

## With The Gods 281

Chapter 281

C281

It was as fleeting as a blink.

The Envoys found themselves engulfed in a Black Lightning that had taken hold of their bodies.

Death was approaching.

In the moment their vision turned dark, in that moment of wondering if they had truly died.

Poof!

The Black Lightning covering their sight dispersed, revealing a bright landscape.

Crack, crack-.

Behind the Black Lightning, YuWon appeared. The Envoys turned around and looked at each other.

Their facial expressions questioned who had stopped him. They all had the same expression. None of the three Envoys had been the one to halt YuWon's attack.

"The second Trial has also ended."

A defiant voice.

The Envoys turned their heads toward the figure casting a shadow over their bodies.

There stood the Administrator, a bearded figure covering his face.

"A-Administrator-nim?"

"Your role is finished. Leave now."

A stern voice.

They wanted the chance to plead for another opportunity, but they couldn't do it.

They wanted to try fighting again, but they lacked confidence in stopping an attack like before.

"I'm sorry."

The Envoys bowed their heads and withdrew. At the same time, in the vacant spot where the Envoys disappeared, the Administrator looked at YuWon, who had been observing the whole time.

"Isn't this too much? What kind of Trial is this?"

A sigh escaped YuWon's lips.

He had imagined that something like this could happen, but seeing an Administrator in front of him was shocking.

He wondered if the Administrators were truly in their right minds.

"This is more of an event than a Trial. It's more for enjoyment, you know?"

"Only you guys enjoy it."

"That's right. Only us. Since the stage has shifted here, others can't see anything from the outside."

The Administrator burst into laughter.

"Thanks to that, the fools are furious. I wanted to promote Muspellheim with this Trial, but now it has turned into a disaster."

Originally, this Trial had been planned by the director of the 65th floor to gather the other directors.

More than a Trial, it was a kind of event. Like the Martial Arts Tournament of the Murim, this Trial also provided free entertainment for the Rankers and Hugadores.

"Anyway, it's really fun."

Tremble, tremble~

The massive castle shook.

An ecstasy shone in the Administrator's expression.

"Just a few years ago, this guy who acted so restless in my Tutorial, now he's facing a Trial like this in front of me."

The first time YuWon saw the Tutorial Administrator was when he revealed the relationship between the Envoys and Olympus.

At that time, YuWon's declaration angered the Administrator, who quickly confronted the Envoys.

Back then, the Administrator seemed like a distant and lofty figure in YuWon's eyes.

He didn't dare to even consider approaching him, as he seemed so unattainable and far away.

But now the situation was different.

"A little... I can see it."

Administrator.

The figures that dominated this Tower, beings no different from Gods.

In fact, they truly possessed divine abilities in this Tower.

However, that didn't mean they were invincible.

In fact, there was an incident in the past where a High-Ranker from a top-ranking class ended the life of an Administrator.

"Don't get too tense."

Crack, crack-.

The Administrator's fist charged with Arcane Power.

"I am the Tutorial Administrator, so I don't have impressive abilities apart from this. I don't have great talents due to my simplicity and lack of learning."

His hand extended forward.

Without special abilities, it was just a fist charged with Arcane Power.

He had no great talents. Undoubtedly, he was the Tutorial Administrator.

However, that didn't mean he could be ignored.

'I don't know if he's unable to use abilities or simply doesn't use them...'

Crack-

YuWon's grip on the sword tightened.

'The opponent is now an Administrator.'

No matter how high or measurable his power was, he was still a being that was beyond his reach.

If his abilities were limited to physical and magical capabilities, that only increased the need for caution.

If he had special abilities, he might find a way to evade them, but without any tricks up his sleeve, there was no way to avoid his power.

And right at that moment...

Swish-

The Administrator's slow fist extended forward.

"Let's begin."

An unusually slow fist that reached out into the empty air.

In that instant, as he observed that.

A chill ran down his spine.

He felt a strange sense of danger that had already filled the room.

Crack-!

Using the Steps of Hermes, YuWon jumped high backwards and looked at the hole that had formed behind where he stood.

Straight from the fist.

The wall was cleanly and effortlessly pierced through.

And in the next moment...

Shoo-

Within his Golden Cinder Eyes, the Administrator moved swiftly.

"As you said, let's begin..."

YuWon's body, which had jumped high, turned upwards.

"This is not a surprise attack."

Just before those words echoed.

[The power of a Giant adheres to your body]

Woosh-

Arcane Power spread throughout YuWon's body, and the power of a Giant clung to his being.

Almost at the same time...

Kwaaang-!

The Administrator's fist crashed down on YuWon from above.

Kwaaang-!

It smashed through the floor and sank deeply into the earth. YuWon couldn't withstand the Administrator's power.

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' adheres to your body]

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' protects your body]

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' is broken]

[The defense has partially failed]

Ting, ting-.

Despite using the Giant transformation and believing he had blocked it, it wasn't so.

The ability that protected YuWon's body broke with a single blow. Furthermore, the impact clearly persisted in his arms, which had blocked the fist.

What kind of absurd power was this?

"Hercules is supposed to have the strongest body in the Tower..."

That's when he realized.

This Tower was truly vast and filled with all sorts of things.

"Maybe that's not true."

The 'Blessing of the Sea' had been broken.

No matter how giant he became with the transformation, it was impossible to block something like that head-on.

He had to deflect and avoid it as much as possible.

YuWon considered that he was facing Hercules.

"What are you thinking?"

The Administrator, who had been waiting for YuWon, raised his fist once again.

"I have no intention of waiting any longer."

Boom-.

Kwaaang, swoosh, thud-.

The Administrator's fist split the ground with a powerful strike. Furniture fell and the entire building shook.

Bang, bang, bang, bang!

The punches continued one after another.

The Director, who had been throwing punches with force, suddenly felt something strange and stopped for a moment.

A piercing pain in his hand.

Kugh-

When he looked at his hand, he saw a burn mark. Soon, a column of fire rose from deep within the earth.

Aaaah!

The fire soared high.

It was small, but hot enough to burn the Director.

"So this is the Fire that Surt had been gathering so painstakingly."

Surt was an existence with a power threatening enough even for the Administrators.

Naturally, what he was doing was reason enough for the Administrators to be on guard, and they had some knowledge of his movements and actions.

The 'Fire.'

It was a massive concentration of Arcane Power that Surt had accumulated over the centuries.

That was what resided within YuWon's body.

"I still don't handle it properly, it seems." (YuWon)

Fwoosh, fwoosh-

YuWon, who had been buried in the earth, wrapped his body with the 'Fire' and emerged.

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Kwang-!

The sound of an explosion resounded behind them.

When he turned his head, the Administrator saw YuWon with his Golden Cinder Eyes activated, wielding his sword and attacking.

Swoosh-!

The Administrator raised his arm to block YuWon's sword. At the same time, purple flames turned into waves and rushed towards the Administrator.

Kak!

Whoosh-!

Against the explosive flames, the Administrator, protecting his head with both hands, slowly looked up.

He couldn't find YuWon anywhere.

"As I thought..."

Boom-.

Pain~

He felt pain in the arm he had reflexively raised. A wound opened up, and blood began to flow.

"You have impressive combat skills, I must admit."

Bang, bang-bang-.

Bang-!

The sword struck his body, making a sound as if a piece of iron collided. It was becoming increasingly difficult to keep up with his speed, and in terms of strength, YuWon was gradually catching up to the Administrator.

The Administrator looked at YuWon.

Crackle~.

Whoosh-.

Darkness, Lightning, Fire.

Three magical attributes mixed and enveloped the body. When the most prominent destructive attributes mixed, the degree of physical strengthening was not normal.

'Furthermore, even to the point of resisting that Arcane Power with his giant form...'

It was too harmonious to be simply a skill gathered by chance.

A power that could become a mess became his home even with Gigantification active.

Although it still seemed a bit small and messy.

"Complete."

Boom!

Crash-!

The fist and the sword collided.

Rumble-.

The high ceiling shook, and the castle tilted slightly.

YuWon's eyes shone again.

The distance rapidly widened.

Whoosh-.

Only a small spark remained in front of the Administrator.

Boom-!

It exploded. The Administrator, engulfed in giant flames, looked at YuWon with fiery eyes.

"How insolent..."

Crash-!

The Administrator leaped toward YuWon, jumping from the ground.

The distance that had suddenly opened narrowed in the blink of an eye. YuWon did not dodge and collided head-on.

Flash-

Kwang-!

The clash between the two shook the castle once again. Debris from the building fell to the ground, and cracks formed on the walls.

'It's resilient.'

Sweat began to appear on YuWon's forehead as he swung his sword at the Administrator.

YuWon's stamina was quickly running out.

Thump-, thump-.

His heart beat violently.

It was as if it were screaming desperately for a break. The power that was too much for his body to bear spread from the center of his heart throughout his entire body.

But...

'There's no way to fight the director without pushing myself a little.'

The Administrator was an opponent who could make YuWon fight with all his might, and in this fight, YuWon could show how far he had come.

It was a unique opportunity.

Moreover, the outcome of this trial would determine the reward.

First of all, the trial was not about defeating the Administrator.

'He said, 'This is an event. A spectacle for the Players, for the Rankers, and for the Administrators!'

And the star of the show was himself (YuWon).

In this trial, the rewards were determined based on the "process" rather than the outcome.

Thump-.

That was the reason. Why he was pushing so hard in a fight against an opponent he didn't necessarily have to win against.

But that didn't last long either.

Whoosh-.

Thump-!

Unusual movement was noticed in YuWon's movements, as if his heart was burning.

"Guh-".

It was as if his heart was melting.

From the violently beating heart, an overwhelming amount of magic that couldn't be compared to the present was released.

It was the power that the heart, which had devoured the 'Fire,' was drawing out.

'I can't last more than a few minutes.'

The duration was shorter than expected.

The Fire being released from the heart was much more intense than anticipated.

In fact, it was an absurd amount.

'Is that why Surt was so interested in this?'

Even now, not all the limits had been revealed.

It was undoubtedly a power difficult to control. Especially because the power source was embedded in the heart, the more the power was forced to be used, the more burden was placed on the heart.

"But thanks to this..."

YuWon gritted his teeth at the Fire burning in his heart.

One last strike remained.

He had one devastating blow left.

'Maybe I can land a decent blow.'

Chapter 282

C282

Thump, thump, thump, thump~

It was as if he could hear the sound of drums in the middle of his chest.

It seemed like it would burst at any moment. The heart was boiling, and it was difficult to contain it.

"It seems like he's preparing something."

The Administrator looked at the Arcane Power that was beginning to rise at a great speed.

Something is coming.

And this time, it's quite threatening.

Whoosh-!

Purple flames enveloped YuWon.

['Mana Master' controls the flames]

['Golden Cinder Eyes' control the flames]

There were many ways to control fire.

But no matter how many methods there were, the size of the fire emanating from the heart was not small.



[State Anomaly: Burns begin]

[State Anomaly: Burns progress to Stage 2]

[State Anomaly: Burns...]

[State Anomaly: Overload begins]

Overload.

It was the most severe State Anomaly among the possible ones.

It was not simply about receiving injuries, but the body itself began to crumble.

"This is as far as it goes."

If the Overload started, there was even the possibility that the body would deteriorate and the Stats would decrease.

He had been ambitious enough.

This was exactly the limit.

Whoaaaaah-!

The flames that burst out condensed into the sword.

The Administrator, who saw the slowly forming sword of flames in YuWon's hand, raised his eyebrows in surprise.

"This is more than I expected."

The enormous sword of flames that Surt held in his hand.

That sword was now being created in YuWon's hands.

"Strike it."

Whoosh-!

The flames surged towards the Administrator.

He had no intention of dodging it. That was not in line with the Administrator's nature.

Ziiiiing-.

Magic sprouted from the Administrator's fingertips.

Whoaaaaah-!

The Administrator's body was engulfed by the giant flames.

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The Players who were fighting against Susanoo stopped.

Thick smoke rose in the sky, and a huge flame soared above the castle.

"Fire...?"

"What's happening?"

"Is there a fight going on inside?"

"With whom?"

Goo, goo, goo, goo-.

The castle weakened by the fire began to slowly tilt to one side. It looked like it would collapse at any moment, directly onto their bodies.

"It would be better to avoid it for now."

"Damn it! The Trial has completely failed."

"Hey, hurry up!"

The castle began to collapse within seconds once it started tilting.

The top of the castle, reaching up to the sky, fell to the ground.

