

## With The Gods 341

Chapter 341

C341

Bam!

Zas.

Hera returned to her temple and slammed the table with her fist.

It was a valuable piece of furniture made of wood that had been cultivated for thousands of years in the city of the elves.

Although it was something she had always cherished.

Hera was so angry that she didn't even care about such a thing.

"Come out!"

In the empty room, right in front of her, the person in the cloak appeared.

She didn't know when he had been watching her.

Foolish Chaos politely clasped his hands in greeting.

"You called for me?"

"What happened? Explain it to me, quickly!"

"I didn't know Pandora would be present."

"Why didn't you think about it, why?"

Crash!

The utensils decorated throughout the room shattered in a scream that sounded like a cry. The windows broke, and the glass cups and plates turned into sharp shards that fell to the ground.

Despite the hysteria that lasted for a while, Foolish Chaos observed that scene imperturbably.

After all, this wasn't his house, so its owner (Hera) could destroy or burn it as she pleased.

"Aah, ahk-."

More than physical exhaustion, he had difficulty breathing due to the anger he had expressed excessively.

Hera vented her pent-up anger for a while and then stared at Foolish Chaos.

"And now what are you going to do?"

"Still, we didn't come out completely without gains."

"What? Gains?"

"Yes, thanks to that, we could be sure that he is involved in this matter."

"If you're talking about 'he'... are you referring to Kim YuWon?"

"Yes."

Crash!

The last window shattered into pieces.

It was the window behind Foolish Chaos.

"Are you saying that's what you call gains?"

Hera's eyes changed drastically.

Unlike Foolish Chaos, she didn't consider YuWon's existence to be important.

It was natural.

Her greatest enemy was still Hercules.

No matter how big the fire was, everyone was equal in front of the sun.

After dealing with Hades, the only target that remained was Hercules.

"We eliminated Hades, but you couldn't penetrate the castle. It's you who couldn't do it."

"What?"

"Pandora, is she so terrifying to you?"

Foolish Chaos took a step forward, getting closer.

Hera, whose eyes were blinded by anger until a moment ago, was surprised.

Hera took a step back at the sting of the question, "What were you doing when I set the table?"

No.

More precisely, it was because Foolish Chaos in front of her eyes suddenly became larger.

Step-.

Foolish Chaos took another step forward.

Only then did Hera realize that she had been backing away.

The distance closed quickly as if she could see the face in the cloak that she had never seen before.

"You did well."

"...What?"

"If you had fought, you would have faced the worst situation. You chose wisely."

Because you could never defeat Pandora.

It seemed as if those words were echoing in Hera's ears. Although her pride was affected, Hera just pressed her lips together and could no longer lash out against Foolish Chaos.

Certainly.

By merely killing Hades, she had already fulfilled her role and then some.

"There are still many ways when it comes to methods. Even if Pandora is resisting, there are countless ways to capture the castle."

"Methods? What kind of methods?"

"There are too many to mention all of them."

Foolish Chaos had many cards up his sleeve.

No need to think too much.

The long history of Olympus.

In the course of that history, many enemies arose, and causing them a little annoyance was an easy task for Foolish Chaos.

And among them...

"Olympus has many enemies."

Foolish Chaos wondered which card he would use.

-----

In the Tenth Labor, it took more time than expected.

Hercules had confidence in his strength more than anyone else, but he lacked suitable skills besides strength.

Furthermore, the Tenth Labor was not just about capturing something but safely leading a cow.

Hercules sweated as he watched the unresponsive cows. He couldn't simply kill them and carry the corpses, so in the end, he had no choice but to tame them with words.

But...

"Wouldn't it be enough to lead them alive?"

YuWon raised a question.

Hercules prepared a rope.

A rope made of his own magic that would not break under any circumstances.

Thus, he tied the cows with the rope and forced them to follow him, dragging the herd of cows.

"Nothing is easy."

Back on the Sun Chariot, Hercules was sweating.

Forcing tens of thousands of cattle to move was exhausting, even for the mighty Hercules.

Making such a long rope wasn't an ordinary task.

Fortunately...

Thanks to YuWon's comforting words, the Tenth Labor didn't turn out as difficult as he had imagined.

"Well done."

YuWon welcomed Hercules back on the Sun Chariot.

Three days had passed since Hera invaded the royal castle.

The Labors were progressing smoothly.

"Is it the eleventh now?"

YuWon nodded at Hercules' murmur.

Thankfully, the Eleventh Labor was conducted on the same floor as the tenth.

However...

Unlike other Labors, the location wasn't clear.

"Finding the Garden of the Hesperides with the golden apple is the problem."

"I know the location."

It was surprising.

Hercules knew where the Garden of the Hesperides with the golden apple was.

YuWon also had a vague idea about that place.

"Before starting the Labors, I heard it from Prometheus. He told me to go to the end of the world."

"The end of the world..."

If it was the end of the world, there was a common place on all floors.

"Do you mean the wall?"

"Probably."

The scope was significantly narrowed compared to exploring an entire world.

Moreover, if they rode the Sun Chariot, they could probably find it quickly.

"He's better prepared than I thought."

Prometheus was the brother of Atlas, the giant of the Hesperides with the golden apple.

He probably, as a Ranker, knew the location of the Garden of the Hesperides in this Tower better. It was a wise decision to look for him before starting the Labor.

There seemed to be no need to go out and search for the garden. YuWon crossed his arms and observed Hercules, who started moving the Sun Chariot.

"It's hard to help him from behind."

Most of YuWon's occasional advice was the way Hercules solved the Labors before.

Although Hercules had spent a lot of time searching for the solution with his limited mind, YuWon didn't need to do it.

Hercules had already solved the Labors once, and he just needed to be told how to do it.

This saved him a lot of time.

And that was the problem.

"The fact that the Labors have gone so well probably means that..."

So far, it has been as Hercules had told him.

Each Labor was no different. If these Labors were designed to target Hercules, the trial wouldn't have been so smooth.

"Concentration instead of dispersion. It probably means to focus in one direction and act there."

The Sun Chariot began to move.

It wasn't moving through multiple floors; it was heading only towards the end of the world.

One hour was enough to reach the destination. During that time, Hercules concentrated on recovering to the fullest.

Glup-.

He took an expensive potion, filling his stomach and strengthening himself. After resting like that, Hercules stood up from his seat and looked outside the chariot.

An indestructible black wall.

Beyond that wall, the world they lived in was completely disconnected from the outside.

And around them...

"...Where exactly are we?"

He saw a brilliantly golden forest.

"What's so eye-catching there?"

Step-.

It was then that YuWon approached by his side.

He had been doing something somewhere.

During the journey, Hercules had completely forgotten that YuWon was traveling with him.

"Are they doing some kind of advertisement?"

"Do you see it that way too?"

"I don't see it that way; it's just like that."

"Ah..."

A deep sigh.

It was so obvious what he was thinking. YuWon looked at Hercules and asked.

"You don't intend to avoid that trap, do you?"

"If there's a golden apple there, I can only proceed."

"I already guessed that."

His answer was so straightforward that it was disheartening.

As if he knew it would be this way, YuWon touched his forehead with one hand.

'That naive personality is no different from Son OhGong's.'

Perhaps even Foolish Chaos knew Hercules' personality.

By openly revealing the trap, Hercules decided to face it head-on.

Regardless of what had been prepared, he was ready to break it frontally.

Turning around and worrying was not characteristic of Hercules.

"Alright then, let's go."

He was curious.

What they had prepared to capture Hercules.

It probably wouldn't be easy. Indeed, the Eleventh Labor was known as the most difficult of all Labors.

Moreover, they had set a trap for this Labor.

This was similar to a challenge posed by Foolish Chaos.

'Well, we'll play your game.'

Step-.

YuWon got off the Sun Chariot and followed Hercules into the brilliantly golden forest.

'But keep in mind it won't be easy for you either.'

Whoosh-!

Then, a brilliant golden light engulfed YuWon and Hercules in the blink of an eye.

Thus, the view disappeared for a moment.

["You have entered the 'Hidden Dungeon - Shattered Garden of Hesperides'".]

A message appeared with a name different from what YuWon knew.

'As expected...'

They had really set a trap here.

And the System reflected it immediately.

Shattered.

True to its word, in the field of vision that was revealed as the golden light vanished, a completely different landscape unfolded.

"...."

The first thing seen was Hercules' back, who had stepped forward.

Wordless, standing as if he had lost his purpose.

His expression showed surprise at seeing something.

Crack.

YuWon took a step to the side and saw the scenery in front of his eyes, hidden by Hercules' back.

And naturally, YuWon also showed a similar reaction to Hercules'.

"What is that...?"

A strangely withered tree.

The black, dead earth around the tree.

And a monster's corpse leaning against the dead tree.

"Next to the golden apple, there was a Dragon named Radon guarding it." (Hercules)

Hercules, drunk with alcohol, recounted a story from the past.

Even though he was not someone who normally boasted about his fights.

Somehow, it seemed to be a memorable battle that remained in his memory.

"That guy was amazing. The fight with him lasted over five days."

"He seemed strong. Enough for you to say that."

"Strong? It wasn't just that."

YuWon looked at the withered Dragon's corpse lying before him.

"He was a terrifying creature with a hundred heads, each exhaling a different attribute breath. The agile snake-like heads had teeth harder than those of the Hydra."

One hundred heads.

Agile, snake-like heads.

"He's definitely not an enemy like Yamata no Orochi or the Hydra."

He was sure.

The monster's corpse lying there...

It was Radon.

Chapter 342

C342

Radon

He was a monstrous creature with a hundred heads, equaling the rank of the leader of the Dragons.

Although he was cursed by Uranus and turned into a servant guarding the golden apples for life, he possessed a strength that even made Hercules feel intimidated.

However...

Undoubtedly, Radon, who should have been the final boss of these Twelve Labors, was dead.

"Is that Radon?"

Hercules spoke after a long time, as if organizing his thoughts.

He had also heard of the Dragon guarding the golden apple.

No.

The story of Radon was such a famous legend in Olympus that there was no one who didn't know about him.

Of course, Hercules was also preparing to fight against Radon.

"It seems someone has already been here."

The "Hidden Dungeons" were called that because they were literally hidden.

Moreover, it wasn't a common forest but a Dungeon where the Hesperides were protecting the golden apple alongside Radon.

But that golden apple had disappeared.

"So, this is the end..."

"It's not the end."

YuWon's words stopped abruptly, which was terrifying.

Thump!

The garden floor trembled, and a presence was felt beyond the invisible bushes.

"It can't end just by interrupting the Labor."

"There must be something else."

"It's this guy who did this."

He was the person who stole the golden apple and killed Radon.

Probably, he wasn't an ordinary person.

Though not visible to the naked eye, Hercules had a vague sense of the person's identity.

And YuWon felt the same.

[Gigantification senses the presence of its natural enemy]

[A Giant forgotten by the world bares his fangs]

It wasn't necessary to use the "Golden Cinder Eyes" to see that person.

With this message, YuWon could uncover the identity of the one responsible for the Hesperides' Dungeon and Radon's death.

"Is it him?"

YuWon knew that person was close.

But he didn't expect to encounter him in this way.

"If possible, I'd like to recruit him as an ally."

Thump!

The heavy sound of footsteps.



YuWon turned his head to the sound of the steps filled with Arcane Power.

This time, Hercules was the one causing the ground to vibrate.

"No need to go looking for him."

Hwaaaah-.

Arcane Power surged from Hercules' body.

Displaying his full Gigantification power, Hercules provoked the Giant hiding behind the bushes.

"It's obvious who that guy is targeting."

"Ah, this is a bit complicated."

Pazhijjik-!

YuWon immediately readied his spear.

A Black Bolt burst from the ring and coiled around his hand, transforming into the shape of a spear. The Bolt devoured a large amount of Arcane Power and became a spear.

Thump, thump, thump-.

The sound of footsteps drew closer.

Finally...

Woosh-!

The Giant appeared swiftly, crashing through the dense trees.

