

## With The Gods 391

Chapter 391

C391

"I won't ask about the situation for now."

Thud, thud...

The Bull Demon King passed by the Goblin King.

Although it seemed like he was about to grab his Mixed Iron Rod, as he had great momentum.

What caught the Bull Demon King's attention was the figure of YuWon, who was in the midst of the goblins' ritual.

"It seems we should resolve this first."

Yuwon appeared vulnerable in the eyes of the Bull Demon King.

He was in a situation where he could become something similar to Mimir at any moment. Obtaining the Eyes of Foreknowledge was an equally dangerous and extreme process.

What they needed right now was the stabilization of the ritual.

"You said you had a debt, and it seems it was real."

"I know."

The Bull Demon King responded indifferently and reached out his hand toward YuWon.

At this response, the Guardian Goblin became furious.

"This insolent guy...!"

"Just let it be."

"But, My Lord!"

"The most important thing now is the business. Focus on that."

The Goblin King's words made the Guardian Goblin fall silent.

Yuwon was certainly an influential figure. His points alone were worth over 150 million, making him the richest person ever to visit the Goblin Country.

Given these circumstances, success in this mission was absolutely crucial.

However, at this moment, the outcome of success was not in the hands of the goblins but in someone else's.

"Can we trust him?"

"Then I suppose you don't know."

It was truly ludicrous to say it.

To doubt the abilities of the Bull Demon King, of all people...

"When it comes to Sorcery, he's a bit better than me."

"...What?"

The Guardian Goblin was surprised.

As the oldest goblin, the Goblin King had created Sorcery.

But now he was faced with someone who was even better at it within this Tower.

The Guardian Goblin's gaze shifted to the Bull Demon King. Unbeknownst to him, the Bull Demon King was already performing a ritual on YuWon's head.

What would the Bull Demon King do with the ritual that not even twenty goblins, the Goblin King, and YuWon, the target of the ritual, could control?

"It's been a long time since I saw his skills in action."

The Goblin King's eyes, which were fixed on the Bull Demon King, softened.

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Buzz, buzz...

YuWon felt like his head was about to explode.

The numerous scenarios unfolding before his eyes made his Golden Cinder Eyes tremble precariously. He wondered what would have happened if Ambrosia wasn't here right now.

'S-Should I give up here?'

He was afraid that if he made a mistake, he might end up like Mimir.

If things continued like this, he might be buried by the Sorcery injected into his head and spend most of his life in a state of slumber.

Fireee~

['Golden Cinder Eyes' controls 'Goblin's Time']

['Golden Cinder Eyes' reads 'Goblin's Time']

['Golden Cinder Eyes' projects 'What will happen someday']

[Ru forecast increases]

['Curse of Knowledge' strengthens]

['Curse of Knowledge'...]

The messages appearing before his eyes were becoming increasingly dangerous.

Amidst the vast expanse of time presented to YuWon, it was becoming increasingly difficult to distinguish what was real from what was not.

His mind was muddled.

He felt not only a headache but also a loss of consciousness.

'I can't go on like this...'

"Please, focus a bit more."

YuWon suddenly regained his senses upon hearing the voice in his head.

It was a voice he had heard before.

Given the sudden and confusing situation, he couldn't immediately remember to whom the voice belonged.

He looked around in confusion.

The voice spoke again in response to YuWon's reaction.

"For now, concentrate."

The dizziness gradually faded.

Thanks to that, YuWon regained his focus.

"Focus on what you see. Don't try to control the knowledge with your mind, just 'look' with your eyes."

It was a trustworthy voice.

Finally, he remembered to whom that voice belonged.

'Bull Demon King.'

It turned out that there were others in this Tower who were experts in Sorcery, besides the Goblin King.

He hadn't been able to see it because the Bull Demon King was executed in the Celestial Prison in the future, but...

"What really matters is distinguishing between truth and falsehood. That's the power of the Golden Cinder Eyes. You must focus on that," said the Bull Demon King.

The power of the ritual inscribed in YuWon's body was a way of injecting predictions and foreknowledge about the future in the form of knowledge. And the power of the Golden Cinder Eyes lay in the ability to discern what wouldn't happen, to detect the false. The Bull Demon King was precisely focused on that.

However...

'If it's just what I see with my eyes...'

Buzz, buzz...

The crucial reason behind the overwhelming overload in his head.

It was not solely due to the scenes visualized through his eyes but the multitude of predictions being directly injected into his mind.

"Don't worry."

Fwoosh!

Countless scenes began to unfold before YuWon's eyes.

"From here on, I'll take care of it myself."

Countless scenes unfolded all at once. Amidst the avalanche of images, YuWon had no choice but to focus on the Golden Cinder Eyes just as the Bull Demon King had told him.

The headache, which seemed like a lie, completely disappeared.

Now he could fully concentrate on what he saw.

'Distinguishing between truth and falsehood.'

Buzz, buzz...

Golden Cinder Eyes burned intensely.

Everything in sight lit up, and the things that wouldn't happen burned and vanished one by one.

And as this process repeated again and again...

["Golden Cinder Eyes" projects "What will happen someday".]

[Having repeatedly predicted the future.]

[Your forecast increases.]

["Golden Cinder Eyes" repeatedly projects the future.]

["Golden Cinder Eyes" displays an effectless ability.]

[Partial conditions of the Hidden Piece have been fulfilled.]

[You have obtained the 'Eyes of Foreknowledge']

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Buzz, buzz...

All the inscriptions on YuWon's body gathered before his eyes.

It was an astonishing phenomenon.

As soon as the Bull Demon King placed his hand on him, the inscriptions seemed to come to life.

The Bull Demon King had moved only the inscriptions created by the Goblin King and twenty goblins.

"... Impressive."

The Guardian Goblin had no choice but to acknowledge the Bull Demon King's skill.

What kind of trick had he performed? Even when twenty goblins worked together for a single purpose, it was a difficult task. But the Bull Demon King's ritual had overwhelmingly surpassed all the other goblin rituals.

The Guardian Goblin understood why the Goblin King had recognized the Bull Demon King's ability.

