

## With The Gods 241

Chapter 241

Kagagak, Kagagak-.

The hand gripping the staff grew stronger.

The Jade Emperor's eyes, who had flown up into the clouds, narrowed.

"Your ignorant nature remains the same."

Woo-.

The Jade Emperor's staff let out a screech.

At the same time...

Goo-.

The clouds in the sky rumbled, forming various figures.

Countless dragons made of clouds.

Kyaaaaahhh-!

The dragons let out a cry and began to move according to the Jade Emperor's gesture.

And then...

"No."

Twack-!

Son OhGong opened the mouth of a cloud-made dragon and attacked the Jade Emperor.

"This is going to be different."

"..?"

The Jade Emperor realized that the gigantic Ru Yi Bang in front of him had disappeared.

No, it was still in the hands of OhGong, just like the first time.

Boo-boo-.

Tak, tak, tak!

The shrunken Ru Yi began to strike the dragons.

If it had been before, he probably would have just swung the Ru Yi in the air.

Kyaah-!

Thwack!

The heads of the dragons, pushing their teeth forward, were crushed.

"...Indeed."

The staff of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, was imbued with Arcane Power. The Arcane Power in the staff revitalized the shattered clouds, which had lost their power due to the Ru Yi Bang.

"It lives up to its name."

Jjink-.

OhGong's ability could not be ignored.

He had not been an easy opponent before. Moreover, he had become a Ranker in the shortest period of time, and he had become a High Ranker faster than anyone else.

Although he had been trapped in the Five Elements Mountain, more than a thousand years had passed.

His abilities were probably even more extraordinary than before.

If that was the case...

"Come here."

Goo-.

Countless dragons converged.

The color of the sky turned red, and the world trembled as if a portent of doom had begun.

Then, toward the sky, the Jade Emperor's staff extended.

"Qilin (麒麟)."

Kaaaaaah-.

The clouds took shape.

A giant monster filled the sky, with a dragon's head, a deer's body, and horse's legs.

Looking at the creature that had let out a muffled roar, OhGong smiled with satisfaction.

"I see that you have released it."

But the smile didn't last long.

Son OhGong, realizing that it was slowly descending towards him, looked down.

"Are you trying to destroy the Celestial Realm with your own hands?"

This was the land of the Heavens.

And that ability the Jade Emperor had used was powerful enough to destroy it.

"If it is a necessary sacrifice, it will not be in vain."

"...Really?"

OhGong scratched his head in confusion.

"It's been so long that I must have forgotten. How crafty you are."

Whirr-.

OhGong's Ru Yi spun in his hand.

A figure of a Qilin showing its teeth toward himself.

Son OhGong looked inside the mouth of the Qilin and opened his own mouth.

"I know a guy who is very skilled with weapons."

- **"Such a fine weapon, and you use it so lightly. You use it as if you were cutting potatoes."**

Asura.

The most skilled Ranker that YuWon and OhGong knew.

He wielded swords, spears, clubs, and other weapons as freely as his own body.

- **"All you can do is extend and shorten that staff to its original size."**

Since that day, OhGong learned the Art of Asura's Staff.

To win the battle against the Outer Gods.

The OhGong who now fought against the Jade Emperor was that OhGong.

"Once I learned, I understood."

OhGong pointed the tip of the Ru Yi Bang at the Qilin's mouth.

"How little I knew about my weapon."

Depending on how you wield the weapon in your hand, even the same object has different effects.

OhGong had learned this from Asura.

Also...

He had learned it by fighting against YuWon.

"Grow..."

Crack.

The moment OhGong's mouth opened.

Kyaaaaah!

The Qilin began to plummet, roaring through the red sky.

"Ru Yi."

Tuhwaak!

The center of the battlefield, where the fight with the Bull Demon King was in full swing.

Kwaaaaang!

Two high-rankers battled there.

The Bull Demon King and Ne Zha.

Their weapons clashed.

Boom!

".....!"

Ne Zha's eyes trembled.

Sword fragments shattered before his eyes.

Shattered sword fragments scattered rapidly before his eyes.

And at that moment...

Boo-boo-.

Zz-!

The Mixed Iron Rod struck Ne Zha's head once again.

BANG!

Kudzik, kudzik, kudzik, kudzik.

Ne Zha's flying body crashed onto the debris of several buildings. Dizzy from the shock of the blow to his head, he looked at his sword, which had been reduced to a hilt.

"The True Sword..."

An object said to slay all the demons in the world.

It was a symbolic item that had been passed down from generation to generation to the Great Celestial Warriors like him.

But it had broken.

It felt as if the Celestial Realm had lost this battle.

But then...

Boo-boo-.

Boom!

A vibration could be felt in Ne Zha's body, buried under the rubble of the building.

A vibration that was felt through the ground.

While hastily removing the debris with his hands, he could see the Ru Yi Bang connecting the sky and the earth.

"...Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

The guy who disappeared somewhere.

Even if that wasn't the case, he could feel the Arcane Power of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal from a distance, so it seemed strange to him. However, he hadn't paid much attention to it because he was too preoccupied with dealing with the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven right in front of him.

But now...

The Ru Yi Bang of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, fell in the center of the Celestial Realm.

"Probably the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal is already dealing with our Emperor God."

Ne Zha looked at the sky, which had turned red.

The sky had turned red.

And he also clearly remembered the shape of the Qilin flying in the sky.

The Jade Emperor and the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, had started to fight.

He had just regained hope seeing the Jade Emperor himself start to move.

However...

"Have they moved the location of the battlefield?"

A strange sense of unease took hold of him.

And then...

Ne Zha realized the source of his anxiety.

Ssshhh-.

The sky gradually turned blue and clear.

The Qilin was no longer visible, nor was the red sky.

Ne Zha's eyes shook.

"...What?"

Ne Zha jumped up, surprised.

Immediately, he ran to the spot where the Ru Yi had fallen.

A huge circular and deep hole in the ground.

Around that pit, the Celestial Soldiers rushed in.

"Isn't that our Jade Emperor?"

"Our guild leader?"

"G-Gosh, is this real?"

"I heard he was ranked 10th. Isn't that higher than the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

Grab-.

At the sound of the soldiers' chattering voices, Ne Zha pushed them aside and moved forward.

As if he had heard it before in the conversation, or maybe not.

".....My goodness."

Ne Zha almost froze on the spot for a moment.

At the other end of the Ru Yi Bang, the Jade Emperor lay unconscious. He, who was the God of the Celestial Realm and no different from the Heavens, was brought down to the ground by the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"It's practically over."

Thud.

The Bull Demon King, who had already blended in with the crowd, slung the Mixed Iron Rod he held on his shoulder.

When the soldiers realized that the Bull Demon King was among them, they startled and moved away from him.

"Disperse, it's the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven!"

"S-Surrender obediently..."

"Surrender..."

The soldiers stuttered and pointed their trembling spears at him.

The Bull Demon King looked at those soldiers and soon turned his gaze to Ne Zha.

"We're not interested in anything other than the Jade Emperor. We have nothing more to gain by fighting here."

Jak, jak, jak-.

Behind him, two figures approached.

Turning his head, the Bull Demon King looked at YuWon and Son OhGong, and asked.

"Don't you think so?"

"I don't care."

"To each their own."

OhGong and YuWon agreed.

In the face of the agreement among the three, the soldiers who had invaded the Celestial Realm trembled.

"Is this the end?"

"Is...is it really?"

"I don't think we can win this battle anyway..."

Morale was low, and the reason to continue the battle had faded.

Ne Zha realized what the Bull Demon King was trying to do, and his eyes lit up as he looked at him.

The eyes of the two men met.

At this moment, the Jade Emperor had been defeated, and the Grand General had been captured.

So, the highest decision-maker in this Celestial Realm was Ne Zha.

"It's up to you."

With a wry/sad smile, the Bull Demon King spoke for everyone to hear.

All eyes turned to Ne Zha.

Now it was up to him to decide.

"We..."

Ne Zha closed his eyes for a moment.

"To protect the Heaven, what should I do here?"

His mind continued to race. According to his original personality, he probably would have rushed towards them regardless of fire or death.

But this was the Celestial Realm.

And now there was no possibility of victory.

He had only one choice left.

"We..."

The Fall of the Celestial Realm.

The news spread faster than any other.

And there was one place where information was swifter than any guild or information group.

"The fall of the Celestial Realm..."

A small man, with a face so young that he looked like a child, also known as the Director of the 50th Floor Ranking Management Office, was worried.

"Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King. How do we rank them?"

This was the most challenging task assigned recently to the ranking management offices of each floor.

The fall of the Jade Emperor, a Rank 10 Player.

As a result, it caused a seismic shift in the upper rankings.

It was also inevitable that the rankings of the two high-ranking Players who had destroyed the Celestial Realm, including the Jade Emperor, as well as the God of War and the Grand General, would also fluctuate.

"Shouldn't we raise them both by two levels?"

"I think the Bull Demon King should be a little higher than two levels. Son OhGong has a very high ranking, but the Bull Demon King has a ranking that is too low compared to what he showed this time."

"Still, it was Son OhGong who captured the Jade Emperor, so it's a bit exaggerated to make the Bull Demon King's ranking higher."

A few days passed, but the ranking had not been adjusted yet.

It was a difficult matter.

It was a meeting that brought together the Agency Directors of the Ranking Management Office of each floor and lasted several meetings.

"Hmm..."

And the Director of the 50th Floor looked at the same material over and over again.

And then...

Thump~

He dropped the pen he was holding in his mouth and asked.

"Who is the important one here?"

"Between the two?"

"Who are you referring to?"

The Director clicked his tongue at the others' confused expressions.

"The one whose ranking needs more adjustments."

"That would be the Bull Demon King..."

"That would be Son OhGong..."

The answer was split in two.

They looked at each other as they responded.

It was natural that there would be conflicts as they had different ideas, and that's why the ranking hadn't been adjusted until now.

But...

"Wrong."

Tudududud-.

The Agency Director threw the stack of reports messily onto his desk.

The papers scattered haphazardly.

But there was one report in his hand that he didn't throw.

"This is the one that needs more adjustments. Kim YuWon."

Kim YuWon.

The player who recently caught the attention of Son OhGong's alter ego.

He had just reached the 50th Floor, and together with Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King, he had wreaked havoc in the Celestial Realm.

It was a feat worthy of a rank increase.

But...

"He's not a Ranker Player yet."

"That's what I'm saying."

The agency director smiled, casually releasing words that would keep the other directors awake for days.



"We'll have to make an exception with this guy."

Chapter 242

The Director's words caused a stir in the room.

"An exception?"

"Are you suggesting we give this non-Ranker a high rank?"

It was only natural for the Agency Administrators to be perplexed.

It had never happened before.

It wasn't uncommon for a Ranker to lose against a Player. The beings who were now the top Rankers in the Tower were already more powerful than the Rankers before they became Rankers.

In fact, OhGong had even defeated the highest-ranked Chimera Creator, who was the Test Supervisor on the 50th Floor.

But the ranking office didn't make exceptions for all that.

"An exception isn't necessarily a bad thing, it just means what he's done is incredible."

"But..."

"Kim YuWon already defeated a High Ranker a long time ago."

The Agency Director folded a piece of paper in his hands.

"Ares, the High Ranker from Olympus. Pandora... Furthermore, he greatly contributed to the fall of Olympus."

It was no small feat.

Pandora was a Top 100 High Ranker, and Olympus was a massive guild with the power to shake the Tower.

But there was a player who contributed to their downfall.

It was a feat that most Tower Players suspected, even the Ranking Office, which knew everything happening in the Tower with the help of the administrators.

"Maybe it's a coincidence. In fact, Hercules' remorse had more to do with the fall of Olympus than his ability."

"If that's the case..."

"But it was Kim YuWon who recruited Hercules. Furthermore..."

The Agency Director checked the words on the paper again.

