

## With The Gods 361

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"Mimir?"

Thor turned completely. His blue eyes, imposing physique, and the Mjölhnir he held in one hand. It was the very image of Thor from Asgard, widely known among the people.

But there was one unique difference.

It was only in his gaze.

"Why do you think so?" - His voice was identical as well.

Whether someone knew Thor or not, it was hard not to be deceived by that appearance. This wasn't a simple disguise.

YuWon was sure that what he was seeing wasn't real.

Hwaguk-.

["Golden Cinder Eyes" resists illusions]

["Golden Cinder Eyes" reveals the truth]

Golden Cinder Eyes.

An ability that pierced lies and showed the truth.

When that ability activated, Thor's figure in front of YuWon began to gradually distort.

Fsssh, fsssh-.

The face was constantly changing, showing one image after another.

And finally, the familiar face of an old man appeared.

"So, these are the 'Golden Cinder Eyes'." - The voice changed.

YuWon realized that the Golden Cinder Eyes were clearing the opponent's ability.

"It's the first time I've seen it with my own eyes."

Hwaaah-!

["Golden Cinder Eyes" sees through 'Mimir's lies']

["Mimir's lies" are dispelled]

The scene before YuWon's eyes changed.

The dusty wall and frame of an old cabin, a bed, and a small table beside it all suddenly disappeared, and a completely different scene unfolded before him.

It was a damp and sticky cave.

Since when had he been trapped in this illusion?

"Since I met Hargan? Or since the garden?"

The only thing certain was that it hadn't been a short period.

Even for YuWon, without the Golden Cinder Eyes, it was difficult to completely penetrate this illusion.

"Pleased to meet you."

Thor's imposing figure disappeared, and in his place, an old man slightly shorter than YuWon appeared.

A hunched back, wrinkles on his face. Whether by appearance or the aura he emitted, he seemed to be a much smaller presence than Thor.

But...

"It really is Mimir."

Although other Rankers might not have known, YuWon knew for sure.

How much monstrous power the old man before him possessed.

Mimir.

His rank barely reached three digits, but that was solely due to his characteristics.

"Is he already awake?"

Mimir could only be active for 1 year out of every 100 years.

Although he had formidable ability due to the Curse of Knowledge, he had to spend most of his life sleeping to endure the cerebral overload.

Most of his life was like a helpless existence, unable to do anything for himself.

That's why the Rank Management Office had set his classification as the last of the three digits, 999.

But in other words...

Despite spending most of his life asleep, Mimir still maintained that rank.

"I knew there was still some time left for you to awaken from your slumber, but it was sooner than I thought."

"You speak as if you've been waiting for me."

"That's right. I was waiting for you."

Mimir's eyes curved into a half-moon at YuWon's response.

It was an expression of joy. For someone who knew everything in the world to the point of being considered a curse, YuWon was one of the few presences that piqued his curiosity.

"It seems this will be a long story."

Zzzz~

Mimir's magic activated, and at the same time, two rocks rose between him and YuWon.

Two improvised chairs were easily created.

"Sit down. After fighting so hard, don't stand and hurt your legs."

Apparently, Mimir knew that YuWon had just had a confrontation with Athena.

Yuwon sat in the chair created by Mimir and looked into his eyes.

'His eyes are still the same.'

Eyes that could see everything in the Tower.

He couldn't lie in front of Mimir.

Mimir: "It seems you also know a lot about me."

Yuwon: "Did you not hear some story about Odin's Clock Movement?"

Mimir: "Yes, I did. I also heard that you were chosen by my Clock Movement."

As expected.

Mimir knew everything, and he also knew why YuWon was here.

So the story would be much easier.

"It was Odin and you who conceived and began to create the Clock Movement, but someone else completed it."

Yuwon skipped the formalities and went straight to the point.

With another person, it might have been appropriate to have a conversation to get to know each other a bit, but that wasn't necessary with Mimir.

There was no time to waste on unnecessary courtesies and formalities.

"It's possible you remember too. Isn't that so?"

It was a question, but there was conviction in YuWon's voice.

Mimir would.

Being Mimir, the person who, along with Odin, first conceived the existence of the Clock Movement and made the greatest contribution to its creation, it was said that even he might be able to resist the power of the Clock Movement.

And he wasn't wrong.

"There are three, including me."

Mimir didn't deny YuWon's words and spoke.

"Chronos, I remember that friend."

Yuwon's eyes gleamed.

Chronos.

As expected, Mimir also remembered that name.

The name that not even Zeus or Hades remembered.

"One is me. Two is you. And the last one is the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal."

The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, the Bull Demon King.

He was the greatest sorcerer in this Tower, as well as being the sworn brother of Son OhGong.

Through his studies in sorcery and other disciplines, the Bull Demon King was able to perceive the distortions in this world through the Clock Movement.

That's how the Bull Demon King confirmed the existence of Chronos.

With the Bull Demon King having confirmed the existence of Chronos and now also having Mimir and YuWon, the three of them remembered a name that no one else did.

"Odin couldn't remember it. He, despite being the best in magic, seems not to be as competent in sorcery or other fields."

"So? Did you think I would remember it?"

"You are very sharp."

Mimir smiled and gently tapped his knee.

"I also wanted to meet the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, but I don't know where he is. Where has he gone?"

Of course, Mimir seemed to know that Son OhGong, like YuWon, had come to the past using the Clock Movement.

Mimir was obsessed with knowledge, even more than anyone else in the Tower, due to the Curse of Knowledge.

For him, both YuWon and Son OhGong, who witnessed past events through the Clock Movement, were beings he undoubtedly wished to meet.

"He has gone to challenge the next floor."

"The next floor?"

Mimir's eyes lit up.

The title of 'Ranker' was bestowed only upon those who had reached the Tower's pinnacle.

And among them, Son OhGong was one of the High-Rankers with incomparable abilities in the Tower.

So for someone like Son OhGong, the expression 'next floor' meant...

"Upwards, towards the ceiling?"

"Yes."

"Then, have they managed to find the door to the future?"

The door that led upward in the Tower.

It was Mimir who discovered the existence of that door.

YuWon also came to know of its existence through Mimir and only reported to Zeus and Poseidon what he had seen and experienced.

Of course, Mimir immediately understood what YuWon meant by 'the next floor'.

"It's good that you've come from the future. I truly didn't think it was possible."

"It was thanks to Chronos's sacrifice."

"The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, probably came back thanks to me."

Could he even read other people's thoughts?

That was the only explanation that came to his mind.

YuWon reached his hand forward.

"Mimir, I need your help."

It was probably the first time he extended his hand like this, directly asking someone for help.

YuWon usually took an approach to extract help from others in most situations.

But this time was different.

"You already know everything about the future. So why do you need my help?"

"The future can change."

The year when Mimir woke up.

YuWon had been waiting for that year.

- "If the past changes, won't the future naturally change too?"

- "That's absolutely true."

- "Well, there's not much we can do about it. Still, if we can prevent events like the Gigantomachy and Ragnarok, that would be a significant achievement."

If the past changes, the future changes.

That very obvious law couldn't be changed even with the existence of the Clock Movement.

If the Outer Gods, including Foolish Chaos, realized that someone had come back using the Clock Movement, it would accelerate the changes even more.

And at that moment...

Odin spoke.

- "Find Mimir."

Even then, Mimir was asleep.

To carry out this long and arduous plan, he had been sentenced to a sleep that lasted not just a hundred years, but several times more than that.

- "From then on, it will be Act 2."

Act 2.

If until now all the plans were based on an already established future, from now on, they would have to set new plans based on the altered future.

YuWon knew all the possibilities of the future. If he knew the events and their origins, he could know the person and prepare for it, so it wasn't difficult.

The problem was the altered future by reversing the past.

And only Mimir knew about that altered future and could set new plans accordingly.

"I also need to know about the altered future, it seems."

Before coming here, Mimir already knew approximate information about YuWon.

The one who ended Ragnarok with Odin. Furthermore, someone who became a High-Ranker in the shortest recorded period.

How many would be able to achieve such things simply by knowing the future?

"Is it greed, or is there a reason for it..."

The corner of Mimir's mouth lifted slightly as he looked at YuWon.

"It's the latter."

"Yes."

"In that case, I'd like to know the reason."

It wasn't difficult to explain the reason.

The collapsed walls.

The presences that came from outside, beyond the borders and the Tower.

A world shattered by those presences.

That information wasn't difficult to reveal.

However...

'Odin must not know.'

What worried YuWon was when Odin would find out everything.

Mimir and Odin were unrivaled friends.

Still, fortunately, Mimir quickly realized the reason.

"If he knows, he'll act in his own way."

"That's true."

Indeed.

Sometimes, the truth was used to hide the truth. Thanks to that, YuWon was able to free himself from a burden.

YuWon's story began.

It wasn't a very long story.

The Tower had been destroyed by the Outsiders, and the remaining companions planned to change the past using the Clock Movement.

And now, he was moving in accordance with that plan.

"Outside the Tower, the Outsiders, and the Outer World..."

The story related to the Outer World was interesting enough to pique Mimir's interest.

Mimir closed his eyes again, which were burning with pain. Headaches and eye burning were side effects when his mind spun too fast.

YuWon: "The future has already changed. So I have a question for you."

Mimir: "What is it?"

Mimir asked with one eye covered by his hand.

YuWon: "It's about Chronos."

With a face similar to Zeus and black hair.

And a mark on his face.

YuWon: "Is that guy still alive?"

It's possible that Chronos is still alive. With that hope in mind, YuWon asked the question.

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"Is he alive?"

It was an ambiguous expression.

"Well, I'm not sure about either."

"...?"

If he's alive, then he's alive; if not, then he's not.

He wasn't sure which was the answer.

YuWon's expression still showed a complexity that seemed to ask, "What are you saying?"

Mimir had a complicated expression because there was something he didn't know in this Tower.

It was a moment when YuWon was thinking about what it could be...

"It can't be..."

Even Mimir, who could see everything in the Tower, didn't know.

That was just what YuWon knew.

"Is it about what's outside?"

What's outside the Tower.

Regarding those existences, Mimir's eyes couldn't exert their full power.

Indeed.

"It's inside."

Mimir's response to YuWon's question was affirmative.

"Inside."

"It seems he was expelled once, but managed to enter. And I also don't know why or how, but he became a completely different existence."

Limited information.

However, there was no doubt about the certainty of that information.

That was because Mimir was the source of that information.

So, really...

'Chronos was expelled to the outside.'

That meant Chronos was no longer an inhabitant of this world.

What's outside this Tower.

The Outer Gods.

In an instant, YuWon's mind recalled the situation when Zeus had encountered Chronos.

'When Foolish Chaos opened the door for a moment?'

If Chronos was expelled to the outside from this Tower and entered between the cracks of the door, then the situation made sense.

The problem was one.

'He couldn't have opened the door by himself.'

How, in what way, did he break through an unbreakable wall and get out?

At that moment when his thought reached there...

"It seems we're thinking the same thing."

Mimir smiled slightly.

Maybe because his memories of Chronos weren't as strong.

He didn't seem to be as saddened by Chronos being expelled from this world.

If it had been the Mimir YuWon knew...

'He would have been crying his eyes out, right?'

All that came back were the memories.

The memories of being with Chronos and emotions like camaraderie didn't return.

That seemed to be the limit of Mimir's eye power.

'Anyway, thanks to this...'

Thanks to Mimir's words, YuWon was able to gain a small profit.

He felt a sense that he had discovered some clues about the Outer Gods.



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The conversation between YuWon and Mimir continued for quite some time.

They decided to let the topic of Chronos rest for now. Discussing extensively about unanswered questions was a luxury that Mimir, who had little time, couldn't afford.

"Well, then, let's focus on the Shiva part."

"There won't be many changes in that aspect. Ultimately..."

YuWon talked about the situations he had changed so far. Then, he reassembled the changes that would occur due to those situations and the necessary modifications in his plan.