He couldn't deny it.

Buzz...

Thus, the power of all the rituals led by the Bull Demon King was inscribed in YuWon's eyes.

Dozens of Guardian Goblins.

The Goblin King.

And also the Bull Demon King.

Their rituals were all engraved in a single pair of eyes, in a very stable form.

"Even though he's the Bull Demon King, that human is truly impressive."

The power of the ritual was not limited to physical strength; without the mental strength to accept it, it would be unbearable.

Once all the rituals had finished...

Kak...

The pressure on YuWon's knees, who had been standing amidst the goblins, finally relaxed.

Squeak...

The Bull Demon King grabbed YuWon's arm. YuWon, who had been on the verge of falling to the ground, raised his head to look at the Bull Demon King.

Furthermore...

"How did you get here?"

"After dying and coming back to life, is that the first thing you wonder about?"

"I didn't come back to life."

Urgh...

Feeling a pain in his eyes, YuWon raised his hand and covered his eyes for a moment.

Then, with his legs released, YuWon stood up and looked at the Bull Demon King with a furrowed brow. Due to the Bull Demon King's height, which exceeded two meters, YuWon had to tilt his head up to look him in the eye.

"Is it something that entered my eyes or something?"

"It's similar."

"My eyes?"

Sshk...

Patterns inscribed in red, along with crimson color, were revealed over YuWon's eyes.

The pupils had inscriptions filled with characters.

The moment he saw those eyes, the Bull Demon King could be sure.

"We did it."

"Yes."

Urgh...

YuWon nodded in response to the pain in his eyes and the scenes unfolding before him, as well as the voices.

"For now..."

Golden Cinder Eyes had not yet disappeared.

Instead, one of YuWon's eyes had acquired a new power.

[Eyes of Foreknowledge]

Rank: SS+Ability: 0.00%Foreknowledge Eyes in an immature state. So far, it leans more towards potential prediction than actual foreknowledge.As more skill is acquired, more precise and extensive predictions can be made.Looking only at the ability description, he couldn't understand how significant the ability was.

It was natural.

'It's probably a matter of competence.'

No matter what the ability was, it was difficult to expect great effects right away after obtaining it.

Since the effect varied depending on the domain, he couldn't immediately be sure if what he saw through the Eyes of Foreknowledge was a surefire future or not.

Of course.

'For now, I can handle some issues with Golden Cinder Eyes.'

Eyes of Foreknowledge was an ability that allowed you to see the future with the highest likelihood among countless uncertain futures. And Golden Cinder Eyes had the power to discern the truth among those many futures.

Both abilities shared similar concepts, so Golden Cinder Eyes could compensate for the shortcomings of Eyes of Foreknowledge in terms of skill.

"It's just a halfway vision."

The Bull Demon King recognized the Eyes of Foreknowledge that YuWon had obtained.

How? Just as doubts arose, YuWon remembered that the Bull Demon King's ritual had had a significant impact on his acquisition of the Eyes of Foreknowledge.

"Yes, for now."

For now, YuWon believed that someday these eyes would become eyes that could truly see the future. This was only the beginning, and at some point, it would be possible to see the future accurately.

"Don't use it excessively. It's a dangerous power."

YuWon nodded at the Bull Demon King's warning.

He had already experienced the overwhelming burden of the Eyes of Foreknowledge. He knew for sure that the more he tried to see into the future, the more harm it would do to him.

That's why it was still only half-powered.

"But aside from the lecturing, how did you get here?"

The Bull Demon King had undoubtedly arrived here before Son OhGong.

The final Trial to obtain Divinity was held on Floor 100, and the Bull Demon King had remained hidden for quite some time after challenging that Trial. YuWon had even thought he had died in the attempt, but his rank remained intact.

But he suddenly appeared in a place like this.

"I came because I have business to attend to here."

"But how did you know I was here..."

"I didn't come for you."

"...?"

YuWon followed the Bull Demon King's gaze.

Around him, the goblins looked at him hostilely. Unusually, they exuded an intimidating air. The Bull Demon King held the Mixed Iron Rod in his hand.

And at the end of his gaze was the Goblin King.

He had an idea of what the Bull Demon King meant by "business to attend to here."

Kwakk~

With a bang, the Bull Demon King raised the Mixed Iron Rod.

The power known as the Great King of Power manifested in the hand holding the Mixed Iron Rod.

"How about we start now?"

"It seems you've grown a lot."

Tsu, tsu, tsu...

Over the Goblin King's face.

The human mask faded away, revealing the appearance of an evil goblin with two horns.

"Let's see how much you've improved."

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Chapter 392

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The atmosphere was so tense that it felt suffocating.

The Bull Demon King advanced towards the castle's exterior escorted by the twenty Goblin Guardians.

No one uttered a word. YuWon watched as the goblins retreated and the figure of the Bull Demon King.

"What relationship do they have?"

YuWon didn't know much about the Bull Demon King. He was a figure that didn't exist in his future, and as for information, he had only heard what Son OhGong had conveyed.

"He was the older brother I trusted the most."

A simple and concise explanation. But there were no further explanations. Son OhGong didn't usually talk much about the Bull Demon King.

"I should have asked more at that time."

Although he had heard something vague. That he was the number one Sorcerer in the Tower. Odin also acknowledged that but avoided making comparisons with the Goblin King.

The Bull Demon King and the Goblin King. Which of the two would be more exceptional?

'Probably, in the past, it would have been the Goblin King.'

YuWon looked at the Bull Demon King, who stood in front of the Goblin King in the sky.

'But now it's different.'

And the Goblin King was feeling that too. He saw that the Bull Demon King before him was different from the one he knew before being trapped in the Celestial Prison.

"What has happened in the last thousand years? I thought you were rotting away in a prison."

Tuck...

The Bull Demon King responded with a nod to the Goblin King's question.

"You don't have to know."

"Well, that's true."

Strength built up in the hand holding the Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod. The Goblin King prepared to face that energy with his fist.

At that moment...

Whoosh...

In the Goblin King's hand appeared a long club similar to the Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod.

Prepared, the Goblin King swung the club.