"This time, he was the one who defeated Li Jing."

"....."

"A series of coincidences turns into destiny, and destiny into skill. Besides, it's impossible to defeat someone of this caliber through luck."

He was absolutely right.

And he wasn't finished yet.

"Kim YuWon infiltrated the Celestial Realm, rescued the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven, and joined forces with him to rescue the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, which led to the fall of the Celestial Realm."

"Are you saying that the fall of the Celestial Realm... was caused by Kim YuWon, not Son OhGong?"

"At least, that's what I believe."

It was an absurd story.

Although it was true that Son OhGong had made a significant contribution to the fall of the Celestial Realm.

But it was clear that the fluttering of Kim YuWon's wings had turned into a giant typhoon.

"So..."

"Are you saying we should treat Kim YuWon as a Ranker from now on?"

Well-founded persuasion always worked.

The Director nodded and smiled softly.

And then...

Pap-.

He turned to his desk, opened one of the drawers, and pulled out a thick stack of papers.

"This is a compilation of Kim YuWon's activities so far."

Pak-.

A stack of papers with neatly written notes.

From the Tutorial, to the first floor, to the 50th Floor.

The agency supervisors clicked their tongues as they read the summary of Kim YuWon's achievements and the Agency Director's opinion.

"Let's take a look at this and decide Kim YuWon's ranking."

That was the moment when the long hours of overtime work were confirmed.

Five days after the Fall of the Celestial Realm.

In the great turmoil shaking the Tower, a small shack trembled.

"You are free."

Lee Rangjin's eyes lit up upon hearing that and he glared at the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

He had been freed from the Demon Subduing Chain and was stretching his body, stiffened by long periods of inactivity.

"Or do you want to be chained again?"

"Why are you releasing me?"

"It's none of your business. I'm just following that guy's words."

"The Bull Demon King?"

Son OhGong shook his head.

The answer surprised Lee Rangjin.

"Don't you mean... Kim YuWon?"

"Why so curious? It's not important. You can leave now."

OhGong waved his hand, as if telling him to get lost.

Seeing that he didn't deny it, it seemed to be true.

"Why are you listening to that kid?"

It was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and no one else.

A guy who was sure to probably rank first.

The only person who could control him was the Bull Demon King, and even he couldn't control him so completely.

And yet, here he was, listening to Kim YuWon, to let him go.

"Kid..."

OhGong smiled satisfactorily and murmured at Lee Rangjin's words.

"I suppose it could look that way."

".....?"

Lee Rangjin put on an expression of perplexity.

It wasn't the reaction he expected.

As if he had no intention of saying anything more, OhGong hurriedly ushered him out of the place.

But then...

"Let's fight together someday."

As Lee Rangjin mounted his Celestial Horse, Son OhGong said something unexpected.

"What?"

"Just as you heard."

The words were unintelligible.

To fight together.

He couldn't imagine himself and OhGong fighting together, back to back.

More importantly...

'Fight against whom?'

A question mark appeared on his face.

But OhGong kept waving his hand and gesturing for him to leave.

Even if he asked, he didn't seem to want to answer.

After staring at him for a moment, he grabbed the reins of his horse.

Anyway, it didn't matter.

In the future, the Celestial Realm would surely pay for the humiliation of today.

Kihihihihih-!

The Celestial Horse started to move.

Soon, the horse turned into a dot in the sky and disappeared along with Lee Rangjin.

Immediately after...

"Don't you think you've said too many useless things?"

YuWon, who had been listening to their conversation, emerged from behind Son OhGong.

"What did I say?"

"Saying that we should fight together."

"I didn't say anything about the Outer Gods, did I?"

"Still, you better be careful. By now, that bastard must be feeling that something is wrong."

"Foolish Chaos?"

"That's right."

OhGong's face hardened.

It was true.

First Olympus, then the Celestial Realm.

There were two events that shook the Tower.

And in the process, the seeds of Foolish Chaos had been sown and died before they could bloom.

"I didn't know until later. The Jade Emperor killed my brothers for the seeds he sowed."

Son OhGong's sworn brothers.

Seven brothers in total, including the Bull Demon King, all met their end.

"Foolish Chaos's purpose is to weaken the Tower, and the Seven Eastern Demon Kings, which you formed, must have been a thorn in their eyes."

"I know, I know, no need to repeat it."

Son OhGong shook his head and avoided the words that pierced his chest.

**- "Since time immemorial, Floor 50 has been the graveyard of promising Players."**

The Celestial Realm.

A guild residing on Floor 50, ruling and reigning over that world.

And to become a Ranker Player, one had to pass through all the floors at least once.

**- "Coincidentally or not, quite a few of the most talented Players died in the trials of Floor 50. Although it was later discovered that the Chimera Creator did it..."**

Odin of Asgard.

He had long been interested in the Celestial Realm and followed its progress.

**- "Later, the true nature of the Celestial Realm was revealed when the Chimera Creator exposed his connection to them."**

He revealed his ties to the Celestial Realm and the fact that he had been turning famous Players into Chimeras as a Test Supervisor under his command.

Upon learning this, Odin began digging behind the Celestial Realm for quite some time.

In the end, he realized that the Celestial Realm had been connected to some entity all along.

'Until then, I had only thought it was one of the other major guilds.'

Foolish Chaos and the Jade Emperor.

How long had they been connected, and at what price had the Jade Emperor aided Foolish Chaos?

Nothing was known, but it was clear that the deaths of OhGong's brothers had something to do with Foolish Chaos.

"Foolish Chaos, that bastard."

After a moment of silence, OhGong spoke again, venom in his eyes.

"We've caught him before, but this time, I will catch him myself."

"Well..."

A part of him wanted to tell him to do just that, but the words didn't come out.

Foolish Chaos.

A being captured in a great battle against the Outer Gods, just before he returned using the Clock Movement.

So many people had died in the battle against him. In the end, YuWon was able to capture him, but to be honest, there was no guarantee that he would be able to capture him again if asked to fight in the same battle.

"It won't be so easy, I'm afraid."

"Come to think of it, I haven't heard the whole story. About him."

OhGong had been absent in the last battle that YuWon remembered.

There had been countless battles since then, but he had rarely fought against a high-ranking Outer God like Foolish Chaos.

Moreover, there was only one survivor from that fight, YuWon.

However, shortly after the battle ended, YuWon used the Clock Movement to disappear.

"Whether we like it or not, we'll probably encounter him soon."

With Lee Rangjin back home and the death of the Jade Emperor, the Celestial Realm has fallen.

Next time, perhaps, Foolish Chaos would make his own move.

Right now...

"Let's talk about Ragnarok."

In the depths of the Heavens.

In front of the Jade Emperor's morgue, a shadow silently entered the room.

The shadow circled around the body of the Jade Emperor.

As if pondering something, the shadow stood up.

"From Zeus to the Jade Emperor..."

What had been a small problem had turned into a full-blown problem.

"They were about to bear fruit..."

Zeus of Olympus.

His fall was initially attributed to Hercules.

Hercules was venomous enough to kill the seeds he sowed. So, he made Zeus play the role of Hercules on another hand and foot of Olympus.

But now that Hercules had turned, it was not impossible for Olympus to fall.

It was like that this time too.

"Was it the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal this time?"

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

He was even more ruthless than Hercules.

Not only him, but also the Bull Demon King around him, and the Seven Eastern Demon Kings, consisting of a total of seven individuals.

All of them were beings that would become a problem in the future.

But...

"What kind of thing is Kim YuWon?"

There was a connection between these two events.

Kim YuWon.

A Player who was not yet a Ranker.

He was starting to think that maybe the fall of Olympus and the Celestial Realm had been caused by him.

"I should get rid of him."

If something bothers, it's right to push it aside and kill it. It didn't matter if it was big or small.

After all, even the greatest could stumble upon a small stone if they didn't have it in sight.

"Now he's on the 50th floor..."

Kim YuWon reached the 50th floor.

He had no intention of stopping here.

It was only a matter of time, and he would surely climb higher.

So...

"Anyway, he'll soon get caught in a typhoon and break."

There were still many seeds sown, and some of them would bear fruit and turn into giant typhoons.

They just needed a little more time to mature.

"I have to hurry a bit."

Now that the plans for the Second Gigantomachy and the Great Celestial Demon War had been ruined, there was no time to relax.

Ssshhhh-.

The shadow disappeared, leaving the morgue empty.

### **[The beginning of Ragnarok]**

The fall of the Tower began so quietly.

#### **Chapter 243**

"We have to accelerate Ragnarok."

YuWon suddenly spoke while preparing food.

At those words, Son OhGong's hand, which was preparing the fire, stopped.

"As much as possible."

"What the hell are you talking about?"

OhGong, who had learned the word "hell" from YuWon, scratched his head in confusion.

Accelerate Ragnarok?

Isn't he talking about stopping it, but accelerating it?

"What is Ragnarok?"

Thud.

The Bull Demon King, who had arrived just in time, dropped the huge boar he was carrying on his shoulders.

"I've lived a long time, but I've never heard of it."

The Bull Demon King.

He was the only one who knew the great secret between YuWon and OhGong.

But since he wasn't intrinsically involved, YuWon and OhGong spoke without much consideration for the Bull Demon King.

After thinking for a moment, YuWon nodded.

"Of course you don't know, it hasn't happened yet."

Ragnarok.

Undoubtedly, it was an unfamiliar word in this era.

But in the distant future.

It would become a great event that everyone living in this Tower would know about.

"It's a war that left half of the Tower dead."

"...Are you joking?"

"It's true, big brother."

When the Bull Demon King began to suspect the unreality of the story, OhGong reinforced YuWon's words.

The Bull Demon King looked at OhGong again, still incredulous.

But in the face of that expression, the Bull Demon King nodded.

"It's true."

"And why are you freely telling me such a thing?"

"We can't lie to you anymore, can we?"

"...I don't think it means anything good."

Chi-Ik-.

The Bull Demon King peeled the skin off the boar he had carried and placed it in a barrel over the fire.

Sitting down, the Bull Demon King asked with a more serious expression than he had a moment ago.

"So, why do you think we should accelerate this Ragnarok? Wouldn't it be better to block it?"

"That's right."

OhGong agreed with the Bull Demon King as his mouth watered.

The meat was browning.

It seemed like it would take quite a while to finish.

"Do you remember what we talked about back then?"



YuWon stared at OhGong and asked.

OhGong shook his head.

"No."

"No?"

"With everything we've talked about, how the hell do you expect me to focus all the time?"

"...Ah, I forgot you fell asleep, didn't you?"

Internally, YuWon was glad that he was the first one to return.

What if a person could go back, and that person was Son OhGong?

He probably would have forgotten most of the story and acted recklessly.

"Oh, no. I guess not."

His voice trembled.

There he was.

He was a guy who couldn't lie.

"It doesn't matter. Anyway, I remember everything."

YuWon sighed and shook his head.

"We can't stop Ragnarok. Or rather, it cannot be stopped."

"Say something I can understand."

"Foolish Chaos will accelerate the plans. Somewhat hastily."

"Why?"

"Because Olympus and the Celestial Realm have fallen."

At YuWon's words, OhGong scratched his head, not fully understanding.

Technically, the two major guilds hadn't completely fallen.

They were still large enough to be considered major guilds.

But the reason why many of the Tower's Rankers spoke of their downfall was the absence of Zeus and the Jade Emperor, the heart and soul of those guilds.

"He lost the hand that could hold and shake the tower. The Gigantomachy and the Great Celestial Demon War have practically crumbled."

"So, Ragnarok is next?"

"That's right."

"So, can't Ragnarok be stopped either?"

YuWon shook his head.

"Do you remember what triggers Ragnarok?"

"The death of Baldur. How could I forget? I've never seen Odin so angry."

Baldur.

Son of Odin, one of the High Ranks who, along with Odin, represented Asgard.

