When he checked his rank, Amaterasu felt more helpless than he had ever felt in his life.

Why?

What had prevented him from surpassing Susanoo's rank?

Even after obtaining one of the Three Sacred Treasures, he could not surpass Susanoo.

He couldn't admit it.

He was stronger. He was better.

The Ranking Office must have made a mistake.

But Amaterasu knew that.

The fact that the Classification Bureau could not make a mistake.

And it was from then on... that Amaterasu's goal became Susanoo.

"Now I'm over it.

Susanoo is now dead and gone.

A remnant of the past whose name is no longer visible in the rankings.

At this moment, he was superior to him in terms of rank, strength, power and everything else.

"If I collect the Three Sacred Treasures..."

Susanoo, who had abandoned the Magatama Jewel.

Remembering the Sword of Kusanagi she had last obtained, Amaterasu gritted her teeth.

"I will be Susanoo."

* * *

- Hahaha, that's funny, very funny!

A voice boomed in her ears.

Perhaps thanks to the relaxation of his spirit, Susanoo, who had been quiet since he climbed up to the 44th floor, became more talkative.

-Silence.

- How do you make things fun? You're hotter than you look. This is the first time I've ever liked you.

After abruptly ending the call with Amaterasu, Susanoo laughed nonstop.

As if he hadn't laughed in a thousand years, he relived the incident over and over again.

Even when Arthur, who couldn't stand that laughter, said a word, it was the same.

YuWon frowned at the clash between the two.

"Cut it out. You're making too much noise."

- I got it, I got it. Seriously, can't I even laugh at will?

Still, the laughter continued for a while. YuWon ignored the fading laughter and kept walking.

-What are we going to do now?

"What?"

-We're going to look for Yata's Mirror from now on, do you know where it is?

"I have a rough clue.

There were no paths in this dense forest filled with trees.

YuWon swung his sword in its scabbard and moved, slashing at the leaves of the trees that covered his eyes.

"A cave."

-A cave?

"We have to find a cave."

-That's the only clue?

"There's one more."

YuWon replied, waving the sword in his hand.

"This."

-Yes, this is...

Susanoo suddenly realized that the sword YuWon was holding was not the usual one.

-The Sword of Kusanagi?

The sword sheath that had been swept away by the blades.

Even without looking, YuWon knew the expression on Susanoo's face.

-Did you just use this to prune tree branches?

"A hundred times better than cutting people."

-A sword is made for cutting living things. Kusanagi's sword is the pinnacle of such swords.

"All these trees are alive. In that sense, it fits perfectly."

-This madman...

Susanoo lost his life before he could properly use the Sword of Kusanagi.

Perhaps, just before he died, his last wish was to perform a sword dance with the Sword of Kusanagi.

However, YuWon, who had first held the Sword of Kusanagi, was cutting tree branches and it took his breath away.

'Well, it sure sounds good.'

YuWon looked at the sheathed Kusanagi Sword.

Although the sword was sheathed in a solid scabbard, he felt the edge cut into his fingertips. He had never touched such a sharp sword.

The sword qi could pierce through the scabbard.

It was called the Demonic Sword for a reason.

'In the short term, it will increase your fighting ability by leaps and bounds. But that's all.'

Kusanagi's expectations did not match YuWon's way of fighting. Relying on the power of the sword would change the way he fought.

As for the sharpness of the sword, the Dusk Edge was enough.

-But what do you mean the Sword of Kusanagi is a clue?

"The Three Sacred Treasures were originally one. But now, they all have different forms."

-Huh?

"That's why Amaterasu wants to bring them together, because only together can they be used to unleash their full power."

- Really?

This was information that not even Susanoo, one of the Three Precious Children, knew.

No wonder.

All they knew was the information about the Three Sacred Treasures, but what kind of object it was would only be known after the Three Sacred Treasures were gathered.

That is, when the Three Treasures unite.

The apogee of the Three Precious Children then began.

-"How do you know all these things?"

"Let's say I do."

-Ok, ok...

It was a question Susanoo had asked him several times, but since he received no answer, Susanoo had given up trying to understand YuWon.

However...

For someone who doesn't know about the existence of the Clockwork Mechanism, YuWon's existence must seem like a mystery to him.

-So you're saying you can find Yata's mirror with Kusanagi's sword? By what means?

"There's one more clue."

-What?

"A cave."

-A cave?

"The Mirror of Yata is in a cave."

The Mirror of Yata, so long sought after, was in a cave, closer than I thought.

The Mirror of Yata, which I had been looking for for so long, was in a cave closer than I thought.

Tak-.

Kusanagi's sheath cut another blade.

How long had it been since they had gone through the forest?

The corner of YuWon's mouth lifted as he walked.

"I found one."

Using his Ash Eyes, YuWon could see a cave in the distance, beyond the bushes.

A cave in a high, long mountain range.

There were several entrances, but in the end, the cave led to only one.

"We just have to find the entrance. It shouldn't be too hard."

The 44th floor wasn't very big.

A huge mountain range running through the world. And a huge forest centered on that mountain range, with a few scattered cities around it.

Finding the entrance to the cave wasn't too difficult once you found the mountain range.

Kak-.

YuWon walked into the entrance of the spacious cave.

The entrance itself was not very wide.

It was about four meters wide from side to side. It looked like an entrance for wild beasts to enter and exit.

"The problem is in there."

A quiet cave without even the sound of water droplets.

As YuWon stepped into it, his eyes saw the depths of the cave.

'It's much wider than it looks.'

An intricate tangle of paths.

It was as if the mountain range itself was a gigantic labyrinth.

As long as he had his vision, it wouldn't be difficult to find his way, however complicated the maze was. With the Sensory Field and the Ash Eyes, he could see the maze up and down and find his way.

However, the purpose of this maze was not to find the exit.

It was to find a single object within this complex mountain range hundreds of miles long.

You never know how long it might take.

That's why no one has found it in all these years.

If I had been empty-handed, it probably wouldn't have been any different.

Ung-.

The hilt of Kusanagi's Sword trembled slightly.

One of the Three Sacred Treasures.

The object, later dubbed the "Compass" among the high-ranking members, began to function.

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The Kusanagi was an unusual object.

It was the only one that responded to the other two Sacred Treasures.

That is why Kusanagi was called the compass, since Kusanagi was the centerpiece of the Three Sacred Treasures, capable of attracting the other Sacred Treasures.

Amaterasu was able to find the Mirror of Yata because he first found the Kusanagi.

-I didn't know the Kusanagi had this ability.

"You never met Amaterasu after you got Kusanagi?"

-In that case, I would have been deprived of Kusanagi.

"Is that why you hid the Sacred Treasure in such a place, hiding from the Three Precious Children?"

-I would rather die twice than have the Kusanagi fall into their hands.

It was a rather resentful sounding voice.

Apparently he and Amaterasu had been on bad terms for some time.

-I never thought I would support you, but for once, I will. The Mirror of Yata, the Kusanagi. Just try to put it in your hands, please.

"Of course."

YuWon nodded.

No way was he going to give them away, or at most, collect two of the Three Sacred Treasures and give them to Amaterasu.

In that case, it would be like hastening the apogee of the Three Precious Children, which would normally take several hundred years.

"On the contrary, I wonder how he would try to take it from me."

-Interesting.

The guy who had been dissatisfied ever since YuWon defeated him reacted very differently to this incident.

Contrary to what one might think, Susanoo's antipathy would probably disappear quite a bit in this fight against the Three Precious Children.

"Then...."

"Then maybe..."

YuWon asked as he walked towards the back of the cave.

"Can you help me in this fight?"

-Help you? Me help you?

"Only in this fight. After that, I won't force you."

The culmination of the undead is achieved when the soul is subdued.

Susanoo's body was already in his possession. His soul was also in YuWon's hands.

However, even if Susanoo was subdued by the power of the King of the Dead's title, if he was forced to become undead, he would not be able to bring out all his abilities.

Susanoo himself had to make a decision.

Only then would the strongest undead be created.

-Mmm...

I could sense his deep concern. It was something he hadn't thought about before, and he pondered it for a while.

There was still a long way to go anyway.

Yu-Won used Kusanagi to find his way and waited for an answer.

How many hours had passed?

-Good.

Susanoo made a decision.

-Just this once.

The corner of YuWon's mouth turned up.

"That's enough."

Unexpectedly, he obtained a high-level card that he could use in this battle.

* * *

Quaang-!

The walls of the labyrinth collapsed.

As he made his way, Yu-Won felt the echo of the Kusanagi in his hand intensify.

'Not too far.'

For days, they traversed the labyrinth, broke through the thin walls and searched the interior of the mountain range.

The long caverns seemed endless. At one point, however, Kusanagi began to sob violently.

-It's really here.

Susanoo's voice trembled, as if he was finally taking it in.

It was a different feeling than when she had found the first of the Three Supreme Treasures, the Jewel of Magatama.

-The third... No, the last one...

It was one thing to know where it was and quite another to find it.

Susanoo didn't have much interest in the Three Holy Treasures. He believed that relying on objects was a disgrace to the swordsman.

But even he could not ignore the Three Sacred Treasures.

To the Three Precious Children, the Sacred Treasures were something more valuable than any item.

The Three Sacred Treasures.

It was, in a way, the reason for their creation.

But now that the last of them was in front of him, he couldn't help but feel particularly excited.

'It's definitely here.'

Sensing Kusanagi's uneasiness, YuWon looked around.

An empty cave with nothing inside.

For days, YuWon had heard no sound other than the sound of his own footsteps.

A cave where no people, monsters, animals or insects lived.

Of course, it was a good thing there were no monsters.

A monster on the 44th floor would hardly give him any experience, and would be a nuisance.

But the problem was that there was nothing either.

'Agh, how far do I have to go to find it?'

Contrary to Kusanagi's reaction, there was nothing here.

She tried to move to see if she could get closer, but only succeeded in moving further away.

This was definitely the place.

"Abaat, ba-".

At that moment, Danpung from YuWon's shoulder suddenly extended both hands towards Kusanagi.

The creature, who seemed to be waiting for YuWon's words, suddenly had a strange reaction.

'Maybe...'

YuWon didn't know how Amaterasu had found Yata's Mirror.

She had only heard that he had used the Sword of Kusanagi, but the process was unknown.

So I had found the place, but not the Mirror of Yata.

And then.

Tuk-tuk-.

YuWon felt the texture under his feet change as he walked.

Outward appearance isn't everything.

['Ash Eyes' grasp the truth.]

['Sensory Field' activates]

['Demonic Energy' becomes active]

['Ash Eyes' become stronger]

['Sensory Field' strengthens] ['Sensory Field' gets stronger]

Tsutsu, Tsutsutsu-.

A black aura rose around YuWon. Activating his ability at the same time, he began to see things he hadn't been able to see before.

A symmetrical reflection of himself at his feet.

That was the moment he discovered it.

[You have found the Mirror of Yata].

[Yata's Dungeon is activated].

Gee-ing-.

Under your feet, the walls of the cave, the ceiling....

The dark black walls of the cave became transparent on all sides.

A blinding, almost blinding light emanated from them, but YuWon did not close his eyes.

When the bright light faded, the background changed.

With a bang...

YuWon touched the ground with his toes again.

The texture was the same as before.

It was like this.

It was not stone, but the smooth texture of a mirror.

'All this space is the Mirror of Yata.

Kak-.

YuWon turned his head.

His reddened pupils scanned the mirrored space in all directions.

'But...'

Thousands, tens of thousands, of reflections of Kim YuWon. There were images of himself in the same posture and with the same face, but in different directions.