It seemed like his head was going to explode.

YuWon paused for a moment and scratched his head while tilting his stiff neck backward.

"You should have come earlier."

Then, it wouldn't have been necessary to plan as intricately as now.

"I haven't found a way to break the curse on my end either."

"I see..."

It got even worse.

YuWon couldn't say that out loud. He knew how much Mimir and Odin had struggled for a long time to break the Curse of Knowledge.

But Mimir couldn't deceive the heavens.

"Yes, our side is the same. If we continue like this, the curse will only get worse."

"..."

Mimir's curse intensified more and more as he used his knowledge.

At first, it was 50 years out of 100. Then, 60 years, 70 years...

Gradually, he sank into a deeper and longer sleep.

"Next time, it will exceed a hundred years."

"I'm sorry."

This time, Mimir had wasted more time than he had used until now. The side effects of overusing his eyes resulted in spending more time in a deep sleep, and the curse was accelerating more and more.

If Odin found out, he might become furious and erupt in anger.

"It doesn't matter. After all, if it's not this, won't we all die?"

Mimir snapped his fingers as if it were no big deal, but for YuWon, it wasn't like that.

The Curse of Knowledge.

If they didn't find a way to undo it, Mimir would likely fall into eternal sleep at some point. Neither dead nor alive.

"I will do my best to free you from that curse."

Normally, it would be an empty promise.

YuWon would only think something like that inside, not casually say it out loud.

Still, YuWon said it.

'Absolutely.'

And that was like a promise YuWon made to himself.

"Yes, I would like that."

A tone that didn't have high expectations.

Mimir was already willing to sacrifice his time, even if the price was eternal sleep.

Mimir finally opted to strengthen the plans laid out by his future comrades.

"Well, let's leave the story here."

With very sore eyes, Mimir closed them tightly, pressing his eyelids with his ring and index fingers.

And the next moment...

Swish, swish...

['Mimir's Illusion' begins]

['Golden Cinder Eyes' resists 'Mimir's Illusion']

['Golden Cinder Eyes' fails to resist 'Mimir's Illusion']

A new illusion began, and the world reflected in YuWon's eyes changed again.

It was exactly the same as the first time.

Suddenly, YuWon found himself inside a small cabin with Mimir in the form of Thor.

"I see we've been here a long time, my friend. They have too."

Mimir's gaze turned outside the cabin.

Towards Hargan, who was standing next to Hercules.

Almost half a day had passed. It was really a long time.

"What do you plan to do now?"

At Mimir's question, YuWon hesitated for a moment.

He would never have imagined he would meet him at this moment.

Originally, he should have acted according to the newly established plan.

But...

"First, I have to go to Asgard."

YuWon changed his direction for a moment.

Under normal circumstances, there was no reason for YuWon to go to Asgard in this meeting with Mimir.

But a problem arose.

"I have to resolve the issue of Chronos first."

Whether it was Chronos or something else, that wasn't the biggest issue.

What was more important was that it might have been Foolish Chaos who brought him into the Tower in the first place.

Why exactly did he let Chronos in?

Was it just a coincidence?

'No, that's impossible.'

There were countless numbers of Outsiders who could have entered the Tower. However, it being precisely Chronos who crossed the door meant that, right now, he would be the best resource for YuWon.

"If that's true, I'd like to help... but..."

Mimir, who looked like Thor, frowned. At that moment, his head throbbed with a sharp pain.

"For now, I need to rest a bit."

"Don't worry, take a break."

He had already used too much knowledge.

Mimir couldn't afford to push himself further. If he tried to use more knowledge and ended up falling into sleep, YuWon couldn't avoid Odin's spear.

Even YuWon wanted to avoid that.

"It will be hard to get much help from Mimir regarding the Outsiders."

If Chronos had become an Outsider, Mimir's power wouldn't have much effect on him.

So, from now on, the problem would be YuWon's responsibility.

'Fighting against them is my specialty.'

He might not know about other areas, but YuWon was confident he knew more about fighting against the Outsiders than Mimir.

That's why he didn't need much help from Mimir in that aspect. Just confirming that Chronos had become an Outsider, his work was almost done.

"Let's go out and see."

He had already made Hercules and Hargan wait too long.

The next destination was already decided. It was time to move on.

'It will be nice to see him after all this time.'

It would probably be the first time after Ragnarok.

The most powerful Magic Warrior of the Tower.

The absolute leader who founded the Great Guild called Asgard, without suffering a single defeat.

The strongest of the Rankers that YuWon knew.

'Odin.'

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100th floor.

A world without night with a sky bluer than any other floor of the Tower.

Under that sky, blue waves turned into bluer ripples than the sky itself.

Chaa!

The waves broke and gently caressed the grains of sand. The beach gleamed like a jewel under the light.

Amidst all of that, there was a man with a serene look on an elegant bed.

"... So, it was real."

The blue-haired, bearded man, Poseidon, got up and looked around.

Being in the water was the most comfortable condition for him. The beach with the breaking waves was like his private bedroom.

How had he ended up here?

Swish!

He reached out for the trident that was stuck next to where he lay.

"I don't need it anymore."

Bam...

A drop of water appeared in Poseidon's hand and began taking on a defined shape. The water droplet formed into a long, solid, blue spear. And in an instant...

Thwack!

With force, Poseidon threw the spear into the sea from his seated position.

Pwooosh!

The sea where the spear fell rose into a huge blue pillar. With an explosion enough to easily crush a small city, hundreds of waves were created and spread around.

It was truly a terrifying power.

Although he had made the spear effortlessly.

"It really... was a success."

A spear created by compressing the strength of the immense ocean.

Poseidon felt that this spear resembled Zeus's Lightning Bolt.

It had the same shape as the spear, and its power was not inferior.

Chirk...

"Triaina."

The name of the spear he wanted to make using the Divine Sea Crystal if he ever got his hands on it.

Poseidon gave the spear he had just created that very name.

And that also meant that Poseidon was confident he had reached the same level as Zeus himself.

'With this power...'

He could return to Olympus and start anew.

Kwak...

Poseidon clenched his fist tightly and stood up.

The trials of this new power were already over.

Now he was an entirely different entity.

Just then...

Splash...

The sea in front of Poseidon began to rise and take shape.

This wasn't something Poseidon was doing.

"Who are you...?"

Just as he was about to ask what was going on. The figure of the sea began to take the form of a person, and Poseidon's eyes gradually widened.

Though it was made of the clearest blue sea water, the color of its hair or eyes couldn't be discerned properly.

"Zeus?"

Definitely, it had the same face as Zeus, just as Poseidon knew him.

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Kim YuWon quickly prepared himself to head to Asgard.

There wasn't much to prepare. Before departing, all he did was bid a brief farewell to Hades, the representative of Olympus, and that was all in terms of preparation.

"You're going to Asgard?"

Those were the words Hercules said to YuWon when he met him after meeting with Hades.

He didn't recall telling him where he was going.

YuWon noticed Hercules's gaze was directed towards Thor, who was waiting for him at the end of the hallway.

"You thought I wouldn't notice after all this time?"

"Since when?"

"I waited in that damp cave for so long. Even his scent reached me."

From the conversation Mimir and YuWon had, Hercules already knew about Mimir's illusion.

Well, perhaps he could have figured it out, although it would certainly be impossible for Hargan, but it would certainly be possible for Hercules.

Moreover, the time given to him was a whopping half-day.

"Who are you then?"

Of course.

Hercules had noticed the existence of the illusion, but he hadn't discovered Mimir's true identity transformed into Thor.

For some reason, throughout all the time he spent back at the Royal Castle, Hercules's gaze towards Mimir seemed strange.

"Mimir."

"Mimir?"

After uttering that name, Hercules paused for a moment before asking.

"Odin's friend?"

"Yes."

"Why are you here?"

Mimir was Odin's friend, said to wake up once every hundred years.

Due to his extremely limited activity and his name being forgotten in the world, it took Hercules some time to remember who he was.

But regardless of the rank, his position in Asgard was by no means low.

Odin had instructed everyone in Asgard to treat Mimir with the same respect as himself.

"Do you want to know the reason?"

"It intrigues me."

"It's because of Chronos."

"Chronos?"

There was a brief pause.

Then, Hercules opened his mouth after tilting his head.

"I see. I understand. Have a safe journey."

At another time, perhaps he might have asked who Chronos was and why YuWon was going to Asgard because of that person. But this time, he simply brushed it off as if it weren't a big deal. As expected.

'I had my suspicions anyway.'

He had also decided not to mention anything about it.

Anyway, no matter what YuWon said, Hercules wouldn't understand.

And not just Hercules, no one would understand.

'Anyway, we can't act together this time.'

Yuwon halted his steps for a moment and looked at Hercules.

Although it might be a little early...

"That guy back then..."

"That guy?"

"Atlas."

Yuwon decided to hurry a bit.

"There's a way to beat him."

Hercules's pupils stirred.

After all, recently, Hercules had been replaying in his mind his fight with Atlas over and over.

That guy with a much tougher and stronger body than his.

Atlas's appearance, laughing as he tried to rip his arms off, was still etched in his eyes.

"... What do you mean?"

"Ascend."

"Ascend?"

Yuwon repeated to him exactly what he had told Zeus and Poseidon.

Hades had already heard the same story.

But he had given up because he couldn't leave Olympus empty for too long.

"The choice is yours. Whether you want to live as a simple carpenter without fighting or ascend higher."

When there was no war, Hercules introduced himself as a simple carpenter.

It had always been that way.

He preferred peace to battle and enjoyed quiet, boring days.

That's why Yuwon didn't force Hercules to get involved in this fight.

Of course.

Anyway, he already knew which way the choice would lean.

"See you later."

YuWon left with Mimir towards the Sun Chariot, as he had originally planned.

But now, there was something more urgent.

'How do I find that guy?'

Other things were more urgent now.

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Asgard.

The most prosperous and beautiful realm in this Tower.

The absolute realm ruled by the strongest of High-Rankers, Odin.

After the Ragnarok, Asgard began to experience a peace and prosperity it had never known before.

And at this moment...

"It's not good. It's not good..."

The King of Asgard muttered as he looked out the window.

"Ch... Chr... Chro...?"

A vague name that he could barely remember.

But the name itself wouldn't come to his mind.

It was strange.

"Chro... something."

Even though Mimir had given him the name, he had immediately forgotten it. He said it was a side effect of the Clock Movement, but no matter how many times he repeated the name, he quickly forgot it.

No.

It wasn't just that he forgot it easily.

Odin was afraid that something was blocking him from remembering that name.

"It's almost halfway."

The time he remembered that name.

The image of him came to his mind.

At that moment, in Odin's field of vision, a figure appeared in the distance, outside the window.

A peaceful countryside landscape.

The people were oblivious.



What this country...

Or rather, what kind of hell is this Tower falling into...

"It's not good."

Tap-

Leaving his cup of coffee to the side, Odin stood up from his seat.

It had been two weeks since Mimir left the realm.

Finally, he had returned.

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In the midst of a bustling street.

People made way to the sides and cheered.

"Thor! Thor!"

"Thor!"

The Prince walked down the street, receiving the crowd's enthusiasm.

A true Warrior of this era, with a fully muscular body.

'This is me.'

Although he had a serious expression on his face, he was internally delighted with the cheers. With his chest puffed out, Thor shook hands with the citizens.

"If you ever have troubles, come talk to me."

"How's the farming going?"

"This bread is very tasty. Thanks, I'll enjoy it..."

Without formalities, Thor interacted with the people.

That was the ideal image of a king, according to Thor.

That's why, when he left the palace and mingled with the people, they naturally saw him and cheered.

"Thor! Thor!"

Not far away.

Voices of citizens chanting his name could be heard.

"Do they see me from there?"

How do they know it's me and are already cheering?

He thought he should hurry and see what was happening. Unconsciously, his steps quickened.

But...

"Thor!"

"Long live Prince Thor!"

The cheers were not for him.

"What?"