A Ranker ranked 35th in the rankings.

His death sparked the wrath of Odin, as well as the Asgard Rankers.

And that was the trigger for Ragnarok.

**-"Prevent the death of my son. If we do that, we can stop Ragnarok."**

The killer glint in Odin's eyes as he uttered those words was palpable.

This was Odin, who rarely lost his temper, sometimes mischievous, sometimes like an old man.

The most he lost his temper in front of everyone was when he mentioned Baldur's death.

YuWon remembered his conversation with Odin.

**-"Ragnarok happened because of me."**

It was strange.

Even though he was still unconvinced, Odin continued, looking at YuWon.

**-"So when you go back, you must stop me."**

YuWon's response was simple.

**-"Why don't you go back yourself?"**

Go back yourself.

If he did that, Odin's recklessness wouldn't lead to Ragnarok.

A really simple answer.

And Ragnarok was an event significant enough in the long history of the Tower to rethink the decision of who would go back.

But...

**-".....No."**

Even with that simple answer, Odin shook his head.

**-"Even if I go back, I wouldn't be able to stop myself."**

When asked why, Odin weakly smiled.

**-"Because I can't bear it."**

Bear it...

He wanted to say that if Baldur were to die again, he would make the same decision.

At that time, everyone thought that way.

Except for one person.

"The death of Baldur was the beginning of Ragnarok. The death of the High Ranker Baldur was a big problem at the time, but no one thought it would turn into a great war like Ragnarok."

And that one person was YuWon.

"Do you really think that's the only reason?"

Ta-da, ta-da-.

The meat began to char.

After a long moment of silence and thought, OhGong spoke.

"Wasn't Ragnarok caused by Baldur's death?"

"That's right."

Yuwon nodded and looked at the smoke rising to the sky.

"Anyway, we can't stop it. Even if Odin doesn't move."

"Ugh..."

OhGong's forehead tendons twitched as if his head was about to explode.

After preventing his head from rolling, OhGong rephrased his question.

"Okay, but what does that have to do with accelerating Ragnarok?"

"Ragnarok started as a result of a racial conflict."

Yuwon recounted the beginning of Ragnarok as he remembered it.

"The giants and the humans. It was a long-standing conflict that finally exploded. Baldur's death was just the trigger for the fierce conflict to explode..."

Something that would have happened at some point even if it hadn't been Baldur's death in the first place.

In any case, the longer the conflict dragged on, the greater Ragnarok would be.

"Giants and humans. Unless that conflict is resolved, Ragnarok cannot be stopped."

"And how do we stop it?"

"There is no way."

"No way?"

"There is no way we can undo the past. That's something only guys like Chronos, Odin, and Mimir can do..."

Yuwon and Son OhGong were different from them.

What they could do was different.

Unless they could recreate a Clock Movement, they had to find something they could do here and now.

"Our job is to provoke Ragnarok. No..."

That's why YuWon couldn't let this Ragnarok pass by.

"It is to use Ragnarok."

After that, YuWon's story continued for a long time.

Every time he told it, OhGong remembered Odin's forgotten story and marveled at it.

"If I had come alone, I would have been in trouble."

Frowning, OhGong scratched his head.

If it were just him, maybe all he would do is find Baldur and stay by his side.

If he could just do that, he thought, Ragnarok would never happen.

But no.

"There are many cases. We'll have to see Odin to get more details."

"Odin is the king of Asgard."

Said the Bull Demon King, tearing off a piece of golden roasted meat and giving a piece to OhGong.

"He's probably in Valhalla. It won't be easy to find him."

"It's not like there's no way."

Yuwon searched the inventory and took out the Golden Castle Token.

"It's a kind of pass to enter Valhalla."

"Where did you get that?"

"Thor gave it to me."

"Thor..."

The Bull Demon King smiled satisfactorily and grabbed a handful of meat.

"That child has done something great."

For the Bull Demon King, who had been in the Tower since ancient times, Thor was just a child.

However, he had earned the right to enter Valhalla.

"As soon as we finish eating, we should set off."

Yuwon tightly grasped the token in his hand and began to eat.

Ziik-

"To Asgard."

Asgard.

It was not made up of a single layer but several layers.

Technically, Asgard was the name of a single world, but the world ruled by the Asgard Guild had a total of five floors.

Alfheim, home to small dwarves who worked as artisans, as well as Rankers and players.

Jotunheim, home to the giants.

And Midgard, the world situated in the middle.

Asgard, the world home to the Asgard Guild, the core of the world.

And above all, Valhalla, the home of the golden castle that only the greatest warriors from all of Asgard can enter.

Ruling over the five floors, Asgard was the largest and most land-rich guild in the Tower.

"From the 60th floor to the 65th floor."

Ten floors ahead.

There were fifteen floors left until Valhalla, where Odin resided.

The battle with the Celestial Realm had ended, and so had the brief rest.

From now on, it was a race against time.

"Then..."

YuWon looked at himself and then at the players in the distance.

"Thank goodness there's a trial."

The players surrounded YuWon.

They looked at each other suspiciously.

**[A crystal ball will appear every 30 minutes.]**

**[Obtain the crystal ball.]**

The trial was to acquire an item and keep it.

There were a limited number of items, and only one crystal ball would appear.

Jaj.

Everyone waited to see who would take the first step.

YuWon was the first to step towards the crystal ball.

And then...

"Crystal Ball acquired."

The first crystal ball was in YuWon's hand.

"There's nothing to gain by fighting against him."

"It doesn't matter, there will be more crystal balls over time."

"I just need to get one."

Everyone thought the same.

Time passed, and a second crystal ball appeared.

And then...

"Sorry."

YuWon held the crystal ball in his hand and opened his mouth for everyone to hear.

"What's left is all mine."

"What, what?"

"Crazy, where's the fairness in that!"

"Damn it. I knew this would happen!"

The atmosphere quickly turned hostile at YuWon's words.

The players joined forces and fought against YuWon.

The result was disastrous.

No matter how many they were, no whale would fall to the attack of a swarm of shrimps.

"...that's why."

And then there was one person watching the scene.

"That's why I said we should classify it. That guy is a monster."

The Director of the 50th Floor Classification Agency bit his lip in disbelief.

And that day...

For the first time in the Tower's long history, the ranking of a non-Ranker Player was revealed.

Chapter 244

Floor 59.

A place called the "upper level" where practically every player dreams of becoming a ranker.

It's also where players' confidence begins to soar.

Players who reach this stage are referred to as "Reserve Rankers".

Reserve.

Sounds good.

But most players stay in the "reserve" and never advance.

It's not until you climb a little higher on the ladder that you realize it.

No wonder they say only the chosen ones can become "Rankers".

"Is that him?"

"Who?"

"Kim YuWon."

"Oh..."

Countless voices chattering about one person.

Players only had one thing in mind.

"A Ranker who's not even a Ranker?"

"He's also ranked very high."

"An almost High Ranker."

"High Ranker? The guy who hasn't even reached the top yet."

It's been a while since Kim YuWon received a ranking.

The Tower had become as tumultuous as the fall of the Celestial Realm. It was unprecedented for a non-Ranker player to receive a ranking.

And the Ranking Bureau's decision was met with resentment from both Rankers and players alike.

"He angered the Rankers in my Guild, who were overshadowed by a guy who's not even a Ranker."

For Rankers, Ranking was a matter of honor and power.

But now they were being pushed down by a player who didn't even have the qualifications to stand beside them.

For Rankers, Kim YuWon's presence was like a parachute that had dropped out of nowhere.

"What's different about us?"

The man in the center of the group of players looked at the lone player in the distance.

"Somebody is struggling to climb up, and he rides on the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and achieves a good record, and becomes a Ranked Player."

That was the derogatory evaluation the World made of Kim YuWon.

While some recognized his achievements, others criticized him for sharing the credit between the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven.

"Is there anyone here who can't become a Ranker later?"

"There's no one."

"We shouldn't allow ourselves to be called 'Reserve Rankers' without reason."

Confident players turned their hostile faces toward YuWon.

But none approached him.

The reason was that the achievements and rankings YuWon had reached on each level were not insignificant.

But there was always someone who wasn't intimidated by those things.

"Let's show that kid how terrifying the Tower can be."

**[The trial begins in one hour]**

**[Teams will consist of a maximum of 100 people and will be formed by physically touching another person]**

**[Each team will be assigned a flag]**

**[Teams can earn extra points by capturing another team's flag]**

**[Flag points are divided equally based on the number of team members]**

**[The team with the most flags wins]**

**[The trial ends after 24 hours]**

**[Form a team]**

'The total number of players participating in the trial is 300.'

Ludor, a participant in the trial, quickly grasped the essence of the trial.

'Depending on the number of players participating in the trial, the score will be different, and so will the rewards. If passing the trial itself is the goal, one will need to find a large number of team members, but...'

But that would only take you to the top, and the rewards would be minimal.

'It's not good to be too greedy, but it's also not good to not be ambitious enough. A moderate number is better.'

There probably won't be any fools who fill 100 people in a single team in this trial.

Of course, there won't be fools forming a team alone either.

"What's the right number? Somewhere in the middle? 50? No, that's too much..."

And just when Ludor was thinking...

"What the hell!"

His eyes saw a large group of crowded players.

"One, two, three, four... and they keep coming, are we really going to have a hundred?"

A large number of them gathered and took all the flags from the other team.

It wasn't a bad strategy. But it also meant that the other players had no choice but to follow their lead.

"Hey, over there!"

"We should match the number of members too, right?"

"Don't you have a team yet?"

These were the players who had made it to the 59th floor.



They didn't panic, but once they saw the number of gathered players, they started doing their own count.

Up to 100.

And the number of players here was also 300.

That leaves a total of three teams.

And only three flags.

"And this trial probably..."

Look-.

Ludor's gaze turned to YuWon, who was standing on the side.

"The team that recruits him will win."

With an equal number, it was inevitable that the team with greater individual skill would win.

And the most skilled player in this trial was undoubtedly Kim YuWon.

That's right.

Reflecting, Ludor went straight to YuWon.

He couldn't afford to lose him to the other team.

"Are you still alone?"

Ludor's question made YuWon turn his head.

When he nodded, Ludor's face brightened.

"Then join my team."

"Sorry, but I refuse."

YuWon shook his head, cutting off Ludor's words.

"I'm not looking for a team."

".....?"

He wasn't looking for a team?

Ludor knew that he had climbed the Tower without a team. But this was a team trial.

A trial that was difficult to take alone.

However, YuWon was going to take the trial alone.

"Is there any chance of reconsideration?"

"No."

Helpless, Ludor nodded at the sharp denial.

With an answer like that, there was no point in trying to convince him.

At this moment, it was more important to recruit one more member for the team.

"Understood."

Ludor turned around.

Then, behind him, he heard YuWon's voice.

"If you can, give up too."

".....?"

Ludor turned his head, perplexed, and YuWon continued.

"The more people survive, the better."

Chilling.

The words sent a shiver down Ludor's spine.

They had one hour to form a team.

But the team was formed in an instant.

For the rest of the time, Ludor watched the other teams eyeing each other.

"The trial zone is large enough to accommodate three hundred people."

He had already had enough of these team formation trials.

He hoped that as many teams as possible would be created, but it wasn't the case.

It was due to the distrust towards YuWon.

'A perfect equity without any particular characteristics, everyone is too busy watching each other.'

Only one team could advance to the next level.

The one with the most flags.

**[The Trial has begun]**

After a long silence, the trial began.

There were three teams.

No, four, including YuWon.

Gulp-.

The players from the teams started to size each other up.

Of course, in this type of trial, those who moved first would inevitably be at a disadvantage.

Exploration was the priority.

That's what they should have done originally.

But...

Someone started moving when the trial was announced.

'As expected.'

'I knew he would.'

It was YuWon.

