

## **With The Gods 351**

Chapter 351

C351

Step, step...

YuWon and Foolish Chaos left the city.

The place they arrived after running and flying for a long time was in the mountains, far enough for the city to appear as a dot.

"How did you know where I am?"

The steps slowed down, and Foolish Chaos, who was running ahead, turned around again.

He seemed quite curious.

"Is this also the power of the Golden Cinder Eyes?"

Foolish Chaos boasted about knowing everything in the world.

The same was true for the Golden Cinder Eyes.

Foolish Chaos had been keeping an eye on Son OhGong for a long time. His immortal power, Ru Yi Bang, Flying Nimbus, and also the Golden Cinder Eyes.

All of them were threats even to beings from outside the Tower.

However, until now, in no place Foolish Chaos had investigated, such power existed in the Golden Cinder Eyes.

Although the Golden Cinder Eyes could penetrate everything in the world, beings from outside the Tower were beyond the category of the "world" from the start.

It was impossible to track Foolish Chaos solely with the Golden Cinder Eyes.

"Well..."

Of course, YuWon had no intention of directly answering his question.

"Guess."

A vague response.

In that brief moment, the cloak Foolish Chaos was wearing fluttered.

Zas...

Chas...

The end of the cloak he was wearing got cut off. A red line sliced through the spot where Foolish Chaos had been a moment ago and pursued him.

The gaze inside the cloak turned to the owner of the sword.

Susanoo.

He curved his mouth as he chased after Foolish Chaos.

-It's been a long time.

Sshh...

Susanoo, who was right in front, disappeared.

Like a ghost, Susanoo, who had vanished in the blink of an eye, appeared again behind Foolish Chaos.

-I've been waiting for this, for a long time.

Kwaah!

The corner of the mountain behind Foolish Chaos broke. A part of the cut mountain tilted and fell gently downward.

Koong!

A vibration shook the earth.

In the midst of the thick dust rising, Susanoo, wielding his sword, turned towards Foolish Chaos.

And once more...

Step...

Susanoo persistently chased after Foolish Chaos and swung his sword.

'That's right. We were opposing spheres.'

Ssh, saaah...

As if traversing through the threads of a spiderweb, Foolish Chaos dodged Susanoo, moving here and there.

Does he even have the Golden Cinder Eyes?

The edge of Susanoo's sword, which didn't reach Foolish Chaos, was filled with irritation.

-Do you dare play with me?

"You're not the only one."

Chas, chas!

Susanoo, wielding the sword, was grabbed by the neck.

In an instant, the distance closed.

Susanoo, who was swinging his sword, momentarily stopped, bewildered.

And during that time...

"Everyone in this Tower..."

Buwoong!

With all his strength, Foolish Chaos lifted Susanoo and threw him to the ground.

"They are in the palm of my hand."

Plak!

Susanoo, flying toward a cliff, fell beneath the collapsed rocks. And in that brief moment, a black line flew from somewhere.

Kwang!

Crack, crack, crack!

The outstretched palm halted the Lightning Bolt. A tingling sensation was transmitted through the hand.

Then, Foolish Chaos's gaze rose to the mountaintop, which was quite far away.

"...Except for one individual."

The figure of YuWon holding another spear could be seen from a distance.

YuWon was definitely annoying.

It wasn't a matter of being strong or weak.

There were many Rankers stronger than YuWon. Hades, with whom he had just fought, was a Ranker similar to YuWon.

Moreover, Hercules, Zeus, Son OhGong, Odin. Compared to these High-Rankers, YuWon was still at the level of a child.

However, Foolish Chaos was more wary of YuWon than anyone else.

The reason was one and only.

'I can't read him.'

He couldn't read YuWon's actions or thoughts.

The same was happening now.

In the end, he was the one who lost in the fight. He tried to use Hera to revive the Gigantomachy, but in the end, he failed.

He even wanted to destroy Olympus, but that also failed when Hercules caught Hera.

"I suppose that's how it is."

Foolish Chaos's head lifted.

Sseueuh...

"Maybe this is for the best."

The sky began to turn violet.

Under that sky, YuWon threw another spear.

Kwang!

-----

Crack. Crack-le-.

The Lightning Bolt emitted by Uranus roared in YuWon's hands.

There were no apparent damages. YuWon clenched his fist repeatedly in frustration.

"It's not enough."

Unless it was a Lightning Bolt at Zeus's level, it was difficult to land a proper hit on that creature.

No matter how many times he tried to use Uranus, he still couldn't reverse the fundamental power difference. Besides, he still lacked the speed proficiency to create Lightning Bolts.

The image of a huge Lightning Bolt striking Camelot appeared in YuWon's mind.

"A Lightning Bolt as big as at that time..."

Crack, crackle...

The Lightning Bolt created in his hand rose upwards. It was a spear much faster and larger than before.

But at that moment...

Saaa...

The wind stopped, and the flow of air changed.

It was a phenomenon that hadn't occurred in a long time.

With some hope, he raised his head to look up, but as expected...

Swish...

The color of the sky was turning violet.

"It's begun."

Foolish Chaos began to use his power in earnest. The scattered mana flow in the air distorted, and an entirely different energy flowed.

"Baat..."

A pleasant voice.

Danpung emerged from YuWon's arms and jumped onto his shoulders. He didn't bother to stop Danpung. Danpung's presence was one of the key elements of this fight.

"That guy should also be arriving late."

Crackle, crackle...

YuWon didn't stop his work of creating spears.

The Lightning Bolt in his hand kept growing. Although he should know that, Foolish Chaos stood there without moving and observed YuWon.

"From now on, it begins."

Swoo...

Foolish Chaos pulled back the cloak he was wearing.

And at that moment...

Kwang!

The Lightning Bolt that was in YuWon's hand flew.

Plak!

Crack...

The Lightning Bolt hit precisely.

For a moment, it seemed like the Lightning Bolt that left YuWon's hand pierced through Foolish Chaos's body.

But...

Kwang...

A violet glow surrounded YuWon.

[The 'Garment Of The Four Great Elements' resists '?']

[The target cannot be determined]

[The 'Garment Of The Four Great Elements' fails to resist '?']

Garment Of The Four Great Elements.

An item with mysterious power that can resist any attribute.

However, this violet glow wasn't any kind of attribute.

YuWon quickly released his mana to push away the violet glow.

Tsu, tsu, tsu...

Hwarruk...

[The 'Uranus Heart' resists '?']

[The 'Blessing Of The Sea' resists '?']

[The 'Holy Fire' resists '?']

[The resistance is partially successful]

He had a partial success, though only a bit.

This was his chance.

Hwarruk...

YuWon drew his sword and enveloped the blade with Holy Fire. Among the different abilities, Holy Fire showed the greatest effect.

Kwah-!

Raising his sword with all his might, the violet glow that surrounded the surroundings faded away. At the same time, YuWon lunged in that direction, leaving his place.

And at that moment...

"Boowook-"

Danpung, swaying on YuWon's shoulders as if satisfied, stood up and shook himself, patting his full belly and burping.

[Growth rate has increased by 0.004%]

Though minimal, Danpung's growth rate had increased. It seemed like he had absorbed the violet glow YuWon had dispersed.

"Does it taste good?"

While his master was fighting with effort, he was just filling his stomach.

Tuk...

YuWon used Hermes's Steps to tread on the sky. After landing on another mountain peak, he looked up and saw a completely violet sky.

Tsuueuh...

The sky split.

And at that moment, Danpung, who had been happily patting his stomach on YuWon's shoulders, stood up.

"Bah-?"

His eyes glowed.

They were pupils that seemed to have found a fun toy.

And, as expected...

Jjeo-euk...

Violet waves emerged from the cracks in the split sky.

"Are those Outer Gods?"

They had no names, they were presences beyond the Tower.

Those individuals who had arrived through the cracks in the outer sky.

And among them...

'Some of the big ones too.'

Even among the Outer Gods, there seemed to be a great mix of types with attached names.

"Mmm..."

YuWon knew from the beginning that it wouldn't be easy.

But he never imagined it would be this difficult.

YuWon's rank was similar to that of Hades. Well, strictly speaking, he was a bit below Hades.

However, Foolish Chaos was exerting a force enough to contend with several Hades and still had power remaining.

That implied that he was going to waste many points.

'It seems he's aware of my existence.'

If he couldn't avoid the fight, then he would definitely kill YuWon in this place.

It was a wise choice.

Even if it was an excessive investment, if he managed to kill YuWon here, he would eliminate any variables in his future plans.

"Well, thanks to that..."

YuWon glanced at Danpung.

"Now, there's plenty to eat, right?"

"B-ba, baat..."

Danpung nodded vigorously.

To Danpung, the waves of Outer Gods appearing in front of him were like an irresistible feast.

YuWon would use that feast to entice Danpung.

"This time, don't just have fun, you have to help too."

"Ba-ba-aat, baat!"

Hearing that, Danpung pouted as if he was annoyed.

He probably remembered how tired he got after the fight with Atlas some time ago.

But...

"If you don't want to, it's fine. We can run away if you want..."

"Ba-ba-aat, baat!"

This time, YuWon wouldn't just let Danpung have fun on his own.

Until now, merely adding a spoon to the feast he had prepared was enough. But in a different fight, Danpung's power was absolute in battling the Outer Gods.

And it was also a gamble against Foolish Chaos.

At the same time...

'If everything goes well, this might be the chance to fill the growth rate completely.'

Danpung's growth rate, which had not been progressing, could reach 100% in this opportunity.

Swish~

YuWon headed towards the numerous Outer Gods spread across the sky.

This situation was not unfamiliar to him.

"It reminds me of old times."

The sky turned violet.

The presences outside the Tower shaking the sky, and Foolish Chaos commanding them, and even his own figure walking towards them.

Before returning using the Clock Movement, it was a situation similar to the time when he fought against the Outer Gods.

Of course, at that time, there were Hercules, Son OhGong, Odin, Asura.

They were all together.

'Well, anyway...'

He glanced briefly.

'It seems like I'm completely alone this time.'

There was no proper team, but somehow he had the most reliable ally.

YuWon looked at Danpung on his shoulder.

"I trust you."

"Baaat-"

As if telling him to just trust him, Danpung placed his little hand on his waist and responded confidently.

YuWon smiled slightly at Danpung's reaction and looked back up at the sky.

It was the moment when the first confrontation with the Outer Gods began.

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Points.

It is a score that quantifies the power of the Outer Gods to exert influence in other worlds.

The information about it was obtained during the battle against the Outer Gods.

"It seems they had something called Points."

"Points? We too..."

"It's a completely different concept. I wondered how he managed to move so freely through the Tower without breaking the walls, but it turns out it had a cost."

One day.

Odin returned from his fight with Foolish Chaos and brought information with him.

"Although now that the walls are destroyed, this information is meaningless."

"But if the Clock Movement is completed, it will be invaluable information."

Chronos listened to Odin's words.



Probably, Foolish Chaos thought that time cannot be reversed. Otherwise, he wouldn't have revealed such important information.

However, that information infused hope in YuWon and his companions, who were researching the Clock Movement.

"We have to make that guy use the Points."

"Is there any way to do it? The idea is to make him use his power."

"His power? How?"

"In the only possible way, by constantly fighting."

Son OhGong said confidently.

Fighting was his specialty. His power of immortality had kept him fighting eternally, and Odin's information kindled the fire in his heart.

But Chronos' question, "How?", was not so simple.

"I don't think that guy will fight so easily. He's not someone you can easily find, and if he has Points, he won't try to fight directly."

Until now, Foolish Chaos rarely moved directly.

Mostly, he wagged his tongue behind the Guilds and created incidents.

Like the Gigantomachy, the Ragnarok, and the Great Heaven Demon War.

And the reason he used those complicated methods was one.

Because he wasn't free in terms of Points. Nothing wastes Points more than using force directly.

And that's why...

"But still, we have to do it."

YuWon had always imagined a situation like the current one.

Whoom~

Purple flames burst along the tip of his sword.

The Outer Gods covering the sky trembled at the sight of the Holy Fire.

That's right.

They feared this fire.

"If this works..."

["Golden Cinder Eyes" control "Holy Fire"].

Whoom-.

The Holy Fire reflected in the Golden Cinder Eyes moved along the blade of the sword. The flames trapped in the sword formed a long line in YuWon's view.

Crack-.

The flames streaked across the sky along the blade of the sword.

And in the place they passed...

Hwaaah-!

An enormous explosion engulfed the Outer Gods.

