

## **With The Gods 301**

Chapter 301

C301

Before him appeared the sky.

A sky darkened by hazy clouds. YuWon felt a sense of dizziness as he looked at the black clouds filling his field of vision.

He didn't know what had happened, but his mind was trying to figure out what was going on.

"Ah..."

After a moment, he remembered what had occurred.

The fight with Zeus.

It was a very short fight, and paradoxically, it felt long.

When faced with Zeus's Lightning, YuWon thought of ways to stop it or dodge it.

In that instant, numerous thoughts passed through his mind.

The answer came quickly.

"How can I stop that?"

It was a level of lightning unlike anything seen before.

A force several times more powerful than the lightning that struck Camelot. Faced with overwhelming power, no matter how much he thought, he couldn't find an answer.

So YuWon watched it with his own eyes.

To comprehend that immense strength. To understand it to the fullest.

And thus, the Lightning fell, and YuWon crashed to the ground.

"You're not dead after all."

A voice resonated near his head.

YuWon turned his head and looked at Zeus.

Seeing the Lightning enveloping his body, it seemed that he couldn't control the excess power.

"Did you shoot me to kill me?"

"I figured you wouldn't die."

"You figured?"

"If you're going to die miserably here, instead of being a nuisance in front of me, it would be better for you to die right now."

Those were quite cold words.

He didn't need a mediocre companion. It would be better to die than to be like that.

Can someone like that really be called a companion?

At least in YuWon's mind, he wasn't.

But...

"That's just how Zeus is."

An authoritarian tyrant.

To him, everyone except himself was inferior, there was nothing beside or above him.

Calling him a companion was something that didn't fit.

But at least Zeus would consider someone a companion as long as he deemed them valuable.

That was enough.

That was what YuWon had hoped for anyway.

"So, have you gained something?"

In response to Zeus's question, YuWon shook his head clumsily.

His mind had gone blank in an instant, so his physical condition wasn't good.

"I only know that you've become an incredible monster."

"I didn't mean that..."

"To confirm that is also a harvest for me."

Zeus's eyes narrowed at YuWon's response.

Soon, the corners of his mouth lifted.

"So, you think the same as me."

"I don't know if we'll have the same methods, but we probably have the same goal."

Zeus is authoritative.

Instead of raising everyone together, he decided to confront external forces, including Foolish Chaos, with his own power alone.

He believed that was possible, and he had enough power to have that confidence.

Of course.

That was still based on Zeus not knowing what lay beyond this Tower.

Pak, pak.

YuWon quickly got up, dusting off his clothes.

As he hastily regained his composure, his eyes regained their calmness.

Soon...

In his golden and red pupils, the figure of Zeus reflected.

"You have to become stronger. I will too."

"You seem to have some certainty in yourself."

It was a phrase that was probing.

Normally, he would have let it pass, but this time was different.

Kwang, kwarrung!

An enormous Lightning burst forth from Zeus's body. Along with the sound of the Lightning, YuWon could feel a colossal force that even surprised him.

The reincarnation of Indra?

No.

Perhaps, even beyond that. Zeus, who sought something to replace the Lightning, obtained the heart of Indra and had surpassed his heyday.

"Even this isn't enough? Is that what it means?"

Kwung, kwarrung.

Even approaching was difficult. YuWon felt his body numb as he faced Zeus's force up close.

From the depths of his heart, he wanted to give a thumbs up in recognition.

But...

"It's still far from enough."

The opponent (Outer Gods) they would face was not an easy enemy.

And it wasn't just one Outer God, but many.

And YuWon had fought against them numerous times.

Among those enemies, there were those who possessed a power similar to Zeus's at that moment.

"There's still a long way to go. We shouldn't be satisfied with this."

That was the reason he decided to express it, even though he would normally have avoided it.

Zeus still had to become stronger. He should not be satisfied with his current level but strive much harder to become even more powerful.

That's why YuWon had to instill a sense of urgency in Zeus.

He must not become arrogant with that little ability.

He wondered if Zeus had understood his intentions.

"Hmm..."

Zeus lifted the corners of his mouth as he looked at YuWon.

"Although your intention mixed in your words is arrogant..."

Tzz, tzz, tzz...

The Lightning emanating from Zeus's body began to dissipate slowly.

"You're not wrong."

Zeus turned around and started walking.

Once again, he prepared to face YuWon.

"You're truly interesting. More than anyone else I've ever met in my life."

"Unexpected."

"What do you mean?"

Zeus paused for a moment and glanced at YuWon.

"I thought you would be seeking revenge against me."

Zeus was the King of Olympus.

YuWon had brought him down and imprisoned him. Naturally, he thought Zeus would be determined to take revenge on him.

But the Zeus he encountered again showed no resentment towards him.

Why?

He wasn't sure of the motives behind that, he only saw the clear results, but he was curious about the change in his attitude.

"Is there something you hold grudge against?"

Zeus started walking again and looked at YuWon once more.

He kept his distance and raised his Lightning as if impatient to waste time.

The current of energy began to envelop Zeus's body, sliding into his serene gaze.

"I was defeated by you because I was inadequate. Because my preparation was insufficient and my power was lacking."

The reason Zeus didn't resent YuWon.

It was simple.

From the start, YuWon had had a wrong thought.

"There is nothing as ugly as blaming defeat or resentment on someone else. Except when someone you trusted betrays you, but in your case, you were my enemy from the beginning to the end."

Zeus may have been a tyrant, but he had built a giant guild. Moreover, Olympus had a much shorter history than Asgard, but it had grown very rapidly in a short time.

Indeed.

Now it seemed he knew why Olympus was able to grow so fast.

"So don't hesitate and come fight again."

Crackle!

"This time, I will allow you to fight me on an equal level."

Perhaps Zeus also had similar thoughts.

Since it was difficult to do it alone, they would form a team.

YuWon had already planned such a team, and Zeus in front of him was a new member of the original team.

"There is no one more skilled in the Lightning attribute than Zeus."

Zeus had been handling Lightning for over a thousand years.

Unlike Hades or Poseidon, he was the one who best knew how to wield the Uranus Heart.

A moment ago, he lost consciousness.

This time it had to be different.

Woosh-

[The 'Golden Cinder Eyes' capture the essence]

"Let's go."

-----  
"Lightning is known as the most destructive form of Magic along with Fire."

Kwang!

A Lightning bolt struck YuWon's head.

Although he moved in advance to get away from the center of the Lightning, he couldn't avoid the damage due to its wide range.

Crackle!

YuWon's body was enveloped by the reach of the Lightning. Although his skin burned by the Lightning turned black, and his body gradually lost strength, his eyes remained clear.

"But what's important is speed."

Chi, Jik, Jik-

The Lightning moved along Zeus's fingertip.

And according to those words, YuWon's pupil followed the flow of the Lightning gathering at the tip of his finger.

It was definitely more fast than destructive. Unlike Fire, it was difficult to visually track due to its speed.

"And that becomes its destructive power."

Flash!

He saw it with his eyes.

But he wasn't fast enough to react.

Peww!

"...!"

A bolt of Lightning pierced his spine.

He felt his consciousness fading. He barely managed to endure it with gritted teeth, but he couldn't prevent his knees from giving in.

Thud.

"You've held on for a long time."

Zeus's voice resonated nearby.

Feeling that everything was over, YuWon dropped completely to the ground.

Chi-ji-jik-.

A subtle Lightning flashed at the tips of YuWon's fingers.

It was Lightning that didn't use the power of Uranus.

"You learn fast."

Only two days had passed.

During that time, YuWon fought repeatedly against Hades and Poseidon and learned from Zeus how to handle Lightning Attribute Magic.

Was it to shorten the time as much as possible?

YuWon chose to directly face the three gods without relying on Uranus.

Without rest, he continued.

The results began to gradually appear.

"This... is thanks to this."

Yuwon pointed with his finger at his eyes that were faintly shining as he lay on the ground.

Hwa Ang Geum Jeong (Golden Cinder Eyes).

Eyes that comprehend the essence of all things and phenomena, including magic.

Furthermore, Zeus understood the nature of his magic better than anyone else and taught it with words.

If he didn't grow quickly, it was even more peculiar.

"Tomorrow is the elder brother's turn. Rest a bit."

Ssshhh...

As if eagerly waiting for the words to fall, Yuwon's body slipped to the ground as if seeping in.

The darkness of Hades swallowed Yuwon. He would probably lead Yuwon to his accommodation this way.

"..."

Zeus, who stood in that place for a moment, turned his head.

His golden eyes pierced through the dense forest. After contemplating the place for a moment, Zeus disappeared in a single beam of golden light.

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The place where Zeus had disappeared...

Thud-

A single footprint appeared in the distance, far from the city.

A blurry, ghostly face with barely distinguishable features. Grass and trees withering as he walked.

Foolish Chaos looked at the dying land like this and muttered.

"As expected, it's dangerous."

The gaze that had been watching him until a moment ago had not a single error.

At first, he doubted.

But the gaze that hesitated from time to time soon turned into a clear recognition.

Zeus had discovered him.

His growth was faster and more pronounced than he had anticipated.

"Could it be because of his lineage after all?"

One of the two outside his original plan.

And Zeus had become a threat to his current self, who also possessed a power that could be a threat.

The other side was also a target to be wary of, but if you looked at the priorities, there was no need to think deeply.

Zeus.

He was the pawn that would provoke the Gigantomachy and until a few years ago was considered one of the most outstanding pawns.

But now...

The tip of his spear was aimed not at the Giants but at his own throat.

And not only that, he carried a sharp spear with the ability to pierce his own throat.

"I can't afford to give him more time."

It was a somewhat drastic choice, but he had no other option.

Foolish Chaos's eyes turned purple, from the black part to the white part.

"I will eliminate him immediately."

Immediately.

And with his voice, the presences outside the Tower began to twist one by one.

Chapter 302

It has been approximately two weeks.

YuWon closed his eyes and sat down. He couldn't see anything beneath his closed eyelids.

Hades stood in front of him, silent.

He felt the sensation of his body being dragged deeper beneath the water's surface.

It was a familiar sensation.

'I have been in Tartarus before.'

It wasn't intentional, but YuWon had fallen into Tartarus when he went to the Underworld. The world of the dead.

The power of the Dark Divine Crystal (Stone of Darkness in other translations) briefly guided him there.

A vast and deep black sea of indeterminate size.

Shapeless souls that couldn't be recognized within it.

YuWon longed to return to Tartarus once more.

-Tartarus is the beginning of all darkness.

Hades had searched for Tartarus for a long time.

Tartarus was the ultimate place that Hades desired. He believed that if he found Tartarus, he could surpass Zeus.

That was the reason he sought the Dark Divine Crystal.

-The Dark Divine Crystal is the means to open the door to Tartarus. And opening the door means one can also cross over to that place.

He didn't think it was a ludicrous tale.

All this time, YuWon had been opening Tartarus and using his magic.

All he had to do was reverse it.

It was easier said than done.

Ts, Tsutsu...

The distant mind snapped back in a flash.

At the same time, his head heated up, and he felt a sharp pain as if his brain was melting.

Again.

"Ugh..."

A wave of nausea surged from within.

With eyes wide open, YuWon leaned forward while sitting and looked down at the ground.

He barely held back the urge to vomit. The intense revulsion was unimaginable, and his concentration scattered as he opened his eyes once again.

"Another failure."



It was at that moment that Hades spoke.

It was a voice full of lament.

"Ah, sigh..."

After exhaling several long breaths, YuWon lifted his head.

How many times has it been?

As he calmed his inner self and the burning pain in his head subsided, YuWon opened his mouth.

"It's not easy."

"Of course."

Though he said it as if it were obvious, Hades's voice couldn't hide his disappointment.

The door leading to Tartarus.

YuWon had been working with Hades to open that door.

It didn't take long for him to master dark attribute magic. And when he surpassed the basics, Hades made a proposition.

-Open Tartarus.

At first, he thought it was asking for something too easy.

After all, YuWon had already been using Uranus to open the door to Tartarus for quite some time.

But...

-Crossing over and fully taking the power of Tartarus is the ultimate way to use Uranus.

Simply opening the door and crossing it were two completely different matters.

Tartarus rejected YuWon.

When YuWon opened the door wide, if he tried to cross it, it inevitably showed its teeth.

"I suppose it doesn't like me."

"I didn't think it would be easy. Don't feel bad."

"I'm not worried."

YuWon stood up and stretched his body, which had become stiff from sitting for so long.