People didn't find his behavior too strange. The fact that he didn't form a team for this trial in the first place showed that he trusted in his abilities.

The purpose of this fight was one: a dogfight. Multiple teams defended their flag while trying to steal the opposing team's flag. But this way, the sense of such a trial became insignificant.

'The fact that he starts moving alone means he has the confidence to face everyone together, isn't that right?'

YuWon's eyes first landed on the player who was at the center of the crowd.

'He must think he can take on everyone at the same time,' everyone thought unconsciously. But on the other hand, there were people who thought things were going well. Although they were not yet ranked players, there were 299 players called Reserve Rankers.

Even if YuWon was the strongest player in the world, he couldn't handle all of them.

"Until now, he's been trampling on the rookies, which has made him feel a little more proud of his skills." The man looked at the players around him.

"If he treats us like those guys..."

But at that moment...

Chuukagagang-.

Waves of blue ice spread before them.

"No... it can't be."

The man's eyes widened as he stuttered.

In the blink of an eye, his companions were frozen.

Not only that.

Chuukagagang-.

"Ah, aah, aaah!"

The ice rapidly expanded, freezing half of the man's body, including his arms, legs, and torso.

Jebak-.

The man looked at the player approaching him.

It wasn't YuWon.

"You, you, who are you?"

-Ah.

A pale-faced knight, his eyes shining blue.

-The First Knight of the Round Table.

"Oh, Arturo?"

"From the Round Table?"

"No way..."

There was a murmur around him.

Arturo.

The Knight of the Round Table.

The King of Camelot and the Leader of the Round Table Guild.

While Arturo may not be of high rank on his own, his name had become more and more prominent as the Round Table grew.

However, the one who was said to have died long ago appeared here.

"There's no way a dead man can be here, let alone a Ranker."

"Wait. Isn't that face that of an Undead?"

"Undead?"

"No way, Kim YuWon?"

"No. Don't be fooled! It's a trick!"

The surroundings quickly descended into chaos.

In an instant, dozens of Players were frozen. And judging by the way they didn't even blink, it seemed impossible for them to escape on their own.

-He said there's no need to kill them...

Woo, woo~

Arturo's sword, Excalibur, started to chill.

-But what if I need to freeze them all.

Shhhhhh!

Zzzzzzzz-!

"Shhhhhh!"

"Zzzzzzzz-!"

With a swing of his sword, the bodies of the Players froze once again.

And in the midst of it...

The players didn't stay idle either.

"Attack!"

"It can't be the real Arthur!"

"Damn it! What the hell is going on?"

Hundreds of players fought against Arthur.

YuWon watched the battle with his arms crossed.

"This is beyond his prime."

Clearly, Arthur was a Ranker, close to a High-Ranked Player.

But the Arthur he faced now was much more than that.

He had been draining YuWon's Arcane Power, but this proved that as YuWon's power increased, the power of the undead like Arthur would also surpass their prime.

"Zzzzzzzz-!"

"Aaah!"

"Fight in close combat!"

"The flag, we need to secure the flag first!"

"Who cares about the flag now, we're a team. Let's focus on that guy first...!"

The players fought back and forth against Arthur.

Each and every one of them fought to become a Ranker.

"Ranker..."

What the hell is a Ranker?

YuWon passed the troublesome battle to Arthur and looked at a name on his player's kit.

An officially recognized ranking website by the Ranking Administration.

His name had been registered on that site for a long time.

Furthermore...

**[Kim YuWon: 418th (High Rank)]**

He was ranked among the top 1000, which is called a High-Ranked Player.

Chapter 245

It was a peculiar ranking.

418th.

It wasn't a low rank by any means.

Within this vast tower, being number 418 meant being a presence with notable power and influence on a single floor.

But...

"Still, it's low compared to what I've achieved so far."

YuWon didn't dwell too much on his accomplishments.

Although the ranking department staff, who knew all the big and small facts of the Tower, might consider his achievements even more impressive. But Rank 418 was still too low.

"Because I'm not a Ranker yet."

Strictly speaking, YuWon wasn't a player with the Ranker title, as it was only bestowed upon great Players who had conquered the entire Tower. And the "Ranking" was only awarded to those exceptional players.

However, regardless of his ability, YuWon was still not a Ranked Player, so his ranking would have to be adjusted.

"I did something unnecessary."

Yuwon had already reached a much higher position than this before.

Naturally, he had no ambition for the Ranking and would only become more annoyed due to the reactions of other Rankers.

"Anyway..."

Yuwon muttered as he held three flags in his hand.

"With this, I'll be able to go to the 60th floor."

Zz-.

An enormous block of ice filled the testing area.

Along with YuWon's murmuring while sitting on top of the ice block, a message was heard.

**[You have captured all the flags.]**

**[Extra points will be granted for each flag.]**

**[You have passed the 59th floor trial.]**

**[You have obtained 200,000 points.]**

The Kingdom/Realm of Asgard was known to be the most populated by players.

Warm sun, moderate rain, four seasons, and abundant food.

A world associated with the word "peace."

As such, many Players climbed the Tower, dreaming of settling in this world.

Indeed, it was said that many Players ascended the Tower both to establish themselves in Asgard and to become Rankers.

Therefore, the Rankers in Asgard were understandably proud.

But then...

"Kim YuWon is coming here?"

The 64th floor.

In the world where great warriors resided, Valhalla. Within it, in the Golden Castle that only the mightiest warriors could enter, the Rankers of Asgard gathered.

"I heard he has the Golden Castle Plate."

"How did he obtain it?"

"It seems he got it as a gift from Thor during the destruction of Olympus."

"The destruction of Olympus?"

"Yes, the incident where Zeus was dragged down."

"Oh, that..."

Valhalla stirred.

The fact that a Player entered the Golden Castle was as exceptional as the Ranking bestowed upon him.

"Isn't his Ranking too high, even if that's the case?"

"Ranking isn't always related to skill. His influence and fame as the strongest player probably influenced his Ranking."

"Good point."

This was the Rankers' perception of Kim YuWon.

Considering his potential as a player, his Ranking was established higher than his actual ability.

In fact, if they could defeat Kim YuWon, they could increase their own ranking.

"And where is this Kim YuWon now?"

"On the 63rd floor."

Just then, a familiar voice intervened from behind the group of Rankers gathered in the Golden Castle.

"He probably has his next trial tomorrow."

"P-P-Prince..."

"Prince Thor?"

The prince of Asgard with a defined golden beard.

Odin's son, Thor, joined their conversation.

"It was me who gave him the plaque."

When the golden eyes looked at them, the Rankers who had been complaining about Kim YuWon averted their gaze.

"Is there a problem?"

"N-No, it's not that."

"It's not that, it's just..."

The Rankers stuttered, unable to find the right words.

Thor looked at them pitifully and waved his hand.

"Leave."

At his gesture, they bowed and hurriedly walked away.

Thor murmured as he watched the backs of those Rankers recede.

"Tsk. What an inferiority complex."

Kim YuWon's public opinion was not favorable within Asgard.

Many Rankers and Players lined up to join Asgard. However, Kim YuWon had been invited to join a Guild like Asgard for quite some time, and he had repeatedly refused.

But now, surprisingly, Kim YuWon had the Golden Castle plaque and had received a ranking. This would surely cause dissatisfaction among the others.

"I guess it's hard to believe without seeing it in person," Thor murmured as he looked at the landscape of Valhalla outside the window of the Golden Castle.

'Probably no one will know why the king, Odin, is interested in Kim YuWon until they see it for themselves.'

**[You have passed the 63rd floor trial]**

**[The trial has ended]**

**[You have obtained 200,000 points...]**

With the message of trial completion, the surrounding landscape changed. The corpses of the countless Dragons disappeared, and the bright red sky transformed into a clear and crystalline blue sky.

The fresh air caressed his nose.

In front of him, he saw long stretches of road, bustling people, and rare smiles on their faces.

At first glance, it was a truly beautiful world to live in.

"Oh, a new player has arrived?"

"Just one?"

"Just one? Really?"

All eyes turned to YuWon as he appeared.

It was not uncommon for new players to join after a trial.

But this time, they couldn't help but be interested.

YuWon was the only one who climbed up.

"Did he really climb up alone without a team?"

"Really?"

"Wait a minute. Isn't that Kim YuWon?"

There were some people who recognized YuWon's face.

On the 64th floor, there shouldn't be many people who were interested in the Murim Championship.



In fact, after climbing a few floors, YuWon hadn't encountered many Players who recognized him.  
One reason.

"Is it the effect of the Ranking?"

It was because of YuWon's recent ranking.

"When you reach the 64th floor, people start paying more attention to the Ranked Players. They can't help but be interested in the appearance of new Rankers..."

He could understand it.

It was about time for the name "Kim YuWon" to be engraved in people's minds.

He didn't like the attention.

But now, whether he liked it or not, he had to get used to it.

So, without averting his gaze, YuWon spoke up.

"I'm here by invitation of King Odin."

Swoosh.

A golden plate shone in his hand.

"Show me the way."

At that signal, several people in the crowd kneeled down.

The Golden Castle Plate.

It was the symbol of a great warrior of Valhalla.

Asgard was the Guild with the most players in the Tower.

Moreover, the 64th floor was inhabited by countless players under Asgard's control.

And there was a rule for Asgardian Players.

They had to kneel before those who possessed the Golden Castle Plate.

That was a courtesy to the warriors who were able to set foot in Valhalla's Golden Castle.

"This way."

Yuwon was guided by the Valhalla players.

Valhalla wasn't very large compared to other worlds.

As they advanced through the streets, they could see a shining and enormous castle at the far end.

"The Golden Castle."

Asgard's Rankers.

And a place where invited free people from Asgard and Rankers from other Guilds gathered.

Furthermore...

The residence of Odin, the King of Asgard.

"This is enough."

He had already received enough directions to get here.

Now he could move on his own since he had reached a visible place.

Two players who had guided him hesitated for a moment.

And one of them spoke up:

"Uh... I have something to tell you."

"Mm?"

"You probably won't be very welcome here."

He spoke cautiously.

Since YuWon didn't react, he continued speaking.

"Not only members from other Guilds, but also Asgard's Rankers won't look kindly upon you. They feel uncomfortable seeing you undo the path they have walked so hard."

"Because of my Ranking?"

"Yes. I'm sure many Rankers feel the same way."

"There are a lot of people who think that Kim YuWon's Ranking is too high, considering he hasn't become a Ranker yet."

The player beside him chimed in, and YuWon chuckled.

It was nonsense.

In fact, it was quite the opposite.

"So?"

"Maybe you shouldn't go."

"I don't know where you got that from, but..."

Judging by their reactions, something was going to happen when he arrived at the Golden Castle.

Yuwon turned to the two players who were watching him closely.

"But why are you telling me this?"

"Because I'm a fan."

"Yes, I am too."

"A fan?"

He remembered hearing something similar.

The son of Demon King Belial, Mamos.

"Now that I think about him, I hope he's doing well."

He also had quite some talent, so he probably has already reached a higher level.

"We'll have to meet sooner or later."

As for Belial, he was a high-ranking member of the Demon Kings Guild.

YuWon looked at the two men who were standing awkwardly.

They seemed to resemble Mamos a bit.

A small part of him felt curious.

"So, are you my fans?"

"Yes, yes!"

"For Players who have given up on becoming a Ranker, Kim YuWon is an idol."

"We've decided to stop here, but you..."

Praises for YuWon came out of nowhere.

He didn't particularly like flattery, so it went in one ear and out the other.

But still, he wanted to give them something in return.

"I've changed my mind."

The two men looked at YuWon with perplexed faces.

Has he changed his mind?

"Follow me. To the Golden Castle."

"Y-Yes?"

"To the Golden Castle?"

In the face of their perplexity, YuWon displayed the Golden Castle Plate in his hand.

"If you want, both of you can enter the Golden Castle as my servants."