Whoom, whoom-.

The fire covered the sky. Holy Fire was the most effective attribute for the Outer Gods among the various types of attributes that YuWon possessed.

The Outer Gods enveloped in the flames melted in their place with indescribable screams.

But some of them were strong enough not to be defeated by that.

Jjeo-euk-.

A pair of enormous eyes loomed nearby.

It was at the moment their eyes met.

["Golden Cinder Eyes" resist '?']

[Resistance is partially successful]

Partially successful.

In other words, there were also failures.

For a moment, YuWon felt his stomach tightening and his mind drifting away.

Those eyes were clearly dangerous.

'Serene Twilight' (아늑해진 황혼).

One of the Outer Gods who had a name.

Most of them were small puppets, but there were also some known names among the Outer Gods summoned by Foolish Chaos.

They were beings who could take a person's life with just a look.

Standing and fighting against them with nothing but strong mental fortitude was the only way.

'You must not avoid it.'

Most people would look away upon seeing that.

It was natural.

Even Rankers and High-Rankers who claimed to be brave did the same.

But.

You should never do that.

Kkwaaak-.

YuWon stared fixedly at Serene Twilight.

If he averted his gaze from him, the fear would turn into an even bigger monster and devour him.

To look at him without avoiding it.

And to overcome that fear.

That was the strategy to defeat Serene Twilight.

Jjigeok, Jjeojeo-.

Every time the eyes blinked, a strange sound was heard.

Serene Twilight was bewildered.

He couldn't understand why YuWon didn't avoid his eyes. As he didn't understand, he couldn't take any action.

And at that moment...

Tsutsutsu-.

YuWon's other hand.

A black spear in his hand flew.

And.

Kurung-!

The long spear pierced through Serene Twilight's body.

A small hole opened in the center of his enormous eye. But only for a moment, Serene Twilight writhed and soon fell lifeless.

The next moment...

Fwah-!

The hole in the center of Serene Twilight's eye burst widely, and colorless, odorless blood spurted upwards.

Although the spear that dropped from YuWon's hand made a thunderous noise like a lightning bolt, it wasn't a Lightning Bolt.

["Nir" has not fully activated].

[Recovery will be delayed due to incomplete activation]

["Serene Twilight" has been eliminated]

Nir.

An item as powerful as Odin's Gungnir, vying to be the strongest.

Although its power was somewhat weakened due to the rush with which it was released, it was enough. Though there was a penalty for incomplete activation, the priority now was to eliminate Serene Twilight first.

He possessed the power to devour the opponent's mind more than direct combat skills. If it were in Ranker positions, it would be considered a rough Support. Eliminating that guy first was the very basics.

Of course...

Zuaaaah-

As a result, YuWon found himself surrounded by several other Outer Gods he hadn't paid attention to for a moment.

Shk-

YuWon swung his sword and cut the tentacles of the Outer Gods. Rather than individual living organisms, they looked more like a mass of long, organically interconnected tentacles.

In all directions.

From above to the ground.

There were too many directions he needed to pay attention to.

No.

"Danpung."

He didn't need to worry.

"Take care of yourself. Start."

Juaah-

[The 'Predator' bares its fangs]

YuWon felt his Arcane Power draining from his body. The same happened to Danpung.

Juaahh-

Countless fangs and mouths appeared around YuWon.

Predator.

The natural enemy of the Outer Gods, appeared to devour them.

Kwajik-!

Kwaduk, kwaduk-

The Predator began tearing apart the tentacles surrounding him like a hungry predator that had been starving for a long time.

The twisted tentacles quickly lost their strength and collapsed.

And then...

[Growth rate has increased by 0.002%]

[Growth rate has increased by 0.004%]

[Growth rate has increased by 0.001%]

[Growth rate has...]

['Danpung' level has increased]

['Danpung's Divine Power has slightly increased]

[Your Arcane Power has slightly increased]

Countless messages appeared in YuWon's mind.

There was no immediate increase in stats. However, as the Predator devoured the tentacles, YuWon could feel his Arcane Power gradually recovering.

YuWon smiled as he saw the Predator becoming more aggressive.

That was exactly what he was aiming for.

The first image he had in mind.

"Devour them all."

Danpung's constant growth and the slight increase in Arcane Power.

The more Foolish Chaos used the Points, the more important things YuWon obtained.

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'Serene Twilight has been defeated.'

Serene Twilight fell to the ground, pierced by the spear.

That thing wasn't an existence that could be defeated by someone like Kim YuWon.

Anyone facing Serene Twilight, even if they were a high-ranking Ranker, had their body numb while confronting it.

However, YuWon, with just a brief hesitation, easily pierced Serene Twilight with his spear.

What made this possible was nothing less than YuWon's strong will and the item that rivaled Gungnir.

Additionally...

Kwajik-!

Sharp fangs tearing through the tentacles.

Seeing the fangs chewing them up and swallowing them, Foolish Chaos realized something was wrong.

'What are these things?'

Giant monsters devouring the Outer Gods.

Or more precisely, they were the fangs of some giant monster.

It was a familiar sensation.

Although terrifying to the point of making one's body shudder, it was also worthy of respect. Challenging that existence wasn't easily conceived.

It was their natural enemy.

He couldn't believe it, but it was definitely a threat to them.

'I wonder if this was the reason he kept bothering me.'

For a long time, Foolish Chaos saw YuWon as a threat.

That's why when he first encountered him, he instigated Hera to eliminate YuWon.

Hera: "This Kim YuWon?"

Foolish Chaos: "Yes, please take care of him."

Hera: "It's not that difficult, but why? He's just a rookie who passed the 10th floor."

At that time, YuWon began making a name for himself in the Tower after passing the Heavenly Demon Cult's trial.

From the Tutorial to the Heavenly Demon Cult's trial, although he stood out remarkably, Hera found it strange that Foolish Chaos cared about YuWon.

Hera: "Understood. Then I'll send Hypnos to deal with him."

Hypnos.

The 11th-floor trial supervisor, a Ranker of Olympus who obeyed Hera's orders.

Although the penalties were severe, Hypnos demonstrated his ability by becoming a supervisor of a Floor Trial.

Hera had no doubt that Hypnos would eliminate YuWon.

But...

"I should have dealt with him more definitively back then."

Foolish Chaos also had the same conviction.

But the result was a failure.

He hadn't expected that small incident, which had passed smoothly, to become so big.

"...The expenses are higher than expected."

Foolish Chaos raised his head and looked at the sky that had not yet closed.

The sky that had changed to a purple color. Outer Gods were entering through the finely cracked sky.

They were only small openings, but even at this moment, there were countless individuals approaching Foolish Chaos.

"Let me in, please," that was what they were asking for.

But...

'I can't let them all in.'

Points were not infinite.

Although it might seem like he had accumulated enough points for a long time, there were specific places where he needed to use them.

Therefore, he had to be cautious.

Even if Kim YuWon represented a threat, he couldn't let everything he had done until now be for nothing by trying to catch a single individual.

-You've called all sorts of bastards.

Foolish Chaos turned his head at the voice coming from behind.

With Kusanagi resting on his shoulder, Susanoo was standing behind him.

"You're much kinder than you appear. Seeing that you didn't ambush me."

-What if I don't attack you from behind? Do you think I can't kill you from the front... Hey, are you listening?

Foolish Chaos stared at YuWon without saying a word.

YuWon, with Holy Fire wrapped around his sword, fought against the Outer Gods while controlling the Predator. And Foolish Chaos saw a little boy on YuWon's shoulder who was 'pretending' to fight, vigorously extending his little fist forward.

"I'm sorry, but..."

Surely...

It couldn't be.

No, it shouldn't be.

Recalling the image of someone in his mind, Foolish Chaos moved his halted steps again.

"It doesn't seem like the right time to have fun with you."

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[The growth rate has increased by 0.01%.]

This one seemed to be quite big this time.

When the Predator devoured an Outer God, the growth rate increased significantly.

Since it was such an insignificant value, it couldn't yet be known how much it had increased exactly.

He was curious and wanted to check it, but this wasn't the right time.

"Ugh-"

Slowly, YuWon began to run out of breath.

It meant he hadn't had time to rest and had been in constant motion.

And he couldn't save Arcane Power either.

"Bang-"

Danpung was also exhausted.

YuWon's Arcane Power and Danpung's Divine Power were both needed to summon the Predator. Keeping the Predator fighting such a large number of Outer Gods had quickly drained their energies.

A drop of sweat fell from YuWon's forehead, slightly furrowing his brow.

And at that moment...

"Ku-gu-gu-"

An overwhelming presence that was completely different from everything he had felt so far came from behind him.

A hand extended over YuWon's shoulder.

And at the same time, a white light shone from behind him.

[Yata Mirror]

Kiiing-!

Swoosh-!

Susanoo, who had moved through the mirror, blocked Foolish Chaos' hand.

The fingertips that clashed with Kusanagi didn't even have the slightest scratch.

-It would be regrettable if you ran away.

"Please step aside."

-That's quite a regrettable statement.

Clank-

The red gem on Kusanagi's handle trembled.

[The 'Magatama Jewel Sky' unfolds]

[The 'Magatama Jewel' restricts the target's movements]

-I have no intention of doing so.

The energy flowing from the Magatama Jewel limited Foolish Chaos' movements.

Susanoo armed with the Three Sacred Treasures.

His skill had improved since the encounter with Foolish Chaos thousands of years ago.

Even if he didn't have a large army of undead, his skill as a Swordsman had been upgraded thanks to the Three Sacred Treasures.

But...

[The target resists the 'Magatama Jewel']

[Successful resistance]

"¿...?"



Susanoo's gaze widened as he read the message in his mind.

Successful resistance.

Foolish Chaos had completely resisted the power of the Three Sacred Treasures, something even Hercules couldn't achieve.

"If you don't want to step aside willingly..."

The violet light shone from under Foolish Chaos' robe.

It was a completely different sensation from everything that had happened before. Immediately after, Foolish Chaos' palm extended towards Susanoo.

Instinctively, Susanoo swung his sword and released his Arcane Power.

If he didn't respond here, he knew he wouldn't end up just flying away like before.

"Whaaaaah-!"

Kusanagi swayed and turned into a net of red threads.

The thousands and thousands of sword strikes attacked Foolish Chaos, tearing him apart.

One of Susanoo's representative abilities during his life was the **[Storm of Claws]**.

"Swoooosh-!"

The sword strikes of the Storm of Claws lost their strength as they collided with Foolish Chaos' palm. Susanoo couldn't react in time to deal with his other hand.

"We'll do it the hard way."

Buwoong-

The hand grabbing Susanoo's head slammed him into the ground.

YuWon furrowed his brow as he witnessed the fight between Susanoo and Foolish Chaos taking place in front of him.

'This guy, Foolish Chaos, is more determined than I thought.'

When was the last time he had seen him fight with such passion?

YuWon had fought against Foolish Chaos a lot, but he had never seen him show emotions during battle except for one time.

So, why?

[The 'Predator' shows its fangs]

[The 'Predator' is angry]

[The 'Predator'...]

Thump, thump-

The Predator surged around YuWon and Foolish Chaos.

YuWon's eyes glowed as he felt the emotions of the Predator that were connected to Danpung.

"It can't be, is it because of this?"

The Predator had never shown any interest beyond eating.

But now, in front of Foolish Chaos, they began to show emotions like "anger."

"Bah- bah- bah-!"

And Danpung was the same.

Why? Danpung started showing an inexplicable hostility towards Foolish Chaos.

It wasn't scary enough to recklessly jump off YuWon's shoulder, but still.

[Danpung shows an inexplicable enmity towards Foolish Chaos]

'Inexplicable...'

YuWon looked at Foolish Chaos, who was holding Susanoo with one arm.

'You are not him.'

Under the cloak that covered his face, a violet gleam could be seen. Meanwhile, Susanoo struggled to break free from Foolish Chaos' grip.

No matter how strong Foolish Chaos was, he couldn't ignore Susanoo's skill as a swordsman, but he couldn't approach him easily.

"Let go of my people."

Foolish Chaos pointed at Danpung as he spoke.

"Bah-"

Danpung's response was a refusal.

It was only natural.

It was the first time Danpung had shown enmity toward someone in this way.

And YuWon's response was the same as Danpung's.

"I don't want to."

"I knew it."

Thump-.

The crack in the sky grew larger.

The violet sky became darker. He had barely reduced the numbers, and now more and more Outer Gods were appearing.