Since they were high-level Players, it wasn't difficult for them to avoid the debris falling as it tilted.

Bang, crash-!

Rumble, rumble-.

The giant castle collapsed. As the debris fell, the players who had found a safe place slowly watched the column of flames rising in the sky.

"The temperature is becoming unbearable."

"What kind of Trial is this?"

"It's not a Trial."

The minds of the players, who were climbing the Tower for rewards, turned completely blank.

They thought they could handle everything with their numbers, even with Susanoo present.

But the problem wasn't the Susanoo they had in front of them.

They looked at that column of fiery flames.

If they had gotten themselves into a Trial where such things appeared, even having ten lives wouldn't be enough to survive.

"I surrender!"

"Me too!"

"I've never heard of this before!"

Panic and conflict quickly spread.

As one by one, players started to surrender, others cried out for help.

First of all, more than a life-or-death Trial, it was more like an event such as the Martial Arts Tournament of Murim.

The Envoys who were waiting quickly moved the players who had declared their surrender to other locations.

And the crowd outside, observing that scene.

"That must be Surt's Fire."

Hades, who was disappointed that he couldn't see YuWon properly fight, looked at the column of flames that appeared on the screen.

Through Hercules, he learned that YuWon had obtained Surt's Fire.

The problem was how YuWon would handle it, but it seemed he was handling it better than expected.

"A fire of that size..."

A Giant's castle would be the size of a small city at the very least.

If that Fire was large enough to rival a castle of that size, it meant it had devastating power to reduce a small city to ashes in the blink of an eye.

"Apollo, you..."

Dull-

Hades turned his head and saw Apollo trembling.

Among the Rankers who could wield fire magic, Apollo was considered the best among the Olympian Gods.

But now he was trembling.

"Why are you like this?"

Apollo opened his mouth with a small voice, muttering toward the screen where the size of the flames was visible.

"In Olympus, the one who could use the biggest and most far-reaching abilities was my Father."

Father.

Zeus, one of the Three Great Gods and the King of Olympus.

As Apollo said, Zeus was capable of unleashing his power to the point of destroying an entire city with a single blow.

"Although my Father is amazing, lightning magic allows for expanding the range. In contrast, fire..."

Unable to finish his sentence, Apollo let out the thought that came to his mind.

"A fire of that size, I have never seen anyone besides Surt produce it."

"Hmm..."

Listening to Apollo's explanation, Hades stroked his unkempt beard.

Surt.

Undoubtedly, he was considered the strongest when it came to fire magic.

However, just a few years ago, the individual who entered the Tower showed power that surpassed even Surt's.

"Even in the battle against Zeus, I didn't think it would be easy, but in these few years, he has reached this level..."

Suddenly, curiosity arose in Hades.

"What if..."

With a determined voice, Apollo turned his gaze away from the screen and looked at Hades.

"What do you think would happen if I were to fight against that guy?"

"If it's against the Big Brother..."

Apollo hesitated for a moment.

The opponent was none other than Hades.

Hades, the God of Death. He was the new King of Olympus after Zeus stepped down and currently held the 43rd position in the rankings, a higher position than before.

But...

Unless it was a sweet and pleasant flattery, the answer Apollo could give was already determined.

"I'm not sure."

He couldn't be certain.

Undoubtedly, Hades was one of the most powerful and magnificent beings Apollo knew in this Tower.

But just a few years ago, in the time that seemed so short to Apollo, after living for thousands of years, YuWon had arrived in Hades' territory.

It was something difficult to believe even when seeing it with his own eyes.

"I don't know either..."

And that impression was shared by Hades.

Sigh~

While looking inside the castle where YuWon was, Hades muttered to himself.

'Regardless of what happens, I definitely have to consider him as an ally.'

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Thud-

A strong impact pierced his body.

Another rock fell on top of him.

He wondered how many rocks he had been crushed under.

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' has been activated in your body]

Still, it was a relief.

Perhaps because enough time had passed for the cooldown of his ability to recover, the Blessing of the Sea once again protected his body.

If it weren't for that, he would probably have a fractured arm or leg right now, or maybe be unconscious after the impact.

"It hurts."

"Same here."

Thud, thud, thud.

In response to his words, a voice resonated next to his head.

Right beside YuWon's head, the Administrator rose, removing the many piles of rocks off his body.

"Don't you mind hitting yourself, huh?"

"Should I remove yours too?"

"It doesn't matter. It's not bad staying like this."

It was tiring to get up now. Even with the rocks on top, it was surprisingly comfortable.

For now, lying down was the most relaxing.

"However, I feel the same way too..."

YuWon lifted his head while lying down and looked at the Administrator on top of him.

His clothes faded away and disappeared, leaving a black burn mark on his chest. It was the mark left by their clash a moment ago.

"It seems I've won."

"From your appearance, I'd say otherwise..."

The Administrator couldn't deny those words.

"I suppose so."

At first, he had no intention of winning. In fact, he didn't even think he would get hurt himself.

YuWon's flames overwhelmed the power of his fists. He tried to deflect the force and block the fire with both arms, but in the end, he ended up in this form.

Although it was just one punch, YuWon's fire was not far below that of Surt.

Thud, thud, thud.

The pile of rocks on YuWon's body shifted.

Curious about what he was doing, YuWon watched as he used Gigantification on his arm to remove the pile of rocks.

Clang!

Kururur.

After pushing aside the pile of rocks that was on his body, YuWon dropped to the ground.

Observing that scene, the Administrator spoke with a mocking smile.

"It seems you don't like receiving help from others."

"Even a small help like this affects the reward, doesn't it?"

"As expected, you know our people well."

Those were words that couldn't be denied.

The intervention of the Envoys and the actions of the Administrators in the Trials were not free. Even their small favors affected the rewards.

YuWo didn't want to accept any help from the Administrators because he was aware that any assistance would affect the reward he would receive.

"What are the rewards?"

"Choose one of the two options."

It was a simple choice.

Sometimes, it happened when a higher record was set than the original requirement.

Yuwon nodded and paid attention to the words of the Administrator.

He had to think carefully before making a choice.

"The first one is to obtain permission to climb up to the 79th floor, as promised. But that's not enough."

"An item or a skill?"

"That's right. Insufficient rewards will be given in the form of an item."

An item.

It probably wouldn't be a common item. So far, it had been difficult to find a Trial with such a high level of difficulty.

There were expectations. YuWon was looking forward to the next option.

"And the second one is to obtain permission to climb up to the end of the Tower."

"To the end...?"

It was an attractive condition.

Yuwon needed time. And climbing the Tower and completing the Trials were the tasks that would take the most time for YuWon according to his current plans.

If that were the case, he could significantly shorten the time.

"He knows what I need and tells me. Is it a choice between time and an item?"

He didn't know what kind of item they would give him. If it turned out to be something he didn't need, it could become a valuable possession.

On the other hand, time would never betray him. But, on the other hand, climbing the Tower was something he could do anytime if he dedicated enough time.

The deliberation was not short.

The Administrator patiently waited for YuWon without pressuring him. At the end of his deliberation, YuWon opened his mouth.

"I will choose the first option."

"Is reaching the 79th floor enough?"

"I will climb slowly, without rushing. I'm already going fast enough."

Building a tower hastily only led to collapse. YuWon was already climbing fast enough, and if he were more ambitious, everything he had built so far could crumble in an instant.

YuWon decided to strengthen what was beneath.

"Then, the decision is made."

After the Trial ended, the rewards were determined.

YuWon relaxed a little and, as he rested sitting down, his body recovered a bit.

He stood up from his seat.

The Tutorial Administrator.

Since he first saw him, there was something on his mind.

"More than that, there was something I wanted to ask you when I saw you again."

"Something you want to ask?"

YuWon nodded.

Due to the nature of the Tower, Players who had completed the Tutorial couldn't return to the Tutorial. The Tutorial was a completely different world from this Tower.

But fortunately, he had the opportunity to meet him again.

"The reward you gave me after the Tutorial ended, the Egg."

From that Egg, Danpung hatched.

And maybe...

"What exactly is it?"

The Administrator in front of him surely knew something about it.

Chapter 283

C283

"Egg..."

The Administrator stroked his chin.

The final reward from the Tutorial.

And there was the Administrator, right in front of YuWon, who handed it over.

"Where did this come from? I don't remember it well."

"Don't lie. You wouldn't be able to hand it over as a reward without knowing, right?"

YuWon's words made the corner of the Administrator's lips curve.

"As always, you're not easily convinced."

It was evident.

The Administrator knew the true identity of the Egg. He knew it and handed it to YuWon as a reward.

But...

"It's just that I have no reason to tell you about it."

The Administrator's response was different from what YuWon expected.

It wasn't easy to reverse the decision of an Administrator once it had been made. Their actions and words were governed solely by what was established, following the Tower System.

And that meant...

"Is it information you can't share with me?"

It was still information that couldn't be revealed to the Player.

"That's right."

There wasn't great disappointment.

After all, he expected it.

Because...

"It's information related to the Outer Gods, isn't it?"

Because the Administrators had never leaked information about the Outer Gods.

The Administrator's eyes gleamed.

Outer Gods.

That single word changed the Administrator's gaze toward YuWon.

"It seems you know a lot."

But it was surprising.

YuWon expected a much bigger reaction, but it turned out to be calmer than he thought.

The Outer Gods were something the Administrators would eventually confront, an existence as deadly as an enemy.

But despite mentioning their existence, the Administrator didn't seem surprised.



"I thought it was strange."

Woosh-

Arcane Power emanated from the Administrator's body once again.

The unrestrained Arcane Power overwhelmed YuWon. Unlike YuWon, who was in pieces, the Administrator's condition remained perfect.

He looked at YuWon cautiously and asked:

"Did you come from the Outside?"

From the Outside.

A world separate from the Tower, which was supposed to be where the Outer Gods lived.

The Administrator speculated if YuWon came from there.

"If so, wouldn't I have hidden it as best as I could?"

YuWon spoke as he reached into his chest.

He then took out Danpung, who was still sleeping soundly despite the chaos around them, and showed it to the Administrator.

"Surely you also know something about this creature."

Saeaeg, saeg-

Since when...

Danpung had been sleeping all this time. He didn't wake up even if you shook him or fought loudly.

When the Administrator saw Danpung, he recognized it as a creature born from the Egg.

"I see. That makes sense."

Ssssss-

The violently emanating Arcane Power from the Administrator was quickly restrained.

YuWon inquired about the existence of Danpung, which already somewhat demonstrated that YuWon was not an external presence.

"Did you suspect it?"

"We knew you were a strange guy. Not just me, everyone thought so."

The "everyone" he mentioned referred to the Administrators on other floors.

He felt that they were interested in him to that extent for some reason.

It wasn't simply because YuWon had the power to disturb the order of the Tower.

Perhaps they had suspicions that YuWon, as a Player, might be related to the outside of the Tower.

But YuWon was the first to mention the Outer Gods.

"Still, it's clear that you know something about the Outer Gods."

"I do."

"How...?"

"Why should I tell you something that you don't tell me?"

The Administrator's face wrinkled.

YuWon was not mistaken, of course.

They wouldn't reveal information they held to each other.

"Then just answer this."

The Administrator, who had sorted out his complicated thoughts, asked.

"Which side are you on?"

An answer regarding his relationship with the Outer Gods.

Probably, this would be the most important answer for the Administrators.

YuWon was able to answer this question.

No.

He had to.

Even if it was just to avoid turning the Administrators into enemies.

"I..."

A brief pause.

But YuWon made a decision immediately and opened his mouth.

"I have come here to fight against the Outer Gods."

"You've come here?"

YuWon didn't respond.

The Administrator knew he wouldn't get an answer even if he pressed and asked.

He sighed and lowered his head.

"You damned bastard."

The Administrator's gaze turned to Danpung, who was in YuWon's hand.

"Then let me tell you one thing."

Flash-

Whether he knew about the current situation or not, Danpung continued to sleep without signs of waking up.

"If you truly want to fight against them, you'll have to raise this being properly."

"This...?"

The unexpected statement made YuWon look at Danpung in his hand.

It was small and cute. Although he knew it had great capacity and many secrets, it was surprising to hear such an evaluation.

'That an Administrator who knows about the Outer Gods would say something like this...'

He didn't have concrete information, but his curiosity about Danpung only grew.

'I thought this kid was really the natural enemy of the Outer Gods, but is that really true?'

Outsiders that consume other Outsiders.