As he stretched, he reached his hands up and saw Uranus in his hand.

A repulsion he couldn't understand.

The Realm of the Dead.

Tartarus...

Unfortunately, it wasn't just Hades.

He knew there was a great power beyond there. Even though Hades didn't mention it, YuWon had been there once before.

A vast ocean of mana.

As long as that power rejected him, there was no way he could force himself to cross.

"But I'm adapting."

One step beyond the door.

Just one step, but he felt like he had set foot on it.

And that step was the beginning.

Once you're on the other side of the door, that's when it starts.

"Don't lift your foot hastily just because you can cross."

Hades had been visiting Tartarus for an inexplicably long time, so he knew quite a bit about the place.

"Because once you cross, you won't be alive or dead, and you might also be dead for having crossed."

"I know.

I've heard it a dozen times.

But it was also an important story.

That's why YuWon, who normally had great willpower whether he vomited or not, quickly gave up.

If he pushed himself too hard, he might end up trapped in Tartarus, never to return.

"It seems you're very tired..."

Hades noticed the sweat running down YuWon's forehead.

From morning until now, YuWon had been continuously crossing through Tartarus without rest.

Although it seemed like he was just sitting there, he was actually going back and forth between life and death.

"Take a rest and then continue."

YuWon shook his head.

"No, thank you."

As if he had expected it, Hades pouted.

It was always like this.

Even if he was asked to rest enough, YuWon didn't know how to stop.

He always seemed to be chasing after something, without resting for even a moment.

And that was precisely the reason for concern for Hades.

"Didn't I say it? Once you lose consciousness and get trapped in Tartarus, that's it. So..."

"I'll stop here for today."

YuWon suddenly stood up, dusting off his place.

He finished a little earlier than usual, much earlier than expected.

Originally, he intended to challenge himself until late at night.

"It seems there's no middle ground, is there?"

Better late than never, Hades thought, and decided not to be greedy.

Still, it was strange.

If he was exhausted, he could understand it, but YuWon used to persevere even in tougher times than this, never giving up.

"Did something urgent happen?"

Hades looked at YuWon, who started breathing slowly, and asked.

It didn't seem like he just stopped due to tiredness and fatigue.

His gaze seemed more determined than before, as if he had finished all his tasks.

"Something urgent..."

YuWon nodded at Hades's question.

"It seems to have arisen now."

-----  
Chichi, chichiji-

Harggan buried his face in the ground.

With half of his head submerged in the ground, he unleashed a dazzling burst of Golden Lightning all over his body.

Zeus looked at Harggan with disdain.

"Have you run out of energy already?"

Harggan lifted his head from the ground.

His body was completely tattered and felt like an old rag.

Naturally, he couldn't help but complain.

"I've been like this for several days. What do you think?"

"When I was young..."

"Nostalgia again? Look, there's an amazing café on the 71st floor, so go there and find something you like."

Harggan dropped to the ground, screaming and groaning.

He had been without rest for days. Not only was he physically exhausted, but he also felt the terror of death at every moment.

The lion throws its cub off a cliff to raise it with strength.

Harggan felt that firsthand through his own father, Zeus.

Zeus made Harggan face his limits.

If he didn't stop him, he could have died for real. He unleashed lightning so powerful that Harggan had no choice but to endure to stay alive.

The reason was simple.

It was to unleash the latent power of Lightning within Harggan.

"Anyway, I can't take it anymore. You better kill me."

Harggan lay on the ground like a corpse.

Zeus looked at him for a moment and nodded.

"Very well. Rest."

It was an unexpected reaction.

Harggan, who was squinting at Zeus, blinked.

"Really?"

"The results are faster than I thought. Anyway, you'll soon have a chance to see that guy, so check what you've learned so far."

This didn't seem real.

With just a warm word, Harggan's heart melted. In this moment, Zeus, who until a moment ago seemed like a demon from the Underworld, seemed to be the most loving and caring father in the world.

Harggan's eyes, looking at Zeus, were filled with deep affection.

And that gaze furrowed Zeus's brow.

"What's wrong?"

"No, it's just a little surprising."

"Surprising?"

"Suddenly being like this with you, father... it's just..."

Harggan, who seemed confused, scratched his cheek as if he had said something unnecessary and covered his eyes with his hand.

Well.

Until a few years ago, this was something he couldn't even imagine.

Although they were of different social statuses, Harggan's father was Zeus.

The great King of Olympus, whom he thought would never descend from the high sky.

Even though he had fallen from the throne of the King of Olympus, Zeus remained an imposing figure in Harggan's eyes.

Even now, he was stronger than before, having captured Indra.

But now, being here with Zeus, he realized that there were many things he didn't know about the world.

"My mother would have loved to see this..."

The changed figure of his father.

And the changed relationship between them.

It was like a drawing that he had only considered a dream.

Even if it was just an illusion that would fade away at any moment, it would be fine.

In this moment, Harggan felt that Zeus in front of him was not the King of Olympus, but his true father.

"Nonsense."

Zeus dismissed Harggan's words.

A brief silence felt stronger than any roar.

The forest that until a moment ago was filled with both of their Lightning now turned silent without making a sound.

A silent emptiness stretched on.

After a few moments, it became comfortable enough to move.

The air remained so silent that it felt suffocating.

"Aren't you leaving?"

Unable to bear the frustration, Harggan spoke first.

He wanted to return to his quarters, wash his body covered in dust and blood, eat, and rest comfortably.

But...

"Father?"

Although Harggan spoke, Zeus didn't react.

He had such a rigid expression that sent chills down the spine.

He looked towards some distant place, his gaze fixed on the void.

The lack of response made the suffocating air even more oppressive. Just when even the air became heavy to breathe, Harggan spoke again.

"Father, what...?"

"You finally moved."

"What?"

What the hell is he talking about?

It was then that Harggan turned his head to follow Zeus's gaze.

He moved.

The field was empty. There was no one, not even the usual beasts and insects.

Ssssh.

The corner of Zeus's lips lifted.

"If you're going to move anyway, you'd better hurry."

A stream of golden air flowed from Zeus's eyes.

Rumble, rrrumble...

The thick clouds in the sky burst into a furious roar.

"Or else I'll take away your advantage."

Crack, crack...

A Golden Lightning climbed up his fingers and mingled with the clouds in the sky.

It seemed like at any moment, a Lightning Bolt would fall from the sky and turn everything around into a wasteland.

An explosive situation.

There had never been a moment when those words fit so well.

Just when the Lightning gathered in the clouds was about to disperse downward...

"You still have an impatient temperament."

Jebuk...

In Harggan's empty field of vision, a semi-transparent figure suddenly appeared with a robe.

"Zeus."

Gulp...

With the appearance of the robed figure, Harggan understood.

Why he had felt such intense oppression until a moment ago.

It wasn't due to the discomfort of silence.

It wasn't due to Zeus's expression or momentum.

It was because of the inexplicable presence in front of him.

His heart, it seemed like it was about to burst.

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Thump-

His contracted heart screamed for help.

Even the sound of his breathing resonated loudly, so much so that Hargan unconsciously clenched his mouth shut.

'What's going on?'

It was none other than a man in a robe. But there was something else that made his body freeze completely.

Although his existence or form couldn't be discerned.

'There's something else.'

He was sure that it wasn't just the man in the robe in front of him.

No.

Although only he appeared before his eyes, there were actually others there.

"Once again, just an empty shell."

Once again.

Hargan turned his head and looked at Zeus.

He could feel how the oppression in his chest eased upon hearing his voice. At the same time, through his words, he could realize that Zeus knew the man in the robe standing before them.

"That's how things are."

"Stop pretending to be polite. We're no longer on the same boat."

"I see."

Laughter mingled in the voice coming from the robe.

"Well, I suppose you're right."

A tone high or low.

A voice that couldn't be discerned as masculine or feminine. Sometimes, it even seemed like he was receiving the words directly as they were, rather than hearing the voice itself.

As if...

'I feel like I'm talking to the System.'

It was a fleeting thought that passed through his mind, but nothing could resemble it more.

A language like that of the System.

It was as if they were facing an absolute existence against which they couldn't stand.

"Have you come to capture me?"

"I would have liked to come personally, but I couldn't."

"So there's a reason why you can't move right away."

"That's right."

"Well, I don't care."

Flash-!

In an instant, all the colors of the world disappeared.

The sky and the earth were bathed in golden light. Sounds were heard belatedly.

Crack-!

Zzzz-.

Hargan stared in awe at the lightning that seemed to blind his eyes and ears.

What the hell had happened before his eyes?

The lightning that struck the ground was completely different from what Hargan had been seeing for the past few days.

"Come yourself instead of sending your lackeys. It'll be more interesting that way."

Chik-chik, chi-jiik-.

The ground was filled with thick smoke and persistent streams of Golden Lightning.

Hargan watched it with tense eyes.

And then...

-You know nothing about us.

A different voice resonated compared to moments before.

Undoubtedly, it was the voice of the same entity. However, the way the voice was perceived felt different than before.

But the situation wasn't important enough to pay attention to that.

Squirm-.

A wave of purple light surged from the slowly dissipating smoke.

The moment he confirmed it with his own eyes, Hargan understood the true nature of the fear that had oppressed his chest until now.

"Keep a clear head."

Crack-.

Perhaps not having expected too much from that single blow, Zeus raised the lightning once again.

"Putting aside strong or weak, they are beings different from what you knew before."

"...Yes."

When you're with someone fearless, you become brave.

Thanks to Zeus's advice, Hargan was able to see more clearly the creatures that appeared before him, suppressing his pounding heart.



They were creatures formed with tentacles, sometimes resembling viscous slimes. They had diverse shapes, and their presence felt different from what Hargan had known until now. They were beings made of something that wasn't magic or magical power. From now on, he would have to fight against such beings.

"Don't avoid them and look at them directly."

Chichizhik-

The gathered lightning in his hand converged at a single point.

"From now on, those beings will be the 'enemies' you have to overcome."

Golden light burst forth, and the whistle of battle resounded.

-----

Crack-!

A dazzling light cut through the purple waves.

The tentacles wrapped in lightning writhed and then burned to black.

Hundreds, thousands of tentacles approached, but none of them reached Zeus.

In fact, what arrived was something completely different.

Squirm~.

A twisting shadow below.

Zeus was aware that the color of his shadow had changed.

And at that moment...

Chaaaah-

A purple aura enveloped Zeus's body from below.

Flash-!

A blue lightning bolt shot out from Zeus's body.

Crack-!

The blue lightning erased the color without a trace. As he looked at the blue lightning in his fist, Zeus remembered a person.

"Inefficient."

Indra.

Rank 6 among the High-Rankers, he was the natural enemy of Dragons and used blue lightning in his fights.

He fought by swinging the lightning contained in his fist.

A close-quarters battle.

It was far from the fighting style Zeus sought.

However, that didn't mean there was nothing to learn.

"Certainly..."

Buuung-

Zeus's fist extended forward.

"I wonder why that guy or Thor use it this way."

Rare!

The lightning extended forward along with the fist.

The blue lightning, carried by the fist, swept away the purple wave blocking its path, exploding with a roar.

Although its range was narrow, it was truly destructive.

Indra's lightning might not be as versatile as Zeus's, but its destructive power within a limited range was much greater.

Buuung-

Bang-!

Naturally, Zeus extended his fist as if water flowed.

And Hargan looked at him with his mouth agape.

"This... isn't a fight."

At first, he was afraid.

They were beings he had never seen before in his life. Regardless of whether they were strong or weak, he felt a strong aversion toward beings that challenged his common sense until now.

But even that was nothing compared to Zeus.

Flicker-

Hargan's gaze scanned the surroundings.

The figure of the Robed One, who initially challenged Zeus, and the image of Foolish Chaos were no longer visible.

'It's strange.'

Kwaaak-

Hargan clenched his fist and struck the tentacles approaching from above.

Crack-!

The tentacle burst. If it were a normal creature, it would have splattered blood, but the tentacle turned into smoke and vanished.

'It's too easy.'

Was the sense of danger he felt at first a deception?

Not just because of Zeus's overwhelming strength, but also in comparison to his initial impression, it seemed too easy.

He was sure.

The true nature of the anxiety he felt at first had not yet been revealed.

And right at that moment...

Hwaaa-

The sky was dyed purple, and a gigantic demonic form descended slowly while absorbing that color.

Gulp-

Tension stained Hargan's face as he looked at that figure.

Finally, it appeared.

The presence that stirred his fear.