Unlike before, Foolish Chaos didn't seem to care about the Points.

YuWon felt a strange discomfort coming from Foolish Chaos in front of him.

'Was it too stimulating? Or maybe...'

He blinked.

"Baah."

Danpung, standing on his shoulder, still standing tall with his chest puffed out.

Clearly, Foolish Chaos' reaction had changed since he had discovered Danpung.

'Should I be glad or not?'

If he only considered this reaction, there was a high probability that Danpung was a natural enemy of the Outer Gods. But thanks to that, it had stimulated Foolish Chaos even more than he had anticipated.

"Come here."

Swoosh-

It's coming.

"Let go of my people."

Hwaaak-!

Foolish Chaos' palm instantly enlarged, completely covering YuWon's body. At the moment when the bifurcated fingers, which had split into several branches, pounced on him, YuWon's pupils glowed.

[Golden Cinder Eyes light the path]

[Sensory Field activates]

Spapat-

A small gap between the fingers.

YuWon quickly slipped through it, spinning his body in the air.

Two abilities activated, sharpening YuWon's senses.

However, despite that, YuWon couldn't predict Foolish Chaos' movements.

Therefore...

'I can't rely solely on the abilities.'

What he needed now was "experience."

Jjuaak-!

Countless tentacles aimed at YuWon. Fortunately, he didn't have to worry about small things.

[The 'Predator' shows its fangs]

Kwajik-!

Numerous teeth bit down on the tentacles that aimed at YuWon.

In the fight against the Outer Gods, there was nothing as reliable as the Predator. Moreover, unlike before, it wasn't just fighting for a simple appetite.

Tsutsutsutsu-.

Violet smoke spread through the air.

YuWon had seen this smoke before in his fight with Hades.

'That is dangerous.'

Not only Foolish Chaos wielded that energy.

Most renowned Outer Gods had released that type of energy at some point.

And the moment they came into contact with it, their consciousness and soul were dangerously shaken before disappearing completely.

Whuruk-.

[Holy Fire resists the '?']

YuWon immediately deployed the Holy Fire.

Just like when he fought against Hades, the blazing flames collided with the violet mist and dispersed.

Originally, YuWon's flames should have been repelled.

Foolish Chaos also expected the same.

But...

Whuruk, whurur-.

Even Hades had difficulty resisting the mist, but YuWon's flames blocked it effortlessly.

'It's because of these flames.'

Devouring the Outer Gods was not limited to the fangs that appeared from all directions.

The purple flames YuWon emitted.

They fed on the other Outer Gods, growing stronger and larger.

"Holy Fire..."

The fire YuWon controlled emitted a familiar smell.

It was dangerous, no doubt.

The individual possessed various means to confront himself. The danger he once thought would be slightly superior to Hades had now changed completely.

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, or Odin of Asgard.

No.

Maybe even more than that.

Kwaaaah!

Foolish Chaos' body split in half.

At that moment, the blurry form of Foolish Chaos, which had been like an illusion in the desert, returned to its original state.

As if nothing had happened, he turned around and looked back.

The owner of the red sword that had cut through his own body.

-Being undead is great when it's like this.

The sword danced.

The red lines gathered and accumulated, rising under Foolish Chaos' feet as if building a Tower.

Another representative power of Susanoo.

It was the **[Giant Storm]**.

Whack!

Foolish Chaos swung his arms and dispersed the sword strike. He seemed to be unharmed as always, but his cloak was torn in several places.

Tock, tock.

Suddenly, Susanoo abruptly recovered and appeared in front of Foolish Chaos.

-Even if I die, as long as my master has Arcane Power, I can come back to life as many times as I want.

Susanoo, who could resurrect even after death.

He truly was like a nightmare. The Sword Demon who feared no death had become a body that didn't truly die.

But the undead weren't really invincible, unlike what it seemed.

Rather, they were closer to having weaknesses.

"In the end, undead disappear when their summoner's strength runs out."

Foolish Chaos spoke with disdain and turned around.

Not only the drops of sweat on YuWon's forehead, but also his face, were gradually growing paler.

That meant YuWon not only had physical endurance problems but his Arcane Power was also running out.

-Tsk. Seems like you're overdoing it.

It was natural.

Right now, YuWon was pouring more power than had ever been seen since Susanoo appeared.

Even in the fight with Hercules, YuWon had not used the Predator. Even if it could be considered a natural enemy, there were too many Outer Gods pouncing on YuWon.

"In the end, I'll win this fight. It's a fight where I have no choice but to win."

-You still don't know that guy well, do you?

Susanoo had been watching YuWon from the closest place while being undead.

That's why Susanoo could be certain.

-Do you think he would start a fight he would lose?

Even if it seemed like an unfavorable fight.

YuWon had never fought a fight where it seemed like he would lose.

No...

In fact, he had never created such a fight in the first place.

Foolish Chaos felt a strange unease once again.

In this situation, Susanoo didn't seem to be lying or boasting.

Then surely...

Kwang!

The sound of thunder resonated from somewhere.

Foolish Chaos raised his head. He saw a yellow Lightning Bolt descending from the sky that had changed to violet.

-It's here.

And at the next moment...

Flash!

A dazzling yellow light swept away the Outer Gods heading for YuWon.

**-God.**

Kwang!

Chapter 354

C354

Thunder roared.

All sound disappeared, and the storm roared.

It was a Lightning Bolt larger than the one that fell on Camelot. Its power was enough to destroy an entire city, turning the Outer Gods into black ashes.

The world, which had turned purple, momentarily turned yellow.

As he watched the tentacles disappear before him, YuWon took a deep breath.

'You arrived early.'

Crackl-le~

Zeus, wrapped in Golden Lightning, walked slowly as if the sky were his territory.

His appearance made the Outer Gods, who were in a commotion, pause for a moment.

At the same time, Foolish Chaos, who was observing him, took a step back.

-Do you think something is wrong?

In response to Susanoo's smile, Foolish Chaos' eyes turned to him.

Red petals sprouted from Susanoo's sword. The numerous sword strikes gathered to form a field of roses.

[Blossoming Storm]

Hwaaaaah!

Countless blades cut through Foolish Chaos' body. Although Foolish Chaos tried to deflect them easily at first, this time it wasn't so easy.

"...!"

-How dare you get distracted in front of me?

Tsuaaah-

The ground split into countless cracks, and everything passing through, from the wind to the flower petals, was cut.

Foolish Chaos' body was torn apart amid the red swords.

Crack!

Susanoo swung his sword and placed Kusanagi on his shoulder.

He no longer had the strength to wield his sword. The energy that YuWon provided him had run out, and now it was difficult for him to even stand.

-You're not dead yet, huh?

Tsutsutsu~

Foolish Chaos returned to his original form.

At that moment, it became evident that Susanoo couldn't kill him with his own power, whether he hadn't died in the first place or whether he came back to life even after being killed.

-It would have been better if I had more Arcane Power.

No matter how many Sacred Treasures, including Kusanagi, were in his hands, Susanoo's strength was limited to YuWon's Arcane Power. Using **[Blossoming Storm]** consumed the most Arcane Power of Susanoo.

But even with such an ability, he could only inflict wounds at this level.

-Well, from now on...

Sssh-

Susanoo's body turned into shadows and sank into the ground.

-That monster will take care of it himself.

Monster.

The High-Ranker standing in the sky and looking down from there.

He referred to Zeus, the King of the Skies.

Kwarung-!

Zeus grabbed another Lightning Bolt in his hand.

Zeus' gaze, looking down, met Foolish Chaos' gaze again.

Due to the direct confrontation with Susanoo's **[Blossoming Storm]**, Foolish Chaos had not fully recovered his original form yet.

'It's dangerous.'

Zeus' appearance holding the Lightning Bolt was the greatest threat Foolish Chaos had felt since coming to this Tower.

Their gazes met.

The corners of Zeus' mouth curved upward.

In an instant.

The Lightning Bolt struck Foolish Chaos' body.

Kwang!

Crackle, crackle...

Over Foolish Chaos' head, a mass of giant tentacles emerged, forming a shield of flesh.

The Lightning Bolt that had struck the ground burned and faded to black.

As if the fleshy shield were insignificant, the tip of the Lightning Bolt thrown by Zeus pierced Foolish Chaos' body once more.

Kwang!

The Lightning Bolt that pierced Foolish Chaos tore a corner of the mountain range, and Foolish Chaos fell to the ground.

Zeus, who was watching Foolish Chaos fall to the ground, stepped on the air and descended.

"Now I feel a little better."

It was the first words of Zeus, who silenced the noisy battlefield with just two Lightning Bolts.

Then, he looked at YuWon, who was exhausted from the fight with the other Outer Gods.

"What kind of situation is this? Fighting against these insignificant beings."

"There are too many of them, you know."

"Numbers..."

Sizzle...

Kwang!

Zeus reached out to the subtle movement of the lesser Outer Gods by his side.



A golden wave of Lightning Bolts swept the mountain range once more. Zeus, who had instantly turned a multitude of lesser Outer Gods into black ashes, chuckled mockingly and asked.

"What's the problem?"

"...."

It had been a long time since he was rendered speechless. (YuWon)

Clearly, Zeus had the right to say such a thing.

Moreover, Zeus was more skilled in battle than anyone else in this Tower.

Furthermore...

"He has become a complete monster."

Crack, crackle-

The Golden Lightning Bolt flowed seemingly uncontrollably from Zeus' body.

What would happen when that force was fully unleashed?

Normally, this would have led to power intoxication. However, Zeus was different.

It was as if that power had been his for a long time.

His gaze was not much different from before.

And besides...

"Well. What should I do from now on?"

Fortunately, Zeus didn't get carried away by power and lose control.

Having planned a final battle against Foolish Chaos as his last counterattack, it was YuWon who lured Zeus with his last ace up his sleeve.

So, the next part of the picture would surely be painted as well.

Zeus acknowledged that YuWon was superior to him in areas other than power.

Fortunately for YuWon.

If Zeus had lost his reason and gone mad relying on his newfound power, there would be no hope for the future.

"For now, let's buy some time."

"Buy time? What does that mean?"

"Well, in a sense..."

YuWon's gaze fleetingly turned to the dust clouds rising from the collapsed mountains.

"The problem is whether that guy will keep fighting."

Foolish Chaos, who had been hit by a Lightning Bolt and blown away, was not something YuWon thought had died. Even Zeus, who was now a Novice God, wouldn't be able to kill him.

It would even take a long time to capture him, even for YuWon and his companions.

"Ah!"

In an instant, the dust clouds rose to the sky.

The crack that unleashed the lesser Outer Gods didn't close. Instead, it grew larger and began to intervene even more in the Tower.

"It seems he has no intention of stopping."

Fortunately, Zeus murmured those words and smiled slightly.

Apparently, this situation was very satisfying for him.

Well.

It was a situation Zeus had been waiting for so long. Since he had been imprisoned in Asgard, he had been waiting all this time to deliver a final blow to Foolish Chaos.

And now...

"Then, it's okay."

It was the right timing.

"From now on, do as you please."

Crack-Crackle-!

Barely had YuWon's words fallen from his mouth when a massive Lightning Bolt erupted from Zeus' body.

It wasn't a special ability or an attempt to attack, but it was intense enough Lightning Bolt to make YuWon feel the heat.

Of course.

Crackle-.

As if responding to Zeus' power, the crack in the sky that connected to the outside grew larger.

'He's acting more actively than I thought.'

YuWon secretly thought that Foolish Chaos wouldn't stop here.

He had already lost a lot.

The plan to restart the Gigantomaquia had also failed, and he had also lost the last remaining card called Hera in Olympus.

Moreover, he had used a considerable amount of Points in his fight against YuWon.

In those circumstances, Foolish Chaos couldn't bear another fight anymore.

Surely, that would have been the right thing to do...

"Baaah!"

YuWon looked at Danpung on his shoulder.

He quickly understood why Foolish Chaos was acting that way.

'It's because of him, after all.'

Foolish Chaos was aiming for Danpung.

He didn't know what the reason was, but in any case, there was nothing wrong for YuWon. In fact, the more Foolish Chaos tried to fight, the better for YuWon.

"Alright. I'll do as you say."

Zeus looked up at the sky where the crack was widening more and more and let out a Lightning Bolt.

"Instead..."

Crackle, crack-

The Lightning Bolt that began to form again in Zeus' hand...

"I'll definitely deliver a blow to that guy."

Thud-

Zeus began to walk toward the lesser Outer Gods again.