"Are you saying... we can actually enter the Golden Castle?"

The Golden Castle was a dream for Asgard's Players.

A place you could only enter if you were a Ranker.

No, even Rankers couldn't enter the Golden Castle depending on their rank.

But this was the only way to enter the Golden Castle.

"If you take us there, we'll do whatever you ask."

"We'll follow you faithfully!"

For Asgard Players, they were quite jovial.

YuWon waved his hand as he walked away.

"I don't need anything from you other than your company. I don't worry about anything else. Just go and see with your own eyes..."

The two happy players suddenly fell silent when YuWon looked at the Golden Castle with a strange expression in his eyes.

"Player or Ranker..."

YuWon squinted his eyes as he gazed at the Golden Castle in the distance. It was as if he was looking at an amusement park.

"That doesn't mean anything."

Chapter 246

Inside the dazzling castle.

Two people, Guard and Reed, widened their eyes and opened their mouths.

"Wow..."

"Woah..."

The mouths of the two who had followed YuWon couldn't close.

The garden shimmered with golden light.

All the flowers and grass were golden sculptures.

"Even looking at it again, I can't help but think that this is a huge waste of money."

YuWon shook his head as he gazed at the beautiful sculptures.

What a waste of points.

Odin had turned the Golden Castle into the Tower's most famous tourist attraction and a sacred place where Rankers wanted to be invited, but it was still a squandering.

He wondered how many hundreds of millions of points were spent to build this castle.

The Golden Castle was entirely made of gold. If you wanted to steal, there was no better place to do it.

In fact, the Golden Castle had housed many thieves a long time ago.

Of course.

They were all caught and are still rotting in Asgardian prisons.

Pap.

YuWon moved forward, leaving the distracted Guard and Reed behind.

When they had shortened the distance a bit, they hurried to catch up.

"W-Wait for us!"

YuWon didn't particularly care about the two as they roamed the Golden Castle, as he had mentioned before arriving. They knew not to stray too far from him as getting lost in the Golden Castle would be troublesome.

Swoo~

Suddenly, they felt stares fixed on YuWon from different parts of the Golden Castle. They were all Rankers, and quite high in the hierarchy, which meant they had the necessary qualifications to be in the Golden Castle.

"Did we enter the wrong place?"

"Luporda."

"Who is Luporda?"

"His ranking is 2600, in any case, his rating is quite high."

"L-Look! Over there...!"

"Is that Idun?"

The two whispered quietly as they looked around the Golden Castle.

Every time they looked, they saw familiar Rankers. Although the Golden Castle was open to external Rankers, most of them were from Asgard.

Yuwon walked through the corridors of the Golden Castle and turned to face the two.

"Are you going to continue with me or wait here?"

"Where are you going?"

"To see Odin."

"To Odin? Ah..."

For a moment, they stammered, not immediately realizing who he was referring to, and then their eyes widened.

"A-Are you referring to King Odin?"

Odin.

The King of Asgard, the most powerful Mage and Warrior of all time.

Yuwon was saying that he was going to meet him.

"I have his invitation. It shouldn't be difficult to meet him."

Although the Golden Castle Plate was given to him by Thor, it was actually an invitation from Odin.

As long as he had it, it wasn't difficult to meet Odin. The whole point of traveling to the 64th floor in the first place was to meet him.

"Are you coming with me?"

"Well, for me..."

"In my case, I'm fine, I'll wait here."

"Me too."

Guard and Reed waved their hands and took a step back.

As if it were a signal, YuWon nodded and continued down the long hallway.

He knew where Odin's quarters were.

He hadn't traveled all over the Golden Castle in the past, but he had come here a few times to meet Odin.

There was a certain modesty in public.

There was majesty in Odin.

The kind of majesty that a King of a Great Guild, of a nation, should have.

But that majesty was just for show, and that wasn't his true nature.

Step-.

Yuwon's steps halted in front of a small door.

As befitting a Golden Castle, even the door was made of gold, but it was more plain than the rest of the room.

There were no guards or escorts.

It was natural.

For the God Odin, there was nothing more useless than an escort.

Tak.

"I will enter."

Yuwon knocked on the door, then pushed it open and entered.

Hwak-.

As the door opened, a fragrant grassy scent that tickled the nose was felt.

It was the only life felt within the completely golden castle, which was so rigid and hard.

The room was completely covered in green, and though it was quite spacious, it was difficult to find a place to step because of the abundance of stems and leaves.

"Who are you?"

Yuwon discovered an old man who was watering the plants with soil in his hands.

His broad shoulders and robust body were hidden by a tunic with wide sleeves.

If it weren't for the wrinkles on his face, it would have been difficult to recognize him.

"This is Kim Yuwon greeting Odin, the Great King of Asgard."

"Kim Yuwon?"

Odin stopped watering the plants and stared at Yuwon.

Odin's expressionless face was terrifying. There were no shortages of rumors about him in the world.

Some said he was a tyrant, others a gentle saint.

It was impossible to know which was true, but he also did not show his feelings in his facial expression.

"The plate?"

"Here."

YuWon extended the Golden Castle Plate in his hand.

Odin took it and nodded. He put it in his pocket and asked.

"But how did you know this was my chamber? No one but my sons and Heimdall knows that this is my chamber."

"I could smell Yggdrasil."

"Why are you speaking informally?"

Immediately after YuWon spoke, Odin's expression tightened.

It was a way of speaking he hadn't heard in a long time. Most Rankers would bow their heads and not even dare to look him in the eyes.

But...

"You are the King of Asgard, not mine."

It was something familiar to YuWon.

"A brief courtesy greeting to the king as gratitude for the invitation is enough, right?"

True to his word, YuWon bowed, introducing himself as politely as he could in their first encounter.

It was an etiquette that Asgard's Rankers showed when meeting Odin for the first time.

But that was gratitude for the invitation to the Golden Castle.

"This, then, is it right or wrong in terms of etiquette..."

"I don't know, what do you think?"

"Indeed."

Odin smiled satisfied at the admission.

King Odin.

He didn't bother with formalities. He thought that courtesy was shown in the meaning and action of words, not in tone. Formalities were something that others, who dealt with him, should show.

"I like your personality. Young people these days are so stiff and boring."

Tsk-.

Odin snapped his fingers.

At the same time, a plant stem moved, forming a green chair and table.

"There is nothing here but the Yggdrasil stem, and nothing to drink but its sap."

Kik-.

A cup taken out from the inventory was filled with the plant's sap. Odin quickly made it drinkable and handed it to YuWon.

"It may seem disgusting, but it's good for the body. Drink it with relish," Odín said.

"Is it like a diluted Yggdrasil potion?" YuWon gulped down the sap Odín handed him.

And then...

**[You have consumed 'Yggdrasil Sap']**

**[Arcane Power has increased by 1]**

A stat point increased in an instant.

Yggdrasil Sap.

It was given to him as if it were nothing, but it was a potent elixir.

An elixir worthy of being compared to a life elixir.

If someone who knew about the existence of Yggdrasil were to learn about this room, their eyes would widen.

"You drank it well, and you don't seem very surprised," Odín commented.

"Probably because I've eaten many things that are good for my body."

"Of course. As the winner of the Murim Competition, you were given that famous pill, right?"

Odín looked at YuWon and then asked, "Have we ever met before?"

It was a direct question.

When YuWon didn't answer immediately, Odín gave him a meaningful look and continued, "You know this room. And Yggdrasil as well."

Odín's chamber was a highly classified secret.

The room where the roots of Yggdrasil grew.

If its existence were known, Valhalla would become the stage for a great war.

"And I, too..."

Odín also felt as if it wasn't their first meeting.

No.

It wasn't just a feeling.

"You..."

Odín became convinced by the faint scent he detected from YuWon.

"You used the Clock Movement to come here."

YuWon's eyes sparkled at the response.



He had tried it just in case, but it turned out to be true.

"Regardless of who goes back in time, if I encounter you again, I will recognize the existence of the Clock Movement."

It was a statement filled with confidence.

Chronos had ignored the possibility, but Odín seemed to have great confidence in his knowledge of the Clock Movement.

And it made sense.

After all, even though Chronos created the Clock Movement, it was Odín who had studied it for a long time.

Odín had been contemplating the existence of the Clock Movement in his mind for a long time.

Although it was just a thought, he never doubted that the Clock Movement would one day be completed.

"So you've completed it, then. How did you do it, and why are you here?" Odín was intrigued.

But there was no answer.

"I can't speak," YuWon replied.

Odín's expression furrowed.

"Why not?"

"Because you asked me not to."

"...Me?" Odín seemed confused by the statement.

Why would he have told him something like that?

"If possible, don't answer my questions. No matter what they may be."

Odín was very distrustful of his past self.

"Perhaps then, I would think for myself and act on my own."

He was more than qualified and capable of doing so.

He was the most powerful person in the Tower, the one who could single-handedly change the fate of the Tower.

But still, Odín distrusted his past self.

"No matter how good I was back then, I'm not as good as I am now."

It was true.

And that's why Odín spoke again, this time clearly.

"And probably, the person I was then and the person I am now think very differently."

That's why YuWon couldn't tell Odín what he knew.

About the upcoming war with the Outer Gods.

About Ragnarok.

And about the death of his son, Baldur, whom he deeply loved.

And luckily, Odín wasn't that foolish.

"If I said that, there must be a good reason."

Precisely because he believed so much in himself, YuWon's words convinced him.

He didn't know what the future held, but he knew that if it was his choice, he would have a good reason.

But then something strange happened.

"So, why have you come to see me?"

The reason why Odín invited YuWon was because he thought he might be a player who had returned to the past using the Clock Movement.

And as expected, YuWon responded to his invitation and arrived at the Golden Castle.

Odín assumed it was because of the Clock Movement.

Any player who had traveled to the past thanks to an object made by him would want to meet him.

But that wasn't why YuWon had come to him.

"I need to tell you something."

In response to YuWon's words, Odín nodded with an understanding look.

As expected, his future self was trying to convey a message through YuWon.

"What is it that you have to tell me?" Odin asked with an interested expression.

But when YuWon continued speaking, Odin's expression changed dramatically to a very grim one.

"I want you to start the Ragnarok," YuWon said.

Chapter 247

"What... did you say?"

He uttered each word forcefully, as if charged with energy. Odin knew that there weren't many people who understood the weight and significance of the name "Ragnarok" better than him.

"Do you really know what that means?"

"Yes, I know. The Great Catastrophe that will destroy the Tower, a war that will kill half of the Players and Rankers residing within it."

"Uh..."

Odin sank into his chair, rubbing his forehead.

"So, it really happened."

Odin fell silent for a moment, his eyes closed, and then he looked back at YuWon.

"But why? Why do we have to cause something like this?"

"The history that has already happened cannot be changed, and Ragnarok is inevitable."

"No, it can be avoided."

"Do you really believe that?"

"Well..."

Odin didn't immediately respond to YuWon's question.

Instead, the anxiety that had been hidden inside him for a long time finally reflected in his expression.

YuWon knew what was causing that anxiety.

"You don't want to fight, you believe you can stop it. But what do the giants think?"

Giants and Humans.

The struggle between Races was a matter different from the mere guild battles.

The division between the two races had already reached a deep level, and Odin had contributed to this.

"Surt's thoughts will be different. Do you have the confidence to persuade him? After all, how many of his children were lost in the battle against Asgard?"

"I will make it possible."

"'You want' to make it possible, which is a very different thing."

Odin's eyes gleamed at his corrected words.

And for a moment, YuWon felt his breath being cut off.

It wasn't exactly threatening.

But his mere presence filled the room, making it feel as if he was completely blocked.

"Not fighting is impossible, not shedding blood is impossible," YuWon said.

"I will make it possible," the response repeated.

Upon that response, YuWon looked around the golden, shining room that housed Yggdrasil.

A rich and peaceful country.