"Let's go."

Thud, grrrr...

The Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod and the Goblin King's club clashed.

Crack!

The collision made the ground tremble considerably, and, of course, the other goblins were affected as well.

"We're getting involved!"

"First, let's move away!"

"How are we supposed to protect the King if we move away?"



"Do you think this is a fight we can intervene in?"

Bang!

"Ahh!"

A Goblin Guardian was struck by the club wielded by the Goblin King and was buried deep in the ground. YuWon silently observed that scene.

Clang, clang, clang...

It was a real battle. Their fists clashed, and the Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod collided with the Goblin King's club.

Both were incredibly strong and brutal monsters.

While watching the fight between the Bull Demon King and the Goblin King, YuWon stuck out his tongue.

Above the Bull Demon King fighting the Goblin King, he could see a superimposed figure.

"His strength surpasses Hercules' right now."

Previously, the Bull Demon King was already a High-Ranker with the designation of King of Great Power. In terms of strength, he was on par with Hercules. But now, he was displaying even more strength.

He had likely obtained his Divinity by passing the Trial on Floor 100.

"Though he's still not on the level of Hercules, who gained Divinity after completing the Twelve Labors..."

The important thing was that the Bull Demon King's power wasn't limited to just strength.

Suddenly...

The Goblin King's movements wielding the club abruptly stopped.

The Goblin King's forced movements ceased, and his gaze turned to his legs.

There were small letters inscribed on his clothing.

"Quick..."

With a sigh, the Bull Demon King's hand lowered.

And at that moment...

Creak, creak, creak...

The Goblin King's clothing suddenly became as heavy as a mountain.

"Fall."

Kwah!

The Goblin King plummeted downward precipitously.

He quickly raised his hands and tried to tear his clothes.

But at that moment...

Kwah!

The Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod fell onto the Goblin King's head.

"Oh no, my king..."

"How could this happen...?"

The Goblin Guardians who were watching the fight began to move, unable to bear it any longer.

The Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod didn't stop. The Bull Demon King's victory over the Goblin King was practically assured at that moment.

"Interesting."

YuWon's eyes changed how he viewed the fight.

"Both are skilled in Sorcery."

And at that moment...

Thump...

The Bull Demon King's knee buckled.

The inscriptions on the Bull Demon King's body were practically identical to those on the Goblin King.

"They are using the same Sorcery?"

"At what point..."

The Goblin Guardians were puzzled.

One by one, they turned to YuWon. Although they were much more proficient in Sorcery, it seemed that YuWon had noticed the effect of the Sorcery inscribed on the Bull Demon King's body much faster than they had.

Of course, YuWon hadn't noticed the inscriptions immediately.

"They are using it like this."

Eyes of Foreknowledge.

It was only for a few seconds, but YuWon experienced the effect of this ability.

It was undoubtedly an impressive ability to be able to see the near future, but...

"It's still not very efficient."

Suuuu...

YuWon closed his eyes again.

He was still tired because he had just acquired the ability.

There was no need to force the ability right now.

The Bull Demon King and the Goblin King rose once again. With their heavy bodies and clothing, they faced each other again with fists and weapons.

Clank!

Clank, clank!

It was a true battle.

As if they had made an unspoken agreement, neither of them used any abilities.

They firmly planted their legs on the ground.

The Bull Demon King's fist struck the Goblin King's stomach.

The Goblin King's body, which was bearing the brute force, wavered. Next was the blow from the Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod to the Goblin King's chin.

Cracks began to appear gradually.

"It seems like this has ended."

In a fight like this, once one started to falter, it was over. Knowing that, the Goblin King raised his hands.

"I concede."

Suddenly...

The Bull Demon King's Mixed Iron Rod, which was swinging toward the Goblin King's head, stopped.

The situation changed abruptly.

"What's happening?"

They stopped with just one word of defeat.

"Did it really end so easily?"

For YuWon, who didn't know the relationship between the two, this was bewildering.

Before the fight, the Bull Demon King had shown a determination that made it seem like he was fighting some mortal enemy.

"The promise?"

"We'll keep it."

"Then it's fine."

Suuuu...

The inscriptions on the Goblin King's clothing faded away.

The Bull Demon King did the same.

Both broke their respective spells and ceased releasing the fighting spirit from their bodies.

The ground and the Goblin King's castle were left in shambles from the fight.

The Goblin King, seeing that his castle had been destroyed, clicked his tongue.

"It's a shame; it's become utterly useless."

Looking somewhat regretfully at the place where his castle used to stand, the Goblin King turned to YuWon.

"You said you had two things to do, right?"

A sudden question.

Yuwon nodded, and the Goblin King handed his club to another goblin, saying:

"I'll do the other one tomorrow. Make the payment to that guy over there."

The Goblin King pointed to one of the goblins, and in response, the goblin quickly approached YuWon while another goblin brought a bottle of liquor.

The Goblin King walked away somewhere, drinking from the large bottle of liquor.

Yuwon's hand reached forward.

Yuwon paid the sum without hesitation.

[You have spent 10,000,000 points]

A big smile appeared on the goblin's face.

There was no one in the world who didn't like money, and goblins loved points more than humans. Most of these points would probably be used to pay for their liquor bill.

Yuwon didn't pay attention to what the goblins spent their points on.

"Are you done with this whole matter?"

Suuuu...

He felt a presence from behind.

The Bull Demon King, who had been patiently waiting, rubbed his empty stomach with one hand and said, "I'm hungry. Shall we eat something?"

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The goblins' meals were more like feasts of liquor than conventional meals.

To them, the concept of a real meal was vague. For goblins, food was merely a snack to accompany their drink, not a means to fill the stomach.

The restaurant they arrived at following the Bull Demon King served gukbap (rice soup) and suyuk (boiled meat) along with makgeolli (rice wine).

They were fairly familiar foods to YuWon. Although he didn't know exactly what kind of animal the meat was made from, at least in appearance, it didn't differ much from the suyuk and gukbap he was familiar with.

That's how the food was served.

"You'll probably like it. I don't know exactly what it's made of, but this restaurant has been here for quite some time."