That's why YuWon thought Danpung might not be an enemy of the Outer Gods. At least, according to what YuWon knew, consuming the Outer Gods was beyond impossible.

But that was just YuWon's assumption, and he had no evidence.

But the fact that it was proven to some extent through the Administrator.

"So, now is the time for the reward you've been waiting for."

Giiing-.

The Administrator extended his hand.

The void distorted, and the Administrator's hand disappeared somewhere. Soon, in the Administrator's hand that reappeared, there was a long black spear grasped.

"Take it."

A spear.

It didn't look bad.

Although YuWon was more familiar with swordsmanship, he also knew how to handle a spear. He had thrown many spears in his throwing training, so he had some experience in wielding them.

With a pounding heart, he reached out to receive the spear.

And then...

["You have obtained 'Nir'."]

A familiar name appeared in the message.

"Nir?"

"You probably know about this item too."

It wasn't surprising at all.

The Administrator smiled and asked, as if expecting that reaction.

"I heard that you have thrown the Gungnir, right?"

YuWon's eyes lit up.

As expected.

It wasn't strange for the name Nir to evoke the memory of Gungnir. Not only were the names similar, but the length, shape, and the feeling of holding it were very similar, except for the color.

"Is it like the twin of Gungnir?"

"It's similar."

"It's really similar."

Kwack-.

YuWon tightened his grip on the Nir spear in his hand.

In his heart, he wanted to take this spear and fight again right now.

It was only natural that he had that desire, as he had a perfect opponent to test the spear against right in front of him.

But...

"If this spear is truly like Gungnir, I won't even be able to activate it in a normal situation."

Gungnir was an object that took quite some time to get going. Even Odin, who had wielded Gungnir for a long time, took quite some time to activate it and had to buy time until he could throw his spear.

Given YuWon's current abilities, it was unthinkable that he could buy enough time in a fight with the Administrator.

However, he still had a thought that arose in his mind.

"If that's the case, then I must strengthen the power of the King of the Dead."

A single powerful strike that can be activated takes time, and the "King of the Dead" was an exceptional skill to buy that time.

"I need more time to think."

The proper understanding of the items will come later.

But now, time was limited.

"Then, I'll look forward to it."

[You are moving to the 79th floor]

Whaaah!

A bright blurry light that hadn't been seen in a long time. With that blurry light, YuWon's figure disappeared.

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[You have passed the Trial]

[You have reached the 66th floor]

[You have reached the 67th floor]

[You have reached...]

[...]

[You have reached the 79th floor]

Hwaak!

The blurry view became clear.

This time, he had the sensation that his vision, which had been white for a long time, was gradually returning.

The surroundings, which had been completely white, started to return.

YuWon looked around.

From the top of a building, he could see the complex cityscape stretching out.

The size of the city and the height of the buildings, which were only the size of a small country, were astounding even when seen again.

"They said it was the 500th floor? How the hell did they build something like this?"

The power of magic and abilities was grand.

500 floors.

The world (Earth) where YuWon lived had also progressed a lot, but it was difficult to build such a tall building.

But the power of this World made it possible.

It wasn't thanks to any special technology or science.

This world existed with magic and abilities, and through that power, civilization developed.

This enormous building was proof of that.

"Did you pass the Trial?"

A voice sounded behind YuWon.

When he turned around, he saw a woman with short black hair dressed in a robe and holding a staff.

She seemed to be a guide for Players who had passed the Trial and ascended.

YuWon nodded, and the woman showed a curious expression.

"It's the first time I've seen someone pass alone."

"Yes, that's right."

It was complicated to go into details.

He didn't want to explain everything to a stranger when he was already tired.

The remaining stamina he had wasn't for that.

"Are you the guide here?"

"Yes, I am."

"Please, I need to use the training field. I don't remember which floor it was on."

Within this enormous building, there were a plethora of facilities.

Among them was an enhanced training field for Players and Rankers. It was a training field strong enough to be used not only by the 79th floor but also by various Rankers and Guilds in the Tower.

"Are you going to use it alone? Then it can be quite expensive."

"It doesn't matter."

"Well... Follow me."

The guide turned around.

YuWon followed her. They had to walk a lot since each floor was the size of a small island.

YuWon followed the guide and entered a transparent elevator.

The elevator swiftly went up and down through all the floors of the building. YuWon rode it and headed to the 101st floor.

At that moment.

Ring~

YuWon's Player Kit, which few people knew about, beeped.

[Harggan: Have you finished the Trial already?]

'Was he watching?'

It seemed that Harggan knew that YuWon was undergoing a special trial. Occasionally, Harggan would contact him when he was bored.

Of course, whenever that happened, YuWon would respond later.

But now there were more urgent matters.

However...

Bzzz...

When YuWon checked the message that sounded once again, he had no choice but to change direction.

"I'm sorry. I'll come back later."

"What?"

Despite the guide's confusion, YuWon quickly stepped out of the elevator.

It seems he'll have to postpone the testing of the new item he just acquired for a little while.

Right now, something more urgent had come up.

Ring~

YuWon called Harggan.

A brief ringtone.

-You must have been in a hurry.

This was the first time YuWon called Harggan. Naturally, Harggan had an unexpected reaction.

But there was no other option.

Because...

"Is it true?"

A message from Harggan.

It was about the person YuWon was searching for on the 79th floor.

"Did you encounter Zeus?"

Chapter 284

C284

The 21st floor of the building.

A courtyard with various restaurants and shops for food, alcohol, and other drinks. YuWon headed there.

"The kit says this place is a good spot to eat."

"Really? Shall we go in then?"

"I'm thirsty."

"Let's take a break and then continue. We've been walking a lot already."

There were many lively people around.

The view was literally that of a large shopping center. The 79th floor was one of the most crowded places in the world.

And amidst it all.

Whisper~

There was a prominent man sitting among the crowd, sipping his coffee alone.

"Who is that?"

"He's very handsome, isn't he?"

"It can't be Harggan, can it?"

"Harggan, the son of Zeus?"

Blond hair wasn't uncommon. But it was hard to find hair as bright as Harggan's.

It was thanks to his lineage.

Harggan, who was searching for various news with his player kit, looked up at the approaching shadow.

Black hair contrasting with his shining blond hair.

It was YuWon.

"Do you really have to wait in such a crowded place?"

Swoosh...

YuWon pulled out a chair from across and sat down, frowning at the gazes raining down on him.

There were people who recognized him and nodded upon seeing his face.

Most of them were residents, not players.

However, among them, there were also Tower climbers or mixed Ranker Players.

"I'm a bit weird. I don't really care about those looks."

"Be careful not to let your words slip."

"Don't worry."

Bzzz...

Magical energy flowed around YuWon and Harggan.

The sound became distorted. It was different from simply blocking the sound completely.

"It probably sounds like we're whispering from the outside. What do you think? Natural, right?"

It was strange to be in such a crowded place, but there seemed to be an aura of trust.

Still, it seemed they could talk a bit more comfortably.

"Did you encounter Zeus?"

"Yes."

Harggan leaned forward and spoke softly.

"He's close by right now."

The words came suddenly. YuWon's pupils moved.

The people who were looking at them. Their gazes.

Among them, he found a prominent face. If it were Zeus, his brilliance would shine even among so many people.

"You won't be able to find him no matter how hard you try. He's deliberately hiding."

"Why is he hiding? It's just me."

The Zeus YuWon knew wasn't someone who easily got intimidated. No matter how much stronger YuWon had become, he still wasn't on par with Zeus.

"It's not because of you."

"Then why?"

"He's just there, that's all."

A meaningful phrase.

YuWon reached out for the coffee cup Harggan was drinking. He took a sip of the remaining coffee, leaving his lips pursed, and looked around.

Whirl...



His pupils turned red.

His Golden Cinder Eyes searched for where Zeus was. Strangely, no matter how hard he tried to find him, he couldn't see him.

And then, suddenly...

Swoosh...

He lifted his head and looked up.

"He's quite far for you to say he's close."

Above the clouds.

Zeus was watching them from the sky. Like a god proudly gazing down on them.

It was typical of Zeus.

He was always arrogant and had abilities that matched his arrogance.

And that was the reason YuWon was looking for Zeus.

Of course.

He never thought he would be with Harggan.

"Are you alright?"

"Me? Why?"

"Maybe you're being threatened or..."

YuWon looked alternately at Harggan and Zeus.

'Zeus lost the Lightning Bolt. And Harggan is a small fragment of that Lightning Bolt.'

If Zeus was trying to retrieve the bolt, he would have come to seek YuWon.

But Zeus suddenly disappeared, and YuWon thought he didn't care much about the bolt.

Therefore, he hadn't thought about the meeting point between Harggan and Zeus.

But Zeus came to seek a much smaller fragment than what YuWon had. Perhaps he wanted to snatch an easier fragment from Harggan.

But luckily, Harggan shook his head.

"That's not it."

Harggan responded that way and then spoke softly with a slightly tired face.

"Although I'm going through a lot of difficulties."

"Difficulties?"

"Lately, I've been having a lot of problems."

On Harggan's neck, which he smiled stylishly, there was a black mark.

It seemed he had a rough idea of what it meant to have many problems.

It was surprising.

That Zeus, towards Harggan...

'I guess a father is a father after all.'

Although he couldn't say the same for the other children, it was different for Harggan. It seemed that Zeus also had some sort of paternal affection for him.

No.

'Although I don't fully believe it.'

YuWon leaned back in his chair.

Zeus was close. Now that he had confirmed that fact, he felt somewhat relieved anyway.

More than anything, the biggest gain was confirming that Zeus was not hostile towards him.

"What does he want?"

YuWon first found Zeus through Harggan.

He was the first to surface and reached out his hand to YuWon.

It meant he wanted something.

"My Father says he has a request for you."

"Really?"

YuWon placed both hands on the table.

"That's curious. I have something like that too."

"You too?"

"What Zeus wants, is it to regain his power?"

Harggan's golden eyes shimmered.

Arcane Power trembled around the two of them. YuWon realized that his words and voice were being transmitted to Zeus through that Arcane Power.

So, what he was about to say from now on was not for Harggan, but for Zeus.

"I know a method."

At that moment...

Kwaaang!

A thunderous boom rang out as if it could pierce through a thick wall.

YuWon waited with crossed arms. For Zeus, who would react to his words.

Fssh, fssh...

The crowd that had gathered around them split to the left and right. A striking-looking man walked through the middle, prominent enough to catch the attention of those with pale faces.

Tap, tap...

An identical face to Harggan's stood before him.

As if Harggan had grown up and turned into an adult over time, he seemed like he would look like this.

YuWon asked Zeus, who quickly approached while swiping the coffee Harggan had left.

"Aren't you moving too conspicuously?"

"What you said earlier."

Fssh...

Uncontrolled lightning crackled all over Zeus's body as his golden eyes gleamed.

"Explain it properly."

\*\*\*

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Unbeknownst to them, they stood out too much.

YuWon moved from his spot. The place was the rooftop of a building.

Originally, it was a restricted area.

But Zeus was bold.

"Move."

The Players who were on guard on the rooftop were taken aback.

Their leader, a Ranker, was equally confused.

"B-But..."

"If you don't move..."

Chiii...

Light erupted from Zeus's golden eyes.

"I will destroy everything here."

"Oh no, please."

The Ranker stepped back, waving his hands.

The opponent was Zeus.

One of the beings at the pinnacle of this Tower.

If Zeus was uttering those words, it wouldn't be a mere exaggeration.

He had enough power to bring down this towering building.

"Very well."

Zeus, who had pushed the guards away with threats, took a few steps as if it were nothing.

YuWon followed Zeus, observing his figure from behind.

Broad back.

Majestic and grand. That was YuWon's impression of Zeus.

"There are no people here. There is nothing conspicuous."

The rooftop was empty. It was so high that even the clouds could be seen from below.

There was no need to worry about the gazes of other people here. Zeus finally turned his body to look at YuWon, ready to engage in a conversation.

And then...

"Why don't you want to be seen?"

Zeus asked about the "what" in YuWon's mind.

"Do you mean the person 'whom' I'm thinking of?"

"Probably."

Nodding, YuWon's and Zeus's eyes met.

And then.

"Indra."

"Indra."

Both of them mentioned the same name at the same time.

The corners of Zeus's lips curved upwards.

As expected.

YuWon hadn't disappointed him.

And that was also YuWon's opinion.

'Did you really think up to this point?'

After hearing that Zeus had come to seek Harggan and that his target wasn't him, he had also wondered.

