

With The Gods 211

Chapter 211

Kwadeuk, Kwadeuk-

Numerous teeth bit into Orochi's corpse.

Seeing this scene, Tsukuyomi felt an unfamiliar chill.

'I don't sense any special Arcane Power.'

If it was just a menacing figure, she could discern that.

But she didn't sense any Arcane Power.

'Then why is it so eerie?'

It was a strange feeling.

Something different from Arcane Power.

It felt different.

Instinctive fear.

That was the identity of the strange twisting feeling as she looked at it.

Most Ranker Players would shudder just by seeing it. The average player would freeze, unable to move, or even be stunned.

'Why didn't he use that in battle?'

What if those teeth turned towards her?

She couldn't imagine what would happen. Fighting against something like that had never crossed her mind.

Tsukuyomi's gaze turned to YuWon.

Unlike her, his reaction didn't seem too disturbed.

Apparently, it was YuWon who had summoned it.

Odok, ohdodok-

The appearance of the Predator chewing on Orochi's corpse was similar to what she had seen in the first-floor Colosseum.

No.

It had become much bigger.

The size of the teeth covering Orochi's body was much wider than what she had seen before.

The more Orochi's body was consumed, the more YuWon felt his Arcane Power gradually recovering.

[The Predator devours the first heart of Yamata no Orochi]

[The Predator devours the sixth heart of Yamata no Orochi]

[The Predator devours the... of Yamata no Orochi]

The Predator devoured Orochi's hearts undisturbed.

Just like the hearts YuWon had coveted in the first place.

Of course, he didn't complain too much.

'It would be nice if it could eat it instead.'

YuWon's eating habits weren't particularly unusual.

But devouring the heart of a living being was not exactly something he enjoyed.

It wouldn't hurt if the Predator ate it and gave him strength.

And then...

['Danpung' level has increased].

['Danpung' leveled up]

['Danpung' leveled up...]

['Danpung's' Divine Power has increased by 7]

[Growth rate has increased by 10.11%]

[Arcane Power has increased by 4]

Pak-.

With the increase in his stats, YuWon once again felt a surging sensation flowing through his body.

It didn't feel as full as before, but the bowl itself was much wider than before.

'I have 4 stats.'

In no way was it a small number.

No, it wasn't.

With stats now above 120, the difference of four was significant, even compared to before.

'It went up one more than I thought.'

YuWon had already reached much higher levels than this.

As such, he firsthand knew the difference in each of his stats and had some idea of how much his stats would increase after consuming Orochi.

8 Hearts of Orochi.

He devoured both the heart and the torso, and four points of Arcane Power emerged.

It was worth all the hard work on the 44th floor.

'I also saved the Three Sacred Treasures.'

The Three Sacred Treasures were nothing more than bait for the 44th-floor clearance.

However, the performance of the Three Sacred Treasures themselves was one of the best in the Tower world among all objects.

Since he already had them, he would keep them as he would probably need them someday.

"Is it done already...?"

YuWon turned his head upon hearing a voice behind him.

Behind her, Tsukuyomi was observing the corpse of Orochi, on high alert.

"Well, it's done."

"I would ask you what the hell that was, but I don't think you'll tell me. No..."

Tsukuyomi's gaze turned complicated as she looked at YuWon and Danpung over YuWon's shoulder.

"You don't know either, do you?"

"Baam-."

Danpung yawned, rubbing his belly on YuWon's shoulder.

That was correct.

YuWon didn't know everything about Danpung either. He was getting to know him little by little, but he was still well hidden like an onion with layers.

"Well, that's not important right now, is it?"

Tsukuyomi nodded at YuWon's words.

There was no shortage of unusual players in this tower. All the top players in the Tower had their own quirks.

This one wouldn't be any different.

That's why Tsukuyomi was certain.

"He'll reach the top."

The top.

The top 10 High Rankers, each one a king in their own right.

Like Zeus of Olympus or Odin of Asgard, she imagined YuWon among them, a unique being with the power of one of the great guilds.

And it didn't seem too far-fetched.

"Because you and I have someone we must meet from now on."

"That's right. The person you're going to meet..."

Tsukuyomi looked puzzled.

"Is it you or him?"

Aside from herself, she wondered who YuWon would meet.

Hwareuk-

YuWon's eyes turned red. After the Devouring ended, when his Mana was returned to him, his Cinder Eyes activated once again.

"Since when have you been watching..."

[The 'Cinder Eyes' resonate]

A familiar sensation.

A face above the clouds, seen through the Cinder Eyes.

"Why don't you come down a bit?"

In YuWon's field of vision, Son OhGong's figure appeared.

YuWon had called Susanoo again to spend some time alone with Tsukuyomi.

And from the other side...

"Are you Kim YuWon?"

YuWon and Son OhGong stood facing each other.

He didn't recognize him. It wasn't the alter ego he had met before in the ruined city center.

Standing in front of Son OhGong, YuWon asked while sitting on the debris of a collapsed building.

"What rank are you?"

"The Third."

"That's quite a high rank."

The closer Son OhGong's alter ego was to number 1, the stronger he was.

Three was a very high number.

Of course, since the alter ego was an alter ego, he was much weaker than the main body.

"Where did he go?"

He was the twelfth alter ego that YuWon had first asked to gather them all.

He didn't know exactly how many there were, but he had asked him to gather as many as he could.

And now, in front of him, was the Third.

"He's busy now. Gathering the other alter egos."

He asked, but he didn't expect much.

If it were Son OhGong's alter ego, he wouldn't be very intelligent.

He figured it would be enough to gather a few to start...

"He's doing really well."

It seemed like he was moving so busy that he couldn't even come to see for himself.

YuWon thought it would be fine if he at least gathered around ten clones.

However...

"We are many. We have almost gathered all, except for three."

"Really?"

It was more than expected.

If it was everyone except for three, the number was more than ten. With that many alter egos, it was definitely a considerable amount of power.

'The alter ego is slightly different from the main body.'

If the person he asked for was the main body, the outcome would have been different.

It was equally challenging to gather the scattered clones throughout the Tower.

"But thanks to that, it seems like the Heavens are slowly starting to notice. We don't have much time."

With those words, YuWon could understand why the third alter ego came to visit him.

The one in front of him seemed quite intelligent for a Son OhGong. It appeared that the Twelfth had sent him, the smartest one of all.

Shortly after, the alter ego looked around the 44th floor of the ruined city.

"Now we are on the 44th floor."

Son OhGong was the one who climbed the tower to the top.

Being an alter ego wasn't any different.

Not all the clones shared memories, but the clones shared the memories of the main body.

They had memories of having climbed this tower to the top.

"When do you plan to climb? I heard you've been here for quite some time."

"For now, I could only climb slowly."

He spent too much time clearing the 44th floor with the Three Sacred Treasures. He thought it would take a long time for the alter egos to gather, but the progress was much faster than he expected.

For now, he would probably focus on taking the Tests and climbing the tower.

"Six Tests to pass. It will take me about two months."

Of course, he could shorten the time a bit more if he took the Tests directly from the Administrator. But he wasn't in a hurry either.

"I still don't have all the alter egos together. The more power I have, the better."

There's no need to rush.

No.

There shouldn't be urgency.

All except for three had gathered, but there was no need to rush until finding the three.

"You said you were going to save the main body, right?"

YuWon nodded at the alter ego's question.

"Yes."

"Do you have any plans? Even if all the alter egos gather, it will be difficult."

Son OhGong's body was currently trapped in the Five Elements Mountain.

And it was the Celestial Realm, also known as the Guild of the Sky, one of the world's largest guilds, who guarded and imprisoned him.

With Son OhGong, one of the Highest Rankers of the Highest Rankers, incarcerated, they were bound to be on high alert.

"Plans..."

YuWon nodded.

"I don't have a definite one."

Saving Son OhGong was one of the most important things he had to do after returning to the past.

As such, a more defined plan was needed for this task.

"Then?"

Curiosity shone in Son OhGong's eyes.

At YuWon's request, Son OhGong seemed to have conveyed some information about YuWon. (?)

But...

"Well, we'll talk about that later."

YuWon had no intention of discussing it immediately.

There was more than one way to save Son OhGong. There were many paths, and it would be difficult to decide which one to take until he reached the 50th floor and encountered the Celestial Realm.

Talking about this and that here without reason would only be a waste of time.

However, one thing...

"We just need to save the main body."

With the clearest possible words.

"Once we do that, don't think about waging war against the Celestial Realm."

On rough rocks.

The arms, legs, and the whole body of a person were trapped, and the entire body was tightly bound with strong chains.

A man with long white hair that reached the floor raised his head.

From his body, the only thing he could move was his head.

"Ahhhh-."

The man yawned out of boredom.

He hadn't had a conversation with anyone in a long time. Not only was he bored, but the frustration of not being able to move a finger was driving him crazy.

At any other time, he would have at least slept.

But now he couldn't even sleep.

"This is madness, it's insane, I really hate this..."

A man with long white hair.

Son OhGong tried to muster strength in his body just in case.

But it was in vain.

"Aaaaaaah!"

A solitary scream followed, but his body didn't budge.

He was the one who broke even the Eight Trigrams (palgwaro) and came out. However, even he couldn't escape from the rocks of this Mountain of the Five Elements.

"...They really went all out making this, so damn tough that it's hard to even move."

It had been so long that he had forgotten.

These weren't just any rocks.

Not only were they unbreakable even by the strength of a High Ranker, but they had the power to absorb Mana.

He regretted it, but there was nothing he could do about it.

All he could do now was wait.

"When are you coming, dude?"

Son OhGong murmured, yawning and sighing out of boredom at the same time.

"Kim YuWon."

Chapter 212

YuWon started the Trials again.

Floor 44.

Due to the commotion that had been brewing for some time, the number of Players participating in the trial was much lower than usual.

A spacious common room that could accommodate thousands of people.

Numerous traps and trained monsters scattered everywhere.

And about 10 or more participants.

Standing in front of them, the trial supervisor, Polaris, sighed deeply.

"This place used to be filled everywhere, but now..."

Having spent so much time on the dangerous Floor 44 (44th Floor), Polaris was a Ranker in the upper echelons of the rankings.

"I am aware of the commotion that has been going on for a while, and I am also aware that the numbers are low enough that we cannot conduct the trial as originally planned..."

After much deliberation, Polaris spoke up.

"So, let's change the rules a bit."

Originally, it was a trial for about 100 people.

They were supposed to form teams and compete against each other.

Recently, however, the area around the Trial room had become ugly, and the number had finally been reduced to 10.

"This Trial is an individual competition. Some of you may have thought it was a team competition, but this is something that cannot be helped, so please understand."

Hah~

Polaris turned his head and looked around the Trial site.

"It's up to you, and you'll have to deal with it."

"To each his own?"

"This?"

The Trial room trembled.

Traps spread out before them.

It was up to each of them to navigate through this field of tests, with all kinds of venomous creatures and countless arrows raining down if one made a wrong step.

The level of difficulty was too high. Originally, it was a trial that 10 people had to pass together as a team.

"Does that make sense now?"

"If the number of participants doesn't match, the difficulty level of the trial should be adjusted accordingly!"

"You're right! This is not fair!"

"What kind of trial supervisor is like this..."

Woong-.

The Trial Field sounded.

It was the footsteps of Polaris, and the Mana that had begun to radiate from him.

"So many complaints..."

With a single word, he silenced the room, and the corners of his lips curved into a smile.

"And the truth is, I don't care if you participate or not."

"....."

"....."

There was no response, of course.

He was a Ranker Player.

A Ranker who would surely become a High Ranker someday.

No player, not even one who had reached Floor 44, would dare to challenge a player of that level.

However...

"Let's do it."

A voice spoke up.

There was someone who broke the silence and said something more.

The gazes naturally converged. It was inevitable that when everyone was seated, there would be someone standing alone.

The gazes converged like that.

The man who spoke silently shrugged his shoulders.

"An individual exhibition."

"Individual exhibition?"

"I can't imagine taking this trial alone..."

"Wait, that guy can't be..."

Although not many faces were recognizable on the upper floors, YuWon's recent behavior on Floor 44 certainly deserved attention.

So much so that even the famous Three Precious Children were looking for him.

"Why is that guy here?"

"Why? To take the trial, of course."

After answering the absurd question, YuWon walked towards Polaris, the trial supervisor.

