

With The Gods 201

Chapter 201

Hercules bandaged his chest.

It was a wound that he would normally leave alone, but not this time.

There were two reasons.

Wounds inflicted by the dark attribute Arcane Power with corrosive abilities did not heal easily. Even with some resistance, they would only cause the wound to fester and worsen over time, and even for Hercules, it would have the effect of delaying recovery.

The second reason was Pandora.

"Alright."

She took the bandages and herbs from Hephaestus's workshop and tended to Hercules's wounds.

Apparently, she couldn't bear to see someone injured.

After wrapping all the bandages, she stood up and changed her clothes.

"Thank you."

"Rest."

"I'm not that badly hurt."

It was true that Pandora was making a fuss. She was worried that the wound would worsen, so she applied medicine, but Hercules's wound wasn't that big.

Back at Hephaestus's house, Hercules approached YuWon, whose hand was also bandaged.

"Are you okay?"

"As you can see."

YuWon waved his hand.

"You're not okay."

It was the result of enduring power beyond his limits. The power of Tartarus emitted from the Uranus Heart was something YuWon couldn't handle with his current endurance.

"Don't push yourself too hard. Depending on how you handle that power, it can also be poisonous to you."

"A poison that doesn't kill, makes you stronger."

"Is that how you interpret it?"

"There's no going back unless you take risks. Isn't that an immutable law?"

YuWon raised his bandaged hand and brought it in front of his eyes.

"And I like it, that's enough."

The Uranus Heart was an object that could unleash more power than he was currently capable of if he took risks.

It was perfect for YuWon, who needed a big boost right now.

"That's killing a four-year-old child." (?)

"I know, I'll restrain myself."

"...Really?"

Hercules looked at Danpung sleeping on YuWon's shoulder.

"Somehow, it seems like there's something about you that thing likes to be with."

"That's right."

Danpung and the Uranus Heart.

They were definitely rare and novel objects. Danpung was a little more unusual than a new item, but it would probably be seen as a type of new item in the eyes of others.

"Now that you have what you've been waiting for, are you going to go back up?"

"Of course."

YuWon had been waiting for the completion of the Uranus Heart.

And now that the wait was over, it was time to go back up.

"Because I can't keep it waiting."

First and foremost, his target was floor 50.

The place where Son OhGong slept.

He had already made an appointment with Son OhGong's other alter egos to meet him there.

However.

"I heard that the Three Precious Children are looking for you on floor 44."

The problem was the Three Precious Children on floor 44.

It had been over a month since YuWon disappeared.

Amaterasu would be searching for him with a gleam in his eyes.

"How do you know?"

"The news has already spread to floor 44. I asked my uncle to tell me what was happening on floor 44, and I found out right away."

Now Hades was in charge of the guild instead of Zeus. The guild's strength had weakened significantly, but Olympus was still Olympus, as they say, even if a rich person goes bankrupt, they will live well for three generations.

"Anyway, be careful. Amaterasu must be sharpening his sword right now."

"He's not the only one sharpening his sword."

YuWon's eyes gleamed.

Unlike in Olympus, this fight was his first major solo battle. As such, YuWon never had any intention of losing.

And YuWon's reaction made Hercules think of the past.

"Suddenly, I feel sorry for them."

YuWon never moved without certainty. There was always a plan in his actions, a plan that ultimately led to the overthrow of Zeus as the king of Olympus.

It was a skill apart from prowess.

"Soon..."

Hercules removed the bandages from his hands and looked at YuWon as he reapplied medicine to the wound.

"The fall of the Three Precious Children will shake the Tower."

The atmosphere on floor 44 was dreadful.

It wasn't usually a very peaceful place, but lately, it felt even less so.

"All these troubles because of that bastard."

"I know. I've been sitting here for over a month, and I haven't seen him..."

"Still, if you catch him, the reward will be substantial, right?"

"True. With those points, I won't have to worry about going hungry until I become a Ranker Player."

"You don't have to worry about going hungry. Don't you know that money is power here? In that sense, Rankers are chewing gum."

A common dialogue around the Testing Room.

Their target was one person.

"By the way, Kim YuWon, does that guy really not want to go up?"

"He's probably hiding somewhere. He has ears too, and if he knows that the Three Precious Children are after him, he'll hide."

It has been over a month since Kim YuWon disappeared.

The reward for Kim YuWon, who vanished, reached one million points.

Players, who were fixated on the money, formed a team to chase Kim YuWon, attacking anyone who seemed suspicious.

"Hey, that one over there."

"Is he the newcomer coming to take the test?"

The players scattered around the testing site on floor 44 stood up from their seats one by one.

"Isn't he playing again?"

"Well, so what? Anyway, it's legal to kill anyone here."

Some players had already given up on searching for Kim YuWon, who hadn't been seen for over a month.

Instead, they enjoyed looting players using that as an excuse.

If they could find him, great; if not, it was fine too.

As a result, floor 44 was literally a lawless zone, and human hunting had become a trend.

The group of players moved in silence. The man walking towards the testing area came to a sudden halt in the face of the vicious aura surrounding him.

"Oh, you're quick on your feet."

"Hey, there's a match, take a look."

Among the players tightly surrounding the vicinity, one stepped forward.

He compared the image of Kim YuWon in his player kit with the man in front of him.

Of course, none of them had high hopes.

Instead, a few with their hands in their pockets walked ahead of the target man.

"You know, we're not that bad," they said.

"Be a good guy and give us everything you've got, and I assure you that you'll still be able to take the test..."

The words that followed were cut off.

The face seemed strangely familiar to them.

"Eh?"

With the thought that there was no way, a question mark appeared in their heads for a moment.

"Ah, it's him..."

"What?"

"It's him!"

A moment to rethink the implications of those words.

Scott-

Heat rose up his throat, and his vision blurred.

Snap-!

The heads of the two people who were closest flew off. The blood that had been swirling so vigorously lost its course and rose upwards.

"Why are you searching for me with such anxiety?"

"You, you..."

Snap, snap!

The players, caught off guard, unsheathed their weapons without warning. They prepared their skills, increasing their Arcane Power as if they were about to attack at any moment, but no one took the initiative.

They knew too.

They knew they couldn't capture him with just this many people.

"It's Kim YuWon!"

"Kim YuWon is here!"

That's why they chose to seek help from around them.

All the criminals gathered in this city aimed for YuWon's reward.

With support, they could win.

The reward was there for the taking.

Also...

"As long as the Three Precious Children have our backs, there's no way we can lose."

"We just have to hold on until the Three Precious Children arrive. When they do, we can..."

"We can claim the reward."

"At the same time, establish a relationship with the Three Precious Children."

The ones who offered this reward were the Three Precious Children.

The place where the top 50 of High Rank is located, Amaterasu.

Right now, Tsukuyomi alone would be enough to capture a Kim YuWon. **(Note: It is unknown if Tsukuyomi is a man or a woman, although according to Japanese folklore, Tsukuyomi is a woman)**

They weren't doing this just for the reward.

They were criminals with nowhere else to go, unable to join a guild, unable to climb the Tower with a proper team.

Only the Three Precious Children and this world of floor 44 embraced them. Knowing the power of a group, it was natural for them to want a halo of support behind them.

'So many people'-

YuWon looked around using his Cinder Eyes towards the crowd of people.

Among the buildings, players had spread out like a spider's web, narrowing down to form a tight circle. They were more organized than he had thought.

'At least they've made it to floor 44'.

They're undoubtedly different from the people below.

The movement itself was much more systematic and organized than that of the group of thieves on floor 1, even if they didn't form a group.

In a way, he understood why Odin was so suspicious of the Three Precious Children and the criminals on floor 44 joining forces.

'The stronger the organizational power, the stronger the collective power together. I suppose this is the beginning.'

They were already united in their goal of capturing YuWon.

Spreading like cockroaches, their cleansing didn't have to go much further in the future.

YuWon looked at the Kusanagi Sword hanging at his waist.

'It all ends here.'

YuWon didn't move and waited in his place.

Until enough people gathered.

Until they made the first move.

And time passed.

'They're starting to gain confidence.'

As the number exceeded a hundred and approached a thousand, there were types who believed in the numbers and started to move.

People who wanted to stab him in the back.

The moment he realized they were coming...

"I'm going to run hard from now on."

YuWon, who had been standing still, spread mana in his voice for everyone to hear.

"So go tell the Three Precious Children that I'm here, and that they should chase after me too."

"Are you provoking the Three Precious Children?"

"Yes."

He said he was running away, but he wasn't actually running away.

None of those present were foolish enough to not understand YuWon's intentions.

But that made them more cautious.

YuWon wasn't an idiot.

No, rather, he was a competent player whose depth was difficult to measure.

There must be a reason why someone like YuWon would choose such an apparently reckless fight.

"Are you relying on someone?"

"That's none of your business..."

In response to someone's question, YuWon let go of the bag he was carrying on his back.

Swish-.

"If you want to take this, then follow me."

"N-No way..."

"Is that the mirror?"

"Is it... Is it really real?"

The players around him gasped as they saw the mirror that YuWon had taken out.

Even the players who had managed to hide well were surprised and shouted.

"It's a rather obvious provocation, but..."

Amaterasu wasn't foolish.

But that's why a spectacle like this was necessary.

"It's better this way for now."

Such an obvious provocation that it's almost laughable.

But it was still a provocation.

Numerous players discovered that YuWon had obtained the Yata Mirror, one of the Three Sacred Treasures.

Through their eyes and ears, Amaterasu would hear the news and think over and over again.

But in the end.

"The bait is in my hand."

YuWon had gained the advantage in this battle.

"Now..."

YuWon turned around.

With all preparations made...

"Start following me."

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"Has Kim YuWon appeared?"

Amaterasu, who was looking out the window, turned around.

A message arrived in his player's kit.

The news of Kim YuWon's appearance was enough to pique his interest. No, a case like this wasn't just about interest.

"The guy has the Yata Mirror."

The guy who disappeared for over a month.

He searched throughout the Tower, not just on the 44th floor, but everywhere, yet couldn't find him. It seemed as if he had ascended to the sky or sunk into the ground. Or maybe hidden somewhere in the mountains or forests.

But there was no reason for that. However much he desired the Yata Mirror, he couldn't stay hidden forever to obtain it.

"He was looking for the mirror."

Amaterasu was convinced that the reason YuWon had disappeared was because he was searching for the Yata Mirror.

Apparently, he managed to obtain a clue about the Yata Mirror somewhere.

And if that was the case, he should have brought the Yata Mirror with him.

Because that was the promise between YuWon and himself.

"I had no intention of keeping my promise in the first place..."

Still, he couldn't help but feel bad.

A part of him wanted to act.

It would be so satisfying to chase after the elusive Kim YuWon, seize the Yata Mirror, and slaughter him.

But...

"What does he want?"

YuWon's behavior was suspicious.

[Seems to have other intentions]

It was a message from one of the men of the Three Precious Children, who was watching the perimeter of the testing field.

It was understandable without needing to hear it verbally.

There were no shortage of strange corners.

YuWon roamed the city, as if wanting to spread the word that he had a lead on the Three Sacred Treasures.

Shortly after, he found himself and started moving.

And in the end, he managed to find the Yata Mirror and escaped after informing him that he had it.

"As if he's trying to seduce/attract me."

It was ridiculous.

Even though YuWon was called the strongest player in the World, he was just a player.

He, on the other hand, was a High-Rank player.

The 52nd strongest in this Tower.

That's what he was.

However, Amaterasu couldn't move his feet voluntarily.

"Even though I know it's a trap, I have no choice but to move."

He had enough confidence to overcome any trap.

Now he wondered if even that confidence was a trap set by his opponent.

If this is truly what Kim YuWon wants...

"...It's a very well-made trap."

The person who set the trap is ridiculous, but the situation itself isn't.

He thought it was better not to get caught in the trap, yet the opponent left him no choice but to enter even though he knew it was a trap.

Moreover, even with the ability to set such a massive trap, the opponent didn't bother to hide it.

"That must mean he's confident."

Tak-.

The concern didn't last long.

Amaterasu immediately began walking.

"I don't care what you have prepared for me."

Amaterasu's eyes glowed threateningly as he held the Magatama Jewel in his hand.

"I will win regardless."

"Heo-eok, je-."