A man who looked just like him.

The people seemed to have confused him with that person.

No.

"...is it me?"

What the hell is going on?

As Thor stood perplexed.

"What's that guy doing?"

"I told you already. If you wanted to go in unnoticed, you picked the wrong person."

Since arriving in Asgard, YuWon and Mimir had been in this situation.

Citizens cheering and shaking hands.

For Mimir, who was trying to slip in quietly, this situation was awkward.

"There's nothing we can do about it. If he finds out I've left, they won't stay calm."

"Is that why you chose Thor?"

"It didn't seem like a bad choice. He won't get involved in unnecessary trouble, and you'll be treated appropriately wherever you go."

It was a target he chose without much thought.

But now.

Mimir really regretted his choice after a long time.

"Getting into trouble everywhere. Ugh."

It had been about 50 years since Thor started leaving the palace.

For Mimir, who had been asleep for so long, it was inconceivable that Thor received so much attention.

He didn't even need to use his eyes to figure out about Thor.

Moreover...

"The situation has gotten a bit complicated."

YuWon noticed in the crowd that a familiar face was making its way toward them.

"You scoundrels!"

A threatening tone.

"How dare you impostors pretend to be me, the Prince of Asgard?"

Thor stepped forward towards YuWon and Mimir. With an extremely angry expression, he held his head high without showing a hint of shame.

The gazes of the crowd centered on him.

Seeing that, Thor's shoulders seemed to have broadened a bit.

'That's his biggest flaw.'

It was Thor's worst weakness.

That excessive need for attention.

He loved his people as much as his realm, but he also craved their attention.

And because of that, despite his high position as Prince, he had always aligned with them, receiving their fervent support.

Ultimately, it was more beneficial than detrimental, so it was fine, but in the current situation, YuWon felt a bit unsatisfied.

"This... this insolent impostor!"

"What kind of disrespect is this toward the Prince?"

"He should apologize immediately!"

Thump, thump-

Thump-!

"Eh, eh?"

Thor opened his eyes in surprise, bewildered by the commotion that had just occurred.

The citizens who were surrounding him a moment ago were furious and were throwing fruits and small objects at him.

An unexpected situation.

YuWon looked at Mimir curiously.

'Was it your fault?'

'There was no other choice.'

In the eyes of the people, Thor probably looked like a completely different person.

Mimir's Illusion not only changed Mimir's appearance, but probably in that moment, Mimir would look like Thor to their eyes, and Thor would look completely different.

"What's going on...?"

And at that moment...

"Oh!"

When Thor's eyes met Mimir's again in front of him, Mimir's original appearance returned to his mind.

"Uh, uh, uh..."

"Stay calm."

A soft whisper.

While Mimir and Thor stared at each other, Thor swallowed and nodded.

Odin's only friend who woke up once every hundred years.

Furthermore...

It was Mimir who changed Thor's diapers when he was little, the most important adult in Asgard.

Thump-.

Walking again, Mimir spoke up.

"Be careful when you return; you're most likely going to get scolded."

"Yes..."

The response was much quieter than the one he gave before.

Thor and YuWon's eyes met. As Mimir's original appearance showed, YuWon's original appearance became evident as well.

Despite it being a reunion after so long, they exchanged no greetings. Instead, YuWon had to endure Thor's resentful gaze.

Hastily following Thor.

YuWon glanced at him and asked:

"How will we find Chronos?"

Anyway, it didn't matter who heard the story about Chronos; no one would know what they were talking about.

Amid an endless crowd.

Mimir answered YuWon's question.

"Finding Chronos isn't the problem."

"Then?"

"The problem is finding someone who can face him."

Thump-.

Outside the palace.

Amid people moving hastily, a presence stood out to Mimir.

If Thor's procession had been received with cheers, this time it was the opposite.

Those who had been cheering for Thor before were now avoiding his path as if they were asking what was going on.

Even the children who had been chatting loudly before were now silent.

"That fool Odin!"

Thump-.

When he stepped out, everyone fell silent and clasped their hands in silence.

"It's possible he's regained some of his memories."

Chapter 364

C364

In a conference room with a long round table.

Inside the room adorned with a luxurious round table and expensive paintings imported by the "Round Table" Guild, there were only three people.

YuWon, Mimir, and Odin.

The three individuals sat around the round table.

"Thor, lad, you've been up to unnecessary antics."

Odin looked disapprovingly at Thor, who stood with his hands raised outside the conference room.

Thor's arms were shackled with heavy cuffs weighing 10,000 pounds. Even Thor, a double-digit High-Ranker, couldn't easily bear that weight.

Although it looked more like scolding a young child.

Odin thought this kind of corporal punishment was more intuitive.

"You should care for the people, but not seek their attention. I told you clearly not to confuse that."

Indeed, upon closer analysis, there wasn't a significant issue with Thor's behavior.

But a king should care for his people, not seek their attention.

That was Odin's thesis about a king, and Thor was recently confusing that.

"How long do you intend to leave him like this?"

"Perhaps I should leave him like this for a month so he can reflect."

"He'll suffer a bit then."

Listening to the conversation between the two, YuWon looked at Thor, who stood outside with his arms raised.

His arms were already trembling.

Still, it seemed like he was determined to endure, knowing that an even greater punishment awaited him if he lowered them.

"Well, leave him like this for now."

Swish-.

Odin neatly clasped his hands together and raised them above the round table.

"Let's first talk about Chronos."

The eyes of YuWon and Mimir widened suddenly.

Chronos.

Finally, the name was mentioned by Odin.

"Have you remembered anything?"

"Little by little, memories have been coming back to me. When I thought about the first two syllables of his name, the other two also began to surface slowly."

Even up to that point was impressive.

The Clockwork Mechanism was a joint creation of Odin, Mimir, and Chronos.

Among them, Odin was the third to regain his memories about Chronos, after Mimir and the Bull Demon King.

"Of course, what I've remembered is only his name and his face. I have almost no actual memories about him."

"I suppose I'm in a similar situation. Just fragmented memories."

"There's no need for you to strain to remember. Remembering would only cause adverse effects."

Hearing YuWon's words, Mimir and Odin's gazes met.

For some reason, YuWon lowered his head in the face of their expressions.

Chronos, Mimir, and Odin.

The three were High-Rank Players who entered the Tower at similar times and had a closer friendship than anyone else.

If memories about him were to come back, could Odin and Mimir properly fight against him?

'I can't allow that to happen.'

In YuWon's mind, images of the three comrades getting drunk together and chatting appeared.

It was unthinkable that they, who shared all those memories, would end up fighting to kill each other.

It was a situation that could never happen.

"Well, if that's the case..."

Odin shrugged and stopped thinking about Chronos.

Memories that wouldn't return even if they strained to bring them back. There was no need to force them to think about it.

"So, if we let that guy continue like this, something bad will surely happen?"

"Indeed."

"That's right."

Both answers came simultaneously from YuWon and Mimir.

In their responses, there was a firm confidence.

The reason was the same.

Mimir had a vague sense of anxiety about Chronos turning into an Outsider, and YuWon was from the future, where that anxiety came true.

"...Really?"

One of them was Odin's only friend.

And the other was a High-Ranker who predicted the Ragnarok and put an end to it.

For Odin, it was an answer he couldn't ignore.

"Then, should we proceed with only fragmented memories for now?"

"I will inform you about Chronos's abilities."

This place was created because of Chronos.

What needed to be discussed now wasn't just Chronos's memories and their own memories.

The important thing was Chronos's power.

His current situation and location.

And his goal.

Those were the topics to address.

YuWon spoke about the power of Chronos that he remembered.

An ability that controlled time by consuming Arcane Power and the time given to it.

A unique and exclusive ability granted to only one person in the Tower, and both Mimir and Odin were quite astonished.

"Controlling time..."

"Even with conditions, it's an impressive ability."

"The problem is whether that ability is still allowed to him."

For some reason, Chronos had become an Outsider.

According to Zeus's words, it seemed like he maintained his original form to some extent, but it was unknown if his original ability was still intact.

For now, they could only assume that the ability was still valid and act accordingly.

"So, what about the countermeasure for the ability?"

"I will take care of that."

Those were Odin's words.

It might be unknown to others, but Odin was the strongest warrior YuWon knew.

Since he had been given information about his ability, Odin should already have strategies in his mind.

Yuwon nodded and spoke.

"Then, what remains is the location and objective of that person."

Yuwon's gaze turned towards Mimir this time.

The likelihood of the answer coming from him was high.

But...

"I can't see it with my own eyes."

Unfortunately, his eyes had little effect on the Outsiders.

Even the eye that saw everything in this Tower seemed unable to reach the existence outside of the Tower.

"So..."

A situation where not even Mimir's trusted eyes could help.

Yuwon frowned as he pondered it.

'If we knew his objective, we could also figure out where he is.'

The first move was crucial.

The objective.

In addition to what YuWon knew about Foolish Chaos's plans, Chronos was different.

'The objective, the objective...'

While YuWon was deeply absorbed in his thoughts...

"Why do you care so much about Chronos?"

Yuwon raised his head at Mimir's words.

"Maybe you'll find the answer if you reconsider the reason."

"The reason?"

A deep furrow formed between YuWon's brows.

Even if they were casually uttered words, if they came from Mimir's mouth, they were different.

Every word that came out of his mouth always aimed at the heart of the truth.

As YuWon contemplated Mimir's words, suddenly what Zeus had told him came to mind.

Chronos had appeared before Zeus, but if it had been to meet his son, he would have said what he had to say and then disappeared. However, Chronos did not.

"Poseidon."



YuWon's voice was filled with certainty.

The silence that had filled the room was broken. Odin, who had been silent, asked:

"What are you saying?"

"Chronos went to look for Poseidon."

"To Poseidon?"

"He originally intended to target Zeus but failed."

It was clear that Chronos's intentions were not good.

The moment he appeared at the gate, if his original target was Zeus, it made sense.

Zeus couldn't be easily touched, not even by Chronos. Because Zeus had become one of the strongest beings in this Tower right now.

So, if he appeared and disappeared in front of his eyes as if nothing had happened.

And if the reason his original target was Zeus was because of his bloodline.

'The next target is Hades or Poseidon.'

It wasn't Hades.

He was currently in Olympus. Since the previous incident, the borders of Olympus had significantly strengthened, so it wasn't easy to target him.

Moreover, more than anything else, Hercules was by his side.

It would be difficult to touch him.

"Poseidon, Poseidon..."

Odin muttered Poseidon's name again and again.

Perhaps from now on, Asgard would do everything in its power to find Poseidon.

Mimir's presence within Asgard was equally strong.

"As long as the trial is over, it shouldn't be so difficult to find."

If Poseidon had passed the Ascension Trial and descended back down.

It wouldn't be difficult to spot the distinct blue-haired being. Besides, Asgard's eyes were present all over this Tower.

With this, the approximate direction was determined.

The only remaining issue...

Why exactly Foolish Chaos brought Chronos to this place.

"Is he targeting me? Or perhaps..."

Is he painting a larger picture?

As the story of the three individuals was coming to an end...

"Grave! Something grave has happened!"

A hurried voice was heard from outside the conference room.

Kiiing-.

A man who hastily opened the door without even asking for Odin's permission.

It was Loki, Odin's second son.

"Father!"

"What's happening?"

As if he said he wouldn't stay still if it wasn't an important matter.

Ignoring Odin's stern gaze, Loki opened his mouth.

"On the first floor..."

-----

Shwaaa-.

The waves crashed.

The waves were calm. Waves that moved with the wind broke beautifully against the rocks.

Clank-.

The shattered water droplets glistened under the sun. At first glance, it might seem like a beach, but something strange was quickly noticed.

The rocks that the waves had broken.

They were not ordinary rocks.

"What the hell is this?"

Hephaestus stood on the rooftop with his hammer.

The rocks broken by the waves were all someone's houses. The city was flooded with water, and everyone on the first floor drowned.