Asgard had created and maintained this country.

But...

"It was that peace and complacency that ruined this country."

The ending was far from peaceful.

"Are you afraid to open the festering wound, to let it fester, hoping that if you leave it alone, it will heal on its own?"

Odin didn't open his mouth.

YuWon, instead, continued.

"The giants are preparing for war. They are accumulating more power to secure victory, and Asgard is also preparing for the fight."

"You seem to really know everything..."

"It's because you told me."

Odin furrowed his brow.

There was nothing more he could say to that. Moreover, YuWon's words had hit the mark with what had been troubling him all along.

"As the preparation for war becomes more complete, the battlefield will grow larger. If that happens, there will be more bloodshed. If we can't stop the inevitable fight, we should at least end it with the least damage possible, don't you think?" YuWon said.

"So... are you asking me to start the war now?" Odin asked, suspicion in his eyes.

Suddenly, asking him to initiate a war as if it were nothing. And not just any war, but a great war like Ragnarok...

"If we leave it as it is, the fighting will only worsen."

"That I know. But it's also a fight that should have never started in the first place..."

"You're good at everything, but that's the problem. For this case, you didn't know where to begin."

YuWon crossed his arms and sighed.

"We must face the fight that cannot be avoided. Otherwise, your country will only be ruined."

YuWon's gaze shifted to a single withered leaf of the Yggdrasil Tree.

"Because someone wants that to happen."

Odin's gaze followed YuWon's.

Yggdrasil.

The greatest and grandest tree that spans the World from this Tower. The leaf of that tree began to rot only a few hundred years ago.

"Are you saying that someone is controlling Ragnarok from behind?"

"I heard that you know who that someone is."

"I don't know their name. But I know they planned the Gigantomachia."

"And Ragnarok as well."

After a long pause.

Odin finally nodded.

"I think I need to think about it a little more."

Rather, there's a lot to think about.

Is YuWon really the owner of the Clock Movement?

If so, is he on the right side?

Is it really a better choice for Ragnarok to occur early?

YuWon didn't expect Odin to make a decision right away.

But it was enough to make him think.

"As you wish."

For now, the conversation was over.

From now on, they would have to talk after Odin made a decision.

Drr-.

YuWon stood up from his seat.

And Odin spoke to him.

"Stay here while my thoughts clear. Don't go anywhere."

"I can't wait that long."

If Foolish Chaos had started moving, every minute of every day from now on would be more precious than gold.

Every wasted minute would mean more bloodshed.

"I ask you..."

As YuWon was about to leave the room, Odin asked him a question that reflected his concern.

"What will you do if Ragnarok occurs?"

"I will fight."

It was an obvious answer.

"That's why I came here."

"Within Ragnarok, you are like a small stone thrown into the great lake. Do you have the ability to change the course of this great war?"

"I don't have it."

The answer was as disappointing as expected.

Odin knew it, but deep down, he wanted YuWon to say something that would fill him with hope.

But...

"Not yet."

YuWon wasn't finished.

"When the war starts, I will already be strong enough to be on the front lines again."

Squeak-.

The door opened, and YuWon walked out.

The room fell silent once again.

For a long time.

Odin looked towards the door YuWon had walked out of and muttered to himself.

"'Again'..."

Ding-.

As he walked down the hallway, YuWon's player kit beeped.

In the distance, he could see Guard and Reed waiting for him. YuWon checked his player kit number and answered the call.

"What's up?"

**-Did you meet Odin?**

It was OhGong.

Apparently, he wanted to know what was going on.

After all, it couldn't have been easy for YuWon to leave behind Son OhGong, who had decided to follow him to the Golden Castle.

"We met."

**-What happened?**

"He seems to be worried. Quite a lot."

"That foolish guy can't do anything but worry," Son OhGong's voice shouted from the Player Kit.

In case the sound leaked outside, YuWon briefly covered the player with his hand.

How long had it been? After Son OhGong's hysteria ended...

**-How can that messy guy make an easy decision?**

Finally, he asked a proper question.

YuWon leaned against the windowsill and gazed at the beautiful city of Valhalla.

"It won't be easy."

**-Then, in any case, we should focus more on Baldur...**

"It's not my goal to prevent Ragnarok from happening."

Repeating what he said before.

But it was an important part that had to be repeated several times.

There's no way to stop Ragnarok.

It was simply impossible.

That's why YuWon thought of another way.

"Change the winner of Ragnarok."

Change the winner of Ragnarok.

Asgard, which perished in battle and the ensuing struggle, must be changed to a victory.

And that was several times harder than simply avoiding the fight.

**-Is it possible?**

"It won't be easy. But well, I'm not alone."

Both the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven, were on his side.

At least these two were clearly on his side.

"There are many ways. We have to try."

**-What else will you do?**

"For now, worry about that side. We'll get moving as soon as we hear from them."

**---Ah, yes.**

"We're done."

The call was as brief as it had to be.

After storing his Player Kit, YuWon approached Guard and Reed, who were waiting for him, and the two opened their mouths with tense faces.

"You're back?"

"Did you really meet King Odin?"

Apparently, they wanted to know if YuWon had really met Odin.

Odin was such an absolute presence in this Tower that not only players but even Rankers wished to meet him at some point.

"I'll be here for a while."

Yuwon replied when Reed asked.

"The Golden Castle?"

"I was given permission. But I won't be here for long."

"Wow...!"

The fact that he was given permission meant that he met Odin.

Faced with the uncomfortable gazes of the two, YuWon turned his head. There was no point in confronting that discomfort.

And then, as he turned his head.

Swish~

Yuwon's eyes met those of the passing Rankers.

It wasn't an accidental glance.

They were all looking at him.

"Did you see it too?"

"Yes."

"It seems like they want to kill people with their eyes, don't they?"

YuWon also noticed the gaze of the Rankers staring at him, including Guard and Reed.

It felt as if they were about to draw their weapons and attack him at any moment.

"It's going to be quite a journey."

For the next few days, YuWon would stay in the castle.

And during those days, he would have to face those Rankers again and again.

Having to stay in the Golden Castle for a while meant that the fights would be endless. (Note: Remember that according to the legends of Valhalla, the great warriors there always fight every day without rest.)

"But that's fine."

He was already worried about how to start, but maybe this was the best thing that could happen.

"What are you looking at?"

When YuWon didn't look away, a Ranker finally spoke after staring at him for a while.

She was a tough-looking warrior woman with a face full of scars.

She had wings tattooed on her clavicle.

She was one of the Valkyries of Asgard.

Not a local thug.

She had been waiting for an opportunity to start a fight.

And YuWon had no intention of avoiding it.

No...

"Since you want to fight, will you do it alone?"

I won't settle for a small fight.

"Bring other friends, brat."

Bam-.

A vein appeared on the Valkyrie's forehead.

Behind them, Guard and Reed shivered as they watched the two of them.

A supernatural air filled the hallway, and the Rankers, who had been paying close attention to YuWon's visit, quickly noticed the commotion.



Gazes and footsteps accumulated, and YuWon became aware of them and thought, 'Ragnarok is, after all, a battle between Odin's Asgard and Surt's Muspelheim.'

He blinked.

Several Valkyries with the same wing mark as the Valkyrie in front of him appeared before his eyes.

'In the end, the only way to be at the forefront of the fight and have a voice is to be recognized by the Valkyries.'

The Ranking that was given to him unintentionally.

And the resistance and curiosity of the Rankers who followed him.

At first, it seemed pointless and burdensome.

But...

"That's fine."

In any case, it made the scenario more natural.

The corners of YuWon's lips twitched as the atmosphere in the Golden Castle began to heat up.

"Now I just have to show them who's on top."

Chapter 248

The Golden Castle was home to many Rankers.

The Rankers of Asgard were generally warrior-like in nature.

The Valkyries, a symbol of Asgard, were representative examples.

They fought daily and tested their skills against each other.

Their ethos was that the weak were not warriors.

That's why...

It was for this reason that YuWon's visit stimulated them.

"I heard Tamar lost last night."

"She was so sure she was going to win."

"And you?"

"Me? Are you kidding? Of course, I'm going to win."

"Then why don't you challenge him too?"

"Challenge him? Are you kidding?"

"Ah, right."

Soon, one by one, more and more Rankers challenged YuWon to a fight.

As they lost more and more often, the topic of conversation among the Valkyries shifted to who could defeat Kim YuWon first.

But the pride of the Valkyries remained unyielding.

"Challenge isn't the right word."

While YuWon's ranking was high, there were fighters among the Valkyries who had an even higher ranking than him.

Moreover, the leader of the Valkyries, the High Rank Thor, was a fighter with a double-digit ranking.

"Still, he seems to have decent skills."

"How many Valkyries have lost so far?"

"I don't know."

"It seems there are some who have secretly challenged him."

"...."

"Hey, what about you?"

"....yes, I did."

Boom!

Someone was seen flying out the window with a spear in hand.

Although they only caught a glimpse, they recognized her face.

"This time it's Nyala."

Another fighter joined the list of those who were defeated by YuWon.

"She's been waiting for days, but she finally accepted the challenge."

"Who's next?"

Now, no one thought YuWon was an easy opponent.

Even the Valkyries, who thought his ranking was an exaggeration, began to recognize his ability.

YuWon clearly had the skills to be a High Rank Player.

Ignorance gave way to recognition, and before they knew it, the nature of the combat had changed.

It was literally like a challenge for a great warrior.

"Kim YuWon is busy right now."

"He's sleeping, please come back later."

Awakened from his sleep, YuWon was bewildered by Guard and Reed's behavior and asked.

"What are you guys doing?"

"Oh, you woke up?"

A brusque face and tone he had never seen before.

Reed patted his chest and opened his mouth.

"Since there are so many challengers, we were protecting him so he wouldn't be disturbed while sleeping."

"If you ever need us to do anything else, just say it. We'll take care of it."

"I haven't asked you to do something like that..."

YuWon looked at the two men waiting at the door. They were guests who had come early in the morning.

This was a repetitive process that had been happening in the past few days.

In that repetitive process, Guard and Reed did what they could to protect YuWon's sleep.

It was a noble gesture.

But it was an unnecessary task.

"I don't care what time it is or how many people there are, let them in."

"Any number of people?"

It was not Guard or Reed who reacted to YuWon's words, but the Valkyries who had come for him.

But in reality, it was not Guard or Reed, nor the other two Valkyries, who were looking at YuWon.

Kak-.

A sensation behind him.

The Valkyries turned their heads, and in that moment, their bodies stiffened.

"You've come!"

"At your service!"

Each of them greeted her with a military salute.

The Valkyries were a combat unit of Asgard composed of Ranker Players, and they were no different from soldiers.

In the direction of their salutes, a woman with dark hair and tanned skin approached.

"It's about time you arrived..."

Gradually, the higher-ranking Valkyries began to appear before YuWon, and now even a familiar face had come to find him.

Brunnhilde, the Leader of the Valkyries.

One of the most skilled High Rankers in all of Asgard.

Co-leader of the Valkyries, the main combat force of Asgard, and equal in authority to Thor, son of Odin.

She herself had come to YuWon.

"Are you Kim YuWon?"

Brünhilde's gaze was ambiguous and hard to read.

Unlike the bellicose look of the Valkyries who had preceded her, her eyes were neither cold nor warm.

And that was her advantage.

She was always cool and calculating. She was a warrior more rational than anyone else YuWon knew.

"Yes, why?"

"I've heard that the Valkyries have been very rude to you lately."

YuWon nodded as if to say yes.

Then Brunnhilde spoke with a serious and stern voice and an uncompromising gaze.

"Forgive me, but now it's my turn to be rude to you."

"L-Leader!"

"You..."

Even among the Valkyries, there was a certain discipline and hierarchy.

And for the past few days, the Valkyries had been challenging YuWon according to that hierarchy.