"Aren't you going to start the Trial? Let's finish it quickly and leave. Don't tire yourself and waste your time."

"...Are you sure you don't mind a solo battle."

Polaris's gaze towards YuWon was not very pleasant.

The rumors about YuWon were now so thick that even a Ranker Player could hear them. It was already rumored that he possessed the strength of a Ranker Player, let alone a High Ranker.

If that was the case, he should have no difficulty in passing this Trial, even if it was an individual competition. But aside from that, YuWon was also partly responsible for this Trial being like this.

"I hope you're happy going up there alone, participant Kim YuWon."

"Well, if you say it's because of me, you're not wrong, and I really have nothing to say..."

YuWon took a step into the Trial room.

"I'm not usually a troublemaker, but today I have to make an exception."

"Exception?"

"Aren't you going to start the Trial? I'm a very busy person."

Polaris shook his head, feeling that YuWon was falling into a trap.

After all, he was the trial supervisor.

If a Player wants to participate in the trial, they should be allowed to do so.

"Then let's begin."

Polaris gave the signal.

Kap-

YuWon entered the trial zone.

At that moment...

[The Trial on Floor 44 begins.]

[Navigate through the traps.]

The content of the trial was simple.

Arrows and spears flew with each step.

Quicksand, poison spreading everywhere, and monsters targeting him.

If he took a step forward now, that would be the start of the Trial.

But...

'I don't even have to walk.'

Kak-

Arcane Power formed at the tip of YuWon's fingers.

A bright yellow lightning bolt.

There was no need to borrow the power of Tartarus.

Just like that, the Power of Lightning began to gather.

"...Huh?"

Polaris squinted his eyes at the flow of that Arcane Power.

There was something strange about it.

'Could it be that this guy...'

Pajik, Pajijji-

Seeing the Lightning Power slowly growing, Polaris turned around.

"You crazy bastard!"

Hwaak-

Polaris's body turned towards the other nine participants, and with a hand gesture, a blue veil enveloped the Players.

Flash-!

A bright yellow light burst through the Trial room.

Quarreung-!

The sound resonated throughout the Trial arena.

While protecting the other players, Polaris felt two things.

The first was that he thought he had gone overboard.

"The damage didn't reach that far."

Although the entire Trial field had been affected by Arcane Power, not a single Lightning Power had reached the Players.

How in the world could such a thing be possible if the control is delicate?

The next thing he knew was that he was watching his work crumble around him.

"My... work."

Crack, crack, crack!

Traps collapsing.

Monsters charred by the onslaught.

All of this was the process of changing the trial site he administered.

Because of the lightning unleashed by Kim YuWon.

Kururu, Kurung-.

The Lightning gradually subsided, and the burning yellow light disappeared.

The scene that followed...

"The Trial grounds..."

"Completely annihilated..."

The players who were talking startled and began looking at Polaris, who was beside them.

It was a Trial field for them, but it was a workplace for Polaris.

Naturally, he didn't like this situation.

Pajik, Pajiji-

In a wave of lightning...

YuWon turned around and walked towards Polaris.

"Now that the Trial center is like this, I don't think you can administer the next Trial."

YuWon, who turned the Trial site into a disaster, told Polaris, who seemed to have lost the whole world.

"Let's pretend everyone passed, okay? Anyway, this place is empty."

Most of the Trials were like this.

The general Trials were not too difficult for him; some team trials were annoying, but that didn't make much of a difference.

And in the meantime...

"...Why is it getting bigger and bigger?"

The number of Son OhGongs visiting YuWon gradually increased.

It was a large room, about 20 square meters.

It was too spacious for one person, but YuWon always preferred the more spacious room.

But he never thought the day would come when that would be a good thing.

There were already five Son OhGongs who arrived at YuWon's room.

"Why? I'm curious."

"Yes. I'm also curious."

"Okay. I was wondering...."

"It's an echo."

YuWon, who had just woken up, scratched his head annoyed.

Thanks to that, not only did he wake up, but he couldn't fall back into a deeper sleep.

Pap-

YuWon poured water and handed a glass to each of his alter egos.

"Why are you all so curious?"

"For you."

"For you."

"For you..."

"Just one answer, just one."

YuWon said annoyed and also took a glass of water and drank it again.

Even the cold water made his clogged stomach feel a little better. Looking out the window, he saw a beautiful world with green trees.

'Floor 49.'

He realized that he had climbed quite high.

Even in this towering Tower, the 49th floor was a rather high floor. No one would call him a low-level Player anymore.

Son OhGong was on the 50th floor.

It was the floor where the influence of the Celestial Realm was strongest, the floor where the roots of the Celestial Realm lay.

"If you're curious, haven't you heard of me from your twelfth alter ego?"

At YuWon's question, the Son OhGongs looked at each other.

It was as if they were trying to decide who would answer when only one of them could.

With their telepathy, they could communicate to some extent just by looking into each other's eyes.

And now they responded.

"We've heard."

"But we haven't heard everything."

"We don't know anything except that you come from the future."

They chose to continue speaking among themselves.

It was amazing again.

He wondered how it was possible, but they were still the same Son OhGong, even though they were now alter egos.

"So, did you come one by one because you want to hear the answer?"

"Uh-huh."

"Yes, we did."

"That's right."

Not that they were repeating the same thing, but this was just giving him a headache.

Fortunately, there were no issues with communication. YuWon shook his head and waved his hand.

"I'll tell you later, but for now, go away. I have a Trial soon."

"Later."

"When?"

"Tomorrow?"

"The day after tomorrow?"

"When?"

YuWon touched his forehead.

He had forgotten.

Son OhGong was more curious than anyone else he knew and, as such, never let go of his curiosity.

Tomorrow? The day after tomorrow?

No.

Right now, today, it would relentlessly chase after him.

"If I have to go out like this..."

Maybe some of them would follow him.

"That's not good."

His relationship with Son OhGong's alter egos was still a secret.

If it became known that Son OhGong's alter egos were gathered in a place like this, not only was it unknown what kind of commotion it would cause in the Celestial Realm, but it could also become a target.

The Celestial Realm was a power different from the Three Precious Children.

There were countless High Ranks there, and there were also many top-tier High Ranks like the Jade Emperor, Ne Zha, and Lee Rangjin (Erlang Shen).

That was why he had first tried to save Son OhGong's body.

Fighting against the Celestial Realm with his current strength right now was no better than hitting a rock with an egg.

"What a bunch of idiots."

YuWon's eyes lit up as he looked at the alter egos.

He was about to say something...

"What a bunch of idiots."

But another Son OhGong arrived in YuWon's room.

Although the voice and tone were the same, when YuWon saw the newly appeared Son OhGong, he realized who it was.

"Are you the twelfth?"

"Good eyes."

Drat-

The twelfth alter ego, who had entered the room through the window, looked at the other Son OhGongs and said.

"How many times have I told you not to cause a commotion outside, that if we attract the attention of the Celestial Realm?"

"Ah, yes, yes."

"Okay, okay."

"Then we'll leave."

"We'll be back, yeah."

Puf, puf-!

The Son OhGongs pouted and transformed into various bird forms.

YuWon opened the window and made sure the Son OhGongs flew away.

"So, why did you come again?"

"I came to tell you something. I don't have a player kit, so I'll have to tell you in person."

That was true.

No matter how strong he was, the only way for an alter ego without a player kit to convey words to YuWon was to come directly to him.

And YuWon seemed to have a vague idea of why he had come to see him.

Just as expected...

"They're all here."

The twelfth Son OhGong said, with the corners of his lips curved.

"The alter egos."

Chapter 213

A confident look and tone of voice.

YuWon confirmed it was true by the way he spoke.

"That was fast."

"I am fast."

The guy crossed his arms and frowned.

But he certainly deserved it.

He never thought he would gather all the alter egos so quickly.

"I thought I would be faster."

Between clearing Floor 44 and the fight with the Three Precious Children, YuWon thought he would need exactly this much time.

And as expected, it took only a few months for the fight to end.

However, the clones gathered much faster than expected.

"It would have been good if the main body was like you."

It was an honest statement.

If the main body had been as intelligent and capable as the twelfth alter ego standing before him now, the fight would have been easier.

"Of course."

That didn't mean Son OhGong didn't have the ability.

"It's even more surprising that he climbed the ranks with that head."

The ranking was based on various criteria.

Individual strength, influence in the tower, power, intelligence, etc.

Among the many criteria, Son OhGong ascended to his position solely with his own strength.

And that was why YuWon thought Son OhGong was really cool.

"What is the main body like?" the twelfth one asked.

Yuwon asked in return.

"Don't you know what kind of guy he is?"

"I don't know. I've only seen him for a very short time."

"Why?"

"Because he was imprisoned right after I was created."

Even Yuwon knew that Son OhGong was trapped somewhere on Floor 50.

But apart from that, it was hard to understand how an alter ego of Son OhGong didn't know much about him.

"But..."

Yuwon, who thought he knew Son OhGong well, realized that he had never spoken so deeply with his alter ego before.

"Because I thought alter egos were just an ability."

But now?

Now that they were talking, he realized that each of the clones had a slightly different personality and different characteristics. The twelfth one in front of him was particularly intelligent.

"Alter egos share the memories of the main body. All I have is a very small part of the main body's memories."

"A part?"

"Well, what he did when he was younger... things like that."

Son OhGong shrugged and continued speaking.

"The rest is loyalty to the main body. Emotional things, like hostility toward the Celestial Realm. The memory part is sparse, so I don't know what the hell I'm doing."

Those words reminded Yuwon of Son OhGong's words about the clones.

"Is your alter ego really another you?"

"Why do you want to know that?"

"Because if your alter ego is really another you, I don't think he would listen to me."

A story that came out of nowhere.

Regarding the rare deceptive ability called Alter Ego, Son OhGong said this.

"There's a reason why everyone at least has selfish behaviors."

At that moment, Son OhGong hit his chest and said:

"I may have many bodies, but we are all one."

That's what it meant.

Still, it was surprising.

Not all memories are shared, only some.

He couldn't imagine what that would feel like.

"How much do you know, and how much don't you know?"

Son OhGong looked puzzled at YuWon's question.

"Why? Do you want me to tell you?"

"As far as I know."

After all, the Son OhGong in front of him knew where he came from.

He knew quite a bit about his past and a fair amount about his personality.

It wasn't hard to figure out.

"Well, we're about to get to know each other anyway."

YuWon called the Administrator and immediately ordered a trial.

The difficulty was high, but the time was much shorter.

"You're a bastard, you."

When the Trial was over, the Administrator crossed his arms and looked around.

"Or these guys are careless."

Catching the Messengers.

The trial was about following the Messengers. It was ridiculously difficult to ask someone to chase messengers who were comparable to Rankers in speed.

But...

"How difficult is it to defeat those who are only fast?"

YuWon's eyes saw through the Messengers.

Where they were going.

How fast they were moving.

It wasn't difficult for him to spot them and catch them with his hands.

Of course.

"Ugh, I didn't think you'd pass so quickly."

As much as the Administrator knew about YuWon, he also didn't think he would fail this trial.

However, he didn't expect him to pass so easily.

"Are we on the 50th floor now?"

"Yes."

"That's where the Celestial Realm is."

The 50th floor was a special world even among all the floors.

Each section of ten floors in the world had its own special corners, but the 50th floor was particularly special.

No matter how big a guild was, its influence would inevitably extend across all floors.

But the 50th floor was built like a world solely for the Celestial Realm.

"Are you planning to do something more there?"

"Why do you think that?"

"There are a lot of alter egos gathered there."

For a moment, YuWon felt as if he were naked before the eyes of the Administrator he was facing.

"And you're tangled up with them."

A meaningful gaze.

'...He's still like a snake.'

The Administrator's eyes were otherworldly. Just like Son OhGong's Golden Cinder Eyes, he might not be able to see the whole truth, but he had another pair of eyes worthy of the name Administrator.

In his eyes, it seemed like he could see the relationship between YuWon and Son OhGong.

"Please keep this a secret. Don't get too involved in the world, Administrator."

"There are things Messengers do behind the scenes, but even then, Administrators shouldn't do that."

"In that case..."

"However."

The Administrator's eyes narrowed.

A threatening gaze.

"Don't cross the line. I won't either, but Administrators don't want the world turned upside down."