It was all the work of a single person.

"Can you handle this?"

Toc-.

When the feet of the blue-haired man, Poseidon, touched the ground, the waves calmed as if they had never been stirred.

In a matter of minutes, Poseidon had the first-floor city flooded, and everyone drowned.

It was all his doing.

"Are you afraid?"

It was a twisted response.

First of all, Poseidon reacted as if he didn't care about Hephaestus's question.

But instead of feeling bad, Hephaestus only felt something strange.

"Not just his weird state."

Glug-.

That was his impression since Poseidon first descended to the lowest level of the Tower.

A place that someone like him, one of the Three Great Gods, should never have to visit.

For someone like Poseidon, this first-floor city was not a place that deserved attention as a base.

Furthermore...

"He's someone entirely different."

Poseidon's gaze was so different from what Hephaestus knew.

Otherwise, he wouldn't have descended directly to the first floor and caused such a commotion.

"He slaughtered people, disregarding the penalties. Unless it's a few Rankers, there's no way they can avoid such rain and tide."

Clang-.

Hephaestus gripped his hammer and stared at Poseidon.

The next event was obvious.

"He'll come soon."

As soon as those words were spoken, the space ripped between Poseidon and Hephaestus, and the sky and earth trembled.

Kuung, kugugugu-.

The Arcane Power that connected the sky and earth erupted in fury. That fury was directed at Poseidon as if accusing the ruthless Poseidon.

And in the face of that weight, Poseidon smiled.

"That's right, that's correct."

A being who resisted Rankers' intervention more than anyone else in this Tower.

One who followed the laws and ruled the Tower.

"I've been waiting for you."

With a slight movement, the Administrator appeared in front of Poseidon.

Chapter 365

C365

Kung-.

The sky and earth trembled.

The appearance of the Administrator shook the world. Under the Administrator's enraged power, the waves started flowing backward.

The Administrator approached Poseidon.

"What are you thinking?"

Kugugugu-.

With just one word, Poseidon's shoulders were pressed down.

At the same time, his blue eyes shone. The Administrator was an entity that practically equated to a God in this Tower.

"It wasn't something done without thought."

"This is the only way to meet an Administrator."

The Administrator's eyebrows furrowed.

He expected Poseidon to be taken aback upon seeing him, but his reaction was entirely different from what was expected.

"Were you waiting for me?"

The fact that he challenged the Tower's laws to meet him and submerged the first-floor city in water was no ordinary matter.

It was audacious and arrogant. His attitude seemed to indicate that if he wished, he could easily overcome any obstacle.

Originally, he no longer intended to simply let it slide.

"You have committed a grave sin."

Bang-!

The Administrator's fist struck the air. A force that resonated in the atmosphere like an earthquake spread towards Poseidon.

And at that moment...

Shooo-!

A wave surged from below, blocking the Administrator's power and dispersing it into water droplets.

And suddenly...

Gripping a spear he had condensed with water in his hand, Poseidon aimed the tip at the Administrator.

"We have come to reclaim our world."

With the spear pointed at the Administrator.

-----

"...."

"...."

Silence filled the conference room.

A video of unknown origin.

Odin and Mimir wore expressions of disbelief as they watched the video through the player.

"It's not a manipulated video."

Though not as intelligent as Mimir, Odin was quite sharp himself.

Despite containing content that seemed unimaginable even to their eyes, he couldn't simply deny it.

"Leave..."

"But father...?"

"Go!"

In the face of Odin's firm voice, Loki hesitated for a moment and left the meeting room.

The three turned their gazes back to the playback device Loki had brought in again.

On the screen, the lifeless body of the Administrator with a sword through his chest was displayed.

"The Administrator was defeated."

An event that was hard to accept even after seeing it.

Mimir looked at Odin and asked him.

"Has this happened before?"

"Never."

The existence of Administrators in the Tower was akin to that of a God.

They possessed power greater than even the Great Guilds and indeed had the power and authority of a God.

There were those who said they were the ones who established the Tower's rules.

Although there were Rankers who fought against the occasional Administrator under the influence of their immense power, no record of a defeated or even injured Administrator could be found.

"Was their target the Administrators?"

"It's likely part of their objective."

"Part of their objective?"

"This secures their dominion over the first floor. Now, he can move freely without worrying about the Administrator. That was probably what Chronos wanted in the first place."

After hearing that, Mimir received the following words from YuWon.

"People from all the Great Guilds have received this video too. It has spread among all the Players."

"Everyone?"

Odin took out his own Player Kit to verify.

Sure enough, the story of Poseidon's actions had quickly spread among the Players.

An event that happened in the blink of an eye.

Mimir shook his head at the impact this would have.

"Some Guilds might feel perplexed but also intrigued. It will be the first case where a Ranker has defeated an Administrator and emerged from their shadow."

"Sure, they will think, 'What if I can too?' Some Guilds that believed in a symbiotic relationship with the Administrators will no longer want to be under their control."

The Guilds were somewhat like the government of this Tower.

But their scope of action was limited to the rules set by the Administrators. Many Guilds were not content with that.

"A Ranker capable of conversing with Mimir is something new."

Mimir had been cursed with knowledge.

He always saw a few moves ahead, and in that situation, even Odin had difficulty having a conversation with him.

But YuWon was able to have a smooth conversation with Mimir.

"The first-floor city has been flooded by Poseidon. Numerous Rankers and Players died, and even the Administrator who came to take action was also killed."

And Chronos shared that video with all the Players in the Tower.

And his words were clear.

"He's challenging anyone to come after him."

It was a bold and confident act.

It wouldn't have been easy to take such action without the certainty that no one would challenge him.

"He probably has one of two objectives. Whoever comes, I will kill them all. Or, whoever wants to escape from the shadow of the Administrators must come, and I will help them."

Therefore, they couldn't move too simplistically.

They still didn't know what kind of being Chronos had become, and why he was carrying out such actions.

Furthermore, they also needed to figure out how he had gained the confidence to confront the Administrators and turn numerous Guilds into enemies.

"Well, anyway, it's clear he's not on our side."

Tap~

YuWon stood up first from his seat.

They were the ones in a pressing position.

At this very moment, Poseidon's power would be increasing. He was preparing a base on the first floor to drag various Guilds to him.

They needed to hurry.

Because the longer it took, the larger the cracks would become, and it would be difficult to control them.

'Sorry, sir.'

As he stood up, YuWon shook off the last remnants of Chronos that remained in him.

With the weapon at his waist...

'It will probably... hurt a bit.'

YuWon made a silent decision.

It was time to aim that sword at himself.

-----

After the death of the Administrator, three days had passed.

During those three days, Poseidon didn't leave or go anywhere. Instead, he sat quietly over the sea he had created himself.

Swoosh...

A city turned into a sea of water.

Poseidon sat on top of the tallest building and looked around.

"...I like this place."

This was his kingdom.

A world made of the sea.

The wind was filled with the scent of the ocean, and the sound of the waves enveloped him. Even the air was humid.

Everything in this world was made for him.

And there was something else.

Swoosh, swoosh...

An army lined up in front of Poseidon.

Thousands of Players and Rankers knelt before him, bowing their heads.

Among them, a man with a face that resembled a young Poseidon approached.

"As you ordered, everyone has been gathered."

Theseus.

He was Poseidon's son and a Ranker tasked with obtaining the Divine Crystal of the Sea.

Since Poseidon got trapped in Asgard's prison, Theseus had patiently waited for his return.

However, he never imagined his return would be like this.

'He has completely changed.'

Theseus's expression, kneeling in front of Poseidon, constantly shifted between anticipation and excitement.

'The Administrator has been defeated. There are no penalties left in this world.'

The Administrator was like a god in this World.

His words were the law, and no Guild, no matter how large, could stand against him.

However...

The invincible Administrator finally fell at the hands of Poseidon.

"The Nova Guild wishes to join you."

"The Twelve Arcs Guild wishes to join you."

"The Guild..."

Theseus conveyed the messages to Poseidon.

Messages from those who wanted to join Poseidon after defeating the Administrator.

All of them were medium to large-sized Guilds.

"It seems like everyone wants to escape from the shadow of the Administrators."

"And who else is there?"

"There was also a guy who sent a message as an individual rather than a Guild."

Tic...

Theseus swiped his Player Kit screen in front of Poseidon.

On the screen, a man with black hair and a pale, long face appeared.

"Satan. He's recently risen rapidly to the seventh place in the rankings. Apart from being a High-Ranker of the Demon Race, not much is known about him."

"This guy too?"

"Yes. He wants to join as well."

A High-Ranker in seventh place in the rankings.

His power would surely surpass that of many Great Guilds. From Poseidon's perspective, it was as if he had gained a formidable military force.

"Is the purpose the same for all of them?"

"Yes. They want help and to escape from the shadow of the Administrators."

"And Satan? What about him?"

"As for him..."

Theseus furrowed his brow for a moment before lifting his head.



"We don't know his purpose yet."

"Really?"

Poseidon pondered something for a moment before raising his head.

"Well, it doesn't matter."

"...?"

What does it mean it doesn't matter?

Poseidon's eyes stared at Theseus. Theseus, who was trying to discern the meaning in his words, opened his mouth again.

"Just as you said, until three days from now, an agreement has been reached to gather here. Starting from that day, we will announce the establishment of the 'Sea' Guild."

A Guild separate from Olympus.

If Poseidon, who was said to be invincible, became the center, it wouldn't be too difficult to create a Guild that rivaled Asgard. After all, there were many Guilds dissatisfied with the Administrators.

"My father's ranking has already entered single digits."

Although the Ranking Management Office was overseen by the Administrators, it was clear in its handling of matters.

Poseidon's ranking, which was near the end of the two digits, quickly entered single digits. The incident in which he killed the Administrator had a significant impact on his ranking.

"My father's led Guild will become a giant Guild, a force beyond that. It will be a unique Guild that won't be under the control of the Administrators."

Theseus regarded that dream as something not far in the future. With Poseidon by his side, there would be nothing they couldn't achieve in the world.

But...

"You've grown a bit lately."

Jebuk-.

A voice infiltrated the majestic hall, cooling Theseus's dream.

Poseidon's gaze turned to the owner of the voice.

"Have you come?"

It was a calm greeting, as if he had been waiting.

Step-.

A man with dazzling golden hair walked on the water as if it were a solid surface. The man gracefully passed through Poseidon's soldiers. The soldiers involuntarily moved aside, trembling unconsciously to let him through.

It wasn't due to any special threat or an overwhelming force that could be felt.

It was the powerful 'presence' that only someone who had occupied the throne for a long time could have.

It was 'majesty.'

"Z-Z-Ze..."

Theseus struggled to say something, but the words seemed to have gotten stuck in his throat.

"Zeus...?"

Why the hell is he here?

"You've gone a bit too far with your jokes."

Crack, crackle-.

Zeus, who was surrounded by golden currents all over his body, stopped in front of Poseidon.

"Younger 'brother'."

Chapter 366

C366

Craaaack, crackle-.

When Zeus appeared, all surrounding sounds disappeared.

No one dared to approach or even raise their head towards him.

The reason was singular.

Because he was Zeus.

"Answer."

Craaaack, crack, crack-.

"Ugh...!"

"Krrgh...!"

An electric shock ran through their bodies.

The pain that spread across their shoulders and their entire bodies due to Zeus's wrath was indescribable.

A power that overwhelmed thousands of Rankers and Players individually.

"Did you really think you'd get away with this?"

He wasn't saying this just to Theseus and the other Players.

But also to Poseidon.

A message directed at him, who killed the Administrator and seized the first floor, carrying out unimaginable actions.

Zeus's gaze turned back to Poseidon.

Although Zeus had appeared, Poseidon showed no signs of shock in his eyes.

"You're still arrogant."

Bang!

The waves surged.

The magic that began to grow around Poseidon made Zeus curl his lips.

"The confidence of a weakling can be arrogance, but for those who have power, it becomes majesty."