YuWon finally let out a sigh as he watched Zeus' figure slowly receding. The individual fight had come to an end here.

"Ah..."

'Still, I can breathe easy.'

YuWon harbored hopes as he watched Zeus' figure slowly receding.

Before YuWon's regression, Zeus had failed to break the ceiling.

That meant YuWon knew nothing about the Zeus who had obtained divine status.

However, among the many Rankers, maybe he was the one who had been preparing the longest for this moment.

The King of Olympus. The victor of the Gigantomaquia. The Ruler of the Skies.

And a Heavenly God (天神).

The one who had written countless myths and had been preparing to become a God.

'Where should I go to see?'

YuWon sat on a nearby rock, crossed his arms, and prepared to watch the show.

'I wish I had popcorn.'

-----  
Zeus looked up at the sky.

Waves of purple color covered the sky, and among the cracks, energies of a kind he had never seen before flowed, along with tentacles.

Goooooh!

Within Zeus's pupils, golden and purple glows coexisted and merged.

As his size increased, a feeling of weight fell upon his shoulders. It was not just a matter of strength or weakness; it was a matter of comprehension.

"I knew there were all kinds of beings in this Tower, but..."

Crackle.

The Lightning Bolt Zeus held in his hand trembled.

"I never thought there would be 'outsiders' as well."

An energetic hostility and resistance.

Zeus instinctively understood it.

Like water and oil, they were beings that couldn't coexist with him.

In other words, this was an invasion.

And now...

"It's interesting."

Kwang, kwugugu.

Zeus confronted that invasion.

Pum!

The Lightning Bolt leaving Zeus's hand shot from below to above.

A Golden Lightning that covered the sky.

Instantly, it swallowed the crack that Foolish Chaos had opened.

But at that moment...

Wooooh!

From the crack, the owner of the scream he had heard before appeared.

Crack!

A gigantic whale opened its mouth.

The Lightning entered its mouth and exploded into thunder several times.

But that was all.

Krrrr.

The thunder quickly stopped. Zeus looked at the subject that had revealed itself from the crack.

"A true monster."

A whale? Or perhaps a demonic creature?

It was a creature that seemed like a mix of all kinds of fish. The most unusual thing was that it had only an enormous mouth, without eyes or nose.

The crack, which had only been spewing debris until now, began to bring out one or two really big types.

And with their appearance...

Crack, crackle!

Kwang, kwugugu.

The Lightning Bolts falling from the sky began to gather around Zeus.

Swish.

Zeus's gaze turned towards YuWon, who sat calmly in the chaos of the battlefield and began to observe the battle.

He was truly audacious. As if entrusting everything to him after finishing with everything he had to do.

"Make sure to watch carefully from there."

Kwang, kwarrng.

Hundreds, thousands of Lightning Bolts surged around Zeus.

"As long as I'm here, we will never lose."

It was the beginning of Zeus's most powerful ability: **[Cataclysm]**.

Chapter 355

C355

"Voracious Appetite. Did that guy show up too?"

YuWon looked at the gigantic entity covering the sky.

The creature that had swallowed Zeus' Lightning Bolt.

That creature, called Voracious Appetite, had devoured hundreds of Rankers in the era when YuWon existed.

It wasn't just that one.

There were numerous entities with different names.

'Confused Arrogance, Swampy Agony, Melancholic Confusion... More familiar faces have emerged than I thought.'

Foolish Chaos had planned this seriously.

He had probably created the rift to attract other entities, as he had limitations in using his own strength. But he never imagined he could bring so many.

Of course, Zeus' response was formidable as well.

"I told him to buy some time..."

Kwurr.

YuWon watched the spectacle unfolding before him.

"It seems he doesn't intend to hold back."

Cataclysm (**Note: Another name: Celestial Punishment**).

Zeus' supreme ability, the most powerful series of lightning bolts.

Using that meant he had no intention of limiting his strength or energy.

"Or maybe..."

Kwarrng.

The beginning of the Cataclysm.

"That means he trusts himself."

At this moment, YuWon decided to simply observe without doing anything else. To recover some depleted energy and magic, he needed to rest for now.

"Argh..."

As if expressing its dissatisfaction.

Danpung grabbed YuWon's cheek.

It urged him to go out and fight. YuWon opened his mouth as he muttered disdainfully.

"Stop it."

"Baat-"

"Ah, let me rest a bit."

Unlike other times, he now wanted to rest as much as possible.

Kwarrng.

A golden rain spread before his eyes.

As if not wanting to miss that scene, YuWon opened his eyes wide.

"Because I don't think I need to move right now."

-----  
Kwaooh.

The rain of lightning swept the entities.

The energy bolts shot toward the rift. They went straight toward the enormous mouth that had appeared earlier.

Kwaooh, Kwarrng.

Voracious Appetite was dragged by the storm of lightning. At first, it opened its mouth as if to swallow the storm, but it was eventually devoured by its own appetite.

Jjeojeo, Jjeong-

Its body was torn apart by the rain of lightning, and its figure was burnt by the storm.

Its form was no longer recognizable.

And not only Voracious Appetite was caught in the storm, but many other entities as well.

Chii, Peseok-!

Kwarrng, Kugugugung-.

The **[Cataclysm]** swept everything within Zeus' sight.

Like a natural disaster, it burned and destroyed everything in the world within a similar range.

No.

To be precise, everything under the sky turned purple.

Crack. Crackle-.

Zeus, with his golden eyes shining, observed the entities that had become piles of black ashes.

Some entities that were still writhing remained alive.

Voracious Appetite, the main target, no longer had a recognizable form, but among the black ashes, there were some living entities mixed in.

Confused Arrogance.

Swampy Agony.

They were Outer Gods with names to some extent.

Zeus reached out his hand toward the living Outer Gods.

And at the same time, Lightning Bolts shot out from his hand.

Kwaaong-!

Thus, Zeus cut off the remaining entities' breath of life.

It only took a few minutes. The time it took to clear all the entities that had filled the sky.

YuWon looked at Zeus, who had several drops of sweat falling from his forehead.

Curiously, the place where YuWon was sitting was not affected by the **[Cataclysm]** at all.

Was it because he had been sitting there watching the fight with his arms crossed?

Unbeknownst to him, YuWon had become an Envoy of the Rank Classification Office.

"Rank 3... or should I say Rank 2?"

Zeus' power, confirmed through the **[Cataclysm]**, was remarkable even among the High-Rankers YuWon had seen so far.

And that didn't just apply to the High-Rankers of the current era; it would also hold true in the future.

The King of Asgard, Odin, who was the second Ranker in the rankings, could be matched in power by Zeus.

"You've truly become a monster."

Jebak-.

YuWon's gaze turned to Foolish Chaos, who was advancing through the ashen land.

They were quite powerful steps. After resting for a while, YuWon stood up again.

"It seems you plan to keep going until the end."

If he had intended to flee after seeing Zeus' power, he would have done so long ago.

Even so, Foolish Chaos revealed his form once again before them.

That meant he had no intention of backing down from there.

"Baat-."

Foolish Chaos raised his arm.

At the same time, more Outer Gods started emerging from the rifts again.

Chwarr-.

Guduk, Ggudeudeu-.

The purple sky, which had turned faint for a moment, turned dark again.

Zeus' forehead, who had swept the world with a single **[Cataclysm]**, gradually wrinkled.

"Persistent, very persistent..."

"That's why I clearly told you to buy some time."

Zeus turned his head toward the voice coming from his side.

YuWon, who jumped up using the Steps of Hermes, approached Zeus. His face looked better than before, perhaps due to the brief rest.

Of course, Zeus wasn't too pleased with YuWon's presence.

"It doesn't matter if you keep resting."

From his perspective, YuWon, who hadn't fully recovered his stamina, wasn't of much help.

"Don't worry, my body will take care of itself. Besides, I'm not fighting to help you."

YuWon wasn't fighting solely to win.

This battle was the first confrontation against the Outer Gods. And creatures outside the Tower were capable of nourishing Danpung, serving as the driving force for its growth.

And now, Foolish Chaos was targeting Danpung.

That fact alone was enough to dedicate time and effort to Danpung.

'There won't be another opportunity like this.'

Thud, crack.

The Predator opened its mouths everywhere.

[The Predator devours the remains of 'Voracious Appetite']

[The Predator devours the remains of 'Swampy Agony']



[The Predator devours the remains of 'Melancholic Confusion'...]

[Growth rate increased by 1.02%]

[Growth rate increased by 0.89%]

[Growth rate...]

They were remains that were already so dead that it was difficult even to find their corpses.

Perhaps because of that, even the corpses of quite famous Outer Gods couldn't increase Danpung's growth rate by much.

But maybe it was because there were so many of them.

When the Predator swallowed all the bodies of the Outer Gods that had become corpses, the growth rate increased by over 7%, and YuWon could even feel that the missing mana had been replenished quite a bit.

[Arcane Power increased by 1]

A significant increase in stats by over 100 points held great significance.

Especially in a battle situation like the current one, a stat increase of 1 recovered almost half of the previously depleted Arcane Power.

And that was precisely the reason YuWon moved again.

"This is enough."

The Arcane Power increased once more.

Ssss...

At the same time, the power of the Golden Cinder Eyes shone again in YuWon's eyes.

Just after YuWon's eyes and Foolish Chaos' eyes met...

"Charge."

Foolish Chaos gave the order to the new Outer Gods that had been deployed.

Crackle, crackle...

A new beam of lightning formed around Zeus once more.

Thus, the collision began again.

-----

[Uranus Heart generates Lightning Bolts]

Crackle, crackle...

A spear materialized in his hand.

Although it was created in an instant, it was quite large and had an impressive shape, although it might be modest compared to Zeus' spear before him.

Crackle...

YuWon's spear possessed two attributes.

Thump!

The lightning bolt grasped in his hand exploded as it flew. The spear that swept the tentacles left holes in the clouds.

"Now it's quite usable."

Zeus' evaluation of YuWon's Lightning Bolt.

Since the beginning of the fight, he had always been dissatisfied with YuWon's Lightning Bolt.

It was the first compliment. It meant that YuWon's ability to create Lightning Bolt had improved.

"But even with the help of that item, you're still far from enough."

"Well, then..."

Clang.

A black spear appeared in YuWon's hand.

"How about this?"

Whoosh...

The spear flew from YuWon's fingertips, grazing Zeus' head.

In the next moment...

Swish!

Nir stabbed into Foolish Chaos' shoulder, who had extended his hand towards Zeus' back.

[Nir has not fully activated]

[Recovery is delayed due to incomplete activation]

Nir had regained his energy just a few minutes earlier.

Without hesitation, YuWon threw him.

It was greedy to expect a proper start in a battlefield like this. Foolish Chaos, who received the impact from Nir, staggered briefly but then recovered and attacked YuWon again.

No.

He attempted to attack.

Kwung!

A pillar of lightning blocked his path.

Foolish Chaos reached out his hand and forced a path through it.

"Have you developed some affection for him?"

"He's still just a fledgling, that's all."

Zeus glanced at YuWon, who had begun fighting other Outer Gods while leaving Foolish Chaos in his care.

"I intend to make him grow a little more."

Zeus wasn't evaluating YuWon at this moment.

There were many High-Rankers in the Tower stronger than YuWon.

Even his own son, Hercules, and other High-Rankers like Sun Wukong and Odin, all ranked within the Top 10, had much stronger abilities than YuWon.

But what would happen in 5 or 10 years?

Zeus couldn't easily imagine how far YuWon would grow.

"If you don't want to get out of the way-"

Fwooosh-

A strange purple flame spread from Foolish Chaos' hand.

"I'll force you out of the way."

"Try it."

Clang!

Zeus and Foolish Chaos clashed.

Foolish Chaos, who seemed to disintegrate and disappear after being repeatedly hit by lightning, didn't die in the end.

'It's like a dream.'

There was no enemy that would revive even after being killed many times.

Even if it was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, who possessed the power of immortality, he would receive injuries and eventually fall exhausted.

Although Zeus was clearly winning, the more he fought, the more he had the strange feeling of sinking into a deep swamp.

Sssh-

At that moment...

The entire field of vision in front of Zeus vanished, and in an instant, a blurry figure appeared before him.

Black hair and beard.

A man who looked much like him.

"Chron...".

Chron, what was his name?

He couldn't remember his name properly, but a strange sense of fear twisted his chest.

And right at that moment...

"Long... live..."

From somewhere far away.