If there was a way for Zeus to regain his power, there was only one possibility.

'If we are thinking the same thing, it will be easier to talk.'

There was no need to beat around the bush in the conversation anymore.

Instead of complicated explanations, Zeus directly expressed what he wanted.

"I intend to capture Indra. If I catch him, it will be enough to complement the power of the Lightning Bolt you stole from me."

"Why go such a roundabout way? He must be a much more formidable opponent than me."

"There are two reasons."

Zeus glanced momentarily in the direction where Harggan was.

"One is because he is a friend of that guy."

"And the second?"

"Having you as an enemy doesn't benefit me."

"I can't understand the first one, but the second one is reasonable."

Both of them had the same goal.

To bring down Foolish Chaos and capture him.

And at least until that goal was achieved, they could be mutually helpful.

At least from what YuWon knew, Zeus was someone who sought logic more than emotions.

Probably, in his mind, he would have already laid out a plan to capture Foolish Chaos. (Interesting note: Actually, Foolish Chaos's true full name is "The Foolish Who Unleashes Chaos," but to avoid making the translation more difficult, it was decided to call him Foolish Chaos)

And perhaps, YuWon was part of that plan.

"We are drawing the same picture."

Internally, he was surprised.

YuWon knew the future. Moreover, he had invested a lot of time and effort in plotting that picture.

A picture that had become so difficult to create. And yet, Zeus had sketched it out without anyone's help but his own ingenuity.

Although it was a brief conversation, it was the first time YuWon had a real conversation with Zeus.

And in that conversation, YuWon had to revise his evaluation of Zeus.

"He is more than just a quantified Ranker."

Rank 9.

After losing the Lightning Bolt, his rank fell to two digits, but YuWon considered that ranking ridiculously low.

He already possessed abilities superior to what his rank indicated. No matter when his rank increased, it wasn't an unusual situation.

Moreover, when thinking about other means to replace the lost Lightning Bolt and plotting how to obtain it, it wouldn't be strange for his ranking to rise to the top 10.

"So, you already have the target, but do you have the method?"

He wondered.

How was Zeus planning to catch Indra?

In response to that question, Zeus replied without changing his expression.

"Can you move the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

YuWon's most powerful ally.

And also a recognized enemy even by Zeus.

"I need his help too."

This wouldn't be possible without his assistance.

And indeed...

"Don't worry about that."

Once again, YuWon's and Zeus's ideas coincided.

"That guy..."

After the Ragnarok had ended.

YuWon made a request to OhGong.

"He's already moving."

A question that YuWon originally asked to gauge Zeus's thoughts.

Anyway, now he was certain.

Zeus, the former King of Olympus.

YuWon's eyes gleamed as he looked at him.

'I will take this guy with me.'

Chapter 285

C285

"Achoo!"

Son OhGong sneezed and rubbed his nose.

"Who's talking about me?"

Then, scratching his itchy ears, Son OhGong stopped.

"Are you sure about this?"

The failed sneeze made his ears itch. His animal instinct told him that someone was talking about him.

But whether it was true or not...

Chi-.

Son OhGong lifted his head and looked up at the corrosive liquid dripping from above.

"Hey, Vritra."

Krrrr-.

The flickering eyes, intense red in color. He was still on guard against Son OhGong.

It seemed like he could breathe fire at any moment.

A blue sky. A green land.

In the midst of it all was a massive crater, which was Vritra's home.

"Don't look at me like that. I really didn't come to fight."

Son OhGong did his best to contain the urge to raise his staff and confront him. He wanted to fight Vritra again right at this moment. But that wasn't the purpose of his visit.

-If you didn't come to fight, why did you come all the way here?

"To stop the division."

-The division?

As if wanting a more detailed explanation, Vritra stood up and looked down at Son OhGong.

-What does that mean?-

"I don't have the ability to explain it accurately. I'm just conveying it to you."

-Does that mean there's someone higher than the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?

"Not higher, but beside."

After answering with such certainty, OhGong's eyes rolled from side to side, incredulous.

"Isn't that right?"

-Well, whatever it is, it seems someone else has said it.

"Yes, that's correct."

-However, I'm not sure. Division? It's not a word I understand much.

Krrrr-.

Vritra lowered his head, and his eyes reflected those of OhGong.

-All I know is that you have hurt us.

It had been thousands of years since the Dragons stopped acting in the Tower.

And Vritra was the leader who had brought those Dragons from the darkest places.

It was natural for him to be on guard against Son OhGong.

"Is that why you've allied with Foolish Chaos?"

Son OhGong smiled as if he knew everything and looked at Vritra.

Vritra didn't deny it.

To fight against Humans.

After waking up from a long slumber, he had allied with Foolish Chaos and decided to fight against humans.

But...

"Didn't I tell you before? His goal."

-I heard. Although I still don't fully believe it.

Foolish Chaos was neither Human nor Dragon, he was another being.

His existence couldn't be explained within the framework of the Races. Vritra had allied with Foolish Chaos because he wasn't Human and had decided to fight against Humans.

But...

-If his goal is the destruction of everything without distinction of Races, then we can't ally with him.

Vritra also doubted Foolish Chaos.

"We have no intention of fighting against you. In fact, we are closer to wanting to ally with you."

Son OhGong continued with the words that were conveyed to him.

"We are going to capture the Dragon Hunter."

The Dragon Slayer.

The one responsible for the initial conflict between Humans and Dragons.

Despite that, he was an existence like that of an Immortal, someone no one could kill.

This is the man that OhGong promised to capture.

-The Dragon Slayer...

A word that couldn't be easily spoken.

Vritra exhaled a hot breath.

His red eyes gleamed, and Vritra rose with his massive body.

-I can understand that Foolish Chaos is not trustworthy. I also suspect him.

Gru-

A powerful magical energy emanated.

Son OhGong felt the anger in the energy emanating from Vritra.

-But that doesn't mean I trust you.

The sky turned red, and the ground began to burn.

Son OhGong reached out for his staff carried on his back.

"It's just as he said, indeed."

"First, have a conversation. Of course, it probably won't end in just a conversation." (YuWon)

If it was a place where they should not fight under any circumstances from the beginning, YuWon wouldn't have sent Son OhGong.

The Dragons' anger towards Humans had accumulated for thousands of years.

And YuWon didn't believe that a few words could reverse the situation.

And that's why... He could send Son OhGong for this matter.

"So..."



Sometimes, when verbal communication doesn't work, non-verbal communication is needed.

"Let's break some things, and then we'll talk."

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"Indra is not immortal."

Indra.

A High-Ranker Player, Sixth in the Ranking.

He was said to be an Immortal being, capable of manipulating Lightning Attribute Magic and known as an Immortal just like Son OhGong.

However.

That information was incorrect.

"He only has multiple lives, he is not immortal in the sense of not dying, but of resurrecting after death."

Step, step.

YuWon, Zeus, and Harggan continued walking.

Behind them, the building they had just been in towered above them.

As they moved, Zeus continued his explanation of Indra to YuWon.

"So capturing him is not impossible."

In the Ranking Management Office, Indra was ranked sixth in the ranking.

In terms of destructive power, Indra was comparable to Surt.

And furthermore, he was immortal.

It was an absurd ranking.

"The reason Surt has a high ranking is because of his Fire, his enormous body, and his strength comparable to Heracles."

Being immortal was extremely advantageous in a battle.

If you can fight without fear of death, your strategies and tactics are greatly expanded. Plus, even after defeat, you can expect another encounter.

Naturally, that would have a great impact on the Ranking.

Despite that, Indra's Ranking was two levels below Surt's.

That's why Zeus had doubts about Indra's Immortality.

"However, it is surprising."

Zeus turned his head to YuWon and looked at him.

"Although I have something I want, I didn't think you would be willing to collaborate on this."

Zeus had noticed that YuWon didn't get involved in unnecessary matters and didn't use his power unless necessary.

But now, YuWon approached him to collaborate on capturing Indra.

There was no reason.

He probably wanted power like him, or maybe he wanted something else.

"Is there any reason why we have to kill him?"

It was a question with a background.

YuWon nodded. There was no need to keep it a secret, and he had enough reasons.

"It's because of his title."

"Title?"

"Indra, the 'Dragon Slayer'."

Dragon Slayer.

That was the title given to one who had killed countless Dragons, just like Heracles, the Giant Slayer.

In other words, Indra was considered a natural enemy and an enemy of the Dragon Race.

"So what you're saying is that you're going to capture him for the Dragon people?"

"Something like that."

"I understand what you're saying, but I don't understand why."

Although they had the same goal, the reasons they fought for were completely different.

If YuWon's answer was true, there was only one thing he wanted.

"Are you saying you want to achieve world peace?"

Humans and Dragons.

Two conflicting races, and the starting point where Dragons began to harass humans. YuWon wanted to put an end to that.

"It's not peace, it's the preservation of power."

"Power?"

"Do you think Foolish Chaos is just one entity?"

YuWon's words made Zeus, who was about to lead the march, stop. He felt as if he had been struck with a hammer on the head.

Foolish Chaos. Where it came from, what it was, what its purpose was. He knew nothing about that unfathomable existence.

YuWon's words, hinting that such an existence was not unique, were shocking enough to leave Zeus in a state of shock.

After a brief moment of pause, Zeus started moving again.

"To what extent do you know about him?"

It was a worrying question.

At this moment, Son OhGong was the only one who knew information about it.

It was not convenient for many people to know. Therefore, he had tried to hide it as much as possible...

"He will bring down the Tower."

From now on, it wouldn't be bad to gradually reveal information.

"Besides that, I don't know much. I don't know what kind of being he is."

It was not a lie.

Even YuWon and his companions, who had been fighting against the Outer Gods in the Tower and the Outer World for a long time, did not understand those entities.

"How boring."

The response was not what Zeus expected, so he closed his mouth disdainfully.

How much longer did they walk like this?

How much more time passed?

Crack~

A presence was felt among the bushes.

Tsutsutsutsu.

The Arcane Power emanating from Zeus enveloped the bodies of YuWon, Harggan, and himself.

The golden Arcane Power created a barrier that isolated them from the outside. In an instant, the Arcane Power absorbed all colors, separating the interior and the exterior.

"I found him."

A converging presence that grew stronger.

Along the opened path in the forest, hundreds of Players moved.

People with faces painted in a peculiar manner, like Native Americans, and blue hair tied up. Among them, there were also Ranker Players.

It was surprising that there were many players on Floor 79 and even Rankers among them.

It was a power comparable to that of a medium-sized Guild.

"Dragon Hunters."

Dragon Hunter.

That was Indra's title.

Furthermore...

"Are they Indra's Tribe?"

They were like a kind of tribe that served and worshipped Indra.

'Rankers and Players fighting alongside Indra against the Dragons. They are not registered as a Guild, but their number and power easily surpass most major Guilds.'

The existence of Indra and his tribe distanced Humans and Dragons. That's why Odin had long considered Indra and his tribe a nuisance.

However, that didn't mean he could do anything about it.

"Indra and his tribe are not just an ordinary Guild or group. They are more like a kind of religion, similar to the Heavenly Demon Cult."

The Heavenly Demon Cult was a religious group centered around the Heavenly Demon.

Their cohesion was much stronger than that of those who gathered for interests. To stop them, they would have to completely eliminate Indra's Tribe, down to the last root.

But considering their number, that was something difficult to achieve.

So, the only way would be to kill Indra, their leader, but it was known to be impossible.

Externally, Indra was an immortal existence.

"In a few days, there will be a battle with Indra's Tribe."

Upon Zeus's words, YuWon turned to look at him.

"Are you trying to lure Indra?"

"Yes."

It had been a long time since Indra had been active.

And that also applied to Indra's Tribe.

But now the situation was different.

"It probably won't be that difficult. The dragons have also started to move."

Zeus spoke as he observed Indra's Tribe moving noisily.

"They are the proof of that."

The fact that Indra's Tribe was moving meant that Indra had also started to move.

Since he had found Indra's Tribe as he had thought, it wouldn't be that difficult to lure Indra.

But...

"It's strange."

YuWon felt something uneasy about Indra's Tribe in front of him.

"Although they are a simple-living Indra's Tribe, gathering such power without any dragons appearing..."

Swish.

YuWon's eyes turned red.

The direction in which Indra's Tribe was heading.

At the far end, he saw a familiar face.

"It seems they have another enemy."

He thought they were preparing to fight someone else.

And that opponent, of course...

"Asura..."