YuWon hurled his spear without hesitation towards the giant.

Flash-!

Tuhwahak-!

The Bolt, having absorbed an enormous amount of magic, struck the Giant's body. If it were an ordinary Giant, the Bolt would have pierced through and destroyed it without a trace.

But...

Ziik-.

The Giant, emerging while demolishing the bushes, recoiled slightly, but that was all.

The Giant crossed his arms to block the spear and halt YuWon's advance.

Hercules stroked his chin upon seeing the Giant blocking the spear.

The power of that Bolt was something Hercules knew for certain after having experienced it several times.

"Hmm-."

Definitely...

That person was suspicious from the beginning. YuWon and Hercules examined the Giant who revealed his face after crossing his arms.

He was about four meters tall, not too big to be a Giant.

Dark brown hair and vacant eyes without focus.

And at the corner of his mouth, there were traces of golden juice.

"The Giant Holding the Sky."

He knew it when he saw it with his own eyes.

"Atlas."

That guy's punishment had begun long before the Titan War started.

Long before the battle between the Giants and Olympus.

When Zeus saw that Atlas, whose blood was half-human and half-Giant, finally sided with the Giants, he trapped him around the garden and condemned him to carry a burden for the rest of his life. That burden was an enormous mountain weighing billions of tons, and if Atlas let go, all his fellow Giants would be crushed to death under it.

Of course, included was Atlas himself, carrying the mountain.

Krrrr-.

Atlas showed his teeth and let out a groan.

He looked as if he had lost half of his sanity.

The power of that Bolt had definitely enraged him.

Thump-.

As he took a step forward, Hercules began walking towards him as well.

YuWon, for the first time since the Labors began, obstructed Hercules' movements.

"You know, this is not an ordinary Labor."

Hercules stopped for a moment.

"You don't think you can keep doing this alone, do you?"

Radon was dead.

There was a Giant who shouldn't be here waiting for them, and the location of the golden apple was not easy to find immediately.

The task that had descended from Olympus was already distorted.

Clearly, it was a trap to catch Hercules.

"That guy is just like me."

Thump, thump, thump, thump-.

Atlas was approaching with steady steps.

"So, he's my opponent."

Hercules was the strongest being in this Tower.

However, Atlas, approaching him, was not someone to be taken lightly either.

Crash!

Hercules and Atlas.

Both charged at each other at the same time.

Boom!

The earth trembled with the collision of the two giants.

It wasn't a collision of Arcane Power, but a clash of pure strength.

The energy generated by this collision upheaved the earth and created a gust of wind.

Gwung, guwoong!

Crack!

Hercules' club struck Atlas' abdomen, and Atlas' foot kicked Hercules.

Both faced each other with fists and clubs, without any defenses.

Literally, it was a fight of brute strength.

'Hercules' physical ability with the club of Yggdrasil is exceptional. Moreover, he's overcoming the natural enemy of Gigantification.'

If physical ability alone was considered, there were very few people who could match Hercules in this Tower.

Probably only a few within the Top 5 of the ranking.

Below that, there wasn't even anyone to consider as an opponent.

Even the great Odin would admit that he wouldn't be a match for Hercules solely on physical ability.

'How the hell is this guy here...?'

"Before the Labors started, I heard it from Prometheus. He told me to go to the end of the world."  
(Hercules)

Prometheus.

When that name came to mind, YuWon recalled the relationship between him and Atlas.

'A mix of human and Giant blood. Brothers.'

Prometheus, Atlas' brother, had revealed the location of the Garden of the Golden Apple to Hercules.

Perhaps, everything started to get complicated from there.

The problem was how Atlas ended up here.

'Unless the other Giants are helping him...'

At that point, an image came to YuWon's mind.

The Second Gigantomachy.

The relatives who would rescue Atlas, punished by Zeus.

'It's not over yet.'

He had thought too shallowly.

He thought that if they overthrew Zeus, the war in Olympus would stop, and everything would end.

It was a careless thought.

'Even if we stop here, they won't.'

If one side stopped, it would only delay the collision; eventually, the collision would happen.

Even if Zeus were overthrown, the rage of the Giants wouldn't stop.

Within the Giants, there could be opposition between those who wanted to stop the war and those seeking a definitive end, like Hades and Hera.

'This is madness.'

YuWon realized where the outcome of this fight would flow due to Atlas' existence.

The Giants.

And the resurrection of the Second Gigantomachy.

That was the final picture that Foolish Chaos aimed to obtain by manipulating Hera.

When he reached that point of thought...

Crack!

Chiiiiik!

Hercules, struck by Atlas, flew towards YuWon and quickly grabbed the ground with his hands to maintain balance.

The situation seemed to be turning against him.

Hercules, with a firm stance, prepared to launch himself directly at Atlas.

"Hercules."

At YuWon's call, Hercules turned his head.

He couldn't speak much as he was in the middle of a fight.

"We must fight together."

"Not yet..."

"This is about the Second Gigantomachy."

Hercules' eyes widened.

Second Gigantomachy.

Those were words that still held relevance for Hercules.

"This is no longer just a civil war in Olympus. If we make a mistake..."

Crack!

Atlas stomped on Hercules with force.

"The Second Gigantomachy will resume."

Thump, thump...

Hercules' arms swelled.

Holding Atlas' enormous feet with both hands, Hercules continued the conversation.

"Is that true?"

"Yes."

"...Curse it."

Crack...

His teeth separated, and his gaze turned fierce.

"Hera, that woman...!"

Thump, thump...

Strength infiltrated the arms holding the feet.

The energy coursing through Hercules' entire body exploded with explosive momentum.

Crack...

Gripping Atlas' legs with both hands, Hercules lifted him into the air.

Atlas lost his balance.

Clutching the soles of Atlas' feet with all his might, Hercules threw Atlas with all his strength.

Boooooooooom...!

Crack, crack...

Thump!

Atlas' enormous body soared and overturned the Garden of the Hesperides.

Seeing that sight of Hercules, YuWon bit his tongue for a moment.

'In my fight against this guy, I might not have lasted 30 minutes.'

What would have happened if Hercules had fought him with that strength from the beginning?

Thirty minutes?

Yuwon wasn't sure if he could have endured it. Suddenly, he felt powerless.

Gigantification.

The power that opposes all Giants.

Hercules was no longer ashamed of that power.

And that meant...

Crack...

He wouldn't stop anymore, no matter what he did.

YuWon took a spear from his inventory.

Nir.

The most powerful attack YuWon possessed.

For now, that was the only effective attack against Atlas.

"Is there any way to stop him?"

"Come to think of it..."

"Is there any?"

"At least for now."

It wasn't a reliable answer.

But Hercules felt relieved.

At least for now, he said, but there was still a way.

And so far, YuWon hadn't failed in anything.

"So for now, first..."

Swish...

"Let's start with this guy..."

YuWon and Hercules' gazes turned to Atlas.

The sound of chewing a fruit.

It was such a soft sound that it could barely be heard if one didn't pay attention, but it resonated clearly.

Swish, swish...

Thump...

But what was most remarkable was that while Atlas chewed on that sweet fruit, his eyes shone amid the rising smoke.

Despite being thrown by Hercules, not only was he unharmed, but he emanated an even more powerful energy than before.

"So it was that fruit he ate."

It was a familiar energy.

YuWon looked up at the sky.

A sky that had turned purple.

There was only one occasion when that sky appeared.

When an Outer God used its power.

That meant that at this moment...

"The Golden Apples of the Hesperides are also called by another name by Heaven."

The fruit Atlas was eating came from outside this Tower.

"The Fruit of Knowledge of Good and Evil."

Chapter 343

C343

The Golden Apple had several names and meanings.

In Olympus, it was called the Golden Apple, a symbol of beauty and wealth.

In the Heavens, it was called the Fruit of Knowledge of Good and Evil, a symbol of immortality and salvation.

Furthermore, different Guilds considered the Golden Apple as a treasure with different names and meanings.

Therefore, the Eleventh Trial of finding the Golden Apple was undoubtedly the most challenging of all Trials.

Surely it was so.

"Has he abandoned the other plans?"

The Golden Apple was a fruit with powers external to the Tower.

Moreover, each of those fruits had a mysterious power that even impressed the most powerful High-Rankers.

The Golden Apple was the problem.

The conflict between the Angels of the Heavens and the Humans.

The rivalry among the High-Rankers of Olympus like Hera, Athena, and Artemis.

All those events arose from the same Golden Apple.

And those events were part of Foolish Chaos's plan.

"It seems we have invested more than I thought."

YuWon and his companions called the Golden Apple "Fruit."

To avoid internal conflicts triggered by this Fruit, they intended to eliminate it altogether.

Naturally, in this mission alongside Hercules, YuWon also intended to eliminate all the Fruits.

But all those Fruits were being devoured by Atlas.

Thump...

And that Fruit was also necessary for Hercules.

"What are you eating?"

Boooooom...

Hercules lunged at Atlas while swinging his Yggdrasil club.

Thump...

Atlas, struck in the stomach by the club, staggered. Unknowingly, he dropped the fruit he had in his hand, and a fruit the size of an adult's head fell to the ground.

It was a fruit Atlas had already taken a bite of.

And then...

Tock, tock, tock...

Several golden apples fell from Atlas' widely open pockets.

All of them were things Atlas had stolen.

Thock...

Hercules picked up the rolling fruit at his feet.

Finally, he got it.

The Golden Apple.

A legendary elixir in Olympus.

"It's strange."

Hercules looked at his own face reflected on the shiny surface of the Golden Apple.

"An elixir..."

He felt a strange sensation.

Clearly, this was a celestial treasure.

But for some reason, he felt like he was holding poison in his hand.

Something was rejecting it.

And that was...

Woong, woong...

It was the Yggdrasil club he held in his other hand.

"Let it go..."

Thump...

Atlas started trembling.

"Let it go...!!"

The moment Atlas saw the fruit in Hercules' hand, he lunged at him.

Perhaps it was because Atlas regained his strength after eating the fruit.



Hercules widened his eyes as he saw Atlas, who had quickly closed the distance, and he quickly crossed his arms.

Kwang...!

Hercules' body took a few steps back. It was the first time YuWon saw Hercules retreat due to a collision of forces.

Whiik...

Thock...

During that brief moment, Hercules tossed the fruit to YuWon to protect it.

YuWon caught the fruit flying towards him in the blink of an eye.

"You have to admire his tenacity."

Thump, thump, thump...!

YuWon looked at Hercules and Atlas, who were fighting again in front of him.

At some point, Hercules had been gradually retreating.

However, while throwing punches at Hercules, Atlas also looked at YuWon.

Hoping for something, YuWon waved the fruit in his hand.

Whoosh...

Swoosh...

Atlas' gaze followed the direction in which the fruit moved.

That happened several times.

YuWon displayed the fruit in his hand.

But...

"Baatt-".

From somewhere, there was someone else.

It was a small creature aiming for the fruit. And like a capricious child, it seemed to want to eat that golden apple.

But that apple was sweeter than any drug, hiding more power and being more dangerous than any poison.

Although this might be beneficial for Danpung, for some reason, YuWon's heart, like that of a parent, told him not to let it eat it.

Asu, YuWon pointed at Atlas with his finger.

"Don't you see?"

"Baah?"

"If you eat this, that will happen to you."

Atlas, trying to pounce on YuWon with his mouth full of saliva, screamed when he saw the fruit in YuWon's hand.

"Let it go!!"

Thump...!

At that moment, Hercules' club struck under Atlas' chin.

Thump, thump...

Atlas, who staggered from the impact, shook his head several times.

Despite taking a blow to the chin with the club, Atlas seemed to have not received a significant impact.

Unconcerned, he shouted towards YuWon with half-opened eyes.

"Let it go...!"

Ziiiiing...

It was a shout so loud that it felt like his eardrums were about to burst.

YuWon bit his tongue and pointed at Atlas with his finger.

"Do you understand?"

"Baa...".

A disappointed voice.

But thanks to that, YuWon discovered another possibility.