Small but threatening voices could be heard.

Fwoosh-.

Along with the purple mist covering his vision, the figure of the man disappeared.

And then, the faint voices he had heard became clearer.

"Long live, Long live, Long live!"

"Woooooow!"

Although they were still quite far away.

Zeus could feel the footsteps of numerous presences coming closer and closer.

The corner of Zeus' lips curved slightly.

Now he understood why YuWon had tried to buy time.

"So this is what you were waiting for."

The followers of the Heavenly Demon Cult, crowding from afar, to assist their Young Leader and...

"That way!"

"Do I smell blood?"

"It seems a bit different."

"No matter, it's a fight."

Even the most belligerent race in the Tower, which would go mad for a fight, was present.

Heavenly Demon Cult.

And the Demon Kings.

Both Guilds, arrived just in time to fight against the Outer Gods...

---

Chapter 356

C356

It was during a Labor with Hercules that it happened.

The first person YuWon contacted was the Leader of the Heavenly Demon Cult.

Chun Mujin.

-You surprised me. You finally reached out.

His words had multiple meanings.

A reprimand for not having communicated until now. And sometimes, a reminder to stay in touch.

YuWon began by apologizing.

Even though he was only obliged by his title, he was still his disciple.

-No need to apologize. Didn't I tell you that you don't have to bear such overwhelming responsibility?

Although his words sounded like that, YuWon could sense through his voice and intonation that he expected more frequent communication. Along with the feeling that YuWon himself had been negligent, he momentarily bowed his head to the shameless demands that would begin from now on.

-I have a request.

"A request?"

A brief silence.

But then, Chun Mujin understood YuWon's intentions and asked.

-Is it a fight?

Although he remembered that he hadn't left the Heavenly Mountain for a long time, it seemed he hadn't lost his cunning.

YuWon perceived Chun Mujin's excitement through his Player Kit.

"Yes, and it's a very big one."

-When it comes to this kind of communication, it's always welcome.

The Heavenly Demon Cult was known for craving a fight.

Alongside the Demon Kings, they were the most warlike. Just with the High-Ranker of the Heavenly Demon Cult, Pung Baek Rim, the Fist King, whom YuWon had recently faced, was enough proof of that.

But this time was different.

"It's not just an ordinary fight."

Perhaps the size of the fight didn't matter as much.

What mattered was that the opponents were beings from another dimension that YuWon had never faced before.

YuWon gave a brief explanation about the Outer Gods.

What kind of powers they possessed and what kind of beings they were. How dangerous this fight would be.

Now it was Chun Mujin's turn to make a decision.

-Heheh, hahaha!

For a moment, a wild laughter was heard through the Player Kit.

This was the first time Chun Mujin reacted so cheerfully. Perhaps because he didn't know much about the Outer Gods, he seemed genuinely excited.

-If that's the case, it's even more welcome!

And then...

The next place YuWon reached out to was Diablo.

-It might be harder than you think...

-Welcome. It's a big welcome! Did you hear that, guys?

-This guy also brings quite a decent number of fighters with him.

-Even without that, we've been bored since the Great Heaven Demon War ended.

-Those who don't know us, the Demon Kings, will regret messing with us...

Boisterous voices were heard.

It was evident that they liked the idea of a big fight.

YuWon was sure that even if the Heavenly Demon Cult might be a bit hesitant, at least the Demon Kings would have a reaction like this.

"The problem is whether we'll get to that point..."

The key was how long they could hold off Foolish Chaos.

And how far he would be willing to fight.

It probably wouldn't be easy.

The probability of Foolish Chaos attempting to fight after Zeus moved was probably less than 20 percent.

Of course...

"It would be a great success if we surpass that probability."

-----

Crack!

The Demons pounced on the Outer Gods, clawing with their claws and wielding their weapons.

Tentacles were torn and ripped apart. The Demons, that is, the naturally-born Demons, had a strength several times greater than that of Humans from birth.

And they seemed undeterred by these Demons.

-Hyaap-!

One of the Disciples of the Heavenly Demon Cult.

The Heavenly Fist King, Pung Baekrim, extended his fist and released a blue bolt of lightning.

Crackle!

The Heavenly Fist King was a master expert in martial arts in the Murim World.

No, if only the Murim World was considered, perhaps he could even be called number one.

Despite that, the Lightning that came out of his fist was inferior compared to Zeus's.

Of course.

It didn't look that way to YuWon's eyes after a long time.

"You've grown a lot."

The first time he met Pung Baekrim was when YuWon reached the 10th floor.

It was during the Second Trial of the Heavenly Demon Cult. Resisting Pung Baekrim's three blows, the Heavenly Fist King.

At that time, YuWon fought against Pung Baekrim and tens of other blows, and that alone made Pung Baekrim, an accomplished High-Ranker, frustrated by being in a tie with YuWon.

Perhaps due to the impact of that.

He had heard that Pung Baekrim had immersed himself in training after that day.

Although not much time had passed since then, YuWon wondered how much he had grown.

And that wasn't all.

The other two, the Heavenly Spear King and the Heavenly Dao King, had also risen considerably in rank.

After the Heavenly Demon Cult descended from the Heavenly Mountain and merged with the Murim World, the overall rank of the Disciples of the Heavenly Demon Cult increased.

Thanks to that, overall, the ranks of the Disciples of the Heavenly Demon Cult had increased.

"Now, when did you make contact with them?"

Zeus couldn't help but wonder about this situation.

Heavenly Demon Cult and the Demon Kings.

They were not easy forces to gather.

"It was a while ago. I had already contacted them when I gave you the location."

"And when was that?"

"That guy tried to fight in the middle of the city, so I made some threats by bringing out the Administrator. The contact was made while we were on the move."

"And they came all the way here just by contacting you?"

"Yes."

It was such an easy answer that, for a moment, Zeus wondered if YuWon was holding back because he didn't want to answer.

A suspicious look.

However, YuWon's answer was true.

[Vice Leader of the Heavenly Demon Cult]

[Twelfth Demon King]

Those were the two titles YuWon possessed.

Each one represented being second in command of two different Guilds.

YuWon had power. He had enough power to move the Heavenly Demon Cult and control the Demon Kings.

And he had a valid reason.

He had had "enemies" he fought as second in command of the Guild for a long time. He knew he needed the Guild's power to defeat those enemies.

Having both a reason and power, it wasn't difficult for YuWon to move a group like a Guild.

"...Seems like you've been busy doing a lot of things."

YuWon shrugged and replied.

"I've been running around a lot and sweating."

Now, the battle had entered its second half.

-----

Swoosh-

Within the cloak, Foolish Chaos's vision was filled with a dizzying number of Players.

Demons.

And Humans.

They were all individuals who had the title 'Player'.

They were people who had gathered under the name of Guilds.

They appeared in front of them and started fighting, pointing their spears and swords at the Outer Gods.

'This situation... It's too soon.'

The Points were rapidly depleting even at this moment.

The more he summoned the Outer Gods.

The more power from his body he used.

The Points continuously disappeared like water spilling from a broken jar.

[You have used 1 point]

[You have used 7 points]

[You have used 4 points]

[You have used 3 points]

The messages had been swirling in his head for a long time.

Each of them was a small number, but the problem was that these Points were being used constantly and quickly.

No...

The bigger problem was that he didn't know how much longer he would have to keep using them.



"I've already used too many Points."

Points.

The power he would need to use one day to open a "Gate/Portal".

Therefore, Foolish Chaos couldn't use it carelessly. Even if he used it, he had to get the maximum efficiency with the minimum amount of Points.

So, this time was a risk for Foolish Chaos.

He had already used a considerable amount of Points to kill Hades. That led to the fall of Olympus and the hope that the failed Gigantomachy would rise again.

But...

Despite that...

All of that fell apart, and even that wasn't enough, so he ended up spending many more Points here.

The pupils within the cloak glimmered with malice. In his heart, he wanted to see all of this come to an end.

Even if he wasted the Points he had been accumulating until now.

However...

"There's a significant difference between the Heavenly Demon Cult, the Demon Kings, and Zeus than I initially thought. They're stronger."

Even Foolish Chaos avoided fighting YuWon because he didn't want to waste Points.

Though he was forced to fight tenaciously, he decided to take this opportunity to get rid of that annoying individual.

"Kim YuWon, is this what you were looking for?"

Swoosh-

In his heart, he wanted to spill all the Points he had accumulated until now.

But in reality, he couldn't relax, and he didn't have enough energy to do so.

The more he did it, the more Points would be consumed. He had already used too many Points.

"If there's a next one, and another after that..."

He didn't have to think too much about it.

No, he couldn't think too much about it.

The cries of the Outer Gods clashing with the Demon Kings and Zeus.

As time passed, more Points would be consumed.

Foolish Chaos released the fist he was clenching.

"This is as far as I go."

He had no choice but to admit it.

This battle was his defeat.

-----

Bam!

YuWon looked at Diablo, who was swinging his fist at the foreigners in the distance.

As if not wanting to be left behind, Chun Mujin's Heavenly Demon Spirit moved.

Boooooom!

Kwaaang!

When the Heavenly Demon Spirit, the size of a mountain, swung its sword, the tentacles that enveloped the sky were torn apart and fell to the ground.

Although the Heavenly Demon Cult was relatively weak in comparison, its presence was not inferior to that of the Demon Kings.

"Your name is Chun Mujin?"

Even in a short period, Chun Mujin had caught the attention of the discerning Zeus.

"Your skills are quite good."

Quite good.

That was already high praise Zeus could offer.

It also meant that Chun Mujin's ability, which had not been seen much before, had improved.

"Thank you."

Kwaaat!

Chun Mujin, who had swung his sword, responded to Zeus's murmur.

"If possible, could you give me a lesson later?" (**Note: A sparring match against Zeus**)

In this dizzying battlefield, no matter how skilled a High-Ranker was, hearing his own voice meant that he had been aware of it beforehand.

Zeus lifted the corners of his lips as if finding it interesting.

Chun Mujin.

Undoubtedly, he was someone Zeus had been interested in for a long time.

He already knew that even Athena, considered the best warrior of Olympus, couldn't surpass him.

"You'll have to prepare."

"I'm always prepared, even for death."

Prepared to die.

Zeus contemplated visiting the Heavenly Mountain once all of this was over.

After overcoming the numerical disadvantage and when the battlefield relaxed a bit. Zeus noticed YuWon, who was standing amidst it all, looking around.

"What are you doing standing there?"

"...I'm thinking."

"What?"

"Thinking about where that guy would escape to at this point."

When Zeus was about to ask who, he also looked around like YuWon.

Then, he realized that he couldn't see the guy.

Foolish Chaos.

The instigator of this battlefield had suddenly disappeared.

No matter how much he searched, he couldn't see him. After joining forces with the Demon Kings and the Heavenly Demon Cult, it seemed he had taken advantage of the chaos of the battlefield to escape.

Zeus frowned and muttered.

"Did we lose him? I should have thrown a Lightning Bolt in that guy's face."

"We didn't lose him."

Creak.

It was at that moment when YuWon, who had been staring fixedly at a spot, started moving.

Silent steps.

"Where are you going?"

In response to Zeus's question, YuWon opened his mouth.

"To throw it in his face."

At the same time...

Zap!

A Lightning Bolt formed in his hand.

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Sigh~.

The color of the sky slowly returned to its original state.

The blue hues once again blended into the purple sky. The golden sunset mixed into the twilight sky, and the three colors coexisted.

And so, the sky changed its color.

Woosh!

The sky, which had until recently been continuously pouring Outer Gods, began to slowly close.

"The sky...?"

"What's happening? Is it over already? How insignificant."

"Showing off bravery while their legs tremble in fear."

"What did you say, idiot?"

The faithful followers of the Heavenly Demon Cult rejoiced as they realized that no more enemies were appearing.

They no longer wished to fight.

The same was true for the Demons on the side of the Demon Kings.

"These guys are strange..."

"Where do these repugnant beings come from?"

"Does anyone know anything?"

The blood and aura emanating from the tentacles of the Outer Gods were strange and terrifying even for the Demons who used Demon Energy instead of Arcane Power.

In the case of lower-ranking Demons, there were even some who fainted because they couldn't withstand the pressure of the battlefield.

The presence of the Outer Gods was beyond their rational comprehension.

Chun Mujin wielded his sword relentlessly towards the remaining Outer Gods.

The Heavenly Demon Spirit accompanying him released a sword strike with several times greater force than before, consuming its last strength in the final moment.