The Bull Demon King began eating without hesitation.

It was quite a familiar action, from the steps to the restaurant recommendation. It didn't seem like he had come here just once or twice before.

"Did you live here?"

The Bull Demon King, who had taken a spoonful of rice soup, nodded in response to YuWon's question.

"The taste is still the same as always."

The same as always.

That meant he had been here before.

Yuwon picked up his spoon and took a bite of rice. Although the taste of the broth was a bit different from the gukbap he used to eat, it was clear that this was a recommended restaurant.

"How long have you lived here?"

The conversation continued along with the meal.

"Since the moment I was born."

"But you're not a goblin, are you?"

"I found out later. I didn't realize I was a Yokai. Living alongside goblins made me think I was a goblin too."

Despite his calm tone, the content of his words was not light.

Having lived not knowing whether he was a goblin or a Yokai.

Yuwon turned his head to look at the other goblins in the restaurant. None of them seemed Human or Yokai.

"What happened?"

"To be honest, it's a long story."

The Bull Demon King postponed his answer.

It seemed it would be better to discuss this a little later. Probably, the Bull Demon King wouldn't have mentioned anything if he had planned to keep it completely secret. YuWon decided to wait.

When the gukbap bowl was nearly empty.

The Bull Demon King brought up another topic.

"Where is OhGong? I sent him a message, but I haven't heard from him about what he's doing."

Yuwon thought that, once the trial was over, the Bull Demon King would look for Son OhGong first, but it seemed he came directly here from somewhere.

"He went in search of the Celestial Floor."

"The Celestial Floor?"

"Yes. He said he was sure it would be somewhere in this Tower..."

"Then, if that's the case, I know."

"What?"

YuWon began to doubt his own ears.

He knows.

The Celestial Floor.

No matter where it is, the place known as the Celestial Floor is a place of uncertainty, whether it truly exists or not. The sutras found there are clues to free Son OhGong from the curse of the Golden Headband.

But the fact that the Bull Demon King knew about the location of the Celestial Floor was astonishing.

As he watched YuWon, who dropped his utensils without realizing it, the Bull Demon King asked with curiosity.

"So why does OhGong want to go there?"

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Chapter 393

C393

Kim YuWon spoke about the 'Golden Headband' that Son OhGong obtained in the Trial.

The power obtained in the Trial and the 'Golden Headband' that seals that power.

And also a place where there is a 'Buddhist scripture' that can handle the 'Golden Headband'.

"Was there something like that?"

"Wasn't there?"

When the conversation ended, the meal was almost finished as well. The great glutton, the Bull Demon King, emptied more than ten bowls of soup and pork before finishing the meal.

"I don't know either."

"You said you knew before..."

"I said I knew, but I don't know what's there. I haven't even seen it."

YuWon, who was going to ask what that was, nodded.

Well.

If the Celestial Floor and the 'Buddhist scriptures' were so easy to find, Son OhGong would probably have already found it.

"Well, if he's so eager to find it, there's a way to help."

"Then please help him."

"First, let's finish things here."

After finishing the meal, the Bull Demon King finally drank some alcohol.

Although the liquor prepared by the goblins wasn't as good as the one made by Dionysus, it had a fairly satisfying taste. The Bull Demon King was content with the goblins' liquor he was drinking after a long time.

No matter how rare and delicious liquor is, there is nothing as valuable as memories.

"What was that 'promise'?"

The fight with the Goblin King.

The Bull Demon King obtained the fulfillment of that "promise" in that fight.

"I wanted a grave to be made for the Yokai (요괴)."

"A grave?"

"There was a war between the goblins and the Yokai a long time ago."

War.

It was such an old story that even YuWon didn't know it. There was little information about goblins in the Tower, and most of the Yokai had almost disappeared.

"Not many Yokai were left alive. Including me and Son OhGong."

"Then, were you born after that war ended?"

"You say 'you' instead of 'older brother.' It seems like you feel me so distant."

"...I'll do it later."

No matter how much he thought about it, the words "older brother" wouldn't come out of his mouth.

The Bull Demon King and Son OhGong were sworn brothers.

Consequently, if he accepted the Bull Demon King's request, then he would also have to call Son OhGong "older brother," and that made him shudder.

"Really?"

Fortunately, the Bull Demon King didn't insist on the title any further.

Even so, thanks to that suggestion, YuWon could understand why the Bull Demon King had helped him and why he was sharing this meal with him.

"Is he considering me as a younger brother?"

At first, he simply thought it was because he owed him something.

After all, he was the one who had saved the Bull Demon King, who was scheduled to be executed in the Celestial Prison.

But it seems that the Bull Demon King had been thinking of YuWon as a brother ever since.

"That's right. I was born after the war ended."

The Bull Demon King recalled those days.

"The Goblin King picked me up and let me live here. When I was young, I didn't know. I thought I was a goblin, and I had no doubt about it. But as my head got bigger and my body grew, I realized."

The Bull Demon King directed his gaze back to the goblins who were laughing and chatting in the dining hall.

"I'm different from them."

More than a thousand years had passed.

But that didn't mean what had happened could be forgotten.

"In this world, there was a shortage of food. It was always night, so there was not enough warmth or light, there was no food, and the land was scarce."

A world where day and night didn't change.

Among them, the world of the night was where the Yokai and goblins lived.

"We couldn't point our fingers at who was to blame for the food dispute. It's also true that they raised me."

There was no resentment.

It was a struggle to survive. Among those who survived were the goblins, while the Yokai followed the path to extinction.

And the young Bull Demon King.

"Did you really need to kill even a brat?"

Thanks to the Goblin King, he survived.

"Let him live. He seems like he'll become a good Sorcerer."

So, the Bull Demon King, raised by the goblins, was selected by the Tower and became a Player and then a High-Ranker.

After that.

The Bull Demon King returned to the Goblin Country and requested that a grave be made for the Yokai.

And about that request...

"Come and defeat me. Then I'll recognize you as the king of this country. Then you can do whatever you want."

The Goblin King proposed a truly unheard-of condition.

The Goblin King.