It was a clear warning.

It was.

But it was justified.

"Surely the Administrator of the 44th Floor is already very angry."

The battle between Yamata no Orochi and Amaterasu.

It was one of the topics that shook the entire Tower. Around 30% of the major cities on the 44th floor were razed due to that fight, and the Trials were suspended for a while.

It will probably take several decades at least to repair the damage.

From the perspective of the Administrator, who can be said to be the ruler of the world, it's not a very pleasant situation.

"The logic of all this is that we can't leave the rotten parts unattended."

"When you say 'rotten parts,' what parts are you referring to?"

"I'm sure there are many, and I can't exactly say which ones, nor am I in a position to judge them...."

YuWon shook his head.

Having these kinds of thoughts, he couldn't just sit idly by.

Especially...

Especially in the case of this 50th floor.

"Please understand that this is a legitimate disturbance given the circumstances."

"Only if it is justified."

"If it's not justified, I will gladly accept the punishment."

Contrary to expectations. Was it because YuWon came out with too much confidence?

The manager shrugged, avoiding YuWon's gaze.

"Well... What kind of punishment would you receive if you're not even a Ranker?"

The Administrator cleared his throat and looked back at YuWon.

"Still, this guy up here is a bit of a jerk. You should be careful if it's just a battle of interests."

"I'll keep that in mind."

The Administrator clicked his tongue and waved his hand in the air.

"Just go up. I don't know what else you're going to do, but do your best."

Unexpected words.

Seeing YuWon's surprised look, the manager raised the corner of his mouth.

"We have different opinions on our side, but I'm still on your side."

[Passed the Trial on the 49th Floor]

[Acquired 100,000 points]

Gii-

A bright light covered YuWon's face.

A fresh air, as fresh as the light, entered through his nostrils, and with that fresh air, he could see the familiar scenery of the Murim Realm.

The world of the 50th Floor.

A place similar to the Murim Realm, but different.

This place, reminiscent of a mansion belonging to a clan in the Murim Realm, was the gateway for new Players to arrive.

And there...

"Uh, welcome, Player Kim YuWon!"

A voice broke in to welcome him.

"What, Kim YuWon?"

"Already?"

"Isn't there still some time left in the Trial program?"

The Players who spotted YuWon rushed towards him.

Each one held long staffs in their hands.

"How do you feel about reaching the 50th floor?"

"Did you break any records this time?"

"There were a couple of floors where your records disappeared, did something happen?"

A crowd of people gathered around YuWon.

Those who were waiting were journalists. They were fellow players to YuWon, and YuWon had already seen this scene a few times.

Naturally, YuWon didn't answer their questions.

No, he didn't.

There was no reason to.

But...

"We've gathered again."

This time was different.

"My qualifications... are probably not what you expected."

YuWon began to respond to the last question he heard.

"There's not much to say, this is not where I was aiming for, it's just one of those places I'm passing through."

The journalists' faces lit up as they saw YuWon responding to the questions.

Even as they noted down every word, they couldn't help but ask more questions.

"Hargaan has named you his rival, what do you think?"

"It's funny." ("I don't think so.")

"Are you saying you're not a rival?"

"Ask the other party the same question, see what they answer."

"I heard you have a somewhat precarious relationship with the Olympians. How did that happen..."

"Any more questions?"

He moved on from the annoying questions.

Most of the questions were related to Olympus.

It was a well-known fact that the relationship between YuWon and Olympus was not good. However, many said that the relationship had become strained due to Zeus' downfall.

That's why this modifier was added in front of YuWon.

'The world was meant to be.'

Even if you pretend to be Olympus, you are the only one who can do it.

Who would have predicted that the relationship between Olympus and YuWon would be restored when Zeus was brought down?

Of course, none of them thought that YuWon would help bring down Zeus.

"Is there any ranker or guild you would like to meet? If so, what would you like to tell them through this event?"

YuWon's eyes turned to the reporter who asked the question.

It was the question he was waiting for.

"The ranker or guild I want to meet... Yes."

There was one.

The journalists' eyes gleamed. Up until that moment, YuWon had behaved like a lone wolf, detached from any guild.

But here, for the first time, he mentioned that he was interested in a guild.

"Who is it and where are they?"

"The guild I want to meet is the Celestial Realm."

The reporters started writing down YuWon's words.

"And the ranker I want to meet is the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal."

At those contradictory words, no one could help but pause their pens.

Chapter 214

Naturally, there was a frenzy.

The guild he wanted to meet was the Celestial Realm.

And the ranker he wanted to meet was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

They were more than enemies, they were bitter enemies.

The fact that he wanted to meet them was undoubtedly a topic of conversation.

"Why do you want to meet the Celestial Realm?"

"When you say you want to meet the Celestial Realm, does it mean you intend to join their guild?"

"How much do you know about the relationship between the Celestial Realm and the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

"Player Kim YuWon, perhaps you..."

A barrage of questions.

But YuWon's response was just that.

Silence, silence-

YuWon walked towards the center of the crowd. He shook off the hands of the journalists grabbing his shoulders and left the mansion.

Seeing that YuWon did not answer any of the questions, the reporters soon grew tired.

"Well, this is difficult..."

"For some reason, I thought he would be more receptive today."

Shaking their heads as they watched YuWon, who didn't respond to any questions or even look at them, the reporters eventually lost sight of him.

They didn't know if he had ascended to the sky or fallen to the ground, but he had suddenly disappeared.

But even though they didn't get many answers, it was much better than the other times.

"Well, at least we got quite a bit today."

"It was worth the wait."

One by one, they began sending messages through their player kits.

"It's still tough."

YuWon realized that the reporters had stopped following him.

Occasionally, there were talented players or rankers who dreamt of becoming reporters.

They were skilled at tracking, and it wasn't easy to shake them off. Even for YuWon, it was difficult to get rid of them in the lower levels.

With the reporters out of the way, YuWon found a place to stay.

The highest accommodation in the city.

It was a simple room, but still quite atmospheric. Despite the height of the building, the ambiance and feeling on the 50th floor were similar to the Murim World.

"That's the direction of the Marble Mountain (Five Elements Mountain), right?"

This was the place where Son OhGong spent the most time. It was where he formed his first team, and some of the players who climbed the Tower with him ended up ranking alongside him.

A place that held many memories.

Now, he was trapped in a place like this.

"Entry to the Five Elements Mountain is strictly prohibited. Son OhGong is called the Demon King on this side of the mountain..."

He couldn't help but laugh at the thought.

Son OhGong was called the Demon King, no doubt.

It really didn't suit him.

"How about Monkey King? (彌猴王)"

He had many names.

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal. (齊天大聖).

The Buddha of Victorious Fighting (鬪戰勝佛)

And even Monkey King.

These were all names he was called. It's a title that most high-ranking people don't have, but he has three.

And he deserved them.

Yuwon rested his head on the bed.

Now, all that was left was to wait.

In the meantime, he would try to relax, even if only for a while.

"We'll meet again soon..."

And he laid his head on the pillow.

"Son OhGong."

Yuwon's eyes lit up as he remembered his friend's face.

A rest after a long time was like honey.

He slept in, woke up, and went out to eat.

He drank tea while admiring the beautiful scenery and received a massage while sightseeing on the 50th floor.

Points were abundant.

The only thing he didn't have was time.

However...

"Playing is also work."

It was the third day of the game.

YuWon yawned as he descended the stairs after drinking a glass of wine alone.

He didn't want to do anything particularly notable here, but it seemed harder that way.

He had no one to play with.

On top of that, he had no idea what he was supposed to do.

He couldn't remember the last time he had played or what he had done.

The memories were so blurry that everything felt uncomfortable.

"What did I do with them?"

With Asura and Son OhGong, it was always a fight.

With Hercules, he seemed to talk a lot. The same with Odin, but normally, he was the one listening.

They were surprisingly talkative.

Nothing particularly exciting happened.

Nevertheless, it was fun.

"It's not what you do that matters."

The seat next to him remained unnecessarily empty.

Trying not to do anything, the emptiness grew even larger.

He stifled the sigh that threatened to escape his mouth.

He remembered strolling with Son OhGong on the 50th floor.

YuWon began to follow the memory.

"He liked dumplings."

A restaurant he used to frequent with Son OhGong.

YuWon walked towards it.

Ding~

As he opened the door, the bell hanging on it chimed.

The restaurant was quiet.

It must have been a good restaurant, always full of customers, but for some reason, there weren't as many these days.

".....?"

YuWon entered the restaurant with a perplexed expression.

The restaurant had three floors.

Tap, tap, tap-.

He could hear the sound of knives in the kitchen, as if they were chopping vegetables.

And he entered the empty dining area.

Tsk, tsk, tsk.

A solitary customer was sitting, eating dumplings and drinking.

"This place is good. They make good dumplings, and they're pretty good at preparing meals from other worlds too."

Gulp.

Shoulder-length green hair.

It was a lovely voice, but fortunately, it wasn't difficult to tell if it was a man or a woman.

"A giant."

The back view isn't so clear.

But when YuWon looked at the man's back, it seemed as broad as Hercules'.

YuWon sat down across from the customer, who was sitting alone.

The man was drinking alone.

"You waited for me?"

"So, why am I here, trembling like a monk?"

He held two glasses.

It seemed like he already knew YuWon would come and was waiting for him.

Pak, pak-.

The man who waited for YuWon also poured alcohol into YuWon's glass.

The liquor was as clear and crystalline as water.

But it was strong enough for Rankers to drink. He said he enjoyed a strong drink, and he was right.

"What is your relationship with the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

Gulp.

A handsome man with green hair.

The Great General of the Heavens, with a long sword hanging by the side of the table.

The High Ranker, Lee Rangjin (Erlang Shen).

He finished his glass and looked at YuWon.

"You said you wanted to meet us?"

Their gazes met, and YuWon read his expression.

It wasn't just curiosity; it was a complex mix of hostility and interest.

The reason for the hostility was clear.

It was probably due to the interview YuWon had given.

'Lee Rangjin. The High Ranker of the Celestial Realm who fought the most with Son OhGong after becoming a Ranker.'

YuWon drained his cup and looked at Lee Rangjin.

'His title is General.'

It was one of the most prominent positions in the Celestial Realm Guild.

He was a great man from the start.

He had to be nervous.

Pak-

YuWon put down his drink and replied.

"What is my relationship? It has been several years since he has been active."

"So?"

"Is there anyone in this Tower who doesn't know the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal? What rank does he hold, how many myths has he written?"

Lee Rangjin's eyebrows twitched.

In those "myths" that YuWon mentioned, his name was probably mentioned several times. Clearly, Son OhGong was a legendary Ranker and deserved respect.

"Well, there's another reason too, although it's a bit more personal."

"What is it?"

"Do I have to tell you? You know it's impolite to ask for a player's stats and abilities."

"Huh-."

YuWon's imposing attitude made Lee Rangjin sigh softly.

Even a Ranker from the Celestial Realm could only tremble in front of him.

The problem was that there was nothing wrong with it.

"It is indeed rude to ask for a player's personal information, you're right."

Lee Rangjin nodded.

It was known that if it were Son OhGong, he would go crazy no matter what the matter was, but he had a different personality.

He was a man of high principles.

He never did anything that deviated from his principles, which was why so many Rankers followed Lee Rangjin.

"I misunderstood. When I heard the news, I thought you would have some kind of connection with the Monkey.. Right, you've only been in the Tower for a few years."

A convincing enough story.

Pap~

Lee Rangjin refilled YuWon's now-empty glass.

YuWon took the bottle and poured it again into Lee Rangjin's glass.

"Thank you."

Clink-

As they ate dumplings, the two clinked their glasses together.

With a clink, the seats turned into a drinking table.

"Now, let's talk about us."

"Us?"

"The Ranker that interests you the most is the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal. But the guild that interests me the most is the Celestial Realm."

Lee Rangjin erased his hostility and looked at YuWon with curiosity.

"Wasn't that a message for us?"

For some reason, he seemed quite friendly.

It was almost overwhelming.

In the face of YuWon's surprised reaction, Lee Rangjin chuckled hurriedly and waved his hand.

"I don't do sodomy or anything like that, so I hope you don't see it that way. I just like strong men."

"Ah, I see."

"They call you the Strongest Player, don't they?"

Lee Rangjin's eyes shone brighter than ever.