The natural enemy of Indra's Tribe.

Chapter 286

C286

"Buarata mar kwaita."

"Mitar guo!"

"Tau!"

Indra's Tribe began conversing in their own language. Instead of being surprised to find Asura, each of them drew their weapons and channeled their magic, preparing for battle.

"They have gathered to fight against Asura."

He knew the relationship between Asura and Indra.

Asura held a grudge against Indra, and they had been fighting each other for some time.

"I did not come here today to meet with you."

Asura continued advancing without stopping as he said that.

"Of course, that does not mean I will simply let it go."

Asura unsheathed his sword.

It wasn't just one sword.

It was two.

Asura wielded a sword and a short spear.

"Two..."

YuWon looked at Asura's arms.

The Battle God with Three Heads and Six Arms.

It was a description that closely adhered to Asura and described his true form.

The stronger his opponent, the more heads and arms Asura would bring out to use in battle.

One head and one arm meant he wasn't using his full power.

"Well, Indra himself hasn't come out to fight."

YuWon didn't know how Indra's Tribe viewed Asura, but he knew the fear Asura inspired.

He was a battle demon.

No matter how skilled Susanoo was with the sword, it was difficult to compare him to Asura.

Asura didn't just wield a sword.

He was a Ranker who handled all weapons almost flawlessly.

YuWon had learned how to use weapons from him.

"Resent your fate of dying by my hands."

At that moment, Asura raised his two weapons.

"Turama-!"

"Turama-!"

Indra's Tribe charged towards Asura.

Tuhwaak-!

There was a collision between the mass of warriors and the lone warrior.

The arms, legs, and heads of Indra's Tribe flew through the air. Asura dove into them, dancing gleefully, and Indra's Tribe surged towards him, burning in the flame of death.

"Indra's Tribe is brave."

Religion and faith.

It was the only way to transcend the fear of death.

That's why Indra's Tribe were terrifying beings.

However...

"They are nothing more than moths."

No matter how many moths there are, they cannot extinguish a great forest fire.

From the beginning, there was a vast difference in their power.

Chas!

Drops of blood splattered towards the sky, creating a crimson mist.

Harggan's voice echoed as he observed that scene.

"When I was a child, my mother used to tell me ghost stories."

It was something common.

Adults' jokes to scare innocent children.

They could gradually be forgotten as one grew up, but childhood fears were not easily forgotten.

However...

"This is even more terrifying than the ghosts I used to hear about back then."

Harggan felt that Asura in front of him was even more terrifying than the ghosts he had imagined back then.

And to some extent, Zeus thought the same.

"It's quite impressive."

Zeus watched from a higher position. Still, he couldn't help but admire the skills he witnessed before him.

Asura wasn't using special abilities to overpower his opponent, nor was he crushing them with overwhelming strength. It was purely "technique."

How was it possible for him to handle a sword and a spear in this manner?

No wonder Asura had left a mark in this tower.

Puff!

Asura's spear pierced through the last remaining Ranker of Indra's Tribe.

Asura pierced through the opponent's heart and, along with the spear that impaled him, asked the impaled Ranker.

"Has Indra started moving?"

It had been quite some time since Indra disappeared.

After the Dragons descended into a deep sleep, Indra quietly hid away.

But now, many of Indra's Tribe were on the move.

It was not something common.

"Lakuma, Tar... Kaura..."

"What are you saying?"

"Kill..."

Words that were not from Indra's Tribe came out of the mouth of the Indra Ranker.

It was not an answer to the question.

Asura's hand did not hesitate.

"In that case..."

Puff!

The spear that was embedded in the chest was withdrawn.

A spurt of blood splattered onto Asura's face. Without avoiding the blood, Asura removed the spear, and the Ranker's body fell to his side.

Thump.

That was the last one.

Asura didn't sheathe his sword and spear again.

Instead, his gaze turned towards where YuWon, Zeus, and Harggan were.

"I came to have some fun, and I find something much more interesting."

The corner of Asura's mouth curled up, his face stained with blood.

"Come out, Kim YuWon."

Chas.

He pointed the tip of his sword at YuWon.

Zeus tried to conceal his presence using his abilities, but it seems he couldn't fool Asura even with his gaze.

YuWon and Zeus looked at each other.

Then...

"There's nothing we can do about it."

Zeus shrugged and released his ability.

Paf.

The magic barrier surrounding the three of them dissipated. Asura lifted the corner of his mouth as he looked at the now exposed three.

From that expression, YuWon knew why Asura had come here.

"Has he been pursuing me?"

It wasn't strange for Asura to be pursuing him. After all, he was curious about any newly appointed High-Ranker and wanted to face them.

Due to his personality, Asura was always seeking fights to the point where even Sun OhGong, who loved fights, said that Asura was wilder than him.

And that was a sentiment YuWon agreed with to some extent.

"I see."

It couldn't be determined exactly when Asura started showing interest in YuWon, but no matter when or where it came from, it wasn't strange at all.

**"Since it's due to Teleportation (縮地/Flash Step)." (Note: Similar to Shunpo/Flash Steps from the anime Bleach) (Note 2: But I'll call it Teleportation for now)**

Teleportation.

A Martial Art derived from the Tao of the Murim World, it was a skill whose name was widely known, but few people actually used it.

But according to YuWon, there was someone who used it.



"He has learned many skills from different places."

Asura's talent was unmatched among all the High-Rankers YuWon knew.

Especially when it came to learning Murim Martial Arts, Asura's talent was truly outstanding.

He was the only person who learned the Teleportation Technique in this Tower.

"I have come to find you."

Bek.

Asura walked over a corpse as he spoke.

"Not these losers."

Losers.

It was a word that referred to various High-Rankers and hundreds of high-level Players.

It was an arrogant word, but Asura had the right to say it.

"Fight me."

"Your personality hasn't changed even after being scolded by the Administrator."

YuWon's words made Asura's eyebrow twitch.

And in an instant, his figure vanished from the spot.

Swish!

He disappeared in the blink of an eye!

And in that blink of an eye, his spear and Zeus's Lightning Bolt clashed in a showdown.

Kwajiji!

Asura, who was pushed back by the force of the explosion, stabbed the ground for support. Raising his head, he directed his gaze towards Zeus.

"Why did you block? Wouldn't it be better if I fought him to the death?"

Zeus narrowed his eyes, his golden pupils shining.

"I don't like you at all, but for now, you're on my side."

"Oh..."

The guy who used to be so demanding when he was an enemy had now become a reliable ally.

YuWon marveled at his reliability.

On the other hand, Asura smiled with a face full of vitality.

"So, you're Zeus."

"I heard you went crazy, but you still recognize my face."

"I heard you lost power, got trapped in the prison of Asgard, and escaped miserably."

Despite Asura's provocation, Zeus didn't lose his smile.

In fact, he clicked his tongue and lowered his head.

"The true pride of those who are truly strong and powerful is not affected by the insults of the weaker ones."

Bek~

Zeus took a step towards Asura.

"Even though I've lost much of my power, don't mistake yourself for being in the same position as me."

"Really?"

The face of a child finding an interesting toy. Asura bared his sharp fangs as he smiled.

"Then, let me see it."

His hands tightly gripped his spear, and a red glow of magic emanated from his back, sending the scent of blood in all directions.

"I see that you'll only understand the difference when you face me."

Creack~

A bolt of lightning burst from Zeus's hand.

The energies of both clashed in the air. It didn't matter who moved first or when the fight started, it wasn't strange at all.

And in that moment, Asura's face changed.

No, it was a different face.

A second head appeared.

"Don't get carried away by the fight."

Unlike Asura a moment ago, that other face was calm and serene.

Asura responded to that face.

"How can I hold back when I encounter such an interesting prey?"

His opponent was none other than Zeus.

While his original goal was to find YuWon, Zeus was not someone who could be easily overlooked.

If he let it pass, it couldn't be said that he was Asura.

"It's not prey. Right now..."

"It doesn't matter."

Swish.

Asura shook the blood off his sword as his eyes gleamed.

"For now, I intend to face both of you. Both of you."

YuWon and Zeus.

The first head of Asura was determined to face both.

The second head sighed as if knowing it would be like this, lowering its head. Unlike the first head, the second head was not as aggressive.

Asura didn't step back.

And, of course, Zeus didn't have the inclination to step back either.

"There's no choice."

YuWon turned to look at Harggan.

"You'll be harmed if you stay."

"Do you want me to run away?"

"Here, you'll only be a nuisance."

YuWon's words made Harggan's pride-wounded face crinkle.

That meant running away so as not to get involved in this fight. He wanted to refute it, but he couldn't.

The fight between those two was truly a fight of Gods. YuWon at least had one foot in the realm of Gods, but Harggan didn't.

Harggan had seen Asura fight. And he knew that wasn't all he was capable of.

And he also knew better than anyone about Zeus's ability.

"There's nothing I can do about it."

All he could do now was yield and retreat.

If he stayed here, he would only distract Zeus from the fight.

Clack-.

Harggan turned around and walked away before the two could clash.

Harnessing the power of Lightning, Harggan's speed surpassed that of most Rankers.

Thus, Harggan vanished from his spot.

'It's unexpected.'

Creack, crack-.

YuWon slowly began to accumulate his Arcane Power as he looked at Asura, who sprouted two additional arms to fight Zeus.

"That these two will face each other."

Zeus and Asura.

It wasn't every day that two top High-Rankers fought each other.

Especially from YuWon's perspective, who was trying to turn Zeus into an ally, it was an opportunity to see the true power of Zeus, who had lost his Lightning Bolt.

Moreover...

'Maybe I can calm that lunatic down.'

YuWon's gaze shifted towards Asura.

Asura.

The High-Ranker who taught him how to wield various weapons.

YuWon already knew that in the moment he encountered him, he would need to calm down Asura's growing excitement and belligerence before anything else.

Chapter 287

"If Kim YuWon returns, wouldn't you be the one causing him the most headaches?"

Son OhGong chuckled.

Asura, who had been sitting silently like a rock throughout the meeting, frowned at Son OhGong's words.

"Shut up, Monkey."

"What? Monkey? Did I say something wrong?"

"What you said is correct, that's why it hurts even more."

Though he wasn't in the mood, Asura didn't deny Son OhGong's words. Perhaps he was the most dangerous of them all.

Asura's sudden actions in the past were as unpredictable as his variables. He had no regularity in his actions, making him difficult to predict.

"The first head was definitely out of control."

Asura had a total of three heads.

Among them, the head that moved the most was the first one.

The second head sometimes tried to control it, but who knows.

If he had been under proper control, Asura wouldn't have gained an infamous reputation in the Tower.

"What were you doing at that time?"

It was Odin's question that brought back Asura's infamous reputation from the past.

Then, Asura sighed and lifted his head.

"I was sleeping."

"Sleeping?"

"I hardly ever woke up, so..."

"Well, then, there's no way to stop you? Don't you have anything to say about it?"

When Son OhGong pressed him with frustration, Asura, who had been thinking for a moment, spoke up.

"Stopping the first head is surprisingly easy."

He, who attended the meeting, was the last of the three Asuras.

He was the third Asura.

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Zeus concealed his figure in the sky.

A flash of light shone in the sky. In that moment, YuWon raised the hand that held the Uranus Heart.

In the next moment...

Flash~

A mighty Lightning Bolt descended from the sky.

Kuang!

With the sound of thunder, the Lightning Bolt struck down.

Kwajijijijik!

The spear of Lightning poured down upon Asura's head.

Although he had lost his Lightning Bolt, Zeus was still Zeus. Asura, with two heads emerging, crossed his four arms to stop it with great effort.

Only the aftermath made YuWon's body tremble.

'To think he can display such power without the Lightning Bolt...'

The reflection of Zeus in the sky was mirrored in the Golden Cinder Eyes.

'It's truly impressive.'

Yes.

In his prime, he had enough power to wipe out an entire city with a single Lightning Bolt. It was like the Lightning Bolt that struck Camelot.

Compared to back then, undoubtedly, Zeus's Lightning Bolt power now was weak.

Of course, there were differences.

Pazhik, pazhijijik!

Unlike the Lightning Bolt that fell to completely destroy Camelot, the Lightning Bolt that struck Asura's head now had a shape more similar to a 'spear'.

Power grows stronger and sharper the more it is concentrated at one point.

Finally, the spear pierced through Asura's arm.

Kwajik!

The ground beneath his feet crumbled.

Pweeoeng!

A Lightning Bolt buried Asura deeply into the earth.