"Then let's do it this way."

"Baa?"

"Let's set a trap..."

YuWon looked at Hercules and Atlas, who were still fighting in front of him.

"It's like catching a wild boar."

-----

Crash-!

Thud, thud-!

Hercules, struck by Atlas' foot, was thrown backward.

Reaching the top of the Tower and then being surpassed by someone after becoming a High-Ranker was something new for him.

At first, he didn't feel like he was being surpassed by Atlas, but as time passed, it seemed that things were gradually shifting against him.

More than anything...

'Why does this guy not get tired?'

Hercules moved away the arm protecting his body and secured his vision once again, seeing Atlas' figure once more.

Thwack!

A straight-extending punch.

Thud, thud, thud!

Hercules felt his body tremble violently from the high-speed spinning punch.

His body, as hard as a rock, felt like it was being pierced by a sharp needle.

How long had it been since he faced a close-quarters fight like this?

Crack!

Strength flowed into the hand holding the club.

A sensation of boiling blood.

Hercules' eyes gleamed as he blocked Atlas' punches with his two arms.

'This guy is still obsessed with the golden apples.'

How long had it been since Atlas turned his head like this while fighting?

'I have to aim for that blind spot.'

Crossing his arms, Hercules scrutinized Atlas' expression through a small opening.

Atlas' head, which was swinging his fist towards him, turned to the side.

In the direction where YuWon was.

In the fleeting moment when Atlas' mind got caught on the lost golden apple...

Whooong.

Hercules lunged forward, breaking free from his defensive stance.

To swing his club with all his might.

But...

Squeak.

The corner of Atlas' lips lifted as he turned his head back, looking at Hercules as if he knew this would happen.

Their eyes met head-on.

'Is this guy...?'

Whooooong.

A fist the size of Hercules' torso came straight towards his nose.

'On purpose-.'

Crash!

Instead of his head, Hercules extended his arm.

Blood dripped from his shattered arm. Fortunately, his resilience was strong enough not to be completely torn off.

"Ugh..."

Atlas' expression, seemingly mocking as if he had expected this, appeared before Hercules' eyes, while sweat dripped down his forehead.

And at that moment...

Kwaaaang!

Hercules' club fell to the ground.

Smoke spread. Hercules evaded Atlas' body for a moment.

'He was aiming for that.'

It seemed even his head-turn, fixated on the golden apple, was also an illusion.

Atlas wasn't just strong and brutish. Not only did he lack nothing in physical abilities and endurance, but even in strategy, the guy was one step ahead of him.

He felt trapped in a trap.

What the hell is he fighting against?

Whack.

Atlas cleared the rising smoke with his enormous palm and bared his teeth as he looked at Hercules.

And then, at that moment...

Crack!

Atlas' jaws came closer to Hercules' head.

Thud!

Instead of his head, Hercules offered his arm.

Blood dripped from his forearm. It was a force so crushing that it was a relief it didn't tear it off completely.

"Damn bastard!"

Hercules clenched his fist as sweat dripped down his forehead.

The Giant writhed. Not letting himself be influenced by a guy like that, Hercules burst forth with his Arcane Power.

But...

Crack, crack.

Atlas' teeth didn't easily let go of Hercules.

It was as if he was trying to bite and tear off his arm.

And...

'Through these teeth... even Radon, who protected the Golden Apples. And also, the other Golden Apples...'

Through those teeth, Hercules could clearly feel it.

'This guy has eaten them all.'

The Dragon who protected the Golden Apples, Radon.

And the Golden Apples that Radon protected.

Atlas, who had devoured all those things, had become an unbearable monster even for Hercules.

At that moment...

Thud!

A small rock fragment fell on Atlas' head, who was tearing at Hercules' arm.

Thud, thud, thud.

It seemed to have been thrown with all possible force.

Perhaps, if someone received that rock, their head would shatter to pieces.

However, Atlas' tough skin didn't even flinch at that rock.

"Eh."

Whoosh!

A beautifully colored fruit soared through the air.

Crunch!

YuWon deftly caught the Golden Apple after tossing it.

It was an action to divert Atlas' attention from Hercules, who was in danger.

"Look here, here."

"Let it go..."

Biting Hercules' forearm, Atlas muttered with difficulty.

Gradually, Atlas' eyes wandered. The strength of his teeth biting Hercules' forearm weakened, and his eyes turned away.

Hercules had not considered this situation at all.

"That idiot..."

Hercules inadvertently muttered the worst curse he knew.

Hercules' role was to draw Atlas' attention.

If YuWon had something to do in this fight, it would probably be to prepare a spear.

But in YuWon's hand, there was no spear, not even a Thunderbolt. There wasn't a single mediocre spear.

"You should have prepared a spear!"

Hercules scolded, but it was already too late.

Thump!

The direction Atlas was heading turned towards YuWon. It seemed he no longer cared about Hercules.

Hercules tried to grab Atlas running towards YuWon somehow.

Thud.

With his arm torn to shreds and the impact of receiving Atlas' blows, Hercules momentarily lost the balance of his body.

And that brief instant was enough.

Crash!

As Atlas charged towards YuWon, hitting the ground...

Whoa-!

Atlas was quickly closing in.

YuWon took a light breath at that wild momentum.

And then...

"Are you ready?"

As the boar-like Atlas approached running, YuWon pulled out the "trap" he had been preparing.

["Danpung" uses "Divine Power"]

["Predator" drools in anticipation]

Chapter 344

C344

Atlas hesitated.

Thousands of teeth appeared before his eyes.

They were blocking the path between him and the Golden Apple.

"Release it..."

It was a hoarse murmur.

The Golden Apple appeared in the air and then fell back into YuWon's hands repeatedly.

Atlas's pupils followed it.

But he couldn't lift his foot towards the massive teeth in front of him.

And finally...

Thump!

Atlas took a step back.

He couldn't approach the Predator directly in front of him. It was as if he feared being devoured the moment he got too close.

However...

Crunch!

Something hard stabbed into Atlas's heel as he retreated cautiously.

Crack, crack!

Teeth bit into his ankle.

Atlas opened his eyes in surprise.

It was at that moment that he realized where he was standing.

He was already surrounded by the Predator from all sides. The moment he realized he had entered the monster's mouth, Atlas began to struggle.

"Kraaaah-!"

He tried to jump up, but it was impossible.

Once the teeth bit you, they wouldn't let go.

If he wanted to escape, it was impossible without cutting off his ankle.

While Atlas fought desperately to free himself from the trap...

Sniff, sniff!

A familiar scent irritated Atlas's nose.

It was a sweet and seductive smell.

It was similar to what he felt at the Golden Apple, but it had a much more enticing and intense aroma.

Gulp.

Even in this life-or-death situation, Atlas swallowed saliva.

Where does this smell come from?

There was no clear direction. The smell was strong and spread everywhere, like the fragrance of a garden full of flowers.

Finally, Atlas realized.

That smell was the power that made his mouth water.

A moment later...

Whoa-!

The Predator's teeth surrounding Atlas covered his imposing body.

Crack-!

"You did it."

The Predator's teeth trapped Atlas.

"You caught the boar."

[Danpung consumes Divine Power]

['Predator' starts to feed]

Divine Power.

It was the energy that Danpung possessed and the power that allowed the Predator to move.

The Predator had always moved using that energy. It had been the same since it was an unhatched egg.

Squelch, squelch.

Atlas tore off the Predator clinging to his body with pure force.

How strong was this power?

YuWon, who used the Predator, was almost exhausted.

"It's powerful."

The Predator not only fed on Danpung's energy but also absorbed YuWon's Arcane Power and tried to devour Atlas.

Of course, Atlas was different from the Outsiders the Predator usually consumed.

To obtain the power he now possessed, Atlas had killed Radon and eaten the Golden Apples that had ripened.

In other words, it meant that Atlas already had outstanding power even among the Giants.

But...

"Still, once it gets this power..."

Crack, crack.

The Predator's teeth clung fiercely to Atlas's body.

"You are my prey."

Crack, crack.

"Kaaah-!"

Atlas, covered by the Predator, was being devoured completely.

There was no significant resistance anymore.

Thus, the Predator's feast began.

Gulp, gulp.

It was a sensation similar to when he devoured Yamata no Orochi.

Enjoying it slowly.



As the Predator's feast continued, Atlas's resistance diminished more and more.

"Baah-".

Was it because he had spent too much energy summoning a Predator of that size?

Danpung, who had been lively until now, exhausted and collapsed on YuWon's shoulder.

"You did well."

YuWon patted the half-laid Danpung's shoulder.

"Now eat until you're full."

[Danpung's level has increased]

[Danpung's level has increased]

[Danpung's level...]

[Danpung's Divine Power has increased by 4]

[Growth rate increased by 18.98%]

[Arcane Power increased by 3]

[You have defeated 'Corrupted Appetite']

[You have obtained 300,000 points.]

-----

Hercules's Perspective

Crack, crack.

It was hard to believe what he was seeing.

What was happening right now?

"What the hell...?"

Atlas was being devoured by ferocious teeth. Unable to move, Atlas surrendered his body and was being eaten alive before his eyes.

Although it might appear as if he was wrapped in a black cloth.

It was an undeniable fact that Atlas had been subdued in an instant.

Whoosh.

It was then that Hercules accepted the Golden Apple that flew right in front of his eyes.

Crunch.

It was a Golden Apple the size of an adult man's head, yet it fit perfectly in Hercules's hand.

Hercules turned his head, confused by what was happening.

YuWon approached, seemingly unaware.

"Take it."

"What the hell are those teeth?"

"I can't explain it easily, so let it go for now."

YuWon didn't know much about the Predator either.

He just desperately wanted the power that Atlas had, and he simply fulfilled that desire.

Naturally, that answer was unsatisfactory to Hercules's curiosity.

"Even though you summoned that thing, you don't know anything about it?"

"I didn't summon it, so I don't know anything about it."

"What?"

"He did it."

YuWon pointed to his shoulder as he spoke. Danpung, who looked exhausted, collapsed on his shoulder, apparently out of strength.

Hercules leaned in to examine Danpung.

"He did it?"

"Baat," said Danpung, attempting to respond bravely, but his expression betrayed tiredness, making it hard to believe that this small, weakened being had subdued Atlas.

Hercules, once again, wore a look of suspicion as he asked:

"Is this real?"

"If I knew more, I would genuinely tell you, but I don't know anything. I don't lie, at least not to you."

His words were sincere. YuWon didn't think Hercules would reveal things he had said that could cause harm or inconvenience.

Though there were things he couldn't talk about at all, like the Clock Movement, he wouldn't lie or do anything that could harm him.

"Well, then..."

Hercules nodded.

Fine.

Certainly, YuWon tended to keep his mouth shut about things he couldn't say, but he definitely didn't draw a line.

While it might be so elsewhere, at least in front of him, it was like this.

And Hercules didn't insist on asking about things YuWon didn't want to talk about.

This time would be the same.

Hercules wouldn't ask further about things YuWon didn't know.

And YuWon wouldn't lie to Hercules about the questions he asked.

The relationship between the two hadn't changed from the past until now.

Crunch~

Hercules's gaze shifted to where Atlas was.

The sound of teeth piercing through Atlas's entire body could be heard as he was trapped within the devouring mass.

He was probably being devoured by the Predator.

"Is it over already?"

"No."

Crunch, crunch.

The Predator that had enveloped Atlas began to retreat slowly.

"We're not done yet."

Atlas emerged from the mouth of the Predator.

His skin was covered in marks, and his muscles appeared dehydrated and shriveled.

Atlas's staggering appearance was a great shock to Hercules, who had been fighting him until recently.

"What happened?"

Although it seemed like Atlas was being swallowed by some teeth, it wasn't the case.

Atlas's appearance, looking like he hadn't drunk a drop of water in years, was a major impact on Hercules.

"The greater the power, the greater the accompanying side effects."

"Side effects?"

"That's what I mean."

YuWon pointed to the Golden Apple that Hercules held in his hand.