"I wish I could see your abilities someday."

"I'm not comparable to a Great General of the Heavens."

YuWon's words were sincere, not condescending.

Lee Rangjin was a powerhouse with a rank higher than Amaterasu's, and even though that rank undoubtedly included his background as a General of the Heavens, ranks never lied.

"I don't expect too much, I just want to find out why they say you're the Strongest Player."

Lee Rangjin's curiosity for strength was as strong now as it would be in the future. The reason he met Son OhGong was because of rumors that he was the strongest player at that time.

"I'm looking forward to seeing how strong you are compared to the days when that monkey was a player, and if you deserve to be called that."

On the 50th floor, Son OhGong fought and defeated the Chimera Creator, who was the trial supervisor.

Furthermore, the Chimera Creator was a Ranker with a high enough rank to be a trial supervisor on the 50th floor.

To fight against him and win meant that Son OhGong already possessed Ranker-level power long before.

"I've heard many anecdotes, and I know what happened on the 50th Floor."

"On the 50th floor?"

"The fight with the Chimera Creator. You know the story, right?"

Lee Rangjin put on an expression of perplexity at the words thrown at him while picking up dumplings and eating them.

"How do you know?"

"There was a Chimera Maker in the Tutorial who was punished by the Administrator for it."

YuWon said, with a dumpling in his mouth.

"The final boss I defeated was the Chimera Creator."

"The Chimera Creator...?"

Lee Rangjin's eyes widened, then curved into crescents.

The corners of his lips curled, and he clenched his fists tightly under the table.

YuWon stared at him intently.

"You said you were interested in the Celestial Realm, right?"

As expected...

"Would you like to come with me?"

He finally yielded and grabbed YuWon's hand.

"To the Celestial Realm."

Chapter 215

Chik-

Lee Rangjin sat down and poured himself a drink.

He had traveled there to see someone, but he hadn't received any response.

"Next time, huh..."

That was YuWon's response to his request to go to the Celestial Realm together.

Gulp-.

Somehow, he felt bitter.

At the same time, a smile formed on his lips, and his eyes widened.

YuWon's eyes opened as he looked at him.

"He's definitely different from that Monkey."

The Monkey.

That was the word Lee Rangjin used to call the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

When he had first seen the Monkey, he had thought of him as a "gangly monkey" and a "speedy beetle."

Compared to him, YuWon's personality was the complete opposite.

He was calm and thoughtful in every word he spoke. If strength has a personality, YuWon's was almost the opposite of Son OhGong's.

Still, strangely enough, Lee Rangjin saw YuWon and Son OhGong overlapped.

A hunch, not a rational judgment.

A simple feeling that he couldn't be sure of.

"There must be a reason."

He trusted his instincts.

His instincts, which never failed him, helped him in every difficult moment and time and time again, he refused to let a hunch go to waste.

This time, however, even that feeling couldn't properly judge Kim YuWon.

"Will he harm us or help us..."

Pap-.

Lee Rangjin, who had emptied the entire bottle, got up from his seat.

"Well, we'll see."

The Celestial City was the highest city in the world.

Rising among the clouds, the land above the sky looked like a city of gods looking down on humans.

A city the size of a small country.

It had been four days since Lee Rangjin had returned to the Celestial Realm.

Lee Rangjin was sweating in the training grounds, wielding his sword like any other day, when a servant approached him.

"G-General...! Lord General...!"

The subordinate, who entered the training grounds, knelt on the ground, unable to bear the weight pressing down on his body.

He was also an undisputed Ranker, but the weight of the training grounds made it difficult for him to stand.

"What's going on?"

Jap, jap, jap-

Lee Rangjin, with his upper body exposed and wielding a sword, approached, wiping himself with a towel hanging on one side.

Faced with his seemingly indifferent appearance, the subordinate could only be amazed.

'How can he swing something so heavy under this weight...'

Lee Rangjin's Unbreakable Sword was known for its unusual weight.

The Unbreakable Sword weighed dozens of times more than a normal weapon, and under this gravitational force, which most Rankers would struggle to endure, he wielded it like a toothpick.

Closest thing to Hercules.

That was the public explanation for Lee Rangjin.

"We have a guest..."

"A guest? Do you mean my guest?"

"Not your guest, but the one you were looking for."

"The one I was looking for?"

He didn't know who they were talking about, but then Lee Rangjin's eyes trembled for a moment.

Then, he passed by the subordinate. The subordinate, who was burdened by gravity, asked in surprise.

"Grand General... You...?"

"As a General of the Heavens, I should be able to overcome this kind of adversity on my own."

"What?"

The subordinate's eyes widened, and he exclaimed incredulously.

"General, General, General!"

Between his straightening knees and the fact that he thought he had mistaken his superior. (?)

Lee Rangjin hastily changed his clothes and left.

"Did Kim YuWon come to find me?"

Apparently, he had declined his invitation to go to the Celestial Realm together.

He said he would visit separately on another occasion.

As most would assume, he took it as a refusal.

After all, Kim YuWon was famous for not joining any guilds.

But then...

"Was it not a rejection?"

If it was just a request for time to think.

Then he might actually be able to enter the Celestial Realm.

Lee Rangjin's heart beat fast.

"Kim YuWon is coming to the Celestial Realm."

His first impression of Kim YuWon was that of a calm and strong warrior. But strangely, Lee Rangjin could see a glimpse of Son OhGong in his face.

"The strongest player."

Just like that label, YuWon had the qualities to someday become a High-Rank player.

If only Son OhGong were on the side of the Celestial Realm...

He didn't know how many times he had thought about that.

And now, right now, that future with such a talented person like Son OhGong was about to unfold.

"General!"

"Where is Kim YuWon?"

Lee Rangjin, wearing the armor he wore as casual clothing, looked around the mansion.

No matter how many lights he turned on, he couldn't see YuWon. He thought that if he had been looking for him, he would definitely be here.

"He's not here."

"If he's not here, then where has he gone?"

"Well...."

The soldier looked at Lee Rangjin for a moment before answering.

"Sightseeing."

"This is the path to the Peach Garden, one of the prides of the Celestial Realm. If you look closely, you'll see a row of tall trees over there..."

"Ah, yes."

YuWon turned his head to listen to the guide's explanation.

It was a boring explanation. He had offered to show him the way, and now he was taking him on a tour of the Celestial Realm.

He supposed that's what he expected, but YuWon hadn't come here for a tour of the Celestial Realm.

Besides, even if it was an explanation, most people already knew the story.

The Peach Garden was one of the treasures of the Celestial Realm, but that was old news.

'Son OhGong, that smug look he had every time he remembered eating those peaches.'

Peach Garden.

One thousand years, two thousand years, three thousand years....

A garden where Immortal Peaches, which had grown for over 10,000 years, gathered.

For a long time, the Peach Garden held greater value as it stored Mana. A Peach Garden that is over 3,000 years old has more value than the great fortune of Shaolin, and a Peach Garden that has been matured for 10,000 years is known as one of the best elixirs in the entire Tower.

But...

Son OhGong ate all the peaches in the Peach Garden.

Naturally, the only ones growing in that garden now were the ones that had been growing since then.

"Well, it's still quite valuable."

YuWon looked back at the Peach Garden.

He knew where it was anyway, but it didn't hurt to take another look.

"I have to go back anyway."

YuWon nodded at the guide's explanation and turned around.

"Let's keep going."

"Ah, yes."

The guide continued leading him.

The Celestial Realm was immense and couldn't be explored in a single day. Even if you traveled in a carriage pulled by a good horse, it would take three days to explore it.

"Where will we go next?"

The guide's eyes sparkled.

In his eyes, YuWon's appearance was like a shining jewel.

"If we manage to recruit Kim YuWon, I can make a great contribution to the Celestial Realm. If that happens, leveling up twice at once would just be the icing on the cake."

Kim YuWon was a promising rookie.

His value was no different from that of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who had long been recognized as the strongest player of his time.

No.

There were even talks that he might be even more talented than him.

Naturally, several major guilds had their eyes on him, not to mention the Heavenly General and the Jade Emperor.

If he could recruit such a person, it was only natural that he would be rewarded for his efforts.

"This is my chance to impress those above, and I can do it."

Just as the guide made an internal decision...

Ki-hi-hi-hing!

A carriage approaching from the opposite direction blocked the way.

A carriage pulled by ten horses.

It was made of solid iron and beautiful gold, with the pattern of the Unbreakable Sword on it.

"General?"

The guide, seeing the emblem, hurriedly approached the carriage.

The guide bowed to Lee Rangjin as he got off the carriage.

"Greetings, Grand General!"

"Enough with the greetings."

Hiss-

After closing the carriage door, Lee Rangjin approached YuWon.

"What happened?"

"We meet again."

"I thought you weren't interested."

"Of course, I'm interested. It's the Celestial Realm, not just any other place."

YuWon had already mentioned his interest in the Celestial Realm before meeting Lee Rangjin. In fact, he had come to visit him after hearing about it.

He needed time to think.

That's what he meant when he declined the offer to go to the Celestial Realm with him, and it was after that time of reflection that YuWon came to visit him.

"Have you made up your mind yet?"

YuWon shook his head.

"Not yet."

"You need more time to think, then."

"If you don't mind waiting, you're right."

He still hadn't changed his mind.

A smile escaped Lee Rangjin's mouth.

"I see, I see. You deserve it."

If he was the future Son OhGong, if he was the one who would sit in the seat of the next Grand War General.

Certainly, he deserved it. If it was Kim YuWon, he was a talent worth bringing even to the Celestial Realm.

"Are you the guide?"

"Yes? Yes!"

"You've done a good job so far. From now on, I will guide you."

"What? The Grand Lord/General in person?"

"Why not?"

"Why... for you to do something so degrading like this..."

"It doesn't matter. I do it because I want to."

With a chin gesture, Lee Rangjin pointed to the largest carriage he was traveling in.

"Get in. If it's the Celestial Realm, I'll show you more corners."

This was something YuWon hadn't expected.

He knew the Celestial Realm would be interested in him, but he didn't expect Lee Rangjin to personally introduce him to the Celestial Realm.

"The Grand General will personally guide me..."

YuWon thought as he followed Lee Rangjin.

"It can't be that bad."

No, it was actually better.

"If I'm with Lee Rangjin-gun, I'll be able to delve deeper into the Celestial Realm."

Before saving Son OhGong...

YuWon needed to go deeper into the Celestial Realm.

A way to enter the Celestial Realm without becoming a member of it. No other player could do it, but YuWon could.

Fame is a great weapon in times like this.

"The Five Elements Mountain, where he was trapped, was under a spell."

Spell.

It wasn't something that could be broken simply by being strong.

You had to be strong, but to save Son OhGong, you also had to have knowledge in Witchcraft.

That's why YuWon had come to the Celestial Realm.

"And when it comes to that field, there's one person who knows it better."

He crossed his arms with confidence.

YuWon didn't know much about him.

But he realized it from the way Son OhGong talked about him.

"So save him first, it's much easier that way."

The old rival of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who fought in a war against the Celestial Realm alongside the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven

The Great Demon King (Ox King) who possessed the name of the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven...

He was sealed somewhere in this Celestial Realm.

Chapter 216

Lee Rangjin took YuWon to tour the Celestial Realm.

With a man the size of a Lord/War General personally guiding the way, it naturally attracted attention.

Then, it grew dark.

"It's getting late."

As the sun set, Lee Rangjin gestured for the carriage to stop.

"What do you say, let's have dinner together, a proper meal this time, not a small one like the last time we met."

"I don't really enjoy eating with people."

YuWon made a dismissive gesture with his hand.

Then one of Lee Rangjin's servants, who was driving the carriage, turned his head and looked at YuWon.

"Where do you get that arrogance from..."

"Forget it."

He waved his hand.

"If you want to eat, eat; if not, don't. There's nothing wrong with refusing."

"I'm sorry."

"I'm not forcing you, I'm just offering, and you don't have to apologize for declining."

Lee Rangjin-gun laughed exaggeratedly, perhaps to lighten the mood.

"So, if you feel like it, let's have a drink together next time, whether you enter the Celestial Realm or not."

"Okay..."

"Have you decided where to stay?"

"Yes. My guide arranged it in the beginning."

"Do you know where it is?"

"It's not hard to find, so I'll go there separately, so I can explore more on my own."