Zeus drove another sharp and powerful spear into him.

Crackle!

The Lightning Bolt was deafening.

YuWon looked in Asura's direction, using the Uranus Heart to prevent the Lightning Bolt from reaching him.

Four arms weren't enough. Finally, Asura fell to his knees and collapsed onto the ground.

Tuk-

Zeus descended to the earth again.

A cloud of smoke rose from the pit.

As Zeus approached,

Pazhik!

An arm rose from the ground.

Hwaak.

Asura's hand extended towards Zeus. A rough grip seized him by the throat, while other hands raised their weapons.

However...

Fajijjik-

Zeus's figure disappeared in a golden flash within Asura's hand.

Boom!

A yellow lightning enveloped Asura's body. The flash of light made Asura stagger back in shock.

"Insignificant talk."

Tuk.

Zeus descended to the ground.

"Did you think I wouldn't notice you hiding underground, waiting for me to come down?"

"I guess you didn't dare to come close."

"Well..."

The distance between them closed.

Kwak-.

Boom-.

"Ah...!"

Asura's eyes blinked.

Suddenly, against his will, Asura was lifted up. Zeus grabbed his neck with his hand and lifted him.

"Don't dare judge me for so little."

Grasp, grasp, grasp.

Pazhijijjik.

Kwaang!

Along with the Lightning Bolt transmitted through his hand, Asura was slammed into the ground.

It didn't matter whether the distance was long or short.

Firstly, distance only made sense if the powers were at a similar level.

But the difference between the two was so great that such distance was meaningless.

The gap between Zeus and Asura was as large as expected. YuWon was also surprised.

'The guy with two heads is falling behind like this.'

Zeus lost his Lightning Bolt.

That's why YuWon secretly underestimated Zeus's abilities.

Indeed, in the fight against Zeus, Zeus had drastically weakened after losing his Lightning Bolt.

Naturally, YuWon was thinking of Zeus based on his ability at that time.

"He has adapted."

For Zeus, losing the Lightning Bolt was like losing an arm. And it was his right hand, which he had used his whole life.

The battle at that time unfolded when Zeus had just lost his Lightning Bolt. Of course, he didn't have enough time to adapt to the lost power.

But now it was different.

"If the Rating Management sees this fight, Zeus's rating might rise again."

It was such an impressive skill that was what YuWon thought.

Of course.

'Asura is also the same.'

Creack~.

The ground where Zeus pinned Asura split open.

The Asura in his hands writhed.

Above the two heads, the third head began to faintly appear.

All the heads emerged.

No.

'Is the last head coming out?'

The third head of Asura, which YuWon knew, was coming out.

Pazhit, pazhijjik.

A Lightning Bolt flowed from Zeus's hand.

Instinctively, he also sensed the danger from the third head.

But at that moment...

Slash.

A long wound appeared on Zeus's face.

Surprised, Zeus released Asura's throat and took a step back. Like a ray of light, Zeus appeared at a short distance, and Asura's fifth hand slashed where Zeus had been moments before.

Zuruk-.

Drops of blood trickled down his cheek.

Zeus wiped away the blood with his hand.

"Seems like I forgot you had six arms."

It was a careless mistake.

However, the sword strike that Asura had just unleashed was much faster than imagined.

Zeus stood up and looked at Asura.

Three heads.

And six arms.

'I heard he's a monster with three heads and six arms...'

**The Three-Headed and Six-Armed Monster (三頭六臂/Three Heads Six Arms). The title he had been given since he began climbing the Tower and making a name for himself.**

"He lives up to his name."

The atmosphere had completely changed compared to before.

The guy who was strong but violent and uncontrollable had suddenly transformed into someone completely different.

It was a different feeling from when the second head emerged.

"At least you've become somewhat more useful."



The corner of Zeus's lips lifted.

Finally, the third head appeared.

The real fight would begin now.

Pazhijjik-!

The Lightning Bolts emanating from Zeus's body intensified.

The Lightning Bolts gathered in his hand and transformed into a spear. It seemed like the spear would be thrown with all his power at any moment.

The third head revealed itself completely.

Just as the two were about to collide again...

Thud-

Amidst that, YuWon approached on foot.

"This is as far as it goes."

Zeus's eyebrows furrowed at the sudden intervention.

"Step aside."

"This time, we think the same."

Asura's eyes blinked.

"Step aside. I don't want to kill you."

The killing intent from both spilled forth simultaneously. It was terrifying enough to be caught in the middle. But he had no intention of withdrawing from here.

YuWon turned his head and looked at Asura.

"You're here to fight me, aren't you?"

"And if I am, what?"

A look that conveyed whether they would fight or not.

YuWon shrugged at Asura's burning pupils.

"I'm pretty exhausted right now, so I can't fight."

Asura furrowed his eyebrows.

An expression of dissatisfaction.

"Exhausted?"

"I just finished a major trial recently. It's difficult to fight properly in my current state."

Although his energy had recovered immediately, that didn't mean he was in his best condition. In his heart, YuWon wanted to sigh deeply and rest properly.

"It's not like I can't fight at all..."

YuWon observed Asura's conflicted expression.

"He's probably not interested in a story that no longer arouses his interest."

Asura's purpose was fun.

A fight against a strong and exciting opponent. That was why Asura had sought out YuWon.

But if the target turned out to be a prey without appetite, then the thrill of the hunt would fade away.

"The problem is Zeus..."

Will he really continue this fight to the end?

YuWon turned his head and looked at Zeus. Surprisingly, he was already collecting his Arcane Power.

"That's unexpected."

Zeus had a strong sense of pride.

Naturally, he thought he would cling on and seek an ending.

"I have no intention of clinging to a fight with no gain. I'm not as obsessed with fighting as that guy."

"Really?"

It was a relief.

Asura calmed down a bit, and Zeus, from the beginning, didn't have much interest in fighting against Asura.

So the situation was roughly resolved.

With no need to worry about Zeus anymore, YuWon looked back at Asura.

"I have a proposal."

"A proposal?"

An expression of disbelief crossed Asura's face.

But curiously, the third head, the last one to appear, had a gleam in its eyes.

"You have my attention."

"There are two options."

"Two options?"

"Postpone our fight for later. Not when my body has immediately recovered, but in a few years."

Upon those words, the first head suddenly raised its voice.

"Why should I do that?"

A conversation among the three.

But fortunately, there was a simpler side to Asura's personality.

"Because by then, I will be stronger."

Asura's eyes sparkled.

Not the other heads, but the first one, the most bellicose.

"How many years do you need?"

"Three years are enough."

There was a brief silence. It seemed like the three Asuras were having a conversation.

And in the end...

"Can you promise that?"

Asura asked, biting the bait that YuWon had thrown.

"Yes. I promise."

He had no intention of breaking his promise.

If, indeed, within three years, Asura asked him for a fight, he would accept it.

"What is the second option?"

"Isn't there a more important opponent than fighting me?"

YuWon's gaze shifted downward.

Suddenly, he observed the blackened and charred bodies due to the fight with Zeus.

The Indra Tribe.

Their existence was a wound that couldn't be erased for Asura, like touching a painful past.

That's why YuWon said:

"We plan on taking down Indra."

The expressions of the Asuras hardened.

Indra.

From the moment that name came out of YuWon's mouth.

"You, what did you say...?"

"Do you want to join us?"

If Indra moves, Asura will surely move as well.

Therefore, he didn't plan on actively seeking him out.

'Thanks for appearing in this way first...'

YuWon extended his hand toward Asura.

'Things will become a bit easier.'

Chapter 288

C288

There was a long conversation among the Asuras.

The first Asura was furious, the second Asura remained silent.

And the third Asura, who controlled the other two, made a decision.

"I will find you later."

He spoke as if he could locate him at any time if he so wished.

And in reality, YuWon had no intention of denying those words.

"Do as you please."

He had already mastered Teleportation, so he could move freely around this Tower at any time.

While he wasn't the fastest in battle, he was the fastest at traversing long distances.

Teleportation.

Simply bending space, he could move in a different dimension from others.

Paat-

When Asura took a step, he suddenly disappeared from the spot.

"That's Teleportation?"

Zeus murmured in admiration.

Although he was one of the top beings in this Tower, Teleportation was a skill even Zeus rarely witnessed.

Upon hearing his murmurs, YuWon looked at Zeus.

"It seems like you know a lot about Asura."

When Asura first appeared, it was Zeus who challenged him to a fight.

That was different from the personality of Zeus that YuWon had understood.

And indeed...

"I knew about the relationship between Asura and Indra."

As always, Zeus's fights had a purpose.

"I need to see his ability. Whether it's useful or not."

Verification.

Zeus, encountering Asura for the first time, needed to know how good he was.

Ranking was determined for various reasons.

Strength, position, fame, Power.

But all Zeus needed was Power.

"Asura's goal is Indra. He trained over and over again to capture him. Seeking fights with the strong was part of that training."

Zeus knew it better than he had thought.

Why was Zeus seeking Asura?

Zeus answered the question in YuWon's curious eyes.

"My plan is to capture Indra, and it's the same as that guy's."

The same objective.

That meant they could be on the same side.

Zeus didn't rule out that possibility.

"Asura was a card I had in mind for that purpose, though I didn't expect him to appear before me in this manner."

Zeus smiled, revealing his white teeth.

Things were resolved more smoothly than planned. And YuWon also had the same thought.

It was ironic.

The more closely he looked at Zeus...

The more he realized they had many similarities.

He wondered if Zeus knew that too.

After a brief moment of reflection, YuWon began to walk.

"I will change the plans."

As expected.

"Yes, because Asura has joined."

Zeus received the answer as something obvious.

-----

Thud-

A wingless Dragon fell to the ground.

A man with long, unkempt blue hair looked at the fallen Dragon. He was a man wearing only pants and nothing else.

"Bring your people."

The Dragon bared its teeth at that tasteless voice.

Despite the loss of both wings, the Dragon's fighting spirit remained unchanged.

-That's not possible.

"Scream for help. Maybe you have a chance to survive."

-I can't sacrifice my comrades to save myself.

The Dragon laughed disdainfully, reflecting the figure of the man through its eyes.

-I am not you, Indra.

The man frowned.

But only for a moment.

Indra stood up and looked at the sky.

"Unfortunately for you..."

¡Kyaaaa!

A deafening scream echoed in the sky.

Instantly, a black horde revealed itself among the clouds.

"It seems like it's already too late."

-Why...?

Thud-

The same thing was happening on the ground.

A group of creatures with two legs and wings approached.

And in their midst...

*Zzzzzz.*

There was a beast radiating an overwhelming presence.

"Fafnir."

The corner of Indra's mouth curled up.

¡Zapzapzapzap!

A blue lightning bolt burst from his body, displaying his white teeth. The moment he saw Fafnir amidst the group of Dragons, Indra was certain.

"So, they've started moving now?"

The Dragons that had been sleeping and avoiding him until now began to move.

Crackle, zapzap-

The electricity spreading around Indra gathered at the tips of his fingers.

"Come, come."

The corners of his lips twitched with madness.

¡Kwajajajak-!

Indra's hand extended in front of him, and a bolt of lightning shot out from the tips of his fingers.

¡Kwalung-!

A blue lightning bolt pierced the ground.

The Dragons were engulfed by the wave of lightning as if swept away by a tsunami. The tough scales of the Dragons were meaningless against Indra's lightning, and only one survived.

Krrrr-.

The leader of the Dragons.

Fafnir.

Indra gathered power in his hands once again upon sensing Fafnir's Arcane Power.

Ssik-.

"I see we start anew today."

The corners of Indra's lips lifted, and his blue eyes gleamed.

"The hunt for Dragons."

-----  
After meeting with Asura, YuWon returned to the city.

After settling into his accommodation and resting fully for a day, YuWon returned to the training grounds.

This time, instead of a sword, he held a spear in his hands.

Step-.

When YuWon set foot on the training grounds, he looked around.

A training ground the size of a small island.

He had visited this place several times before, but he was always amazed by its size.

"The training ground on the 79th floor is the strongest in the Tower. It is designed to withstand the training intensity of many High-Rankers, so it should be fine."

The advantage of this place was its complete isolation from the outside world.

The impacts within the training grounds did not spread outward, and there was no need to worry about the gazes of others.

And it was also spacious enough to allow any type of training without restrictions.

Originally, it was a place used for the training of the Great Guilds, but YuWon rented the entire place for a day.

"It's quite expensive."

100,000 points.