They wanted YuWon to be defeated by any one of them.

Step by step, from the bottom up, like a ladder.

But now...

Brunnhilde, at the top of the ladder, challenged YuWon to a battle.

Brunnhilde, Leader of the Valkyries. Ranked 181st.

Her ranking was based solely on skill.

She had risen to the top of the Valkyries without connections, solely through her strength.

Defeating her would earn the respect of all the Valkyries.

No.

It would earn the favor of Asgard.

If YuWon could defeat her, he would gain the recognition of all the Valkyries.

"Shall we go?"

Behind the Golden Castle.

There was a training ground for the Valkyries of Asgard.

All the battles of the past few days had taken place here: the high ceilings and miles of space were made for intense combat.

The Valkyries gathered.

To watch their leader, Brunnhilde, fight.

"It's a bit cramped, but I'm sorry, there's no other available place," Brunnhilde said, and YuWon nodded.

"There's nothing to be done about it. But until yesterday, it was enough," YuWon replied.

The Valkyries looked at each other as Brunnhilde and YuWon spoke.

"Until yesterday, it was enough" meant that the space was sufficient for training with the other Valkyries.

'Does he really think this place is too small?'

'This training field?'

A training field that extended for kilometers.

Moreover, this training field, including the Golden Castle, was enchanted by Odin, making it much stronger than other training fields.

Brunnhilde and YuWon did not ignore this fact but continued to argue about the size of the place.

"From your look, it seems like you don't enjoy fighting."

Brunnhilde's voice was low, so the other Valkyries couldn't hear.

"Are you putting on a show to display your strength?" she asked, as if analyzing YuWon before the fight began.

"But you also don't seem to have an ambition to show your strength. So, what do you want to gain by displaying your strength...?"

"What do you want to know?"

"I don't want to know anything."

Skaak-.

Brunnhilde unsheathed her sword. Her voice remained firm, without fluctuations.

"It's just that I don't want to see the honor of the Valkyries fall."

"And are you different?" YuWon asked.

"Yes, I am," Brunnhilde responded firmly.

But her next words had a different meaning from the first ones.

"There's no way I'll lose my honor, even if I lose to you. My honor is not so fragile that it would fall to the ground just because I lose to you."

Brunnhilde held the 181st position in the Ranking.

Moreover, unlike YuWon, she hadn't risen through the ranks in one go; she had proven her worth countless times over the years.

If she lost, it would mean that her opponent was worthy.

"So, are you going to help me?"

"That will depend on how you perform."

Brunnhilde looked at the Valkyries who had come to the training field to see how she and YuWon would fight.

"If you want to demonstrate your skills, do it here. I'll provide you with the stage."

Gooooooooo-.

Brunnhilde raised her Arcane Power.

As if the dialogue was no longer necessary, she began to move her feet.

And upon seeing her, the corners of YuWon's lips lifted.

'You're the same here.'

The encounter with Brunnhilde had happened long after the current events.

Their fights were always rational, and there was a reason behind them. This time was no different.

If she lost, the Valkyries would have lost to someone worthy of it, which meant they could regain their lost honor.

This, in turn, would improve YuWon's reputation.

On the other hand, if she won, it would be said that she was the leader of the Valkyries after all.

In any case, Brunnhilde had nothing to lose in this fight. Additionally, YuWon had a lot to gain in this fight, even if it meant he had to win to do so.

"Let's see what skills you have..."

Hwaluk-.

YuWon's eyes lit up.

**['Golden Cinder Eyes' activated]**

And at that moment...

"Watch closely."

Paat-.

In YuWon's eyes, Brunnhilde's sword was reflected.

Tadak, tadadak-.

The ground burned a bright red.

OhGong snorted at the scorching earth.

"I like the atmosphere."

He remembered when he had been trapped in the Eight Trigrams Cauldron long ago.

Back then, his whole body had been bound, but now it was different.

His arms and legs were free, and the power of his body was unrestrained, making him feel like he could fly at any moment.

That was the difference between then and now.

And the most important difference...

**-What are you doing here?**

Gao-oh-oh-.

A voice resonated like an earthquake. The voice came from above OhGong's head. Although the burning ground seemed empty, it was not actually so.

OhGong looked up, towards the shadowy figure that blocked the sun.

"Finally, something useful has appeared."

OhGong looked back at where he had come from.

"They were quite weak."

The corpses of many giants lay behind OhGong.

But compared to the giant up there, they were nothing more than newborns.

"Are you Surtr? Or aren't you? You don't seem much like what they say for being Surtr."

**-What is the Monkey from the Celestial Realm doing in Muspelheim?**

"Oh? Are you that guy's son?"

Unfazed by the giant towering over him, Son OhGong adjusted his divine staff on his shoulder.

He gazed at the mountainous giant with admiration.

Still, he thought he was a good guy to deal with.

"He told me to keep a low profile..."

OhGong's eyes gleamed.

In the distance, he could see the giants of Muspelheim gathering. Each one of them was enormous, and they were starting to form an army.

Dragging his words, OhGong nodded.

"But I can't help getting involved when I see something like this."

It was hard not to get impatient in the face of such a spectacle.

The giants of Muspelheim.

They were an enemy he would have to fight at some point.

Moreover, YuWon had said that Ragnarok had to start quickly, so...

"Grow..."

OhGong trusted that YuWon would understand what he was doing.

"Ru Yi."

Chapter 249

Shukat-.

The two swords clashed.

Zeng-!

Zhiyiying-.

The Arcane Power that spread with the sound of the collision turned the air in the training field upside down. As if they knew they were going to collide, the two swords fell at the same time.

Brunnhilde's sword rained down.

Literally.

YuWon's body trembled under the downpour of sword strikes.

Bam, clang-.

He wondered if it's possible to avoid raindrops without an umbrella or shield.

It was impossible, but YuWon's eyes and senses had achieved it.

A path was visible through the sword rain.

And towards that path, YuWon's body moved with precision.

**['Sensory Field' activated].**

Kak-.

For a moment, time seemed to stop.

It was thanks to that.

Hua-ak-!

Purr-.

He could hear the snorting of a small horse from above.

He wondered since when.

Brunnhilde, the Leader of the Valkyries, rode a pure white horse with wings.

Tak!

A sword rushed towards her head.

Luckily, the sword struck the ground of the training field instead of YuWon's head.

A crack appeared in the hard ground of the training field. If it had been anywhere else, the impact would have brought down the entire building.

Pam-.

Liu Yuan's sword extended, aiming at the horse.

At the same time, a lightning bolt shot out from YuWon's hand.

Crackle-!



A dazzling lightning emerged from the center of the training field.

Brunnhilde protected her horse and utilized her mobility at the same time.

The fight was difficult to follow with the naked eye.

The Valkyries watched from the edge of the training field, unwilling to interfere.

They were left speechless.

"That guy... is fighting on equal terms with the boss."

"If..."

"Quite impressive..."

"Quite impressive? Did you just say quite impressive?"

Kwalung-!

Fajijjik-.

A lightning bolt struck right at their feet.

Several Valkyries hurried to raise their shields to block it. A stimulating electric shock ran through the tips of their fingers.

"You think this is just quite impressive?"

He didn't think this was just quite impressive.

YuWon had never used the Uranus Heart on anyone in all his fights against the Valkyries.

No, he didn't need to.

He was able to subdue them without using any special abilities.

Pfft-.

The flow of Mana in YuWon's arm changed.

His tendons bulged.

**[The strength of a Giant permeates your entire body]**

Kikik-!

As if unwilling to lose, Brunnhilde's white horse turned red. At the same time, a sharp, long horn sprouted from its forehead, unleashing its latent Arcane Power.

Shh-.

Tak, tak, tak!

YuWon and Brunnhilde clashed once again. YuWon didn't dodge the horse's charge but instead grabbed its horn with his hand.

"Well, you're crazy..."

"Can you block that by sheer force?"

The horse Brunnhilde rode wasn't a real living horse.

It was a conglomerate of Mana created by her ability.

And yet, he had caught it with one hand.

Susseusut.

A dark power enveloped the horse's body through the gripped horn.

Brunnhilde's eyes gleamed at the eerie power.

**['Tartarus' is open]**

Hwaaak-!

A darkness as black as a wolf's mouth enveloped the horse.

Tartarus.

It was Mana extracted from the deepest part of hell.

YuWon intended to deal with the most troublesome horse first.

And at that moment...

Flash!

Brunnhilde's sword emitted light.

Buzz.

The Mana that had been flowing from Tartarus receded.

And Brunnhilde didn't miss the opportunity.

Ssh!

She swung her light.

At least, that's what it seemed like to the Valkyries who watched the fight from afar.

Kagag-.

A pure white line appeared in the training field.

Swoosh!

The light from Brunnhilde's sword extended into thousands and tens of thousands of rays.

Unlike the torrential rain, the light turned into an unavoidable sword. No matter how good one's eyesight was, there were certain attacks that could never be avoided.

Instead...

'I see.'

YuWon's eyes saw something else.

In the midst of the rays of light.

Pajijijjik-!

YuWon's sword pierced through the lightning and struck.

For a moment, the training field seemed to darken with the light. Unable to see anything in the clash of lights, the Valkyries hurriedly tried to find the two of them.

It was a matter of seconds before the blackout ended.

One by one, the Valkyries found YuWon and Brunnhilde.

And there....

"...What's going on?"

"What happened?"

There were two people standing facing each other.

Neither was defeated.

No one was injured, no one was on their knees.

This was not the outcome they had expected.

"A draw?"

"No way. They will fight a little longer."

"Neither of them is moving, right?"

"No. The boss is one step ahead. Look over there. That guy, he's slightly injured, isn't he?"

"As expected of the boss!"

The Valkyries were roaring.

But then...

"I lose."

Brunnhilde sheathed her sword and lowered her head.

The Valkyries stiffened in response.

"Boss!"

"W-What?"

"You haven't lost yet!"

The Valkyries, who had been silently watching the fight without interfering, raised their voices.

Brunnhilde was the Leader of the Valkyries, their pride.

Moreover, at this moment, it didn't seem like Brunnhilde's defeat was an inevitable conclusion.

No, rather, a small scar was forming on YuWon's shoulder.

But...

"Don't judge too quickly, I've done everything I could."

Brunnhilde remembered the sensation at the tip of her fingers.

A moment ago, when their swords had clashed.

Indeed, her sword had touched his, but his hadn't.

It wasn't because she was better.

"You could have cut me, but you didn't."

YuWon didn't cut her.

Clearly, he could have slit her throat or chest.

"I'm not stupid enough to not realize that."

She admitted defeat faster than she had expected.

It made no sense to keep fighting, she admitted.

Phajik, phaji-jik-.

An electric current that lingered in the body without disappearing.

It was the mark of the hardships accumulated in a not-so-short fight.

"If it weren't for this, I probably wouldn't have believed it. Are you really just a Player?"

Floor 64.

YuWon had already passed the halfway point of the Tower and reached the upper floors, close to the Rankers.

Thanks to this, the penalties for fighting against Ranker Players weren't as severe. The penalty was insignificant, especially for a Ranker with a strong body like Brunnhilde.

But it was also the clearest indication that YuWon was still a Non-Ranker Player.

"Moreover, I feel like you still had some moves left..."

It was just a feeling, but she believed in him.

"I guess it wasn't just a rumor that Li Jing was defeated by you."

"Do you know Li Jing?"

"We met once, a long time ago. It was a time when Asgard and the Celestial Realm were in their prime, and Li Jing was active."

Although she knew Brunnhilde, they didn't have a very deep conversation.

It was surprising that the two knew each other to some extent. It was so rare to find a Ranker who knew Li Jing these days.

"The Valkyries will recognize you. Moreover, being recognized by me means being recognized by Asgard."

It wasn't an empty statement.

In fact, Brunnhilde was highly regarded within Asgard.