"Really?"

Lee Rangjin nodded.

"That's right. I see. Then, I'll see you tomorrow."

"General."

"Huh?"

Lee Rangjin turned his head.

As he watched him, his mind stirred. Unintentionally, YuWon was able to spend a day with him.

"Lee Rangjin? He's crazy."

When the Celestial Realm was mentioned, the person who talked the most about it was, of course, Son OhGong.

Especially when it came to Lee Rangjin, Son OhGong was the one who talked the most.

"He's even worse than that bastard when it comes to fighting. Isn't that crazy?"

"Why are you picking a fight with me?"

"Because while he's not a musclehead like you, his fighting style is as straightforward as yours..."

"Did you say 'musclehead'?"

Son OhGong and Hercules used to growl at each other.

Apparently, Lee Rangjin's fighting style was similar to Hercules'.

"And when he has a target, he bites and doesn't let go. Do you know how many years he's been chasing after me?"

"Is he persistent?"

YuWon asked, and Son OhGong pondered for a moment before answering.

"I wouldn't call it persistence, more like perfectionism."

"Perfectionism?"

"Whatever he does, he does it perfectly. That's why he never loses sight of the enemy he's trying to capture."

Recalling his fight against Lee Rangjin, Son OhGong shook his head with a furrowed brow.

"He's an enemy, but he's annoying."

The conversation was short, but Son OhGong's opinion of Lee Rangjin was not bad.

For a guy who always looked down on others and lived in his own little world, it was kind of him to say that.

Furthermore, the evaluations of other people who knew Lee Rangjin were not bad either.

"He was very loyal."

"The impression wasn't bad."

"A hard worker. That's all I know about him."

"I should have fought him once..."

Aside from Asura, who had been raising his fighting spirit ever since Lee Rangjin's story came to light, the others judged Lee Rangjin as an upright warrior.

He was as straight as bamboo.

He could bend, but he would never be swayed by others.

"Why did you call me?"

When YuWon remained silent for a moment, Lee Rangin asked with a perplexed look.

In response, YuWon shook his head and said,

"Next time, let's make sure to have a drink."

Zebuck-

After getting off the carriage, YuWon turned around and walked away.

"A tough guy."

His impression of Lee Rangjin, whom he had met by chance so quickly, wasn't too bad.

But still, he was a Celestial General.

"In the end, we're just speculating about him."

"That's right. We can't get an answer by talking amongst ourselves."

"Let the person who returns make their own judgment and address the situation accordingly. That's it."

A vague conclusion.

And with that, YuWon returned to the past using the Clock Mechanism.

This left YuWon with no choice but to keep thinking.

Should he kill him or capture him alive?

The thought didn't last long.

"Let's wait and see."

Right now, he couldn't do anything against Lee Rangjin with his current abilities.

Furthermore, he couldn't judge what kind of person he was right now.

YuWon pushed aside the thought of Lee Rangjin and landed in the middle of the Celestial Realm, looking around.

"I need to delve a little deeper."

YuWon took out a hat from his inventory and put it on his head.

"The Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven..."

Son OhGong's sworn brother, who also bears the name of the King of Great Power.

Not much was known about him. Apart from fighting alongside Son OhGong against the Celestial Realm, he hadn't done much else.

However, he was a high-ranking player who could threaten the Celestial Realm.

Rankings don't lie.

There must be a reason for the ranking.

"I'm sure he'll be pleased."

Ever since he learned that the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven was alive.

Son OhGong attacked the Celestial Realm to find him, but he was eventually captured.

Later, a thousand years later, when he finally broke the seal of the Five Elements Mountain on his own, Son OhGong set out to find him again, but he was already beyond any help.

YuWon remembered the instructions he had been given at that time.

"The direction..."

Turning his head, he saw an old and dilapidated building.

"That way."

Pak-

A damp and musty smell pricked at the tip of his nose. A man with a long scar running from his forehead to his right eye frowned.

The Celestial Guardian, High Ranker Jin Hurak, muttered as he entered the prison.

"I can't get used to this place, no matter how many times I come."

Several years had passed since he was transferred from Celestial General in the Celestial Realm to Chief of the Guard.

He was told that he had been demoted for his sins, but he didn't take the news well.

"Who the hell do they think I am, that I have to spend ten years in this sh*tty place..."

Of course, a decade wasn't a long time for a Ranker.

As long as they weren't stabbed in the throat, they had a life that seemed like eternity guaranteed.

Furthermore, Jin Hurak's crime was brutally killing dozens of his subordinates due to the loss of emotional control.

"Guardian, are you here?"

The guards under his command bowed in greeting upon seeing Jin Hurak.

It was much later than the original starting time, but no one scolded him.

"Anything to report?"

"All clear. Nothing worth reporting."

"Yes. What could be happening in this boring place?"

This dark and silent place, with only the occasional candle as light.

The prisoners were so terrified of what the guards might do that they took care not to breathe.

"I'd rather have some fun if the prisoners went crazy and caused a ruckus..."

Jin Hurak looked at the prisoners in the cages.

"That's unlikely."

A part of him wanted to play with them and pass the time.

But if he got caught, his punishment would be much longer than a decade.

"Hey, guys."

"Yes!"

"Tell a joke."

"What?"

"A joke, a joke. Do something funny."

Jin Hurak sat back in his chair, leaned back halfway, and gestured for them to do it.

The guards hesitated, unsure of what to do. They were Rankers like Jin Hurak, but unlike ordinary Rankers, Jin Hurak was a superior Ranker with a different classification level.

They didn't know if they could defeat him even if they tried, or if they would be summarily executed at worst.

"Tsk. Idiots."

Jin Hurak clicked his tongue and waved his hand at the guards, who remained rigid at his command.

"Get out of here. Step aside or go clean something."

The guards, their faces slightly brightened, bowed and left.

Everything returned to calm.

"It's strange, by the way."

It had been four years since he became the Chief Guardian here.

Not a long time, but enough to know how the prison works.

And in all that time, he had been asking himself the same question.

"What kind of prison holds all this power?"

It was strange to see himself, a Ranker on the verge of becoming a High Ranker, as the Chief Guardian.

However, this was a direct demotion, and it was understandable because it was a punishment.

However...

Not long ago, he heard that his predecessor had been a Chief Guardian of a similar rank.

The Chief Guardian is a high-ranking Ranker, and the guards who run the prison are all ordinary Rankers..."

With a glance, Jin Hurak observed the prisoners.

"It's definitely strange."

After all, the prisoners couldn't leave their cells.

So far, the guards had had no trouble controlling them.

To make sure, he checked the prisoner list, but none of them were anything special.

So, what was the point of investing so much power into this?

He wondered.

He sat at his desk, passing the time with such useless thoughts.

Bam.

Then, the prison door opened.

For a moment, the moonlight from outside poured in.

Shortly after...

Thud.

The prison door slammed shut once more.

".....?"

Jin Hurak felt strange.

"Did I leave the door open?"

He remembered closing the door upon entering.

He stood up and approached the man.

"No one can enter here except the manager. Go back."

"...Jin Hurak?"

The man recognized him.

He stared at the man's face, wondering if he knew him.

Certainly, it was an unfamiliar face. Although his face was quite recognizable to the outside world, the way the man looked at him didn't seem like mere recognition.

"Do you know me?"

"Are you the Chief Guardian?"

"Yes, and?"

"Then it's fine."

"It's fine?"

Thud-

A familiar sound came from nearby.

The sound of a knife cutting through a hard bone. It was a sound Jin Hurak was familiar with.

However...

"The direction the sound is coming from..."

The movement of his body, like the flow of his thoughts.

Everything seemed unnatural and slow.

After a while, Jin Hurak realized.

"It's coming from my body..."

Crack-!

A fountain of blood shot up, splattering against the not-so-high ceiling, barely noticeable against the jet-black ceiling.

Thud-

YuWon sheathed his sword again and said, "It's good that the person to be killed is in a good place to die."

Jin Hurak's body fell to the ground.

He was one of the many Rankers who had fought alongside YuWon since the invasion of the Outer Gods.

The problem was that while fleeing from the fight against the Outer Gods, he often argued with the internal Rankers and caused trouble.

In the end, he even threw a knife at his own comrades.

"Those who are unnecessary must be ruthlessly cut off."

It was as important to YuWon as saving someone's life.

"I'm already here."

After piercing through Jin Hurak, YuWon looked towards the long staircase leading to the basement.

'The King of Great Power.'

The prison.

They say if you want to hide a tree, hide it in the forest.

Unlike Son OhGong, who was sealed in the Five Elements Mountain, the King of Great Power was sealed in a celestial prison.

Although his form is different from the other prisoners.

As long as you know where he is sealed, it shouldn't be too difficult to find him.

'Now it's a race against time.'

He wondered how long it would take for the outside world to realize what is happening.

Probably at least thirty minutes, at most two hours.

If there's a problem with the guards' shift, they would know there was a problem in the prison.

'The location is on the ground floor.'

Thump-.

["Cinder Eyes" illuminate the way]

YuWon's eyes burned red.

'It's time to move'.

Chapter 217

The stairs were deep.

And incredible.

"The Celestial Prison doesn't have a long history."

"Stop!"

"Damn it, what kind of intruders are these?"

"How many are there?"

"Just one!"

YuWon whispered upon hearing a voice behind him.

"Ares. Arturo."

Shhh-.

The torches' shadows twisted and contorted.

"Go to the entrance and don't let anyone out."

Saaaa-.

The two undead moved, leaving no escape from the inside.

"It was created out of nothingness and started imprisoning sinners in a rather unnatural way."

As he spoke, Son OhGong seemed different from his usual self.

He appeared slightly more intelligent.

Apparently, he had studied and researched a bit in his quest for the King of Great Power.

"I believe that prison was created by my older brother."

"This way!"

"Get him!"

The guards descended into the basement.

YuWon's eyes lit up as he saw them through the Cinder Eyes.

"Are they all Rankers?"

There weren't many of them.

But each and every one of them was a Ranker.

Too many high-class ones to be rotting away in a prison like this.

"It's not natural."

Son OhGong's words gained more strength.

This wasn't an ordinary prison.

This was, as Son OhGong had said, a forest to imprison the King of Great Power. The prisoners were the trees that formed the forest, and the Rankers present here were the beasts guarding it.

Pa-.

The interior of the prison lit up.

Towards the end of the stairs, waves of violet flames descended.

"Uh, uh, uh?"

"Enough!"

Hwaah!

The Arcane Power of the Guards clashed with the Sacred Fire.

Like a tsunami, the bodies of the guards rolled down the stairs. As the guards were engulfed in flames, some of them shouted in alarm.

"This guy is no joke! Call for reinforcements!"

"My player kit isn't working!"

"How the hell is a player kit supposed to work in this mess? Get one of you out and call someone!"

"Damn it, what's the purpose of this bastard?"

None of the prisoners was large enough to cause such a commotion, so the guards, who hadn't expected an attack on the prison, were confused.

However, getting out wasn't that easy.

"What are these guys doing....."

"The door is frozen!"

Pow!

Pap, pap, pap-.

Ares blocked the door, and Arturo froze the area around it. The guards who tried to leave through the door and call for reinforcements couldn't pass through and were decapitated.

"What the hell is happening!"

Chaos erupted.

YuWon continued descending, unperturbed.

"How many underground floors are there?"

He had already descended more than ten floors.

He didn't expect the prison to extend so far underground. He had been told that the King of Great Power was imprisoned at the bottom of the dungeon, but they hadn't told him how many levels there were.

"How far do I have to go down?"

In the depths of his heart, he wanted to crush the ground beneath him.

But if he used too much Arcane Power, others would notice before long.

No.

Maybe some people had already noticed that something strange was happening in the prison.

"...It's time to fight, anyway."

Pup-.

YuWon clenched his fist with the Uranus Heart in it.

"So let's go."

Now he didn't even have time to think about it.

Pajijiji-!

A Lightning Bolt burst from his hand.

In an instant, the darkness of the prison was illuminated.

And right after...

Flash-!

Bang-!

The ground sank under the impact.

The bars holding the prisoners shattered, causing them to fall several floors.

"I'm free!"

"Aaahhh-!"

"What are you doing, run?!"

Sinners escaping from their broken cage.

YuWon didn't pay them much attention.