That was the price of an item that could be used by most Ranker Players.

It was a considerable amount just to use the training grounds for a day, enough to make even a rich person feel uncomfortable.

But it was worth it.

YuWon looked at the spear in his hand.

"Nir."

The object known as the half of Gungnir.

Unlike the Uranus Heart, which he had imagined to some extent, this was an unexpected object for YuWon.

Naturally, its capabilities were unknown and unforeseen.

For now, the first thing was to familiarize himself with the object.

He had to understand what power it had and how to handle it so that he could use it in real situations.

Whoong-.

The first thing he tried was to swing it lightly.

It was a heavy feeling.

It was heavy enough that even experienced Rankers would find it difficult to handle.

In terms of the feeling in his hand, it didn't seem like a spear designed to be swung. Although he didn't know who had designed the object, it resembled more of a spear designed to be thrown.

If it was just the feeling of holding and swinging it, only one object came to mind.

"It really looks like Gungnir."

YuWon had experience handling Gungnir properly.

And not just in this life.

Before returning using the Clock Movement.

YuWon had thrown Odin's Gungnir several times during battles with the Outer Gods.

To activate the Gungnir that responded to Odin's Arcane Power, YuWon always carried items infused with Odin's Arcane Power.

A strategy set in case Odin couldn't throw the Gungnir and someone else needed to throw it.

But as expected, Odin was the one who handled Gungnir the best. Therefore, YuWon had no intention of obtaining Gungnir even if he had a lot of greed.

Gungnir truly showed its true value when it was in Odin's hands.

That's why secretly, YuWon wished to have more Gungnirs.

"A single strike from Gungnir can change an impossible-to-win battle."

Ggwaak-.

Strength flowed through the hand holding Nir.

In YuWon's mind, he recalled the recent fight with Surt.

"But it will take a long time to activate it."



That's what was needed.

The same went for using Gungnir.

Fizz, fizz-.

By injecting magic into the spear, it began to vibrate and react.

["Activating 'Nir'."]

[Activation level 1%]

[Activation level 2%]

[Activation level... ]

Tsu, tsutsutsu-.

Magic infiltrated the spear, amplifying itself. Up to this point, the reaction was similar to that of Gungnir.

Giiiiing-.

The magic amplified over and over again.

Then, the amplified magic focused at the tip of the spear without dispersing elsewhere.

Could so much magic accumulate in a single object?

The corner of YuWon's lips curved upward.

"It's real."

Nir.

The other half of Gungnir.

Unlike the Lightning attribute Gungnir, the magic emanating from Nir had a Darkness attribute.

Thud, thud-.

The hand holding the spear was being forced. It was likely that he would lose his grip on the spear at any moment due to that force.

The spear was becoming heavier and heavier.

In the current state, it was difficult.

[The power of the Giants roots in the arm]

The feeling of weight became slightly lighter.

"I have to reduce the activation time."

In the next trial, YuWon had a thought.

[The 'Tartarus' has been opened]

Tsutsu, tsutsu-.

The hand holding the spear moved toward the hand holding the Uranus Heart.

Tartarus.

Through this power, YuWon was able to handle dark attribute magic. Tartarus magic came from a source deeper than hell, which helped control the magic emanating from Nir.

Thud, thud-

Three minutes passed like that.

[Activation level 99%]

YuWon decided the direction to throw the spear.

The direction was forward.

"I don't think that will happen, but..."

Considering the intensity of the training grounds, it was absurd. This training ground was designed to withstand even the fights of the highest rankers.

However, he couldn't be completely at ease.

"If this doesn't work, at least I have this."

With this power, it seemed like he could pierce through anything, whether it be the training ground or any other place.

That would be troublesome. If by any chance the spear pierced a wall upwards or downwards, it would endanger the people in the building.

That was the reason why he had to aim sideways even if the spear pierced the wall.

And in the next moment...

[Nir is activating.]

Flash-

Devouring all the light around it, Nir separated from YuWon's hand.

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The Obelisk.

The central building of the 79th floor, a prominent construction even within the Tower.

With millions of people moving in a single building, an impenetrable defensive system had been established that no Ranker could shake.

That's why it was the main tourist attraction of the 79th Floor where everyone could feel safe.

Woong-

But in that place...

A small vibration occurred.

"What's this?"

"Some kind of event?"

The faces of the visitors who arrived at the Obelisk brightened.

The prosperous Obelisk sometimes held events for the guests. It was a kind of festival where famous Rankers were invited to showcase spectacular abilities or compete against each other.

At first, there wasn't much confusion. In fact, some even cheered upon discovering the direction of the vibration.

But...

Crack, crack, crack-

Thud-

The vibrations intensified, and cracks appeared in the walls of the Obelisk, which hadn't even shaken, let alone broken.

"It seems this isn't an event..."

Crack, crack, crack-

"This doesn't seem like an event, right?"

The faces of some astute Players turned pensive.

In the place where they stood, cracks slowly began to appear.

Chapter 289

Koo-koo-koo-

YuWon stood still, staring at the sky unfolding before him.

There was a hole in the wall.

Not just an ordinary hole, but a huge hole, large enough for an entire section of the wall to disappear.

And beyond that hole, through the visible horizon line, a thick cloud with another equally large hole could be seen.

"I can't believe it..."

Truly, the wall had been broken.

Puff...

With the remaining remnants of his magical power, YuWon looked toward where Nir had passed through the breach.

The surface of the broken wall was smooth.

It seemed more like the wall had faded away rather than broken.

Gungnir was an object with the power of the Lightning attribute.

In contrast, Nir had the opposite attribute: Darkness.

This aspect was to be expected, as both possessed the power of annihilation and corrosion.

"Its power is as impressive as I expected."

YuWon's expectations for Nir were exactly the same as those for Gungnir.

Gungnir.

Odin's Spear, the strongest in the Tower.

Nir was equally powerful.

And it was no different to say that the Gungnir he had been waiting for was in his hands.

After a few moments of admiring the power of Nir...

"What the hell?!"

Gasping for breath, the guide who had led YuWon to the training ground rushed over.

"What have you done..."

He stared at the sky visible through the hole in the training ground wall and was speechless.

He had an expression of disbelief on his face, as if wondering how such a hole could appear there.

YuWon had nothing to say and avoided his gaze.

He also felt guilty in a way, as he couldn't deny his involvement in what had happened.

"I will contribute something for the repairs."

"I-Is it only here? There are cracks on all five floors, above and below."

"I'm sorry."

"Sigh-."

The guide held his frustrated head.

Although it wasn't his responsibility to deal with this as a lower-ranking person, after all, he was the one who brought YuWon here.

"According to the rules, if the training ground is damaged, it is our responsibility as those who built it, but..."

He saw the hole that YuWon had created.

"This is so unheard of that I can't even begin to imagine..."

The guide had originally thought that the training ground, boasting enough resilience to not break unless Odin threw Gungnir, wouldn't break or fade away as it had.

No one had anticipated a situation like this.

Meanwhile...

Buzz~

Through the abruptly opened hole, Nir returned to YuWon's hands.

Click.

[Engraving is complete]

[Nyr has recognized its new owner]

[Activation conditions apply]

Perfect.

An item that only he could use.

He couldn't feel any safer.

It even has a recovery function, making it more perfect.

While it required some concentration, the throwing object had all the necessary functions.

There was no more perfect item than this. It was the ultimate strike YuWon needed.

"Is that the spear?"

YuWon forced a smile.

Turning his head, he saw the Ranker from the Obelisk, who had been alerted of the situation, enter the room.

"Yes."

"We will take care of the repairs, but in the meantime, you will likely be banned from entering the training grounds."

An expression filled with concern and anxiety.

It was understandable. If YuWon were to use the training center again and the same hole appeared in the wall, it would be a real problem.

"I'm sorry about that."

"No, it's not the first time."

Not the first time.

YuWon looked perplexed.

Although he had quite extensive knowledge of history, this was the first time he had heard that particular story.

Well.

"I don't know everything," Yuwon thought to himself.

The information he had gathered was limited to the necessary plans to fight against the Outer Gods.

"The Obelisk collapsed once. It was rebuilt to prevent something like that from happening again, but..."

"Who was responsible?"

Several candidates crossed YuWon's mind.

The most likely one was Odin. His Gungnir, like his own Nir, had the power to bring down the Obelisk.

However, the name mentioned by the Ranker was different from what YuWon expected.

"It was Indra."

-----

YuWon left the training ground and headed to his quarters.

The battle with Indra was approaching. Since he was about to fight, he planned to rest for the remainder of the day.

After entering the dormitory...

-It was Indra.

YuWon remembered what the Obelisk's manager had told him earlier.

'That wall...'

Although it was before they reinforced it, it was a statement that gave food for thought.

Indra.

An opponent he had never fought before, not even known.

Of course, his opponent was Asura, not YuWon.

'But there are more variables than I thought.'

Indra's overthrow by Asura was not the work of a single person. Indra, weakened by the war against the Dragons, was defeated by Asura in that battle.

A Rank 6, a High-Ranker.

Indra was not like Odin, who belonged to the powerful Asgard faction, but someone who reached that Rank solely with his pure strength.

YuWon estimated Indra's ability based on that Rank.

However, it seemed that he would have to change that assumption.

'Indra is a High-Ranker who has been inactive for thousands of years. It's natural for that long period of inactivity to be reflected in his Rank.'

However, despite that long period of inactivity, his Rank had not changed.

'After the Dragons moved in the Ragnarok, Indra broke his period of inactivity and started acting.'

YuWon began to gather the information in his head.

Indra's abilities.

His whereabouts, goals, and future tendencies.

At this moment, YuWon imagined what that guy would be doing.

'Hitting Indra's tribe to lure out Indra...'

He thought it was a good plan.

That thought had not changed. However, there was a slight shift in his thinking.

'Maybe the Dragons can't stop Indra.'

The Ragnarok started earlier than expected.

Naturally, the activities of the Dragons began earlier because of that.

Woong-.

Just then, the player kit rang.

[Indra clashed with Fafnir].

A message came from Son OhGong.

YuWon's eyes widened. He got up from the bed in his room as he read the next message.

[I let Vritra go for now. What should we do?]

It seemed he would have to advance the timeline a bit.

-----

"Hmm..."

Son OhGong scratched his chin.

As he moved on the desert rocky ground, his gaze turned to the player kit.

"No response."

There was no response from YuWon. If YuWon had checked, there should have been some form of communication.

And that meant...

"Is he telling me to do as I please?"

It also meant that there was nothing in particular to be cautious about.

Son OhGong's eyes sparkled. Soon, Vritra's voice resonated in his ear.

"Why are you following me?"

After hearing the news of the collision between Fafnir and Indra, Vritra stopped fighting against Son OhGong and immediately moved. Fortunately, Son OhGong's Flying Nimbus was fast enough to keep up with the dragon's flight.

Son OhGong persisted in following, which irritated Vritra, but Vritra couldn't keep worrying about Son OhGong.

At this very moment, Indra, Fafnir, and the Dragons would continue fighting.

Sssk-.

The corner of OhGong's lips lifted.

Actually, this situation was favorable to OhGong.

"I told you, I had no intention of fighting against you guys."

"Are you going to fight Indra?"

"Yes."

"It's not necessary. This is a matter for our Dragon Race."

"Now is not the time to discuss that, right?"

OhGong's words made Vritra go silent.

He was not wrong.

The opponent was Indra.

The Dragon Slayer. The natural enemy of Dragons.

Half of the Dragon Race had vanished in his hands. Fafnir had gathered an army to challenge Indra, and history would repeat itself once again.

But maybe not this time.

After all, he was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, a presence strong enough to count on one hand even in this Tower.

"Instead..."

Vritra's eyes turned upward at the voice, which now sounded above him.

"When we capture Indra this time, don't hate humans too much."

"That's absurd."

"Well, just think about it a little."

It was acceptable to receive a response like that.

At this moment, OhGong trembled with excitement for the upcoming fight.

'I have conveyed everything I had to say.'

The reconciliation between Dragons and Humans.

Son OhGong had sought out Vritra for that purpose.

And, as YuWon said, OhGong extended his hand towards Vritra.

His task ended here.

From now on, he could fly freely.

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The ground was stained with blood.

Indra stood in the center of the battlefield, half-naked and covered in blood, and looked at the great Dragon in front of him.

"Your resilience is truly impressive."

Indra's hand rose.

Pajajjik-.

A lightning bolt concentrated at the tip of his fingers.

Roar-!

Scream-!