"Why is he so fast?"

"How many agility stats does he have?"

The players chasing after YuWon gasped for breath.

It wasn't easy to chase after YuWon once he had decided to flee. No matter how many there were, he would slip through their fingers like an eel.

"Which way?"

"Northeast."

"And where is northeast?"

"I don't know, I got it as a message too!"

As they didn't expect YuWon to flee immediately, they stumbled and communicated poorly.

It was just a bunch of people moving back and forth, chasing after any YuWon they could spot.

"I feel like a shepherd."

At the head of the pack, YuWon hid in a building, took out some dried meat from his inventory, and ate it.

It had been over an hour since he had started the journey. Luckily, escaping wasn't too difficult.

Among them, there were some Ranker players, but their feet weren't very fast.

After breaking through the siege once, heading in the desired direction was a piece of cake.

And the number of enemies who started catching up in that manner gradually increased, surpassing thousands and reaching 10,000.

"All the city's criminals are almost gathered."

Woof-.

Kwak-.

YuWon gripped the handle of the Kusanagi Sword tied to his waist and squeezed it.

"The problem is that the one who's supposed to be here isn't here..."

YuWon looked out the window.

Outside, the guys searching for him were causing a ruckus. It was only a matter of time before he got caught.

Of course, it didn't matter if they found him.

It wouldn't be difficult to fight his way through them.

"Still, it doesn't make sense to prolong the time."

YuWon slowly chewed the dried meat.

Even during this brief break, he had to eat something to conserve energy.

How much time had passed?

"I guess I shouldn't be surprised that you're here."

YuWon, who had been sitting and waiting, lifted his head.

A blurry figure had arrived in front of him.

At first, he thought it was Amaterasu, but it wasn't him.

"Tsukuyomi."

The blurry figure gradually became clearer. Then, a woman with pure white skin and beautiful waist-length silver hair appeared, as if bathed in moonlight.

It was a familiar face.

YuWon had seen her several times.

"She was the oldest survivor of the Three Precious Children."

Tsukuyomi was one of the most beautiful women in the Tower. She was always compared to Aphrodite, the High-Ranker from Olympus.

"What are you thinking?"

My first impression of Tsukuyomi was very different from Amaterasu's.

She didn't reveal her intent to kill YuWon, nor did she unleash her Arcane Power.

"Do you want to die?"

Despite the harshness of her words, curiosity and astonishment appeared on her face.

Her gaze shifted to the Yata Mirror on YuWon's back.

"Why? Do you want this?"

"Answer the question."

"Who wants to die so badly? I don't want to die."

"Really?"

He seemed genuinely curious.

Tsukuyomi tilted her head as if she truly didn't understand.

It didn't seem like she was trying to gather information.

Nor did it seem like she wanted the Yata Mirror.

She didn't actually fight against Amaterasu in the first place when she gathered all Three Sacred Treasures.

She was only searching for the Three Sacred Treasures but didn't particularly covet them.

He wondered why.

"Maybe..."

"..."

YuWon felt Susanoo's emotions violently stirring.

Normally, he didn't care about anything else but killing and fighting, but since Tsukuyomi's appearance, he had been unable to control his emotions.

Unbelievable, he thought.

But there was only one feeling.

"Do you like her?"

"No."

"I see."

"I said no."

"I don't know about the others, but you can't deceive me."

YuWon held back the laughter that threatened to burst out.

Then he thought of something...

"So maybe..."

YuWon looked at Tsukuyomi in front of him.

She had been searching for the other Three Sacred Treasures for quite some time, although she didn't seem to have a great desire for the Three Sacred Treasures.

That was evident because she wasn't very interested in the Yata Mirror on YuWon's back.

Under that thought...

"Is she looking for the Kusanagi Sword?"

Externally, the Kusanagi Sword that YuWon carried looked like an ordinary sword.

Hence its discreet appearance.

There was only one reason why she would be searching for the Kusanagi Sword, without being interested in the other Three Sacred Treasures.

"They seem to have taken a liking to each other."

The Kusanagi Sword was a relic left by Susanoo. Perhaps she was searching for it because it was Susanoo's relic.

"What's certain is that Tsukuyomi has no interest in the Yata Mirror."

This changes the calculations.

YuWon thought about how to use the variable Tsukuyomi for a moment.

Perhaps she could be the most useful wildcard in this battle.

"What are you thinking?"

After YuWon didn't say anything for a long time, Tsukuyomi couldn't bear it and asked.

Then...

"Which side are you on?"

YuWon finally let out.

Tsukuyomi's forehead narrowed. Looking at YuWon with a perplexed expression, she requested a more detailed explanation.

"What are you talking about?"

"Amaterasu? Or Susanoo?"

Her eyes widened at that question.

"If they were enemies, which side would you be on?"

"You..."

Tsukuyomi's pupils fluttered for a moment, then she spoke with conviction.

"You know something."

"I do."

"Did he really kill Susanoo?"

She had a hunch, but she wasn't sure.

"Not directly, but he was involved."

"What do you mean?"

"I mean it was intentional. That Susanoo died."

Tsukuyomi's expression trembled several times.

She rolled her eyes, trying to determine the truthfulness of the words, even as she suspected the YuWon in front of her.

She was one of the High-Rankers who made a name for herself in the tower under the name of the Three Precious Children.

Tsukuyomi, ranking 86th, continued her interrogation with as much persistence as she could muster.

"Why, what do you mean?"

"Yamata no Orochi. It was Amaterasu who caused the monster and Susanoo to clash. Originally, they were supposed to capture it together, but..."

YuWon responded, recalling the conversation he had with Susanoo.

"He didn't show up. In the end, Susanoo fought Yamata no Orochi alone."

"Amaterasu killed Susanoo using Yamata no Orochi..."

Tsukuyomi pondered for a moment and then nodded.

"What you're saying is not far from what I thought, yes. It's strange. Not even Susanoo would be foolish enough to fight that monster alone."

Susanoo was a swordsman with an insatiable appetite for battle, but he wasn't a firefly that didn't know where to die.

He had always fought in life or death situations.

However, even in a life or death battle, he wouldn't engage in a fight that would inevitably lead to his death.

Susanoo wasn't a masochist, fighting even when he knew he would lose.

What he truly enjoyed was the moment of cutting others, not the pain of being cut himself.

"As you say, Amaterasu must have known about Orochi's existence, so it was strange. Why didn't she help Susanoo, was she so afraid of Orochi, or..."

Tsukuyomi, who continued speaking, shook her head.

"I really didn't want to doubt my friend, he's the only one left, so why he did it, I never got to ask until now..."

Kwak-

Kwak, Chak-

Tsukuyomi's mana filled the room. A chilling shiver froze her body, and the room's air instantly became as cold as an icy wave.

Arcane Power of the same ice attribute as Arthur's.

However, she felt a tremendous power that couldn't be compared to it.

"Tell me. What makes you so sure that it was Amaterasu who killed him?"

It seemed as if she would unsheathe her sword if he said a wrong word.

But YuWon remained unfazed, instead, he was filled with joy at this question.

Because he knew what to answer.

"He told me himself."

"...himself?"

Tsukuyomi tilted her head as if she didn't know what he was talking about.

Then.

"You too..."

Kak-

"You should speak."

In YuWon's shadow...

The shadow of a familiar figure began to twist and rise.

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Pak-

The shadow stirred.

It was the first body to respond to the call. Tsukuyomi's eyes widened at the sight of a body so strong and undecayed that had existed for a thousand years as an undead.

"You, you, you..."

Seeing Tsukuyomi unable to keep her mouth shut, the sharp-chinned man scratched his head awkwardly.

A man with a pale face.

Susanoo asked in response to Tsukuyomi's reaction.

"What are you so surprised about?"

"You... weren't you dead?"

After looking at Susanoo for a moment, Tsukuyomi shook her head.

"No, you're not alive."

Susanoo's face was expressionless.

Seeing that face, Tsukuyomi's expression became complicated.

It was good to see him.

A lot, really.

But she couldn't be happy.

"That's what you look like, ugly."

It was impossible to be happy to see someone who had come back from the dead.

The one who was the ruler of the undead returned as an undead. The situation was too strange to be happy about.

However, she couldn't just stand still like this.

"Nevertheless, it's been a long time. Old friend."

-...Yes, friend.

The greeting was awkward.

YuWon waited for a while for the two to loosen up.

An uncomfortable pause.

'I had never seen Susanoo like this.'

It was something she couldn't have imagined.

A Susanoo who got nervous in front of a woman.

A man who killed thousands or tens of thousands of men without blinking could only stay silent at this moment in front of a woman.

How long did that silence last?

"Look over there!"

"What's there?"

"I don't know, but weren't they here before?"

Tsukuyomi suddenly came to her senses upon seeing the players' racket outside the window.

"We don't have much time."

-That's right.

"What happened?"

It was a question that implied many things.

Like how you died.

Like how you became Undead.

Is your death really related to Amaterasu...?

Susanoo gestured with his hand in response to the question with so many implications.

"Just one question, straight to the point."

"Okay. I'm in a hurry too, so I'll only ask one for now."

In a moment of reflection.

There was a question that needed to be asked now.

"Are you sure that Amaterasu and your death are related?"

Why he was dead.

And if there was a reason, if it was because of Amaterasu, as she suspected.

The answer to that question soon came out of Susanoo's mouth.

"Related... It's not that they're not."

"They're not?"

"From what it seems, you knew it from the beginning, right?"

"So it's true?"

"Yes."

A moment of silence.

But there was no time to dwell on it, nor to process it.

"Even if it's true... Are you sure? Even if she let you fight Orochi alone, there could have been other circumstances, right?"

Amaterasu had been his friend for thousands of years.

It was hard to believe she would betray another friend and send him to death.

No, it wasn't.

It was hard to accept.

But...

"Didn't you feel it too? That bastard changed after obtaining the Magatama Jewel."

"That..."

"Well, I also trusted him back then, even though it was a wrong choice."

Susanoo remembered the promise he and Amaterasu had made.

"Why did he ask me to fight against him first, why did he ask me to trust him so blindly... It was strange because he didn't seem like the same guy I knew."

There was something called tact.

The kind of guy who said he would come a little late, making excuses after excuses, but in the end, didn't show up.

"Well, it's just my intuition, though I'm pretty sure this intuition is true..."

"Why are you so sure?"

"Because he appeared. Looking for Kusanagi."

"Kusanagi?"

Tsukuyomi's eyes widened.

Amaterasu had appeared after the fight had ended. She was looking for Kusanagi, not Susanoo, who was dying from exhaustion.

"I didn't give it to her, of course. I fought with my life to obtain it."

"That's why... do you believe that Amaterasu led you to death? To get Kusanagi?"

"I saw his eyes."

"Eyes?"

"The eyes of a guy who coveted Kusanagi."

Tsukuyomi's eyes opened wide.

She wondered why.

The image of Amaterasu she had seen until now came to her mind. She recalled her greed and obsession with the Three Sacred Treasures, and the image of Amaterasu standing there with that look in his eyes came to mind.

With those eyes, maybe...

Maybe truly...

"Whatever you think, it's up to you. Whether you trust me or trust him."

Sshhh-

Susanoo's figure turned back into a shadow and dispersed.

Tsukuyomi stood there with a confused expression.

Her head was spinning.

Her gaze quickly turned towards YuWon.

Could it be that he was manipulated by that guy?

At that thought that passed through her mind, she shook her head.

"No, that's not possible. It was Susanoo, not someone else."

Susanoo was the same existence as the king of the undead.

The highest-ranking among the Three, he couldn't be commanded or dominated.

Even if his soul was stolen by a Necromancer, Susanoo would never submit.

Yuwon looked at Tsukuyomi, who had paused for a moment, and then asked.

"Are you just going to stand there?"

"Huh?"

A bewildered expression appeared on her face.

There was a crowd of people looking for YuWon, all following Amaterasu's instructions.

For now, he had to move.

Tsukuyomi nodded.

"...see you later."

Shhh-

Tsukuyomi's figure disappeared through the wall. Along with the moonlight filling the room, the cold air that had been freezing in the air returned to its original state.

"See you later..."

It was a phrase he had heard a lot lately.

The image of her with a complicated expression came to his mind. Fortunately, she didn't seem to distrust Susanoo's words.