"That's why it's arrogance."

Kyaah-!!

Kya-!

The waves roared. Dozens, hundreds of waves turned into dragons and bared their teeth at Zeus.

On the head of one of those dragons, Poseidon, who was standing on it, blinked his blue eyes.

"You won't defeat me."

"...You've changed quite a bit, haven't you?"

Crack-!

Lightning bolted in Zeus's hand.

Poseidon's magic and Zeus's magic clashed in the air.

Neither gave way first. A lance made of water also formed in Poseidon's hand.

Since hearing the news that the Administrator died at Poseidon's hands, he found it strange.

"He seems like a different person."

His personality had changed.

Until now, Poseidon had been a half-crazy, temperamental, and timid person who couldn't do important things at the right time.

That's why, among his two older brothers, Zeus especially ignored Poseidon.

But what's happening now?

"It seems he's acquired majesty."

Of course, Players become stronger as they level up and polish their skills.

But even if they become stronger, they don't change their innate disposition or acquire something they didn't have from the beginning.

"What happened at the peak?"

If Poseidon also went through a trial like him and thus obtained a divine rank and divine power.

Perhaps this transformation would be possible.

But it didn't seem to be such a simple reason. Zeus himself went through that process to obtain his divine rank, so he knew it well.

"It's suspicious."

The premonition was so strong he felt like his nose would wrinkle.

And when Zeus had that kind of premonition, it was always true.

So...

"Well..."

He had no choice but to confirm it himself.

"Why don't you show that power that killed the Administrator?"

Craaaack-!!

The battle between the two Gods began in the First Floor World, where the Administrator was no longer present.

-----

"Ugh, ugh."

"Ugh-!"

Craaarck, crack, crack-le!

Theseus and the other Rankers scattered in all directions.

It was to avoid being hit by the Lightning Bolt and Tsunami.

The combat between two Gods with similar powers was such that not even individual Rankers dared to intervene.

"What should we do?"

"It's Zeus he's facing."

Craaaaaack-!

Another Lightning Bolt struck from the sky once more.

The sea surged, and the Tsunami crashed into Zeus's body. The storm of water and lightning mixed and whipped about.

Performing natural disasters effortlessly. The battle between Zeus and Poseidon was a level even high-level Rankers wouldn't dare to interrupt.

"Even if it's my father, I can't guarantee it."

No.

He wouldn't have been able to say that in the first place.

Zeus, who was he?

The great King of Olympus, a recognized High Ranker even within this Tower.

For those with enemies in Olympus, it would be difficult for them to dare mention that name.

But now...

Teseo couldn't hide his excited expression despite having words of concern in his mouth.

'It's for real.'

Teseo cast his gaze upon Poseidon, who was battling in the sea.

'He's really becoming an opponent.'

It was ambivalent.

Although he had confirmed his father's fight through the video, defeating an Administrator...

Above all, the existence of Administrators was like the heavens to Players; just by looking, they couldn't grasp how high they were.

But Zeus was different.

For Olympus Players, he was someone who stood in a place higher than anyone else. It would be unthinkable for someone to cause him trouble or defeat him.

Moreover, at this moment, his position had not only returned to its former state but had risen even higher.

"What about the other Guilds? No news from any of them?"

It was time to call for help from nearby Guilds. If Poseidon were to be defeated by Zeus here, everything would be over.

"That's..."

"What's that? Speak up!"

"It's a bit complicated right now."

"What?"

"We've received an order from Asgard..."

"Asgard?"

"Yes, they told us not to help Poseidon."

Teseo's spine chilled.

He thought they would eventually clash, but Asgard was already moving.

No, it wasn't just that they were moving.

'If they've issued an order, it means they've already unsheathed their swords. Why?'

The first floor wasn't Asgard's territory. And it's not like Asgard and the Administrators had a close relationship.

One day, when the Sea Guild made its way and went floor by floor, pushing out the Administrators, they might clash with Asgard's territory, but this was too fast.

"Still, we've asked other Guilds to hurry up and come to help."

"I've done that too."

If several other Grand Guilds, including Satan, came to their aid, stopping Zeus wouldn't be so difficult.

'Yes, that's good.'

It turned out better than expected.

Capture Zeus here and then start deploying the Sea Guild.

Maybe it could be even better than what they had originally planned.

The problem was Asgard.

'No, there's no problem.'

Kwak-.

Teseo clenched his fist.

Right now, he was certain.

The fate of the Tower would change depending on the outcome of this battle.

Right now, he was on a historic scene.

And maybe because of that conviction.

No one noticed that the color of the sky was gradually changing to purple.

Except for two people.

-----

YuWon and Odin, who were traveling on Asgard's ship, briefly stepped out to the bow.

You could see white landscapes passing rapidly before them. They were the sights between the Tower's floors.

"What's the next floor?"

"It's the Seventh Floor."

"Seventh floor..."

YuWon calculated the remaining time.

Fortunately, Asgard's ship was as fast a means of transport as the Sun Chariot.

Maybe a few more hours.

With that, they should be able to reach the bottom of the Tower.

"What about Mimir?"

"He's resting a bit."

"Well, using his Vision for several days must have been exhausting."

After that response, Odin closed his eyes again and turned his gaze outward.

It was as if he didn't want to talk for much longer. Not getting a response, YuWon sat away from him.

'Is he preparing?'

Until the Ragnarok, Odin rarely personally got involved in battles.

He already had enough strength to be known as the strongest among active rankers, and finding someone who wanted to fight him had been difficult.

A long time ago, the senses had dulled due to prolonged rest.

This time, Odin seemed to be regaining them.

How much time had passed since then?

"I have a bad feeling," he said.

Odin opened his eyes again and spoke.

"It seems like this battle will be the beginning of an even greater struggle."

There was no way to explain the nature of his unease with words.

But it was more a certainty than a feeling.

There would soon be an even bigger fight.

The death of the Administrator and the collapse of the city on the first floor were just the beginning; that's what Odin felt.

"Why do you think that?"

"Satan has started to move."

Satan.

That guy who became a single-digit High Ranker just before Son OhGong appeared.

Before becoming a High Ranker, he didn't show great talent, but at some point, his ranking rose rapidly.

A long time ago, there was a famous story about a Medium Guild that clashed with Satan and disappeared without a trace in his hands.

"He's a fatalist/apocalyptic. The destruction of the Tower is his only concern."

"I know."

"You know?"

Odin made an expression as if he didn't know how he knew that for a moment, but he nodded shortly after.

"It seems something happened on your part as well. Sometimes I forget that you come from the future."

"I always thought we'd cross paths at some point. That guy really caused us a lot of trouble."

Somehow, though he didn't know how, Satan moved early. But YuWon felt that things turned out well.

Anyway, at some point, they would have to face that guy.

If they resolved it here, they would have one less problem to deal with later.

"The fact that Satan has moved means that this matter drew him in. It's almost as if he's close to his damnation."

"Due to the death of the Administrator, I suppose."

"The collapse of the system is such a dangerous task. Not only Satan, but also Nova, Zodiac, Dragon Palace, and various Guilds have allied with Poseidon and are working together. That's how the rift began."

A Tower without an Administrator.

Guilds seeking advancement and revolution to a higher level.

System change always brings blood with it.

They dreamed of expelling the Administrators, focusing their attention on Poseidon.

"That rift...".

Rumble-.

It was then...

Within the white landscape, another ship gradually approaching came into YuWon's view.

"I see another ship here."

Just in case, he confirmed through the Golden Cinder Eyes.

Misinterpreting an innocent passing ship would be a big problem.

"That pattern... is it the Zodiac Guild?"

The Zodiac Guild. It was a Guild that allied with Poseidon.

Like Odin and YuWon, if they were taking a ship and heading to the lower floors, the destination was obvious.

Odin and YuWon's eyes met. Both realized they had similar thoughts just through their glances.

As they went up to the front of the ship, Odin asked:

"Has Zeus arrived yet?"

"He informed me, but it seems he still doesn't remember Chronos."

"So how did he get here?"

"He didn't have any restrictions to begin with. He simply moved on his own."

"Really?"

Swish-.



With one hand holding a sword and the other holding Gungnir, Odin assumed a throwing stance.

"So, before we get there, we'll have to take care of those despicable guys."

"I agree."

Screech-.

The opponent was the Zodiac Guild.

The entire Guild didn't move, but it was still a massive Guild.

On the other hand, on YuWon's side, they brought a minimal number of people due to their haste.

But YuWon wasn't worried at all.

'Let's work together after so long.'

After all, the strongest warrior was by his side.

Chapter 367

C367

A massive ship.

At the bow of the ship heading towards the lower part of the Tower, countless Players had gathered.

"We're about to arrive."

"I'm nervous."

"Zeus and Poseidon are really fighting, right?"

"Yes, can we trust that guy?"

"Hey, he killed the Administrator."

"Can we really trust him? No one has actually seen him..."

"Too many doubts. Haven't you seen that guy's ranking?"

"Silence!"

Thump!

An impact shook the ship and made the Players stagger for a moment.

Thump, thump, thump.

A gigantic man walked towards the bow through the ship's lower deck.

Standing at roughly three meters tall, he had a face that resembled a mix of a bull and a human.

A High Ranker from the Zodiac Guild, Minota, occupying the position of the Taurus Zodiac Star.

"Don't doubt and get ready. There will be a big battle soon."

"Yes!"

"Yes!"

Resounding responses.

Even within the Zodiac Guild, opinions were divided on this matter.

Some doubted Poseidon's abilities, and others delayed the decision, saying it was too risky a gamble.

However, it was a decision that more than half of the 12 Zodiac Stars agreed upon.

A total of nine out of the twelve votes agreed. Changing the decision would be impossible unless the Zodiac Guild was falling apart.

Kwak.

Leaning on the spear's haft, Minota squinted as he looked forward.

This fight held significant meaning for the Zodiac Guild.

Administrators.

Monsters that hindered their expansion throughout the Tower.

Simply driving away those who controlled this world with an ambiguous claim of maintaining order and becoming the owners of this world.

That was the aspiration the Zodiac Guild had.

"The time has come to fulfill our dream."

A deep voice.

When Minota spoke, the Players gathered on the deck paid attention to his voice.

"To achieve our desires and become the best in this Tower..."

"It reminds me of when I was in school in the past."

The corner of Minota's mouth twisted.

He looked among the Zodiac Guild Players with open eyes.

He wanted to see the guy who had interrupted his speech.

"You were just like the director back then."

Despite the teasing tone, his expression was serious.

He was a handsome young man with a sharp jaw. He didn't have any particularly standout features.

However, for some reason, his face seemed familiar.

"Kim YuWon?"

Someone recognized YuWon's face, and the other Players, including Minota, repeated the name like an epidemic.

"Kim YuWon?"

"Really?"

"Kim YuWon is here?"

Hundreds of Players on the bow of the ship began to make noise. Upon hearing the commotion, the other Players and Rankers of the Zodiac Guild who were inside the ship also came outside.

"Are they all just muscle heads? No one reacts interestingly."

"What is Kim YuWon doing here?"

Thump, thump.

Minota advanced, causing the surroundings to tremble as he approached.

And not just him, but also the five high-level Rankers of the Zodiac Guild who appeared following the commotion.

'The bull, the ram, the crab, the scorpion, and the archer, most of them are here...'

With his Golden Cinder Eyes, YuWon examined the numbers and the Ranker Bosses on board.

The Zodiac Guild was a Great Guild composed of 12 High Rankers in total.

And among the High Rankers on board the ship, the highest in the hierarchy was Minota, who stood before him.

"Don't you have anything to say?"

Thud.

Minota stepped closer until he was right in front of YuWon.

In YuWon's memory, Minota was ranked in the top 100. But this place was close to the Zodiac Guild's headquarters, so YuWon could understand Minota's arrogant reaction.

"I've come to warn you."

"Warn me?"

Minota's eyebrows furrowed at YuWon's response.