Thus, in the midst of the final battle...

Chun Mujin looked at the dying Outer Gods before him.

'It's not just about being strong, is it?'

He recalled the astonishment he felt when he first arrived on this battlefield.

Beings he could never have imagined existed in this world.

The moment he encountered them, everything he had learned and understood so far faltered.

It was the same during the fight.

He wasn't battling against a multitude of enemies but against a gigantic 'one.'

Chun Mujin looked at the dying Outer Gods and paused for a moment to look around.

Did YuWon always fight against these types?

"Did you feel it too?"

Thump~.

Chun Mujin turned his head to the person approaching from the side.

He thought a giant was coming, but it wasn't so.

It was a demon of his own height and build.

Though he didn't emit any special energy, a dangerous aura could be sensed from him.

Though he had only heard rumors, it wasn't difficult to recognize who he was.

Hiss~

The corner of Diablo's mouth lifted as if he found something amusing.

"Saw you a while ago. You weren't half bad."

Diablo slapped Chun Mujin's shoulder.

It was a rude gesture.

But Chun Mujin didn't mind Diablo acting like that. He knew it wasn't because he was belittling or despising him.

It was because he knew Diablo's compliments were genuine, so he had no reason to feel bad.

"Come to think of it, isn't that guy the second-in-command of the Heavenly Demon Cult?"

"He's the pride of our cult."

"That source of pride might die soon."

Chun Mujin furrowed his brow for a moment, as if saying: What are you talking about?

"If he keeps fighting against these guys..."

Diablo's additional words made Chun Mujin adopt a more serious expression with another meaning.

These guys...

Even at this very moment, a strange feeling of unease twisted Chun Mujin's heart, making him unable to loosen his grip on the sword in his hand.

Since when has YuWon been fighting against these guys?

"Don't worry, he's capable of defeating them."

"You trust him a lot."

"The Heavenly Demon Cult is a religion, and he's someone our Cult has been waiting for a long time."

"You have a knack for expressing simple things in a complicated manner."

For someone who didn't know the doctrine or beliefs of the Heavenly Demon Cult, the words were hard to understand.

It was natural that they wouldn't comprehend.

Diablo stopped paying attention to Chun Mujin's words.

Instead...

Thump~.

He looked at the sky that was more than halfway closed.

"They said the Great Heaven Demon War has finally ended..."

The Great Heaven Demon War.

A war that had been tormenting Demons and Angels for thousands of years.

He thought it had finally concluded, but it seemed that this was only the beginning of another war.

On the battlefield that was now winding down...

"Another problem has arrived like a thief in the night."

Diablo had a sense that an even bigger war was about to begin.

-----

At the edge of the mountain range where the battle had taken place...

Zaaa-!

There was a figure cutting through the middle of the forest where all the wild beasts had fled.

It was Foolish Chaos, who chose to flee the battlefield.

'I have to delay the plan.'

Up until now, Foolish Chaos's plans were based on the amount of Points he had accumulated so far, in preparation for that day.

For some day in the future.

However, a large portion of those Points flew away due to the recent event.

'But first, how to deal with Kim YuWon...?'

While Foolish Chaos was reorganizing his thoughts in his mind, suddenly...

Flash~

Foolish Chaos halted his advance at the light flying from a distance.

Kwaak-!

A Lightning Bolt crossed before his eyes.

That Lightning Bolt swept the ground where Foolish Chaos had been moments ago, causing the mountain to disappear without a trace.

Firing a Lightning Bolt that could obliterate an entire city from such a distance...

There was only one person in this Tower who was capable of such a feat.

"You missed your chance."

"If the Bolt had veered a bit to the side, it would've hit you."

"There's nothing more pathetic than someone making excuses for their failures."

Step~

YuWon and Zeus.

Both were chasing Foolish Chaos.

'Was that Zeus's spear?'

It was a moment when the air around Foolish Chaos noticeably cooled.

If he had taken the Bolt head-on a moment ago...

Perhaps his unstable fusion form would've been annihilated in the blink of an eye.

"I can track where you're going."

Baat-.

Danpung sat on YuWon's head and nodded.

"Here's an excellent radar."

As long as he had Danpung, who could track Foolish Chaos, YuWon had no intention of letting him go.

Furthermore, Foolish Chaos was determined not to gain any more points like he did a while ago.

In this situation, he had no reason to fear Foolish Chaos.

"A radar..."

Foolish Chaos understood the meaning of YuWon's words and looked at Danpung, who was sitting with an expression full of pride.

"Do you know what that is and do you have it with you?"

"I don't know."

"You don't know?"

"If you know, then explain it to me."

Baat-.

Perhaps Danpung knew they were talking about him? He nodded along during the conversation between YuWon and Foolish Chaos.

Well.

Sometimes, YuWon also thought that Danpung might not know who he was.

Despite having power no less than that of the Outer Gods, his behavior and way of speaking were childlike.

"I need to confirm it too."

"So, what are you trying to confirm?"

"I don't understand it in-depth. I can't even put it into words."

Swoosh-.

Foolish Chaos extended his hand forward.

"So for now..."

At that moment...

Kwaaa-!

Once again, Zeus's Lightning Bolt swept across Foolish Chaos's body.

Crack, crack-.

The Bolt left a deep hole in the ground.

Zeus, who had thrown the Bolt while unable to hear the conversation, opened his mouth.

"You talk too much. Both of you."

"...."

YuWon considered saying something as he waited for a moment.

Anyway, it didn't seem that Foolish Chaos would obediently respond to their questions. If Danpung really had a significant secret related to the Outer Gods, he wouldn't casually reveal it.

Probably Zeus also realized that and acted first.

'If we remain greedy here and lose Foolish Chaos, it will be a much greater loss.'

Greed can be like poison that, at times, can be a good remedy, but in most cases, harms the body.

The same was true now.

YuWon had already gained a lot from this encounter. If he became more greedy, he might lose the chance to obtain the most crucial thing at the last moment.

He could gradually uncover clues about Danpung. After all, he had many future opportunities to confront the Outer Gods.

Crack, crack-.

At the place where the Bolt had swept.

YuWon looked at Foolish Chaos who was still standing.

Of course, he didn't collapse from that single blow. Although it couldn't be denied that he didn't come out unscathed.

It was Zeus's spear, which had gained Divine Power.

Foolish Chaos's body was riddled with holes caused by the impact of the Bolt.

Literally, he was dying en masse.

"What is this?"

Zeus showed a puzzled expression that lacked something, as if he didn't expect the Bolt to be so effective.

He had thought that it would take several attempts to hit a Bolt like this.

'It seems he's decided to surrender the fight.'

Foolish Chaos had already chosen to flee.

It seemed he considered it more worthwhile to abandon the fight than to keep facing his opponent. Besides, this implied he had used a significant amount of Points, which could impact his plan.



'For me, it's good, but...'

Zzuch-.

["Predator" bares its fangs at "Foolish Chaos"]

Predator's sharp teeth came into view around Foolish Chaos.

"It would have been great if he fought a little longer."

Predator's appearance caught Zeus's attention.

The golden eyes were directed at Danpung, who was seated on YuWon's head. At this moment, not only Foolish Chaos showed interest in Danpung.

'Were there two instead of one?'

There was another worthy adversary to consider.

"Baat-?"

Danpung turned its head and met Zeus's eyes. Although Danpung wasn't a Player, Zeus had found another interesting opponent besides YuWon in this battle.

A more powerful rival for a grander fight.

YuWon and Zeus, each in their own way, began to prepare for their next move in the battle.

Zzoo-.

Foolish Chaos faced the approaching sharp fangs.

Foolish Chaos's body, already half melted and charred, couldn't withstand Predator's teeth.

Anyway, resisting further would be futile.

Although it would take time to create another fusion body, he would save many more Points by avoiding a fresh fight at this moment.

Foolish Chaos lifted his head.

The sky had shrunk so much he could barely move.

The passage connecting the interior to the outside was nearly closed. The reason was the lack of power keeping it open.

'Even so, he's fortunate.'

Foolish Chaos let out a faint laugh as he entered the mouth of Predator hidden under his robe.

'There'll be one who comes.'

Chaos and confusion must continue endlessly.

And just before the passage closed, Foolish Chaos had already prepared another measure for it.

'The fact that Zeus gained Divinity is-.'

Foolish Chaos looked at Zeus.

It was an idea that had come to his mind since Zeus appeared on the battlefield.

'It means that Poseidon also has a high chance of it.'

Until the next fusion body arrived.

For a while, he would take care of it.

Foolish Chaos rid himself of the remnants remaining in his current body. He leaned forward, lifted his head with pride, and walked toward the mouth that had been waiting for him.

Thus, in the next moment...

Crunch-!

The Predator devoured Foolish Chaos.

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['Danpung's level has increased.]

['Danpung's level has increased.]

['Danpung's level...']

['Danpung's Divine Power has increased by 13.]

[Growth rate has increased by 14.22%.]

[Arcane Power has increased by 4.]

[You have defeated 'Chaos Shard.']

[You have obtained 1,000,000 points.]

Messages appearing one after another.

Clearly, Foolish Chaos was of a different quality compared to other Outer Gods. Danpung's growth rate increased by over 14% in the blink of an eye, and his level increased by 6 levels.

YuWon's Arcane Power also underwent a similar change.

His Arcane Power increased by 4 levels. The Arcane Power that was previously near the bottom now felt as full as before, and he imagined that the vessel containing Arcane Power would now be much larger than before.

'Chaos Shard, huh?'

He had expected it, but that's what it truly was.

The System didn't call it "Foolish Chaos," but "Chaos Shard."

It was as if it were some kind of projection rather than the true entity.

'If it were the original, it wouldn't have ended so easily.'

It was still difficult for Foolish Chaos to enter the Tower.

If he had tried to enter, he would have had to open a door several times larger than the one that opened in the sky a moment ago.

'He shouldn't aim so high.'

No matter how much Foolish Chaos desired Danpung, he wouldn't dare to make such a bold move. Besides, YuWon didn't want that to happen either.

'If that happened, not even Zeus would be able to stop it.'

YuWon had confirmed that Zeus was strong.

Since he had a considerable amount of accumulated Myths, it was natural for him to become much stronger than before, but this exceeded his expectations.

However, the opponent was still Foolish Chaos.

If it had been the true body, the fight would have ended with the defeat of both.

'I'm satisfied with everything except one thing.'

[Growth Rate: 99.99%]

The second objective YuWon wanted in this battle.

Danpung's growth.

The growth rate, which wasn't much before, didn't leave much now. That's why he thought that maybe he could reach 100% in this battle, and in the end, he succeeded in capturing Foolish Chaos.

However...

0.01 percent. He was only missing an extremely small amount.

'It can't be just a simple coincidence, right?'

It was a very small difference to attribute to chance.

Perhaps he just needed a small opportunity to reach that 0.01 percent.

Or maybe...

'He would have to capture a much larger enemy.'

It had ended in broad strokes.

YuWon leaned against the tree left after the Predator passed by.

He felt relieved to release all the tension. His body, which had been so tense, finally relaxed.

"That guy... is he dead?"

Squelch-.

Zeus approached YuWon.

Foolish Chaos, who was devoured by the Predator, had disappeared without a trace.

At this moment, there wasn't even a corpse to verify.

He could only ask YuWon if he was alive or dead.

"Still..."

"Still, huh?"

Zeus's eyebrows twitched.

He thought he might decisively get rid of him this time, but he was still alive.

"Where did he go?"

"He's not here."

"Then..."

"Over there."

YuWon lifted his head and looked upward.

The colorful twilight light filled the sky.

As he looked at the sky with Zeus, he whispered:

"The Outside, right?"

The word "Outside" caused YuWon's pupils to widen slightly before returning to normal.

It seemed that Zeus had vaguely noticed something.

Through this incident, he had glimpsed a small part of that other world.

"Are you going to keep fighting until you capture that guy?"

YuWon asked Zeus about his intention.

Zeus's goal was to capture Foolish Chaos. And through this incident, he had already achieved a certain degree of success.

But, anyhow, Foolish Chaos turned out to be some kind of projection connected to the Tower.

YuWon asked him how far he was willing to go.

"It's a given question."

Zeus replied without hesitation.

All this time, Zeus had been looking at the sky that had already closed completely.

YuWon waited for Zeus, who seemed lost in his thoughts for a moment.

Zeus, as a being of this world, everything that had happened now was not something he could fully understand, accept, and comprehend.