"Well, I'll see you soon."

The variable called Tsukuyomi worked well for YuWon.

Although she was ranked below Susanoo and Amaterasu, she had a sufficiently excellent high rank. Her power alone was much greater than that of the thousands or tens of thousands of players out there.

"The only problem is that the one who's supposed to come isn't coming."

Clatter-

BANG-!

The door where YuWon was sitting opened, and several players entered.

"...?"

"We found him!"

They panicked, not expecting it to be real.

YuWon looked at them and stood up.

"Here we go again."

YuWon turned to look out the window and saw the players gradually gathering.

Somehow, their numbers seemed to have increased.

"It's already won. But with so many people, not even the Three Precious Children will have enough to share."

"We can consider it a part-time job."

"Well, it's not that difficult. It's a job where even the Three Precious Children are present."

The players gathered around.

There were some Ranker players mixed among them.

All of them had a bad reputation in the world.

Those who had been expelled for committing crimes or causing trouble in their Guilds. Those who had become wanderers and settled on the 44th floor.

They all gathered in one place.

"We have been promised that once this is over, the Three Precious Children will definitely accept us."

"If the Three Precious Children join together as a Guild, they will quickly become a threat to the Great Guilds."

"And we will be at the center of it."

As selfish as they were, there was no individual who didn't need a roof.

And in the Tower, Guilds were the roof.

The only major Guild that could accommodate criminals.

They wanted this to be the beginning of their collective power.

And at the center of it all...

"Going around in circles."

There was Amaterasu.

She observed YuWon from a distance.

"What the hell does he want, why did he provoke her?"

And if there was someone from Asgard behind him.

Until those questions were answered, she didn't dare to approach.

But then.

"What's the point?"

She couldn't help but think about it.

She looked around, but couldn't find any trace of Asgard. If there was any other purpose, it didn't seem like it.

What could it be?

What does Kim YuWon want?

"Suspicious."

The distance between him and Kim YuWon was short.

If he wanted to leave, they could be face to face if he wished.

But Amaterasu was cautious.

He didn't make a move unless he was sure, and he preferred surrendering over having a small loss.

But this situation was an exception.

He couldn't give up the Three Sacred Treasures.

Fortunately, there was insurance.

"We have enough numbers."

Amaterasu checked the number of players gathered around YuWon.

He had gathered as many as he could, but he hadn't even expected this many players.

It probably meant that the influence of the Three Precious Children on the 44th floor was so great.

"Even if the quality is a bit low, it's still comparable to the scale of most large guilds."

This was the image he had drawn after obtaining the Magatama Jewel and settling on the 44th floor.

By gathering players who had nowhere to go, they would form a guild, use their power to threaten the large guilds, and gain immense power.

And maybe this moment was the beginning of it.

"They're just a handful of kids, but..."

Amaterasu's eyes swept over the group of players reflected in the Magatama Jewel.

"Gathered like this, they could be useful."

He had to use them.

It was much safer and more precise than exposing himself immediately.

"To do that, I need..."

Kwak-

Amaterasu clenched the Magatama Jewel in his hand.

Ung-

Then, the sky turned red, and beneath it were the players surrounding YuWon.

"I need to instill some courage in these lackeys."

In the middle of the city center.

YuWon was surrounded by a large crowd.

"You bastard, run even more."

"There's nowhere to run, right?"

"There are so many people here. Because of this bastard..."

The players surrounding him breathed heavily as if they were exhausted, and their faces were filled with vigilance.

Apparently, none of them dared to attack first.

YuWon looked around.

A dense space with no escape.

YuWon was also surprised by the number.

"There are so many."

Thousands of units, almost ten thousand.

It was astonishing how many players and Rankers were loyal to the Three Precious Children.

YuWon observed the change in the sky above the crowd.

"Has it started moving?"

A red sky was a sign of the manifestation of the power of the Magatama Jewel.

"I knew he was cautious, but I didn't expect this."

This bold move had attracted a large number, but it seemed to have made Amaterasu even more cautious.

Another method was needed.

"Are you saying one is not enough?"

Even with the Yata Mirror, Amaterasu refused to show his face directly.

It wouldn't be complete until the protagonist appeared.

"Then..."

After thinking for a moment, YuWon placed his hand on his waist.

Tak-

The thing had been screaming continuously since before.

There was no point in hiding it anymore.

Skak-

The Kusanagi was unsheathed, revealing a crimson sword.

"I wonder how it would be if the three of them came together."

Chapter 204

[The Magatama Jewel Sky extends]

[All statistics decrease by 15%]

[Pain tolerance decreases by 90%]

[Trait: Confusion is granted]

That was the message that came to YuWon's mind.

Magatama Jewel Sky.

It was one of the abilities of the Magatama Jewel that could inflict a curse on the target.

Of course.

[Cinder Eyes resist the Magatama Jewel].

[Predator resists the Magatama Jewel].

[Uranus Heart resists the Magatama Jewel].

[Resistance succeeds]

YuWon had enough means to resist the power of the Three Sacred Treasures.

On the contrary...

"The Magatama Jewel Sky extends"

[All statistics increase by 15%]

[Pain resistance increases by 1000%]

[Berserker attribute is granted]

For the other players, except YuWon, the message was exactly the opposite.

"What is this?"

"The Magatama Jewel?"

"The Three Sacred Treasures! The Three Precious Children have arrived!"

The hesitant players erupted in cheers.

The effect of the Magatama Jewel was twofold.

One was the enhancing effect of the object itself.

The other was the confidence that Amaterasu, the owner of the Magatama Jewel, was with them.

That gave them the confidence that they could fight against YuWon.

"This is the power of the Three Sacred Treasures..."

"With this, we can win."

"It's only 15%, but I feel full of strength."

They were impervious to pain, and their stats increased.

Moreover, the 'Berserker' power granted by the Magatama Jewel's abilities had turned them into warriors who feared neither death nor defeat.

"The reward is...!"

"Mine!"

"No, mine..."

Scott-

Everyone lunged at the same time, including YuWon.

And a single red line was drawn across their throats.

A single line, swift and sharp. Their bodies flew forward with the same force with which they lunged.

Chia-ak!

A fountain of blood gushed as their throats were cut.

A few drops of blood also splattered on YuWon's body.

YuWon didn't bother to dodge or block them.

Right now, a little blood would seem much more intimidating on the outside.

Scott-.

His red sword drew a line on the ground.

A two-meter radius centered on YuWon.

A fairly large circle was drawn.

"If you step inside this circle..."

The boys froze, looking at their dead comrades.

He wasn't sure if he was aware of it, and although he was doing the same thing as in the Tutorial, the confrontation was very different (but his approach was completely different).

"I guess I don't need to tell you."

Despite not giving the complete warning, they were aware of the danger and stopped.

They knew it by instinct.

They knew that if they entered that circle, they would end up like those they had just seen.

And that was a result that none of them wanted.

No matter how good the reward is, what good are points if you die in the end?

YuWon thought that this one action alone would buy him enough time.

But at that moment...

Kwak-.

One by one, they moved, still knowing they were going to die.

'The Rankers.'

Swish-.

YuWon's gaze shifted to those moving their feet.

Those who were close or had reached the Ranker level began to move. However, they should have also witnessed YuWon's sword strike at this moment.

It didn't contain Arcane Power, but it was still a swift and strong strike.

A sword that even most Rankers couldn't easily see. But still, they were moving.

There was only one reason.

'The Magatama Jewel is terrifying. It not only removes pain but also removes fear.'

An object that drains the power of those who oppose you and amplifies the power of your allies.

It was one of the many abilities possessed by the Magatama Jewel.

And that ability shone when borrowing the power of a group. There was nothing more terrifying than the power of a fearless group.

It was probably the effect of Berserker.

'Of course...'

YuWon's gaze landed on the line he had drawn on the ground.

Scott-

A foot that stepped in was cut.

It was the foot of one of the guys who surrounded YuWon closely.

'The only thing that has changed is their way of acting—after all, moths are still moths.'

Although they did not fear death, their stats did not suddenly increase several times over.

The fact was that there were no enemies who could pose a threat.

Furthermore, time was on his side.

Ung-

The Kusanagi Sword trembled slightly.

YuWon's head turned.

'It's impossible for you not to recognize this...'

In the distance.

The corners of YuWon's lips twisted upward as he locked eyes with Amaterasu, who was watching him.

'What are you going to do now?'

"Kusanagi..."

He had never been so excited.

He couldn't believe it even as he saw it with his own eyes, as it seemed impossible.

But now it was true.

What he had desired so much was right in front of him.

The Kusanagi Sword, the Yata Mirror.

The Three Sacred Treasures were gathered.

Squirm-

He felt like his body would leap forward at any moment. He wanted to break Kim YuWon in front of him into ten or a hundred pieces and gather the Three Sacred Treasures he desired so much.

But compared to that...

'He had Kusanagi from the beginning.'

His suspicions and mistrust towards Kim YuWon grew.

'That guy took Susanoo's treasure.'

He himself was surprised by that.

Why did he distrust him so much when he could be leaping forward right now?

Why, he wondered.

Woo, woo, woo~

The Magatama Jewel resonated. When the Three Sacred Treasures were gathered, they began to react to each other.

Kwak-.

'If I gather all these, I'll be able to leap over him.'

Susanoo.

A tall and enormous wall that stood in his way every time.

Although he had surpassed it in the Ranking, Amaterasu always seemed to be able to see his back.

But if he could get his hands on the Three Sacred Treasures...

'I can't bear it.'

Kak-.

No matter what the opponent had prepared.

No matter the traps they had set for him, as long as he could overcome them all.

If he could just get his hands on the Three Sacred Treasures.

That would be enough.

Scott-.

Chaaaaahhh!

The Kusanagi Sword once again became stained with blood.

The crimson hilt, resembling blood itself, was barely noticeable no matter how much blood it had on it. Now, YuWon wondered if the Kusanagi Sword had absorbed too much blood.

And as he expected...

[You have killed 100 people]

[Kusanagi absorbs the blood]

[Stats temporarily increase by 10%]

The more he killed, the more Kusanagi's stats increased.

His body felt lighter. He was confident that he could move much faster than before.

'This is dangerous.'

YuWon felt increasingly intoxicated.

The feeling of cutting people with a sword was becoming more enjoyable. It didn't even feel like he was cutting something living as he watched their bodies being sliced like tofu.

Everything felt like a game.

And he was just having fun.

YuWon was disgusted by the feeling, but at the same time, he enjoyed it.

'A hundred now.'

The decapitated bodies of players were scattered everywhere.

Despite many of them being killed, they didn't stop running towards YuWon.

He still had plenty of energy.

The fight had only just begun, and there was still a long way to go.

But...

'How long do I have to feel this disgusting feeling...'

A part of him wanted to put away Kusanagi as soon as possible.

After all, this kind of Demon Sword/Cursed Sword didn't suit him.

'Maybe Susanoo can use it.'

Scott-.

Chaaaaack!

YuWon cut another player in half who charged at him.

[Kusanagi absorbs the blood]

[Absorbs Arcane Power]

[Consumes part of your stamina]

Blood seeped into the sword, absorbing YuWon's Arcane Power once again.

The blood absorbed his Mana and drained his health. Under other circumstances, this wasn't a good trade-off for the current YuWon.

'Fortunately, it doesn't drain much stamina/health.'

Scott-.

Kwak-!

Another one.

YuWon looked beyond the player's body, which had been split in half, to the place where Amaterasu had disappeared.

A situation he had been monitoring through his Cinder Eyes. If not for that, he wouldn't have noticed that Amaterasu had started to move.

'I recognize it by being a pain in the ass to move.'

Now, where will he move?

If that cautious type is on the move, it means they've thought things through.

'Once someone like that starts moving, they don't stop. It's a sign that their eyes are already prepared for everything.'

Bum.

YuWon stomped the ground with his foot.

'So now, I'll move too.'

Karak-.

YuWon unsheathed another sword.

Two swords.

Seeing YuWon holding a pair of swords, the players rushing forward hesitated for a moment.

"Twin swords?"

"Did Kim YuWon originally use two swords?"

"Who cares, keep pushing forward!"

They said it, but they weren't serious.

No matter how effective the berserker state was, they weren't lacking basic thinking and vigilance.