His bovine features wrinkled, and he exuded an air of intimidation. The word 'warning' seemed to bother him.

"You're going to help Poseidon, right?"

"If so?"

"Turn back where you came from."

"...what?"

Minota's eyes widened, and his pupils turned red. He quickly approached YuWon, exuding an imposing force like a bull preparing to charge.

Thump-.

For a moment, the ground trembled beneath their feet.

Unless he was a fool, Minota could tell that YuWon's comment was not advice but rather a threat. It was only natural for his anger to ignite.

"Do you dare to tell me to do...?"

"If you don't leave, I will sink you."

"Do you think you can do it alone?"

YuWon raised his head upon hearing a voice coming from above.

It was a woman with long arms and legs hanging from a mast. She was another High Ranker from the Zodiac Guild.

All the High Rankers of the Zodiac Guild were ranked between the Top 200 and 300. While only the highest-ranking High Ranker occupied the position of Guild Leader, the guild's overall skill level was comparable to the Celestial Realm or the Demon Kings.

In comparison, YuWon's position was in the Top 50.

Although YuWon held a fairly high position, he was alone.

There were five High Rankers here, including Minota, and dozens of Rankers.

First of all, there was nothing to fear in a fight against YuWon, as they moved with a fight against the Administrators in mind.

But...

"Is it a refusal?"

First of all, it was assumed that YuWon was alone.

"Look behind you."

"Behind?"

"What's behind...?"

Minota turned his head and realized that a small boat had come close enough to be in his field of vision.

A ship designed to travel between the Tower's Floors.

Since they rode the same type of ship, even if they were of different sizes, he could recognize it.

"It can't be... can it?"

The flying ship was Asgard's symbol and its main product for sale.

Many Guilds used Asgard's ships.

The chances that the people on board that ship were Asgard Rankers were slim.

But...

For some reason, Minota felt an intense anxiety like never before.

"I'll ask again."

It was then that YuWon's words continued.

"Is it a refusal?"

A repeated proposal.

For some reason, this time it sounded much more intimidating. That was why Minota's firm response, when he was alone, was delayed for a second.

But in the end...

Minota's answer didn't change.

"Even if it's Odin on that ship, our Zodiac Guild won't surrender."

"Oh?"

The corner of YuWon's mouth curved upward.

The first change in his expression.

"I hope that's true."

Swoosh-.

YuWon turned around.

"Where do you think you're going after causing this commotion-?"

Swoooooosh-.

YuWon disappeared into the shadow of the ground.

Minota and the accompanying Rankers were left bewildered for a moment as they lost their target.

What happened?

Bam, bam!

It was at that moment that a huge surge of Arcane Power erupted from Asgard's ship.

"...?"

Something had gone wrong.

When that thought occurred, it was already too late.

In Minota's view, he could see Odin standing at the ship's bow, holding a giant spear in his hand and assuming a throwing stance.

And at that moment...

Quooooooooong-!

The Gungnir flew from his hand.

-----

Crack, crack-.

Odin, who had thrown the Gungnir, looked down.

The ship was breaking into pieces as it fell. The Gungnir had precisely shattered the heart of the ship, including the core.

It was a light throw. However, from the beginning, he couldn't help but worry about the fight that would come if he threw the Gungnir.

Still, from that height, unless they were Rankers, survival would be difficult.

Moreover, YuWon didn't want to waste any more time in this place.

-"Go ahead."

With those words, YuWon disappeared instantly.

There were no more words. YuWon pursued the ship he had brought down himself, not giving others a chance to follow.

He seemed to be trying to deal with those who were left behind by himself.

Odin watched the Zodiac Guild Rankers getting further away and turning into dots.

"The opponent is the Zodiac Guild."

The Zodiac Guild was a Grand Guild.

Although it might not have been the guild's full strength, Odin doubted whether YuWon could handle it alone.

And then, suddenly...

"Maybe I'm worrying too much."

Odin felt annoyed with himself for worrying about someone.

This was the one who had gone through Ragnarok and emerged victorious. He had defeated much larger foes like Olympus, the Three Precious Children, and Muspelheim.

There was nothing as trivial as worrying about someone like YuWon, who had come out victorious from those battles.

"It shouldn't take him too long."

With a snap, the Gungnir was retrieved into Odin's hand.

Without a trace, Odin's ship began to descend to the first floor.

-----

Kwang, kwah, kwang-!

Kung, kurrur-!

The shattered ship crashed to the ground. Minota landed on both feet, and the other Rankers also survived using their respective skills and powers.

Of course, not everyone was in that situation.

"Ughhh..."

"Ughh..."

"My legs...!"

"Help! We're up here..."

Players who were left battered and with broken bones from the impact of the fall lay among the ship's wreckage.

Minota looked at the Zodiac Guild Players with a bewildered expression.

Shriek~

"Really... it was Odin..."

The ship they were on had burst into flames after being struck by that guy's spear, and more than half of the forces on board died or were injured.

A sudden attack.

Rage surged through Minota's head, his eyes turning completely red.

And in that instant...

The face Minota had been chasing appeared before him.

Kak-.

It was YuWon, walking amidst the ship's wreckage.

"I see that we're somewhere on Floor 4. There's still a long way to go."

Yuwon casually looked at the twilight sky and the long river stretching far away as if nothing had happened.

A world he had already crossed once.

It wasn't too hard for him to guess which floor they were on.

"This bastard..."

Yuwon's calm and confident attitude further infuriated Minota.

"Are you one of them too?"

Certainly, YuWon and Odin seemed to be cooperating.

He didn't know why they were blocking their path or what their purpose was, but those things didn't matter too much.

Right now, what mattered to Minota was that YuWon dared to harm his Zodiac Guild.

"How dare you...!"

Kung-, kung-, kung-.

Minota's legs swelled, and his strength transmitted through the floor towards YuWon.

If Olympus had Hercules, the Zodiac Guild had Minota.

Minota had as impressive a reputation as the famous Hercules of Olympus.

Swhoosh-.

Yuwon reached out his hand.

He didn't have a weapon in his hand. Once he got closer, the fight would be unarmed, with only their own hands.

And that's what Minota desired.

"Are you challenging me with your strength?"

In reality, he didn't have the confidence to face the Ranker right in front of him in a one-on-one fight.

But now things had changed.

"Arrogant."

"If in Olympus there's Hercules..."

Clank-.

"...!"

A firm grip.

Minota's eyes widened.

The small hand, like that of a child, grabbed and squeezed Minota's hand.

"In the Zodiac Guild, there's Minota."

Kkuudeuk, kkudeuk-.

His right arm swelled.

The corners of YuWon's mouth lifted slightly.

"Who's the arrogant one now?"

[The strength of a Giant is rooted in your arm] ([The strength of a Giant takes root in your arm])

Chapter 368

C368

Kak, kak...

Minota, trapped in YuWon's grip, struggled with all his might to break free.

But he couldn't.

Kak...

The grip's strength tightened more and more, as if he was caught in a deep, sturdy trap.

"Haaah...!"

Thud!

Finally, Minota fell to his knees and screamed desperately.

"Kwaaah!"

Minota was even taller than YuWon.



However, to the other Rankers, YuWon, who was partially hidden behind Minota, looked much larger.

"Minota-nim..."

"Is he losing in strength?"

Minota.

A High-Ranker of the Zodiac Guild, representing the Sign of Taurus.

With a ranking of 102, he was known as someone who would become a double-digit High-Ranker in a few years.

His might rivaled that of Hercules, or at least that's what he claimed. His strength was recognized by everyone in the Zodiac Guild.

But here he was, being overpowered by someone who wasn't even Hercules.

It was an incredible scene to witness.

"Was Kim YuWon also a strength-focused user?"

"I heard he wields a sword..."

"He must surely have skills..."

"What's going on? Was the information wrong?"

Known Rankers usually had distinctive characteristics.

Some fought with weapons, others specialized in close combat using their strength, and some even used magic skills.

And with those characteristics came specific tactics to face them.

Yuwon had his own specialty too.

It was said he fought from a distance using weapons like swords or spears.

Naturally, the Rankers who had prepared to fight him were left baffled.

"If anyone knows how to deal with a strong fighter, it's me."

Whoosh...

Robin, the High-Ranker of the Zodiac Guild representing the Sign of Sagittarius (Archer), leaped onto Minota's shoulder.

An impressive jump that took him to the heights of the sky.

"Robin?"

"Yes, if the opponent is a strength specialist, he'll be able to help us."

"It's lucky that Robin is with us."

Words of relief were spoken by the Zodiac Guild Rankers.

Robin was the fastest High-Ranker in the Zodiac Guild.

Physical strength users had the common characteristic of having great strength but limited combat reach and slow movements.

For such users, Robin was practically a natural enemy.

Shing...

With a bow in one hand, Robin aimed at YuWon.

The bowstring was taut.

"Physical strength users will never be able to catch me..."

At that moment...

Boooooom!

A column of fire surged towards the sky.

After reaching the sky's heights, the column fell back down, and the burnt Robin fell helplessly to the ground.

"Kyaaaah...!"

Clang~

Robin, whose eyes went blank, fell behind YuWon. From the kneeling Minota to Robin, who had fallen and got caught in the column of fire. In an instant, two of the Zodiac Guild's High-Rankers collapsed.

It was then that YuWon's other hand grabbed Minota's head and slammed it against the ground.

Crack!

Minota was left with his head stuck to the ground.

"I don't have much time."

Yuwon then released his hand and began walking towards the other Zodiac Guild High-Rankers.

An electric shock crackled in his hand.

"Since I can't wait for you to come first..."

Odin was sent first.

Yuwon couldn't afford to waste time here.

"I'll strike first from this side."

Yuwon threw up a Golden Lightning Bolt he had in his hand.

Then...

Kwoong!

In the twilight sky, a yellow Lightning Bolt began to descend.

[The 'Uranus Heart' creates a 'Lightning Bolt']

"What... what is this?"

The Zodiac Guild Rankers were taken aback as they saw the Lightning Bolt surging in the sky.

There was no place to dodge. They couldn't block it either.

Rank 53.

A High-Ranker rivaling Hades, one of the Three Great Gods of Olympus.

They didn't dare to underestimate him.

That's what they thought.

"This is unlike anything..."

"Rank 53? That's absurd..."

"Damn it, what the hell is happening!"

Rank 53 was an incomprehensible classification.

Not even the Guild Leader of the Zodiac Guild, representing the Lion, had power like this.

From the outset, the amount of Arcane Power that YuWon's ability emanated was of a different dimension.

Power that could change the world. In the Tower, there wouldn't be more than thirty people capable of that.

"Let's run first!"

"Really?"

"We have nowhere to go if we run! If we fight together, surely..."

"Damn it, I don't even know what to do!"

The Rankers turned and fled.

Even those who wanted to face the Lightning Bolt.

Decisions varied depending on the situation, but everyone had the same thought.

After this fight... Kim YuWon's ranking would surely be much higher than it is now.

Crack!

Kugugugung...

The Lightning Bolt fell from the sky. Terror-filled screams were drowned in the Arcane Power storm that swept a wide area.

And in the midst of that storm...

"I'll bind your movements!"

There were still those who wouldn't give up.

Chwaaak...

The High-Ranker of the Aries Sign of the Zodiac Guild, with his snowy hair surrounding YuWon.

"I'll cut his legs."

The High-Ranker of the Cancer Sign, with his four Crab-shaped swords poised to cut both of YuWon's legs.

Finally...

Sshh...

Quietly, a drop of green poison splashed towards YuWon's neck.

Almost at the same time, the High-Rankers pounced from three directions.

At that moment, when all the attacks were about to hit YuWon...

Zing, Zasujung-!

Chyaa-!

Pu-ah...

Something emerged from YuWon's shadow and blocked the attacks.

Kang, Gagagang-.

Tsrrrk-.

The four swords aimed at his legs fell to the ground. The hair surrounding his body was cut into countless red lines and dispersed like dust.