Avoiding the gaze of that presence, Hargan searched for Zeus.

"F-Father..."

"What do you see with your eyes?"

"What?"

"Look at it directly."

Upon hearing those words, Hargan tightly closed his eyes and then opened them, looking up at the sky again.

It was a horrifying demon. Its claws were as long as its head, and its face was grotesque, devoid of any trace of blood.

As Hargan stared into the empty eyes of the demon descending from the sky, he felt his entire body stiffen.

It was difficult to keep looking.

Before he could properly recognize its form, Hargan turned his head and Zeus clicked his tongue as if disappointed.

"You're still insignificant."

At that moment...

"Just watch."

Zap-!

His body filled with blue lightning.

To avoid being engulfed by it, Hargan quickly stepped aside.

Crack-!

Zeus ascended to the sky.

-----  
Kurung, kurung-!

Blue lightning spread across the sky.

From a distance, the scene was observed by Foolish Chaos, who muttered.

"It's more than I expected."

Fighting against Zeus was a being that Foolish Chaos had managed to attract thanks to the busy movement of entering this Tower.

### **[Despair That Reaches The Skies][하늘을 덮는 절망]**

A being that feeds on despair and fear to grow stronger and has no fixed form.

A being that came from outside the Tower, like himself, and was completely different from the Rankers of this World. It was Despair That Reaches The Skies.

However...

Facing that Despair, Zeus was dominating it.

Crack-!

Zeus's lightning rose from bottom to top. Despair screamed, and its cry filled the forest.

Despair That Reaches The Skies had prepared that strike to trap Zeus.

He didn't believe that Despair alone would be enough, but there was indeed a difference up to this point.

"Is this the limit of what one can think?"

Foolish Chaos couldn't stop thinking about how much stronger Zeus must have become with Indra's heart in his hands.

Zeus was being watched because he was aware of his existence and had a threatening strength. He was the most cautious target alongside Odin. Foolish Chaos wanted to make sure to eliminate him in this opportunity if possible.

"I might have to use quite a bit of power here."

Foolish Chaos murmured with regret and turned his head.

With a silent, fixed gaze at a certain place, he made eye contact with someone who had been observing him from the forest.

"So, there's one more."

Gooo-

The tip of a spear aimed at his head.

Although it was far away, the sharp tip of the spear was undoubtedly heading toward him.

"Kim YuWon."

Not much was known about him.

In terms of ability, he still didn't pose a significant level of threat. It wasn't easy to consider him as someone fully aware of his existence, like Zeus, and his influence within the Tower wasn't as impressive.

A bud that would grow into a great figure in the future. Perhaps not just a great figure, but a World Leader.

Someone who, alongside Zeus, must be eliminated.

That was Kim YuWon.

"It's strange."

Every time he thought of him, his mind was muddled.

YuWon could do things that he definitely couldn't do, and he often disrupted everything Foolish Chaos planned for the Tower.

At first, he attributed it simply to coincidence.

But when it happened a second and third time, he could no longer attribute it to coincidence.

It was a result with a clear cause.

The problem was what lay behind YuWon, how he could achieve all these things.

"Maybe he's even more dangerous than Zeus," he thought.

That's why it took so long.

They had to capture not only Zeus but also YuWon at this moment.

YuWon was the only presence that ruined the image he had painted.

There was no other choice.

"As expected, my intuition was not wrong."

The head of Foolish Chaos turned in the opposite direction of where YuWon was.

Then...

Fwoosh-.

At a much closer distance than YuWon.

There were a pair of eyes shining with a bright red light.

Its opposite eye flashed a golden color.

Huaaaaah-.

An obvious killing intent transmitted through both pupils. The Arcane Power that had not erupted but was stirring inside boiled with rage.

"Great Sage, Heaven's Equal."

One of the most powerful High-Rankers who had turned the Celestial Realm into a battlefield. He never expected that he would be here. It was obvious why Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, whose intelligence was so poor as to be nicknamed the "stone monkey," was here.

Kim YuWon...

Once again, he had shaken the stage that Foolish Chaos had set.

"It's an interesting scene."

It wasn't his intention, but he thought it was better this way.

After all, this was just the beginning of something that had been planned for a long time and should have happened someday...

The start of the first battle between the Outer Gods and the Inside.

Chapter 304

C304

Fwoosh-

It was another way to use the Golden Cinder Eyes.

Although it made distant objects appear close enough to grasp, the principle was different from that of a telescope.

YuWon felt as if Foolish Chaos was right in front of him.

'We've come this far.'

Kak!

He sweated on the hand that held Nir.

He wished to throw the spear he had in his hand with all his might, but he couldn't do it in that situation.

-This is an interesting scene.

Foolish Chaos's voice resonated directly in his head.

Undoubtedly, he was self-aware. He had probably been for a long time.

-This is the first battle between the Outer Gods and the Inner Realm (Insiders).

Foolish Chaos declared the battle.

These were not words to be taken lightly.

He had made a decision. From now on, the real fight would begin.

Probably, the intervention of the Outer Gods would be much more intense from this moment on.

No...

It was already much more intense than the future that was originally destined.

'It must be something urgent.'

The Gigantomachy, Ragnarok, and the Great Celestial War.

Most of the predicted events had failed. Instead, their nakedness was exposed, and Zeus, who should have been on their side, turned against them.

Many things had gone awry. If the foundation had become a mess, what was to come was destined to change.

"So, you will take the initiative first, won't you?"

YuWon looked at Zeus, who was fighting in the distance alongside a massive Outer in the sky.

Despair That Reaches The Skies.

Originally, revealing its figure in the Tower would be something that would happen much later.

But Despair had already shown itself.

YuWon saw clearly with his own eyes what kind of disaster would occur if it was unleashed upon the world.

So, the fight was also inevitable on this side.

'Don't get too excited.'

YuWon's gaze turned to Son OhGong, who was looking at Foolish Chaos with fiery eyes.

At this moment, YuWon called upon Son OhGong for this occasion.

He had sensed Foolish Chaos's presence from a similar moment to when Zeus felt it. OhGong already knew that Foolish Chaos was preparing something, moving around.

Therefore, YuWon had to act accordingly.

OhGong's presence was one of them.

The problem was that he didn't know what spontaneous action OhGong would take.

'Confronting that guy here is not a good choice.'

Foolish Chaos was the axis of the Outer Gods. He had long infiltrated the Tower and caused countless incidents.

Despite that, Foolish Chaos had never shown his true form or used his power.

The reason was simple.

It's not that he didn't want to, but he couldn't.

It was evident that he was subject to some restriction. Foolish Chaos had never presented himself directly or acted until the boundaries of the Tower collapsed and disappeared.

But if the issue jeopardized his own safety, the story would change.

'I know what kind of thoughts you have...'

So, the enemy they had to fight now was not Foolish Chaos.

'Don't provoke me too much.'

-----

Fwoosh-

Sparks danced in their eyes.

Son OhGong and Foolish Chaos stared at each other for a while.

Son OhGong restrained himself several times from wielding the staff he had in his hand.

If it weren't for YuWon's advice, he might have acted immediately.

"Why do you hate me so much?"

When you have an enemy you must face, it's natural to have some animosity toward them, no matter how powerful they are.

But now, what Son OhGong reflected was not simply a common enemy.

It was the determination born of resentment and grudges.

In response to Foolish Chaos's question, Son OhGong tightly gripped the staff.

"I don't want to tell you the reason."

"You don't want to tell? Is there a reason?"

Foolish Chaos's question made Son OhGong's expression become confused.

He realized that his response was incorrect in the end.

And Foolish Chaos's reaction to that was also predictable.

'It seems calling him Stone Monkey before he became Great Sage, Heaven's Equal wasn't in vain.'

Indeed, Foolish Chaos had shown a certain caution toward Son OhGong in the past.

His talent and sense of battle, his powerful companions known as the Seven Heavenly Demons, and his cheat ability of Immortality would be a great threat at any time.

That's why Foolish Chaos severed Son OhGong's hands and feet.

He eliminated the Seven Heavenly Demons and imprisoned the immortal Son OhGong in the heavenly prison.

He thought that was the end.

He thought he no longer had to worry about Son OhGong, but...

'I never thought I would face him in this way.'

Even a fool could see who was behind Son OhGong.

Kim YuWon.

He was moving behind Son OhGong.

'This is not good.'

Son OhGong and Kim YuWon.



While one may not know the power of Kim YuWon, even Foolish Chaos seemed cautious of Son OhGong's abilities.

Above all, he possessed the power of immortality. It didn't mean there was no way to kill him, but achieving that result immediately would not be possible.

In this situation, avoiding the fight was the best option.

"I'm sorry, but I don't feel like fighting you in particular."

Suuhhh-

Foolish Chaos's body became transparent.

His presence vanished from the place. Foolish Chaos intended to leave like that.

However...

Zas!

As if to show that he wouldn't let him go, Son OhGong ran directly toward him.

'There's no way.'

Great Sage, Heaven's Equal could never catch him.

No, no one could.

'When I get out of here, first...'

However...

Thwack!

Son OhGong's fist struck Foolish Chaos's head.

Crack, crunch!

The branches he stood on broke, and the ground sank. Foolish Chaos, trapped inside, realized that he had overlooked something important.

"The Golden Cinder Eyes?"

The power to see through everything.

He had heard rumors about it. The Golden Cinder Eyes were the most dangerous ability Foolish Chaos had perceived from Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

Crackle-

Son OhGong's eyes still looked at him from the top of the tree.

The momentum was quite sharp.

"Shall we give it a try?"

It was complicated.

He couldn't simply avoid the place, but he couldn't confront it carelessly either.

And it didn't seem like Son OhGong would let him go easily.

But above all...

'It's not just him, right?'

Behind Son OhGong was Kim YuWon.

The spear he was activating had power comparable to Odin's Gungnir.

Tsutsu, tsutsutsu...

The spear began to emit considerable force from afar.

If it struck directly, he wouldn't come out unscathed.

'It's complicated, it's complicated...'

Purple eyes blinked from beneath the robe.

In an instant, Son OhGong's and Foolish Chaos's eyes met.

"Grow-"

Son OhGong pointed his Ru Yi Bang at him.

"Ru Yi."

Boom!

-----

BANG-!

Hargan's two fists collided in the center.

A thunderous sound erupted between their fists, and in the next moment, the lightning-charged fist descended toward the ground.

Twack!

The purple waves rushing toward Hargan dispersed in all directions.

In this final attack, Hargan unleashed a large amount of Arcane Power, staggering for a moment before standing up again.

"Whew..."

He exhaled an exhausted breath as he looked around.

There was no end. He didn't even know what he was fighting against, and the mental fatigue was intensifying.

"My Father..."

Crack!

The thunder in the sky didn't cease.

His strike pushed Despair back, shattering its arms and legs. The demonic form in Hargan's vision screamed.

Zeus had nothing to worry about.

The problem was himself.

"Cha!"

The purple waves enveloped him once again from behind.

Though he knew it, Hargan, who wanted to rest a little longer, turned around.

Pazhizhizhik!

He had been gathering power in advance.

He couldn't expect these guys to stay idle while he remained still.

Kwauung!

The lightning that surged from his hand repelled the enemy again. For a moment, the joy faded, and dizziness overcame Hargan due to the Arcane Power flowing out of his body.

Kak-.

"Damn it..."

Every moment was a crisis situation.

Since these guys were difficult to kill, he had to release a large amount of Arcane Power over and over again.

Even enduring with his mental strength had its limits.

Hargan reached out his hand toward the tentacles directly approaching him.

Chijik-.

The lightning that had accumulated in his hand dispersed. It was a discharge.

Now he truly had no energy left.

"It's over..."

"You've grown quite well."

Fweok-!

The tentacle aimed at Hargan's neck fell to the ground. A spear flying from somewhere had pierced the tentacle.

There was no need to ask whose spear it was.

The shadow of a giant, at least one head larger than Hargan, covered him.

A High-Ranker with blue hair who appeared alongside the damp air.

Poseidon.

"Whose son do you think he is? It's obvious."

Tsu-tsu-tsu-.

The shadow of Poseidon twisted, and the figure of a man emerged from it.

Hargan turned his head to look at Hades, who appeared alongside Poseidon.

"Hargan, the successor of Olympus..."

"We'll save strict formalities for family gatherings."

Tsu-tsu-tsu-

Hades's gesture caused the ground to turn black.

"For now, it seems we must deal with these things first."

Fwoosh-!