'Was the mirror that big?'

A mirror the size of a cave.

It was at the moment when he faced the mirror....

[Yata's Test begins].

Saaaaah-.

YuWon's reflection in the countless mirrored walls disappeared.

It was strange.

YuWon looked at one of the mirrors again.

It must have been a mirror, but there was no reflection. He felt as if he was a ghost.

'It's a test...'

If it's a test, he was sure.

Yu-Won, who had climbed to the top of the tower once, passed countless tests.

Instead of fighting blindly, YuWon preferred to fight by rules.

But what kind of test was he talking about?

Eerie-.

A strange flow of Arcane Power.

Turning his head in the direction of the flow, he saw a mirror floating in the air.

A mirror about ten feet in diameter.

It was a flat mirror, unadorned and unadorned, and the only reflection was that of YuWon.

Shuk-.

In the mirror, YuWon was walking.

But in real life, YuWon had not moved an inch.

While YuWon was just a reflection in the mirror, that was something else.

Just.

"What the hell is this?"

YuWon could not accept this proof.

"Why is there an 'I'?"

The 'I' he was referring to was not his current self.

Kak-.

A foot slid out of the mirror.

YuWon looked at his other self in the mirror.

[Win against "yourself"]

Obviously, this test was a test of self-improvement.

Only then could he obtain the Mirror of Yata, and that would make sense.

But the problem was that the 'Kim YuWon' in front of him was not the 'now' one.

"What?"

YuWon's doppelganger stepped out of the mirror and looked at him puzzled.

"Are you a doppelganger?"

A pure white sword.

The sword of Hephaestus, called White Night.

It was the name YuWon himself came up with after receiving the gift.

He could tell by looking at the sword.

The Kim YuWon in front of it.

He, like himself, was from the future.

'Something is wrong.'

He felt tense for the first time since he traveled to the past using the Clockwork.

What was in front of him was not just himself.

'The reflection in Yata's Mirror is me, and this is a test to defeat me.'

Yuwon stood like a Buddha statue, looking at his alter ego that appeared in front of him.

'Perhaps this means that I have not yet accepted myself as I am.'

Yata's Mirror didn't just reflect mere outward appearance.

It reflected the inside. YuWon was looking at himself, and the mirror made a copy of him.

'I wonder if I can win.'

The alter ego in front of him was his future self.

A very different existence from his current one.

Creepy.

Just looking at it gave him chills. He was overwhelmed by its presence, not its power or momentum.

A being who had fought in wars against the Outer Gods alongside monsters like Son OhGong, Hercules and Odin.

That was his future self. Compared to him, his current self is but a fly.

'I don't think he's as strong as he was. Even if Yata's Mirror is one of the Three Sacred Treasures, I don't think I'll be able to create an alter ego of a top ten ranked player.'

It wasn't just mere arrogance.

Yuwon was well aware of his own abilities.

'Even so, it's probably close to the limit of what Yata's Mirror can produce.'

It was an unfair test.

The level of difficulty was much higher than the others because he had used the Clockwork Mechanism to go back in time.

"What are you? You don't look like a simple doppelganger."

Giing-.

The familiar flow of Arcane Power spread around the alter ego.

The Sensory Field expanded. Through that ability, the doppelganger realized that YuWon was not a doppelganger.

"You are human. And you look exactly like me. Not just your face, but your height, your build, your expression."

The doppelganger's tone was not unlike his own.

Analytical and calm.

It would be easy to panic at the sight of someone exactly like you, even if they weren't your double, but it didn't seem so strange to him.

Maybe it was the effect of Yata's Mirror.

But even if that wasn't the case, YuWon was confident that he could remain calm in this situation.

"Tell me. What are you?"

Skak-.

The sword of his alter ego, White Night, was unsheathed.

A pure white sword that emitted a dazzling light.

Being himself, YuWon could predict the alter ego's next move.

'If you don't respond, I will cut you.'

That was his way.

"I..."

In a split second...

YuWon came up with the best response.

He divided that second into dozens and hundreds.

A fight is not necessarily a clash of swords and skills. At this moment, all that moved were words, but the fight had already begun.

And now.

As YuWon pondered the best response, he made the first move.

"I am Son OhGong."

Hwareuk-.

['Ash Eyes' read the move].

YuWon's eyes turned red, and his alter ego's eyes widened.

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His vision turned red.

Rarely had he focused his eyes with such intensity.

The world seemed to slow down as YuWon watched his alter ego.

The movement of muscles. The changes in facial expressions. The beating of his heart in response to his emotions.

Everything seemed to be naked. YuWon's eyes were not now limited to looking at his alter ego.

The first move had been launched.

Now the next fight would begin.

"Are they OhGong?"

His eyebrows twitched.

Bewilderment and suspicion.

Both written simultaneously over his expression.

"Are you that monkey's alter ego?"

The monkey.

From those words, YuWon realized that the alter ego in front was actually himself.

There was a time when he had openly called Son OhGong a monkey.

It must have been around that time.

'Either way, it's terrible.'

Still, at that time, he was quite close to Son OhGong.

He called him cute with words, but they used to greet each other and talk whenever they met face to face.

Son OhGong was the only person he could call a friend, even though he always traveled alone.

"Is it transformation magic and personality? You still use strange abilities."

Son OhGong's alter ego shares abilities with him. And one of Son OhGong's abilities is the ability to transform into a specific person or object in his mind.

"But it's rare."

Despite the explanation, the doppelganger looked at YuWon with a questioning expression.

"If you're that monkey's alter ego, there's no way he wouldn't recognize you..."

He stopped talking at that moment.

A red aura appeared in YuWon's eyes.

It wasn't the Golden Ash Eyes, but it was definitely similar to the Golden Ash Eyes.

However, the Sensory Field used by the doppelganger said that YuWon was an entity that did not use the transformation.

So he became even more confused.

A person with eyes like Son OhGong's.

He was confused as to what Yuwon really was.

And then.

"Now."

Pot-.

Skaaak-.

YuWon's sword was unsheathed, and Arcane Power flowed through the hilt.

['Superior Mana Sword' is activated]

['Holy Fire' is activated]

Boom!

A holy flame surrounded the sword, along with the Superior Mana Sword skill that had been acquired for a costly amount of points.

The compressed fire and Arcane Power made the sword even sharper, and at such a close distance, YuWon's Sword flew precisely towards the doppelganger's neck.

"Ambush is not a very good move..."

Likewise, just as the doppelganger, who had also half-drawn his sword, was about to respond, the doppelganger's toes wiggled to the side.

Spat-.

Chick-.

The doppelganger's cheek was slashed. Drops of blood splattered on the floor, leaving red marks on the transparent mirror.

The doppelganger, already far away, touched his cheek with one hand.

There was blood on his hand.

"Necromancer..."

A man brandished a sword behind his back.

Excalibur in hand, Arthur joined Yuwon.

"It wasn't one."

Two people reflected in the alter ego's eyes.

Arthur.

And the other was a Ranker with the head and face of a thug.

-Is this our first battle?

Duduk-.

Ares smiled as he relaxed his uncomfortable body.

-I don't know what happened, but he's a guy with a lot of attitude.

Ares smiled at his alter ego, who looked exactly like YuWon.

Not long ago, he had possessed the body of a Ranker he met in a bar, and became Yu-Won's hands and feet.

'Aren't you going to help?'

-That guy is Amaterasu?

Despite YuWon's request, Susanoo stubbornly refused.

- 'He looks interesting, but I'm not interested. I'd rather you die here and the Three Sacred Treasures be buried forever.'

He was not wrong.

As far as Susanoo was concerned, there was no difference between YuWon and Amaterasu.

YuWon was a necromancer who bound her soul, and Amaterasu was the enemy responsible for her death.

Naturally, from Susanoo's perspective, the best outcome was for YuWon to die here.

If that happened, YuWon would be dead, and Amaterasu would be screwed, as he would never be able to gather the Three Sacred Treasures.

'When are you going to recognize me?'

-Become stronger than me, and I will make you my master.

A High Rank ranked 57th.

He, who was a High Ranker with a higher rank than the Three Gods except Zeus, says that he needed to become stronger than him.

'Well, it's not that hard.

Time would take care of that.

For now, he had to overcome the one in front of him.

"Well, at least this makes it clear."

Shak-.

The alter ego's wound that wiped the blood from his cheek with his hand returned to its original state as if it had never been.

"You're not that monkey's alter ego."

The ability to recover quickly from minor scratches.

'Super regeneration'

It was one of YuWon's original skills. Contrary to its grandiose name, it was not a great recovery skill, but the important thing was that it healed 'any wound'.

Even an amputated arm would eventually regenerate. However, it took a long time to heal, so it was better to use it after the battle was over than in the middle of it.

'Still, it's not hard to recover from a wound like that.'

It was a skill he took for granted before, but seeing it now made him wish for it again.

'Three against one...'

Wu, wu, wu-.

The alter ego's Arcane Power began to move.

A sensory field spread around him, and he could feel that he was in it.

YuWon also used the Sensory Field. He used both his Ash Eyes and his Sensory Field to observe the doppelganger's movements.

Again there was surprise in his eyes.

"It's not quite an advanced level, but that really is the Sensory Field as well as the Golden Ash Eyes..."

Abilities that YuWon was familiar with.

"What are you really?"

The alter ego was curious about YuWon.

The Sensory Field was an ability that only YuWon had in the tower.

No, it was the same with the Golden Ash Eyes.

The only skill that only one person had.

However, YuWon had two of them.

-Who cares who the opponent is, it doesn't matter!

Skak-.

Kwagagagagak-!

Ares' sword cut the clone's body in half. But the figure of the alter ego, which looked like a fountain of blood, disappeared from the spot and appeared behind Ares.

Chak-.

The floor of the mirror froze.

"This person really..."

At that moment, Arthur's sword, which flew like a glide, pierced the clone's neck.

Shiik-.

"It's my Master."

Pook-.

Excalibur slammed into his head. However, for a moment, Arthur felt nothing on the tip of his sword.

"Is it Excalibur this time?"

".....!"

Thud!

BANG!

Arthur's body went flying and crashed into the wall. Miraculously, Yata's Mirror was harder than any other metal, so even though it flew off with quite a bit of force, it didn't get scratched.

"The more I look at it, the more curious it is."

Sensory Field in the Golden Ash Eyes, and Excalibur.

All were abilities and items that made a name for themselves in this tower.

At this point, the alter ego did not look at YuWon with the same eyes as the first time.

The man who looked like him, and who had seemed suspicious to him before, was now the object of his curiosity.

"Since you don't seem to want to answer, should I force you to talk?".

Quack-.

After punching Arthur in the side with his fist and sending him flying, the doppelganger looked at the three of them with a grim face.

And at the alter ego's reaction, YuWon narrowed his eyes and frowned.

'That's a terrible way to talk.

A man who lives for his own good.

That was himself.

'Still, I managed to get the gist of it.'

A brief exchange.

Even though he sacrificed Ares and Arthur, he now had a vague idea of the statistics of the alter ego before him.

Arthur rose without falling.

The undead never die. They were beings that resurrected eternally, as long as YuWon's Mana did not run out.

Loss of Mana.

That was exactly the amount of damage Arthur had just taken from his alter ego.

'Odds..... aren't that high.'

It would be nice if Susanoo could help.

He could summon Susano'o as an undead right now, but that would consume too much mana.

Not only was it unclear how much help Susanoo'o's incomplete binding would be, but it would also be an excessive expenditure of his energy.

Nor did he know how long the combat would last.

Rather than risk it, YuWon thought of another way out.