At that moment...

YuWon looked at the Edge of Nightfall in his other hand and raised an eyebrow.

"As expected, this way is much more comfortable."

Kusanagi is definitely a great sword, but Hephasto's work was much more stable.

The discomfort from a moment ago had subsided.

This was the power of his sword.

It's not just a sword you hold in your hand, it's an extension of your hand.

Still, YuWon didn't let go of Kusanagi.

Not to hold it, not to swing it, not to stab with it.

He had other uses for it.

Pooh-

YuWon struck the Kusanagi sword against the ground.

The sword sank in smoothly, like soft tofu.

No, no.

There was more to it than that.

Swoosh-

The Kusanagi sword was sucked into the ground. In a round circle with a radius of about two meters, exactly where YuWon was standing.

"Eh?"

"What is he doing?"

"The sword..."

The players gathered around and checked the marks on the ground.

Indeed, the sword must have hit the ground a moment ago, but there were no marks on the ground.

"Where did it go?"

"What is he going to do..."

The state of alertness intensified.

The sword had suddenly disappeared.

It wasn't even an ordinary sword; it was a sword with strangely great cutting power.

The strange aura emanating from Kusanagi had already been sensed by the players around.

After dropping Kusanagi to the ground, YuWon turned his head, unperturbed by the reactions around him.

"At this point, their eyes must have turned inside out."

It wasn't them who were surprised to see the sword disappear.

The most surprised person was....

"Kim YuWon!"

Hwarrrrrrr-

The color of the red sky darkened. The temperature around him heated up, and black flames burst forth, centered on YuWon.

'Well, he even came out screaming.'

YuWon turned his head and met the falling eyes of Amaterasu.

He was quite surprised to see Kusanagi had disappeared.

Fire-!

An enormous flame approached closer and closer, like a meteor falling from the sky.

Rank 52.

Amaterasu, the leader of the Three Precious Children, had turned into a meteor and fallen to the ground.

Kwaaaang-!

Chapter 205

Crackle, crackle, crackle-.

A massive pit appeared on the ground.

Amaterasu landed in the center of the city and looked around.

Charred remains and players reduced to ashes, not even their bodies remained.

Paji, Pajijjit-.

Penalties flowed through his body. This was the price for killing so many players.

"This is exhilarating."

It had been a long time since he felt this kind of punishment.

After descending, he rarely had to fight these newcomers.

"I'll have to refrain from being too much of a troublemaker."

Floor 44 was still high enough to significantly weaken the penalty. Moreover, Amaterasu's body was strong enough to withstand most penalties.

However, the number of players he killed in a single strike must have been in the hundreds.

Naturally, the Tower's Will would not tolerate this behavior.

However.

However, Amaterasu's narrowed eyes did not return to their original position.

"Where did he go?"

Amaterasu's gaze turned to where YuWon had been.

Apparently, just a moment ago, he was standing there, but in that brief moment of confusion, he had disappeared.

And not only that.

Kusanagi and the Yata Mirror had also vanished.

Everything had disappeared.

It was strange.

It was impossible for them to have escaped his own eyes.

"Where did he go..."

Gee-ing-.

A flash of white light cut through the faint flames.

Only then did Amaterasu remember another object in YuWon's hand.

"The Yata Mirror."

One of the Three Sacred Treasures.

The Yata Mirror was no ordinary shield. It was an object with special powers, like the Magatama Jewel.

Perhaps it could have been used to escape.

The corner of Amaterasu's mouth twitched.

And then...

Flash!

A beam of light fell from the sky.

Kwareung-!

The pit in which Amaterasu stood grew deeper from the force of the lightning blast against the ground.

A surge of electricity ran through his body. Amaterasu lifted his head and raised his arms to protect herself.

"How dare you..."

Amaterasu's eyes met YuWon's.

YuWon, who had escaped to the sky, prepared another lightning bolt and hurled it with all his might.

Kwareung-!

Amaterasu was engulfed in flames. Then, black flames instantly enveloped the lightning and turned its existence into nothing.

"Fire and darkness. A high-ranker with two attributes."

It was the most basic yet representative characterization known of Amaterasu.

The corrosive power of darkness and the destructive power of fire.

Amaterasu wielded both types of Mana with complete freedom. The same could be said for YuWon, but he relied more on objects.

The sky turned red.

"It reminds me of the Tutorial."

It wasn't the first time he had seen a scene like this.

The boss that was destined to perish in the Tutorial.

Surt's 176th son, Surtra.

He was powerful enough to change the color of the sky upon appearing.

Of course, that was using the limited power he was allowed to use in the Tutorial, and it wasn't his true strength.

Thanks to this, YuWon was able to defeat Surtra and obtain the Giant's Heart from him.

But now, it was a completely different story.

But now, it was a completely different story.

"He's a monster far worse than Surtra."

Amaterasu was a High Ranker who ruled over fire, one of the best in the Tower.

His fire was much hotter than Surtra's, and even hotter than Apollo's.

Moreover...

"The elemental power of fire grows stronger with emotional states. That's why most Mana fire Rankers have a fiery temperament when they fight, be it a big fight or a small one."

And Amaterasu pushed the Arcane Power of that fire attribute to the limit.

"Once set in motion, Amaterasu will never stop. Perhaps..."

Crackle-

Flames rose from Amaterasu's feet as their gazes met.

It had begun.

Pow!

With an explosion, Amaterasu's body jumped up. At the same time, a mirror formed around YuWon's body.

"The 'Yata Mirror' reflects you."

"Moving to the designated point."

Pak-

Pow-!

Flames engulfed the spot where YuWon stood. In an instant, their vision flipped, and searing heat coursed through their face.

The attack was too fast and too wide to dodge.

Appearing atop a building, YuWon looked at the fragments of mirrors surrounding them.

"It's a very useful object."

It was rare to find an object with such instantaneous movement capabilities.

YuWon had handled countless objects, but this one, however, was worth wanting.

An object that traveled to the place reflected in the mirror.

"However..."

YuWon looked at the players who had started surrounding them.

There was no time to rest.

Kaat-

Jjaeok-!

The building they stood on was cut in half. It was the Rankers who were waiting for YuWon to come down.

"The Rankers."

YuWon dodged the weapons of the Rankers mixed in with the group of players.

It seemed that they had already decided to help Amaterasu. Perhaps they realized that if they helped capture YuWon here and now, they could secure a share of the action.

"It's practically no different from dealing with a guild."

Even Amaterasu alone was an enemy they couldn't handle.

But adding so many to the mix?

-Do you need help?

A voice that exuded confidence.

Susanoo's voice resonated in YuWon's head. It was the first time he had offered to help.

"I already told you I would only help you against Amaterasu, and it seems this is the moment."

"I appreciate that, but..."

After thinking for a moment, YuWon shook his head.

"Not now."

Susanoo was the last resort.

If the situation became urgent, he would have used him without hesitation, but the Yata Mirror was enough to contain them for now.

"Just wait a little longer."

"For how long..."

"Noisy."

Hwareuk-

YuWon's gaze surveyed the surroundings.

['Cinder Eyes' are activated.]

['Sensory Field' is activated.]

"It's a distraction."

Focusing all attention on Amaterasu, YuWon concentrated on the thousands of fire orbs floating around her.

It was an ability created by Amaterasu.

The numbers are numbers, but each one had more power than most Rankers' abilities.

"You can't avoid it anymore."

Amaterasu clenched his teeth as he looked at the Yata Mirror held by YuWon.

"You used your head."

He knew more than anyone about the Three Sacred Treasures. It's no wonder he also knew how to exploit the abilities of the Yata Mirror.

The Yata Mirror had the ability to travel through the space it reflected. It involved a great expenditure of Mana, but it wasn't a waste as it excelled in evasion.

"It's impossible to avoid all these numbers using the mirror..."

He had enough power, so he lowered the power and increased the numbers and speed.

It was a reasonable choice.

Hwareuk-

Pulsating Arcane Power.

"Here it goes."

The fireballs on the ground began to move.

Boom, puff, puff, puff, puff-!

The flames swept across the ground. YuWon pushed his mind and senses to the limit and dodged the rain of fire.

"I have to focus."

The numbers are numbers, but the range of each fireball was too wide.

Calculating the range and trying to avoid it wasn't difficult.

Sometimes he used the Yata Mirror to dodge the inevitable, but occasionally he looked up and watched his feet.

"Not yet?"

It took longer for him to react than he thought.

Originally, he should have responded immediately.

Boom!

Meanwhile, a fire fell at YuWon's feet.

No matter how well he dodged, the numbers are numbers, and it was difficult to avoid all the flames that enveloped a wide area.

But fortunately...

"The 'Blessing of the Sea' dwells within your body."

"Resist the 'Fire Calamity'."

Kak-

A bubble spread around YuWon, protecting his body from Amaterasu's ability.

Protection/Blessing of the Sea.

One of the abilities of the Divine Crystal of the Sea combined with the Heart of Uranus.

He had an even greater resistance to fire. Moreover, he wasn't completely hit by the ability, and YuWon couldn't receive damage.

"Good."

It was better to avoid attacks whenever possible, but the mere existence of that defense had the effect of increasing the radius to avoid attacks.

Now that he had confirmed that the Blessing of the Sea could protect him from Amaterasu's abilities to a certain extent, all he had to do was avoid being hit by them.

"Of course..."

Chak-

Yu-Won looked at Amaterasu, whose body was engulfed in black flames.

"Although that guy seems to know that too."

Now that he had seen that YuWon had the means to defend himself against such a sneaky attack, it was natural for Amaterasu to choose a different tactic.

The countless fire pits that had spread in all directions gathered around Amaterasu.

The sky darkened, and the air around him grew hotter. It was enough to make it difficult for some players to stand still.

"Hot, hot, hot!"

"Amaterasu-nim! We're on your side..."

"Water! Someone with a water-based ability, please!"

Chaos erupted in the city, as those who had hurried to dodge Amaterasu's abilities now struggled to protect themselves from the scorching heat.

The sky turned black.

Smoke billowed in the air, and the air burned the skin even if you stood still.

It was literally a disaster.

Having absorbed all the fire and generated his own Mana, Amaterasu's body was now a giant reminiscent of Gigantes.

And then.

Flash-

The eyes of the giant Amaterasu opened and stared at YuWon.

"Where is Kusanagi?"

In the hand of the fire giant, Amaterasu held a flaming sword long enough to pierce the clouds.

In the moment he saw it, Yu-Won realized clearly.

"There is no way to stop or avoid this."

Amaterasu could kill YuWon now if he wanted to. He had the power to turn a city into a sea of fire with a single strike.

The 52nd High Ranker.

The reason he had a higher rank than Poseidon or Hades of Olympus appeared right before his eyes.

"The reason he doesn't kill me immediately is because of the absence of Kusanagi."

Surely, it must be making her stomach turn.

The sudden disappearance of Kusanagi is like giving a candy to a child and then taking it away.

"I'll make it simple for you. If you give me Kusanagi and the mirror, I'll pretend nothing happened."

It was such an obvious lie.

And finally, the time had come to answer Amaterasu's question.

"Do you want to know where it went?"

Goo-goo, goo-goo-.

The ground trembled.

It was an unusual vibration.

There was only one person in the world who had experienced this kind of vibration.

"It has truly begun."

Susanoo.

Even though his body was already a dead soul, he felt a tingling in his body once again.

It was because of this exact moment.

The reason why Yu-Won wanted to clear Susanoo's dungeon and get his hands on Kusanagi...

"Kusanagi hasn't gone anywhere."

Goo-goo-goo-.

The vibrations felt closer and closer.

"It has simply returned to where it's supposed to be."

"Where is it supposed to be?"

Amaterasu's eyes trembled with anxiety.

Over this city, he realized the struggle that had taken place.

"If you truly want it..."

At that moment...

"You just have to seize it, but it will cost you."

A common message emerged in the minds of the many players in the city.

["Yamata no Orochi" has awakened from its slumber]

The strongest hand that YuWon had prepared for this battle began to stir beneath the city.

Chapter 206

"Yamata no... Orochi?"

Amaterasu's Mana trembled.

The towering flames around him erupted, representing his anxiety.

Yamata no Orochi.

The worst monster in the history of Floor 44, which led to Susanoo's death.