In an instant, the world's time shifted to night. At the same time, Poseidon raised his spear, and water surged from the ground to form a river.

Both changed day to night and altered the landscape. The approaching Outer Gods were crushed by the water's pressure and vanished into darkness.

The power of the two extended to distances beyond Hargan's sight. The Outer Gods, who had been relentlessly advancing, could no longer approach and hesitated.

Truly, they were the Three Gods.

The first encounter where the Three Gods joined forces to fight.

"Now the situation has changed in our favor."

The most dangerous enemy was blocked by Zeus.

Now, the situation was stable enough that either Poseidon or Hades alone would be more than enough for the few stragglers remaining.

But now that the two had joined forces, it was safer than ever.

"Can you finally show a relaxed expression?"

Poseidon scolded Hargan with a stern voice.

"Ha, ha, ha."

Hargan smiled satisfactorily, his face illuminated by relief.

Poseidon had always been known for his severity, even within Olympus.

Of course, it was all the more reassuring now that he was.

"Yes. It's not over until it's over."

"Tsk..."

Poseidon looked at Hargan with a contemptuous expression.

Then he abruptly turned his head, bewildering Hargan with his reaction.

And then...

"It's not over; now it begins."

Hades turned his head and looked toward the sky.

Naturally, Hargan's gaze followed the direction.

And there...

"As that guy said."

Gruuuu-.

The mouth of the Despair That Reaches The Skies opened, and something small twisted and emerged from it.

A being that showed a presence far greater than Despair itself.

"Someone else is inside."

"I see it too."

Hades opened his mouth with concern.

"Don't move recklessly, do what was agreed upon."

"You're the one who should least tarnish the name of Olympus. That brat is also fighting well."

"That guy has always been superior to us."

Although they were the three rulers bound by the name of Olympus, they rarely gathered in one place, let alone fought together.

Unlike other grand alliances, Olympus was known for its individualistic approach due to the influence of its three rulers.

But now, the Three Gods were gathered in one place.

"If we lose here..."

Hades opened his mouth as another Outer God revealed itself from Despair.

"Consider it the end of Olympus."

Chapter 305

Kwarrung!

Lightning bolts fell in all directions.

The scattered bolts, like rain, converged in an instant and aimed at a point.

The lightning spread across the body of Despair That Reaches The Skies.

Chi-ji, chi-jik-.

Zeus, clad in a suit of lightning, stood in the sky and gazed at Despair.

Woo~

The reaction came at that moment.

Completely burnt Despair opened its mouth and began expelling something from within.

A grotesque scene.

If he hadn't known, he would have panicked.

"That guy was really right."

How the hell did he know?

Fajjjjik-!

The lightning gathered in Zeus's hands.

In an instant, Zeus formed a giant golden spear and arched his body.

The throwing posture.

Thus, in the next moment, the tip of the spear released from Zeus's hand flew toward the head of Despair.

Flash!

The sharp spear tip pierced through Despair's neck.

No, it seemed to have pierced through.

Thud~

Until something fell to the ground.

Zeus was already looking at the creature that had fallen to the ground outside the mouth of Despair.

Ssshhh-

Slowly, it began to rise.

A chilling sensation scratched and passed through his skin. Not only Zeus, but the other two Gods also felt the same.

Zeus found two people looking at him.

"Welcome."

Poseidon and Hades nodded in response to Zeus's greeting.

The situation of having to fight together certainly felt strange to them.

But they had no other choice.

In the current situation, they couldn't display their pride.

Woosh-

The demon (demonic creature) writhing on the ground stood up.

With purple skin, it seemed that Despair That Reaches The Skies had decreased in size.

Zeus and the other two had one thought when they saw it.

[Despair That Falls to The Earth]

The enemy's name was decided by those who saw it.

Interestingly, everyone who saw the enemy had the same image in mind.

Despair That Falls to The Earth.

Zeus looked at the guy and muttered.

"How pitiful."

Despair That Falls to The Earth, like a newborn, lifted its head and looked at Zeus with an expressionless face.

And at that moment...

Kwang!

A prepared lightning bolt struck Despair.

And at that moment...

Pah.

Zeus's golden eyes reflected the face of Despair up close.

"...!"

Kwaaang!

Zeus's body burst. His body transformed into lightning disappeared and reappeared beside Poseidon and Hades.

Zeus had a surprised expression on his face.

"Are you alright?"

"...He's a fast one."

Hades and Poseidon were equally astonished.

Although they were at a considerable distance, they couldn't see how their opponent moved.

Drip-.

Zeus wiped the blood running down his cheek with his hand.

A fairly deep wound.

If he had been injured, that meant the guy's attack had pierced through his armor.

It wasn't as perfect as Indra's, but it was supposed to be strong enough not to be easily pierced.

"He's dangerous."

Zeus's words made the other two even more alert.

To them, Zeus had always been a sort of impenetrable wall. Although he had lost his power along with the Lightning, he eventually captured Indra and regained his former strength.

But now, from Zeus's mouth came the word "dangerous."

"We need to take positions."

Zeus's words were met with nods from Poseidon and Hades.

They hadn't needed a team before. But this time, the situation was a bit, no, very different.

Among the three, who had strong personalities, Zeus was the strongest. It was natural for him to say those words.

Naturally, Poseidon stepped forward.

"I'll be in the front."

It had been a long time coming.

The three brothers formed a team and ascended the Tower.

Until they became Rankers, their roles were clearly defined.

Poseidon would be on the front defense, Hades would support Poseidon, and Zeus would perform long-range attacks with his spear.

It was an event so distant that even the memories became blurred, but each of them knew their roles clearly.

"It's been a long time. Really long."

Hades's chest swelled with excitement, even if it was for an unexpected enemy.

They had reunited as the Three Gods, who had grown apart at some point. Following their respective positions, the three began to move.

To capture the enemy Outer God.

-----  
Thud-!

A thick giant tree broke in an instant and fell backward.

Sun Wukong, wielding the Ruyi Bang, quickly turned his head to search for Foolish Chaos.

There was a line above his head.

At the same time...

Swoosh-!

He turned his head and the end of Sun Wukong's Ruyi Bang pointed again.

"Grow!"

Thwack-!

The Ruyi Bang rose towards the sky. Foolish Chaos, who had been dodging the strikes, twisted his body in a strange direction to avoid the Ruyi Bang.

Sun Wukong's expression frowned at that movement.

As if something didn't please him, Sun Wukong visibly furrowed his brow and muttered.

"Are you an eel?"

Sun Wukong's hand raised upward.



A hazy mist passed through the trees.

Ssshhhh-!

A white glow surged from the ground. Foolish Chaos, moving to evade Sun Wukong, momentarily stopped in the face of the magic contained within.

"You won't be able to dodge this."

Crack-!

The clouds turned into dark clouds.

"Hit him."

Flash-!

Following Sun Wukong's shout, hundreds of lightning bolts shot up into the sky from within the clouds.

"Incredible."

Kwa-rung-!

The rain of lightning that scattered from the ground to the sky left no empty spaces.

After a dazzling bolt.

Foolish Chaos's body turned torn. His robe was soaked in blood, and holes formed where the lightning pierced through his body.

But only until there.

Ssss-!

The holes in his body closed at such a fast speed that they were almost invisible to the naked eye.

Sun Wukong silently observed that scene.

He didn't show surprise. It seemed he knew this would happen.

Indeed, Sun Wukong was so calm that he turned his head to look elsewhere.

"What do you want?"

Asked Foolish Chaos, whose body had returned to normal.

At first, it was Sun Wukong who seemed to rush at him as if to kill him. Undoubtedly, until that moment, Sun Wukong's eyes reflected determination and anger.

But at some point...

Foolish Chaos felt that Sun Wukong's reaction, rushing at him, turned lukewarm and apathetic, as if it had cooled down.

A reaction that felt like hitting empty air.

From that moment on, Foolish Chaos began to question the purpose of Sun Wukong.

"Your death."

Sun Wukong's words conveyed no falsehood.

Although he didn't have the ability to discern truth from lies like the Golden Cinder Eyes, Foolish Chaos trusted his own eyes and ears.

He wasn't fooled by lies from someone like Sun Wukong. There was not a trace of deceit in those words.

However...

"That's not your immediate goal."

Sun Wukong wasn't frantically running to achieve what he wanted right at this moment, despite having the desire.

He was looking further into the big picture.

If it were the original Sun Wukong, he would have only sought what lay directly in front of him, but now he had a brilliant mind attached to him.

"I don't know."

When Sun Wukong responded, avoiding eye contact with a frustrated expression, Foolish Chaos finally had certainty in his thoughts.

He wasn't trying to kill him in this place.

"They made me waste too much time."

It was because he was too cautious of that guy's Golden Cinder Eyes.

"Although I still have cards I can play..."

Bam~

A strike sounded.

A palm blocking the view.

Huwook-.

Foolish Chaos's body turned into a mirage and disappeared from the scene. He averted his gaze from Sun Wukong's grip and heard the thunder in the distance.

"With two of them on that side, it's enough."

From the beginning, his plan was to include the three Gods and Kim YuWon.

Although Sun Wukong interfered, Kim YuWon was still here.

Although the picture had changed, the outcome wasn't bad. Since his first target was Zeus, he had achieved the mission's objective.

Furthermore, the situation had been altered by the variable called the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

He didn't need to expect anything more than that.

"I don't need to spend more points than these."

He was satisfied with the three Gods, including Zeus.

At the moment Foolish Chaos made a firm decision...

Chi-zhik, chi-zhik-.

In the distance, he could feel YuWon's Arcane Power, who was charging his spear.

Dark energy accumulated at the tip of the spear. With eyes like OhGong's, YuWon's spear couldn't be ignored by Foolish Chaos.

However...

Mmm...

The direction of the spear tip changed.

"...?"

Undoubtedly, until recently, Kim YuWon was looking at him, but suddenly he was looking in another direction.

The direction to which the spear tip pointed...

It was towards the Despair fighting against the Three Gods.

'It can't be.'

Undoubtedly, it seemed that both YuWon and Son OhGong had been searching for him from the beginning.

Both had used their Golden Cinder Eyes to find his location. Foolish Chaos thought that their goal was obviously to capture him.

But now, watching the serious fight that had started, that didn't seem to be true.

It didn't seem like a simple change of mind.

Chiji jik-!

Arcane Power began to emanate from YuWon's spear, Nir.

Just as it was about to finish charging...

"I thought I was going to die of boredom."

Swip-!

Suddenly, the mischievous voice of Son OhGong, who had returned without warning, was heard.

-----

A few days ago.

Son OhGong received contact from YuWon and arrived on the 80th floor.

"What's going on?"

Son OhGong didn't need much time to move between floors.

There were only a handful of Rankers in this Tower, including Asura, who could keep up with him while he was using his Flying Nimbus.

YuWon, who had lit a fire and was cooking meat on it in preparation for Son OhGong's visit, opened his mouth with the calmest voice possible.

"Don't be surprised and listen."

"Yes."

"It seems that Foolish Chaos is here."

"What...?"

YuWon's gaze pierced through Son OhGong's body. Faced with the cruel gaze that seemed to say he would kill him if he said one more word, Son OhGong closed his mouth.

With a softer voice, YuWon casually opened his mouth as he handed a well-cooked piece of meat to Son OhGong.

"He might already be watching us. So don't be surprised."

"Oh, yeah. Wow, this meat must be delicious."

"Seriously, what would you have done if you had returned alone...?"

Just thinking about it gave him a headache. Running a hand through his hair, YuWon continued.

"Anyway, we'll give up on capturing that guy here."

Hm...

Son OhGong's shoulder trembled as he bit into a piece of meat.

From his reaction, he could tell what that guy was thinking.

Well.

To Son OhGong, Foolish Chaos was not a simple enemy.

Both YuWon's comrades and the Seven Heavenly Demons had died under Foolish Chaos's influence.

Having to give up on such an enemy was not an easy task.

"So, why did you call me?"

"Do you remember who was the first Outer that guy called?"

"Despair That Reaches The Skies. And Despair That Falls to The Earth."

Son OhGong replied, panting, shoving the unchewed meat into his throat.

Gulp-

"Is it possible that it has already appeared?"

"There's a possibility."

"There are still thousands of years left, right?"

In response to the question of whether things could have progressed so quickly, YuWon nodded. Still doubting the possibility, Son OhGong opened his mouth, and YuWon continued speaking. "Anyway, if this Outer reveals its appearance this time..."

A flash.