"Looks like you've got a big mouth."

Ssh-.

His steps became lighter.

It was a start.

"Then I have no choice but to open it somehow."

Pot-.

The doppelganger, who had returned to YuWon's side, reached out his hand towards YuWon's face.

And at that moment...

Tsut-.

Saaak-.

As if waiting, YuWon threw his body and head back and swung his sword.

Bang, boom, boom!

Flames erupted from the sword strike, engulfing his alter ego and causing an explosion. The blow he had been preparing for sent him staggering forward as if he had never taken a step back.

Suaak-.

jjwoong-!

The swords clashed.

A white sword and a black sword. Both were the work of Hephaestus, and there was no need to mention their strength and hardness.

Tung-.

YuWon's body was pushed back and flew away.

In terms of Arcane Power, it wasn't much.

YuWon's current Arcane Power was 118.

It was comparable to that of any mid-level Ranker.

However.

'Not enough power.'

Although the Arcane Power was impressively high, other stats were missing.

Ting, ting, ting.

A tingling sensation in his grip.

Such an impact was an overwhelming difference in power.

Clang, clang-!

Reacting to the sword was not a problem.

It was thanks to the Ash Eyes and the Sensory Field.

However, everything but his Arcane Power was lagging behind.

In this case, there was only one way.

In such a situation, there was only one way out.

[The Giant's power permeates your entire body].

[The strength of a Giant is imbued in your arms]

[You have partially mastered complete gigantization].

Kudeudeuk-.

Your arms swelled up.

A feeling of vigor and strength, as if you could do anything.

Kwaak-!

Kwaaaaaaaaah-.

The weapons clashed, and the impact pushed back Ares, who lunged at him.

YuWo's feet were not pushed back as before.

His sword remained taut.

Unhappy with the result, YuWon clenched his sword tighter and faced the surprised doppelganger.

'Isn't that enough?'

Although partially, after meeting Hercules, he learned how to become a partial giant.

So he thought he could at least gain some advantage in strength, if not in other stats, at least in strength.

But no.

"Gigantization... .."

In disbelief, the alter ego's face hardened even more.

Clang-!

In a brief interval, YuWon swiftly lowered his sword and opened the distance.

The doppelganger came no closer. Now that he had seen the giant inside, he couldn't tell what else it might be hiding.

kitit-.

YuWon put his sword in the scabbard.

As he sheathed his weapon, his alter ego gave him a puzzled look.

"What are you doing?"

"Switching weapons."

Scott-.

After sheathing the Dusk Edge, YuWon pulled out another sword he was carrying.

"It's a bit of a cheat, but....."

A crimson sword hilt appeared.

Just holding it in his hand made his fingertips tingle.

Yiiiiiiiing-.

"It can't be helped anymore."

Kusanagi, who had seen daylight for the first time in a long time, screamed for blood.

Chapter 194

The Sword of Kusanagi (Kusanagi Sword).

A sword of swords, forged from the tail of Yamata no Orochi.

True to the nature of the sword, it was said to be the sharpest of all the objects in the tower.

The power of the Kusanagi had nothing to do with the stats, skills or dexterity of the player wielding it.

It simply wielded and slashed. This was the power of Kusanagi, which could cut not only the opponent, but also the opponent's iron sword.

That is why YuWon did not hold Kusanagi in his hands.

The sword stopped the growth of those who wielded it.

But now he couldn't help it.

Technically speaking, Zeus was much stronger in comparison.

No, not even comparable.

The alter ego in front of him was nothing more than a test subject created by the Mirror of Yata.

However, he was strong enough to be difficult for his current self to handle.

Of course, Zeus was also a being from a different dimension.

A High Ranker who ranked ninth in the rankings.

However, YuWon didn't take out Kusanagi in the fight against Zeus.

Because there was no need for that.

'In the fight against Zeus, there were many instances where I was able to win. But for now, this is my only option.'

Yata's Mirror was proof that YuWon didn't know it existed.

That's why he couldn't prepare in advance, and couldn't find a better way to solve it.

Kusanagi was like a cheat in a game.

That's why he didn't want to use it, but there was no need to be stubborn in this situation.

"That sword, it's a Demonic Sword."

His eyes narrowed at the faint aura of expectation emanating from Kusanagi and the faint Mana enveloping the surface.

Demonic Sword (鬼劍).

A dangerous type of object.

Demonic swords used to be very valuable. As an item that instantly increased the user's stats, its power was much greater than other items of equal value.

However, the problem was that there were many cases where the player could no longer grow due to becoming drunk on the item's power.

'The Kusanagi is considered the best item of its kind.'

Boom-.

YuWon held the Kusanagi in his hand and swung it in the air.

'And that guy doesn't know Kusanagi.'

It felt good in his hand.

Its lightness was such as having nothing in his hand.

And the confidence of being able to cut through anything.

All of that was due to this Kusanagi.

Between them, the feeling of being able to cut through anything was too good to be true.

Confidence is inherently a double-edged sword. You can't have too much of it, and you can't have too little of it.

Having the Kusanagi in your hands doesn't make you invincible.

It was just a matter of soberly assessing the sudden surge of power and not relying on it too much.

That was the task at hand for the player holding the Kusanagi.

"Disappointing."

His alter ego clicked his tongue and shook his head.

"I thought you were a pretty decent guy, but you resort to something like that."

"Even pretending to be pretentious..."

"It's not pretentiousness, it's smugness."

It was a terrible thing to say.

YuWon felt his face heat up unnecessarily. He was who he used to be, but he was a shitty person.

It was true.

Until then, he had rarely faced opponents as strong as Son OhGong or Hercules.

'It wasn't until I met the Outsiders that I learned humility.'

From then on, his personality slowly changed.

He made friends and experienced fighting as a team instead of alone.

He realized that the person he had always considered the best was not as cool as he thought.

YuWon looked at himself in the mirror.

'Really...'

Not cool.

He felt his face heat up. He sighed and shook the Kusanagi in his hand.

'You talk a lot.

Tak~

The red glow in YuWon's eyes intensified. The change was caused by the Demonic Sword in his hand.

After staring at Kusanagi for a moment, the doppelganger moved.

Spot-.

Flash-!

An instantaneous acceleration.

YuWon's eyes followed the doppelganger's movements, but for a brief moment he lost sight of it.

'It's an anomaly.

It wasn't a special ability.

It was a way to fool the opponent's eyes by making his movements instantly faster.

A movement that was naturally ingrained in his body.

He was well aware of this movement.

'Left.

Clang-!

The sword collided with the sword.

The impact was less than before. Kusanagi's sword absorbed the impact.

The doppelganger's eyebrows twitched.

"Good block."

Shh-.

Kak, kak, kak, kak!

Then the clones of Arthur and Ares rushed from both sides and attacked in unison, but the Alter ego jumped high.

Parbat, Parbat-

He turned faster.

YuWon's eyes followed the movements of the alter ego reflected in the mirror.

It seemed that there were several of them. It was like the Murim World's arcane ability, Shape Shifting, which could make a body appear manifold at high speeds.

'Is it acceleration?'

Acceleration.

It was a B-grade skill, not a very high-ranked skill.

However, before Regression, it was one of the skills YuWon was most proficient in.

First, among the stats originally possessed by YuWon, the highest stats except for Arcane Power were Sense and Agility, with equal numbers.

"I'm coming."

Hwareuk-

YuWon's body burst into flames.

An enormous Arcane Power enveloped the surroundings. The flames spread out like a curtain.

[The 'Sacred Fire' protects the body]

['Ash Eyes' controls the 'Sacred Fire']

Shiyyi-!

Dozens of sword attacks erupted from all directions. Each and every one of them were powerful sword strikes that would have been impossible to block had you not prepared beforehand.

Boom, boom, boom!

The curtain of Holy Fire shattered, only to regenerate again.

YuWon looked at his alter ego on the other side.

'Which one is the real one?'

In the midst of countless sword attacks.

YuWon's eyes followed an alter ego.

'I found it.

Hua-ak-!

['Steps of Heaven' has been activated].

[Increases movement speed by 100% for 5 seconds].

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

Using the skill associated with Steps of Hermes, YuWon escaped from the veil/curtain protecting his body.

Yuwon's speed doubled in an instant, and dozens of his alter egos converged on him.

Shaaaaaaaaa-!

The sword strikes merged into one point.

Although small in size, it was the most powerful so far.

'It really is me.'

He knew it would be like that.

As his future, or rather, his past, he knew how to fight.

What abilities he had, how to attack.

How to move at times like this, what to use next.

And what level the Kim YuWon in front of him now was.

He had already made a verdict.

And then...

'Go through.'

He felt confident.

Kii-iing-.

Kusanagi broke into a shout.

The moment she made up her mind to cut, the aura surrounding the sword became several times sharper.

['Superior Mana Sword' is activated.]

No other skill was needed.

A single Demonic Sword with the strength and aura of a sword is enough.

Jjiik-.

A thin and sharp sword pierced through the giant blades shot by the alter egos.

Clang-!

".....!"

A look of surprise appeared in the doppelganger's eyes.

He hadn't expected YuWon to be able to cut through that formation of swords.

And of course, in an unexpected situation, his response would be slow.

CLANG-!

YuWon's sword collided with the doppelganger's.

The clash of the two swords shook his body for a moment.

But that was all.

After a moment of shaking, the clone straightened up.

"...You surprised me."

"I wouldn't be surprised at all."

"What?"

Jigging.

A long scar appeared on the clone's cheek.

Chwaak-!

A much larger wound than the first.

Such a wound could not easily recover even with the Super Regeneration skill.

Swing-.

YuWon's sword began to dance again.

The bright red sword made several lines in the air. A sharp sense of anticipation was added to the sword's movement, which tangled like red threads.

Swoosh!

As he swung the sword, the red threads formed in the air and flew towards his alter ego. His eyes widened at the sword strikes that surrounded him as if he was chained.

"Wow-."

Kwagwagwagwagwagw-.

Arcane Power burst from his body.

Tuk, tu-tu-tuk-.

An enormous amount of blue-colored Arcane Power cut the red thread.

At the moment a bead of sweat broke out on the forehead of the doppelganger who had poured out so much Arcane Power at once....

Tik-.

The sweat on his forehead froze.

For a moment, his body stiffened.

Cha-ang-!

His frozen body broke free.

It was not difficult to break free from the bonds. Arthur's ice was no match for his alter ego's body.

But...

Just for a moment.

That brief moment was enough.

-Good job.

Shaaaaaaaaa-!

Ares' sword pierced his alter ego's throat.

And in that moment.

Pang-.

The doppelganger's hand grabbed Ares' sword.

-What the...

Boom

Quaang-!

Ares' body floated upward and then crashed to the ground. The alter ego didn't let go of the sword he was holding, and Ares did the same.

Boom, boom, boom-!

Yata's hard, mirrored floor didn't shatter. The impact on his back jolted Ares' consciousness, and his grip soon loosened.

Thud, thud-.

Looking at Ares, who was thrown to the ground, the doppelganger threw back the sword in his hand.

A small wound had formed on his hand.

"That sword is not just a simple demonic sword."

Ignoring YuWon, the alter ego looked at the demonic sword in YuWon's hand.

If he were a player who only used Demonic Sword, his level would be obvious.

But it wasn't.

"What item is it, isn't it dangerous to have something like that?"

He wasn't wrong.

He wasn't the only one who had been cut by the sword in the previous encounter.

YuWon's grip was sore. It was an effect of Kusanagi.

'A sword that devours the life of the user. The execution of its power does not discriminate between friend and foe.'