A presence that stood at the top of all goblins, even beyond a High-Ranker, with power that made others seem like insects.

The Goblin King's proposal was truly unheard of.

However.

"Alright, but keep your promise. When the time comes, don't make excuses."

The Bull Demon King didn't forget that proposal.



"I couldn't forget it completely. After all, while living with the goblins who killed my people, I couldn't ignore their graves."

It was the result of hundreds of attempts.

The Bull Demon King spoke with a relieved expression.

"Well, at least this is over for now."

It had been a pending task for over a thousand years.

Having resolved it today, it was natural for him to have a relaxed face.

"But, what brings you here? Is it for the Eyes of Foreknowledge?"

"Partly, also."

"So, 'partly' means there are other matters."

YuWon nodded.

He had obtained the Eyes of Foreknowledge.

But that was just an ability he thought of obtaining if possible, and if not, it didn't matter.

"I need the help of a skilled Sorcerer. Several, actually."

"Really? If that's the case, I think I can help."

"Seriously, could you help me..."

"If you call me 'hyung' [older brother], I'll think about it. Even if it may seem that way, my help isn't cheap."

YuWon furrowed his eyebrows.

Did he really want to be called 'older brother' that badly? It wasn't such a difficult request to fulfill, but suddenly, he felt reluctant.

However...

"Please, older brother."

Anyway, the Bull Demon King had lived much longer than him. The words 'older brother' shouldn't be so hard to say.

The Bull Demon King burst into laughter at YuWon's words. He seemed quite satisfied with just the word 'older brother.'

"Alright. I understand. This time, I'll be satisfied with that."

"Will you help me then?"

"Yes, I will. But I hope next time those words come from the heart."

For now, it seemed he was satisfied with this, the Bull Demon King raised his cup of liquor again.

He obtained the cooperation of the "older brother" to his surprise. It was an unexpected development.

Even just in the fight against the Goblin King, the Bull Demon King had proven to be superior in power and Sorcery.

'The more Sorcerers we have, the better.'

And so, the meal came to an end.

"Why does this restaurant smell so bad?"

A group of goblins who entered the restaurant began to complain and protest towards YuWon and the Bull Demon King.

"They could at least have their own restaurant. The smell of humans and Yokai here is killing me. Don't you think?"

"Right. I can't drink here."

"Hey, hey! Let's go somewhere else, somewhere else."

"Ptuf!"

Deliberately, they raised their voices and spat saliva. When YuWon stood up from his seat to confront them, the Bull Demon King grabbed his arm.

"Do you think the Goblin King would have proposed those conditions for no reason?"

It was a meaningful statement.

Despite the opposition from the Bull Demon King, YuWon returned to his seat and listened to the voices of the departing goblins.

- "What the hell is the King thinking?"

- "That guy, I knew he'd cause trouble someday."

- "The Guardian Goblins say his abilities are no joke."

- "It's not a joke. It's because of the King's old age and illness, nothing more."

The background conversations were quite experienced.

It seemed it wasn't the first time they had talked about this.

While the goblins walked away, the Bull Demon King looked as if he had expected this kind of conversation.

"It seems I involved you for no reason."

"I guess they hate Yokai."

"Not all my memories are good. After they found out I wasn't a goblin, many goblins' attitudes suddenly changed."

Discrimination against the different exists everywhere.

This place was no exception.

"Did you punish them?"

"What did you expect me to do?"

"It seems you didn't punish them enough."

"With time, I forgot what had happened."

A thousand years was a fairly long period of time.

Just as Rankers had become stronger over time, goblins had also, and their strength had turned into confidence.

The goblins who used to bother the young Bull Demon King now had confidence in themselves.

Now they believed they could somehow confront the Bull Demon King.

"Those who used to bother me had come a long way, becoming Guardian Goblins and reaching high-ranking positions. In contrast, I became a neighborhood thug, completely changing my world."

"If they hate Yokai, it's natural for them to oppose even the construction of Yokai graves."

"As expected, you're different from OhGong."

If it were Son OhGong, he probably would have taken much longer to realize something so simple.

Feeling comfortable with the conversation, the Bull Demon King laughed.

"That's right. That's correct. That's why the Goblin King also proposed a bet to me."

"I never thought I'd accept something like that..."

"A promise is a promise."

Amused by the situation, the Bull Demon King enjoyed the looks of the goblins who had gathered around him.

"We might have some tough days ahead."

At that response, YuWon sighed.

He had thought all of this would go smoothly.

"I think we should cancel the 'older brother' word."

"Why?"

"You've gotten me into unnecessary trouble."

"Don't judge so quickly. Anyway, with this, the Goblin King is on my side. Things might go smoothly."

"Well."

Yuwon recalled the scornful expression the goblins had directed at the Bull Demon King moments before they disappeared.

"But I'm not sure."

-----

Instead of the ruined castle, the current residence of the Goblin King was one of the sturdiest tile-roofed houses in the area.

The Goblin King stayed in the tile-roofed house, where the moonlight filtered in, and set up a small drinking table.

And in front of that Goblin King...

"Please reconsider!"

A goblin arrived and began shouting at the Goblin King.

"How dare you build a Yokai grave on this land? That's an insult to our goblin ancestors who died fighting against the Yokai..."

"Yangban-ah." (양반= Noble Person / Yangban)

"Yes!"

The goblin raised his head in response to the call. He wore a bright yangban mask on his head, but his expression had changed drastically to one of sadness.

He was one of the goblins who had received one of the ten masks, in this case, a Yangban mask, a representation of nobility.

"Are you saying I should break my promise?"

"But...!"

"But nothing. A promise is a promise. Don't try to spoil the taste of the liquor and just leave already."

The Goblin King waved his hand in annoyance. He had already heard the same words several times before, and the Goblin Yangban left helplessly.

Tch, tch...

The expression of the goblin with the Yangban mask became even darker as he suddenly turned.

Suddenly, the Goblin Yangban turned his body, and his eyes sharpened like those of a predator.

Goblin Yangban: "What business do you have here?"

Goblin Peasant: "Wow, wow. Calm down."

Like the Goblin Yangban, another goblin wearing a mask over his head spoke.