YuWon looked towards his chest.

Or rather, towards Danpung who was in a deep sleep.

Seeing that he didn't wake up no matter how noisy the surroundings were, it was difficult to expect his help this time as well.

"Your job will be to distract Foolish Chaos."

Chapter 306

'Done'.

There was more than enough time.

Son OhGong faithfully fulfilled his role in preventing Foolish Chaos from summoning the next Outer.

Foolish Chaos, who was fighting Son OhGong in the distance, turned to look at him.

He seemed to have realized superficially, but...

"Our side was faster."

It would take him time to summon the next Outer. He was probably trying to summon the Outers to trap the Three Gods and himself.

However, after encountering Son OhGong and then YuWon pointing his spear at him, the plans deviated. Naturally, targets could change depending on the situation.

From capturing himself to capturing the Three Gods.

It was Foolish Chaos's nature to ensure the safe capture of one of the two rabbits rather than catching both.

That's why Foolish Chaos didn't try to escape from Son OhGong. Instead, he tried to capture Son OhGong and YuWon.

And that was a mistake.

'The range of the spear is...'

Shhh...

Flames ignited at the end of the spear.

This time, it took quite a while to activate it.

[Opening 'Tartarus']

[Uranus Heart rules Nír]

Tartarus.

Undoubtedly, opening the door and crossing it during the past few days had been a failure.

However, there had still been some progress.

If YuWon's door opening until now was just a small crack, now it was fully wide open.

Cris, criss...

The magical energy flowing from Tartarus accumulated in YuWon's palm through the spear tip.

Nír was a spear with a nature completely opposite to that of Gungnir.

It was a spear that reacted to dark energy. That's why YuWon saw Tartarus as a means to handle Nír.

'If Tartarus is truly an infinite sea of energy...'

Tsutsu, tsutsutsu...

He felt his hand decaying.

Corrosion.

It was the nature of dark magic.

And now, the Arcane Power gathering in Nír began to exceed the limits that YuWon could endure.

"This will end with a single blow."

-----

Crash!!

The tip of Poseidon's spear and Despair's grip clashed. The power of the sea that had accumulated at the spear's tip dispersed, and Poseidon's body was pushed back.

"You're small but strong!"

Poseidon felt the magical power surrounding him fade away in an instant.

[Sea Armor is trembling]

[Sea Armor is recovering]

The armor that had trembled began to recover. Poseidon was the strongest in terms of defense among the Three Gods.

Despair's gaze pierced through Poseidon.

He shivered, and his body trembled. Unconsciously, he began to break out in a cold sweat facing that individual.

But...

"Try again if you dare!"

To not be surpassed by the momentum, Poseidon raised the spear again with a threatening voice.

At that moment...

Swoosh...

Despair reached out its hand towards Poseidon.

"What...?"

Suddenly, a gigantic claw rose up and completely covered Poseidon's body, bewildering him.

But it was only for a moment.

His experience up until now instinctively blocked the claw.

Swoosh...

The claw tore through the watery armor covering Poseidon's body.

With a loud crack, the spear tip began to crack.

"Did I go too far?"

Even blocking the attack turned out to be extremely difficult.

"I need a little help..."

"No need to say it."

Swish...

Despair was surrounded by black darkness.

"I suppose so."

Chirararak!

Thousands and thousands of blades rained down from the darkness. Despite the countless, countless blades, Despair didn't stop advancing.

Chaaaaaak-!

A giant palm blocked the blades and split the darkness.

And from there, the figure of Hades, who had been concealed, was revealed.

".....!"

Hades's eyes gleamed.

In the moment Despair and his eyes met, Hades felt his body stiffen.

That's how Despair's claw reached out towards Hades.

Fwoosh...

Hades's body dispersed in that place and turned into black smoke.

The smoke twisted and enveloped Despair's body.

"You have strength, but you lack intelligence."

Pshhh!

At the same time, immense Arcane Power erupted above Despair's head.

Zeus, who suddenly appeared nearby, held a giant Lightning Bolt in his hand and assumed a throwing posture.

"If you're at this distance..."

He only needed a single strike.

"Even if you try to dodge, you won't be able to."

Flash!

The Lightning Bolt left Zeus's hand.

Kkaaaaah!

For the first time, that individual screamed.

The attack was effective.

However, for Zeus, who intended to put an end to this once and for all, it had a draining reaction.

'He doesn't even have teeth.'

If he can afford to scream, it means he's not on the verge of death yet.

This isn't enough. Zeus hurriedly prepared for the next attack.

Pshhh...

"It seems to affect your pride." (YuWon)

The Lightning gathered in Zeus's hand spread out like a net.

It wasn't a spear, but a net-like form.

Swoosh...

The dispersed net enveloped the body of Despair, which was pressed by the golden pillar.

"Do you want to take my position for just an item?" (Zeus)

"This spear is our best weapon." (YuWon)

Before the fight began.

YuWon presented the most perfect way to turn this fight into a victory.

Nir.

The item that possesses power comparable to Odin's spear, Gungnir.

The design of the spear that only YuWon can activate had already demonstrated its destructive power in the fight against Indra.

"So we must make sure to hit this securely." (YuWon)

"Is it really necessary to go this far? Ensuring a direct hit and coordinating movements with the others?" (Zeus)

At first, Zeus had doubts.



It was natural.

After all, he himself had enough confidence in having that power.

But...

"Even Indra, who possessed that great power, is now dead and gone from the rankings." (YuWon)

Zeus was immediately convinced, and he had no intention to argue against it either.

"Trust me at least once. It's never a bad idea to play it safe." (YuWon)

Foolish Chaos, an existence that Zeus had also failed to understand until now.

They weren't of the Dragon Race or any other known race in the Tower, and they weren't classified by the Administrators according to the proper process.

They were something else that belonged to this Tower.

Incomprehensible beings.

Therefore, Zeus decided to follow YuWon's wishes.

Even if his pride was affected...

"Throw it."

With those words from Zeus, the Three Gods separated from Despair as if they had made a promise.

They knew they could be immediately dragged if they stayed in that place.

And at that moment...

Tuhwak!

From afar, a black spear flew.

-----

Shooaaaak...

The spear that flew left a long line.

It pierced through everything in its path and pierced the body of Despair, which was confined by the movements of the three gods.

All sound vanished.

Despair That Falls to The Earth couldn't even scream. Its body was torn into pieces, disintegrated, and turned into dust.

Reaching the limit of dark magic power resulted in annihilation.

Despair resisted not to disappear. As if saying it wouldn't vanish so easily, it tightly closed its eyes and covered its head with both hands.

To survive.

YuWon, who was observing from afar, winced a bit.

This consumed much more Arcane Power than he expected.

"I thought I could use two or three shots..."

It wasn't the first time he activated Nir.

Of course, depending on how much Arcane Power was consumed, he could calculate how many times he could throw the spear.

But this time was different.

"Was it because of Tartarus?"

At this moment, Nir consumed more Arcane Power than ever before.

Although a considerable amount of Arcane Power was needed to activate the spear, a considerable amount of Arcane Power was also used to open Tartarus.

It was natural for the power to multiply accordingly.

However...

"70% of the total. I've consumed too much Arcane Power."

It was a spear that even at the beginning of the battle was intimidating to use. However, in this situation, there was no choice but to activate it in the midst of combat without even daring to hesitate.

In the Murim World, there was a saying that one must hide 30% of their ability.

That saying spread throughout the Tower at some point and became another form of expression.

You must always reserve 30% of your Arcane Power.

It was the last line of defense for survival. If all magical power was exhausted by pouring it out completely, survival was impossible.

YuWon sympathized more than anyone with that saying and was the one who followed it the best.

From YuWon's perspective, he had poured out all the magical power he possessed in this single spear throw.

"I can't do it alone."

In this way, the requirements to throw the spear doubled.

To give time for the spear's activation.

After activation, a "team" was needed that could protect him in a state close to fatigue.

"Another option is to have enough Arcane Power to throw multiple spears and still have some left over."

At least YuWon knew that in this Tower, there was only one High-Ranker who possessed a similar amount of Arcane Power.

Odin.

The great King of Asgard and the second ranked in the ranking of High-Rankers.

It was said that he had such vast Arcane Power that he could throw Gungnir multiple times and still have Arcane Power left.

Indeed, YuWon had never witnessed his Arcane Power diminishing.

"Do I have another task?"

He murmured as the corner of YuWon's lips lifted.

It's not that Arcane Power automatically multiplies by using it in large quantities. In YuWon's mind, there were very few abilities that could disperse such a large amount of magical power at once.

The more abilities, the better. Especially a single strike with power like this could defeat an invincible opponent.

Now the remaining task was clear.

He had to be able to skillfully handle this spear like Odin.

If that were the case, he wouldn't have to rely on someone else to throw the spear, like now.

"Why is it like this?"

Huuk-

YuWon's wavering gaze turned to the side.

"It seems that what I imagined and reality are different, aren't they?"

Shhh...

Over an empty and desolate space, a purple shimmer appeared as if it had been there for quite some time.

It had already been there for a while.

Foolish Chaos emerged from within the robes, with fierce eyes flashing.

He already knew things had gone wrong. When he realized it, he was already one step behind.

He had overlooked two things.

He had misinterpreted YuWon's objective and had underestimated the power of the spear that YuWon could throw.

Furthermore.

He hadn't foreseen the appearance of Son OhGong, who had given YuWon the time to throw the spear.

"You're so annoying, you and your eyes."

There was a tone that seemed not entirely satisfactory somewhere in his heart.

It was a reunion after a long time.

In an instant in YuWon's mind, the image of Foolish Chaos turned into a corpse came to mind.

It had taken too long to hunt him down. The consequences of that had caused the deaths of too many people.

The Golden Cinder Eyes were an indispensable condition to trap Foolish Chaos.

The corner of YuWon's lips lifted as he met Foolish Chaos's gaze.

"Is this all that bothers you?"

Anyway, it can no longer be hidden if we have come this far.

YuWon lowered his gaze to his lap, which seemed emptier than usual.

"There is probably something much more bothersome."

Dapung had disappeared.

The boy who enjoyed devouring people from the Outer World had awakened from a long sleep.

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C307

Step-

Small footsteps could be heard approaching.

Despair, lying prostrate on the ground, lifted its head.

And then...

Woosh-

A small child, barely the size of a palm, appeared before its eyes.

Despair's face was already deformed and its body partially faded. It barely held onto life, and it wouldn't be strange if it died at any moment.

Danpung approached that Despair.

Tac, tac, tac-

Danpung, who had walked slowly, met the gaze of Despair.

Could this be the final farewell before death?

Despair extended its hand forward, never averting its gaze from Danpung.

A gesture that was unknown whether it was a threat or a plea to be saved.

Danpung responded to that gesture.

Zzzk-, plip-

Around Despair, hundreds of black teeth emerged amidst a dark landscape.

The movement of Despair, which had extended its hand, came to a halt. In an instant, light entered Despair's pupils as it looked at Danpung.

-You, are you...?

In appearance, Danpung was no different from the Dwarf Race, a small and weak race.

However, upon seeing the original form revealed by Danpung, it felt a sense of familiarity similar to the existence Despair knew.

-Why are you here...?

It couldn't understand.

Why that thing was here and why it had that appearance.

Several questions intertwined one after another.

But...

Woosh-

Before those questions could be answered, the Predator's fangs started to chew and devour Despair.

"Abba-."

-----

[Danpung's level has increased]

[Danpung's level has increased]

[Danpung's level...]

[Danpung's Divine Power has increased by 6 points]

[Growth rate has increased by 32.44%]

[Arcane Power has increased by 5 points]

[You have eliminated 'Despair That Falls to The Earth']

[You have obtained 500,000 points]

The messages resonated.

Thanks to that, the long silence was broken. YuWon, who had been facing Foolish Chaos, finally had certainty.

"Did he really awaken?"

Danpung opened his eyes.

Despair That Falls to The Earth was one of the most powerful cards among the enemies Foolish Chaos was handling.

YuWon thought that Danpung wouldn't let that type escape. After all, Danpung was always hungry.

And as expected, Danpung devoured it.

The growth rate increased, the level and Divine Power rose.

And with that, his own statistics increased.

Five stat points.

Arcane Power, which barely increased after surpassing 100 points, was invaluable in terms of value compared to statistics. Although level increase was slow, the five stat points were numerically valuable beyond comparison with Points.

Kim YuWon knew better than anyone how much value a difference of just one in this level and stats had.