He could see why people were so reluctant to use the Kusanagi, even with its grandiose name.

The only way to deal with this sword is to break it. If a player couldn't surpass the sword's expectations, it was impossible to even hold it in their hands.

'It would be perfect for Susanoo.

Kab-

YuWon wielded the sword again and approached the doppelganger.

The doppelganger's eyes were fixed on the Kusanagi in YuWon's hand.

"The sword is good, but you still don't know?".

"Know what?"

"You can't beat me. I'm stronger than you."

YuWon nodded.

The distance was short. At that distance, a single person moving fast could reach him with a sword strike.

A short distance.

This was the distance YuWon preferred, and it was the same for his alter ego.

"That's right. You're stronger than me."

Normally, he would have faced an opponent who was exactly like him.

But due to the peculiarity of going back in time, Yata's mirror reflected back to him an alter ego stronger than him.

"But...."

At first, he was terrified of the alter ego in front of him.

So, without realizing it, he unsheathed his kusanagi and fought passively, uncharacteristically.

But now she was confident.

"I'm still going to win."

YuWon's eyes sparkled.

Kak-

One more step.

Further and further in, closing the distance and projecting confidence.

There was only one reason for his confidence.

You don't know me.

'But I do know you'.

Chapter 195

Tap-

YuWon took a step closer.

The double's eyes widened.

"What are you doing?"

Suh-.

Arturo and Ares behind him disappeared.

From three against one, it was back to one-on-one.

"Really..."

K-Kuk-.

The double's muscles twitched irregularly as he looked at YuWon.

Something seemed off.

YuWon never made a move without being certain, and the same applied to his alter ego.

"You should know by now."

Even if he was just a reflected alter ego of Yata, YuWon was YuWon.

"I am you."

It was noticeable when their swords clashed.

Who the opponent was, how they fought.

The presence or absence of skill wasn't important.

Even with the same skill, it would be completely different depending on who used it.

If he had that skill...

Perhaps by now, the alter ego was thinking like that. And maybe he thinks it's himself who gives him goosebumps.

He couldn't help but doubt it.

He wondered if the YuWon in front of him was truly the same person as him.

But...

"Still, you..."

Realizing that wouldn't change anything.

"You don't know me."

Kuduk-.

Boom.

[The power of the Giant permeates your entire body]

[Demonic Energy activates]

[Gigantization strengthens]

Boom-.

Kusanagi traced a trajectory.

A sharp strike flew, and his alter ego wielded his sword against it.

Bam!

The two clashed swords again, one after another.

Clang, clang, clang!

Pi-it, Pi-pit-.

Sword clashed with sword, but it was the flesh that got cut.

Wounds grew on the double's face and body.

The same happened to YuWon's body.

"Do you want us to die together?"

"No."

Kwagwagwa-.

YuWon increased the power he was infusing into Kusanagi.

"You will die alone."

Kwat-!

Jjong-!

The double's body took a step back.

It was to create some distance from Kusanagi.

'You can't gain an advantage in strength.'

The alter ego turned his head.

He had found something better.

The judgment wasn't difficult to make.

'But I am faster.'

Due to Gigantization, their strength was almost the same. The same applied to Arcane Power.

But when it came to speed, he had the advantage. To turn the tide of this fight, he needed to capitalize on his advantage.

Kak-.

The alter ego disappeared.

Swoosh-.

YuWon's eyes moved, and in the mirror cave, he could see his alter ego moving.

Not in front of him, but to the side.

It only meant one thing.

'He's using his speed...'

It was almost unbelievable at this point.

As much as he said it was himself, how could he think the same way?

'I'm sure I would have done the same.'

But...

'You don't know me.'

Hwareuk-.

[The 'Ashen Eyes' read the path]

Jjoong-!

He pushed back the sword flying from the side, and Kusanagi traced another trajectory with a sharp burst of foresight.

Pit-, pit-.

Chwak-!

The doppelganger's chest was sliced. Unlike the wounds on his hands and cheeks, this was the first real injury.

'What kind of power do those eyes possess...'

Tuk-.

The double staggered backward.

YuWon, on the other hand, moved closer to him.

"I really know myself well."

Quaddudeuk-, Chaaaaang-!

Skaak-.

The tip of the sword pierced through the mirror.

Kusanagi's sword pierced through the mirror wall and then slashed the neck of his alter ego, who was escaping to the side.

Jjoong-!

The double's eyes, who had just managed to block the strike with the sword's hilt, trembled.

Immediately after.

Boom-.

BANG-!

The flying double's body crashed into the opposite wall.

The staggering clone quickly swung his sword and cut at YuWon, who was running straight towards him.

Skak-.

Huung-.

He thought he had landed a hit.

But it wasn't so.

By a hair's breadth.

YuWon was already moving before his alter ego swung the sword.

'How the hell...'

Question marks continued to form in his mind.

Clearly, his speed was far superior to his.

And yet, strangely, he couldn't catch his opponent. It was as if he was reading all of his movements.

"Seriously, is it me?"

If the other person looked exactly like you on the outside, then the person should be able to do it.

Because one wouldn't be foolish enough to not know themselves.

However...

"Then why can't I?"

If that were the case, then it should be the same for him too.

He should be able to anticipate his opponent's movements and fight accordingly.

Like now.

"What if that guy is me..."

From the corner of his eye, he saw YuWon rushing in.

"He's coming."

Kwak-.

The alter ego infused strength into White Night in his hand.

This fight was going to be a long battle, and it didn't bode well.

The more time passed, the more he felt like they were reading his movements.

Kwaaaaat-!

With the opening of his Arcane Power, the double unleashed several sword strikes.

By pushing his Sensorial Field to its limit, he anticipated his opponent's movements.

He moved based on what he could see, the subtle movements of their muscles, and the assumption that the other person was who they claimed to be.

It was just an instant.

In that brief moment, the double had calculated YuWon's movements.

However...

Boom-.

He didn't land a single cut.

"You see."

Peet-.

A burning sensation in his waist.

"I said I would win."

Chhhhhh!

"Agh..."

Blood welled up from a cut on his side.

It was quite a deep cut.

If he tried to move too much now, the wound would widen.

Zing-!

The double let go of the sword in his hand.

He needed to recover.

['Super Regeneration' is activated.]

[Cannot recover.]

His eyes widened.

'Why...'

He couldn't recover.

This had never happened before.

It was an ability that even worked against dark magic that hindered healing. Although it could only be used once a day, Super Regeneration allowed for rapid recovery in a short period of time.

But why, why, why.

The double's eyes fell upon the sword in YuWon's hand.

"Is it because of that sword?"

A red sword emitting an unpleasant Arcane Power.

That sword was obviously unusual.

Even he had never heard of a sword that emitted a tremendous amount of energy that would cut even the wielder of the sword.

The alter ego realized.

He couldn't win this fight alone.

"Let me ask you a question,"

"What question?"

"Are you really me?"

As if none of this made sense, the alter ego finally raised the question in his mind and asked.

And at that moment...

"Because I am you..."

Tang-.

YuWon's hand grasped the hilt of another sword.

"You also know this."

".....!"

The hilt of a sword floated in the air.

It was the White Night that the alter ego had dropped to the ground.

[Sword Qi Control] [以氣馭劍]

It was quite a difficult skill.

One of the techniques of the Murim World, it utilized Arcane Power to levitate a sword and move it at will.

It wasn't very efficient as it required a lot of energy, but it wasn't bad for assassination.

That's why YuWon always saved this skill for last.

Pang-!

Then, the White Night left YuWon's hand and fell to the ground.

His alter ego silently watched it.

Not even his final move worked. His eyes fluttered wildly, then calmed down.

"You really are me."

He had to admit it.

The YuWon standing before him was him.

And that could only mean one thing.

"So I... am the fake?"

At that murmur, YuWon wore a slightly surprised expression.

It truly was himself.

To realize that this was a test even in these circumstances...

"I knew that one of us was the fake. At first, of course, I thought it was you, but then it became strange."

The double did nothing to stop the blood flowing from his waist.

Far from stopping the bleeding, the wounds inflicted by Kusanagi widened. He no longer tried to halt the wound.

"It was difficult to admit, but now that we've come this far, I can't help but admit it."

Swish-.

The double picked up the sword that had fallen to the ground.

YuWon silently watched him.

There was no longer a trace of fight left in him.

The double's sword was inverted.

At that moment...

Pooh-.

He opened his mouth, piercing his own heart in the center of his chest.

"You are the real one."

YuWon's face reflected in the alter ego's eyes.

The fight hadn't been long, but he quickly saw it clearly.

That this was a battle he had lost. It was also a fight he had to lose.

"I don't know what you're trying to do, but..."

His eyes slowly clouded over.

His voice faltered, losing strength.

"You must win, I'm sure of it."

His eyes were not closed.

Blurry focus. The alter ego's eyes clouded over, and his form became increasingly

YuWon lowered his head and looked down at the ground.

He saw his reflection in the mirror again, where just moments ago he had seen nothing.

[You have passed the 'Yata Test'.]

Goo-goo, goo-goo-.

The cave shook.

The floor and walls trembled violently as if about to collapse.

YuWon watched as the mirrors disappeared from his sight.

'The test is over.'

The mirror test was about defeating his reflection.

At first, he felt panic seeing his past self instead of his current self.

He wondered if he could defeat such a guy, who was stronger than him in all statistics, although their skills differed slightly.

It was a good thing.

What would have happened if the opponent in the mirror had been his current self?

He would have had a 50% chance of winning or losing. But since that wasn't the case, he could only figure it out another way.

Furthermore, it made him realize something.

He hadn't fully accepted it yet.

Several years had passed since he traveled through time.

He had been very busy and believed that he was living in the present.

He met Hephaestus, Merlin, Hercules, and even Son OhGong, albeit as an alter ego.

So he thought it was fine.

-"If you go back once, there's no way to come back."

Cronos.

The Father of the Three Gods, including Zeus, who created the Clockwork Mechanism with Odin.

"So whoever goes back, let them live there as best they can, without any regrets here."

That's what he said when he first revealed the Clockwork Mechanism to everyone.

And whether it was a mistake or not, YuWon felt as if Cronos had been watching him at that moment.

Perhaps from that moment on, he might have been considering sending himself back in time.

'This is not easy.'

It wasn't as easy as he had expected.

The time he had lived before his return had been long, like a millennium, and the time elapsed since his return was still too short to compare.

He had too many regrets to throw them all away.

His mood turned sour.

After returning using the Clockwork Mechanism, it was a sense of detachment he had never felt before.

A strange feeling.

His mood was interrupted by a sudden sound.

Ding-.

The sound came from the direction of the alter ego that had become transparent.

YuWon looked in the direction where the sound came from.

[You have obtained the 'Yata Mirror'.]

A circular shield made of transparent mirrors.

Pak-.

Upon seeing it, the Kusanagi sword in his hand trembled.

'I finally found it.'

The Kusanagi Sword.

The Magatama Jewel.

And the last of the Three Sacred Treasures.

The shape of the cave returned to its original form, and the 'Yata Mirror' appeared before him.

Chapter 196

Amaterasu walked through the center of the room.

He was restless, eagerly awaiting something.

Pudeuk-.

A screech was heard. When he looked out the window, all he saw was a hazy sky.

Nothing out of the ordinary.

"Are you playing with me?"

The player's kit remained silent, no response.

There was no news of Kim YuWon, who had gone in search of the Yata Mirror.

This meant one of two things.

Either he had the Yata Mirror and had disappeared, or he was dead.

However, strangely, Amaterasu didn't think YuWon was dead.