Finally, the venomous needle pierced the arm of the man who appeared in front of YuWon.

-It's poisonous.

Chiii-.

The flesh where the needle pierced melted.

The man showed no signs of surprise.

-Are these the Rankers of the Zodiac Guild?

"S-Susanoo?"

-Oh, that guy. It's been a long time.

The High-Ranker of the Cancer Sign, wielding four swords with four arms, was startled when he recognized Susanoo.

Susanoo.

The strongest of the Three Precious Children. Cancer and Susanoo had once clashed a long time ago.

Of course, Cancer had been defeated.

Back then, he had suffered such a blow that he couldn't wield a sword for a while.

-What do I do with them?

Holding Kusanagi in his hand, Susanoo asked with an expectant voice, as if he were asking for orders quickly.

After coming out into the outside world after a long time and starting to wield his sword again, he had a demonic expression once more.

And, of course, YuWon's response to that question was obvious.

"Eradicate them."

Since Susanoo was summoned, that was already decided.

-----

At the same time.

Kwaang-!

Not far from there, in another world, a force of the same attribute made a thunderous noise.

Kugung, Kugugu-.

Under the attack of a Lightning Bolt falling from the sky, Poseidon was buried deep in the earth.

Great craters.

The falling Lightning Bolt announced as if it were the end of the world, emitting a deafening noise once again.

Kwarrung-!

Like a scene from a horror movie, Zeus emerged under the dazzling Lightning Bolt. In the midst of the enormous craters, Zeus looked at the fallen Poseidon.

"Are you dead?"

Crack, crackle-.

If he was still alive, he seemed on the brink of ceasing to breathe.

Zeus looked at Poseidon as he held another Lightning Bolt in his hand.

Unlike the corpses lying on the ground, there were no major wounds on Poseidon's body.

As expected.

Crack-.

Leaning on one hand, Poseidon slowly rose from the ground.

"You really know how to say arrogant words with impeccable courtesy."

It was a relaxed voice as if he were asking what had happened. In the midst of the water flowing beneath the vanished city and the craters, Poseidon raised his dust-covered face.

"So, is this it?"

He was truly fed up.

How many times had he risen again until now?

"Elder brother, you resemble a cockroach."

Poseidon's attribute was water.

And Arcane Power of the water attribute specialized in defense.

Even partly, in healing.

Therefore, Poseidon, who possessed the power of the sea, was more specialized in long-term battles than anyone else.

By protecting his body and recovering, he could fight endlessly.

The only way to defeat Poseidon was to attack with force that surpassed his defense and recovery.

And Zeus believed he had the ability to do that.

But...

"Thanks for the compliment."

It didn't go as expected.

Wriggling, the moisture surrounding Poseidon's body stirred.

Not only around Poseidon.

Gwud, Gwudeuk-.

A pressure that crushed Zeus's body.

Swish-.

Poseidon reached out his hand towards Zeus, who stood atop the sky.

"Do you know?"

Kwaaaah-.

Poseidon's hand clenched. And along with the force of his grip, the force applied to Zeus's body also grew more intense.

"Water is everywhere."

Ggudeuk, Gwudeuk-.

Zeus's arm twisted. What Poseidon was intensely targeting was the arm holding the Lightning Bolt.

Crack, crack-le

The Lightning Bolt trembled unsteadily.

As the arm moved, so did the shape of the Lightning Bolt he held in his hand.

Zeus's gaze turned to his own arm, which was being crushed and twisted by the pressure.

To be able to apply so much pressure from this distance?

"It seems you've improved not only in endurance and recovery."

Poseidon had become stronger.

He was sure that now he was an entirely different person than he used to be.

"But, you know something?"

Gguuuuk-.

The arm swelled.

The water crushing Zeus's arm gradually returned to its place. Veins stood out clearly, and the Lightning Bolt in his hand regained its strength.

"I'm stronger than you."

Kwarrung-!

The Lightning Bolt burst with a furious noise. The moisture that had wrapped around Zeus's arm dispersed, and the momentum passed in an instant.

Kwarrung, Kwarrung-!

That wasn't all.

Hundreds of Lightning Bolts began to surround Poseidon. Zeus descended slowly from the sky and positioned himself at Poseidon's level.

A storm of furious lightning.

This time, unlike before, he didn't immediately attack Poseidon's body.

"What are you doing...?"

"I remember now."

It wasn't a short period.

When Zeus looked at Poseidon, he could be sure that this wasn't the elder brother he had always known.

And now...

"Who are you?"

Through Poseidon's eyes in front of him, Zeus saw a completely different face.

Swish-.

Saying that, Zeus looked up at the sky.

The sky gradually began to change color to purple. It wasn't the first time Zeus had seen this purple sky.

It was probably the second time.

The first time was when he was dragged from the throne of Olympus and descended, and the second time was...

"Thank that guy. Because I was able to see you again."

It was when that person appeared in front of him on the day the purple sky opened.

The day when countless Outsiders from outside the Tower were revealed...

"That's right, isn't it? Father."

It was he who appeared in front of Zeus at that moment.

Chapter 369

C369

"It's chaos lately!"

"Indeed, it is. Zeus got dragged down, then Ragnarok happened. And now, even an Administrator..."

Zzrrr-.

A commotion in broad daylight.

The Martial World of Floor 10 of the Tower. Players seated amidst the crowd drank and ate snacks.

"It's the end of times, isn't it? What will the world be like now?"

"If the Administrator is dead, what will happen to Floor 1?"

"Who knows? It's probably going to be a total disaster."

"Yes, but, on the other hand, I feel a bit liberated."

"Why?"

"Well, we don't have restrictions anymore. They say there are no penalties now, right?"

"Really? So, is that a good thing?"

"Bah, how can it be good that an Administrator has died? Without them, this Tower will turn into total chaos."

"No, but..."

A world without Administrators.

It was the hottest topic among Players lately.

For those who had been born and raised in the Tower, the existence of Administrators was like the air they breathed, always present.

And the same applied to new Players entering the Tower; the absence of Administrators was inconceivable to them.

The entire Tower system revolved around Administrators, and a world without them was hard to imagine.

But if there were no Administrators...

What would the world be like then?

No one could know. So opinions were divided, and those who wanted to break free from the influence of the Administrators emerged.

Of course...



"Anyway, what does it matter? It doesn't have anything to do with us."

For those who had settled on Floor 10 and had established themselves in the Martial World, it was a topic that didn't affect them much.

"I've been in this Tower for five hundred years..."

"Don't talk nonsense! It must be fifty years, and you're bragging again."

"Really?"

"How could you have lived for five hundred years with those skills? You surely would have aged and died a long time ago."

"Oh, let me tell you what I used to do back then, I..."

The conversation's topic quickly changed.

The news of Poseidon on Floor 1 killing the Administrators and forming new factions was something very distant to them.

Now, they were simply content to settle into a relatively peaceful world, looking for daily jobs and drinking to enjoy their days.

But...

Woong, woong-.

Uwoooooong-.

Players' Kits began vibrating in unison.

"Oh, wait a moment. I got a message on my Player Kit..."

"Me too."

"What's going on? All at the same time?"

They all received the same message on their Player Kits.

They didn't expect much.

These kinds of things happened often.

"Probably another announcement from some sect or guild..."

But...

"Eh?"

As they read the content of the message, Players began to rise from their seats one by one.

"I think... I should go see."

"Really? You too?"

"I'm a bit..."

"Idiots!"

Seeing their hesitant friends, one Player let out an irritated sigh.

"It's an opportunity, understand?"

Kwaak-.

With the Player Kit in hand.

Recalling the message he had received, he looked at his just-drunk liquor.

"An opportunity to fulfill our dream again."

-----

Craaack, crackle-.

A world surrounded by Golden Lightning Bolts.

In the midst of that world where all sounds disappeared, Poseidon spoke.

"Father..."

His eyes seemed lost in some distant place.

Zeus had never seen those eyes in Poseidon before.

In the midst of the storm of Golden Lightning Bolts raging in all directions, Chronos closed his eyes for a while.

Finally...

After a long while, he opened his eyes and asked.

"Do you remember me?"

"Chronos. The king who ruled my kingdom before I took control of Olympus. My father."

There were many ways to describe the person in front of him.

Zeus had finally remembered clearly who he was.

In fact, it would be more accurate to say that he finally "thought" of him.

"Why haven't I remembered you until now?"

Zeus was different from others.

Unlike friends or acquaintances, who became strangers if you forgot them, Zeus and Chronos were bound by blood.

There were no children without a father.

But Zeus had never thought of the existence of a "father" all this time.

It was strange to think about it.

Chronos: "So, what will happen now?"

Zeus imagined it.

If there was a blood connection, why hadn't he remembered his father until now? Or was it that, after such a long time, there had been some kind of contact that caused some change?

Zeus responded to Chronos's question.

"Do you think anything will change?"

Craaack, craackle-.

The storm of Golden Lightning Bolts surrounding them suddenly changed.

"You are my enemies."

"Why?"

"Because the Interior and the Exterior of this world cannot coexist."

Kyaaaah!

Like a roaring dragon, the Golden Lightning Bolts rose into the sky following Zeus's fingertips.

"Did you get your answer?"

Interior and Exterior.

Zeus had already divided the boundaries between both worlds.

Furthermore, he also knew that they wouldn't leave his world in peace.

"Return to your world."

Zeus understood it clearly.

Kwarrung-.

A gigantic storm of Golden Lightning Bolts covered Chronos's body. The earth crumbled, and in an instant, the world was engulfed in a golden glow.

Craaaaack, craacckle-.

And in the midst of the storm, Poseidon's body that occupied Chronos was torn to pieces and consumed by the flames.

The power of the sea that protected him was no longer of use.

"I hoped... it would be like this."

As his body was torn apart.

Tsutsu, tsutsutsu-.

Suddenly, the Golden Lightning Bolts flowing toward Chronos began to stop.

No.

Tsutsu-.

More than stopping, it began to retreat.

As if the rain flowing in the normal direction was returning to the sky.

The storm of Lightning Bolts that assailed Chronos, and the purpose of the Lightning Bolts that covered him above.

All Time went backward.

"Time..."

Zeus's eyes narrowed.

Reversing in Time.

It was clearly a unique ability that Chronos possessed.

In this vast Tower filled with mysteries of different dimensions, only Chronos wielded Time.

Time that rewound within the same space.

There were changes.

Zeus suddenly found himself face to face with Poseidon, who now stood at his eye level.

Or rather, he was looking at a man with the same face as his but with black hair and beard.

"You've aged a bit more than I remember."

"It's thanks to you."

Chronos's tone sounded calm.

It was a strange feeling.

It was obvious they hadn't seen each other for a long time. According to his memories, Chronos left Olympus a long time ago.

But why?

Zeus felt that the Chronos in front of him was strange, as if he were someone entirely unknown.

"What is it that you desire?"

"To reclaim our world."

"Our world...?"

Chronos's answer made Zeus raise his head.

Suddenly, the sky turned completely purple.

"Do you mean them?"

The gates had not yet opened.

But it wouldn't be strange for them to open at any moment.

"They're not afraid, even though they've been sent to their death."

Where is all this coming from all of a sudden?

Zeus murmured as he looked at Chronos again.

When Foolish Chaos opened the door, he entered this Tower.

He was someone from this world that Zeus remembered.

But contradictorily, he was also someone who did not belong to this world.

The energy emanating from him after leaving Poseidon's body proved it.

"What has happened?"

"##. ###"

A barely audible voice from the far end.

Zeus frowned as if asking what it said.

"#####. #####. ###."

"I can't hear you."

"Really?"

Chronos raised his head and looked upwards as he muttered.

"I see, since I don't have permission, I guess I can't talk about these things."

Permission?

Who is he talking about?

He couldn't make out anything important. Zeus felt frustration and decided to leave the answer to that question.

Instead...

"Then, let's change the question..."

Zeus asked another question.

"What are you trying to do here?"

As soon as those words were spoken...