It was a goblin with a Peasant mask.

"I didn't come to fight. Why don't you start by keeping your own life in order?"

"If you didn't come to fight, what business do you have with me?"

"I saw the Bull Demon at the restaurant."

"The Bull Demon King?"

"A 'king'? What king?"

The words of the Goblin Peasant made the Goblin Yangban fall silent. Calling him a "king" was not enough to describe the power of the Bull Demon King. He had long surpassed the Goblin King in terms of witchcraft abilities.

"But what can we do about it?"

"We can't allow Yokai graves to be established on this land, can we?"

"...It's the first time."

"What do you mean?"

"Our opinions align this time."

The Noble Goblin and the Peasant Goblin had always had opposing personalities for a long time. But this time, their opinions coincided despite their differences.

"But with just the two of us, we can't do anything."

"I know."

The eyes of the Peasant Goblin narrowed.

His pupils were so eerie that they sent shivers down the spine.

"But what if we're not just the two of us?"

Chapter 394

C394

After the Goblin Yangban left, a shadow writhed in front of the Goblin King, who was silently drinking under the moonlight.

Ssssh...

The shadow that suddenly rose knelt before the king.

A goblin with a mask that only showed smiling eyes and no mouth, one of the ten goblin masks, the Goblin Servant.

"Do you want a drink too?"

The Goblin King poured liquor into a fist-sized cup. The Goblin Servant took the cup silently and drank.

"Is it good?"

"No. It's bitter."

"Well, well. It seems you're a goblin who doesn't appreciate the taste of liquor."

The Goblin King chuckled and poured himself another drink.

Finally, the Goblin Servant, who had taken a cup out of courtesy, spoke.

"The Yangban and the Peasant have met."

"Really?"

"It seems several masked goblins have become rebellious. The goblins' opinion is the same."

"I guess losing to the Bull Demon was a big shock."

"It's a fact that you've aged quite a bit, hasn't it?"

"Are you serious, kid?"

"So you should start cutting down on your alcohol consumption."

"Why are there so many today trying to ruin the taste of my drink?"

The Goblin King drank without worrying, despite having ruled the goblin world for a long time, his status as king had gradually been diminishing almost imperceptibly.

The Goblin King knew that his followers, including the Goblin Guardians, as well as the Goblin Yangban and the Goblin Peasant, were waiting for the right moment.

"Do you see it that way too? Do you think I'm aging and weakening?"

"Can I tell you the truth?"

"Sometimes you talk as if it's not."

"Yes, you've aged a lot."

"Really?"

With a frowned expression on his face, as if he didn't like it, the Goblin King stopped his hand from reaching for his liquor cup.

"Well, I guess it's time to moderate."

The Goblin King raised his head and looked at the moon.

How many bottles of liquor had he consumed under the pretext of snacking under the moonlight? The amount was incalculable in terms of numbers and quantity.

The Masked Goblins, including the Goblin Yangban and the Goblin Peasant, were just two of the ten who were on the move.

Goblin King: "It seems the others will move as well."

Goblin Servant: "Are you planning something?"

Goblin King: "Plan? What am I planning?"

Goblin Servant: "I mean the fight with the Bull Demon King. If you lost that fight, I'm sure you knew they would move."

The Goblin Servant's question made the Goblin King push the liquor table away with his foot.

"Get this out of here. Thanks to you, the taste of the liquor has been completely ruined."

He avoided the answer.

It wasn't affirmative or negative. But this situation seemed to fit too well to be a coincidence.

Finally, the Goblin Servant took the liquor table outside with the cups, without hearing the answer to his curiosity.

Thus, the Goblin King was left alone without a liquor table.

Recently, he recalled the Goblin Yangban who had come to discuss with him.

"Please don't make foolish choices."

Bull Demon King and Kim YuWon.

Now, two outsiders were in the Goblin Country.

"If you don't want to die."

It was the perfect time to uncover the rotten parts.

-----

A few days later.

Rumors began to circulate.

It was said that a Yokai grave was being created next to the ancestor's tomb.

"Have you heard that?"

"What?"

"Over there, next to our ancestor's tomb, they say they're creating a tomb for Yokai."

"Yokai? Why are they creating a Yokai grave here?"

"It seems the king made some kind of promise."

"Really? Then we must follow him."

"Still, isn't this wrong? Even if the king allows it, creating a grave for the Yokai who fought against us..."

"Yes, that's true. How many of our ancestors died at the hands of those Yokai?"

"Even so, the king must have his reasons..."

The goblin's opinions were divided.

Those who said they should follow the king's order and those who argued that this was not right, even if the king allowed it.

And from the divided group, those who disagreed with the king were the most determined.

The Graves of the Goblin Country.

In the midst of a vast plain, where the graves of millions of goblins rested, a new place was being created.

Then...

Step!

An intruder appeared.

"G-Goblin Peasant!"

A goblin with a face covered in white hair.

Among the ten, the Goblin Peasant was known to be the most unruly and confronted the goblins who were building the graves.

"What are you doing here?"

"We are here by the king's order..."

"Building graves for disgusting Yokai."

Tum!

The Goblin Peasant approached the goblins, exhaling hostility, ready to confront his fellow goblins.

"Whether it's the king's orders or whatever, those who don't stop here must know they will die by my hands."

"But..."

"One."

Scraaatch.

A long sword was drawn from the Goblin Peasant's waist.

"Two..."

The countdown continued slowly.

The goblins had no doubt that when he counted to three, he would wield his sword against his own race without hesitation.

"Three-!"

"Haven't you learned anything at home?"

An unpleasant comment was thrown.

The head of the Goblin Peasant turned. YuWon, who had been meditating while looking at the goblin graves a little further away, turned around.

"In places like this, it's better to show a little more respect than usual."

"...Human?"

The rumors had been heard.

There was a human who had entered the Goblin Country along with the Bull Demon King.

It was a name famous enough that even the goblins, who rarely paid attention to external affairs, had heard it.

"So, you're Kim YuWon."

A cold magic emanated from the tip of Baijeongtal's sword.