It was an unfounded suspicion, but it was a gut feeling. Since their first encounter, Kim YuWon had seemed like a high-ranking player, maybe even one of the top 20 or 10.

Someone like that couldn't have died.

The reason he couldn't communicate with him was probably because he had the Yata Mirror.

'Even if he did, there's no way a single player could betray me.'

He was very aware of YuWon's abilities.

He had heard the rumors and knew he had won his fight against Ares.

He had seen it firsthand and thought he was quite good.

But even if he was, he was still far below himself.

Furthermore, there was no reason to believe he would make the wrong decision in the heat of the moment.

If that were the case, there was only one reason.

"Asgard....."

He trusted the background he had behind him.

He must have believed in Asgard's strong shield and stabbed him in the back.

'Do you think you'll get away with it?'

The Yata Mirror had to be in his hands.

He had a rough idea of where Susanoo's Sacred Treasure was located.

At the last moment, they found out it had disappeared on the first floor, so it was as if he was already halfway there.

But what if the Yata Mirror fell into Asgard's hands here?

He couldn't allow that.

Tick, tock, tick-.

Amaterasu impatiently tapped his player's kit.

He sent a message to the other players and Rankers stored in his player's kit, located on the 44th floor.

-Supervise the perimeter of the Trial Center. Don't let him reach the next floor.

Kim YuWon would definitely try to ascend to the next floor.

He was a brilliant talent. A talent that even the Rankers, not to mention the High Ranks, found ridiculous.

No.

He already possessed the strength of a High Rank.

It shouldn't be difficult to find him if they kept an eye on the Trial Room.

"The greed for the top is the same for everyone."

He knew well the players' greed to reach the highest point.

He had been one in the past, and so had everyone else.

So he was certain.

"He's definitely on this floor."

"I thought you were on the 44th floor."

Ding-.

Hercules served tea.

YuWon looked at the small teacup that seemed like a toy in his large hand and asked curiously.

"It seems you have an inappropriate fondness for tea."

"Inappropriate? What do you mean?"

"It's because with your appearance, it seems like the only thing you drink is beer."

"You shouldn't judge people by their appearance."

Sitting across from each other at the dining table inside a cabin, YuWon drank the tea that Hercules handed to him.

In the tranquility of the forest.

After the battle with Olympus, Hercules had returned home and spent the rest of his time in the forest.

Pak.

Pushing aside one of the chairs, someone approached and sat next to YuWon.

Turning to the side, YuWon saw Pandora and asked.

"What about Pandora? Is she okay?"

For some reason, Pandora didn't want to leave YuWon's side.

This time was no different.

And to release such Pandora, YuWon entrusted her to Hercules.

Even if he couldn't help it at that time.

Now, as if she couldn't separate, Pandora clung to YuWon's side.

"She still seems a little reluctant to meet people. Probably because of Zeus."

Hercules hurriedly offered Pandora a cup of tea.

"This is for you. Drink it."

"...Yes."

Pandora, who had been staring at the teacup Hercules handed her, nodded.

Her expression changed slightly when she looked at YuWon. It was as if she was resentful of him for leaving her behind.

"It seems she has a different expression lately."

"She was like that after you suddenly disappeared. I guess she's getting better."

"Well, that's good to hear."

"Even if it's just for Pandora's sake, you should drop by when you have time. I don't know if you're a healer, or that little one next to you is, but she needs you."

"I can't promise, but I'll be here for a while."

Dreuk-.

Hercules, who was about to take a seat, froze at the unexpected response.

"Here? Why?"

"Why not? Do you have all this money and can't treat me to a meal?"

"No, I didn't mean that..."

Hercules, taken aback for a moment, hesitated before continuing.

"I thought you would keep climbing... I heard your goal was the top of this Tower, the ceiling."

YuWon was different from other Rankers.

Even Hercules knew that.

That's why he thought YuWon would keep climbing the tower. Since the war with Olympus was over, even more so, he wouldn't rest anymore.

"I can't keep climbing."

"But why?"

"Because there was a little fight."

"A fight?"

Seeing the puzzled expression on Hercules' face asking what he was talking about, YuWon explained what had happened.

Floor 44.

A world of criminals.

The Three Precious Children and the Three Sacred Treasures.

YuWon took out the Yata Mirror and the Kusanagi Sword and placed them on the table.

"So, you're saying these are two of the Three Sacred Treasures?"

With a rare look of surprise, Hercules touched the Yata Mirror and Kusanagi.

A strange sensation ran through his fingertips. It was definitely not an ordinary object.

"You have a knack for finding things like this."

"It was pure coincidence."

"It doesn't seem like something you can come across by accident."

They were right.

The Three Sacred Treasures were an item that even the Three Precious Children could only find one of, even after searching together.

But to think that he had saved two out of those three treasures.

"As for the Three Precious Children, Amaterasu and Tsukuyomi are still remaining, right? I don't know about Tsukuyomi, but I remember that Amaterasu's ranking is quite high."

Amaterasu's rank is higher than the other two Gods, except Zeus.

No matter how skilled YuWon was, at this moment he was a difficult existence to handle.

"Do you want me to help you?"

Hercules' eyes gleamed fiercely.

They were the eyes of battle.

An unexpected reaction.

He, who clearly hated fighting, offered to assist in a fight himself.

"I wondered if he would listen to me even if I asked him."

YuWon hesitated for a moment.

With Hercules' help, things would be easy. Currently, Hercules was ranked among the top 20, far above the Three Precious Children.

With his strength, this fight shouldn't be too difficult.

"But..."

It was best for Hercules to stay where he was now.

He needed the right items.

He had faced a high-level High Rank without anything, without items, with his bare body.

The only reason he was able to become one of the top 10 was because he obtained the right items.

"This guy should stay here for a while."

This matter had to end on his terms.

If he really needed Hercules' help, he would have it, but not for this.

"It's okay, I can handle this on my own."

"Wouldn't it be difficult that way?"

"No way."

Hercules seemed bewildered by YuWon's confidence.

Seeing that expression, YuWon asked.

"Why?"

"It's obviously a ridiculous fight."

"But?"

"I think you'll win, for some reason."

YuWon had won the war against Olympus.

This time, even if he didn't have any other allies, the opponent was too different.

Compared to Olympus or Zeus, the Three Precious Children were very insignificant opponents. Although Amaterasu was a bit dangerous, he thought he would somehow overcome it.

"But if you're going to fight, why are you waiting here?"

"Because we need time to fight properly."

"Time?"

"I entrusted something, and I need to stay until it's complete."

In other words, waiting until Hephaestus completed the object he had entrusted to him.

He didn't know how long it would take, whether days or months.

Perhaps it would take years.

That's why he had chosen this place.

"So let's take care of ourselves for a while. Maybe a little longer."

This was Hercules' house.

A place that not even the Three Precious Children dared to invade.

So this place was perfect.

"And in the meantime..."

Druk-.

After finishing his tea, YuWon stood up and asked.

"Can you help me?"

Chuk-.

YuWon and Hercules ran to a place far from the cabin.

Pandora moved away from them and ate some snacks. It seemed Hercules had bought the snacks to feed her.

"Are you telling me to help you practice your Gigantization?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

"Well, you see, my Gigantization is still a child."

YuWon remembered the first time he encountered Hercules' Gigantization.

"Shouldn't I learn a bit from you, an adult?"

Gigantization was an ability that only Hercules possessed in this Tower.

Naturally, there weren't many clues about Gigantization. Besides, at this moment, YuWon didn't have a chance to encounter a giant.

"Even if you say that, I have nothing to teach you."

"You don't have to teach me."

"So, what should we do?"

"Fight against me."

YuWon didn't draw his sword.

With just his bare body, he faced Hercules, and Hercules laughed in disbelief.

"Are you trying to fight me with your fists?"

"Don't be so hard. I want you to fight me without killing me."

"Without killing you..."

Hercules pondered the words for a moment, then opened and closed his fists several times.

And in the next moment...

Bum-.

Hercules' fist extended in front of him.

Shaa-.

He could feel the Arcane Power emanating from his fist, crushing his body.

He barely managed to avoid being knocked away, and in the next moment, he felt his stomach churning.

Thud-.-.

"Kugh!"

Blood spurted from YuWon's mouth.

His stomach organs seemed to burst. As the sensation continued, his body shape collapsed.

Kwadeuk, Kwadeudeuk-.

Crunch, crunch-.

The ground began to crumble. The floor collapsed, and Liu YuWon's body plummeted.

In front of Hercules with his fist extended.

An enormous cliff appeared in front of him.

"Mmm..."

Hercules alternated his gaze between his fist and the bottom of the cliff.

Gigantization punch.

It was a skill he rarely had to use. Unless he was fighting against Zeus or the like, there were very few battles that justified using Gigantization.

"Without killing you..."

Once again, he contemplated YuWon's demands in his mouth.

"I'm sorry, but that's the difficult part."

Translator's Note.

The Current Ranking Is:

-Now-

[Poseidon – 72]

[Hades - 61]

[Susanoo - 57 (dead)]

[Amaterasu – 52]

[Hercules – 21]

[Zeus-9]

[Kim YuWon-X]

-Future-

[Poseidon – 43]

[Hades – 34]

[Susanoo - #57 (dead)]

[Amaterasu – 13]

[Hercules – 3]

[Zeus-5]

[Kim YuWon-4]

Chapter 197

Boo-woo-.

Kwaaang-!

Hercules' fist crashed into the ground.

The floor creaked, causing YuWon's body to stagger, and then his fist shot forward.

Jjaeuk-!

It literally struck Hercules' jaw.

It was a fist of gigantic proportions, yet it didn't even budge Hercules' neck by a millimeter.

Throb-.

Rather, it was YuWon's hand that hurt.

'Tough'.

How could a human body be so tough?

"Those eyes are annoying."

Hwareuk-.

Ashen Eyes bloomed in YuWon's eyes.

YuWon used it to dodge Hercules' punch.

Each punch was a threat, and he had no choice but to dodge them.

Bum-.

At that moment, Hercules' hand grabbed YuWon's arm.

Simultaneously, YuWon's eyes widened as he attempted to close the distance again.

Boom-.

An extended fist.

He couldn't avoid it.

Kwaaang-!

Fist and fist collided.

The impact was felt not only in the fist but throughout the swinging right arm.

['Gigantification' screams].

Thrrrr-.

His entire arm trembled.

After all, he wasn't the best at taking hits.

Tuong-!

YuWon's body was sent flying, and Hercules retracted his fist.

"We'll stop here today."

It was their first proper clash.

However, even with that collision, YuWon's body was completely exhausted and battered.

Hercules' Gigantification was not an ability that YuWon's body could withstand.

"I can keep going."

"Your current strength can't withstand my punches. Next time, it won't be just an arm."

"...Tch."

YuWon clicked his tongue.

It didn't last long, and the excitement of the battle quickly faded.

He was right.

He couldn't withstand Hercules' punch in his current state, and it wasn't just the Gigantification ability, but the difference in strength and endurance statistics.

'What the hell are strength and endurance?'

In the grand scheme of things, Hercules' Arcane Power wasn't that great.

Compared to most High-Rankers, it wasn't anything special.

However, Hercules would later be ranked as one of the top 10 High-Rankers.

There was only one reason for that.

'His strength and endurance.'

To say that he was the strongest living man would be an understatement; his body had no equal.

['Gigantification' ability increases]

[This takes 'Gigantification' to the next level]

Of course, YuWon didn't suffer for nothing.

After YuWon's training with Hercules, he taught him how to use Gigantification.

"Gigantification is the use of muscles."

"Muscles?"

"Yes."