Goooooh-.

In the purple sky...

Gigantic ships began to appear one after another.

From the ships sold in Asgard to transportation means created by various Guilds for moving between Tower floors.

Including the Great Guild Nova, as well as various medium-sized and small Guilds.

And even the Deva Guild, the largest Guild in the Tower by size alone.

Zeus's eyes lit up as he watched the stars begin to decorate the sky.

"With all these Guilds, do you really intend to capture the Administrators and turn the Tower upside down?"

Swoosh-.

Chronos raised his head and looked up at the sky where the Guilds appeared.

Dozens of ships and thousands, even tens of thousands, of Rankers and Players on board those ships.

Furthermore, many other Guilds and Players were gathering on the first floor.

"Everything is according to their plan."

The picture was slowly being painted.

Chronos had already seen this scene in a vision a long time ago.

Of course.

In the picture he had seen, Zeus was not here.

"Everything will flow as planned."

"...Do they really expect the Tower's destruction?"

Countless gazes turned toward him.

Zeus had never feared numbers. But this time was different.

Not only was the number of Rankers in the thousands, but there were also quite a few High-Rankers.

Moreover, there were several top Rankers that not even Zeus could ignore.

"It seems everyone got excited about the Administrator's death."

Indeed, who else could gather such strength in this Tower if not for the Administrator's death?

Thud, thud-.

Chronos's face transformed back into Poseidon's.

Anyway, they believed that Poseidon had captured the Administrator, so Chronos also changed his appearance to match.

Chronos, using the mask again, asked.

"Are you going to fight alone again?"

Again.

Zeus, as far as Chronos remembered, was truly a lone commander. Long before he was granted the Title of Three Great Gods, Zeus was exceptional and always took the lead in battling his enemies.

Chronos thought that this time wouldn't be any different.

However...

"You're wrong."

This battle was not like the previous ones.

"Unlike the older siblings who have never convinced me, this time I have someone 'by my side'."

Zwoooosh-.

The scattered Arcane Power in the air changed direction.

Arcane Power flowed towards a place, and a terrifying energy that seemed capable of consuming everything in the world blew in from afar.

"As long as those guys from the Outside are here, he won't just sit still."

Zeus turned his head towards the direction where the Arcane Power was gathering. Then, he saw a ship approaching in the distance.

A small ship that didn't fit this grand battlefield.

And at the bow of that ship, the emblem of the largest Guild was engraved.

"Asgard."

The corners of Chronos's eyes, who had Poseidon's face, trembled.

At the bow of the smaller ship that arrived later.

Odin was holding Gungnir, preparing for action.

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Dozens of ships filled the sky.

Each of them was enormous, capable of accommodating hundreds, even thousands of Players.

"It's impressive, isn't it?" said Agni, the High Ranker of the Veda Guild, as he licked his lips at the magnificent view that spread before him.

With his red hair waving in the wind, he walked to the bow of the ship. The sight that unfolded before his eyes was something not even a High Ranker like him, who had lived for thousands of years, had witnessed before.

"That's true. How many Guilds have gathered here?"

His words were interrupted when a brown-haired woman approached from behind Agni.

It was Kubera, another High Ranker of the Veda Guild, and she gazed up at the sky with an intrigued expression.

"If you add up the Small and Medium Guilds that barely managed to get a ship, it seems there are more than ten Guilds."

"Were there so many dissatisfied with the Administrators?"

"And yet, there are fewer than expected due to Asgard."

"That's right, they received a special order from Asgard."

The power of Asgard was overwhelming. Although they claimed to rule the Tower's order, no one dared to mock their influence.

So when Asgard issued an order not to cooperate with Poseidon, it was natural that frightened Guilds emerged.

Of course...

"Cowards," muttered the people of the Veda Guild. They were not a Guild that feared such an order.

Agni smirked as he observed the Guilds gathered before him.

"Asgard won't be able to turn a Guild like this into an enemy."

Veda was a formidable Guild even among the Great Guilds. While they might not be able to defeat Asgard in a war, they had enough strength not to be easily defeated.

The same could be said for the other Guilds present here.

Except for the Small and Medium Guilds, some had influence over an entire floor.

Furthermore, even the Great Guild, the Zodiac Guild, was on its way here.

Swoosh~

It was then that the flow of Arcane Power changed.

Water, air, fire, and all kinds of power attributes flowed in the air.

The mana floating in the air began to flow in a specific direction. Like an accelerated blue torrent, the movement of mana sped up.

"What's going on?"

Something seemed suspicious.

Agni was a High Ranker who had been in the Tower for thousands of years. His ranking position was 191. That meant there were fewer than two people in this whole world with more influence than him.

And that Agni was feeling something.

You can't say the sea is small just because the current is weak.

That was precisely the sense of power he felt at that moment.

"Agni!"

And Kubera felt something more than that too.

"Hey..."

"Yes."

Gulp-.

Sweat ran down Agni's forehead, and he swallowed hard.

"I know it too."

A clear face that appeared in the distance, as if they were looking at him through a telescope.

Odin was holding Gungnir in his hand.

"Gungnir is coming! Get ready!"

"It's Gungnir!"

The Veda Guild's Rankers prepared to defend.

Agni's flames unfolded, and Kubera's power caused the earth to rise to form a wall.



The other Guilds also became aware of Odin's presence on their ships.

"Stop him!"

Tens of thousands of Rankers began to manifest their abilities.

Rocks gathered, and an intangible barrier formed in the air.

Powers of various elements like fire, water, and wind blocked one direction.

Only one.

It was to stop Odin's spear, Gungnir.

Flash, crack-.

A powerful force shook violently.

But Agni wasn't worried.

'I've heard many rumors about Gungnir, but he's alone.'

Most of the people here were high-level Players.

And among them, there were thousands, tens of thousands of Rankers, and several High Rankers mixed in.

Could one individual penetrate a defense created by a force of this size?

Even a God would find that impossible.

Odin: 'Still, it's lucky.'

Flash, crack-.

Odin assumed a throwing posture as his body flexed.

Odin: 'Because I can't see Asgard's Rankers here.'

And so, in the moment Odin finished preparing to throw the spear.

Kwaang, kwarrang-!

The shape of Gungnir in Odin's hand began to change.

['Gungnir' is activated]

The message appeared in the minds of all who saw Gungnir.

That message was enough to bewilder the tens of thousands of Players.

"Eh?"

"What, what is this?"

"Hasn't it activated yet?"

The surprise was momentary.

Gungnir, with its activation underway, rose and absorbed all the power in the world.

FLASH-!

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Kwaang-!

A line stretched across the sky.

And beneath it, on the wreckage of shattered ships, Odin set foot.

"It's not a matter of how many numbers there are."

Thud-!

Among the fallen Rankers.

"A poorly coordinated defense is like a flimsy house that crumbles at the first gust of wind."

Swish-!

Toduk, toduduk-.

Odin looked up, where a gigantic golem of fire and rock loomed.

"Agni and Kubera, right? It seems they have survived."

Throwing Gungnir, Odin had nothing in his hands.

However, neither Agni nor Kubera could approach him easily.

Thud-!

Blood dripped from Agni's shoulder and fell to the ground.

The massive rock golem summoned by Kubera was also much smaller than what she could normally create, due to the injuries sustained while stopping Gungnir.

Swoosh-!

Agni watched as Rankers staggered to their feet amid the wreckage of the fallen ships.

Most of those caught within Gungnir's range had either disappeared without a trace or died instantly.

Being alive in these circumstances was almost a miracle.

"The attack reduced my strength by 20%."

Gungnir.

He had heard that name many times.

The Tower's strongest weapon, capable of piercing even a floor and flying beyond.

Although rumors were often exaggerated, he thought they were too extreme.

But it turned out he was wrong.

'How could it be so monstrous?'

There was a story circulating among Rankers, considered a myth.

It was said that among High Ranker Players, the differences in abilities were not so great.

Their rankings depended more on their power and influence than their actual skills.

And Agni fully agreed with that idea.

Even Kubera, who was right beside him, was ranked lower than him, but victory or defeat would depend on the condition the two were in.

He thought the same would apply to Odin.

But...

'He's a monster.'

This exceeded his imagination.

With a single blow, he swept away more than a dozen Rankers and tens of thousands of Players.

It was a thrilling sensation.

"If only that power were for our benefit..."

Agni's voice was filled with emotion.

How would it have been if that monster had been on their side?

It felt so comforting to think about it.

Of course.

"For your benefit..."

From Odin's perspective, that was completely impossible.

"The Administrators are our enemies. It sounds like you're saying that."

"Aren't they?"

"What they desire is order and balance."

"And what does that order and balance serve? How does it benefit us?"

Crack-!

Agni clenched his fist.

"At this moment, isn't it true that we don't even have penalties here in the lower part of the Tower?"

Penalties.

Restrictions that limit the power of higher-level Players.

Those restrictions disappeared along with the death of the Floor 1 Administrator. Rankers who descended felt the same lightness as on the upper Floors.

They felt as if they had truly found their ideal world.

Of course, even so, Odin couldn't accept that opinion.

"If it's not useful to us. We'll kill them and take their power. Is that the meaning?"

"It's not that..."

Agni was left speechless.

He had nothing to say. What he said wasn't entirely wrong.

The world ruled by the Administrators.

The greed of the Guilds wanting to share that power and authority.

That was clearly the core of this struggle.

"There's no need to discuss further."

Swoosh-!

Agni's flames were a signal.

The surviving Rankers from the Veda Guild surrounded Odin.

"As you've already used Gungnir, you're no longer terrifying."

The momentum of Gungnir was a one-time thing. To restart it, it would take a long time and Arcane Power.

No matter how high his Rank 2 was, Odin wouldn't be terrifying without Gungnir.

Of course, even though he had used Gungnir, Odin still had over a thousand Rankers at his disposal.

Asgard was a mandatory gateway to transcending the Administrators.

They were an outstanding Guild governing the laws and order of the Tower, just like the Administrators.

So, this was the moment to deal with Odin, who had already used Gungnir.

"Today will be the day when Asgard's throne changes."

Swish~

Though the power of Gungnir had diminished after piercing through defenses and destroying ships, Odin sighed as he looked at the Rankers from various Guilds who were still willing to fight.

"It seems I've rested for too long."

He wanted to withdraw with as few casualties as possible.

"But these brats meddle so much."

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Crack-!

YuWon's foot fell onto the head of a remaining Ranker.

Around him, the ground was littered with the bodies of Rankers and Zodiac Guild Players.

YuWon breathed heavily.

"Huff-."

It had taken longer than expected to finish.

It was due to the large number of enemies and their meticulous organization.

"Where are the others...?"

He looked around for others using his Golden Cinder Eyes, but there didn't seem to be any hidden enemies preparing an ambush.

It was likely one of two possibilities.

Either they were down here somewhere, or they had given up the fight and fled.

"It's time to finish this."

The ones remaining were just a few survivors.

He needed to find an alternative means of transportation.

He had been thinking about it.

He needed to earn money, or rather, points.

"Let's call the Envoy..."

In the world of the fourth floor. Just as he was about to call the Envoy who worked there...

Tic-.

"Eh...?"

YuWon's eyes widened.

Thinking it couldn't be true, YuWon stopped calling the Envoy and quickly checked his inventory.

It was an item he had tucked away deep in his inventory and forgotten for a long time. It didn't have a specific use, but he couldn't bring himself to discard it.

As he rummaged through his inventory, a faint sound he had barely heard became clearer.

Tic, tac-.

Finally, his fingers found the item he was looking for.

Kwak-.

YuWon was taken aback as he realized that his hands were unexpectedly stronger than usual, and he struggled to control such little strength.

He withdrew his hand from his inventory.

YuWon examined the damaged clock he had taken out.

And at that moment...

"Je..."

Something resembling an empty laugh escaped from his lips.

It was real.

Tic-.

The second hand began to move.

It was definitive.

The Clock Movement that had stopped working came back to life.