The true owner of the Kusanagi sword.

"Why the hell him..."

The Kusanagi sword suddenly disappeared in Amaterasu's mind as he rolled his confused eyes.

That's why.

"This was his purpose from the beginning..."

Amaterasu's flame-covered face wrinkled.

With that, the Yata mirror was in YuWon's hands, and the Kusanagi sword was within Yamata no Orochi's body.

The Three Sacred Treasures had come together, but the process to obtain them had become quite complicated.

Amaterasu's eyes traveled to where YuWon was.

Unlike the others, who were surprised by the sudden message, YuWon's expression was calm.

As if he had foreseen all of this beforehand.

-Annoying bastard...

Goo Goo Goo -.

Before fighting Yamata no Orochi, Amaterasu intended to eliminate YuWon first.

An enormous flame shifted. A sword of flames that pierced through the clouds, as if to cleave the world in half, descended upon YuWon's head.

YuWon didn't move.

If he didn't move, he would be turned to ashes.

"Has he given up?"

Amaterasu pondered for a moment.

Kwadeuk-.

Then, the ground in front of YuWon opened up.

And above it...

Quaang-!

An enormous tail shot out suddenly.

Powww-!

Hwaahhhhh-.

The flames that failed to sever the tail exploded. Amaterasu's eyes widened as he saw the flames rise to the sky and the hardness of its hand.

-This...

A type of ominous feeling he had never experienced before.

A sense of urgency that sent shivers down his spine and an unsettling disillusionment that hung in the air.

A crimson gaze pierced through the dark flames. Amaterasu crossed his arms to protect himself just as the ominous feeling began to make itself known...

Cheerreureuk-.

Kyaaaaaaah-!

The giant mouth opened wide.

Kwaak-!

With fangs that couldn't be sharper, Orochi's head bit into Amaterasu's arm.

-Enormous...

Amaterasu furrowed his brow at the pain in his arm.

Even though it was only a body made of Arcane Power, the damage and pain he received were transmitted to his body.

Fire-!

Amaterasu raised his Arcane Power even higher and swung the sword he held in his other hand.

Perhaps feeling threatened, Orochi released its grip on his arm and recoiled.

Amaterasu felt his throbbing arm and looked beyond the smoke.

More than a dozen eyes.

He had forgotten.

Yamata no Orochi was a nine-headed monster.

"There are nine of them..."

Suddenly, he lamented that Susanoo had not been able to kill it, only seal it.

"But why..."

Amaterasu's eyes widened as he saw through the slowly clearing smoke.

"That guy is there."

YuWon was atop the head of Yamata no Orochi.

Eight heads in total.

One less than the original Orochi.

"Is it because the other one fell in the Colosseum?"

YuWon had once fought one of Yamata no Orochi's heads in the Colosseum on the first floor.

His thought at that time was, "Does this make sense?"

The monster that led to Susanoo's death.

Although it was just one head, he wondered how he would deal with something like that on the first floor...

"Not all heads are equal."

Each of Yamata no Orochi's heads had a slightly different shape/appearance.

Each one had a slightly different color, and each emitted a different aura, mood, and concentration of energy.

It was the ninth head of Yamata no Orochi that YuWon had encountered.

Now that he thought about it, it was probably the youngest.

Compared to the heads that were here now, it felt very young.

"Each heart is different. Nine hearts in total."

His mouth watered.

YuWon had already taken one of Orochi's hearts as an elixir.

It had worked quite well, but an elixir of that caliber would still have some benefits.

Moreover, he now had eight hearts in front of him.

Furthermore, they contained an even greater amount of energy than the ninth heart.

If he could take them all...

He would have to endure some poison, but he would probably see a modest increase in statistics.

"But why?"

YuWon looked down and narrowed his eyes in a strange manner.

The sixth head of Yamata no Orochi.

The green-haired head was following him. Despite YuWon's intention to summon Yamata no Orochi to wreak havoc, the creature seemed to be following him.

"Are you the owner of Kusanagi?"

Yamata no Orochi's voice resonated in YuWon's head.

If a snake spoke human, it would sound like this: a thin and creepy voice that couldn't be distinguished as male or female.

And YuWon managed to sense an energy that resembled that voice.

"Are you Kusanagi?"

"Kusanagi is me, and I am Kusanagi. There is no difference."

The response seemed to confirm it.

The Kusanagi sword was like the spirit of Yamata no Orochi. It had been with YuWon since he attacked Susanoo's dungeon. When Yamata no Orochi was sealed, it was because Kusanagi had disappeared from his body.

"Are you helping me because I am the master of Kusanagi?"

"No."

The other head of Yamata no Orochi turned to look at YuWon.

"I am not helping you."

Its eyes, bigger than YuWon's body, shifted.

Exactly what it was looking at was not YuWon.

"Abba, baaaa-."

Instead, they were looking at the guy with his arms wide open, staring at Orochi's heads, with his mouth watering.

"Danpung?"

What he was looking at was Danpung. Yamata no Orochi was helping Danpung right now.

"Did this guy ask for Yamata no Orochi's help?"

"Baah?"

Danpung, who had turned his head, looked at him as if asking, "Did I do a good job?"

He wanted to ask what he had done, but he didn't think he would get an answer.

And, of course, this situation couldn't have been better for YuWon.

"Good job."

Yu-Won stroked Danpung's hair once and looked at Amaterasu.

Even though he was missing one head, Yamata no Orochi was a monster that not even Susanoo had been able to defeat.

A creature that had once destroyed nearly half of the world on the 44th floor and claimed the lives of countless Rankers.

Such a Yamatano Orochi would undoubtedly be able to stand up against the Amaterasu in front of him.

"And Amaterasu won't surrender to Kusanagi either."

YuWon's eyes gleamed as he looked at Amaterasu.

Amaterasu's hand, which had turned into a giant of fire, was raised. Shortly after, Amaterasu appeared in the palm of the giant.

"Is he? The enemy?"

If so, he was probably referring to Danpung.

Fortunately, Danpung nodded and pointed forcefully at Amaterasu with his pinky finger.

"Baat, Abba, Bababat-!"

It looked like a child ratting out an adult.

But the effect was immediate.

"Good."

He wondered what the hell was going on.

YuWon, who didn't understand their conversation, didn't know what was happening.

But fortunately.

"I'll take care of that giant. It seems like they left it for me in the first place."

Saaaaah-

The heads of Yamata no Orochi stuck out their long tongues, saliva dripped to the ground, melting the earth and creating a deep pit.

"But that's all. Right now, I'm missing one head and one heart."

Those words felt like a stab in the back of YuWon's chest.

He couldn't say anything more.

It wasn't his fault that Orochi was weakened, but he had taken its heart, and Danpung had eaten its head.

Still, Yamata no Orochi was also partly to blame for its current weakness.

"On the other hand-."

Among Orochi's heads, several were sweeping away the disorder.

"I'll take care of those annoying rattles."

Those were reliable words.

That was why he had summoned Yamata no Orochi after gathering a large number of players in the first place.

Even if Yamata no Orochi didn't follow him, its aggression would leave countless criminals dead.

"The 44th floor needs to be cleaned."

"Cleaned?"

"The criminals who have gathered due to the policies of the Three Precious Children. They have left the 44th floor stagnant for too long."

Odin's plan was to use Yamata no Orochi.

"Gather the criminals. To the place where Yamata no Orochi is."

In the future, Yamata no Orochi was resurrected by Amaterasu.

It was Odin who had defeated it with his own hands, so he knew its danger and planned to use it to clean the 44th floor.

The presence of Yamata no Orochi was a disaster for Amaterasu and the criminals on the 44th floor.

"That's enough."

Yuwon looked at Amaterasu, who had retained his giant form and still held the Magatama Jewel in his hand.

He planned to use the giant of fire to stop Yamata no Orochi.

And for that, he was using a tremendous amount of energy and concentration. Only thanks to the power of the Magatama Jewel, he could sustain a flame as large as Yamata no Orochi.

"That level of penalty is enough."

Kwak-

YuWon grabbed the Edge of Nightfall.

In his hands, the Uranus Heart was beating wildly.

It felt as if it was screaming to be used as soon as possible.

Hwah-

Hwaaaaah!

Black flames leaped before his eyes.

Amaterasu appeared over Yamata no Orochi's body.

Saaaaaaah-

Naturally, one of Orochi's other heads turned to protect itself from Amaterasu.

Just because YuWon was on its body didn't mean he was safe. Amaterasu knew that.

However...

"What the hell are you?"

Amaterasu had no choice but to appear in front of YuWon.

"Who are you to do something like this?"

At first, Amaterasu found his caution strange.

No matter how skilled he was, YuWon was just a bud that had not fully matured yet.

Even if he had won against the High Rank Ares, he was confident that he could defeat Ares, even if dozens of them came for him.

Excessively vigilant and insecure.

But now that he thought about it, it was understandable.

And strangely enough...

"How the hell did you get the Kusanagi Sword..."

He still vaguely felt the anxiety he had harbored until that moment.

And then, at that moment...

-How?

Kak-

Amaterasu turned his head, and the vague sense of unease in his eyes became evident.

-Because he was the first to find the dungeon I left behind.

[Summoning 'Susanoo'.]

Chapter 207

Amaterasu's face hardened.

Even when he first saw Kusanagi, he thought, "What if...?"

He wondered if Kim YuWon had truly obtained the Susanoo's Treasure.

He could understand it.

With the support of Asgard, it wouldn't be impossible for him to get his hands on the Susanoo's Treasure.

But...

"Why are you..."

He was about to ask, "Why are you alive?"

'No.'

Amaterasu barely held onto the threads of reason.

Upon closer inspection, or rather, what he could see even without looking closely.

The pale, bloodless face and the putrid smell emanating from him were unmistakably those of an undead.

'He's not alive.'

That could only mean one thing.

"You... are undead."

Susanoo turned into an undead.

It was something he had never imagined. Who would have thought that he, the so-called Lord of the Undead, would become one himself.

"You look terrible, friend."

-I never thought those words would come out of your mouth, friend.

Susanoo raised an eyebrow.

He was smiling.

On the subject of being dead and becoming undead, it's as if he found it quite amusing.

"Is it funny?"

-Yes.

"Are you fighting with me?"

-I've always wanted to try it.

Boom-.

The sword in Susanoo's hand tensed.

-Fighting to the death with you.

The Totsuka Sword.

It was a cherished sword that Susanoo used a long time ago. It was obtained by YuWon as a reward on the first floor and was the key to opening Susanoo's dungeon.

But originally, it was the sword Susanoo used.

A sword that never breaks.

Kek-.

With the sword in hand, Susanoo approached Amaterasu.

-Why did you do that?

Ssshhaa-.

Along with a bloody mana, life flowed from Susanoo's body.

-Why did you do this to me, friend?

A chill ran down Amaterasu's spine.

It wasn't because of the power he exuded.

It wasn't because he was so skilled with the sword that he was called a ghost, nor because he was afraid of the undead.

It was because he remembered his past with him.

"You're too scared. You would be much stronger if you weren't."

"It's dangerous, stay behind with Tsukuyomi."

"I'll find a way to get through."

"You just..."

Susanoo was always at the forefront when they fought together.

He was always better than them, and he shone.

Others feared him.

He even feared him more.

But...

"You ask me why?"

He was already dead.

There was no reason to fear him anymore.

"Because I no longer needed you."

Susanoo was a good companion.

He fought well, always leading the way. Together, they had ascended, earned the name of the Three Precious Children, and gained control of a floor, and he had always been there.

But that was it, and after a long adventure, they had already reached the end of the journey.

And there was no need for Susanoo's help anymore.

"So, in the end...".

Saaaaah-

Amaterasu's gaze settled on the head of Orochi, staring at her.

"I used this guy to kill you."

...I see.

Susanoo approached Amaterasu.

-I heard it from your own mouth, so it's enough. Besides, I'm grateful to you for this one thing.

Scott-

The Totsuka Sword was unsheathed.

A ghostly life force violently erupted and enveloped Amaterasu's body.

"Thanks to you, I don't have to hesitate."

Skak-

Pak-!

Roar, boom-!

The Totsuka Sword shot forward, only to be blocked by Amaterasu's flames. At the same time, Susanoo's new form faded into a secondary image, appearing higher up.