Wung, wung.

Even at this moment, Yggdrasil's Club warned Hercules to be cautious of the Golden Apples.

Of course, he knew this Golden Apple was no ordinary fruit.

But he never thought it would have these kinds of consequences.

"So, this is a side effect of the Golden Apple?"

"Exactly, it's a side effect of being stripped of that power."

"Stripped? Who's stripping him of that power?"

"Guess."

"Don't tell me..."

Hercules looked at Danpung, who was hunched on YuWon's shoulder.

A faint murmur could be heard, as if he was breathing.

Could it be that this little sleeper had snatched Atlas's power?

"I don't want to believe it."

"It's not about believing or not," YuWon said as he shook his head.

"You don't know what this is, right?" Hercules asked.

YuWon understood what Hercules meant with his words.

"It might be dangerous, who knows."

It was a story he had been thinking about for a long time.

It was dangerous.

At this moment, this small being that had fallen asleep on his shoulder might be insignificant, but what about in the future?

Neither YuWon nor anyone else knew what might happen.

"Well, there's nothing to be done about it."

Despite knowing that, YuWon couldn't do anything other than take care of Danpung.

"If I don't do this, I won't be able to win."

"You won't be able to win...?"

Hercules asked what he meant, but YuWon didn't answer.

"I won't be able to win" didn't seem to be about his fight with Atlas. After all, that fight had ended.

What YuWon mentioned wasn't Atlas, but something much bigger.

'It doesn't seem like he'll tell me.' (Hercules)

'I won't be able to win,' those were YuWon's words.

He wouldn't speak about the things he didn't want to say, but he wouldn't lie either.

That was exactly what was happening now.

Hercules moved toward Atlas without pressing YuWon further.

Atlas, seemingly lost somewhere, raised his head upon sensing Hercules's presence.

"It's regrettable that this happened."

Crack.

Hercules, applying force to his hand, struck Atlas strongly with his Club.

Kwang!

Grrrrr!

At the same time, the ground opened up. In the moment Atlas's head was struck, his body was lifted into the air and spun several times in the void.

Thud!

With a heavy sound, Atlas fell downward.

Hercules checked Atlas's condition.

Atlas's weakened body couldn't withstand the blow from Hercules's Club.

The remaining fight was indeed instantaneous.

Hercules put the Club back on his shoulder and looked at the Golden Apple in his hand.

'With this, I've finished the Eleventh Labor...'

The Eleventh Labor turned out to be much more difficult than he had thought.

If YuWon hadn't been with him, what would have happened? Could he have defeated Atlas?

Suddenly, he remembered Atlas's smiling expression as he tried to tear his arm off.

He instinctively tilted his head.

'I'm still far away.'

Insufficient.

By a lot.

It seemed he had wasted a lot of time in the mountains doing nothing.

He wasn't Zeus, but still, he had ended up in a regrettable situation in front of a Giant whose name he didn't even know properly.

'I can regret it later.'

He had a lot to do now.

Swish.

Hercules turned his body.

All that was left was the final Labor.

Chapter 345

C345

After Hera's visit to Olympus.

In Olympus, the heavy air constantly hung around. It was because they didn't know when they would have to fight again.

Clang.

"I wish we could fight openly and directly."

Athena, dressed in a heavy golden armor, gazed at the empty sky and murmured to herself.

Behind her, the Olympian Rankers stood in full preparation.

It was the first time for Athena to spend so much time without fighting while fully equipped.

"Be patient, sister. It's best for this peace to continue as long as possible."

Hargan approached Athena, who was venting her frustration with her own body.

Athena looked at Hargan, who approached calmly. Pandora was right beside Hargan.

"It seems they've been together all this time."

"YuWon asked me to."

"YuWon?"

At that moment, two scenes flashed through Athena's mind.

The fight in the temple of Ares and the battle in the Celestial Demon Cult.

Both events were caused by the same person.

"That's what he said."

Pandora obediently followed YuWon's words.

It was inexplicable. Pandora was a woman even Zeus couldn't control and imprisoned in Olympus.

"I don't like to admit it... but thanks to him, we were able to stop Hera. I suppose I should thank him."

"Still, he's lucky. It's also thanks to sister's help."

"After my father left, I decided that legitimacy was on this side."

Athena had a strict personality.

Until now, she had followed Zeus largely because he was her father, but above all, it was due to Zeus's authority as the King of Olympus.

And Hades became the King who followed in Zeus's footsteps.

Athena didn't want Olympus to waver because of Hades's death and Hera's transformation.

"Is that so?"

"...?"

Hargan's deep expression.

In an instant, Athena's face wrinkled.

"What's wrong?"

"It's nothing."

"Tell me."

"It's always been difficult, but it's really nice to be able to talk to you, sister, in this way."

Zeus had many children.

But there weren't many close siblings among them. Mostly, they kept their distance from each other and saw each other more as competitors.

One day, they might compete for the throne of Olympus.

That's why the current situation didn't seem so bad to Hargan.

"It would be nice if everyone could get along like Brother Apollo and Sister Artemis."

"It's an unnecessary comment. They're traitors. They've joined Hera's side, which has a knife pointed at Olympus."

Apollo and Artemis were currently out of the fight. It was because they couldn't fight against their mother, Hera.

But no one thought that the two had withdrawn from the fight.

In fact, in reality, the two were no different from being on Hera's side. Athena felt a great sense of betrayal towards them, as much as she trusted them.

Athena's atmosphere changed when Apollo and Artemis were mentioned, and Hargan made an uncomfortable expression.

Athena seemed ready to draw her sword and Aegis if the two (Apollo and Artemis) were in front of her.

"Ah, well..."

Hargan, who hesitated for a moment, took out the Player Kit from his lap and checked the date.

It's been seven days since Hera led her forces to Olympus.

'I think it's time.'

At that moment...

Crack.

A strong grip was felt from his clothes.

When Hargan turned his head, Pandora shook her head.

As if to say not to do it.

Then, the words that were about to come out of his mouth disappeared again. It seemed that she could see through his thoughts.

He finally decided to let it go.

'Well, I guess...'

Hargan, who scratched his head with a puzzled expression, thought of Apollo and Artemis as he looked at Athena, who was still venting her frustration.

'They'll all realize in time.'

-----

At that moment, inside the Sun Chariot.

"Prometheus?"

Hercules, who was applying ointment to his wounds, asked with surprise in his eyes.

That was his reaction after hearing about YuWon's current situation.

"It's probably him."

"By the way..."

How did Prometheus know the location of the garden and let him know?

That was strange.

Until now, no one in Olympus had found the garden, but Prometheus knew about it.

"Was it a trap from the beginning?"

"That's right."

"When I return, there will be someone else to deal with."

Paff.

Hercules clenched his fist and muttered with a stern voice.

Inside, YuWon wished Prometheus rest in peace.

Perhaps, even without knowing it, after all of this is over, Hercules will continue to search for Prometheus for some time.

With the determination to break him in two if he catches him.

"But now, what will you do?"

Hercules, who was speaking resolutely, suddenly lit up his eyes and asked.

"What?"

"Hera. Now she's even involved the Giants."

Yuwon nodded.

Since Atlas moved, this matter also had something to do with the Giants.

Above all, if the Giants had not given up on the Gigantomachy, things would have become much more serious.

"I'm not sure if I should continue with the Labors... I don't know."

His initial resolve wavered a bit.

Originally, Hercules wanted to finish all the Labors and make Hera surrender on her own.

However, with the Gigantomachy involved, he no longer had enough leeway to do that. Perhaps even before finishing all the Labors, he would find himself in a situation where the dreaded major battle could erupt.

But...

"It's not necessary."

Yuwon shook his head at Hercules' words.

"Anyway, there's only one Labor left, so finish it. It will be better for the future."

"What?"

Surprised, Hercules looked at YuWon as if it were unexpected.



He thought YuWon would be pleased if he stubbornly gave up the Labors and quit.

But instead, it seemed that YuWon opposed stopping the Labors.

"Why do you think Hera made this bet?"

"Why? Well..."

"To buy time. That's not the only reason."

These Labors were not so simple.

"Perhaps Hera thought you couldn't succeed in the Labors."

It probably would have been so if he hadn't experienced the destruction of Olympus.

If he hadn't had the Yggdrasil Club in his hands.

And if YuWon wasn't by his side.

In nine out of ten cases, Hercules would have failed in the challenge of the Labors, or at worst, he might have died in the process.

The Hydra, the Amazons, and Ladon, the Dragon guarding the Golden Apples, would have undoubtedly been formidable opponents for Hercules until a few years ago.

"Even though she used numbers to ensure your death..."

Anyway, Hercules' Labors were of an entirely different type from a simple bet.

"You, who have completed the Labors, and you, who haven't, will be clearly different."

"Different?"

He asked the question, but there was no answer.

Once again, YuWon remained silent.

This kind of situation was not uncommon, and Hercules sighed as if familiar with it.

"Fine."

He no longer thought of pressing further.

Hercules knew YuWon was someone with many secrets. But he never lied.

That was exactly what Hercules thought of YuWon's image.

Hercules soon stopped talking and focused on tending to his wounds. He took medicine from his inventory and started applying it to his wounds.

"No one knows these Labors better than Hera."

And YuWon thought as he looked at Hercules.

"Fighting against Hercules after completing the Labors?"

Hercules, who had gone through the twelve Labors.

Only after obtaining the Yggdrasil Club and completing the twelve Labors, did he finally approach the image that YuWon knew.

"She'll understand too. How foolish it was to do this."

The bet of the twelve Labors was not simply a commitment to "surrender."

The idea that fighting against Hercules, who had completed the Labors, was "impossible" was surely Hera's thinking.

Crack.

After a while, Hercules wrapped his wound with bandages after applying medicine.

He swung his injured arm several times in the air. Although he felt pain, he could still move it, it wasn't completely immobilized.

"Certainly, it will be difficult to do anything at this moment with these arms."

Hercules' expression became serious as he looked at his wounds.

"The Giants also have Gigantes..."

"You don't have to worry too much about that."

Even in an urgent situation, YuWon seemed too calm.

Even after Hades' death, he had seemed that way, and it seemed he had a sufficient reason this time too.

"Why?"

"Because I've already sent a problem solver."

"To a problem solver?"

"You may not be very interested in it, but..."

After the question about who the Solver was, YuWon explained about him.

Who he was.

And how he hired him.

When the brief story ended, Hercules showed a strange expression.

It was an expression that seemed uncomfortable in a certain sense.

On the one hand, he seemed worried.

"What... aren't you satisfied yet?"

"It's not that."

"Then what?"

Hercules took a moment to respond, as if he were thinking about it.

Finally, Hercules let out a sigh heavier than the Heavenly Mountain.

"As much as it is... I'm not sure if it'll be okay."

That seemed to be the reason.

It was a much simpler problem than he thought.

"You'll be able to trust him. Besides, it'll be different from everything we've seen so far."

YuWon said as he got up from his seat.

Fortunately, the persuasion had ended smoothly. As he moved, he had something else to do.

Thus, when YuWon got up from his seat...

"What's that?"

Hercules pointed to the small root YuWon had been holding in his hand for a while.

It was the root he had brought from the Garden of Hesperides after Atlas fell.

"This?"

As if it were a precious treasure, YuWon cautiously raised the root and answered.

"It's Ambrosia."

-----

Under the clouds of Olympus.

A land covered in thick clouds where the sunlight barely reached.

There, lived the giants banished from the heavens.

Crunch~

A man dressed in golden armor advanced.

"It's been a long time since I came down here."

Crunch~

The brilliant golden armor was worn and broken in several places.

Among the cracks of the armor, some scars could be seen.

Thump.

In the distance, the sound of familiar footsteps could be heard.

It was not a pleasant sound.

"Running on your own, huh?"

Normally, he wouldn't have had to do anything by himself.

But this time was different.

By his nature, he detested accumulating debts.

"Gigantomachy..."

The man, who had been lost in thought for a moment, began to move again.