Especially now, when he keenly felt the lack of stats compared to skills and items.

These five stat points would be a great stepping stone for YuWon.

No.

'In fact, this is just the beginning.'

YuWon read Foolish Chaos's intentions as he silently observed him.

Within his reaction submerged in silence, YuWon perceived numerous thoughts.

The death of the Outer Gods had been a severe blow to Foolish Chaos.

There was no mistake in his calculations.

The Three Gods didn't have the power to bring down Despair That Falls to The Earth and Despair That Reaches The Skies.

That's what should have happened originally.

However, Zeus became much stronger than originally planned. The Three Gods with established positions showed a strength surpassing what they had demonstrated in individual battles.

And above all, Son OhGong and Kim YuWon.

The existence of these two people completely ruined Foolish Chaos's calculations.

Foolish Chaos was fully aware of and accepted this fact.

"It's you."

After a long time, Foolish Chaos spoke those words.

Behind him, Son OhGong was watching his movements while holding the Ru Yi Bang.

Although Son OhGong posed a much greater threat, Foolish Chaos no longer paid attention to him.

It wasn't Zeus or Son OhGong.

The person who now captured his interest was none other than YuWon.

"You always stayed ahead of me with higher numbers." ("계속 나보다 높은 수를 두던 게.")

The first time he had noticed something strange was when the Gigantomachy was canceled.

The Olympus that he had worked so hard to build had fallen, and Zeus had turned from friend to enemy.

The same thing happened with the Ragnarok.

Foolish Chaos thought everything was in the palm of his hand.

But it wasn't so.

On the contrary.

The picture he had created was crumbling.

At first, he thought it might be Odin or Zeus, but...

"It's not that there was no harvest."

Now he knew for sure.

Who was the person who had been outpacing him.

"It seems rankings can't be trusted."

Until now, Foolish Chaos evaluated the Rankers and used them as chess pieces based on their rankings.

To use Zeus as the knight that would provoke the Gigantomachy, or to select Jade Emperor as the knight that would provoke the Great Celestial War.

In response to Odin, he planned the Ragnarok using Surt.

All these foundations were based on the Rankings.

On the other hand, YuWon wasn't in the Rankings until recently, and furthermore, his current position in the Rankings was significantly lower compared to Zeus or Odin.

That was why Foolish Chaos hadn't paid much attention to YuWon until now.

However...

"From now on, it will be different."

Foolish Chaos would only believe what he had seen with his own eyes, rather than the position determined by statistics.

Suddenly, something like pride burned in Foolish Chaos's chest.

And if it was about pride, YuWon wasn't far behind.

"From the moment you mentioned 'from now on', it's already too late."

"Too late for you."

"Well, let's see what happens."

In the face of YuWon's mockery, a faint purple energy flowed from Foolish Chaos.

"All I'm doing is turning a 99 percent probability into 100 percent. Nothing is changing in the first place."

"So, you're saying I'll win in the end, in a fight where the odds are against me."

"You're being arrogant."

"We'll see if it's arrogance or not."

YuWon showed a relaxed attitude as he shrugged.

The winners and losers were clearly divided. Foolish Chaos briefly glanced at YuWon before slowly concealing his appearance.

The robe became blurry.

"Where do you think you're going...?"

"Stop."

When Son OhGong was about to intervene, YuWon stopped him.

A brief moment of hesitation.

And that brief moment was long enough for Foolish Chaos, who completely disappeared while Son OhGong stood still.

Son OhGong's gaze was filled with confusion.

He looked at YuWon wondering why he had stopped him.

Then...

"We don't have to go all the way."

Unlike a moment ago, YuWon responded with a voice lacking confidence.

It was a surprising answer for OhGong, who hadn't found it strange that they could fight again at any moment.

"Is that your answer after provoking so much?"

"Even if I provoke, I know you won't come over." ("아무리 도발해도 넘어오지 않을 걸 아니까.")

"Then were you just testing the waters?"

"That's right."

In any case, there was no fight.

Ultimately, this fight unfolded as YuWon desired.

However...

"From now on, it probably won't be as easy as before."

From now on, YuWon would be involved in all of Foolish Chaos's thoughts and actions.

Until now, YuWon had followed the plans and decisions that had been made with everyone, before returning using the Clock Movement.

Although YuWon was the one who completed the plan, since the events were already established and hadn't changed drastically, it wasn't difficult to make decisions in each situation.

But now it was different.

Foolish Chaos started to become aware of YuWon.

That meant that even in the same event, the content could change at any moment.

He had to adapt more flexibly to each situation.

The situation would become even more challenging.

Of course, all was not lost.

"Still, thanks to this, we've gained time."



Foolish Chaos, who lost two cards, lost a lot of time.

On the other hand, YuWon had gained quite a bit of time with this incident.

"Well, anyway...".

YuWon sat in his place after confirming that Foolish Chaos had completely disappeared.

"At least we've gotten rid of a big problem."

-----  
Step, step-.

Small steps moved cheerfully.

A shadow fell on Danpung's body, which moved while humming an incomprehensible buzz.

"Abaat-?"

Danpung lifted its head and saw YuWon's face.

When YuWon extended his hand, Danpung quickly jumped and climbed onto his palm.

"Did you like it?"

"Baat-."

Danpung smiled widely, apparently satisfied.

It had been a long time since Danpung had seen him awake. The little one who used to sleep for a long time suddenly opened his eyes wide and stood up, as if he knew there was food.

He was now big enough to go out on his own, eat, and come back.

"Is that him?"

Son OhGong, who had heard something about this from YuWon, looked at Danpung with curious eyes.

A little child who devours the Outer Gods.

He simply couldn't imagine it. No one, including Son OhGong and his companions, had any information about Danpung.

YuWon nodded in response and checked Danpung's growth rate.

[Name: Kim Danpung]

[Level: 37]

[Strength: 1]

[Agility: 1]

[Endurance: 1]

[Sense: 1]

[Divine Power: 136]

[Abilities]

[Predator, ?]

[Growth Rate: 64.24%]

The Divine Power had increased significantly, and the growth rate had reached 64% in the blink of an eye.

Although they had spent a long time raising him and waiting for him to do his part, his growth was faster than expected.

YuWon raised his arm and looked at Danpung, who was sitting on his shoulder.

"Contrary to the numbers, there's still no visible difference.

He took a closer look, wondering if he had grown a little, but he was still small. It seemed that growth was not gradual with an increase in the growth rate, but rather occurred when all the values were fulfilled.

"There's no need to rush. We have plenty of time."

YuWon took Danpung back to the lodging.

Fortunately, the lodging was far from where the fight took place, so the surroundings of the lodging were in good condition.

When they entered the lodging, Zeus and the Three Gods were gathered.

The atmosphere seemed serious, as if they had had an important discussion.

Even Hargan, who used to talk a lot, kept his mouth shut due to the heavy atmosphere.

"You're back."

Hargan looked at YuWon with a joyful face.

He looked exhausted. For Hargan, surviving this battle was a miracle.

The fight against the Outer Gods was so dangerous.

YuWon stood up from his seat and asked Hargan quietly, who approached first.

"What happened?"

"Nothing happened."

"Nothing at all?"

"Yes, nothing really happened."

"...?"

"I thought I was going to die from discomfort. I can't go crazy trying to liven up the atmosphere here..."

It wasn't a serious atmosphere.

There simply was nothing to say.

They were twin brothers, born at the same time.

And yet, they had nothing to say to each other.

Under different circumstances, Hargan would have tried to liven up the atmosphere in some way, but he couldn't do it in front of Zeus and the other gods.

"Come and sit down."

When YuWon returned to the lodging, Hades was the first to speak up.

YuWon and Son OhGong found an empty spot at the wide table and sat down following his gesture.

He was absorbed in his thoughts, and after alternating his gaze between YuWon and Zeus, Hades asked.

"Don't you have anything to tell us?"

Hades didn't directly ask the question out of curiosity.

Instead, he let YuWon speak first.

It was evident what he was interested in.

The existences outside the Tower.

Aside from Zeus, Hades and Poseidon knew nothing about them.

What should he answer?

He thought for a moment, but he had nothing to say.

YuWon didn't know much about them either.

So...

"Well, uh..."

Instead, YuWon decided to give a different response.

After all, it was a conversation they would have to have soon.

"The 100th floor, which is said to be the top of this Tower."

At that moment, Zeus, who had been quiet all along, showed interest.

"There's a way to reach the next World, the 101st floor."

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It was a completely different story from what he had in mind at first.

But that didn't mean it was something to dismiss outright.

Especially Zeus, he insisted even more.

"Tell me more."

As if he couldn't wait another moment, Zeus urged for the answer in an unusual manner.

Hades and Poseidon also showed interest.

That was good.

He had nothing to say if they persisted in asking about the Outer Gods, so he diverted the interest elsewhere.

His provocative words clearly caught attention.

"In summary, there is no 101st floor."

"Are you joking right now?"

Poseidon, the most impatient one, stood up from his seat in anger.

As if telling him to listen to the end, Hades raised his hand to stop him.

"Above the 100th floor is the ceiling. It is also the highest point of the Tower."

"But what you said earlier..."

"However, there is a summit that rises beyond that last floor."

The Tower consisting of 100 floors is a place where rankings are assigned, and the strongest, those who have reached the top of the Tower, are beings who have the privilege to be called Rankers.

But to go beyond that last floor and climb higher...

That was a different story from becoming a Ranker or a High-Ranker.

"As you know, the Tower is a structure that contains countless worlds. But if an existence is capable of surpassing each of those worlds and rises beyond that structure..."

When YuWon reached that point and said that, Zeus opened his mouth.

"God." (神)

It was just one word.

And all eyes turned to Zeus.

Only YuWon knew that would be the reaction.

"Yes. God."

"Divinity (神格). Myth (神話). Divine Spirit (神靈). Divine Power (神威). Qualities that a God should possess."

"Climbing the Tower is a process to test and build that."

"...As I thought."

As if knowing it would be so, Zeus nodded his head and closed his eyes for a moment.

Before closing his eyes, Zeus' eyes were filled with complex emotions he had been searching for a long time.

Those clues he had desperately sought.

But those clues were mentioned by YuWon.

It was the first time he had met someone who knew about the clues that could turn him into a God at the top of this Tower, apart from himself.

"The Door..."

So Zeus slowly opened his mouth.

As if something bad would happen if he spoke ill. Very carefully, letter by letter, he asked.

"Where is the Door?"

The Door.

A passage that could take him beyond the floor he thought was the last, whether it existed or not.

Zeus had desperately searched for that place for a long time.

And maybe...

Maybe YuWon, who stood in front of him, might know the location of that Door.

"The Door..."

YuWon opened his mouth.

Crunch...

At that moment...

Rasch, rasch...

A rustling sound came from behind the curtain.

"Nom?"

A confused voice echoed, breaking the tense atmosphere.

Naturally, all eyes turned in the direction where the sound came from.

There, Son OhGong fluttered around the room, searching for something to eat.

With something in his mouth, he chewed without being able to resist whatever it was.

-----

Nom, nom...

Son OhGong greedily chewed on the thick bacon and bread in his mouth.

Clearly, he was very hungry.

"Did I talk about this too quickly?" (YuWon)

YuWon hadn't revealed information about the Door for a long time.

He decided that once it was revealed, there would be no way to contain it. That's why YuWon didn't share information about the Door with anyone he didn't consider trustworthy.

Furthermore, the appearance of a Ranker who opens the door and obtains the qualification of a God would collapse the current ranking system.

The beginning of an Era of Chaos.

The new great power would call forth greed. That greed would sow blood and plunge the Tower into chaos once again.

That's why YuWon tried to hide information about the "Door" from unverified Rankers.

That was until recently.

"Is it because of Indra?" (OhGong)

Son OhGong asked, and YuWon nodded.

Indra.

A High-Ranker who opened the Door long before them and obtained the qualification of a God.

His existence left a deep impression on YuWon.

"It's a gamble." (YuWon)

"A gamble?" (OhGong)

"Zeus has been searching for the Door long before us. He also knew the conditions." (YuWon)

He looked at the coffee cup he had brought with him from the lodging.

"If he opens the door, the qualification will completely change. Poseidon and Hades will also be affected." (YuWon)

"Isn't it dangerous?" (OhGong)

"Zeus and I share the same goal. Furthermore, after this incident, he will also have realized that he can't face his opponents alone." (YuWon)

There was enough evidence.

However, he wasn't completely sure.