Chaaaah!

The corners of Susanoo's mouth turned upward as he sliced through the flames.

Undead don't shed tears (they have no emotions).

He might be smiling on the outside, but that didn't mean his emotions couldn't be noticed.

"Maybe... Did I have some expectations?"

Susanoo said he would help in the fight against Amaterasu.

To fight against a friend who betrayed him, to avenge his death.

But he still held a glimmer of hope.

He hoped there was some misunderstanding.

However, after hearing everything from his own mouth, he could no longer hold such expectations.

Kwagwagwagwagw-.

Arcane Power spilled out of Susanoo's body like countless blades.

A single slash turned into dozens, hundreds of slashes that cut through the flames, and the Totsuka Sword plunged towards Amaterasu's heart.

Kak, Chak-.

Without reaching Amaterasu, the Totsuka Sword pierced Orochi's skin.

Amaterasu appeared behind Susanoo, his body engulfed in flames.

YuWon felt his energy slowly depleting.

Kyaaaaaaah!

Orochi's screams made YuWon turn his head.

Amaterasu had created a giant of fire to confront Orochi, and despite using a significant amount of energy and concentration to do so, he was not losing to Susanoo, but rather gaining the upper hand.

"Summoning Susanoo is still difficult."

The speed at which his mana was depleting was alarming.

Although he was no match for Orochi, Susanoo had the necessary stats to stand up against Amaterasu.

It was a sight to behold.

"Truly strong..."

Masterful sword skills.

He had fought against him once before, but he had never seen him so impressive with a sword.

At least, he seemed to be better with the sword than he had ever been in his prime.

If someone like him could be properly utilized as a summon, how good would he be?

It was a rarely used skill of the Lord of the Undead. But if he could use someone like Susanoo appropriately, it would be a different story.

"I won't be able to hold on for much longer."

At most, he could only use Susanoo for a maximum of 20 minutes.

In that time, he would run out of energy. And he had to win the match within the available time.

"Now that I've finished assessing the situation..."

YuWon, who had been observing the fight between Susanoo and Amaterasu, began to leave.

"It's time to find my place."

Purrrrrr-!

The flames deflected a powerful sword strike. The sword and flames sputtered, cutting through Yamata no Orochi's skin and leaving it blackened from the burn.

Chii-ik-.

Susanoo's body was pushed back.

But only for a moment.

He lunged forward again, still sporting a wide grin.

It was still terrifying to see him like this.

Even with unpleasant burns and corrosion scars all over his body, he felt no fear.

"That habit of his hasn't changed even after death."

Rather, he wondered if he could do that because he died, but upon further reflection, he was like this a thousand years ago.

He wasn't afraid to die and didn't even consider it.

That was Susanoo's invisible fear.

But...

"He has weakened."

Amaterasu no longer feared Susanoo standing before her.

"I have grown stronger."

He was stronger than before, and Susanoo was weaker.

The difference became apparent right here.

Puong, Puppupung-!

Chii Ik-

Susanoo, unable to penetrate the flame, was being pushed back. He was desperate to stop the flame, and for every ten steps he took backward, he took one forward.

"I am stronger."

It was an exhilarating feeling.

Ranking 52

After surpassing Susanoo's ranking for the first time in his life, he was confirming what he had only vaguely suspected.

He had become stronger than Susanoo.

Furthermore, he was using most of his mana to fight against Yamata no Orochi.

Yet, this was the situation.

Slash-

Susanoo cut through the flames.

The same pattern as before.

"You ignorantly continue to attack head-on, you..."

Spook-

But in that moment, a chill ran down his spine.

It came from right behind him.

Pak-

A sword flew from behind his head.

Amaterasu's head erupted in flames.

Amaterasu appeared from a distance.

he touched his neck with his hand.

It was only for a moment, but he felt as if his neck was detached.

"You were a bit slow."

Booung-

With a sigh of disappointment, Susanoo repeated his movements in the air.

If he had been a bit faster, he could have at least cut off half of his neck.

It wasn't just Susanoo who felt it.

"How dare you..."

Amaterasu's eyes glimmered with malice.

How the hell did he do that?

No.

Since when had he been deceiving his eyes?

"It's difficult to break through, so he tricked me with that move. While pretending to make a frontal attack..."

He couldn't do it with speed or power, so he used an anomaly.

This wasn't the Susanoo he knew; he always massacred his opponents head-on, using the power of his legions of undead to crush them.

To use such an anomaly.

"You didn't know?"

The corners of Susanoo's lips lifted at Amaterasu's question.

"I'll do anything to win."

He wasn't mistaken.

He enjoyed fighting and never fought a losing battle.

"That's why I do things like this."

Susanoo's gaze drifted... towards the sky.

Amaterasu raised his head, with a puzzled expression on his face.

"This...?"

Was he trying to divert his gaze?

No.

It was unlikely that Susanoo would do something so childish.

That meant there was something up there.

Flash-!

Amaterasu's eyes lit up.

A light like his own fire, black but brilliant.

As soon as he saw it, Amaterasu instinctively enveloped his body in flames.

Crackle-!

Crackle!

A lightning bolt struck Amaterasu's head.

But for a moment, the flames flickered, and then the power of the lightning was consumed by the flames.

"Of course, I wasn't fighting alone. Now you know."

"...Kim YuWon?"

Amaterasu, whose heart felt cold for a moment, let out a long sigh.

The anxiety was brief.

If this was the last of Susanoo's cards, there was nothing to fear.

"I have to admit that Orochi and Susanoo are terrifying individuals, but if it's Kim YuWon, there's nothing to fear."

His vigilance towards YuWon stemmed from the Three Sacred Treasures he possessed, Yamata no Orochi and Susanoo.

His combat prowess was not to be underestimated, but on such a grand battlefield, his abilities were nothing out of the ordinary.

"I'll just ignore him."

The energy YuWon was emanating wouldn't be able to cause much damage to his own body after all.

It would be even worse if he couldn't block a sword strike from Susanoo because he was distracted looking up.

Boom-.

Amaterasu's flames engulfed Susanoo. The previous strike had made him even more wary of Susanoo's sword.

"You'll regret this."

Susanoo scoffed at Amaterasu's disdain towards YuWon.

His voice was lost in the swirling flames surrounding him. At that moment, Amaterasu ignored YuWon and focused solely on Susanoo.

But.

For some reason, even now, Susanoo felt like an image of YuWon.

"I know this guy, and even though he's much weaker than me..."

Crackle-.

Then...

A darker cloud, much darker than the first, came into view.

And after seeing that, Susanoo finally became convinced.

"That's not all his power. That first shot was probably deliberately weak."

And in the next moment...

Flash!

A second lightning bolt struck Amaterasu's flames as it approached Susanoo.

Chapter 208

Kwareung-!

A black light fell to the ground.

In an instant, the light consumed everything on the earth.

No light, no color, no sound.

The enormous Arcane Power moved like a living being.

The vision turned black.

Amaterasu saw a monster writhing inside her.

Flash-!

A ray of light appeared in his darkened vision.

Until then, he hadn't realized that the vision in front of his had stopped.

And the next moment...

"Holy sh*t..."

Before he could finish the expletive that had come out of his mouth...

Kwareung-!

Once again, a thrilling electricity ran through Amaterasu's body.

Kwajijjik-!

The electricity pulsed through every inch of his body, as if it were alive.

Moreover, it was imbued with the power of darkness, just like his own fire.

The combination of Lightning, one of the most powerful attributes alongside Fire, and the rare attribute Darkness.

Unusual attributes were one thing, but that wasn't the only problem.

"How much Arcane Power..."

Kwareung-!

A second lightning bolt.

Flash-!

Amaterasu felt his body gradually wearing down and corroding.

The impact of the first strike had thrown his off balance.

Amaterasu clung to his staggering body with his mental strength and managed to increase his Arcane Power.

Crackle-

A curtain of flames unfolded above his head.

Thanks to this, Amaterasu was able to protect herself from additional lightning bolts.

Kak-

Amaterasu's body trembled.

When he looked up, Susanoo had distanced himself from her, perhaps to avoid the aftermath of the lightning.

-What did I say?

The corners of his lips curled up as if he were amused.

-I said you would regret it.

"Just because the mosquito is a little bigger, are you calling that a warning?"

Pudeuk-.

Amaterasu gritted his teeth.

His pride was wounded, and he was furious.

Just when he was about to bond with Susanoo, he was interrupted by this nuisance.

Amaterasu remembered the dizzying shock from a moment ago.

"I can't ignore it anymore."

Even now, he felt a tingling sensation throughout his body.

It had only lasted for an instant, but it was enough for him to feel his consciousness slipping away.

How the hell was such a thing possible?

he had ignored it for too long.

This was no longer a one-on-one fight with Susanoo.

Chak-.

Susanoo, who had grabbed the Totsuka sword, charged once again.

With his sharp sword, he aimed precisely at the man's throat.

"Do I avoid it?"

No, he couldn't anymore.

"Should I stop him?"

Looking up, his gaze narrowed.

The fluctuating Arcane Power charging in the sky.

He didn't know when or how it would fall, so his movements were limited.

Hwareuk-.

A sword of fire formed in Amaterasu's hand.

And it clashed with the Totsuka sword.

Clang-!

Fire-

The sword of fire swung unsteadily.

A collision of sword against sword.

The result, of course, brought a smile to Susanoo's face.

C-Clang!

Crackle-

Swinging a flame that was so volatile he didn't know when it would break, Amaterasu had no choice but to look up.

"If it weren't for that..."

Amaterasu's gaze naturally turned towards the giant of fire fighting against Yamata no Orochi.

Kyaaaaaaah!

Kwaddup, hwaddup-

The eight heads of Yamata no Orochi scratched the giant's body. Undisturbed by the scorching flames, it devoured the giant's flames and sank its sharp fangs into its nape.

It took too much Arcane Power to sustain the giant.

There was a limit to the amount of Arcane Power that could be used at the same time.

The giant of fire was his only means to deal with Yamata no Orochi.

To deal with a Yamata no Orochi of that stature, he had to use his powers on a similar scale.

If it weren't for the Arcane Power used to sustain the giant, the eight heads would have turned towards her.

And that was a disaster worse than having eight undead Susanoo wielding their swords against her.

"What's happening?"

A voice came from afar.

Kwak-

The figure of Susanoo in front of his disappeared like a secondary image.

In an instant, the distance had grown.

Crackle~

Then, a power-charged lightning bolt struck Amaterasu's head as he looked up.

Flash-!

Crackle-!

The lightning struck before the sound.

Pakkk!

Amaterasu's body trembled once more from the impact of the lightning that cut his body in half.

"This... damn it...."

Pudeuk-

Thud-

Flames burst from Amaterasu's skin, enveloping his body, blocking the next lightning and restoring his health.

Pajjik-

Up above, YuWon began to charge his lightning again.

The Arcane Power started to condense.

A part of his wanted to jump and set him on fire right now.

But...

"If that happens, his sword will come flying towards me from behind."

He engaged in a close-quarter battle and unleashed a powerful lightning bolt from a long distance the moment he created an opening.

It was a perfect combination. Even the synchronization was perfect, as if they had been working together for years.

No.

"They are naturally compatible."

As if aware of YuWon, Susanoo moved aside just in time to avoid being hit by the lightning.

But it was YuWon's job to ensure the timing was right.

Moreover, the hit rate of the lightning bolts was quite high.

"For them to have such a connection between the two..."

But that didn't mean there were no setbacks.

"Just hold on and wait."

Yuwon's Arcane Power was not infinite.

No matter how skilled he was, he couldn't use an ability of this magnitude indefinitely.

Furthermore, time had a definite limit.

No matter how high YuWon's stats were, the amount of energy needed to control an undead like Susanoo would be considerable.

"Time is on my side."

Amaterasu's eyes gleamed as he looked up at the sky.

Yuwon floated in the sky.

Sky Steps was the only ability that allowed him to float, but he had other aids.

"Not bad."

Ares.

The warrior who, along with Athena, was in charge of the battlefields of Olympus.

He was also skilled in the art of javelin throwing and possessed the floating ability to throw spears while floating in the sky.

Thanks to that, YuWon was able to launch his Lightning Bolts from above.

"Ten minutes."