Fafnir cried out as he was struck by a powerful blue lightning that engulfed him.

Thud-.

Fafnir finally knelt before the waves of lightning that swept through his body.

As a member of the Dragon Race, Fafnir had an innate resistance to mana-based powers. Fafnir had exceptional physical prowess even among his own Dragon Race.

But that didn't mean much against Indra.

It was not simply because he was the natural enemy of Dragons.

"How have you become stronger?"

Rank 6.

It was quite a high rank.

Fafnir knew the rankings, even if he didn't have player privileges and wasn't included in them.

However, despite that, Fafnir couldn't understand why this fight was so one-sided.

"I have trained relentlessly."

Clap-.

Indra clapped his two fists together.

"Unlike you, who just waste your time flowing aimlessly."

The Dragons had been in hiding for thousands of years.

During that time, Indra had tempered his body.

Relentlessly.

Pounding his own body over and over again, he gained his current power.

And this was the result.

Dragon Hunting.

Half of the Dragons had vanished by his hand. He intended to kill Fafnir and Vritra, the leaders of the Dragons, and the remaining Dragons.

That was the purpose of all his cultivation and training.

"You are the beginning of it."

Zap, zap-.

Arcane Power accumulated in Indra's fist.

Just as he was about to strike Fafnir's head and crush his skull in one blow...

Aaargh-!

A shrill scream echoed from somewhere.

Indra and Fafnir also felt something strange.

Soon, a dense shadow loomed over Indra's head.

"Indraaa-!"

The voice drew closer, and in the next moment...

Crash-!

Indra's body was crushed by a massive staff. Fafnir, still lying on the ground, looked up and saw the staff towering into the sky.

At the end of that staff...

"I've heard that you're strong."

A man with white hair and a mischievous expression stood there.

"Let's fight."

A man, the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who appeared alongside Vritra, approached Indra to engage in a battle.

Chapter 290

There was a moment of silence.

Son OhGong, standing at the top of Ru Yi Bang, awaited Indra's reaction with a perplexed expression.

"Is he already dead?"

He tilted his head and looked down, beneath Ru Yi Bang.

As Indra showed no signs of reaction, Fafnir looked at Vritra.

-What happened?

In fact, Fafnir had called for Vritra's help.

But the presence of Son OhGong, who had come with them, was unexpected for Fafnir.

Vritra responded to his question.

-We can't capture that guy on our own.

Indra.

The Dragon Slayer, the natural enemy of their race, held the title of Dragon Slayer just as the Giant Slayer, Heracles, did with the Giants. Indra gained an unreasonable advantage over Dragons in such situations.

For example, the Magic Power of Dragons couldn't touch Indra's body.

-We need external assistance.

-So, we need help from humans?

-Is there any other way?

-Still...

-If the price we have to pay to preserve the pride of our race means the destruction of our species, then it's not worth it.

Vritra's words silenced Fafnir, who was showing his fangs towards Son OhGong.

He wasn't wrong.

Pride.

It was too high a price if the species had to be destroyed just to protect that insignificant pride.

The problem was that they still didn't trust humans as a species.

The times they had suffered under Indra had been so long.

Then...

Gugu, gugug-.

The ground shook, and Ru Yi Bang, beneath Son OhGong's feet, trembled.

OhGong's gaze widened with the hope that it wasn't what he thought.

"Eh?"

Tremble-.

Ru Yi Bang lifted slightly.

Indra, who was below, lifted OhGong along with Ru Yi Bang with one hand.

"The Ru Yi Bang..."

Thud, thud, thud-.

Muscles coiled around Indra's arm.

OhGong blinked at the flow of Arcane Power he felt beneath his feet.

"It can't be..."

Buuuuung-.

Ru Yi Bang soared upwards.

Indra, holding Ru Yi Bang in his hand, launched it straight into the sky.

At the same time, Indra appeared above Son OhGong's head.

Zap-.

His fist was filled with powerful lightning.

Kaboom-!

He struck down with his fist.

Thud-.

The end of Ru Yi Bang sank into the ground. OhGong's eyes rolled back, and his body trembled as he received the impact of the lightning.

Clang, clang, clang-!

Indra's fist relentlessly pounded OhGong's body. In the end, Indra tightly grabbed OhGong's neck, preparing to slam him to the ground.

No.

He tried to slam him to the ground.

Crack-.

A gripping force seized Indra's arm. Son OhGong, hanging from Indra's arm, smiled.

"Hey, you..."

Flick-.

Indra's face was reflected in the Golden Cinder Eyes.

"You're really strong."

-----

Yu Won encountered Zeus.

Zeus came out after preparing himself, and he was alone.

"Asura and Harggan, where are they?"

"They have already left. Harggan isn't really necessary in this fight."

"I see."

Asura moved first. He would probably be the first to arrive.

The battle erupted faster than expected. It was probably because Ragnarok had occurred more swiftly than anticipated.

"We'll have to hurry. Before Asura catches up with that guy."

He briefly conveyed the situation on the other side to Zeus.

Indra fighting Fafnir. Son OhGong joining the battle alongside Vritra.

Even with those three, they possessed tremendous power. Although Indra was the natural enemy of Dragons, with Son OhGong also present, things were getting complicated for him.

But if Asura were to join them too...

"It will be too easy."

"Yes, too easy."

Zeus responded to Yu Won's murmurs.

"Our strength surpasses theirs. If the four of us join forces, even if I'm the last to join, we will surely succeed."

Yu Won shared the same thought.

There was no doubt about Indra's strength. His ranking proved it.

However, despite that, Yu Won's side had much greater power.

"Strategy, tactics. We don't need them to such an extent. Even now, I want to rush without worrying about those things."

"Are you anxious?"

"I learned that from our fight."

The Destruction of Olympus.

In that fight, Zeus was defeated by Yu Won.

At that time, Yu Won was much weaker than he is now.

"What seemed easy turned out to be more difficult. Variables always exist everywhere."

Vague feelings and uncertainties.

A sense of vagueness and unease.

But Zeus had lived long enough to know that sometimes groundless anxiety was safer.

"If something is happening..."

Yu Won looked at his player kit in his hand.

"I will receive a message. I'm sure of it."

And so it was.

Whoosh!

A gust of wind suddenly blew in front of Yu Won, causing him to murmur.

"That's it."

The wind brought with it an Alter Ego of OhGong riding the Flying Nimbus. Sending an Alter Ego instead of communicating through the player kit meant that the situation was so urgent that he couldn't send a calm message.

"It must be an Alter Ego he sent."

An Alter Ego capable of riding the Flying Nimbus was a rather quick way of communicating.

Yu Won had specifically entrusted him to transmit information in case events diverged from the initial plan.

And it was Son OhGong, out of all the possibilities, who did it.

Yu Won believed that even in a situation like this, OhGong would provide him with information.

And this time, OhGong didn't betray that trust.

"It's an Alter Ego, right? I've never seen one before."

Son OhGong had the same face as him.

Zeus, who saw it for the first time, showed an amazed expression.

Descending from the Flying Nimbus, OhGong looked at Zeus, and then opened his mouth.

"I encountered Indra."

"I know. I thought that would happen around this time."

"But that guy is really strong."

Son OhGong was saying that he was strong.

Such cases were rare. Opponents with a strong sense of pride rarely acknowledged their opponents unless they were truly formidable.

How strong must he be?

As Yu Won was thinking about that, he received the continuation of the message from the Alter Ego.

"It seems that guy has broken through the ceiling."

"He broke through the ceiling?"

"What did you say?"

Yu Won wasn't the only one surprised.

Zeus was too.

Taking long strides toward OhGong's Alter Ego, Zeus grabbed him by the shoulders.

"Did you just say Indra broke through the ceiling?"

"Yes, that's what I said."

Blurring... the figure of the Alter Ego became fuzzy.

And then...

"I'm busy with urgent matters on the other side, I'm leaving."

Poof!

The duplication turned into debris of magical energy and disappeared without a trace.

Yu Won and Zeus.

Both stood there with the same bewildered expression. Son OhGong's words hit their heads like a hammer.

"The ceiling..."

The ceiling of the Tower.

The World beyond Floor 100, the World above the Rankers' Rating.

That's what Zeus yearned for so much. And it was also the reason why Zeus sought so much power.

But it turns out Indra broke through that ceiling.

On the other hand, the impact on Yu Won was different from Zeus'.

"I'll have to change my plans."

This was the biggest variable of all considered.

At this moment, Yu Won didn't know that Indra had broken through the ceiling. That meant he had become an existence on a completely different level.

If that was the case, Son OhGong, Fafnir, and Vritra.

Just with those three fighting on the battlefield, they wouldn't be able to defeat Indra in any way.

"We need to establish positions."

Position referred to their focus on close combat, ranged combat, and the overall flow of battle, each fulfilling their role.

When fighting as a team, establishing perfect positions increases collective strength and provides a way to defeat stronger opponents.

They had concluded that they couldn't defeat Indra with a conventional fight.

For High-Rankers, individual power isn't effectively used against dozens or hundreds of Rankers.

Especially for someone like Zeus, who was the leader of a Great Guild and considered one of the top High-Rankers, it made no sense to worry about positions.

However...

"I will throw the spear."

Fortunately, Zeus was not someone who clung to his pride in situations like this.

Even a lion does its best when hunting a rabbit.

Not to mention the fact that not doing one's best to hunt a larger and fiercer beast than oneself was far from being a king.

"Since you have the ability to turn into a giant, you will stop his attack. It may be difficult for you alone, but with the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and Asura by your side, you will be able to withstand it."

"No."

Yu Won shook his head.

"I will throw the spear."

Zeus furrowed his brow.

At a time when they didn't have much time.

He didn't want to start a dispute over something trivial.

Besides, he also felt that Yu Won and he had similar thoughts, so he didn't think they would have differences on this matter.

"Did you forget who I am?"

Fzzt-

"I am Zeus."

The tip of his fingers filled with a golden Lightning Bolt.

Despite losing his 'Lightning Bolt,' it instantly formed into the shape of a spear.

When looked at closely, it was even more astonishing.

Even without the power of the item, he could construct a spear with such speed and an amount of Arcane Power comparable to his own.

"Only Odin can throw a more outstanding spear than me."

Speaking with confidence that reached the heavens.

He had enough qualification to do so.

However...

"A few days ago, I gained a small thing."

This time, Zeus's thoughts were wrong.

Tststst-

A black spear emerged in Yu Won's hand.

And as its form revealed itself, Zeus's eyes widened more and more.

"I will be the one to throw the spear."

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Crack!

OhGong's fist struck Indra's chin.

The punch resounded loudly. Even his tough fist had difficulty piercing through Indra's body.

Crackle, Fzzt-



A suit of blue lightning enveloped Indra's body.

That was why OhGong couldn't penetrate it.

"A head-on clash... is not the best option."

Indra's hand reached out.

"It wouldn't be a favorable choice."

Whack-.

A swiftly extended hand.

It would grab Son OhGong by the neck and bury him into the ground.

But...

Whoosh-.

Indra's hand passed through empty air.

It was close.

OhGong's hand, which had evaded Indra's hand, was now gripping the Ru Yi Bang.

"Grow-."

The tip of the Ru Yi Bang pointed at point-blank range.

"Ru Yi."

Thump!

The extended staff pushed Indra's body and sent him flying through the air. The tip of a distant mountain peak crumbled as Indra soared high into the sky.

Cold sweat dripped from his forehead.

As his vision became blurry, the clarity of his sight sharpened more than ever.

Son OhGong spun his body.

"So those are the Golden Cinder Eyes."

Indra stood before his eyes.

There was a wound on his chest. It was a wound caused by the impact of the staff he had just received.

"It's really complicated. It seems like I can grab him, but I can't..."

Although he murmured as if this truly was something difficult, Indra still felt calm. Instead, it was Son OhGong who seemed taken aback by the situation.

Despite receiving the blow from the staff at such close range, he only had such an insignificant wound.

'He's stronger than Heracles.'

Of course, Indra's body wasn't the most important thing.

Crackle, Fzzt-.

Through the Golden Cinder Eyes, the flow of magical energy surrounding Indra could be seen.

A suit of lightning enveloping Indra.

If he couldn't penetrate that armor, it would be impossible to strike Indra.

But...

'There are no weak points.'

There was no way to break through it with the Ru Yi Bang. Not even in the Golden Cinder Eyes could any weak points be seen.

So, there was only one way.

'There's only one strike powerful enough to pierce through the armor.'