Until now, Zeus wasn't a reliable ally. The same went for Poseidon and Hades.

But YuWon revealing the information about the Door was literally a gamble.

"Anyway, if we don't do it this way, we can't win."

"That's true."

Son OhGong, who had fought alongside them against the Outer Gods, nodded at YuWon's words.

Unbeatable monsters. To defeat those Outer Gods, they needed to become stronger than they are now.

Although they would be safe for the time being if they didn't gamble, in the end, the results wouldn't change.

Nom...

Son OhGong stuffed the remaining bread into his mouth and looked up.

The sky was gradually brightening, the sun was beginning to rise.

Son OhGong, looking up, muttered to himself.

"I should hurry too."

Most of the problems had already been resolved.

The Celestial Realm had collapsed, and Ragnarok had ended. However, the time had come to hurry, even though he had thought there was no rush.

"They probably won't need me for a while, right?"

Son OhGong had been acting according to YuWon's demands.

Since he had climbed the entire Tower and become a Ranker, he no longer needed to spend time ascending further.

That's how Son OhGong offered himself as a piece in YuWon's strategic game.

But fortunately, they had gained a lot of time with this incident.

Son OhGong thought he couldn't postpone it any longer.

"That's right. Go and come back."

YuWon also thought the same.

As he gave his response, Son OhGong nodded and began walking forward.

White clouds appeared on the ground. Son OhGong hopped onto the Flying Nimbus without looking back and left.

Swoosh!

The clouds traced a white line in the sky and disappeared in the blink of an eye.

Observing his departure, YuWon sat in his place and muttered to himself.

"The first half is over."

-----

The Three Gods had departed.

Both Hades, the Leader of the Olympus Guild, and Zeus, who was always searching for the Door, and Poseidon, who desired more power, headed towards the same place.

Leaving behind the empty seats of the Three Gods who set off in search of the Door, YuWon resumed climbing the Tower.

YuWon was alone again.

[Hargan: Are you already on the 89th floor? Why so fast?]

Thanks to relentlessly challenging every Trial, YuWon reached a higher floor than Hargan.

Unlike Hargan, who had to worry about his team members, YuWon was alone.

Furthermore, this time he focused solely on the Trials without getting involved in other incidents.

Of course.

Meanwhile, his unfinished training didn't stop.

A water droplet floated on the palm of YuWon's hand.

In front of him, a tall and thick rock wall could be seen. YuWon, with sweat on his forehead, quickly moved his hand and flicked the water droplet.

And then...

Splash!

The water droplet hit the wall, creating a huge hole in the middle of it.

Crumble, crumble...

The rock wall crumbled around the hole. YuWon, who confirmed with his own eyes how the small mountain of rocks rapidly disappeared, nodded his head.

"It worked."

The Water Attribute was the weakest part of YuWon.

Water was a magic specialized in defense. However, Poseidon, even though he had the Water Attribute, was not defensive at all.

-The power of water is determined by the degree of compression.

Those were Poseidon's teachings.

YuWon remembered every single word without missing a letter.

-Concentrated water becomes a weapon superior to any other. The pressure of water can exert a force close to infinity.

-In summary, it is about the concentration of Arcane Power.

Concentration.

It was a simple explanation.

However, YuWon delved into that explanation over and over again.

The result was what was unfolding right now.

A small water droplet the size of a bead of sweat crumbled the mountain of rocks. If Poseidon had seen this scene, he might have jumped up saying it was nonsense.

He would have said: How long have you been learning this? How can you do it so fast?

"Pleasantly surprising."

As he practiced what he learned from the Three Gods, YuWon began to feel something.

"Water suits my hands better than other attributes."

Through Uranus, he could handle three attributes.

Of all those attributes, the one that suited YuWon best was water.

It didn't lean toward one side and was the most versatile attribute in terms of defense and offense.



He had always sought versatility and omnipotence, so it was the magical property that best suited YuWon.

Dust covered the collapsed rock mountain like mist. YuWon covered his mouth with one hand and extended the other hand, placing it in front of his eyes.

"It's been a while since I used this."

The past few months had been quite exhausting in terms of effort to master an item.

There were moments when he wondered if it was worth putting in so much effort.

But still, Uranus was the fastest and most effective method to strengthen himself among YuWon's current resources.

It was worth investing enough time and effort.

"Perhaps by this moment, it's fine."

Throughout that time, YuWon hadn't paid attention to Uranus.

It was because he didn't want to use Uranus until he was sure he could properly handle the item.

But now...

It was the first time he had that thought.

He also felt curious.

To wield Uranus, he had to master the three properties that the item possessed.

And now...

He felt something close to certainty.

Pafs...

The first property that emanated from Uranus was Electricity.

Zzng...

The second property was Darkness.

It was the most familiar property. Since obtaining the Divine Dark Crystal, YuWon had been dealing with this property.

Jol, jol-jol...

And the last one was water.

Clear water droplets emerged around Uranus.

The three properties manifested simultaneously.

It wasn't just the sensation of wielding an item.

After going through Uranus, handling the three magical properties felt as natural and comfortable as moving hands and feet.

And in that moment...

Pafs...

Unintentional light sprouted from the center of Uranus.

[Divine Sky Crystal emits light]

"...?"

A sudden message.

The light grew stronger and multiplied.

[Divine Dark Crystal emits light]

[Divine Sea Crystal emits light]

Black light and blue light.

The three lights surged from Uranus and enveloped YuWon. They were the lights emitted by the three gems that composed Uranus.

Vision turned white. The wind and the smell of earth that gradually perceived disappeared completely.

Space shattered, and shortly after, a voice resonated in YuWon's mind.

-It was much faster than I expected.

Faster than he thought.

It was a sign that he knew this moment would come at some point.

It was a familiar voice.

Soon, YuWon remembered who the owner of that voice was.

"When you said we would meet again... Is this what you meant?"

The father of Chronos and the monster defeated by the ancient High-Rankers who united.

[The 'Memories of Uranus' begin]

"Uranus."

He was calling out to YuWon.

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The light concealed the view.

No.

Not just the view, but all senses.

The paralysis of senses had always been a mysterious experience, no matter when he experienced it.

As he thought about it, even when he returned using the Clock Movement, he seemed to have the same sensation as now.

The feeling of his entire being vanishing. His body, his strength, even the vast world around him.

When all that vanished, new things emerged.

Softly, swiftly...

New images began to be drawn on the white canvas.

A blurry background.

It looked like the appearance of an unfamiliar yet vague place in the middle of a city.

It was said to be the memory of Uranus.

What should he do here?

Before the world started moving again, YuWon waited for the next message that would come.

And then...

[The 'Memory of Uranus' begins]

[If you succeed, you will gain control of Uranus]

'Control?'

Until now, YuWon thought he was handling Uranus.

But it turns out that wasn't the case.

The fact that he could gain control meant that he didn't have control of Uranus until now.

It was a plausible enough story.

Uranus was an unusual item with an Ego\* inside that was rarely seen in the Tower.

It wasn't strange for the item itself to have control in its hands, as it had its own identity.

'The suppression/restriction of Uranus...'

He received a message through the System.

It was some kind of trial.

A trial to handle the item called Uranus.

It was similar to how Susanoo's tomb was treated as a dungeon.

And it was obvious who prepared this trial.

"This is just my imagination," a voice whispered from beside him.

"I'm selling honey cookies, a snack from the Murim World!"

"Mom, I want them."

"Come on, we're going to be late for school!"

"This is what's trendy among young people these days..."

The bustle started, and people began to move.

It was as if they had come to life in an instant.

Yuwon turned his head.

Among all those people.

There stood a person who emitted a special and eye-catching light beside him.

"It's quite well-made, isn't it?"

A face that closely resembled Zeus.

If Hargan was the son of Zeus, then he was probably Zeus' father.

But YuWon knew Zeus' father.

Chronos.

And it was evident that the man in front of him was not Chronos.

"You've been living quite well here."

"Don't get any illusions. I'm just living, that's all," he replied.

"...I see."

YuWon looked around, observing the complex urban landscape.

"Even if it's well-made, it's still ultimately fake."

Even if you hang fake fish in an empty aquarium, it won't become the sea.

That's how this world was.

"So, what should I do here?"

If this was truly a trial of Uranus, there would be a task to accomplish within it.

But the message didn't reveal the exact details.

There was only such a case.

The actions the Player takes during the Trial are reflected in the Trial and determine whether it is successful or not.

The only way to obtain clues is to run on one's own.

And the most crucial figure in this Trial was Uranus, who stood before him.

He spoke.

"It's a kind of siege."

"Siege?"

"In that siege, your role leans towards defense."

It was an enigmatic response.

A siege.

A familiar method.

If there are three Trials, at least one of them would adopt this approach.

But a siege in a city like this was difficult to comprehend.

"Anyway, how about here?"

Uranus looked around with a satisfied expression.

YuWon, who had been observing the bustling cityscape for a moment, asked, "It doesn't seem to be a completely non-existent place. Where is this?"

"It's the ancient Olympus."

"The ancient Olympus? Is this it?"

YuWon looked at the landscape again with a fresh perspective.

Olympus used to be a city situated above the clouds. But no matter how much he looked around, it was hard to see it as clouds.

Only by looking at the mountains in the distance could he comprehend that fact.

That meant, apart from the name, this place was different from the Olympus land.

"Before, Olympus used to be in this place. It wasn't as magnificent and grand as it is now."

"Is this place very ancient?"

"If you consider the long history of the Tower, you could say it's ancient, or it might be recent. But it's probably a distant past that you can't imagine."

Thrrr-

The figure of Uranus slowly faded away.

As if he had never been there in the first place, he disappeared.

"Well, give it a try and do well."

It was a light farewell.

A refreshing parting, like saying "See you soon" to a friend.

Uranus' figure quickly disappeared from view.

'It's not like there are no clues.'

The clues were Uranus' words.

The ancient Olympus that existed long ago.

However, that Olympus no longer existed and had resurfaced in a new place.

And the siege war.

YuWon could understand what was going to happen through his conversation with Uranus.

'We will be attacked by something...'

The people who lived without knowing anything, with radiant faces.

'This place will disappear.'

It was unknown when they would fade into black and white.

It was only known that YuWon had to resolve what was about to happen.

The general framework of the Trial had been established.

YuWon turned his eyes, now red, and scanned his surroundings.

'Good.'

Swoosh.

Among the infinite crowds, a young man with a familiar face walked among them. YuWon began to follow that young man.

-----

As he walked, YuWon observed his surroundings carefully.

He wasn't looking at specific things like people, buildings, or the sky.

He was simply looking at this world.

This place wasn't a real world that existed as a separate layer.

It was a virtual world created by Uranus, which was close to reality.

'Even with system intervention, it's so realistic.'

Even the initial discomfort that felt unreal had disappeared.

In this place, it was confusing at all times whether this was real or fake as he felt the vitality coming from the passing people.

Step~

After following a person, they arrived at a desolate alley.

"Will it be more comfortable to talk here?"

The person YuWon had been following all this time turned to him. The young man with black hair raised his head and looked at YuWon.

It was a familiar face. When YuWon thought about where he had seen it before, he remembered a person.

Hades.

Black hair and black eyes. It couldn't be darker than that.

However, YuWon knew that the man in front of him was not the young Hades.

He probably hadn't been born at this moment.

'Chronos.'

He looked at him with perplexing eyes.

Again. This feeling.

I know the other person, but that person doesn't know me. YuWon was tormented by that strange and uncomfortable feeling.

But that didn't mean he couldn't say anything.

After all, the person in front of him was not Chronos.

"I have something to ask you."

"Me?"

"Yes."

"I've never seen you before."

When a stranger approaches, it's natural to be on guard. Especially in the case of Chronos, this was even more intense.

YuWon looked at Chronos, who was observing him with curious eyes, in front of him.

Since he returned using the Clock Movement, he never expected to encounter him again.

He knew Chronos' personality well.

Though cautious, he wasn't a fool.

So he had to approach slowly.

If he could break that defensive barrier, he might get his help.

"I just wanted to ask for directions. It's my first time in Olympus."

"Why me?"

"Chronos, the High-Ranker of Olympus. Aren't you famous? I'm your fan."

Fan.

The weakest word for Chronos.

In his heyday as a High-Ranker, as he rose in reputation, he acted so foolishly nice to Players who recognized him.

"In his youth, that guy used to be a complete idiot," Odin said, pointing at Chronos in a bar.

Chronos' hardened appearance at that moment was reflected in YuWon's eyes.