After all, they were just trees to hide the King of Great Power. There might be some who were truly guilty, but if so, they would probably be recaptured by the Celestial Realm soon.

Even if they weren't.

"They won't be able to escape anyway."

Ares and Arturo stood guard at the entrance to the outside.

As long as Arturo, a high-level Ranker, and Ares, another high-level Ranker, stayed there, the sinners trapped here wouldn't be able to break through even if they all charged.

The problem wasn't inside.

Fazizic-.

[The 'Uranus Heart' generates a 'Lightning Bolt']

A Lightning Bolt burst from YuWon's hand.

The power coiled around his fist and once again struck the ground.

"Once more..."

Boom-.

"More."

Kwalung-!

Kwagwagwang-!

Several floors collapsed in an instant.

Around 40 floors in total.

If this underground were flipped, it would have been the tallest building in the Celestial Realm.

"How the hell did they create such a deep prison."

Then...

Pang-.

Something hard caught YuWon's fist.

"An iron cage?"

Unlike the ground and the other cages, which had crumbled as easily as tofu, the cage beneath YuWon was solid and unbreakable.

YuWon's gaze naturally turned to the prisoner in the narrow cage.

Unlike the cages of the other prisoners, this cage was excessively narrow.

A man with long hair whose entire body was bound with chains even tighter than the cage.

His skin was so white it was almost transparent, as if he hadn't seen light in a long time, and a single horn on his head.

The moment he saw him, he was certain.

"It's him."

YuWon hurriedly descended in front of the cage.

When he stood before him, the sleeping man opened his eyes.

"...What a commotion."

"It's time for you to come out."

YuWon looked the man in the eyes as he raised his head.

"Ox King (Bull Demon King)"

The eyes of the Bull Demon King met YuWon's.

It was just eye contact, but YuWon felt that his eyes were not only looking at him.

What was it?

He wasn't just looking at him; it seemed like he could see through everything.

"Do you know who I am?"

"Yes."

"How do you know I'm here?"

"Sun Wukong told me."

"Sun Wukong?"

His eyes narrowed.

This should have agitated him, but the reaction of the Bull Demon King was calm.

It was strange.

Clearly, his entire body was tightly bound, and he couldn't feel any Arcane Power.

And yet...

The mere presence of the Bull Demon King in front of him seemed immense.

The momentum of a King of Great Power.

Gulp~

It was the first time YuWon encountered the Bull Demon King.

He was a Ranker who didn't exist in the future. He was also a Ranker who had to exist in the future.

"Who needs to be saved? I'm sure there are many, but Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven, must be saved."

"Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven? Yes, I forgot. Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven, was incredible. Even if it's not in a war against the Celestial Realm, his influence in this Tower has been immense since ancient times."

"I've heard the stories. He was the most powerful man before Hercules arrived."

"And the greatest in Sorcery (Witchcraft)"

Odin, Cronos, and Vishnu.

The oldest of the Tower shared their memories of Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven.

Naturally, YuWon was intrigued by their stories.

What kind of person was the Bull Demon King?

How strong was he that even these people praised him so much?

Why was he trapped in this place?

"It's impossible for you to know that I'm here."

When the Bull Demon King raised his head and looked at YuWon, the gaze in his eyes wasn't much different from the first time.

He was right.

Son OhGong didn't know that the Bull Demon King was here.

At least, not the Son OhGong of this moment.

Furthermore...

"And he's already dead."

There must be some misunderstanding.

"What do you mean?"

"That's what they said. There's no way he could have survived the war against the Celestial Realm. If he had won, the Celestial Realm would have been destroyed, and if he had lost, he would be dead."

"Is that what the Celestial Realm is saying, that Son OhGong is dead?"

Instead of nodding or answering YuWon's question, the Bull Demon King looked at YuWon with a slightly different look than before.

It seemed so.

"But he's overthinking it."

That certainly was quite plausible.

The Bull Demon King was no stranger to Son OhGong's battles against the Celestial Realm. No matter how deep underground he was, it was impossible for him not to have felt Son OhGong's Mana invading the Celestial Realm.

The Celestial Realm and Son OhGong were bitter enemies.

And naturally, the one who lost the battle wouldn't survive.

Originally, that's how it would be.

But...

"He is immortal."

"Immortal?"

A fact that the Bull Demon King and even Son OhGong himself didn't know until recently.

That's why the Bull Demon King had believed the words of the Celestial Realm that Son OhGong was dead.

In reality, the Celestial Realm had tried to kill him.

But no spear, no sword, no blazing flame could sever Son OhGong's breath of life.

In the end, the Celestial Realm chose to seal him away forever.

"I don't think I know the exact reason, but I suspect the Peach Garden is the key."

"Peach Garden, immortal..."

The Bull Demon King pondered YuWon's words.

And as he did, YuWon continued.

"Son OhGong was sealed away. The place he was sealed is the Five Elements Mountain. It is the place where he was born."

"Five Elements Mountain..."

"To break the seal, you must first undo a spell. I've heard that in this Tower, you are the best at spells."

YuWon tilted his head.

"Please, help me save my friend."

"Although if you put it that way..."

C-Clack.

The Bull Demon King shook his body, and the chains that bound him rattled.

"I can't even break free from these unbreakable things."

It was the chains that sealed the Bull Demon King, no one else.

Those chains also absorbed the opponent's mana while restricting his body. Because of this, not even a trace of Arcane Power remained in the Bull Demon King's body.

Furthermore, all the tendons in his arms, legs, and other parts of his body had been severed, so he couldn't even use his strength.

And since he couldn't regain his Arcane Power, it would be difficult to repair those severed tendons.

Not even the so-called King of Great Power could break the chains and escape in such a state.

Of course...

"What if your body is a little better?"

"My body?"

"There's something I sneaked in here."

YuWon reached into his inventory and pulled out the object he had packed before coming to the prison.

A white, crisp fruit.

It wasn't ripe yet, but the eyes of the Bull Demon King gleamed as he recognized it.

"Your liver is just like that bastard's (Son OhGong)."

A Peach.

It seemed to be only a thousand years old, but the amount of Arcane Power it contained was considerable.

It would probably be enough to escape from this prison.

However, from the moment he touched it, it was as if YuWon was completely at odds with the Celestial Realm.

"It's a death sentence just for causing this mess here in the first place."

With the Peach in his hand, YuWon asked.

"What would you like to do?"

"Of course..."

After meeting with the Bull Demon King.

For the first time, the intensity in his eyes returned.

"We must go rescue the younger one."

Chapter 218

Twack!

YuWon's fist struck the cage.

Kirik-

It definitely bent, but one hit wasn't enough.

[Unlocking 'Tartarus']

Sshhhh-

Fazizik-!

Arcane Power burst between his hands.

He needed a little more mana to break through this solid iron cage.

Kkk-!

Crunch-.

The iron bars bent, creating a gap.

This was enough.

Kak-.

YuWon entered the cage and handed the Peach to the Bull Demon King.

After looking at it for a moment, the Bull Demon King opened his mouth and began devouring it.

Wagjak-.

Wagjak-.

The Peach disappeared in an instant.

After swallowing the peel and seeds without hesitation, the Bull Demon King quickly closed his eyes.

He was converting the mana contained in the Peach into his own.

Sshhhhh-.

Kkudeudeuk, kkudeudeuk-.

His muscles, which hadn't been used in a long time, began to swell.

That's when...

Kwaddup-.

The chains binding the Bull Demon King's body began to crack.

"He must have used the recovered mana to restore his body."

The chains that bound the Bull Demon King's body had the power to suck his mana.

However, the mana that the Peach had suddenly returned to him had not been absorbed by the chains.

Kuddle, kuddle-.

The chain gradually broke.

YuWon unsheathed his sword towards the chains that were starting to break.

"It's time..."

Siaat-.

A crimson light erupted from the dimly lit underground.

The Kusanagi Sword.

Its blade precisely cut through the cracks.

Piit-

Crunch, crunch, crunch!

The loose chains fell to the ground and echoed throughout the underground.

The Bull Demon King rose from his place.

Perhaps because his entire body had been bound for over a thousand years, he first loosened his stiff shoulders and neck.

"You have a very nice sword."

"It's a cheat item"

"Cheat item?"

"It's a word people nowadays use to indicate that one's ability mainly comes from equipment or objects."

"It seems like the world has changed a lot."

A long time has passed.

The Bull Demon King felt his body free for the first time in a long time.

Free.

Something he hadn't wanted until now because he hadn't needed to, but not anymore.

Opening his eyes, which had remained closed for a moment, the Bull Demon King looked up.

"They're coming."

Just now, the amount of Arcane Power that YuWon had used to break the bars was considerable.

At that moment, the Rankers who were outside the prison and in the vicinity might have noticed.

Reports must have increased, and the higher levels of the Celestial Realm, who mistrust the Bull Demon King, must have begun to move.

"We don't have much time. Have you thought of anything else?"

The Bull Demon King's condition was not good.

Even if he had regained his mana by eating the Immortal Peach, it was just a drop in the bucket compared to the amount he originally possessed.

If the Celestial Realm's army were to attack right now, escaping wouldn't be so easy.

"It's not like I haven't thought of something."

A smile appeared on YuWon's face.

Raising his head and looking upward, YuWon's eyes turned red.

And when the Bull Demon King saw it, he asked in surprise.

"Those eyes..."

No, he was about to ask.

Kwang-!

The ground beneath him cracked, and a long staff descended.

Woosh-

[Cinder Eyes resonate]

"A bit late."

Internally, he was nervous.

What if he arrived too late?

But luckily, he arrived just in time.

Also.

['The First Eyes of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal (齊天大聖)' are watching you]

The most reliable one.

'The first...'

Even among alter egos, there was a hierarchy.

He had heard that the closer the alter ego was to the main body, the more powerful it was, which meant this one was the strongest of them all.

A long staff extended to the ground.

At its end, above the clouds, Son OhGong poked his head out.

"What are you doing, big brother?"

As if saying, "Hurry up," Son OhGong waved his hand.

"Let's go."

Flying Nimbus. (Note: It's actually called Jīndǒuyún (Geundum in Korean), but as a DBZ fan, I'll call it that, haha)

One of the many items in Son OhGong's arsenal, it was said to be the fastest mode of transportation in the entire Tower.

Even if it belonged to an alter ego.

YuWon and the Bull Demon King rode on the Flying Nimbus. YuWon, who had ridden the Flying Nimbus of the twelfth Son OhGong, felt that the seat was more spacious than before.

"Is this because it's also the first alter ego?"

Turning his head, he could see an army from the Celestial Realm behind him.

"There!"

"On the cloud, above the cloud!"

"Is it the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?!"

"No, it's an alter ego!"

"Don't be afraid!"

After the Bull Demon King's escape, the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal appeared.

Even if he was just an alter ego, he was still a nightmare for the soldiers and Rankers of the Celestial Realm.

The distance widened.

As the distance widened to a certain extent, Son OhGong placed his hand on his chest.

"Eat this."

A beautiful fruit appeared in Son OhGong's hand.

The Bull Demon King looked at it and asked incredulously.

"Do you have an Immortal Peach too?"

"Also?"

"I ate one before, but it's still not enough..."

After looking back and forth between YuWon and Son OhGong, the Bull Demon King reached out his hand and grabbed the fruit.

"I'll eat it."

Pak-.

The Bull Demon King stuffed another Immortal Peach into his mouth and chewed.

"Eat slowly."

Son OhGong reached into his chest again.

Somehow, the inside of his robe seemed bulging, and he pulled out several more dough balls.

"There's still plenty left."

"...The Immortal Peach Garden seems to be poorly managed these days."

"When I went earlier, it had already been robbed, so I took some leftovers."

Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King's gazes naturally turned to YuWon.

Under their gazes, YuWon shrugged. Seeing that he didn't deny it, the Bull Demon King murmured incredulously.

"So, there's another one like the youngest."

Wajak-.

"Anyway, whether you steal one or a hundred, the result is the same, right?"

"And what about the guardians of the Garden?"

"Of course, I silenced them. Since the Peach Garden wasn't ripe yet, the security wasn't as good as it used to be."

The Immortal Peach Garden was clearly a rather important place in the Celestial Realm.

However, its importance had significantly diminished since Son OhGong's commotion before the Great War.

The countless fruits that had matured over three to ten thousand years had disappeared, and all that remained were ordinary fruits that were nothing more than empty tablets.