"Even your fate is at stake."

Crunch~

The man who advanced under a tall cliff ran his hand through his disheveled hair.

"Now, I find myself in the position of having to stop that."

Chapter 346

C346

"Now we really must stop."

The Giants sat by the mountain.

Amidst their commotion, an elder opened his mouth.

The inside of the room instantly became silent. All eyes turned to the Giant who had just spoken.

It was Urpha.

"After such a long time, you came here to say something... Is that all?"

"A noble who stayed buried in a rural village. Why did you suddenly come here?"

"Urpha, I'm warning you, if you say something like that again... I'll break your legs with a single blow."

The Giants gathered there were all High-Rankers who held a place among the Giants.

None of them were afraid of Urpha.

In fact, some even mocked him among themselves.

Anyway, he was just a former High-Ranker who had retired long ago and whose name was being forgotten.

"The fight is already over. Continuing will only shed more blood."

"Urpha!"

"I told you to stop!"

"Have you forgotten? You lost your comrades to Poseidon, that bastard."

Indeed, Urpha lost a lot in the fight against Poseidon.

Many Giants were submerged in the water and crushed by the water pressure. Those events were still a nightmare for Urpha.

It was a past he definitely couldn't forget.

"But that doesn't mean..."

However, that couldn't be the reason to continue with the Gigantomachy.

"I can't let the children who are still alive die too, can I?"

Urpha's voice showed no hesitation.

The fact that he came here after a long time since the end of the Gigantomachy demonstrated his determination.

The other Giants knew it too, so no more long words were needed.

"It seems there's no other option."

"If we don't agree, there's nothing we can do. Urpha, if you came here to convince us, you should go back."

"Yes. Even if that means preventing something really dangerous from happening."

Their responses made Urpha's eyes momentarily filled with regret.

Was there really no other option?

The relationship between Olympus and the Giants had deteriorated too much to be resolved through dialogue.

Now it was like a river that could no longer be turned back.

"It's a disappointing end."

It was then that an unfamiliar voice was heard.

The gazes of the Giants, who were looking at Urpha with stern eyes, turned toward the direction of the voice.

Though he couldn't be compared to the giants, among the humans, he was quite tall and burly, dressed in heavy armor covered in battle scars.

Somewhere, he seemed to have suffered some injury, as the armor he wore was completely full of dents.

"If only we could have resolved this by talking, we could have ended it without anyone getting hurt," the man said.

"Who the hell are you...?"

"Wait a moment..."

As some Giants tried to get up from their seats, the largest Giant sitting in their midst opened his mouth.

"Don't move. None of you."

Silence~

With just one word, he halted the movements of the other Giants.

That giant was about the size of a mountain.

Gigantes.

Of the three most powerful Giants, who held a position similar to the Three Great Gods in Olympus.

He was just one of them.

"I heard you, Zeus, were exiled from Olympus."

Zeus and Gigantes.

The two had been fighting for a long time. Their relationship had been tense long before the start of the Gigantomachy.

But...

Zeus, who was exiled, had come alone to the Giant's World.

"That's right."

"Did you come back to reclaim the Olympus you abandoned?"

Undoubtedly, Zeus had been eliminated from this fight. He was exiled from Olympus. Hades and Hercules led that, and the fallen king was no longer a king.

"No, there's nothing regrettable that ties me there."

"And then?"

"I came by someone's request."

Crackle...

Zeus began to unleash a Golden Lightning Bolt from the tips of his fingers.

"I hate accumulating debts. Especially many debts."

"This guy..."

"How dare you come here?"

The Giants stood up from their seats.

The frenzy of the Giants was unleashed instantly against Zeus. There were over ten High-Ranker Giants and a large army of Giants surrounding him, ready for battle.

This was the enemy's battlefield.

"You came to fight against us?"

Gigantes did not stop the other Giants.

It was Zeus who first prepared for the fight and provoked the Bolt.

If possible, he didn't want to make him an enemy again, but there was no reason to avoid the impending battle.

And then...

"If necessary."

Zeus had come here to fight.

He had already made his mental preparation, even if they didn't understand.

Zeus had already left behind any hesitation about Olympus. It was strange that he had returned, but it was even stranger that he came back at someone's request.

Who was Zeus?

He was the one who turned Olympus into a Grand Guild. Zeus was not someone who acted at someone else's request.

"What were you asked to do?"

"I was asked to leave them alone. To prevent the Gigantomachy from happening again."

"You want to stop the Gigantomachy? You, of all others?"

Gigantes' strange words made Zeus nod.

"That's right."

Normally, Zeus would have considered this request absurd.

But this time was different.

Flash!

"No one else but me, Zeus...!"

A Golden Lightning Bolt flowed from the tips of his fingers.

The power of the Bolt quickly expanded among the giants.

Flash!

Crackle!

...

The sound was muffled.

In an instant, one of the peaks of the mountains where the Giants were resting disappeared. The Giants who were screaming lost consciousness and collapsed in place with their bodies charred.

It was truly an event that occurred in the blink of an eye.

Although the fight had begun, the place fell completely silent.

No one dared to rush toward Zeus immediately. That included Gigantes, who had fought against Zeus for a long time.

Tap~

Zeus, casting a Bolt from the tips of his fingers, moved even closer to the Giants.

"I came here to warn you."

It was an arrogance in itself.

However, no one dared to point out Zeus as arrogant.

"Now it's your turn to choose."

Crack, Thud.

Thick dark clouds covered the sun in the sky.

From there, loud thunders roared down.

Crack, Crackle~

Golden streams flowed from Zeus's body.

It wasn't the first time they had seen this.

They had even seen it several times, even in their dreams.

Zeus's Bolt was like a symbol of terror to the Giants.

But...

'It's become even more monstrous.'

As much as it was like that, it wasn't enough.

Kurung, Kururur.

A loud rumble echoed in the sky.

Gigäntes realized.

It wasn't just a simple natural disaster. All these thunders and lightning in the sky were like an innumerable number of spears in Zeus's hands.

"Are you going to fight me?"

Zeus, who had infiltrated alone into the territory of the Giants.

Holding countless spears, he spoke to them.

"Or will you stop here?"

-----

Zeus moved to stop the Giants.

After learning that fact, Hercules calmed down in a way that seemed unrecognizable.

As he moved in the Sun Chariot, Hercules closed his eyes to rest his tired body.

The wound on his arm where the medicine had been applied had improved considerably in just a day. The flesh that was clinging and the bones that were exposed had properly healed and were no longer bleeding.

"You should recognize at least one thing about your resilient body."

No matter when he saw it, his physique was astonishing.

It couldn't be described how tough he was, and his recovery ability was remarkably fast, as if he had used a skill.

Of course, that didn't please him either.

Booong.

Hercules shook his bandaged arm.

A rather strong wind blew along his arm. The wound that had barely closed opened up, and blood gushed out between the bandages.

"Hey, what...?"

"There's still a long way to go."

Booong.



Once again.

Hercules shook his arm.

Thus, once again, he made an expression he didn't like.

"As I thought."

"..."

Has any desire for power arisen from this incident?

If that's the case, it would be welcome.

If there was a maximum flaw in Hercules, it might be that he had no desires.

Thud-.

The Sun Chariot landed on the ground.

Above, a dark sky could be seen. A nauseating and damp smell. And below, the black earth that looked as black as the night sky.

They had arrived.

To Hell.

"Let's go."

Yu Won took the first step.

"Yes."

Hercules followed.

YuWon looked around Hell. He didn't know he would come back here.

The most inhospitable land for life in this Tower.

That was Hell, and YuWon also avoided this world.

Thud, thud-.

Hercules followed Yu Won's quick steps to somewhere.

"Do you know where you're going?"

The last of Hercules' Twelve Labors was to defeat King Cerberus.

It was unknown whether the hunt itself was difficult or easy, but the problem was that there was no immediate way to know where King Cerberus was.

But YuWon took confident steps as if the path was predetermined.

"I don't know where King Cerberus is."

"Then..."

"However, there's someone who might know."

"Someone who might know?"

A man who knows where King Cerberus is.

Yu Won descended into the Underworld without fully answering Hercules' question. In any case, he would find out everything once he arrived.

One step after another.

The path leading underground.

Hercules felt a familiar sensation somewhere.

"It's the place I've been before."

It was a long time ago.

When he climbed the Tower and finally reached Hell.

It was the path he trod to meet his grandfather, Hades.

At that time, numerous Cerberus pounced on him.

He fought for three days and three nights, subduing them all.

And before that Hercules.

"Are you Hercules?" (Hades)

One of the Three Gods of Olympus.

Hades revealed himself.

As if waiting for Hercules to subdue all the Cerberus.

"Zeus must be proud of you."

That was the first encounter between Hercules and Hades.

How much nervousness he had felt at the appearance of the God of Death he had only heard about. Until that moment, Hades and Hercules were as different as heaven and earth.

Grrrr.

Grr.

Cerberus could be seen baring their fangs towards Hercules and YuWon from various places.

They were fearful.

Hercules, who had subdued them a long time ago.

And YuWon, who had written the same history.

Being together was enough to instill fear in them.

But...

'They don't run away.'

Although the Cerberus were afraid, they didn't hesitate to show their fangs.

And finally, Hercules realized.

Clack.

Stopping his steps, he looked at the Cerberus baring their fangs at them.

"It was real."

The presence guarded by the countless Cerberus beneath the floor of Hell.

He finally had certainty.

"He's still alive."

Chapter 347

C347

Grrrrr~

The Cerberus still stood guard against Kim YuWon and Hercules.

Although they still remembered being struck by Hercules, they didn't back down.

They did it to protect someone.

Step, step-.

Kim YuWon took a step towards the Cerberus.

"I haven't come to fight you. Move aside."

Grrr, grrr-!

Finally, the Cerberus bared their fangs.

Numerous Cerberus approached menacingly.

Although YuWon tried to threaten them with his Gigantification, it seemed the Cerberus wouldn't budge from their path.

"There's no other choice."

Thump, boom-.

[The power of a giant resides in your arm]

He had no choice but to use his Gigantification and confront the Cerberus.

As he got closer, the distance seemed to shrink as if he could touch them with his hand.

At that moment...

Creak, creak-.

The Cerberus lowered their tails.

"...?"

The Cerberus quickly crouched down.

Some Cerberus split in two and opened an orderly path.

It was as if someone had given them an order.

-Go ahead... enter.

A weary voice resonated from the deepest and distant part of the underground.

Kim YuWon and Hercules followed the path that appeared before them. The staircase leading underground was so long that the end couldn't be seen.

And at the end of that staircase.

There was a large black door waiting for the two.

Creak-.

Hercules opened the door without hesitation.

And inside...

-You've come.

It was a much clearer voice than before. Moreover, it was a familiar and unforgettable voice.

Everything was black walls, floor, and ceiling. And in that spacious room, there was only one person.

"Great... Uncle?"

On a grand throne.

Sat a strange and bizarre skeleton with barely any flesh left.

It was an appearance that seemed almost impossible to be alive.

-I apologize for being seen in this state.

He was the Father of the Dead, the King of this hell. He was sitting in such an embarrassing manner.

Hercules approached without hesitation and asked.

"What exactly has happened?"

-It's as you see. I am dead.

"You're... dead..."

Hercules turned to Kim YuWon, looking at him with an expression of disbelief.

It was an expression that said, "What has happened?".

He had clearly told him he would be alive.

Kim YuWon didn't meet Hercules' gaze. Instead, he looked at the strange and bizarre skeleton sitting on the grand throne.

Tsu, tsu, tsu-.

Death Energy flowed from the skeleton that was Hades.

He was clearly dead.

But that was only for now.

"He will come back to life. This time, he will."

[The King of the Dead gazes upon those on the boundary between life and death]

[The King of the Dead venerates those who conquer death]

Hades was conquering death.

Although he was dead, Hades was preparing for his resurrection after death.

Tsu, tsu-.

In Kim YuWon's eyes, something subtle could be seen.