"That's enough." (Chronos)

"All you had to do was say you were a fan, and that idiot would give you his liver and gallbladder, and he'd be nice to you, no matter who you were." (Odin)

"I can't be mean to someone who says they're my fan, right?" (Chronos)

"You really had a celebrity personality." (YuWon)

"Celebrity?" (Chronos)

"Where I used to live..." (YuWon)

He remembered the dialogue, so accessing it wasn't too difficult.

Interestingly, when the word "fan" came out, Chronos' cautious expression disappeared, and his originally gentle face was revealed.

"Is that so?"

Ahem.

Chronos cleared his throat with a fake cough. YuWon found Chronos' appearance in his youth interesting.

'It's real.'

He had seen some photos saved in his player kit.

However, no matter how much he looked, he couldn't believe that face at all, thinking it might be fake.

'No wonder.'

High-Rankers don't age even as they get older. That was basic wisdom for the Tower residents and Players.

But there were exceptions.

That was Chronos.

'A power that ages every time it's used.'

The power he possessed was time.

Although there were many High-Rankers with abilities that transcended common sense, Chronos was the only one with time-related abilities.

And the only condition for him to be able to use it was his allowed time.

Aging was precisely the condition for Chronos to be able to use his ability.

"Hmm. A path, huh? Where are you heading to?"

"To Olympus."

"Olympus?"

Chronos raised his head curiously.

Olympus.

That was the place where Chronos himself resided. If someone said they were his fan and were looking for him, he could understand, but in reality, wasn't he himself in front of him right now?

"What's happening in Olympus?"

"I want to meet the king."

"The king...?"

Chronos' eyes narrowed upon hearing those words.

"Do you mean my father?"



It was a sensitive reaction.

The expression on Chronos' face as he looked at YuWon turned serious. But it was different from the initial kind of caution.

"If you're planning to settle in Olympus, stop. This isn't the romantic place you imagine."

Chronos assumed YuWon wanted to enter Olympus.

The word "fan" was the basis for creating such a misunderstanding, and fortunately, it was well received.

Since the word "King" was mentioned, Chronos couldn't maintain his expression. From that reaction, YuWon was sure there was some problem with Uranus at the moment.

"If that's your business, leave. Don't think it was a mistake, visit some nice restaurants or something before you go."

Chronos turned YuWon down.

There was concern for YuWon in his actions.

It wasn't a covert rejection but a genuine concern about whether YuWon would enter Olympus or not.

But...

"I understand what you're saying."

He couldn't back down here.

The trial had begun, and he couldn't lose sight of Chronos in front of him.

"Still, I can't just turn back like this."

"Haven't you heard? What's happening in Olympus isn't as simple a problem as you think..."

"If there's a problem..."

One of YuWon's eyes showed a red pupil.

Chronos' words came to a halt as they met that.

"I'll check with my own eyes what that problem is."

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C310

Step-

There were many thoughts in every step.

Chronos glanced back for a moment.

"How long do you plan on following me?"

When Chronos stopped, YuWon also stopped. Although he decided to ignore it and walk away, YuWon didn't give up.

"I don't know the way."

"I thought we were done talking about that."

"You're too inflexible."

"If you knew, then..."

"Is there another reason why you're so inflexible? It seems like that problem is more serious than I thought."

In response to YuWon's question, Chronos sighed and rubbed his forehead.

It felt like his head was buzzing for no reason.

He had to say something; no matter how much he thought about it, it seemed YuWon wasn't going to back down.

Then, an excuse came to Chronos' mind.

"Your ability is also a problem. We never accept weak people in our fold; our Olympus takes it very seriously."

"Weak?"

"That's right."

"I can't believe that."

Chijik-jiik-.

A golden bolt surged over YuWon's hand.

Chronos' pupils dilated as the golden bolt reflected in his eyes. At the same time, other energies of different attributes surged on YuWon's hand.

Swoosh-.

The darkness covered the bolt, and that energy submerged into the water once more. The three energies of different attributes harmonized into one.

Controlling three attributes at once. It wasn't ordinary magical control.

Furthermore, the concentration of energy felt in it demonstrated that it wasn't an ordinary Ranker.

'Uranus isn't activating.'

YuWon stared at the swirling energy in his hand.

He wondered if Uranus would work, but indeed, it was inactive. Although the gloves he was wearing had the same form, there was no response as if all his strength had disappeared.

Anyway.

At this moment, there was no problem even without Uranus.

It would be enough to make Chronos' eyes turn around.

"Is this enough?"

"Your... what's your name?"

"Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon?"

Chronos furrowed his brow and fell into thought.

Kim YuWon.

He tried to recall where he had heard that name. If it was someone with this ability, he would surely have seen his name in the rankings.

But he couldn't remember.

"I have no idea who you are."

"Perhaps you don't know me. I understand."

"No, that's not the issue..."

"Anyway, as you can see, my ability won't be a problem, but still, you have no intention of introducing me to Olympus."

YuWon's eyes narrowed.

"It seems like that problem is much bigger than I imagined."

"Well... it's not a big problem."

"Is the king in trouble?"

Chronos' eyes twitched.

He tried to hide his emotions, but he couldn't completely conceal his expression.

An uneasy look.

In that expression, YuWon had certainty.

"It seems like the inside of Olympus is quite chaotic."

"That's right."

The answer came from another source.

YuWon turned his head to a figure so large it seemed to cover everything, which felt behind him.

It was a familiar yet not entirely friendly face.

Although many years had passed, there was no appreciable difference between that face and the one YuWon knew.

'Odin.'

A relentless gaze bore into YuWon.

He must have been contacted by Chronos. Since he appeared in an instant, it seemed like he used magic to mark coordinates and teleport.

"The inside of Olympus is in chaos. No, it's more than just chaos."

Odin's gaze wasn't directed at YuWon.

He was looking at Chronos with serious eyes.

"It seems like it's about to begin, Chronos."

"Now?"

"That's why there's no time to be playing around here with someone like him."

YuWon overheard the conversation between the two.

All these conversations would be clues in this Trial.

"I'd like to know who you are, but now is not the time to ask that kind of thing."

Odin remained inflexible.

He distrusted YuWon, rejecting him.

He waved his hand at YuWon as if shooing away a fly.

This wouldn't do.

"Olympus is made up of inhabitants with mixed blood, whether they are many or few."

He had no choice but to act firmly.

"...?"

"Uranus has begotten children who inherited his blood. Not one or two, but as many as possible. Chronos, you are one of them."

"What are you talking about?"

"The siblings of Uranus. Where are the other rulers of Olympus now?"

"They are..."

Chronos was left speechless by YuWon's words.

The siblings of Uranus, including Ponto, had been distanced from Uranus for quite some time.

The rift had grown deeper over time, but they had naturally gotten used to it.

What would Ponto be doing right now?

And Uranus...

"He hasn't targeted them yet."

"You mean the Great Father?"

"Perhaps."

He wasn't sure.

There was no guarantee that Uranus had attacked his siblings at this moment.

However, it was evident that at least Uranus and Chronos wouldn't clash before Ponto.

"Then there's Tartarus. Within it reside the Giants, who possess a strength capable of threatening Olympus. Originally, those Giants were siblings born alongside Uranus and Ponto."

"About that..."

Chronos' eyes widened.

Odin, by his side, looked at him as if questioning his authenticity.

Rumors about Tartarus abounded.

From being a prison in Olympus to being another name for Hell.

But none were confirmed as true, and it wasn't even clear if it existed.

But it turns out that the other siblings of Uranus were trapped there.

YuWon observed the bewildered Chronos.

The man who wasn't even supposed to remember him, speaking to himself, standing before Odin.

'Chronos exists in this place.'

For some reason, Uranus was not affected by the Clock Movement. It couldn't be determined whether it was because he existed in the form of an item or if Uranus was a transcendental being that surpassed the power of the Clock Movement.

It was still unknown what this Trial was evaluating.

However, YuWon had already clearly decided the direction of what he had to do.

"Uranus will devour his own siblings to strengthen himself. He will devour Ponto, and then the Giants trapped in Tartarus."

Ponto.

One of the great rulers of ancient Olympus.

And Tartarus, the deep prison where the ancient Giants were imprisoned by Uranus.

Uranus devoured them all first.

And unlike the time when YuWon lived, in this time's Olympus, the door to Tartarus was still open.

"...How do you know all that?"

Instead of affirming or denying, Chronos questioned YuWon's identity.

He had already made his decision from the moment he opened his mouth for the first time.

Time was limited.

It might sound like madness.

"I come from the future."

Although it might sound like madness, it was the truth.

-----

Chronos and Odin exchanged fleeting glances with YuWon.

YuWon, who was following them, walked without caring about their gazes. Although he knew he was being watched, YuWon paid them no attention whatsoever.

"Could it be real?"

"I don't know, who knows?"

"He might be a madman."

"It would be better if that's the case. If he was sent by Uranus..."

Their suspicions didn't dissipate.

Coming from the future.

At this moment, the two were unaware of the existence of the Clock Movement and couldn't even imagine it.

Chronos only felt some credibility in YuWon's words, as YuWon claimed to be his future self.

"We arrived."

Swoosh...

A vast ocean stretched before them. Although it was fictitious, the fresh aroma of the sea stimulated their nostrils.

It was the nearest ocean.

"Great Uncle Ponto doesn't leave the sea."

Ponto.

He was such an ancient High-Ranker that even YuWon didn't know much about him.

There were no records or documents about him. Ponto was rarely talked about even with Chronos.

However, he remembered a particular conversation.

"Great Uncle Ponto was always present anywhere in the sea."

"Isn't that just an unfounded rumor? Ignorant Players tend to exaggerate rumors about High-Rankers."

"That's not the case."

Ponto.

A great High-Ranker who led the golden age of Olympus.

Chronos used to say that to Poseidon, who was also known as the God of the Sea.

"He's practically the same as the sea."

At that time, YuWon didn't truly understand what it meant.

But maybe at this moment, he could see the Ponto that Chronos mentioned.

Just as he was thinking that...

"Great Uncle Ponto!"

Chronos called out to Ponto towards the sea.

Swoosh.

The waves crashed against the rocks, making a refreshing sound, but Ponto didn't respond.

Odin and YuWon looked at Chronos. Odin had a look on his face that said, "What kind of nonsense is this?"

Chronos was also perplexed.

"Great Uncle?"

In that instant.

Swoosh.

The powerful waves began to weaken. The wind blowing over the sea disappeared, and the water's surface began to slowly descend.

The sea was drying up.

"Something strange is happening."

That's what Odin said when he felt something unusual.

Chronos' face became seriously rigid. YuWon, who was the first to mention Ponto's safety, felt the same.

'Maybe it's already too late.'

Even the pleasant aroma of the sea began to fade gradually. Uranus began to show its fangs in Olympus and went towards Ponto first.

Within this Olympus, there was no one who could stop its appetite.

"It seems it's already too late for this."

It wasn't an unexpected surprise.

The Trial had already begun. He didn't believe he could prepare for a fight with Uranus in peaceful times.

Perhaps Uranus had already begun to move, and only now could YuWon confirm it with his own eyes.

Ponto was already dead.

He probably would have entered Uranus' belly.

Of course...

"Who the hell are you?"

That's what YuWon thought to himself.

"I thought I had already told you."

"Then, is it real?"

"Do you need more confirmation?"

A question answered with another question.

At the same time, all the gazes, including YuWon's, slowly turned towards the drying sea.

Yes...

There was no more compelling evidence than this. It was the prediction of Ponto's death, who had existed for a long time as a High-Ranker representative of Olympus and ruler of the sea.

"Uranus has moved, and in an extreme way."

The dinosaur that needed blood and flesh had been hungry for a long time.

To satisfy its long and deep hunger, Uranus began to show its fangs towards its own siblings.

Ponto was dead, but the other siblings who would be devoured were still present.

"Then, the next target will be...?"

"Probably Tartarus."

Chronos' eyes blinked.

Tartarus.

Every time he uttered that name, Chronos' face changed.

YuWon wondered if Chronos was so bad at controlling his facial expressions. Or if Tartarus was a sore spot he couldn't touch.

'What are you hiding?'

What on earth is Tartarus?

How does it relate to Olympus and Chronos?

YuWon generally preferred not to pry if someone wanted to keep a secret.

But this time was different.

The battlefield of this Trial had already been set.

"Tartarus..."

Step, step~

YuWon approached Chronos.

"Do you know how to get there?"