There were stories that she was more powerful than her given rank, and there were even speculations that she could be a daughter of Odin's lineage.

With Brunnhilde's defeat, no one could ignore YuWon's rank anymore.

No.

One could even think that his rank still didn't match his abilities.

"So, did you get what you wanted?"

"More or less."

A bland response.

Brunnhilde realized that YuWon's expression wasn't any different from before they started fighting.

"I see that there's something else you want."

Brunnhilde turned around.

"Follow me."

".....?"

"The king is looking for you."

Kak-.

With those words, Brunnhilde began leading the way.

YuWon followed behind her, silently.

Following in Brunnhilde's footsteps, YuWon found himself in a room that wasn't the small chamber where Yggdrasil's stem was located.

It was a grand hall, hundreds of meters long, with red carpets, golden walls, and sparkling jewels.

In the vastness of it all, Odin sat alone.

"Come forward."

Odin turned to Brunnhilde.

She bowed before him, then turned around and left the grand hall.

Then the two were alone.

"Have you made a decision?"

YuWon didn't hesitate to ask.

"You're not a very fun guy."

Odin shook his head wearily.

Clearly, he had been thinking a lot.

"I've made a decision. I'm not sure if it's the right one, but..."

Somehow, it seemed too quick to him.

He thought that maybe he wouldn't hear an answer for several years if it was lengthy, but it seemed he was still unsure.

But it didn't matter.

What mattered was that he had made a decision.

"Maybe it's better than doing nothing."

A hesitant decision.

At this point, Odin probably wouldn't move very actively.

However, what was important was that he could start anyway.

"Did you send Brunnhilde?"

"To make sure you're not just a talkative guy."

Odin stroked his chin with one hand and looked at YuWon.

"Still, it seems you have some strength."

To win against Brunnhilde.

Perhaps that was the reason the conflict, which had been at a standstill, tilted slightly to one side.

All Odin wanted was peace, and the only reason he thought about Ragnarok was because of YuWon.

But if YuWon wasn't good enough, Ragnarok wouldn't even be a thought.

"So? Do you like it?"

"You have the skills."

An ambiguous look.

"The problem is the identity of that power."

"The identity?"

"I'm not exactly sure. Brunnhilde wasn't enough."

"Maybe I should have sent Thor," Odin murmured quietly.

Then, turning his gaze to YuWon, he said.

"Anyway, it's more than I expected..."

Ding-.

YuWon's player kit buzzed.

It was his.

Odin frowned at the interruption.

"You don't know manners."

"It's an important call."

The name on the player kit screen was Son OhGong.

He had a job to do and needed to get in touch with him.

"One moment."

After unilaterally requesting understanding, YuWon checked his player kit.

It was a message, not a call.

He wondered why a guy who hated texting sent him a message.

But then....

"...Oh."

The corner of YuWon's mouth twitched as he read the text.

As if he had been waiting for a message like this sooner or later.

**[Hey, I'm sorry] (ey, in sorri)**

It was a hastily written text with many spelling errors.

In the text that arrived on the kit...

"I already knew."

It was brief, but it was more serious than anything else.

**[I had an accident]**

Chapter 250

Accident.

It was a word that went hand in hand with Son OhGong, anyway.

Everything he did was an accident for everyone, including YuWon. Wherever he went, there were always accidents, and YuWon was used to it.

This time was no different.

Yuwon knew OhGong would cause trouble.

That's why he had sent him.

To go somewhere and get into trouble once again.

But when OhGong said it, it was a different story.

"He made a bigger mess than I thought."

Suddenly, a feeling of curiosity and anxiety washed over him.

He had sent him there to cause chaos, but had he caused more than he expected?

Of course, whatever the accident was, it would be of a similar kind if OhGong caused it.

"...That's fine."

After a moment of concern, YuWon nodded.

It was a problem that OhGong had exaggerated things by using the word 'accident,' but whatever it was, it wouldn't be that big of a deal.

What mattered was the direction, even if it was a bit extreme.

As long as the direction was right, it didn't matter what it was, and the OhGong he knew could always be wrong but never wrong in the direction.

"What's wrong?"

Odin asked, hearing YuWon's murmurs as he looked at his player kit.

YuWon looked up.

Now was the time to explain the situation.

"There's a problem."

"What problem?"

"I don't know exactly yet."

Ding-.

He made a quick call, but OhGong didn't answer.

It wasn't hard to guess why.

"He must be fighting."

With the giants of Muspelheim.

So fiercely that he didn't even have time to look at his player kit.

It was YuWon who sent Son OhGong to Muspelheim.

He had a job to do there, and he knew there would be some conflict in the process.

He wasn't too worried, as long as he didn't run into Surt, there was no one to stop him.

He told him to be as quiet as possible, but a collision was inevitable.

And that was the reason.

The reason why he sent OhGong.

"You owe me an explanation."

Odin's eyes narrowed at YuWon's unexpected reaction.

YuWon hesitated for a moment and then spoke.

"I sent the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal to Muspelheim."

"...The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

At the mention of the great man's name, Odin seemed concerned.

He also knew Son OhGong's character well.

It was natural for him to be worried.



"Why him?"

"I need something, and only he could do it."

"If you need something..."

Odin thought instead of asking what it was.

He wondered what could be in Muspelheim that justified sending him there.

But that thought didn't last long.

"What is it?"

Odin asked, unable to find an answer, and YuWon shook his head.

"That's not important now."

YuWon sighed heavily as he reviewed OhGong's messages once again.

"From Asgard's perspective, this guy is probably a problem due to his close relationship with the accident."

"Really..."

Odin felt his already complicated head spinning.

"It won't be a small fight."

It was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

A High Ranker who recently held the 12th position and now ranks 10th after defeating the Jade Emperor.

When a High Ranker player who was difficult to control even for the Administrators moved, it meant that the place would become a battlefield, big or small.

"If the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal doesn't respond, it's probably Surma."

"The first son of Surt?"

Surt had many sons.

Most of them were High Rankers or Rankers, giants of immense power.

In Asgard, they were known as the 'Sons of Muspel'.

"If it's Surma, he's not an easy opponent, even for the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal. They've probably already captured him. The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal may be alone, but the Sons of Muspel don't move alone."

Although Surma had a lower rank than Son OhGong, Surma was a giant, and giants live in communities despite not matching their size.

The battle between OhGong and the giants might resemble the Gigantomachy War.

However...

"Well, I don't know how it'll turn out, but...."

Although this was true, there was something that Odin in front of him didn't know.

"Son OhGong is not the only one."

Firstly, Son OhGong has a rare deceit ability called "alter ego."

Secondly, OhGong is not the same OhGong that Odin knew.

"Because he has also used the Clock Movement."

Odin was supposed to know everything about this Tower.

The only thing he didn't know was the Clock Movement that his future self had created.

"Well, people say that the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal should never be underestimated."

"That's right."

"Is the reason you sent him to Muspelheim by any chance the reason I think it is?"

"There are actually two reasons..."

YuWon saw through Odin's thoughts and nodded.

"You're probably right about one of them."

"I see."

Crack!

A crack appeared in the handle of the jade throne on which Odin was seated.

Creak.

The golden castle trembled.

Odin's anger, which he had been holding back until now, began to seep out.

"You did something truly arrogant."

Odin's eyes glowed with a fearsome power.

A terrifying force that was suffocating to behold. Odin didn't like the calm expression on YuWon's face.

"Were my decisions so bad?"

Crack!

Boom!

The cracked throne finally shattered and collapsed.

Oddly, above the shattered throne, Odin floated in the air, maintaining his seated position.

"Regardless of my decision, the mere movement of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal is the same as the beginning of war. If this happens, Asgard will also be forced to pay attention to Muspelheim's movements. Either way, no matter what decision I would have made, the war would have started anyway."

As YuWon looked at the swaying ceiling of the castle, Odin continued.

"Whether a fight starts or not."

"...well."

YuWon didn't exactly deny it.

"You're not wrong."

Son OhGong traveled to Muspelheim.

YuWon thought that OhGong would definitely cause a conflict.

It was just a matter of scale, and he didn't think OhGong would return from Muspelheim in one piece.

It turned out that OhGong behaved as well as YuWon expected.

In a way, the current outcome of a larger disturbance than expected could be better.

And he did it for two reasons.

The first was that if there was going to be a war, it was best for it to start as soon as possible.

The second was...

"Did you think of dragging Asgard by force even if I didn't want to fight?"

The idea was that when Odin couldn't make a decision, he would somehow be forced to make a decision.

Quite an extreme method.

YuWon had to send OhGong to Muspelheim no matter what Odin decided.

It was just as Odin thought. At least half of it.

"Similar, but different."

"Different?"

"I was thinking of fighting amongst ourselves."

Amongst ourselves...

He meant YuWon and his current companions, including Son OhGong.

"If Asgard backs away after seeing that fight, well, that's how things are."

"Are you trying to provoke sympathy?"

"I don't recall receiving much sympathy from you, and you're not one to be swayed by it."

YuWon shrugged.

"I was just trying to fight. Although it would have been much longer and harder without Asgard."

"....tch."

Odin clicked his tongue and covered his face with a hand.

There was nothing to say. He already knew that YuWon had insisted on starting Ragnarok, and he couldn't prevent them from fighting amongst themselves.

"This way, Ragnarok will be faster than I thought."

Dejected, Odin snapped his fingers.

Shurrrr, shurrr-.

The broken gold pieces began to reassemble.

The castle stopped swaying, and the golden throne returned to its original position.

It was as if time had been reversed.

Once Odin's anger had subsided, YuWon asked.

"Anyway, have you made up your mind?"

"Aren't you afraid of me?"

"Truth be told, no."

"I was just trying to scare you."

A deep sigh.

Odin hesitated for a moment with his response.

"Well... more or less."

"We shouldn't do things 'more or less'... although I'd like to say that, it's enough for now."

"Enough for now?"

"Because, anyway, Asgard won't move soon."

Yuwon said, tucking the player kit back into his arms.

"Prepare for war. We first have to warm up."

"Warm up..."

Odin nodded.

"That makes sense."

As he said, he wasn't ready to start Ragnarok immediately.

Unlike Muspelheim, Asgard had chosen so far to coexist peacefully instead of preparing for war.

No matter how powerful a force is, it cannot be strong if it is scattered.

Asgard was still unprepared.

Furthermore...

"And you, Odin, are the one who needs to be ready."

The same went for Odin.

The corners of Odin's mouth twitched as if he had just been punched in the face.

"Hm, I wonder how long it's been since someone read me like that..."

Only their second encounter.

But he had to admit it.

"You seem to know me quite well."

YuWon knew him well.

Scarily well, too.

Even when he was angry, he showed no fear and knew how he thought and judged him based on that.

Anyway, he had already made a decision about Ragnarok. Odin's attention shifted elsewhere.

"What was your relationship with me?"

"We were friends."

"Me? With you?"

An astonished look.

Judging by YuWon's expression, it didn't seem like he was lying. Odin looked at him incredulously.

He couldn't believe that he had really become friends with someone as young as him.

And then...

"I guess I accepted you after all."

Tsk-.

Laughing, Odin stood up from his seat and spoke.

"Alright. Let's start that thing called preparation. Asgard and me."

The corners of YuWon's lips twitched at that cheerful expression.

It was finally happening.

Asgard was on their side.

"So prepare well, and I..."

YuWon turned around.

"I'm leaving, I'm in a bit of a hurry."

"Are you going up?"

Going up.

To the 65th floor world.

"To go to Muspelheim?"

The Giants, and YuWon in particular, had to go to the Demon World.

With a tone that seemed to know everything, YuWon turned his head towards Odin.  
It didn't seem like he was asking out of curiosity.



And it was Odin who held it.

"Since I was forced to have that position, I've never tested anyone because it's bothersome..."

Odin looked around the grand hall and asked.

"What do you think about taking the trial here?"