Hades' body, which originally only had bones and some flesh attached, was gradually regaining its original form.

"Resurrection of the Dead (死者蘇生)."

There was only one person in this Tower.

Someone who could conquer death and return to life.

That was Hades.

The Resurrection of the Dead was a skill only passed down in legends. It was unknown who learned it or if the skill truly existed.

The fact that the dead returned to life.

It was as rare a case as going back to the past.

"If there's a variable, it's that the opponent is Foolish Chaos..."

Kim YuWon looked at Hades, who had turned into a skeleton, with relief.

"Fortunately, it activated smoothly."

The activation of the Resurrection only happened once.

Conquering death wasn't something so easily repeatable.

Rather, it was nothing short of a miracle that no one in this Tower could accomplish.

-As that guy said. This time, I'm coming back to life.

In response to Hades' answer, Hercules seemed finally relieved and exhaled a sigh that had been trapped in his chest.

"And now...?"

Now that it had been confirmed that Hades was alive, stopping Hera wasn't as difficult anymore.

Hades, who was now the King of Olympus, had the pretext to expel Hera with his presence alone.

Now, they just had to wait for Hades to be resurrected.

"But who did this?"

Though relieved, Hercules looked at Hades with a severe expression, recalling the incredible fact that Hades was killed amidst Olympus.

-I don't know.

"You don't know?"

-I mean, I don't know who it is. It was the first time I saw his face and the first time I heard his name.

He was found dead amidst Olympus.

And that statement meant that the fight wasn't just a simple battle, as Hercules had thought.

Apart from murder, there was no other way to approach the situation. Hercules realized once again that Hades' signal was more than just a simple battle.

However, before Hercules could express his thoughts, Hades interrupted.

-No, I wasn't killed.-

Hercules' eyes widened with surprise.

"What are you saying?"

-I wasn't the victim of simple murder.

The answer didn't come from Hades but from YuWon.

"There's a much easier way to kill a High-Ranker like the Three Great Gods without anyone noticing."

The answer came from YuWon's lips instead of Hades.

"Eliminate the witnesses."

Hercules' gaze widened at YuWon's answer, looking at him and Hades as if questioning the truth of his words.

Although Hades couldn't react with facial expressions anymore due to his skeleton condition, he didn't deny what was said.

-You'll know if you see it for yourself.

In the dark interior of the room, new colors began to appear.

The surroundings instantly changed, filled with a bright glow. A grand hall spread out before them, adorned with a red carpet and luxurious decorations.

It was a place Hercules had seen once before.

"Olympus..."

The King of Olympus.

Hades, in his complete form, sat on his throne.

And right beside him, a little away, the figure of the hooded person who concealed his face with a robe was revealed.

It was the memory of that day when Hades was killed.

-----  
-Would it be better to give everything to that woman?

The scene began there.

YuWon and Hercules felt Hades' concern in his brief murmur.

And then...

-That's right.

Foolish Chaos spoke.

Hades noticed Foolish Chaos' presence.

Someone had appeared in a place that clearly should have been empty. And he did so silently, without warning.

Hades looked at him cautiously.

-Who are you?

-I introduce myself for the first time. I come on behalf of Hera. My name is Foolish Chaos.

Foolish Chaos.

He bowed in a brief greeting.

In response to Hades' call, darkness emerged from Foolish Chaos' shadows and enveloped him completely.

In an instant, Foolish Chaos, who was shrouded in shadows, disappeared without a trace.

Hades stood up.

He couldn't feel anything in his hand.

-You're not an ordinary opponent.

Thus, the fight began.

Foolish Chaos emerged from the shadows and extended his hand from behind his robe.

A massive purple wave filled the room. The mist scattered like a cloud, turning into a torrent rushing towards Hades.

Hades' dark power and Foolish Chaos' purple wave clashed.

The door of the room swung wide open due to the impact of their powers.

-Hades, sir!

-What's happening...?

Thud.

The Players and Rankers of Olympus who entered the room fell to the ground. Some didn't lose consciousness but couldn't approach any closer as if something was preventing them from doing so.

Behind Foolish Chaos, who avoided the intervention of the other Players...

-Admirable skill, but... (Hades)

A sharp scythe suddenly appeared.

-It was a mistake to underestimate me.

Hades' scythe and Foolish Chaos' hand collided.

Foolish Chaos's hand, which blocked the scythe with his claw, trembled. The collision cracked the floor of the room and caused the Great Palace of Olympus to shake.

But that was only for a moment.

Crack, crunch.

In the instant Hades' scythe began to crack...

-...!

-It's a waste of points, but...

Hades' scythe broke.

-Your death will be worth more than that.

Foolish Chaos' other arm pierced through Hades' chest.

Thud, thud.

Blood flowing from Hades' chest dripped onto the floor. When Foolish Chaos withdrew the arm that had pierced through Hades' chest, Hades' body slumped forward weakly.

Thud.

Foolish Chaos looked at Hades, who lay collapsed on the ground and barely breathing.

And then, without further ado, Foolish Chaos turned his gaze towards the Players who had entered the room.

-Erase the memories of this place. Leave no trace behind.

With those words...

Sssshhh...

The purple mist that filled the room began to disperse outward. The mist spread throughout Olympus as Foolish Chaos raised his hand into the air.

The floor was stained with blood.

And the floors and walls cracked.

Craaack, crunch, crunch...



Then, under Foolish Chaos' magic, the floor adhered, and the traces of the battle disappeared.

-With your death...

Creak...

Foolish Chaos' foot stepped on Hades' neck.

-Now, Olympus will disappear.

Grrrr...

Sssshhhhhh...

The scene came to an end with the sound of Hades' neck snapping.

In the landscape that returned to normal, only Hades' bones remained.

Having lost the fight, he didn't die as Foolish Chaos had predicted.

-I let my guard down... even though I tried to justify it, it wasn't just that. Even if we were to fight again, the outcome wouldn't be different.

Hades recalled his fight with Foolish Chaos.

From this wide seat where he could do nothing, he thought and pondered about Foolish Chaos.

Who was he, and what power was he using?

What did it mean to waste points?

Although he thought about it, he didn't come to any conclusion. He didn't even think that the result would change if they were to fight again.

However...

Even when facing Foolish Chaos, YuWon's eyes didn't seem to waver.

-It seems you found out I was alive and came looking for me.

Hades knew YuWon well.

He didn't believe that YuWon had come here by mere chance.

And he didn't believe that he was only concerned about his well-being.

-Is it a situation where you need me?

"Yes."

The answer came immediately.

Hercules looked at YuWon. Was it such a dangerous situation that they couldn't afford to have Hades absent?

A brief silence.

The corner of YuWon's lips curved up.

"Not now, but later."

-Later?

It was a meaningful statement.

As if everything would be resolved when that time came.

YuWon spoke with assurance in his voice.

"When you have regained your strength and everything is over. You just have to return to your place as if nothing happened."

-Perhaps that means...?

"Yes."

While working together with Hercules on the Labors.

Hades died, and the mission was ruined. Olympus had suspended all its activities due to the fight against Hera.

"We've been hit hard up until now."

It was the Twelfth Labor.

When YuWon received the request from Olympus, he considered this moment as a turning point.

Only up to this point...

"Now, the counterattack will begin."

He had already won half of the battle, so to speak.

Chapter 348

C348

"What...?"

Hera's expression hardened at the voice coming from the Player Kit.

"What are you saying all of a sudden? Are they withdrawing? This is ridiculous!"

The Giants are retreating from the fight.

That news shook everything Hera had been doing up until now.

"Why suddenly?"

-It was Zeus's doing.

The response that came made Hera's eyes widen.

"Zeus... him?"

The King of all Olympus and Hera's husband.

For a long time, Zeus had been absent from anywhere in the Tower.

Although he had escaped from Asgard's prison a long time ago, Zeus showed no interest in Olympus whatsoever.

But now, he suddenly encounters the Giants.

An ominous premonition seized her.

"He's not interested in Olympus anymore, is he?"

-We don't know either. However, the problem is that if we start this fight, we will become enemies again.

"Are you afraid because Zeus has joined the battle? Is that what you're trying to say, you, a leader of the Giants?"

It was a succession of events hard to understand.

Yes.

It could be said that it makes sense for Zeus to have returned.

After being exiled once, it was possible for him to return to Olympus if he couldn't stop worrying about it.

But the Giants were different.

The Three Great Gods of Olympus were practically sworn enemies to them.

They unleashed the Gigantomachy, killed many Giants, and took away their land.

And Zeus was the leader of those Gods.

"He has turned into a monster. For us, it is inevitable."

A monster.

Those were Gigāntes' words, no one else's.

Hera, who had started the fight relying on the Giants, was taken aback and muttered.

"A monster...?"

Just a few years ago, she had not seen Zeus.

What had happened in that time for Gigāntes to become humble enough to say such a thing?

She couldn't understand.

Hera was certain there were other reasons.

-Zeus said he would dry up the Giants' seed if we don't stop the Gigantomachy. And it seems he really has the power to do it.

Zeus wanted to stop the Gigantomachy.

It was none other than him, the same one who had instigated the first Gigantomachy.

-We will withdraw from this fight. We cannot continue to fight a battle with no chance of winning.

"Wait a moment...!"

The call was cut off at that point.

Looking at the powered-off Player Kit and shouting several times, Hera fell silent with a stunned expression on her face.

And then...

Crash!

She threw the plates and cups off the table, creating an instant mess in the room.

"Curse, damn it."

Her eyes reddened as she nervously disrupted the room.

The image of the man she hated so much was reflected in her eyes.

Zeus.

Once again, Zeus.

She had never loved him before. And Zeus had never loved her either.

Zeus only wanted to give birth to Hercules through Hera. Hera wanted to become the Queen of Olympus through him.

They joined hands to get what they wanted, but Hera could never bear Hercules.

The contempt she received for it, and the subsequent indifference.

And in the end, Zeus was trying to sabotage the cause she had been waiting for so long.

"Use the siblings Apollo and Artemis."

Woosh.

Hera turned her head.

Foolish Chaos's sudden appearance was no longer surprising to her.

With venomous eyes and piercing words, she pricked at Foolish Chaos.

"Wasn't this situation the result of listening to your words?"

"Haven't you come to this point by listening to my words?"

"You...!"

Hera, who was about to explode with fury, tightly clenched her lips.

He wasn't wrong.

In this situation, there were only two choices.

Withdraw or risk everything to seize the throne.

The first option was absolute surrender.

If she withdrew like this, Hera could never return to her original position in her life.

'I can do it even without the Giants.'

Apollo and Artemis.

They were the High-Rankers representing Olympus, and they were also Hera's connections.

If the two work together, it won't be impossible to break through the castle guarded by Pandora.

'There's no way Zeus will become greedy for the throne again.'

Zeus didn't return directly to Olympus after leaving with the Giants.

If he had ambitions for the throne again, he would have returned straight to Olympus.

Until now, it had been a fight worth trying without Zeus.

"And Hercules? You surely dealt with him properly, right?"

At Hera's question, Foolish Chaos responded confidently.

"He won't be able to return alive under any circumstances."

"...Alright."

Anyway, she had already come this far. From now on, there was only betting left.

"Let's move."

-----

In the Sun Chariot.

YuWon took out the Player Kit and answered the phone.

"Is it already done?"

-Yes.

The response came from the other side.

It was a beautiful voice to the point of being suffocating. He always felt that the voice of that person and his actions didn't match.

YuWon thought once again that it was incredible.

He never imagined he would finish so quickly.

"Thanks. Although it was a mess you had to deal with anyway."

-It would have been much nicer if you just said thank you.

"We helped each other. This time it was your turn to help me."

-That's right. Although I don't know about the others, you have the ability to say those things.

Zeus's voice through the Player Kit sounded a bit huskier than usual.

Since he had finally reached the roof he desired so much. Surely, Zeus would feel like he was flying.

-Is this also the doing of that guy?

In response to Zeus's question, YuWon replied with conviction.

"Yes."

-Then I'll have to punish him.