Yuwon calculated the time that had passed since the battle began.

Too much time had passed.

He had almost half of his Arcane Power remaining.

Moreover, Amaterasu had already shifted his attention away from him.

"I have to hold on."

That's why it was difficult to provoke a flow by simply spreading lightning bolts.

"I have to make a decision. Retreat for a while and use Yamata no Orochi to turn this into a prolonged battle. Or push this to the end within the assigned time."

Rationally, it was the right thing to do the former.

That's why he tried to use Yamata no Orochi in the first place.

As long as Kusanagi is inside it, Amaterasu will never give Yamata no Orochi to another Ranker player.

But...

"I think I can do it."

For some reason, he didn't want to do it.

There wasn't much time left in this state, but it was enough.

It was dangerous.

It was a kind of confidence, not conviction.

Yuwon sought the reason.

And then...

"...You."

The lightning in his right hand, and the Uranus Heart that created it.

He was speaking to it, telling it that he could do it.

"This is a little dangerous."

Fazik, fazik-

The lightning in his hand grew larger and larger.

Feeding incessantly on his energy, condensing into a true spear.

['Tartarus' is open]

Mana flowed through the Uranus Heart.

Deep underground, deeper than hell, the Arcane Power of Tartarus began to be absorbed by the lightning.

Certainly, the Uranus Heart surpassed Kyneē and Rayo by far.

The power flowing through Tartarus was many times more potent than that of Kyneē.

"It's not unfounded."

Kwok-

YuWon gripped the lightning and recalled the events that had taken place not long ago.

"This spear wounded Hercules's body."

That was clear confidence.

Furthermore, Amaterasu was currently using a significant amount of his energy to confront Yamata no Orochi.

With Amaterasu in that state.

He might be able to pierce through.

YuWon thought about the strongest spear he knew.

"What did Gungnir look like?"

Gungnir.

Odin's Spear, the strongest in the Tower.

It was one of the five unique objects in the entire Tower, and it was jokingly said that Odin's Spear could reach beyond the world, to other levels of the tower.

YuWon had seen the spear fly several times.

"It was definitely powerful."

He imagined Gungnir in his mind.

The unstable form of the lightning gradually began to take on the shape of a proper spear.

That in itself was a difficult task. But one of the requirements for working with the Uranus Heart in the first place was imagination.

To conjure the appearance of a lightning bolt.

So far, YuWon had shaped the lightning based on what Zeus threw.

But it didn't have to be that way.

"Unlike Zeus, who was born with the power of lightning and could wield it freely, I only use it to throw it."

If he wanted to use this with all his strength, he would need a form that suited him.

Pajik, Pajijji-

As the size increased, the wild-running lightning gradually became smaller.

However, it was still large, but it measured about 4 meters in length, much smaller than before.

['Lightning-Gungnir' has been created.]

Pajik, Pajiji-

A black light flashed through the spear.

Although the color was different, the black light Gungnir didn't look much different from what YuWon knew.

Moreover, even the system recognized the resemblance to Gungnir.

"The skill has been created."

It was a skill that could only be activated through the Uranus Heart, but it was still important to have it registered as a skill.

It must mean that its power has increased since before.

Unlike Lightning, which was a wide-area weapon that spread its power over a large area, Gungnir's shape had the power of a spear piercing through a single point.

"I can do it."

Kwak-

His grip trembled.

It was a phenomenon similar to the previous time when he had unleashed his power against Hercules.

The power flowing from Tartarus was more than he could handle, and it was hurting him.

That meant that this single strike was beyond his capabilities.

Kwaaaak-

Yuwon didn't release the spear.

Amaterasu's head jerked at the flow of energy from above.

It was because the Mana he felt from Yuwon felt more threatening than that of Susanoo in front of her.

"Too late."

The sooner one recognizes a crisis, the better.

But now, Amaterasu was one step too late.

Pajik-!

The spear trembled as if it was about to burst.

YuWon no longer had the strength to hold it.

"I'll throw it."

YuWon's body arched like a bow.

Amaterasu raised his Arcane Power.

And in that moment.

Kwalung-!

Gungnir left YuWon's hand.

Chapter 209

A black light shone before his eyes.

A spear plummeted from the sky. In front of the spear, over four meters long, Amaterasu felt threatened like never before.

"It's dangerous."

He remained vigilant.

But the sword before him was more menacing than the spear flying at him from afar.

Therefore, he chose to defend against the spear as much as possible.

But it couldn't be done.

"I must avoid it."

He had to avoid it since he wasn't sure he could stop the incoming flow of energy even if he conjured a shield of flames with all his might.

Moreover, it was even more difficult to block now that he was keeping the fire giant at bay.

Furthermore...

-I see you don't have the Magatama Jewel with you.

Susanoo chuckled as if he had realized something.

Soon, his gaze turned toward the giant battling Yamata no Orochi.

Fire-.

Black flames surrounded the giant as it struck Orochi with its massive sword.

A familiar sensation came from the giant.

-That snake is scary, isn't it?

No matter how fraudulent the ability was, it wasn't easy to continuously unleash such power.

And Yamata no Orochi was a monster that could only be sealed away when it was at its peak.

Moreover, at this moment, Amaterasu was facing both him and YuWon.

-The Magatama Jewel is being used in that giant.

If that was the case, Amaterasu had no means of defense left.

"It's a lose-lose situation."

Kwak-

Thick flames surrounded Amaterasu's body.

To protect it from YuWon's Lightning Bolt.

Amaterasu prepared for the spear that would come from above.

This would surely cause Susanoo to widen the distance. If caught in the middle of something like that, Susanoo would suffer considerable damage.

However...

Hwaaak-

Breaking through the flames surrounding him, Susanoo forged ahead, his entire body ablaze.

With a mischievous smile on his face.

"What are you doing?"

-I'm dead anyway.

Susanoo was well aware of his strengths.

-Even if I die again, that guy will resurrect me.

Undead.

The dead have nothing to fear.

Susanoo was certain that this strike from YuWon would be the last in this fight.

Therefore.

-So...

Instead of dodging backward, Susanoo helped YuWon's spear descend.

-You're coming with me.

Immediately, the spectral sword moved.

Whaaak-!

Hundreds and thousands of cuts in an instant.

It sliced through the flames, dispersing their power.

"Mad..."

Profanities flowed from Amaterasu's mouth.

Thanks to that, the flames protecting Amaterasu opened up.

And in the moment he quickly raised his mana and tried to protect himself once again...

-Too late.

Flash...!

A black light burst through the sky.

Thud!

With a sound, a spear flew over Amaterasu's head and crashed into him.

Kyaaaaaaaaah-!

Yamata no Orochi screamed.

A giant hole appeared in its body.

Through the wound, Orochi's heads writhed in agony.

Pajik, Pajjik-

Not only that.

A massive hole in the ground.

And within it, a powerful current of electricity that refused to dissipate.

Inside it, Amaterasu writhed.

Crackle-

Amaterasu, barely attempting to rise, fell back to the ground.

He couldn't get up.

He had holes in his back and stomach, and a strong energy that corroded his entire body, leaving it blackened.

Amaterasu's body had been completely destroyed by the force.

"This... is insane..."

Kulk-!

Black, lifeless blood spurted from his mouth. He wanted to spit it out again and again, but if he did, he might die.

"I can't fight anymore."

He couldn't do anything with this body. He couldn't fight against Orochi, whose head had been opened, nor against Kim YuWon.

Wounds that would take months to heal.

Losing both Sacred Treasures to him was a bitter pill to swallow, but continuing to fight here was no longer a good option.

Kak-

The fire that formed the figure of the giant dispersed.

[The Magatama Jewel has been recovered]

[Your health is rapidly restored.]

[Your wounds are partially healed.]

At the same time, the Magatama Jewel reappeared in his hand.

Simply by holding it, the Magatama Jewel would help him recover his wounds and stamina to some extent.

Feeling more comfortable than before, Amaterasu propelled himself and staggered to his feet.

And then.

Kak-.

Pfft-!

"Kuck!"

Someone stomped on Amaterasu's back as he tried to rise, slamming him back to the ground.

"Kim YuW-"

Amaterasu, naturally assuming it was YuWon, lifted his head and couldn't help but widen his eyes at the unexpected figure.

"Tsuku... yomi?"

"You don't look well."

A face so pale it was almost transparent, and an expression so cold it could have been frost.

From her expression, Amaterasu realized that something was wrong.

But...

"Great..."

A part of him wondered if maybe, just maybe, she would help him overcome this.

"Kim YuWon... deceived us. He... targeted us from the beginning, and..."

"Not him, but you."

"...W-What?"

"Amaterasu."

Her voice warmed up a bit as he called him by his name.

Tsukuyomi looked at him with a strange expression in his eyes, and then asked in the same cold voice as before.

"Why did you kill Susanoo?"

".....!"

Amaterasu's eyes trembled.

Why would Tsukuyomi ask him that, especially now?

No...

Since when did she know?

Amaterasu's eyes faltered, and then returned to their normal color.

"There's... There's a misunderstanding..."

"I heard everything earlier."

Amaterasu's eyes reflected Tsukuyomi's.

A reflection of himself having a conversation with Susanoo.

Apparently, Tsukuyomi had been watching her since that moment.

'Has she been suspecting?'

Since when... did she start doubting?

Tsukuyomi was a Ranker who wielded powers of darkness and ice. Unlike him, she was immersed in stealth ability and was good at hiding her presence during battle.

She doubted himself and constantly kept an eye on him, wondering if he was truly involved in Susanoo's death.

"Tell me."

Kaaaaaak-

Quadduk-

The force of the stomping on his back grew stronger, and the wounds widened as his ribs broke.

"Quaaaaaagh!"

Amaterasu screamed in pain from the chest.

Tears fell from Tsukuyomi's eyes.

Though she knew everything, she couldn't maintain composure while watching Amaterasu die at her feet.

"Tell me, tell me why you did it."

"Kheu, heuh-."

Amaterasu laughed as he coughed up blood onto the ground.

Behind Tsukuyomi, he could see YuWon walking, and behind YuWon, the blurry figure of Susanoo walked.

-Even if I die again, that guy will resurrect me.

He didn't die.

The dead couldn't die again. Susanoo's form was blurry because YuWon's Arcane Power was depleted, not because he had suffered significant injuries.

Kak-

Susanoo approached.

Tsukuyomi and Susanoo.

And Amaterasu.

"The Three Precious Children have gathered."

Susanoo walked forward.

-It's time to end this.

It was a tragedy.

They were no longer friends, lovers, enemies, or allies.

One was dead, and the other was on the verge of death.

All that remained was Tsukuyomi.

-Don't worry. Life after death is not as bad as you think.

Skak-

Susanoo, who had been annihilated by Amaterasu and revived by YuWon, drew the Totsuka Sword again.

-Of course, you won't be going to a good place.

The tip of the sword aimed at Amaterasu's throat.

Then...

"I didn't hear the answer. Why?"

Tsukuyomi blocked Susanoo's path.

Shortly after, her gaze turned back to Amaterasu again.

"Tell me, why."

"...why."

Amaterasu lifted his head and looked at Susanoo.

A gaze filled with resentment, jealousy, and a myriad of other emotions.

It was a face that neither Susanoo nor Tsukuyomi, who had been with Amaterasu for thousands of years, had seen before.

"From the beginning, I had no friends."

Susanoo and Tsukuyomi.

Neither of them was Amaterasu's friend.

"For me, one was a woman I loved, and the other..."

With his mouth full of blood...

Pudeuk-

Amaterasu gritted his teeth and looked at Susanoo.

"A lifelong rival."

-.....

"So, I had no friends. And that was how it was."

Yawn.

A yawn came from the other side.

Susanoo and Amaterasu's gazes turned to YuWon, who shrugged and waved his hand at them.

"No matter, finish it. I'm not interested."

He wasn't saying it just to say it.

He genuinely wasn't interested.

An obvious and annoying story.

The fact that Amaterasu liked Tsukuyomi was a well-known story in the future. After gathering the Three Sacred Treasures, the first thing Amaterasu did was start courting Tsukuyomi.

Because of that, after YuWon found out about the relationship between Tsukuyomi and Susanoo, he could vaguely understand why Amaterasu betrayed Susanoo.

Blinded by love, one becomes foolish.