That was what YuWon thought.

"I saw something strange while I was fighting him," Zeus suddenly said, uttering words out of place. His golden eyes slowly sank beneath the surface, like gems sinking into water.

A gaze no one could understand. Faced with Zeus's unfamiliar expression, YuWon asked:

"Did you see something strange?"

"A person who looked like me."

"Looked like you..."

"He had the same face as mine but with black hair."

An identical face with black hair.

Suddenly, the colors of Zeus's hair and beard on YuWon's face changed.

Zeus with black hair.

YuWon's eyes widened.

"There were many more wrinkles. As if he had aged more than me. Was there a mole on his cheek? I don't remember well."

As the explanation continued, YuWon's pupils trembled more and more.

Wrinkles on the face.

Mole on the cheek.

And black hair.

Zeus's face, after gradually changing a bit, seemed to overlap with someone else's face.

"Do you know that person?"

It was a question he had thrown out to see YuWon's reaction from the start.

Zeus stared at him, as if knowing that he would wait for it.

"Who is it? Exactly?"

It was obvious that he was concerned, as it was someone who resembled him.

After thinking for a moment, YuWon responded.

"It's Chronos."

"Chronos?"

Zeus paused for a moment.

An unnatural reaction. If someone had mentioned an unknown name on YuWon's lips, he might have had doubts, but it wasn't so.

Instead, he simply smiled in an unexpected manner and nodded.

"I don't know that name."

No more questions.

Even though YuWon had expectations for a moment, it was the same as always.

'This time is the same too.'

In this world, no one remembered Chronos. Disappearing due to the Clock Movement was a different kind of problem from the vanishing of an entire history.

In this world, no one knew about Chronos and no one attempted to know.

Even if YuWon mentioned Chronos, it would be the same.

People knew nothing about Chronos and were not curious to know.

So, he gave up hope.

'No.'

YuWon noticed a slight fluctuation in Zeus's gaze.

'Maybe it's a bit different.'

It was the first time he had seen someone react like this upon hearing the name Chronos.

'Zeus met Chronos.'

Zeus continued to gaze at the sky, lost in his thoughts.

It was obvious that someone who had the same face as him, like Chronos, was troubling him.

"The inspiration..."

Chronos.

The one responsible for creating the Clock Movement alongside Odin, sacrificing himself to use it.

That man now appeared before Zeus.

'What could have happened?'

Just when he thought a great problem had ended, a small feeling of unease sprouted in YuWon's heart, like a small spark that could grow into a wildfire.

-----

Hades was supposed to be dead, but he returned to Olympus.

Some of the Olympus Players who followed him greeted him with cheers.

"Our King, who was thought to be dead, has returned."

"Our King rules over death."

"Eternal glory to the King of Death!"

"Glory..."

"Stop making so much noise. My head hurts."

After completing his Resurrection, Hades had to wrap his swaying head with his hands due to the commotion that erupted right after his return.

Some of the Rankers doubted the authenticity of Hades, but it wasn't difficult to convince them.

Hades had a unique ability that only he possessed in this Tower, and it wasn't a problem to display it to prove his authenticity.

Thus, with Hades's return, Olympus gradually returned to normalcy.

And around that time...

After the end of Ragnarok, Asgard had been silent all the while.

-----

The Royal Palace of Asgard.

At its peak was a small room.

A man lay on a luxurious bed of gold, covered with a blanket made of phoenix feathers, and woke up from his slumber.

"Have you awakened?"

Tok-

Beside him, Odin sat, and with his small glasses on, he stopped reading a book and asked.

A narrow, skeletal body.

A wrinkled face.

The elder, who had been sleeping for a long time, opened his mouth upon seeing the sunlight entering the room.

"It's been a long time."

The moment he looked out the window, he realized how much time had passed.

Although the eyes that blinked open and shut belonged to someone who had been sleeping, it wasn't such a long time for Odin, who had lived eternally.

Anyway, once again, a hundred years passed. Exactly.

"The curse of knowledge is truly terrible. Simply being awake is painful."

A hundred years.

It was the time in which the elder, Mimir, had been sleeping.

He slept for a hundred years and woke up for a year. And once more than a year passed, he had to go back to sleep.

Odin's oldest friend.

Mimir.

He struggled to get up from the bed, swaying.

"Be careful. Your body hasn't moved in a hundred years, so you'll need time to adapt."

"What brings you here?"

"Just concerned about my friend."

"Concerned about me... or concerned about something?"

It wasn't something that happened once or twice.

Mimir muttered quietly in the end.

The hundred-year time wasn't much for Odin, who had lived eternally.

Anyway, he knew it would repeat in the future.

Mimir found Odin's action of waiting for him a bit unusual.

But...

"The Clock Movement is complete."

Zas.

Odin, who had been tending to Mimir, hadn't done it just because he wanted to see his old friend awaken.

Odin, who placed the closed book on the bed, stood up.

He met the bright light in front of the window.

"I need your Sight."

Pap~.

Mimir covered his blinking eyes with his hands.

His pupils began to emit power as he regained consciousness.

Mimir's eyes contained a mysterious power. It was said that those eyes could see and predict everything, even the future.

The curse of knowledge.

It was the side effect of everything Mimir had seen and learned with those eyes until now.

In exchange for these eyes, Mimir had to pay a hundred years of his time for every year.

"It seems you're... concerned about something, since you only ask for my help at times like this."

"It's a serious matter."

"It seems someone has returned from the Clock Movement."

Odin briefly showed a surprised expression but then nodded as if it were something expected.

After all, the interlocutor was Mimir. Perhaps he could read others' thoughts even without saying a word.

"One of them must be the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal. And the other is..."

"A guy named Kim YuWon."

"A stranger."

"Because not even a century has passed since he entered the Tower."

The story about YuWon wasn't dragged on.

Time for Mimir was more precious than gold. One of his days equaled a hundred days for others.

Without wasting time on unnecessary talks, Odin went straight to the point.

"Anyway, if two people have returned here, it means two people have been sacrificed. And it's likely one of them is you."

"Probably."

"Then..."

Just as he was about to ask who the other one was.

"Chronos, my friend."



Mimir, covering his pulsating eyes with one hand, murmured.

"What the hell has happened?"

Chapter 359

C359

YuWon returned to Olympus.

Having been busy with Jobs alongside Hercules, he needed immediate rest.

Furthermore, he had received a sincere invitation to Olympus.

The banquet hall resonated with beautiful melodies. People danced, played instruments, and exquisite dishes were presented everywhere.

And in the midst of it all...

"The Hero of the day! The rising star of Olympus!"

A man with a flushed face from alcohol.

Dionysus, the High-Ranker of Olympus, pointed at YuWon and excitedly shouted.

"Kim! Yu! Won!"

"Waaaah!"

"Kim YuWon, Kim YuWon!"

"The benefactor of Olympus!"

"Kim Yu..."

Cheers resounded.

The clamor filled the hall as they pointed towards YuWon, sitting amidst the crowd.

YuWon didn't even flinch. Though the cheers naturally subsided, the festive atmosphere didn't diminish.

"Come on, let's toast!"

Dionysus raised his cup without hesitation.

It was a drink specially created for Rankers by Dionysus.

"To your health!"

Clink-

Glasses clinked all around. YuWon took small sips of a milder drink.

He felt embarrassed and couldn't meet people's eyes.

'Did I come here for nothing?'

He had come upon a sincere request from Dionysus to brighten up the place, but he hadn't expected the atmosphere to be like this.

It wasn't exactly his kind of celebration.

"Brother Dionysus is a bit like that. Please understand."

Thump-

A large hand landed on YuWon's shoulder.

Without needing to look, he knew who it was.

"You probably don't like this kind of thing either."

"I prefer quietly drinking."

Hercules sat down beside YuWon and reached out. He took a bottle of liquor from the table and began drinking straight from it.

Even for Rankers, it was a bottle that could get you drunk.

Even Dionysus, who made that drink, was notably intoxicated, but Hercules...

Thud-

Despite almost finishing the bottle, he seemed perfectly sober.

"The taste is good."

As if it wasn't enough, Hercules savored a bit more. YuWon shook his head as he looked at Hercules.

'I remember being sick for days after drinking with him.'

Hercules was famous for his alcohol resistance.

Not only did he drink well, but he drank more than most Giants.

Even if the Arcane Power in his body didn't neutralize alcohol, he was probably a natural drinker.

"Why did you come here? It's not like you came for fun."

"I was invited."

"Invited?"

Hercules pointed at Dionysus, who was playing an instrument and dancing.

"By him."

Dionysus was known as the "Throne of Alcohol" in Olympus.

He was the High-Ranker of Olympus who led parties like the one being held today, and it was known that he could enhance Players' strength by blessing alcohol.

He loved alcohol more than anyone and was always joyful thanks to it.

YuWon watched the Rankers and Players enjoying the banquet.

"Sometimes, this isn't so bad."

It wasn't an especially grand party.

It was just a party Dionysus organized from time to time.

It wasn't an exhilarating atmosphere, but somehow, it wasn't so bad after all.

And as he thought that...

Step-

When a pair of footsteps entered the banquet hall, the commotion subsided.

The loud sound of heavy steps encased in armor.

YuWon's gaze turned towards the source of the sound.

'Is it an inspection or something?'

This situation was amusing in itself.

YuWon straightened up a bit in his seat.

Dionysus's face stiffened, and along with him, the Rankers who were dancing and singing also took a step back.

"S-Sister...?"

"Are you doing this again?"

Athena.

The Throne of War and Wisdom, the Shield of Olympus.

She approached Dionysus with a stern look.

"How long will you keep having fun without considering the consequences? Even after what happened this time..."

The scolding continued for a while.

The Rankers, who were observing the situation, began to stealthily exit as they sensed Athena's mood.

Though they concealed their intentions, they couldn't escape Athena's notice. But she remained focused on reprimanding Dionysus.

"According to your actions, the mindset of the Rankers here changes as well. Alcohol affects the body and the mind..."

"Dionysus' Dew is the best-selling liquor in this Tower, a bestseller."

A voice interjected into the scolding.

Athena turned her head to see where the voice was coming from.

It was YuWon, sitting next to Hercules.

"Don't just scold. Your brother is also doing a good job."

It was thanks to his business skills that Dionysus could become a High-Ranker representing Olympus even though he always drank like that.

He was the businessman generating the most Points in Olympus.

It was even said that half of Dionysus' rank was due to his wealth.

"I understand."

Athena briefly turned her head to look at Dionysus before nodding submissively.

It was an unexpected reaction.

Instead, Athena turned to YuWon.

"I came after hearing that you're here."

"Me?"

"Yes."

Creak-

Athena unsheathed the Aegis she carried on her back as she spoke.

"I challenge you."

-----

Step-

YuWon followed behind Athena.

Hercules and Dionysus walked side by side behind him. Both showed interest in the intense confrontation that formed in the blink of an eye.

Steps toward the battlefield.

Step-

"I know Dionysus is doing well."

When they were nearly at their destination, Athena spoke up.

"But I know he can do better."

Before Hercules and Hargan appeared, Dionysus was a High-Ranker who rapidly rose in Olympus' history.

At that time, his followers hoped he would join the ranks of the Three Great Gods someday.

But one day...

Dionysus, intrigued by alcohol, began crafting and selling drinks.

"Money is an absolute necessity to run a Guild. In that sense, Dionysus has done enough to benefit the Guild."

"That's right. It's just my greed."

Athena was a warrior on the Throne of War.

Her value lay solely in strength and battle. And Dionysus was like that too, at least until he became a Ranker.

Knowing that era, and recognizing Dionysus's potential.

Athena couldn't give up on Dionysus.

The place the three arrived at, following Athena, was far from the rear of the royal palace, in a training field.

A door large enough to measure about 4 meters.

Athena extended a hand towards that heavy door.

Crreeeak-.

The heavy door opened, revealing the interior of the battlefield.

Clang, clank-!

Troops of warriors clashed weapons and shields. Many warriors were fighting there, sweating.

The door opened without anyone noticing due to the concentration on the fight.

Athena walked among them and shouted.

"Halt!"

The training field where Athena's soldiers trained.

If Asgard had the Valkyries, Olympus had Athena's soldiers, an elite group that everyone would consider in the history of Olympus.

And those soldiers stopped moving and turned towards Athena.

"Affirmative!"

Despite being quite tired, they appeared without a single trace of fatigue.

They had a firm attitude. It was evident they had been meticulously trained.

Step, step-.