YuWon began to overlay someone's face on the face of the Goblin Peasant.

'Susanoo?'

That was due to the sensation of momentum and aura.

The Goblin Peasant exuded a similar feeling to Susanoo, one of the Three Precious Children.

Of course, he seemed to be less powerful than Susanoo.



"That guy is one of the Ten," YuWon thought.

He didn't know much about goblins, but he was sure they were much more formidable than he could imagine.

"You better be careful."

A day earlier, before each of them started their work, the Bull Demon King warned YuWon.

"The goblins with 'masks' are all experts similar to High-Rankers or higher."

The "Masked Goblins" were the ten goblins with authority and power who followed the Goblin King. They had so much authority and strength that they could even reject an order from the king if they wished.

The Goblin Peasant in front of him was one of them.

"Is it possible to kill them?"

"Yes."

"But the goblins won't stay still, right?"

"The permission of the Goblin King has been granted."

"It seems that guy intended to do it from the beginning."

"It seems to be the case. The fact that he moved so quickly means there must have been conflicts among the goblins."

He didn't like the situation at all.

Perhaps the Goblin King didn't lose in his fight against the Bull Demon King but simply surrendered.

That could make the other goblins, who had grievances against him, start moving, and it could also win the collaboration of the Bull Demon King.

"Well, thanks to that..."

Schwung~

The sword found its target.

"I'm going to save some points a bit."

It wasn't a bad choice.

Saving points here meant he could invest more points elsewhere.

"Points?"

The Goblin Peasant laughed at YuWon's muttering.

"What good are points if your head falls off?"

"It's not going to fall off, so don't worry unnecessarily."

"You're a rookie who just became a Ranker, and you're getting cocky just because you're a little stronger than others?"

Kim YuWon.

That name sounded familiar to him.

He had heard that an exceptional rookie had risen to the top. An extraordinary individual who was sweeping all the rankings of previous Players.

But that was it.

The Goblin Peasant wasn't interested in the news brought by the goblins who had ventured into the outside world.

It was the same for all the other goblins.

It was natural.

After all, it had nothing to do with them.

"All those who don't know the affairs of the world are the same."

"What?"

The Goblin Peasant frowned as if asking what the hell he was talking about.

But YuWon had no intention of engaging in a pointless argument with him anymore. Anyway, he wouldn't gain anything more than an unnecessary confrontation here, and he didn't want to tarnish his reputation.

Instead...

"Do you have confidence in your sword?"

Step by step, YuWon approached the Goblin Peasant, raising the tip of his sword upward.

"Come on, let's have a sword duel."

"This bastard..."

"Talking without personality."

Step by step, Kim YuWon passed by him.

"With inadequate skills..."

The Goblin Peasant, who was swinging his sword, suddenly stopped. He wondered how it had happened, but Kim YuWon's sword passed by his throat.

Drip~

Drops of blood flowed from his throat.

Growling, the Goblin Peasant gripped his throat with one hand, turning his head to face YuWon.

Firee~

Then, both of YuWon's eyes turned golden.

A different type of eyes compared to the Golden Cinder Eyes.

It was the first time he was using his Foresight ability in combat.

But unfortunately, if it remained the same as before, it seemed that a single Golden Cinder Eye would be enough.

"Try to do better this time."

-----

The Goblin King's residence.

Hundreds of goblins, including the Goblin Yangban, had gathered in front of him.

"Goblin Yangbang, Goblin Buddhist, Goblin Bridal..."

"Three Masked Ranker Goblins have gathered."

"This isn't a joke, is it?"

They couldn't help but be nervous.

The Goblin King, who hadn't changed for a long time.

The moment to justify himself and demonstrate his strength had finally come.

"The King probably hasn't fully recovered yet."

Just a few days ago.

The Goblin King had been defeated in his battle with the Bull Demon King and had withdrawn to recover.

Since then, he hadn't appeared in public, and the goblins thought he was severely injured.

"What we need to be careful of right now is the Goblin Servant."

"I know his ability very well."

"He's a monster..."

Goblin Servant.

The goblin who wore the servant's mask. He was the most talented among the Ten Masked Goblins.

Despite being the last to receive his mask, he had exceptional skills, and some goblins even speculated that he might actually be a Player.

It was only natural to be on guard.

"Goblin Buddhist, Yangban, both of you will take care of the Goblin Servant."

"So, do you plan to take on the king by yourself?"

"Are the ones you brought in good shape? Five Guardian Goblins are on our side. And soon, the Goblin Peasant will also join..."

Chak~

It was at that moment...

The main door of the tiled house where the Goblin King resided began to open.

The goblins started to tense up nervously, thinking that the Goblin King was about to come out through that door.

But...

Step, step~.

What came out of the door was not the Goblin King.

Although not as large as the Goblin King, it was a man over two meters tall.

It was the Bull Demon King.

"They're not as many as I thought. I should handle this myself. Tsk."

"What's going on?"

"He's a Yokai, right?"

"Demon Bull?"

The Bull Demon King, who had overthrown the Goblin King, appeared here in perfect condition.

The three Masked Goblins leading the goblins felt that something was amiss.

They were sure that the Goblin King and the Bull Demon King were sworn enemies.

"From now on, I will inform you of the King's judgment on you."

The Bull Demon King snapped his fingers.

And at that moment...

Crack...

"Gah!"

"My body...!"

"Aaah!"

Hundreds of goblins fell to the ground, unable to withstand the pressure exerted on their bodies, and their bones snapped as they screamed in pain.

There was no special preparation.

The Bull Demon King, with just a snap of his fingers, used Sorcery to control the surrounding space.

"The judgment is..."

So that no one can escape.

"Death penalty."

Chapter 395

C395

*"That big brother, he's really scary when he fights,"* Son OhGong thought about the Bull Demon King and shivered.

It's astonishing. There's something that scares Son OhGong.

At that moment, YuWon, intrigued, didn't cover Son OhGong's noisy mouth and listened.

"It's not something else that scares. Despite his power and experience, what scares me the most is how his personality suddenly changes."

"His personality?"