Sometimes that can be charming, but this time, it was definitely the opposite.

'Whatever...'

YuWon's gaze shifted to Tsukuyomi's complex face.

'It's a mess, but it's over.'

-...Well said.

Having finished speaking, Susanoo pushed Tsukuyomi aside and took a step forward.

Tsukuyomi no longer stopped Susanoo.

The Totsuka Sword was filled with Arcane Power.

It was an ugly and worn-out sword, unworthy of the name Susanoo.

But Amaterasu didn't resist.

Thud.

Susanoo's sword pierced Amaterasu's heart.

Splat-!

A fountain of blood gushed from Amaterasu's body. Susanoo didn't stop at the heart; he immediately cut Amaterasu's body in half.

Tsukuyomi averted her gaze.

Even though he had helped kill Susanoo, he couldn't bear to watch Amaterasu die.

'Amaterasu is finished, and...'

Kyaaaaa-!

YuWon looked at Yamata no Orochi, who was fighting with his wounds.

'Now the problem is there.'

In the fight with Amaterasu, Yamata no Orochi had three of his eight heads cut off and two set on fire.

Only three heads remained.

His body had a fairly large hole made by a lance thrown by YuWon.

And Yamata no Orochi, who was wounded, was no longer on YuWon's side.

'He has completely lost his mind.'

Yamata no Orochi continued to express his anger through his wounds.

Countless players and Rankers were crushed by the giant. Orochi would continue moving until he had exhausted all his endless rage.

Because he was the disaster of this very place, the 44th floor.

'It has to stop soon.'

After Amaterasu, Yamata no Orochi was next.

Originally, his original purpose was to stir the pot.

But Amaterasu only managed to cut off half of Yamata no Orochi's heads.

Now all that's left is....

Growl.

"Baaa-."

It was the Danpung part.

Unable to contain his hunger any longer, he drooled on YuWon's shoulder.

YuWon turned to him and asked.

"Do you remember?"

"Baaah?"

"The marshmallow experiment."

To the guy who coveted Kusanagi, YuWon told him to wait.

If he was patient, he would let him eat more marshmallows.

"Baaat-!"

Danpung was excited and raised both arms.

To the hungry boy, the giant snake in front of him was nothing but delicious meat.

But...

"Then you'll have to help me."

For that, he now needed Danpung's help.

"That Divine Power..."

YuWon's eyes locked with Danpung's.

"I can use it too, right?"

Chapter 210

In the battle against the Outer Gods, Danpung's presence would clearly be a great advantage.

At least against the Outer Gods he had encountered so far, Danpung was their natural enemy.

But what about other situations?

'How to use his Divine Power...'

The value of a single statistic was enormous. The value of a statistic over 100 was indescribable.

Currently, Danpung's Divine Power was comparable to YuWon's Arcane Power.

If he could borrow the power of such a statistic, his power would increase significantly.

However...

"I don't know how."

No matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't figure out how to use that Divine Power.

Suddenly, something else crossed his mind.

'Why am I thinking about this?'

The Divine Power was something that Danpung possessed, not YuWon.

Even an ordinary divine beast could help its master with its own will, but Danpung was not an ordinary divine beast.

He had his own will and moved as he pleased.

He was much more special than an ordinary divine beast.

That's why YuWon thought that Danpung would be able to help him in his battle.

"Baah?"

Danpung tilted his head as if he didn't know what that meant.

Was he too young to understand his words?

No.

Danpung wasn't that stupid, at least not initially.

'This kid...'

Yoowon's forehead furrowed.

"Are you bothering me or are you tired?"

"Baah, baah-!"

He couldn't hear what he was saying, but it sounded like one thing or the other.

YuWon shook his head resolutely as he looked at Danpung.

"No work, no food."

Raising children sometimes meant being strict.

"If you don't help, you can't eat that."

"Abaaaaah-."

Danpung puffed up his cheeks in frustration.

But it still had an effect.

Hwareuk-.

Yu-Won's body ignited.

The flames crackled with purple light.

The Sacred Fire had been activated.

YuWon's confused eyes widened.

'What's happening? I haven't used the ability.'

Clearly, he didn't have enough Arcane Power left to use the ability. In fact, he didn't even have any Mana left.

This fire was used by Danpung.

'Can he also use my abilities?'

Hwareuk, Hwareuk-.

The fire in his body didn't feel hot to YuWon.

No, rather...

Hiss, hiss-.

The fire was absorbed by YuWon's body.

[Divine Power has been absorbed]

[You will regain some of your Arcane Power]

[You can use a little bit of the Divine Power]

[Your Arcane Power is partially restored...]

One message after another.

The Sacred Fire seeped into YuWon's body, restoring his depleted power.

He never thought this would happen.

'The Sacred Fire was originally an Outer Gods Power.'

Yu-Won remembered the first time he saw the Sacred Fire on the tenth floor.

'Could it be that the owner of the Sacred Fire...?'

"Baah-."

Danpung with arms around his waist and a cheerful face.

YuWon wore an expression of perplexity as he looked at Danpung.

"Are you going to fight too?"

"Baa-."

"Well, that sounds good."

Jjeouk-.

The Predator within YuWon opened its mouth.

Thanks to this, his strength had recovered quite a bit. His body, which had been heavy with all the drained mana, felt light again.

'This should be enough.'

Kwok-.

He regained his confidence.

Yamata no Orochi was undoubtedly a tough enemy, but now it was heavily weakened.

To begin with, it was missing a head at first, and now it had lost or injured more than half of them in its fight with Amaterasu.

"Thanks to you, I have healed, so I will try to fight again..."

YuWon's eyes turned to Tsukuyomi and Susanoo.

"What are you going to do now?"

"Of course..."

Tsukuyomi, who had been staring into space, turned his head.

Saaa-.

The air around him turned cold.

Enveloped in cold and death, YuWon felt as if the season had changed to winter.

"We must fight."

If it was Amaterasu who had planned Susanoo's death.

It was Orochi who was the direct cause of his death.

Even if they left it alone, Yamata no Orochi would eventually be subdued. After all, a guild as powerful as Asgard would not stand idly by and let another floor of the world be destroyed.

"That damn serpent...."

It is said that when a woman harbors resentment, frost will fall even in summer.

YuWon suddenly felt terrified of Tsukuyomi before him.

"I will definitely kill it."

Kyaaaa-!

Orochi's screams tore through the clouds.

One of the battling heads fell to the side, followed by the other, which turned its head and stared directly at Tsukuyomi.

And then...

Kak-.

Pure white ice covered the head. The moisture that had been enveloping its heads for some time had frozen.

But.

Zap-.

The ice quickly cracked, and the head started moving again.

Boom!

Kyaaaaaaah!

Orochi's head screamed and bared its teeth at Tsukuyomi.

But in the fraction of a second that the head was frozen, Tsukuyomi had already vanished from the scene.

Fuuk-.

A short dagger embedded itself in its head.

Ziiiit-.

Tsukuyomi's dagger pierced Yamata no Orochi's head.

Chaaaaaah-!

The weapon split its head in half.

Venomous blood sprayed across the sky. Soon, a lightning bolt struck through the cracked wound.

Kwalung-!

Puuuuuk-.

The lightning pierced through the punctured leather.

Yamata no Orochi's head twitched.

But only for a moment.

Thud-

Another head fell to the ground, unconscious.

Now, only one head remained.

Tsukuyomi once again radiated ice power towards the head and looked at YuWon from a distance, who was preparing his lightning spear again.

'I've seen it before, but that lightning is a force to be reckoned with.'

He observed the fight between YuWon and Amaterasu.

Even with Susanoo by his side, YuWon's lightning power was enough to pose a threat to Amaterasu.

He wondered what his Arcane Power stats were and what kind of power that lightning possessed.

Knowing that YuWon had just reached the 44th floor, he couldn't believe it.

Furthermore...

'Isn't he just powerful?'

Kakak-!

YuWon's lightning soared once again.

Flash-!

The spear emitted an intense light and drew a long line.

If it were just a powerful spear, it wouldn't have surprised him as much. Tsukuyomi was capable of producing a technique of that power.

However, YuWon's ability to wield it was beyond Tsukuyomi's comprehension.

'Like a High Rank that has already matured. No...'

A person appeared in Tsukuyomi's mind.

One of the rulers of this ancient Tower came to his mind.

'It's like looking at Zeus, the God of Heaven.'

A High Rank among the High Ranks who ruled this great tower.

The idea that such a being would coincide with YuWon seemed ridiculous.

But that's how it was.

Even she, a top 100 player, did not trust her ability to wield an ability of such power with such precision.

Chi-ak-!

The Totsuka Sword pierced one of the remaining heads.

Susanoo's strength was a fraction of what it had been when he was alive, but his fighting style and swordsmanship remained unchanged.

And with only one head remaining, Orochi's strength was much weaker than it had been at the beginning.

-At last, I see the end.

Kwok-

Susanoo's eyes gleamed as he held the Kusanagi Sword in his hand.

-I will take the Kusanagi.

Woowook-

The tip of Susanoo's sword sank into Orochi's head. In that moment, the sword rang out, and Susanoo's body sank into Orochi's body.

And then.

SLASH!

What remained of Orochi's body was split in half.

Woo-!

A fountain of blood shot up into the sky.

Poisonous blood rained down onto the ground.

[Your level has increased.]

[Your strength has increased by 1.]

[Agility has increased by 1.]

[Endurance has increased by 1.]

It was Yamata no Orochi.

As all the heads fell, a tremendous amount of experience flowed in, enough to raise his level from where it had been stagnant until now.

'I guess my Arcane Power isn't going to increase after all.'

Like all players, YuWon's most essential statistic was Arcane Power.

However, he was already above 120 and had reached a point where it couldn't be increased just by leveling up.

Thud-

Orochi's corpse fell to the ground. Susanoo staggered out of the corpse.

His whole body was covered in poisonous blood.

In his hand was the Kusanagi with a bright red color.

-This is my sword from now on.

His eyes were greedy.

Kuk-

As if he would never let go, Susanoo tightly gripped the Kusanagi.

It was the first time YuWon had seen him wield the Kusanagi. The Totsuka Sword worked well, but for a swordsman like Susanoo, the Kusanagi fit perfectly.

"Do as you please."

-For once, a pleasing response.

Then...

Pap-

Susanoo's figure gradually faded away.

The same with the Kusanagi.

Gradually becoming a blur of smoke, Susanoo was absorbed by YuWon's shadows once again.

-...What?

"You'll talk about everything later..."

After the fight with Amaterasu, immediately followed by the fight with Orochi, YuWon felt dizzy.

"I'm a little busy right now."

Suuh-

Tsukuyomi frowned at Susanoo's disappearance into YuWon's shadows.

"What are you doing now?"

Tsukuyomi had been waiting for this fight to end.

Amaterasu and Yamata no Orochi.

Only after the entire fight was over could she properly talk.

However, YuWon halted that meeting.

"I already said, you'll talk about it later."

YuWon stepped on his shadow with his foot and continued.

"Because keeping this guy here any longer is difficult even for me."

His face was even paler than before.

His Arcane Power had been drained. Up until this point, he had fought as hard as he could.

"...Fine."

Although she nodded, Tsukuyomi couldn't hide her disappointment.

At this rate, she wouldn't see Susanoo again until YuWon was fully recovered.

However...

"Just wait a bit longer."

YuWon walked toward Orochi's corpse.

"A bit longer?"

"Just five minutes."

Five minutes.

No matter how fast his recovery was, it would take half a day to replenish all his depleted mana.

Even if it was barely enough to summon Susanoo, it would take over an hour.

The timeframe YuWon was talking about was impossible unless his stats suddenly increased.

But...

"It's not like there isn't a way."

Purr-.

Danpung's stomach growled.

Apparently, he was hungry.

"Well done."

"Baah-."

Drooling, Danpung raised his head.

Looking at the boy who was quite patient, YuWon smiled wholeheartedly.

"Now, you can eat."

Danpung's eyes gleamed at the long-awaited permission.

And then...

Sreuk-.

Jjeouk-.

[The 'Predator' swallows saliva]

Around the corpse of the giant Orochi, thousands of teeth were revealed.

Yamata no Orochi, the giant marshmallow.

It was time for the long-awaited reward.