"How?"

"You squeeze here, and then you push like this... and then you keep squeezing, like this!"

"..."

I didn't understand anything he said.

Although he was the best at Gigantification, he wasn't very good at teaching.

In the end, however, YuWon had no choice but to learn the art of Gigantification through trial and error.

He wasn't a very good teacher, but...

'This sucks, completely.'

Yuwon sighed.

A month had already passed.

He had been living at Hercules' house, eating and sleeping with him.

Hercules, who was supposed to be a good teacher, if not a great teacher, was a complete disaster as a teacher.

The good news is that at least he was gaining something by fighting with him.

"Three rounds again today?"

Ding, ding, ding-.

Hercules loosened his grip.

It was creepy to see him like that at first, but I had gotten quite used to it.

"It's not like there's anything else to do."

YuWon had already spent a month here.

It wasn't a long time.

However, during that time, YuWon had never landed a proper punch on Hercules.

"At least I've figured out the trick."

[The power of a Giant resides in the entire body]

Kuwook-.

At some point, YuWon stopped using other abilities.

During the past month, YuWon had solely focused on Gigantification.

Unlike usual, he had only fought Hercules in close combat, and only in close combat.

Throughout this time, YuWon had a single goal.

To become Hercules.

That's how YuWon thought he could better manage Gigantification.

"It'll be a little different this time."

Over time, YuWon had realized one thing about Gigantification.

Like most abilities, the best way to handle Gigantification more proficiently was to use the ability a lot for a long time.

Furthermore...

Gigantification continued to evolve as more stimuli were applied repeatedly.

[The power of the giant permeates your entire body].

[The strength of a giant is now in your right arm].

[The arm of the giant has been implemented].

Boom, boom, boom-.

The Arcane Power of Gigantification that had spread throughout his body focused on his right arm.

Hercules' eyes widened at the change in YuWon's body.

"You're using your head."

This was different from partial Gigantification.

Partial Gigantification, which was the beginning of Gigantification, involved using partial Gigantification because you couldn't achieve full Gigantification.

But now, YuWon's Gigantification wasn't so rudimentary.

He had concentrated the power of his full-body Gigantification into one arm, and the strength of his fist would be several times greater than that of his full-body Gigantification.

Of course.

Quack-.

'The burden on the body is also significant.'

The tension in YuWon's right arm was palpable.

The cells in his right arm were screaming.

Due to the excessive overload, the arm was starting to break.

There wasn't much time left.

"...I'm going."

Kwadeuk-.

Yuwon moved towards Hercules.

In the next moment.

Boom-.

Kwaang-!

The fists of the two men collided.

Yuwon's eyes saw the ceiling.

His arm was torn apart, with blood and broken bones.

His mind was awake, but he couldn't move because of his arm.

"Simple."

Pandora, who was applying medicine to YuWon's arm, spoke up.

"Ignorant."

"...I think the order has changed."

Are you saying that he was just ignorant?

But YuWon couldn't think of anything to refute. Lately, YuWon had been very simple and ignorant, even with himself.

And that was Hercules' style.

Click.

Pandora closed the box of herbs and potions.

She applied some of the more expensive ones. After being with her for the past month, Pandora was quite skilled in the medical arts.

"Three days."

"Will it take three days?"

Pandora didn't respond.

The silence was an affirmation.

"Don't overdo it."

"...I'll try."

YuWon closed his eyes like a dead mouse.

Pandora, who looked at YuWon for a moment, got up from her seat and left.

Carrying the box of herbs, Pandora approached Hercules, who was waiting outside.

"How is he? Is he getting better?"

"No."

"Did I hit him that hard?"

Hercules scratched his head, looking embarrassed about YuWon's injuries.

He should have maintained some control over his strength, but apparently, he had gotten too carried away without realizing it.

Click.

Pandora opened the box of herbs again.

Noticing her gaze directed at the wound on his fist, Hercules hurriedly shook his head.

"No, thanks. It'll heal on its own."

"Still..."

"It's fine."

In the face of stubborn refusal, Pandora nodded.

Undoubtedly, a wound like this meant nothing to a High Rank like Hercules. A higher state of health would not only make him stronger but also more resilient.

Hercules clenched his fist several times and looked at the wound.

'I didn't think I'd get injured.'

It didn't make sense.

It hadn't occurred to him that he could get hurt until the collision happened.

The Lightning, different objects, different abilities like the Ashen Eyes.

Even with all of them, all YuWon used was Gigantification.

Sweat formed in Hercules' hands as he clenched his fists.

'Even when I fought against the Giants, I never got hurt, but...'

The bruise between his fists and the skin that burst from the strong impact.

It was caused by the impact of his fist colliding with YuWon's fist.

"Maybe I'm raising a monster."

"A monster?"

Hercules turned his head upon hearing Pandora's voice.

Apparently, he had muttered too loudly.

"You heard that?"

"Yes."

"You know, the day he entered the tower."

It was a thought that came to his mind again.

Yuwon had entered the Tower just a few years ago. A normal Player would have been around the tenth floor.

"I didn't really teach him anything. He didn't learn Gigantification from me, he didn't master it from me, he didn't come this far because of me. It was all him, he grasped it, he learned it."

"And does that make you nervous/anxious?"

"A little."

"Why?"

In response to Pandora's question, Hercules thought in detail about the anxiety that had arisen while observing YuWon.

"What that guy is seeing is something bigger than Olympus. He's seeing something greater. Olympus and the Three Precious Children are just a gateway to pass through."

Yuwon was clearly a great player.

Not even his own father, Zeus, or the great Asgardian ruler Odin could overshadow YuWon when they started.

Hercules no longer regarded YuWon as just a mere player.

He was looking far, very far.

How far, he couldn't even guess.

"And yet he doesn't tell me what he's preparing for, what he's fighting against, and I can't even see it."

Hercules remembered the battle with Olympus.

Even in the presence of Zeus, he didn't feel intimidated, and despite his victory over the ranker giant, YuWon didn't seem to have achieved his goal.

That troubled Hercules even more.

"He's not just trying to get stronger. I don't see in him the greed I've seen in players who have power."

"Then what?"

"He has a goal. Something so tightly held that he can't take a day off, and I don't know what it is."

A goal that would make even a player of Kim YuWon's caliber impatient.

A goal so grand that even Zeus, the great king of Olympus, would find it difficult to reach.

And Hercules didn't know what that important goal was.

Thud~

"I see. I wonder what it could be."

The closed door opened, and YuWon, who had been listening inside, came out. Herbs were applied to his arm, and it was bandaged.

"Are you sure you don't need to rest, with your body like this?"

"I only have my arm injured, so it's not like I can't move."

"No, no. Take some time to recover."

"Do I look that beat up?"

It was true that he needed rest to recover. Even a resilient player like YuWon would need more than a few days' rest for his arm.

Of course, YuWon was well aware of that and didn't like pushing himself too hard.

But...

"Forget it. It's not like we're going to fight anyway, but I'm going out."

That didn't mean he could stay still now.

The moment he had been waiting for had arrived.

Hercules' eyes widened at YuWon's words.

"Where are you going?"

"It was a little faster than I expected, but..."

YuWon took out his player kit with his uninjured left hand and held it in front of him.

"I think I should descend to the first floor."

And a single character floated above it.

[Hephaestus: Completed]

Chapter 198

On each side of YuWon were two individuals.

Pandora and Hercules.

Clutching onto each other tightly, they boarded the Chariot of the Sun together. This made the solar carriage feel spacious and swept.

"Do you really have to follow me?"

"I just want to know what object they have made for you."

Curiosity was only natural.

The object that YuWon had requested from Hephaestus included the Thunderbolt.

An artifact that was the symbol of Olympus.

Furthermore, one of the ingredients included the "Sea Stone" that Poseidon was desperately seeking.

Combining those items into one?

It wasn't easy to imagine what kind of artifact would have been created.

"It's the same for me."

YuWon took Hercules' curiosity for granted.

He was also eager to arrive at Hephaestus' place.

As he held the reins of the Chariot of the Sun, a thought occurred to him.

"But what about Apollo and his sister? What happened to them?"

It was said that Apollo and his sister had been exterminated by Zeus before the true battle began.

He hadn't heard about them for a long time, but the sight of the Sun Chariot reminded him.

"It seems that my uncle freed them from being imprisoned in Zeus' temple dungeon. I don't know about Artemis, but Apollo seems to be in a very grave condition."

"They must have been severely beaten."

"It's not surprising, both of them would have fought for their lives."

Born as twins, but with different Arcane Powers of fire and ice, they were so skilled that they were said to be comparable to the Three Gods when they fought together.

As such, they were not going to be caught off guard by Zeus' purge.

"So, are they still alive?"

"Yes."

"Well, that's good then."

YuWon let out a sigh of relief.

It was a face that eased a worry.

"Did you know both of them?"

"No."

"Then it's amazing that you care about them."

"How do you see me?"

"Well, as someone who doesn't feel pity at all, and someone very calculating."

"Calculating..."

YuWon rolled the word on his tongue and nodded.

"You're right, but only halfway."

He didn't used to consider himself calculating.

But the current YuWon had to be. Before going back to the past, he had done all the calculations in the first place.

Whom to leave behind, whom to take.

Whom to kill, whom to forgive.

YuWon had fulfilled them.

But that didn't mean he didn't care about those who were on his side.

"If I had taken Apollo and his sister with me..."

"It's not them you should worry about."

YuWon turned his head at Hercules' words.

"They entered the Tower long before you and reached the top long before you. They're not the kind of people you should be burdened with."

His heart melted a little.

He felt that his chest, which had been laden with heavy burdens, lightened a bit.

"So you don't have to carry too much. I don't know what you're carrying, but don't overdo it."

He knew.

That's how it's supposed to be.

YuWon wasn't even a Ranker Player yet. He had to be protected by the administration and had to climb the Tower to take the test safely.

He was too young to get involved in such Tower troubles.

But that was something Hercules could say because he didn't know about the existence of the Clockwork Mechanism.

"When I see you, sometimes I feel that way."

YuWon crossed his arms and looked at Hercules, who held the reins of the Chariot of the Sun in his place.

"It should have been you, not me."

If it had been Hercules instead of himself, wouldn't he have been able to embrace everyone?

He could have taken them without killing or hurting anyone.

But still, Hercules' words were a great comfort.

The journey to the first floor was quite long.

Danpung climbed on YuWon's shoulders and pulled his cheeks. He had been asleep for a long time and had trouble containing his energy after a long hibernation.

Tug-.

YuWon felt a pull on his cheeks.

Looking at Danpung, who had been playing tricks on him for days, he asked in a somewhat indulgent voice.

"Are you having fun?"

"Abba!"

"Yes, yes. It must be fun..."

He didn't know that dealing with children was an exhausting job.

He thought that fighting demons would be a hundred times less exhausting. Suddenly, he felt at ease with his sword.

Crack-.

"Is this the place?"

Hercules saw a small workshop at the end of YuWon's path.

"It's smaller than I thought. However, the facilities seem to be in order."

Hephaestus' workshop was on the ground floor, a bit away from the city center.

The location wasn't bad, and the facilities were decent, but it was nothing out of the ordinary for the best blacksmith in the Tower.

"Well, time to visit my big brother."

Creak-.

Hercules took the lead and opened the door to the workshop.

An unnatural sound.

YuWon was startled by the sound at the door.

"The door, wasn't it locked?"

The door was obviously locked.

However, when Hercules forcefully opened the door for a moment, the doorknob broke.

"...I guess I'll have to call a locksmith."