It was a confident voice.

The corners of YuWon's lips lifted.

"We'll have to do it."

He had come this far, influenced by the game created by Foolish Chaos.

"At this point, it's clear he can't go on."

Probably, he knew that Zeus had stopped the Giants and Hercules had shattered his trap. If that was the case, it was obvious he couldn't go on.

'This far.'

The beginning of the counterattack.

But it wasn't just about confronting Hera.

YuWon looked at Danpung, who was sitting on his lap and dozing off.

"Let's meet soon."

-----

Grrrr.

"Hurry, quickly!"

"Hera is leading the way."

"Let's take back Olympus again."

The Rankers and Players began to equip themselves.

Each one grabbed their weapon and checked their gear. The Rankers supporting Hera calculated their chances of winning the fight and what they would gain.

"They say Pandora is on the other side?"

"She and Athena will be in charge of Hera."

"Apollo and Artemis also joined our side..."

"Our power is superior."

"Even those who were under Ares joined our side this time."

"Really? Well, for those who were trapped, this is the best chance."

"Hera also appreciated Ares. It's good news."

After winning this fight, the Rankers were like happy cats, seeing how Hera would become the new King of Olympus and everyone's position would rise even higher.

But that joy lasted only for a moment.

"By the way, hasn't it been a bit hot for a while now?"

"Now that you mention it..."

The Rankers gathered for the expedition began to feel something strange.

And then, suddenly...

Fwoosh!

A gigantic wall of fire rose around them.

"I-It's fire!"

"Who did this?"

"This fire is...!"

It was a fire no Olympus Ranker could be unfamiliar with.

A flame hotter than lava, vaguely mixed with gold.

Ssssh.

From within the column, a Ranker with golden hair walked out.

"No one will be able to leave here from now on."

Apollo.

One of the Olympus Rankers, the representative of the sun.

"Please understand, everyone."

He showed a brilliant smile that didn't fit the situation.

And at that moment...

Elsewhere too, Artemis began to move.

-----

"What's going on?"

In the middle of the Sun Chariot.

When Hera asked in surprise, the interior of the chariot fell silent.

It was a Sun Chariot carrying dozens of people. Well, more precisely, it was a replica of Apollo's Sun Chariot.

The Sun Chariot could no longer move forward and stopped in the middle of the sky. It was due to the sudden news that was transmitted.

"Apollo, Artemis..."

The military forces scattered in the Temples of Hera were now blocked.

It was because of Apollo and Artemis.

"Have my children betrayed me?"

"They're all still safe. Maybe there's some misunderstanding for now..."

"This was planned from the beginning, from the very beginning!"

Apollo and Artemis had not been with Hera from the start.

When they were heading to Olympus, Apollo and Artemis turned down her proposal to join together.

They gave vague excuses like they couldn't move immediately as Hades had just died.

"I should have noticed it at that time."

Without the Giants and without the support of the Giant race, fighting against Olympus with this number of people was like hitting a rock with an egg.

Without Pandora, the situation might have been different, but at this moment, there was no chance of victory.

"How did we come to this...?"

After Hades's death, Olympus, which was thought to be empty, was being protected by Pandora.

The support of the Giants was blocked by Zeus.

The siblings Apollo and Artemis cut off the support from the inside, and the Rankers under Hera's command were trapped in the middle of helplessness.

Uuung, uuung.

It was at that moment that Hera's Player Kit began to ring.

It was an unknown number.

The chilling sensation that ran down her spine was not a mere illusion.

It was her instinct, which had led her to this moment, the moment she received a call on her Player Kit.

-It's the first time we talk, but you greet like this.

The unknown voice came through the Player Kit.

-What are you planning to do now? Apollo and Artemis are gone, and the Giants have left.

Though it was a voice she had never heard before, it wasn't hard to imagine who that voice belonged to.

"Are you Kim YuWon?"

-Yes.

"Pandora, Apollo, Artemis, Zeus... did you do all of that?"

-If you had been a bit smarter, we wouldn't have come this far. It's a bit regrettable.

YuWon didn't deny it.

Pandora, Apollo, Artemis, Zeus.

The Rankers who ruled Olympus had become pawns of YuWon and were acting according to his orders.

In that moment, Hera felt a chill run through her entire body.



Being in such a precarious position, standing there like a loose string, all of this was created by an individual she had never seen before.

Hastily, Hera bit her lips so hard that blood was about to spill, trying to conceal her trembling voice.

"What do you want? Did you contact me because you have something to say?"

-Didn't that bastard tell you anything? Like how Hercules won't overcome the Labors and that he's surely already dead.

He spoke with a tone that implied he knew everything.

The moment she heard "that bastard," Hera immediately knew who he was talking about.

Foolish Chaos.

The individual who had killed Hades and promised to eliminate Hercules through the Twelve Labors.

Hera's eyes widened further when she realized that YuWon knew who Foolish Chaos was.

-No.

The surprise didn't end there.

-Hercules sent a message. He will begin the final Labor now.

The final Labor.

The trial of defeating the most powerful Beast King of Hell, the King Cerberus.

But for Hercules, that might be the easiest trial.

And the fact that he started it means...

-Start washing your neck, ma'am.

It meant that the Labor had already been completed.

Chapter 349

C349

Ding~

The call was cut off.

A buzzing sound resonated in Hera's head.

YuWon's voice she had heard through the Player Kit seemed to be echoing in her mind.

Hera was perplexed, as if she had lost her sanity.

Other Rankers approached her hesitantly.

"Are you okay?"

"Don't worry too much. There's no way Apollo and Artemis would betray Hera-nim, right?"

That wasn't what mattered.

The comforting words were just empty words.

"...He's coming."

"Who?"

A faint murmur got caught in Hera's mouth.

"Hercules..."

With a pensive expression on her face, she muttered the same words.

"Hercules is coming..."

The entire plan had collapsed now.

Hera no longer had the means to stop Hercules.

-----

Four days had passed since Hera's departure.

In the Temple of Hera on the 77th floor, silence reigned.

Even the Players on the lower floors knew that the situation was not favorable. The fact that there was no news after four days was evidence of that.

Perhaps this battle they had started on their own would end in defeat.

If that happened, everything they had built in Olympus would turn to smoke.

"What will we do if we lose this...?"

"There's not much we can do. Go out and find another Guild?"

"But at that point, we'd already be labeled as deserters from Olympus, right?"

"And does that matter now? Maybe we can get out of here alive."

"That's true."

"We should withdraw now."

"Are you joking? Do you think Hera-nim will stand still?"

"Ugh-!"

Most of the Players who had reached the 77th floor used to receive a warm welcome in any Guild they joined. However, settling into that Guild and gaining favor from the higher-ranking Rankers was another issue altogether. It required considerable effort and a lot of time.

Moreover, the problem lay in the fact that once they reached this point, it was challenging to build a new position in another Guild and be fully accepted. And if the perception developed that the person seeking to join had been expelled from Olympus, finding a place in any Guild would be even more difficult.

"Anyway, we have to protect this place and wait for victory or surrender. Even if we lose, we might consider surrendering to the other side, but joining another Guild is definitely not an option..."

"It won't be possible, for sure."

"Whoa!"

The man, startled, quickly stepped back in response to the sound of a voice coming from a distance. Though he was taken aback, he still acted like a high-level Player, which was commendable.

"Who are you?"

"Reveal your name!"

Tuck, tuck-.

Several Players pointed their spears and swords at him. Among them were some Rankers who had not yet left for battle.

Though they were determined to reclaim the throne, it seemed they hadn't completely emptied the temple, as there was a considerable number of Players present.

The sound of weapons aiming at him made YuWon shrug.

"Choose the lesser evil. After all, this battle is already over."

YuWon's words caused the Players around him to widen their eyes.

"Is it over?"

"What are you saying?"

"Are you... Kim YuWon?"

"What?"

Some Players recognized YuWon. After all, YuWon was a Ranker who had reached the Top 100, and there was enough information about him in the Player Kit to make him quite well-known.

Of course, most of the information was that his identity was unknown or how he became a Ranker in a short period, but his face was also recognizable enough.

As the name spread slowly...

"Is it really him?"

"We're done for."

"What can we do against a two-digit Ranker?"

Just by hearing his name, they had already lost confidence.

That was the strength that a High-Ranker possessed.

Of course, there were also some brave souls within the group.

Or more precisely, Rankers loyal to Hera.

"Don't be afraid."

"After all, there's only one enemy."

"We also have several Rankers here! We have enough chances to win..."

Kwang-!

The Ranker shouting to boost the group's morale suddenly felt everything around him blur.

In an instant, he lost consciousness after receiving a blow to the chin. YuWon sneered at him with a disdainful expression.

"Several? You barely even reach ten."

The number of Rankers left in the Temple of Hera was little more than ten.

Most of the members were in the expedition (battle) to reclaim the throne.

Hera was now trapped, unable to come or go.

She didn't have enough power to head to Olympus, and there were issues if she tried to return to the Temple.

In the end, she, who had lost her way in the middle of the Tower, was continuously wasting her power.

Of course.

Yuwon hadn't come to the Temple to take control.

Crack-!

A black lightning burst from the ring on his hand.

The lightning ascended into the sky from the tips of his fingers, creating murky clouds.

Kurr-.

Crack, crunch-!

Thunderous clouds.

The lightning and thunder, made of immense energy, were unmistakable signs for the players of Olympus.

"A... lightning?"

"It's a little different..."

"Is that... right?"

The players of Olympus who had experienced the Gigantomachy clearly remembered the signs preceding Zeus's lightning.

And those memories were vivid because the power of lightning was exceptionally strong.

"From now on, I hope everyone except those who have great loyalty to Hera or those who think they can defeat me step aside."

Some among them considered Olympus as simply a safe occupation.

The most YuWon could do was get to them to surrender.

"From now on, just after counting to ten..."

Crack.

The tip of a spear flew towards YuWon.

At that moment....

Kwaaang!

A lightning struck down from the dense dark clouds.

"Ah...!"

The body of the Ranker rushing towards YuWon with his spear was charred and fell to the ground.

The spear didn't even get close to YuWon. Although he had tried to attack sneakily while speaking, no matter how fast he was, he couldn't be faster than a lightning.

"Everyone will turn into grilled meat."

"Uh..."

"No, not me!"

"No matter if it's out of loyalty, surrender!"

"The problem isn't surrendering, but escaping fast, idiot!"

The players began to flee in a hurry.

Most of the Ranker players stayed in their places. After all, they were followers of Hera out of loyalty to her.

Instead, the threat of jeopardizing their lives was more effective against those seeking the glory of Olympus and the benefits that came with it.

There was no need to count to ten.

Players with physical abilities superior to ordinary people fled at a dazzling speed.

At about when he reached five.

YuWon was able to distinguish between those who were fleeing and those who were staying.

"Is there anyone else left?"

The players and five Rankers touched their chests in response to YuWon's question.

"We've devoted our lives to Hera!"

"Death doesn't scare us! If there's something to fear...!"

Kwaang!

The resulting sound was drowned out by a thunder.

It wasn't worth hearing more answers.

The rain of lightning falling from the sky swept away the players and Rankers who were still there.

"That's right, then."

Thump, thump.

YuWon walked through the charred Temple garden.

The spacious Temple of Hera fell silent. Those who had left in the midst of the turmoil were already gone, and the only thing left was YuWon.

And YuWon had something to do in this Temple.

Creeeaak.

He opened the heavy door and entered, searching for the last trace of a presence.

The ceiling as high as the sky, the temple walls adorned with beautiful designs of light clouds and red lines.

Yuwon walked towards the back of the empty temple and looked at the chair that seemed to be Hera's seat.

As if Hera herself were a king. She adorned her own seat magnificently, like a jade throne.

And in YuWon's eyes, who was examining that empty seat, he saw a mark.

'She was here just a moment ago.'

A scratched mark on the armrest.

It was a mark that looked like a fingernail. But it wasn't Hera's.

It was a mark sharp like a beast's. Moreover, it didn't seem to have been there for very long.