The Celestial Realm didn't invest the same amount of manpower to protect them as before.

Of course.

"Still, it couldn't have been easy."

However, there were still plenty of Rankers in the Peach Garden.

Too many for an average thief to dare to cross.

"The Heavens must be in an uproar now."

The Garden had been violated, as well as the prison.

They must have thought that the Garden was no longer a great treasure, but thanks to them, the Bull Demon King was able to recover from his long imprisonment.

Bull Demon King.

The giant who threatened the Heavens had been liberated and emerged.

The situation was ripe for an emergency.

"It has been a long time, by the way."

After devouring all the fruits, the Bull Demon King's gaze shifted to the side.

He looked at Son OhGong.

"And the real one?"

"The main body is not in a condition to be here right now."

"...I see."

Son OhGong was trapped in the Five Elements Mountain.

The security there was probably even stricter than where the Bull Demon King was imprisoned.

On top of that, there was a seal on the mountain that would be difficult to break unless you were some kind of monster or shaman.

"Although I'm glad."

There was deep relief on the Bull Demon King's face.

"Because you're still alive."

A moment later...

Thud-

The Bull Demon King's eyes closed, and he collapsed to the ground, falling into a deep sleep.

"...The Bull Demon King has escaped."

A large conference hall with a wide-open roof.

Over a hundred Celestial Generals were gathered there.

"I am aware."

"Who is the prison administrator?"

"A Ranker named Jin Hurak."

"First, let's start with him and discipline him..."

"What kind of discipline are you going to give to someone who is already dead?"

"The Immortal Peach Garden was also robbed."

"Do not pay too much attention to that. It is not the most important thing right now."

"The Immortal Peach Garden is the history of the Celestial Realm! How can you say such a thing..."

The conference hall was in chaos.

The true dignitaries of the Celestial Realm had not yet arrived.

"Silence!"

Pak-

A voice filled the conference hall.

In the face of the familiar voice, the Celestial Generals, who had been blaming each other, fell silent.

One by one, they rose from their seats.

Chuck, chuck-

"We salute, Lord!"

"Chung-!"

A hundred Generals saluted Lee Rangin.

Although outwardly stiff and rigid, some of the Generals glanced sideways at Lee Rangin as he slowly entered the conference hall.

"I can't get used to seeing him for real."

"I can't believe the Grand General of the Celestial Realm has such a young face..."

"Are they sure it's really him?"

"Even I, a Ranker, know that you can't determine a person's age by their external appearance, but..."

The Rankers had not been in their positions as Celestial Generals for very long.

They had yet to see Lee Rangjin in action.

It was understandable.

Since the war against Son OhGong, the Celestial Realm had not seen any major battles.

Even when the monsters were eliminated on a large scale, Lee Rangjin's army barely participated.

But...

"I heard that the Bull Demon King escaped."

The story was different when it came to the Bull Demon King and the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"Has the monkey's alter ego appeared?"

He was the main character who led the victory in the Great Celestial War.

Along with Ne Zha, he was the Highest-Ranked Hero of the Celestial Realm. It was not for nothing that he held the position of War Chief in the Celestial Realm and was spoken of as a symbol of the Celestial Realm.

The current situation was quite similar to that of the Celestial War.

The only difference was that back then, it was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal who had escaped, but this time, it was the Bull Demon King.

And as long as the two were intertwined, Lee Rangjin had no intention of simply observing the problem as before.

"Yes. He used the Flying Nimbus to take the Bull Demon King out of the Celestial Realm."

"If they managed to escape, where did they go?"

"About that..."

Of course, there was no Ranker with the maneuverability to track them, at least not in the Celestial Realm.

It was to be expected.

Since he didn't expect much, Lee Rangjin didn't reprimand them.

Instead...

"If Sun OhGong had entered the Celestial Realm, there would have been signs of it long ago. The Unavoidable Net of the Celestial Realm is not that weak."

Breaking through the Unavoidable Net, digging into the prison, and saving the Bull Demon King.

No matter how much he thought about it, he couldn't understand why he hadn't been able to detect Son OhGong's presence until now.

"What if the capture of the Bull Demon King and Son OhGong's infiltration were separate events?"

It would make sense if someone had captured the Bull Demon King and Son OhGong's alter ego, who broke through the Celestial/Unavoidable Net, took that Bull Demon King with him.

That's why Lee Rangjin was certain.

"It was the work of someone from within."

This work was not done by a single person, Son OhGong's alter ego.

"Tell me."

Soon, Lee Rangjin's gaze scanned the hundreds of Generals.

"Who did it?"

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"Who did it?"

"....."

"....."

The question went unanswered.

Instead, there was only a long silence.

It was a situation where no one could easily find an answer.

Lee Rangjin crossed his arms and waited for a response. If they didn't know, they didn't know, if they knew, they knew, someone would say something.

But...

"...It will take a while." The silence dragged on for a long time before Lee Rangjin finally spoke.

He wondered if he was wrong.

Had Son OhGong's alter ego really managed to steal the Bull Demon King and escape on his own?

Not even the main body, just his alter ego?

"Why don't you tell me something?"

"Well..."

A voice as small as an ant crawling.

However, the gazes of everyone in the room, including Lee Rangjin, converged in response to that single voice.

"There is information that is hard to believe."

"What information?"

"It was Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon?"

For a moment, Lee Rangjin wondered what he was talking about.

Kim YuWon.

Could he be referring to the person who traversed the networks, broke through the solid iron cage, and rescued the Bull Demon King?

"Tell me more..."

"I speak based on the testimonies of the guards and the circumstances. Furthermore, Kim YuWon disappeared overnight."

"Is there any witness?"

None of the guards could see clearly because their faces were partially covered and it was too dark, but..."

The general nodded, pointing at YuWon as the culprit.

"Of course, we will have to perform a Mana sensitivity test to find out more."

"What are the chances?"

"At the moment, I'm putting it at over 70%."

"Why do you think that?"

"Based on the circumstances alone, it's over 90%, but I still find it hard to believe that Kim YuWon, who hasn't even become a Ranker yet, has such ability."

"Really?"

Click, click, click.

Lee Rangjin tapped his fingers on the long table where a hundred Generals were seated.

With a complicated expression on his face, he remained silent for a moment, lost in thought.

Then, he spoke.

"So we must be sure."

"What do you mean by sure?"

"Kim YuWon's abilities are real. I can guarantee it."

".....?"

In response to Lee Rangjin's words, the generals gathered in the hall showed expressions of perplexity.

The best General of the Realm vouched for his abilities.

Even for the Generals who had been in the Celestial Realm for quite some time, this was the first time.

'Come to think of it, the Grand General went to pick up Kim YuWon himself.'

'He said he would spend a day traveling through the Celestial Realm, introducing him to the place....'

'So much, really?'

They said the possibility was 70%, but they thought it was nonsense.

What kind of place is the celestial prison?

Apart from the prisoners, the guards who guarded it were all Rankers.

Moreover, the warden, Jin Hurak, was known as the most promising person even within the Celestial Realm.

If we add the dozens of guards, we have an iron fortress that would be difficult to breach for any High Ranker.

"Is that possible?"

"It is possible," Lee Rangjin affirmed.

And he added, "He has fought and defeated Ares of Olympus before."

The suspicions of the Generals slowly dissipated upon the mention of the battle between YuWon and Ares, which had been confirmed by the intelligence of the Celestial Realm.

"So... it could be true."

"But why would Kim Yuyuan do such a thing?"

"Perhaps he has some kind of connivance with the side of the Bull Demon King."

"Or..."

No one doubted Lee Rangjin's words anymore.

The topic of the meeting now revolved around why Kim YuWon saved the Bull Demon King.

And in the midst of it all...

"I don't know what his purpose is, but I know what his next target will be."

Lee Rangjin pointed out the next destination of the Bull Demon King and YuWon.

"Their next target is..."

"We're going to rescue Son OhGong."

A small cabin in a remote forest.

That was what YuWon told the Bull Demon King, who had awakened there.

"They are surely waiting for him too because you are inseparable."

Saying that, YuWon alternated his gaze between the alter ego of Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King sitting on the windowsill.

The Bull Demon King, who had just awakened from his deep slumber, nodded in agreement.

"The order is correct. If there is a spell that can seal him, I am the only one who can break it."

That was a lot of confidence.

He was saying that no one else could break the spell, but he could.

Normally, this kind of confidence would have been seen as insincere.

But for some reason, YuWon found the Bull Demon King's confidence much more believable.

But...

"Still, as you said, the surveillance will be much stronger because of you."

Naturally, this alarmed the Celestial Realm.

It made sense since it would be difficult to save Son OhGong without the Bull Demon King in the first place, and the outcome was hard to see as favorable.

"At least one of Lee Rangjin's or Ne Zha's troops will be stationed there. Additionally, numerous Rankers from the Celestial Realm must be protecting him."

The Bull Demon King recalled the time of the Great Celestial War.

The war against the Celestial Realm.

Without having to think too much, the Bull Demon King shook his head.

"The three of us cannot do it alone."

Saving Son OhGong was important to him.

And that's why he wanted more power.

If he lost this time and found himself imprisoned again, he didn't know when he would have such luck again.

The Bull Demon King was cautious and composed.

It was hard for someone who should be excited to be so calm.

"It's the opposite of Son OhGong."

When YuWon met the Bull Demon King, he couldn't believe that he was Son OhGong's closest brother.

He wondered what would have happened if the roles were reversed.

Perhaps Son OhGong would have rushed to save him at all costs.

No.

"In fact, that's what happened."

No, it wasn't a "perhaps" because that's exactly why he was trapped in the Five Elements Mountain.

Still, it was a good thing.

If the Bull Demon King had resembled Son OhGong more, with his boisterous recklessness, it would have been quite difficult for the current YuWon to stop him.

Only this difference in personality made the Bull Demon King's power much greater than YuWon had initially thought.

"Three, no."

YuWon shook his head at the words of the Bull Demon King.

He looked back and forth between Son OhGong and YuWon, then asked, "Who else is there?"

"There are many," he replied.

As he answered, YuWon's expression became ambiguous.

"No, just one."

"What do you mean?"

"I've sent a message, so they should arrive anytime now."

Saying this, YuWon looked out the window with Son OhGong.

Their gazes made the Bull Demon King feel uneasy.

How much time had passed?

"...That's right."

The corner of the Bull Demon King's mouth twisted upwards as he looked out the window at the cloudy sky.

"I wonder if this is what they meant by saying there's only one, but there are many."

At that moment, he was already aware of the eyes in the sky.

The clouds floating in the sky didn't descend.

If all those clouds were to descend to the ground at this moment, it would surely attract the attention of the Celestial Realm.

"...They're really all here."

The Bull Demon King's voice trembled with disbelief.

Countless Son OhGong.

They stood on the clouds, waving to the Bull Demon King.

Night was falling.

For now, there was plenty of time.

Enough time was needed for the Bull Demon King's body to fully recover.

"He's been trapped for over a thousand years, his body must be out of shape."

The time without Mana had weakened his body and dulled his senses.

However, as Mana began to flow through his body again, the color of his blood rapidly improved.

Bang-

YuWon grabbed the Edge of Nightfall and swung it in the air.

"Not only the Bull Demon King has dulled senses."

YuWon recalled his alter ego he had met some time ago in the process of obtaining the Yata Mirror.

"So have I."

While battling his alter ego in the mirror, YuWon realized one thing.

His sword was much duller than before.

He also realized that his personality was much more reserved than before.

"I've become more relaxed."

Boom-.

As he repeatedly swung his sword in the air, YuWon's eyes grew sharper.

"It's no longer like before."

Before, his shoulders felt heavy.

So many lives rested on his shoulders. Sometimes it seemed a bit overwhelming.

But now it wasn't like that.

It had been so long that he had forgotten.

What battles he had fought.

How he had climbed the Tower.

The fight against the Outer Gods was many times harder and more intense than this.

Boo-woo-.

"You're thinking too much about the edge of your sword."

YuWon's head turned at the sound of the voice behind him.

Pak-.

"Why? What are you thinking about?"

Bull Demon King.

He walked briskly toward YuWon, his body covered by a thick robe.

"What do you mean by thinking?"

"There are many reasons why a sword trembles, some psychological, others due to the inexperience of the one wielding it."