Hercules, with a perplexed expression, soon headed towards the stairs leading to the basement.

The heat in the workshop was hotter than ever.

He had heard it was finished.

"I can't wait."

YuWon hurriedly went down the stairs.

The floor was a mess. No matter how many spare tools were used, several hammers were broken and scattered on the floor.

Hephaestus lay in the middle of it all.

"Brother!"

Hercules rushed over and lifted Hephaestus.

As Hephaestus lay there, he slowly opened his eyes and moved his pupils to scan Heracles, YuWon, and Pandora.

"Oh, it's you?"

Hercules seemed stunned for a moment as Hephaestus rubbed his eyes and yawned.

It seemed like he had fallen, but apparently he had been sound asleep.

"Why did you come running like that, you madman?"

Shaking his head once, Hephaestus began to gather the broken hammers that were scattered on the floor.

YuWon helped Hephaestus and asked with a concerned expression.

"You haven't exerted yourself too much, have you?"

"Of course I did, I haven't slept since that day."

"You haven't slept? The whole time?"

"I couldn't sleep because I was having fun. That's all."

Dark circles formed under Hephaestus' eyes. It was incredible that a man of his rank could be in such a state with so few hours of sleep.

How many days and nights had he been working on this?

"Follow me. It's inside."

Whoaa-.

Yawning, Hephaestus got up, turned around, and headed to the warehouse.

Apparently, he wanted to show the merchandise to YuWon as soon as possible.

YuWon was also in a hurry.

"I can finally find out."

His heart was beating faster than it had in a long time.

The Lightning, Kyneē, and Triaina.

They were all objects that YuWon had some knowledge of.

But not this time.

This was something new, something that hadn't appeared in the Tower before.

And most importantly, this time he knew for certain who it belonged to. (?)

Creak-.

The warehouse door opened.

Normally, he would have taken a look to see what objects were inside, but this time, he didn't even think about it.

YuWon followed Hephaestus straight to the gloves at the center of the warehouse.

"By nature, new objects receive new names."

Hephaestus picked up the glove, which was inside a transparent glass case.

"But this one didn't have such a thing. It was given a new name upon completion."

Crack-!

The glove shot out.

"As you can see, it has an Ego."

He already knew it had an Ego.

The lightning that Zeus possessed concealed its owner; it was similar to the ego, which has an identity, but it was also different.

"Unconscious."

It seemed to have an unconsciousness.

An object that had will, but was unstable.

The Lightning was definitely a type of object that YuWon had never seen before.

"All I did was bring together what had been divided into three forms. The object that was essentially one, divided into three, and then joined back together, found its original name."

It wasn't an unexpected story.

The idea that different but similar items derived from a single source was a topic.

Furthermore, YuWon had known that they were originally one since he first obtained the Divine Crystal of Darkness.

Even that guy had been talking to YuWon constantly before.

That he needed to gather the three.

"What's your name?"

YuWon looked at the opaque-colored jewel embedded in the center of the glove.

The color faded as the three colors merged.

"Uranus Heart."

"Uranus?"

YuWon's eyes narrowed.

Whether he knew it or not, Hephaestus continued explaining, rotating the object he had created.

"I don't know what Uranus is plotting. But in my experience, the system never lies."

It was only then that Hephaestus's gaze turned towards YuWon.

"You took care of the Lightning, and the other two. This one, once completed, kept rejecting me. It's as if it has its own master."

Crack-.

YuWon took a step closer to Uranus.

"You are its owner."

The warehouse fell silent.

Hephaestus kept his distance. Hercules looked back and forth between YuWon and Uranus, his eyes shining with interest.

And YuWon was now just centimeters away from Uranus.

"Uranus Heart..."

The name had been decided from the beginning.

This object was originally someone's heart.

"It seems like no one knows..."

The others didn't remember, but YuWon remembered the name.

It was Cronus who told him.

"My father was a tyrant."

It was a long time ago.

Those were the words Cronus spoke during a beer party.

"He grew stronger by devouring his own siblings. He ate my uncle, Pontus, and devoured the giants imprisoned in Tartarus."

It was the worst of the hidden history of Olympus.

At the end of the deep and thick roots of Olympus, Uranus began to devour the entire Olympus, even consuming his own children.

"I had to fight to survive, and to capture him, I gathered the Rankers of Olympus, Odin from Asgard, Vishnu from the Vedas... all the Rankers who had existed since ancient times."

It was a great war against a single individual.

It had been so long that it had become blurry, but the image of Uranus remained vivid in the minds of those who fought against him.

"In the end, we won, and Odin and I managed to survive, but half of the Rankers who fought in that battle died."

YuWon reached the Uranus Heart.

"That's what he was, my father."

A tragic story.

But that's why YuWon couldn't help but be drawn to this item.

"Zeus? No way. He's just a brat bastard."

YuWon's heart beat heavily in his chest.

"The worst and the greatest of all time. That was the true heaven of Olympus."

As if he was hearing Cronus's voice at this very moment, at that very moment...

Crack.

YuWon's hand gripped the Uranus Heart.

Chapter 199

A background as white as a drawing paper.

It was as if someone had used an eraser to erase the world. In the midst of it all, YuWon turned his head and looked around.

"Are you here?"

The voice sounded familiar to him.

As he turned his head, YuWon almost stumbled back in surprise.

The face was as familiar as the voice.

"...Zeus?"

Dazzling blond hair and a handsome face.

His slim and chiseled jawline and his golden eyes, matching his hair, were unmistakably those of the Zeus that YuWon knew.

"My grandson has grown so big that the resemblance is astonishing, isn't it?"

He caressed his face with a proud look.

Grandson...

With those words, YuWon knew the identity of the man before him.

"Are you Uranus?"

"I think I've seen you a couple of times already, but this must be the first time you've seen me."

Obviously, YuWon had never seen him before.

Before his Regression, he had only been given certain information about Uranus.

And he had never seen him as clearly as now.

"That's because even though I hadn't seen your face and didn't know your name, when I heard the name of your grandson, I could guess certain things."

"I see. It's no wonder you don't recognize my face, but I suppose it's not so strange that I resemble my grandson, right?"

Uranus laughed heartily and sat back down. There were two chairs in what had been a white and empty room.

"Make yourself comfortable. This is my home, and you are a guest."

Huh-.

Having said that, Uranus started drinking the steaming tea before realizing it.

It was as if Uranus was a god before him, as he could desire things and they would suddenly appear.

"I've been here for so long that I've gotten used to it. It's not a big deal. I'm just an old man in a back room, trapped in this tiny space, so there's nothing to see."

There was no hostility.

He resembled Zeus in his face and voice, but not in his speech or eyes. YuWon sat in front of Uranus and asked.

"Uranus, right?"

"Yes."

"Do you know Chronos?"

Uranus's eyebrows furrowed at YuWon's question.

"Chronos?"

He frowned as if he was thinking about something. The question about Chronos was one that he had wanted to ask since his Regression.

"The existence of Chronos in this world has been erased."

And that was the side effect of the Clock Mechanism.

Chronos was forgotten in everyone's minds. Chronos, the father of Zeus and his two brothers, was no longer mentioned in this world.

So, what about Uranus?

He was purged by the Rankers, including his son Chronos. Perhaps then he would remember Chronos.

But...

"Well, it doesn't matter. It was a lot of work putting the pieces together, and to be honest, I didn't think you would gather them all after the first one."

A response that had nothing to do with the question.

YuWon, who waited for a moment, sighed.

"Well, it was to be expected."

After using the Clock Mechanism to return, YuWon asked some people about Chronos.

Before the Regression, Chronos had been a former Ranker with a fairly good reputation. Although he was purged by Zeus, imprisoned, and forgotten, there were still some who remembered his name.

However, no one in the modern era remembered Chronos.

No, they didn't even try.

"When Chronos is mentioned, the conversation veers off. Like a malfunctioning machine, the flow of dialogue becomes unnatural and cuts off."

He wondered if Uranus would be the same way.

They were of the same blood after all, and although he was no longer a living being but lived in an object...

He hoped that he could remember Chronos.

"But it failed, well, whatever."

Talking about Chronos was no longer meaningful.

It was time to focus on the Uranus in front of him.

"Is this your heart?"

YuWon handed him the glove in his hand.

To be precise, the 'Uranus Heart' embedded in that glove.

"It's something like a heart."

An ambiguous answer.

"So, it's not a heart then?"

"It's embedded in my chest and pumps my blood, so yes, it's a heart."

"Be clear."

"That was all I was."

In Uranus's hand floated a jewel similar to YuWon's.

An opaque-colored gemstone.

Uranus Heart.

Although it was nothing more than a form that Uranus had created, YuWon saw it as his heart.

"For this, I devoured my brother, and I craved more."

"Why did you do that?"

"My greed got the best of me at some point. I wanted more power, and before I knew it, I was a monster."

YuWon looked at the Uranus Heart in his hand.

"That heart fed on and absorbed my brothers."

"What are you trying to say?"

What Uranus said was a story that YuWon had already heard and known through Chronos.

More than that, YuWon wanted something more definitive.

Uranus appeared before his eyes at the same time the heart was completed.

If he was no longer of this world and had used the power of the object to appear like this before him, there must be a reason.

"You have a quick temper. Hey, it's not like I don't have time either."

Nodding, Uranus soon added strength to his voice.

"Be careful not to become a monster, because anyone can become one."

Monster.

It was a somewhat difficult word to hear, depending on how one took it.

As if he had said everything he wanted to say, Uranus pointed with his chin at the glove in YuWon's hand.

As if saying, "Take a look."

Swish-.

The opaque glove enveloped YuWon's hand and transformed as if it carried nothing. It felt as comfortable as his own skin.

"Really comfortable, worthy of an object of this level."

It was then that he was satisfied with the fit of the gloves.

[You obtained the 'Uranus Heart'.]

[You have acquired 'Urano's Desire'.]

Swoosh-.

A violet aura flowed from the back of the glove.

It fluttered around YuWon, and as he watched, YuWon's eyes turned the same color, violet, and his mind became dizzy.

"Did he mean this?"

Anyone could become a monster.

The reason why Uranus had become a monster was hidden in this very heart.

"The Energy of the Exterior of the Divine Crystal of Darkness and the Divine Crystal of the Sea. After all, it was one of the seeds planted by that Foolish Chaos."

YuWon looked at the aura enveloping him.

It moved as if it wanted to seduce him.

No...

YuWon squinted his eyes as he looked at the creature.

"There's something different."

Unlike the seeds planted by Foolish Chaos, there was something unsettling about the creature in front of him.

It was much larger, but it couldn't even create a shape on its own.

"If it were a seed he planted, it wouldn't be so unstable. It's like a child that has grown too ignorantly."

YuWon had never seen this kind of Exterior before.

Jjeouk-.

The creature opened its blurry mouth as if it could swallow YuWon at any moment.

The more he looked, the clearer it became.

This being in front of him was the 'Urano's Desire' that the system had mentioned.

"The monster you mentioned..."

And YuWon had the most excellent means to deal with that desire.

"Are you talking about this guy?"

"Ahba."

Danpung extended his arms over YuWon's shoulders.

He growled, drooling from the corners of his lips.

There was never a time when he needed him more than now.

[The 'Predator' is revealed.]

Jjeouk-.

Huge teeth bared. Upon seeing the Predator, Desire turned around and began to fight against the larger being that threatened it.

Quadduk-.

Chewing on an indistinct form that he couldn't fully grasp, the Predator started filling his hungry stomach.

"You had something unusual."

Uranus observed in astonishment as the unveiled Predator engaged in a battle against Desire.