"It wasn't an escape..."

Sssh-

In YuWon's eyes, the Golden Cinder Eyes activated.

"Will he disappear like this again?"

He was a guy who vanished every time things went wrong.

However, this time, the case was different.

"It can't be like this. Right?"

"Baah!"

From inside YuWon, Danpung came out, pushing his head out.

A confident voice.

The creature that had been very exhausted after the fight with Atlas looked even more energetic than before.

"It's a pleasure to work with you again, Radar."

"....?"

Danpung looked at YuWon as if asking what "Radar" was.

It was impossible to find Foolish Chaos who had disappeared using only the Golden Cinder Eyes.

But if there was something like Danpung, then it wasn't impossible.

"He must be hiding around here."

Tap-.

YuWon's steps headed towards the outside of the temple.

"Now..."

[The 'Predator' shows its fangs]

YuWon began to move according to the appetite of the Predator that had been hiding within him.

"I will find you."

-----

An unexpected number of people arrived at the Temple of Ares.

Thanks to Hera and the numerous players who followed her, who changed their course towards the Temple of Ares instead of heading to Olympus.

In the cramped Temple, they hurried to find rooms to accommodate them. Anyway, it was not common for so many people to be housed in such a chaotic temple without the presence of Ares.

"And Hera?"

"She is in her room, but..."

"But..."

"She is not in good condition."

Hera's followers who came to look for her had the same reaction.

Hera's state was disastrous.

"He... Hercules is coming... Hercules..."

For the past few days.

Since she received a message in the Sun Chariot, her state had been the same all the time.

A reaction filled with fear.

She was in no condition to meet anyone.

Those who were concerned returned, promising to come back later. Hera trembled in her room wrapped in red fabrics.

Hera's Salvation.

A highly valued item in this Tower for its defensive and healing abilities.

Hera's body trembled like a weeping willow with that item enveloping her.

"There's no solution..."

Hercules is coming.

He is aiming for her life.

But there was no way to stop him.

Hercules, after completing the Twelve Labors.

Surely, he would have become an even more monstrous creature than before.

Now she had no means or power to stop him. The event had already happened, and all the security devices she had were gone.

The bet with Hercules had ended. After playing with the Labors, the ending wouldn't be clean either.

Now, all that was left for Hera... was to await her judgment.

Thump.

And at that moment...

Kwaang.

The earth shook.

From outside the temple, a thunderous voice was heard.

"Heraaaa!!!"

Hercules.

After completing all the Labors, he finally came to find her.

Chapter 350

C350

"Stop!"

"There's only one opponent!"

"Attack together! The rest, prepare in the rear."

There was only one opponent.

But a weak and meek flock of sheep had no words for a hungry dinosaur.

The stature of the dinosaur before them was too large to overcome fear with numbers alone.

Kwaang!

When Hercules swung his club, the Rankers rushing towards him scattered.

Then, the long-range skills in position launched their attacks on Hercules' head. Flames and massive pressure struck him from above.

Kugugung!

The ground sank deeply as they fell.

As they looked at Hercules enveloped in flames within the depression, the Players cheered.

"We did it!"

"He charged without thinking, but now he's in a sorry state...!"

"Idiots! Don't you know who the opponent is?"



A cry was heard at that moment.

"The opponent is Hercules, Hercules! The monster that slaughtered millions of Giants!"

Thump.

The sound of heavy footsteps seemed to come from the sunken hole, as if they were those of a Giant.

"So, all that nonsense about having defeated him..."

Thump.

The Ranker who was speaking felt a sensation of falling under his feet for a moment.

Even for a brief instant, he thought, "It can't be."

Thump!

Once again, the vibrations from below the ground resonated.

Kugwaggwaggwagg!

The ground sank deeply, and numerous Rankers and Players fell within it.

"The ground is sinking!"

"Aaaaah!"

"Save me! P-Please...!"

"Those with flight abilities, quickly!"

The battlefield turned into chaos in the blink of an eye.

Hercules jumped from the ground upwards.

There were Rankers with flight abilities trying to save the falling Players and those striving to rescue them.

Hercules looked down on them and muttered.

"Stay there for now."

Thump.

Hercules' footsteps headed towards the Temple where Hera was hiding.

Inside the Temple, everything was empty.

Except for a few Rankers guarding Hera, everyone else had gone out to stop Hercules.

Creak.

Hercules headed to the door of the most secluded room among all the chambers.

A small room that didn't fit the beauty and opulence that had been Hera's hallmark throughout her life.

However, it was the right answer.

"...You've come."

The interior of the room was covered in red fabrics.

Hera was waiting there, looking at Hercules.

Perhaps it was to not show any despicable appearance. Though Hera's voice trembled, she made an effort not to show it both in her words and actions.

"Why did you do it?"

Thump.

Hercules stepped into the room.

And at that moment...

["Hera's Salvation" is binding you.]

Charrararak.

Chaa.

Thousands, tens of thousands of red threads flew and enveloped Hercules' body.

Only for a moment.

Chwiiik.

Nothing could resist the power known as Hera's Salvation, but it was severed the moment it encountered Hercules' strength.

"You should have kept your promise."

Thump.

Hercules stepped into the room.

And at that moment...

["If you complete all the Labors, I will give up everything."]

Thump.

"Don't come. Don't come!"

Hera added power to the red threads.

Fabrics stronger than steel and tougher than spider webs clung to Hercules' body. In a room where no giant monster could move, Hercules moved as usual.

Chiiik.

"But, why did you do it?"

It was a phrase that implied many things.

The death of Hades.

The reclaiming of the throne.

And the manipulation of the Labors.

The Labors that Hercules had undertaken were not a fair bet at all.

"If you hadn't done this, it wouldn't matter what you did."

He tried to endure.

He tried to avoid bloodshed. To end this fight as peacefully as possible.

That's why, from the beginning, Hercules had maintained his neutrality in the fight between Hades and Hera.

The moment he intervened, this fight could have become unmanageable.

"If you had taken the throne in a just manner, I wouldn't have cared, as I didn't care who the King was."

Before fulfilling the Labors.

Hera had sought him out.

Hera: "Won't you make a bet with me?"

A bet.

Hercules, who was chopping wood in a quiet forest, heard her words.

Perhaps it was because he thought there was something he could do.

Hera: "Complete the Labors."

Hercules: "You mean the twelve Labors."

Hera: "Yes. If you surpass them all, I won't cause any more trouble."

Hercules didn't hesitate much.

Hercules dropped the axe he held and immediately started the twelve Labors.

Then the neutral Hercules began to move.

"You said it yourself. If you truly desire peace, complete the Labors."

Zhiyin-.

The red fabric was torn apart.

The distance became immeasurably closer.

"I was wrong."

Hercules realized that sometimes it was necessary to shed blood for peace.

If it wasn't for YuWon, it wouldn't have been strange for the Gigantomachy to have started again.

And Hera seized that weak point of Hercules.

"Even if you wouldn't have tried to provoke another Gigantomachy, you probably would have stopped everything here following the outcome of our bet..."

Hercules couldn't allow the Giants to be brought.

Hera, also knowing Hercules' weakness, tried to eliminate him through the Twelve Labors.

"Nevertheless, I've learned something. Sometimes, violence is necessary."

"And-I..."

"If you endure three times, that will be enough."

Buum.

Crack!

Hercules' club splashed blood.

"Who looks like a fool now?"

-----

In a fertile and sunny land, people were always busy.

Floor 77, where Hera's temple was located, was one of those worlds.

A bustling city where millions of people lived.

YuWon leaped over the rooftops of the buildings that composed the city.

Paat.

He quickly slid his feet up to the next rooftop.

Underneath the roofs, many people rushed by. The landscape passed rapidly before his eyes, and YuWon ran with all his might toward a specific place.

How long had he pursued?

Woong.

The Player Kit on his chest beeped. Usually, he would have ignored the message, but it was the call he was waiting for.

Without stopping, YuWon took out the Player Kit from his chest and checked the message.

[Hercules: Hera has been eliminated]

Hercules finished before him.

"Well, it's not that difficult to catch the Cerberus King."

Although one arm was injured, the Cerberus King wasn't a monster that got along well with Hercules for a long time.

Furthermore, Hades had revealed the location of the Cerberus King to him. Thanks to that, Hercules was able to quickly finish the Labor and moved on to find Hera.

There are two things Hercules gained through this Labor.

"Maybe I can change my impatient temperament."

The first was Hercules' personality.

The difference between what's right and what's foolish was just one step. Up until now, Hercules had been excessively timid, except when fighting against the Giants.

But anyway, Hercules made a decision through these Labors. He learned the helplessness of strength in his struggle with Atlas and the determination in his bet with Hera.

All of that was a necessary stimulus for Hercules.

And then...

"Hercules understood the Myth earlier than expected."

## Myth

One of the many conditions to break through the ceiling and become a God.

By completing the Twelve Labors, Hercules fulfilled one of those conditions. His growth would probably be much faster than when he obtained the Yggdrasil Club.

"You must grow more than you are now."

Hercules.

A mighty High-Ranker who was mentioned as a candidate to return to the past along with YuWon and Son OhGong.

His growth was one of the tasks that YuWon had to resolve upon returning to the past.

It wasn't intentional, but he still solved one of those tasks in the scenario set by Foolish Chaos.

Now, only one thing remained.

Pot.

It was to deliver a direct blow to Foolish Chaos.

Tak.

YuWon, running across the rooftops, descended suddenly.

The crowd filling the streets glanced at him but soon lost interest.

For the Floor 77 Players, flying through the sky was as easy as taking a step.

There was nothing surprising about it.

Step, step...

Yuwon's steps were much slower than before.

Among the crowd filling the streets, there was one person whose eyes gleamed particularly in YuWon's eyes.

-Are you still pursuing me?

In the midst of the crowd, a figure in a dark cloak stood out.

YuWon approached that person step by step and opened his mouth.

Tak. Yeon. Hi.

Foolish Chaos no longer distanced himself from YuWon.

Even if he tried to get away, YuWon wouldn't let him. Leaving the Temple of Hera late was a mistake.

But he still had confidence in something.

-If we fight here, many people will die.

There was a reason why Foolish Chaos stopped in the middle of this street.

-Are you still willing? Apostle of Justice.

That was because Foolish Chaos knew YuWon well.

YuWon was fighting for this Tower. Although he hadn't understood why, it was clear what YuWon's goal was.

Therefore, Foolish Chaos was sure that YuWon wouldn't sacrifice innocent residents.

But...

"Do you really want to fight here?"

YuWon's reaction was a bit different from what he expected.

YuWon turned his head and looked around.

It was still early.

Like a densely populated city, many people were walking on the streets.

If they fought here, the residents would be involved.

"Even if we involve the residents, the administrators might intervene."

Step.

YuWon approached Foolish Chaos without hesitation.

"But I don't care if that happens."

Foolish Chaos tried to use the residents as hostages to escape, but that only put his life in danger.

The Administrators.

The true rulers of this Tower, whom beings from outside the Tower feared the most.

Usually, they didn't intervene in the fights of Rankers or high-level players, but it was different when it came to defenseless residents.

If a Ranker or a high-level Player attacked the residents of a floor they governed, the Administrators would take disciplinary actions.

That was even truer if it was an outsider to the Tower who wasn't even a Ranker.

"You will be the one to lose the most."

Foolish Chaos was conflicted.

Yuwon was certain of the decision Foolish Chaos would make.

"Calling the Administrators is a premature decision for him."

**Surrounded on All Sides.**

It was a phrase that perfectly fit the situation Foolish Chaos found himself in.

Although at first Foolish Chaos might have done as he pleased, he didn't have full control until the end. The choice to end the fight or not was in YuWon's hands.

YuWon intended to continue the fight.

"Come on."

Step~

Yuwon's steps stopped right in front of Foolish Chaos.

And at that moment...

[The 'Predator' has found its prey]

The jaws of the Predator within YuWon twisted toward Foolish Chaos.

"What will you do?"