Athena and YuWon headed towards the center of the training field.

The soldiers who were busy with the training field parted for them. Thanks to that, YuWon, who needed enough space, nodded satisfied.

"This is enough."

"Thank you for making time for this. I know it was an unexpected request."

"It doesn't seem so unexpected."

YuWon saw the fighting spirit that arose in Athena's eyes.

It seemed to be the same as when they first met.

A curiosity and challenge that hadn't been completely resolved.

And now, even a desire to challenge YuWon, who surpassed her by far.

She probably thought she couldn't let this opportunity pass while YuWon was in Olympus.

"Well, anyway, I have to use my body soon too."

Swish-.

YuWon drew his sword in advance and assumed a stance.

He had been resting in Olympus for two days.

It wasn't a very long time, but YuWon thought it would be enough as a rest period.

"If I rest too much, my body will get stiff."

Maintaining the best possible condition required proper rest, but it was also important to stay alert.

He began to stretch his cooled-down body.

And once again...

"It's also a job to adapt to changes in statistics."

The new statistics he had obtained, even though they were only a few, were impressive given the level of his Arcane Power.

It wasn't just about maintaining focus, but also about learning to adapt to the new statistics.

And that's why Athena in front of him was a suitable opponent.

"Aegis..."

The Throne of War and Wisdom.

It was the first time YuWon was fighting against her.

"It's said that her defensive ability is comparable, if not superior, to that of the Three Sacred Treasures."

Flick-

Through the tip of the sword, Arcane Power began to surge.

A Golden Lightning Bolt. YuWon could see Athena's eyes slightly widening at the power of the same nature as Zeus's.

"I can attack as much as I want."

Tsu, tsutsutsu-

The Lightning Bolt kept growing in size.

He didn't use Uranus.

His Arcane Power was overflowing.

With this, he could probably do without Uranus's help right now.

[Sword Lightning Bolt' is being created]

Craack, crackle-

A simple-shaped sword formed.

Without thinking of anything else, Athena drew Aegis as she felt the energy emanating from the sword and prepared to defend.

['Aegis Shield' has been activated]

['Aegis Guardian' has been activated]

['Medusa's Eye' has been activated]

Giiiiing-.

Several layers of energy-made shields piled up over Aegis. Additionally, on those shields, the image of Medusa's face with snakes instead of hair appeared.

Medusa.

A monster that had brought destruction to a city long ago and turned hundreds of Rankers into stone.

Medusa's power was sealed in Aegis and remained as an ability.

Chung-.

The best defense is a good offense.

Following the famous adage, Athena, holding Aegis, lunged towards YuWon.

Kwaaang-!

And at that moment, YuWon's sword clashed against Athena's shield.

Kwang-!

A sound like a falling Lightning Bolt resonated as the two forces collided.

Craaack-.

In the center of the mighty Aegis, known for its unbreakable defense, a golden crack formed.

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"...!"

Athena staggered before the golden crack forming in Aegis.

A brief hesitation.

But in an instant, she seemed to strengthen her grip on Aegis even more, as if telling herself it was okay.

Craaack, crackle-!

She didn't back down in the face of the sword crashing into Aegis.

Crash, Bang-.

The golden crack on Aegis kept growing.

It almost seemed like the shield would break at any moment, and the Bolt would seep inside.

However...

Chiiik-.

She unsheathed a sword she carried at her waist without hesitation.

A short-length weapon complementing the shield.

Looking through the golden cracks forming in Aegis, Athena aimed the tip of the sword.

"My most powerful weapon isn't just a simple item."

Aegis was only an item representing her to a certain extent.

Athena gritted her teeth and put strength into the hand holding the sword.

Chak-

The ground vibrated.

Fragments of Aegis came loose and fell to the ground.

'Now.'

In that instant, Athena tried to stab through the opening with her sword.

"Wow, I see we were thinking the same thing."

"...!"

The sword's tip slid through Aegis's opening.

Swuaak-

['Aegis Shield' has been destroyed]

['Aegis Guardian' has been nullified]

['Medusa's Eye' has been evaded]

The skills manifested through Aegis shattered and lost their strength. Athena's fingertips trembled on the tip of the sword that halted before her eyes.

"The counterattack was too hasty. With the attack in mind, defense is bound to collapse."

Gently, YuWon withdrew his sword.

Athena's thoughts deepened as she heard his words.

'If I had strengthened my defense more...'

Athena was the Shield of Olympus.

When she only focused on defense, not offense, she relied on being able to withstand an hour even against Hades or Poseidon.

As strong as YuWon was, this fight shouldn't have ended so easily.

'He was thinking the same...'

Athena recalled what YuWon had said a moment ago.

"Were you planning to pierce Aegis from the beginning?"

She observed the damaged area of Aegis.

The traces of the rupture were clean. The cracks and broken fragments were only a small part of the center.



In reality, YuWon had planned to break Aegis from the beginning and insert his sword inside.

From the start, he already had this planned.

"What are you thinking so hard for?"

Crackle-!

While Athena reviewed the previous situation in her mind, she saw YuWon still holding his sword beyond Aegis.

"I still need to warm up."

Hearing those words was reassuring.

Athena's eyes shone again.

----

Kwang-!

YuWon's fist extended forward.

Athena's body, holding Aegis firmly, staggered. The broken fragments of Aegis fell to the ground, and finally, her leg buckled.

Craack, crackle-.

YuWon, with his fist extended over Aegis, paused for a moment.

An unsteady posture.

"It seems like that's enough around here."

With those words from YuWon, Athena raised her sword upwards.

"All troops, prepare for the attack."

Chok, chok-.

Athena gave the order, and the Rankers scattered around the edge of the battlefield took their positions.

It was what YuWon had requested.

"When Aegis breaks, use those guys."

At first, Athena had refused.

She didn't want others to interfere in her fight.

However...

Once again, after the battle against YuWon ended quickly, Athena couldn't help but change her mind.

"Isn't so bad, is it?"

YuWon, on his knees again, looked at the Rankers who showed enthusiasm towards him.

"This might be an opportunity to teach them how to fight against a High-Ranker like me."

Athena had to admit it. Her ability alone wouldn't be enough to face YuWon.

Furthermore...

YuWon's skill was much greater than she had anticipated.

"Attack!"

Craaackle-!

The Lightning Bolt surged from YuWon's hand again.

YuWon swung the Lightning Bolt freely without Urano's assistance. Many Rankers were swept away by the Lightning's waves, and among them, Athena's sword made its way.

The second round of the fight began.

As the arena floor started to dangerously shake, another guest entered this place.

Ziiii...

"Wow, this is chaos! It's real chaos."

Pssh...

Hargan jumped back in shock from the sudden attack that reached the arena's entrance.

Inside the battlefield was absolute chaos.

Thud...

Whish, thud, thump...

A Ranker in armor flew and rolled under Hargan's feet. Looking at the fallen Ranker with blank eyes, Hargan shook his head.

"All day with this ruckus..."

"You've come?"

"Oh, big brother."

Hargan belatedly noticed Hercules amidst the commotion and quickly bowed to greet him. **(Note: It's funny how Greek people bow like Asians when they greet)**

"No need to be so formal. You don't have to bow like that every time you see me. It's the same for me."

"Understood!"

Hargan showed excessive respect to Hercules compared to others.

For a long time, Hercules had been his idol, and his long-term goal was to become someone like him. It was natural for him to feel tense when meeting his idol face to face.

"But what's up?"

"I have something to say to that guy."

"That guy?"

It was YuWon, who was fighting against other Rankers, including Athena.

It seemed that for a few hours now, they had been fighting, recovering their energy, and fighting again.

"A while ago, I've been wondering why he wasn't responding to my messages, and it turns out he's been busy here."

"Is it something urgent?"

"I'm not sure, but it seems important."

"What do you mean?"

"A guest has come from Asgard."

"Asgard?"

Hercules turned his head.

YuWon was creating Lightning Bolts in his hand. The Rankers spread to the sides to avoid his power, and Athena stepped forward, holding her shield firmly.

At that moment, when the Lightning Bolt was about to be fired...

"Stop!"

Hercules' roar echoed in the arena.

Clank, clank...

The Lightning Bolt that YuWon had been holding trembled dangerously. Athena, who had her shield firmly grasped, lost strength, and all eyes in the arena turned to Hercules.

YuWon looked at him as if asking what was happening, and that's when he noticed Hargan there too.

Hercules responded to that look by saying:

"A guest has arrived."

"Guest?"

"Let's go first. It seems to be something important."

Thump...

Hercules turned around and headed towards the door, which Hargan had swung open wide, followed by YuWon, who scratched his head, confused.

"Thank you for your hard work!"

"Thank you for your hard work!"

The Rankers who had been fighting YuWon in the training ground saluted one by one and collapsed to the ground. None of them had any remaining energy to continue fighting.

And that included Athena, who was still standing alone.

Crack...

The golden crack in Athena's Aegis gradually expanded. It was at that moment when she lowered the seemingly indestructible shield and let it fall to the ground.

CRACK...

The shield made of Adamantium, Mithril, and the head of Medusa, along with various other materials and Hephaestus' touch, shattered into pieces and fell to the ground.

But Athena wasn't worried or showed any signs of discontent.

In fact, she seemed more relieved than ever.

"At least he didn't die accidentally."

Looking at the broken handle of Aegis, Athena muttered.

"Ares."

-----

"Thor?"

YuWon looked puzzled as he asked Hargan.

What was Thor doing here as a guest from Asgard?

He was the undisputed second-in-command of Asgard, the one who received the power of Odin.

"Why is he here?"

YuWon had seen his face on a couple of occasions.

Once was when he mobilized to capture Poseidon during the Battle of Olympus, and the other during the Ragnarok.

However, YuWon didn't have any particular friendship with Thor or anything of the sort.

"Well, I don't know."

Hargan shrugged and hurried his steps towards the Royal Castle.

Beyond his two-digit ranking, Thor was the Prince of Asgard destined to lead Asgard someday.

The relationship with him was crucial even for Olympus. After all, the highest-ranking Rankers of Olympus, including Hargan, had no choice but to treat Thor with utmost respect.

Of course, that had nothing to do with YuWon.

A slight sigh escaped from YuWon's lips as he followed Hargan at a slow pace, adjusting his torn clothes from the fight with Athena.

The reason why Thor came looking for him, YuWon was trying to anticipate it.

"Does he want something from me? Something important that Asgard can't handle, even with Odin's help?"

Nothing in particular came to his mind.

The Ragnarok had ended. After the battle with Muspelheim, there probably weren't any formidable enemies left to consider a threat to Asgard.

Furthermore, Asgard had Odin.

The best fighter in the Tower.

He excelled in both combat and magic more than anyone.

Why would someone meddle with someone from Asgard where Odin was present? It didn't make sense.

Moreover, Odin's personality wasn't that of someone who would easily ask for help or interfere in others' affairs.

"Anyway, how do they know I'm here?"

It wasn't exactly a secret, but there weren't many people who knew that YuWon was in Olympus right now.

Especially in Asgard, it was quite unexpected that someone knew YuWon was here at this moment.

It was an unusual visit.

"We're here."

Hargan stopped by a small pavilion in the Royal Castle's garden.

The small pavilion was adorned with beautiful flowers and stood in the center of the garden.

Hargan and Hercules stopped near the place.

"He said he wanted to meet you alone."

"Well then, I'll come up to here."

Swish~

Hercules grabbed the Club at his waist with his hand.

After briefly seeing Hercules' action, YuWon started to move.

Tak.

The creaking sound of the unmaintained door revealed that this place had been abandoned for a long time. It seemed to be a small annex that the servants who attended the Royal Castle in the past used.

There was a small bed and a table inside the room.

Thor was standing inside, his back to the door, waiting for YuWon.

"Is this to avoid people? You've picked a strange place."

Upon entering the room, the floor creaked slightly under his feet.

Thor didn't immediately turn around.

Toc.

YuWon closed the door behind him.

At the same time, he felt a faint magical barrier spreading around the pavilion. It seemed like it was trying to prevent sound from leaking outside.

YuWon didn't get closer and looked at Thor's back.

"You're not Thor."

YuWon knew Thor well.

He was so neat that YuWon wondered if he had mysophobia, except when he fought using Mjolnir.

Which meant, unlike his disheveled appearance, he looked completely different.

Toc.

With absolute conviction in his voice, YuWon took a step toward Thor.

And then...

The person who was waiting for YuWon turned around.

"Mimir?"