His gaze shifted towards YuWon's Danpung.

"Were you under its protection? It seems I was worrying for nothing."

Urano chuckled with an ironic smile, as if the advice he had just given had gone out the window.

"Indeed, with such a being protecting you, you might be fine."

"This little one protects me?"

YuWon looked at Danpung on his shoulder.

The Master of the Predator, fighting with the Exterior in the Heart of Uranus.

But from the outside, he was just a small child the size of his palm.

"Little one?" Uranus asked, as if he were astounded. "Does he look small in your eyes?"

"...What?" YuWon exclaimed and looked back at Danpung.

Tak, tak, tak-.

Meanwhile, the Predator was finishing his meal. Uranus' Desire was being torn apart by the predator, losing its strength.

[Danpung's level has increased.]

[Danpung's level has increased.]

[Danpung's level...]

[Danpung's Divine Power has increased by 8.]

[Growth rate has increased by 9.12%.]

[Arcane Power has increased by 2.]

[You have defeated 'Uranus' Desire'.]

Shortly after Desire lost its power.

The white background covering YuWon slowly disappeared. The figure of Uranus in front of him did the same.

Apart from that, Hefesto's workshop was gradually revealed.

There wasn't much time left.

"How does this boy look in your eyes?"

To Uranus' eyes, Danpung looked different.

Perhaps it was Danpung's true form, and if it was, YuWon wanted to know right away.

But...

"--.---."

Uranus' voice ceased to be heard.

Meanwhile, the landscape had completely changed. Uranus' ghost was no longer visible.

Hephaestus, Hercules, and Pandora stared at him as the landscape returned to normal.

He wondered how much time had passed.

For a moment, YuWon felt as if he was in another world.

"Are you okay?"

"...Are you okay?"

The first ones to arrive were Hephaestus and Pandora.

Hercules had a strange expression on his face as he stared at the spot where the veil surrounding YuWon had disappeared.

Despite the concerns of the other two, YuWon stood there with a dazed look on his face for a moment.

His words fell on deaf ears.

Another scene was vivid in his memory, filling his mind.

'...I couldn't hear it.'

In the final moment.

He didn't hear Uranus' answer to his question.

But that didn't mean he didn't realize what he said.

'The shape of his mouth...'

Yuwon pursed his lips, tracing the shape of Uranus' mouth.

He didn't have the ability to read lips, but he could vaguely tell what he was saying.

'I...'

Yuwon lowered his head.

The transparent glove slipped into his hand.

Uranus Heart.

'Soon...'

In the last moment, the Heart left him a message.

'I will see you again.'

Chapter 200

"We will meet again..."

Urano's words echoed clearly in his mind.

The encounter was brief, but the impression was intense.

What did Danpung look like in his eyes?

Why had he left his heart behind?

Why did Zeus have a piece of his heart?

And why and on what basis did he say they would meet again?...

A lot of unanswered questions filled his head.

At that moment...

Swoosh-

A touch on the cheek brought him back to reality.

"Eh?"

Pandora's hand.

The touch of her hand on his cheek startled YuWon, and Pandora opened her eyes and spoke.

"Awaken."

It was a short word, but not difficult to understand.

Wake up.

YuWon nodded. He was overthinking things.

'Let's not dwell on it for now.'

Anyway, if he thought about it at this moment, there was nothing he could know.

If Urano was right and he saw him again, it would be something to consider.

He would find out about Danpung later. If he grew again, like the first time he hatched, he might find his true form.

'At this moment, what I can do now.'

His thoughts quickly organized.

YuWon looked at the Uranus Heart he held in his hand.

An object that appeared to be a translucent glove.

[Uranus Heart]

The heart of an ancient High Ranker that devoured countless Rankers.

The power stored in the heart can be harnessed.

The descriptions were simple and unremarkable.

In this case, it was one of two things.

'Either the object was insignificant, or the system is incapable of specifically characterizing the effect of the object.'

The latter is rare. Most items with brief descriptions fall into the first category.

Of course, this didn't mean the second possibility didn't occur.

'Odin's Gungnir is like this.'

The strongest spear in the Tower.

The Gungnir was an object whose effects couldn't be fully understood through the system; it could only be fully realized by holding the spear in your hands, and even then, only in the hands of Odin.

'So this is an object comparable to the Gungnir?'

In any case, he was very excited.

YuWon carefully examined the description.

As simple as the description was, there were clues about the object.

"It's some kind of energy source."

He could utilize the energy stored in the heart.

The heart belonged to no one else but Urano, a High Rank player who had waged a war against a Great Guild solo in ancient times.

Being able to unleash the power possessed by Urano also meant he could surpass his own stats with just one item.

"There's only one way to know the effect."

YuWon's gaze turned to Hercules.

Then, naturally, Hercules, who was looking at YuWon, met his gaze.

"Is something the matter?"

"Hercules."

Kwok-.

Yuyuan clenched his fist as if he was about to punch him.

"Can you handle it?"

In the past month, YuWon had had several fights with Hercules.

Actually, they were more like one-sided assaults. A few punches from Hercules would instantly knock him out, and his punches hadn't even left a scratch on Hercules.

But now...

"Whatever."

Things might be different now.

Hercules stood with his chest wide open, as if saying, come on.

As if saying, if you're going to hit me, hit me.

Just as YuWon was about to reach for the hand holding the Uranus Heart...

"Do you want to wreck my workshop?"

Hephaestus' gruff voice interrupted.

"Go outside and fight. This is a sacred workshop."

YuWon, who was momentarily flustered by those words, realized he had made a mistake.

Under normal circumstances, the Uranus Heart was an item he had just acquired.

With such unknown power, he could go overboard.

And if he did, he might damage Hephaestus' workshop.

Tap, tap, tap-.

Hephaestus turned around and left the warehouse.

Having not been able to rest for a long time while making the Uranus Heart, he left first.

And then.

"What are you guys doing?"

Hephaestus' voice came from outside the warehouse.

"Aren't you going to continue doing what you're doing?"

Apparently, he was curious about the performance of the item he had made.

There was a lot of empty space on the first floor of the Tower.

Obviously, it was the most developed floor, but it was also the floor with the most empty land.

A small mountain quite a distance away from the city...

On the slope of that mountain, YuWon and Hercules stood facing each other.

"Here is fine."

Hercules looked at the city in the distance.

The distance was enough to make it appear so small. There was no point in causing a commotion so close to the city and getting into trouble for it.

Especially now, when YuWon was being pursued by the Three Precious Children.

"Go ahead."

Thump-.

Hercules taunted YuWon by pounding his chest wide open.

Hephaestus and Pandora watched the situation from behind Hercules. Among them, YuWon looked at Hephaestus.

"I don't need to worry about Pandora, but just in case..."

Pandora, who was quite high in the ranks of the High Ranks, was not the one he was worried about.

The problem was Hephaestus.

"What are you worried about?"

At that moment, the corner of Hercules' lips lifted as he noticed YuWon's concern.

"Don't worry, as long as they're behind me, there won't be any danger."

It was a confident statement.

Hercules extended his arms.

It was an attitude of never letting harm reach the back.

YuWon nodded.

"Right, with him as the guardian, I shouldn't worry."

YuWon remembered once again the adjective attached to Hercules' name.

The strongest body in the Tower.

Piercing through his body was no easy task, even if Zeus were here. Moreover, Hercules had endured multiple lightning strikes in his battles with Zeus and came out unscathed.

"Here we go."

Kwaaaak-.

[You have used the 'Uranus Heart'.]

Passt-.

Arcane Power began to emanate from YuWon's hand. The three separate pieces fused into one, and their properties unified.

He began to use the item in earnest.

Despite everything, YuWon could feel what the system couldn't tell him.

"It's no wonder he's the best blacksmith in the Tower."

Hephaestus used three items as materials to complete this item.

The Lightning, Kyneē, and Triaina.

They were all elements that became materials to create the Uranus Heart.

However, even before the Heart formed, Hephaestus had already crafted it from different elements.

This heart contained Hephaestus' regrets.

"The 'Blessing of the Sea' dwells within your body."

This heart contained all the characteristics of the items that Hephaestus had created.

No, not just three items in one.

"Summoning the 'Tartarus'."

The name 'Inferno' contained within Kyneē had been renamed.

Deeper than Inferno.

A place that excluded only those who needed extreme punishment among the dead, it was a place of greater power than Inferno as it contained the most dangerous ones.

The deep and dark sea into which YuWon fell on the 42nd floor.

That place was Tartarus.

Pajak, zuzuz-!

Yuwon's expression wrinkled at the Arcane Power that sprouted from his hands.

The amount of Mana emanating from the Uranus Heart was beyond what he could handle. Naturally, the uncontrolled Mana would cause damage to himself.

[State Anomaly: Corrosion begins]

He hadn't expected it to go beyond his control so quickly.

Once again, he realized that his stats were very low.

He couldn't even handle a single item, so he felt stuck.

"No, that's good."

On the contrary, it also meant that the power of the Uranus Heart was great.

That's because the power that could draw out the inherent Mana from the Heart and the power of Tartarus connected through the heart were significant.

In his current state, he was unable to utilize the full value of the item.

[State Anomaly: Corrosion rises to level 2]

The unpleasant sensation and pain in his hand were worsening.

He didn't have much time now.

"Now."

Pajik-!

A bright ray of light sprouted from his right hand.

It consumed all the Arcane Power that YuWon had emitted at once.

And in the next moment...

Flash...!

Yuwon's figure disappeared from sight.

Thud-!

Kururureung-.

The sound of thunder resonated in the sky.

The lightning that erupted from the ground rose up into the sky, creating a phenomenon where lightning scattered from the ground to the sky.

Among the shattered pale yellow lightning, there was a hint of black.

It was the power of two incompatible attributes that were fused together.

Hephaestus' eyes widened as he saw the lightning that had dispersed in the air and turned into mist-like fog.

"This is... Uranus?"

He wanted to see for himself the power of the object he had crafted.

That's why he had traveled here with his weary body.

What kind of power could the three objects produce when combined into one?

He wanted to see how his greatest masterpiece would shine when it met its owner.

And now Hephaestus was seeing with his own eyes what he had been waiting for so long.

"Did the Lightning have such power?"

It was an enormous power.

For a moment, Hephaestus thought that Zeus himself was scattering the lightning.

Naturally, Hephaestus's gaze turned towards Hercules.

"And yet, the power didn't reach that far."

He extended his arms, and his whole body caught the lightning.

Hercules stood still, his posture unaffected.

It was for Hephaestus and Pandora behind him.

"That guy is a true monster too."

Hercules.

He was said to be the strongest among Zeus's children, one of the top 20 Rankers.

Once again, Hephaestus marveled at the strength of high-level High Rankers.

To be able to deflect such an attack with his bare body.

Pagit-.

Hercules looked up, the tingling sensation of the explosion still present in his body.

It should hurt a little, he thought.

Because YuWon had already grown enough to leave him with small scars.

Not to mention that he had now acquired an even better item than the Lightning.

So Hercules didn't relax.

Unlike in previous duels, he tensed his body as if it were a real battle, his body hardened by Mana, harder than any shield in the world.

But no.

"I made the decision to stop him... I never thought he would actually hurt me."

A scar appeared on his chest.

A burn on his flesh caused by the Lightning.

He had prided himself on having the toughest body in the Tower. Not even Athena's Aegis would be tougher than his own body.

And now, a wound had appeared.

Hercules clenched his fists and looked at YuWon in front of him.

"Like..."

And then he looked at his face.

"How did you do that?"

For a moment, Hercules saw the image of Zeus superimposed.