Swish-.

The Bull Demon King's hand stretched forward.

His hand grabbed the tip of YuWon's sword, which had not yet been lowered. Curiously, his hand touching the blade did not cut it.

"A burden?"

"....."

"I heard from the alter egos. I heard that you've just reached the 50th floor."

The Bull Demon King let go of YuWon's sword and sat at the base of a felled tree on the side.

"A brilliant talent. I was surprised when the youngest first climbed the tower, but this is even more astonishing."

"Although you don't seem to be."

"Well, you'll have to excuse my lack of expression."

The Bull Demon King smiled slightly, as if he were truly laughing.

It was the first time they had a proper conversation.

He had been sleeping all the time to recover his body, and his personality, though apparently mischievous, had the outward appearance of a nobleman.

'Nevertheless, there must be a reason why he is so compatible with Son OhGong.'

He vaguely recalled hearing something from Son OhGong.

- "When Big Brother got angry, no one could stop him. In fact, he had a worse temper than me."

That was the end of the description Son OhGong gave of the Bull Demon King.

From the mouth of none other than Son OhGong himself, the words "worse temper" appeared.

He didn't know if he was truly as different as he seemed or if he was just being polite because he didn't feel comfortable.

But setting all that aside, the Bull Demon King had an aura that even YuWon, who had met countless High-Rank individuals, couldn't help but feel uncomfortable when approaching.

"You smell of so many things."

Standing over two meters tall, the Bull Demon King was eye level with YuWon, even though he was perched at the base of a tree.

"What smell are you referring to?"

"It's not really a smell, more like an invisible trace."

It was hard to understand.

What was he trying to say?

YuWon seemed perplexed, unable to discern what the Bull Demon King was trying to convey.

And then...

After studying YuWon's face for a moment, lost in his thoughts, the Bull Demon King's mouth opened.

"Odin, Mimir, Son OhGong, Hercules, Zeus, who else..."

One person after another.

With each name, YuWon felt goosebumps all over his body.

Son OhGong and Hercules were one thing, but Odin and Mimir were another.

Since the Regression, YuWon hadn't seen either of them.

There was only one reason, then, for the Bull Demon King to be able to detect traces of them in YuWon.

"Did he notice the existence of the Clockwork Mechanism?"

In the moment he was nervous for a moment thinking about that...

Then, an incredible name came out of his mouth.

"And Chronos."

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"This... who...?"

In his embarrassment, YuWon's words stuttered a bit, unusually.

Unless he misheard.

Surely the Bull Demon King had just said, "Chronos."

"I said Chronos."

Again.

He hadn't misheard.

He couldn't ask how he knew about it, because that would mean talking about the Clock Movement.

"Judging by your reaction, it must be fantastic that I remember it."

The Bull Demon King's words made YuWon feel like his mind had been read.

YuWon thought for a moment.

But the concern was really short-lived.

"How do you remember it?"

"Call me Hyung-nim (Big Brother)."

"What?"

"I'm over ten thousand years older than you. Odin is younger than me."

It was a rather abrupt suggestion.

"Big Brother" out of nowhere.

It wasn't something he wanted to say right away, and he had another concern in mind.

"Does that make me Son OhGong's Dongsaeung (Younger Brother)?"

YuWon was much younger than Son OhGong.

Naturally, if he came between the two (the Bull Demon King and Son OhGong), he would be their younger brother.

For a moment, YuWon felt a chill similar to what he felt when he met the Outer Gods.

"I don't want that at all."

YuWon shook his head.

"Let me think about it."

"Really?"

Despite his reluctance, the Bull Demon King nodded in understanding.

"In any case, let's take it easy for now and talk about it later."

Judging by his reaction, he didn't want to give up.

YuWon sighed and shook his head. At least before the Regression, there was no way he could come between them, not with Son OhGong involved in their relationship.

"Just answer my previous question."

"Do you mean about Chronos?"

"Yes."

"I also thought it was strange, why I don't remember it."

Tap, tap-

Running his fingers lightly through his hair, the Bull Demon King seemed puzzled.

"I thought maybe the Celestial Realm did something to my head. More than a thousand years is more than enough time for that."

He snapped his fingers, and his eyes gleamed with a killer intent.

"So I kept searching for the person I had forgotten."

"...Why? You still don't remember."

"Because I couldn't remember, in case I had another brother."

It was an uncertain assumption.

But in the Bull Demon King's mind, who had forgotten Chronos, were his "other" brothers, including Son OhGong.

What if it was one of them who had forgotten him?

With that thought, the Bull Demon King tried to remember.

"Then I realized it wasn't a spell or a special ability... it's not like something was planted in my head."

Since he escaped from prison.

As his body recovered, the Bull Demon King tried to remember someone he had forgotten while looking at YuWon.

And he had been searching for five days.

"And just now, I discovered the reason why I forgot 'someone' I was searching for."

"The... reason?"

"Causality."

"Causality?"

"A causal force written in this World that compels you to forget him. A force so powerful that it penetrates the World."

The Bull Demon King was unaware of the existence of the Clock Movement.

He discovered this fact only in the process of tracing his memories of Chronos.

He was known as the greatest shaman of the Tower.

Even Odin, the Tower's greatest Mage, missed his shamanic abilities.

The Bull Demon King had transcended the power of causality and recognized the presence of the Clock Movement.

"Odin, Mimir, Chronos... and others I don't know. Thanks to their power, the existence of Chronos was banished from this world."

It was quite accurate.

Although he hadn't guessed the object called the Clock Movement, the Bull Demon King had more or less pointed out the reason for Chronos' disappearance from this world.

"What does that have to do with you?"

"...It's complicated."

Son OhGong was the only one he had entrusted with the Clock Movement and the Outer Gods.

For two reasons.

First, because he would need his help on the 50th floor, and second, because he knew he could trust him.

It was also more for the second reason.

Bull Demon King.

Called the King of Great Power, he was said to be the best in the Tower, not only in strength but also in spells, and he was Son OhGong's sworn brother.

But it hadn't been long since they met.

"I have been granted a favor (I have been blessed)."

YuWon hesitated to respond.

"A favor so great that it will be difficult to repay."

"What kind of favor?"

"It's hard to say."

It was better to say that a secret is a secret than to make excuses.

He wondered where the Foolish Chaos seeds had come from and how far they had spread.

If the presence of the Clock reached their ears, things could get out of control. Everything they had planned could go awry, and Foolish Chaos could come to kill YuWon at any moment.

That was why YuWon kept the existence of the Clock Movement a secret.

And it was impossible to reveal to the Bull Demon King what he couldn't even tell Hercules.

"Well... everyone has a secret or two. Everyone has one in this Tower."

Fortunately, the Bull Demon King understood YuWon's secret.

That was good.

He wasn't sure what to say if he kept prying.

"Then I'm sorry, but I have to ask you one more question."

The words made him strangely nervous.

YuWon looked at the Bull Demon King without answering. When he didn't answer, he continued.

"What is your relationship with Uranus?"

His voice was as calm as before.

Chilling.

But before he could ask the question, the Bull Demon King's expression turned fiercer than he had ever seen it.

"The Older Brother, in his prime, was no joke. Even when he fought against the Celestial Realm, he was even worse than me once he got angry."

In the moment he met the Bull Demon King's gaze, YuWon understood what Son OhGong had said.

Such a fierce gaze.

If nothing else, this question had to be answered.

If he didn't, the Bull Demon King wouldn't believe him.

"After you were imprisoned in the Celestial Prison, many things happened."

"Tell me."

And so began a story that was not short.

It started with Olympus.

Hephaestus' search for Olympus and the preparation for the Second Gigantomachy.

The acquisition of the Sea God's Stone and the beginning of the destruction of Olympus.

The encounter with Hercules.

And the destruction of Olympus.

"..And this is the object that became one when the three were gathered: the Uranus Heart."

YuWon extended the hand that held the Uranus Heart.

It was a transparent glove that showed nothing on the outside.

But through the glove, he could feel the presence of a monster, one that vividly lingered in the mind of the Bull Demon King.

"So, that's why I saw traces of him in you."

"Do you know Uranus?"

"Odin, Chronos, and I met him once when the Tower was in turmoil because of that damned monster."

In ancient times, many High Rankers gathered to capture Uranus.

It was the only time that many High Rankers, some of the most powerful High Rankers of all time, joined forces.

And apparently, the Bull Demon King was among them.

"But his heart..."

The Bull Demon King looked at Uranus' heart with a strange gaze.

"It's yours, and I won't ask you to throw it away. But still, you must be careful."

That was the warning.

With those words, the Bull Demon King stood up from his place.

He finished speaking and left.

YuWon nodded in understanding and bowed.

"Goodnight, then."

"I slept all day as the sun rose, and now I can't sleep anymore."

Thud, thud-

The Bull Demon King loosened his clenched fingers.

And then...

"Since you're also warming up, would you like to be my opponent?"

The mood of the Bull Demon King changed.

YuWon and the Bull Demon King walked away from the cabin where they lived.

Although it wasn't a real battle, it was a duel against a High Ranker among High Rankers.

They would try to go unnoticed, but the consequences of the fight would be considerable.

The last thing YuWon needed was to be left without a place to stay.

"I see that you're as curious as your main body."

Raising his head, the Bull Demon King met the gazes of Son OhGong's alter egos descending from the sky, one by one.

"I haven't seen you in a long time, so it's inevitable that we're interested."

"I'm afraid I'll put on an ugly display."

The Bull Demon King didn't carry weapons.

He didn't even carry a single item. In his prime, he was known for wielding a weapon called a Mixed Iron Rod.

"This is a light duel, so let's not exert ourselves too much."

"Yes."

YuWon took a deep breath.

Bull Demon King.

He was the strongest opponent YuWon had faced since the Regression, aside from Zeus.

Although he wasn't as strong as in his prime, his skills were such that even the mighty Son OhGong could vouch for him.

Technically, Zeus's opponents were Hades, Poseidon, and Hercules.

All YuWon did was steal the Lightning Bolt.

Now, on the other hand...

'This is my chance to test myself against a High Ranker.'

To see how far he could go with his current abilities.

There was nothing like fighting against a stronger opponent to sharpen his dulled senses.

It was a good opportunity.

YuWon could feel the tension in his body.

The Bull Demon King clicked his tongue softly and cupped the air with his hands.

"This won't do (This can't go on)."

Ung-

A chilling flow of mana.

It didn't feel like the Bull Demon King. The mana that was scattered in the air began to move on its own, spreading in a wide circle around the two of them.

The landscape around them changed rapidly.

The green forest turned as white as the clouds covering it, and the sky seemed closer.

YuWon, who was nervous as if he was about to charge forward at any moment, hesitated for a moment.

"Just in case the Celestial Realm notices, let's be careful."

That was it.

With that, the Bull Demon King headed towards YuWon.

In the face of the change in scenery, YuWon released the breath he had been holding.

'He has laid the groundwork.'

Unable to fight at will due to the Celestial Realm.

Perhaps the Celestial Realm was still searching for the Bull Demon King.

As long as they could find him, they wouldn't have to worry about retrieving the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven.

However, with the mana spreading like this, there was no need to worry.

At the very least, this place was completely isolated from the outside world.

At least, the mana inside couldn't seep out unless it was able to generate enough force to shatter the ability the Bull Demon King had unleashed.

'That must mean he's curious about this.'

YuWon didn't believe that the Bull Demon King's actions were just a favor.

Along with Chronos and Odin, he was one of the few ancient High Rankers who knew Uranus.

He was interested in the Uranus Heart.

And, of course, the best way to learn about the Uranus Heart was to fight against it oneself.

The Bull Demon King probably wasn't willing to fight right now, but with the Uranus Heart present, this became an exception.

'But for me, it's a bit... humiliating.'

To be treated as less than an object.

But that was a deal the Bull Demon King could handle because he didn't know everything about himself.

['Cinder Eyes' read the path]

[The power of the Giant permeates your whole body]

[Sensory Field is activated]

['Tartarus' is...]

['Blessing of the Sea' is...]

Abilities activated in an instant.

And the Arcane Power slowly opening up.

Crack-.

Towards the approaching Bull Demon King, YuWon also began to close the distance.

YuWon was going to do his best.

To prepare for the fight against the Celestial Realm to rescue Son OhGong...

He needed to know how far he would go in this battle.