"Yes, of course. Normally, he wouldn't hurt a fly and would say things like 'all lives have a purpose.' He pretends to be good in the world, but when he starts to fight, he becomes a different person."

Son OhGong, who always praised the Bull Demon King, especially when it came to fighting, gave him even more praise.

"That big brother was really crazy."

-----

"Ugh, ugh!"

"Cough!"

The three Masked Goblins surrounded one of them as they spat blood and breathed heavily.

The other goblins who had come together were in a state of death or unconsciousness.

Not even a few minutes had passed since the battle began.

But what the hell was this oppression and fear?

Gooooo...

Before the fight started, this guy seemed as friendly as he could be.

You could even think that the word "gentleman" in this world was only for the Bull Demon King.

But the moment the fight started, the atmosphere of the Bull Demon King changed dramatically.

Glup...

The Goblin Bridal who was looking at the Bull Demon King swallowed hard.

He remembered the title of the Bull Demon King that was rumored outside the demon land.

King of Great Power.

Until the appearance of Hercules, the Bull Demon King was known to have no rivals in terms of strength.

"D-Damn it..."

But no matter how strong they were, they couldn't help feeling fear in front of this Yokai.

Thud...

When the Bull Demon King took a step forward, the ground sank, and the three Masked Goblins trembled.

They were scared.

The inevitable reality struck a blow to the pride of the three Masked Goblins.

"Let's go all together."

"Okay."

"When he gives the signal..."

The three lined up.

Whooooo...

At that moment, the wind blew past their cheeks.

Swoosh~

Giiing...

A fan made of green leaves formed in the hand of the Bull Demon King.

"Iron-Fiber Fan (芭蕉扇)."

Kwawww!

A powerful gale swept through the bodies of the three Masked Goblins. Countless blades tore through them as the wind pressure crushed them.

They raised their arms to protect their throats and brandished their swords to try to stop the wind, but it was insufficient.

"No!"

The goblins were caught in the storm.

Suddenly, the sound of footsteps was heard amidst the wind noise.

Crack...

A powerful hand closed around a throat.

"Grrr...!"

The wind roared.

The body defied gravity and rose upward. The force was so overwhelming that there was no room to resist.

The Goblin Bridal was stunned as he saw the approaching face.

It was as if a gigantic bull was rushing at him.

Even without the hand holding his throat, he felt his body contorting under the Bull Demon King's momentum.

"It's quite ridiculous when you think about it."

Kwaaak...

"Grr, grrr..."

Their eyeballs bulged as if they were about to pop out. The mask on their faces couldn't withstand the Bull Demon King's momentum, and cracks appeared.

The Bull Demon King's hand holding the Goblin Bridal's throat tightened.

"Guys like you who once scared me and drove me away from here."

Craaack...

The neck twisted in a strange direction in the Bull Demon King's hand.

After throwing the lifeless Goblin Bridal from his hand, the Bull Demon King looked at the other two Masked Goblins and smiled.

"You've become this weak."

-----

In a similar moment...

Jjeeoong!

Kwawww!

The Goblin Peasant, who had blocked YuWon's sword, was sent flying backward.

At the point where their swords clashed, sparks flew, and a long sword line was drawn on the ground. The Goblin Peasant, who had barely managed to regain his balance after dodging the sword in a precarious position, staggered.

"Ugh, ugh..."

He trembled uncontrollably.

He was already running out of breath, and his hands were shaking. He had swung the sword for barely fifteen minutes.

Even so, the Goblin Peasant felt more exhausted than he had ever been.

"If you let your guard down even for a moment, it's over."

He couldn't even stay still in this state.

It was natural.

Even if he stayed still, he had to concentrate his mind on the sword that could come flying at any moment, which naturally drained him.

"Now I understand a little."

What could he understand?

Whoosh...

Yuwon swung his sword in the air and looked at the sword's tip with both eyes.

His eyes continued to shine in an intense gold.

"Seeing for more than a second... It's not just a matter of concentration..."

He had an expression that seemed lost in deep thoughts.

The Goblin Peasant, whose eyes had been on the brink, sparkled.

'This is the only opportunity.'

Having gone through numerous battles, he knew.

He knew that if he missed this chance, he couldn't win this fight in the end.

Pahat...

The Goblin Peasant disappeared, and at the same time, his figure reappeared behind YuWon.

In the blink of an eye.

The Goblin Peasant, with intense red energy enveloping his sword, swung it toward YuWon's neck from behind.

But at that moment...

"Exactly. That's it."

Gently...

Yuwon's golden eyes were reflected in the Goblin Peasant's eyes.

"You can do it, right?"

Swish!

The action of swinging the Goblin Peasant's sword stopped.

A red line formed vertically on his body.

In the last moment, YuWon's words echoed in his mind.

'Then... up until now...'

Slash!

His body began to split from side to side.

'I've just been playing into your hands...'

Puhwaack!

The Goblin Peasant's torn body fell to the ground, blood spilling like a fountain.

Thud, thud...

The torn corpse of the Goblin Peasant fell to the ground. YuWon shook the blood off his sword onto the ground and sheathed it back on his waist.

"Ugh..."

He sweated on his forehead, and his eyes looked tired.

It was the side effect of using the Eyes of Foreknowledge.

"Harder than I thought..."

The Goblin Peasant was an easy opponent.



Although he was a fighter who ranked around 100 among the Rankers, YuWon had grown enough to defeat even Satan in a fight.

Just the Goblin Peasant alone was no match for him, even if there were two or three of them.

But still...

"It's better to use it moderately."

After the battle.

[Proficiency of Eyes of Foreknowledge has increased by 0.12%]

Proficiency increased slightly.

Swoosh...

Yuwon's eyes returned to normal. After opening and closing his eyes, which had turned black several times, his blurred vision returned.

"It's the first time I've used it, but only 0.12%..."

It was more complicated than he thought.

Yuwon stood still for a moment and reviewed the fight with the Goblin Peasant in his mind. He repeated several times the path the Goblin Peasant's sword had traced in his head.

"What is he doing?"

"He's just standing there."

"Isn't this amazing? The Goblin Peasant died."

The words of others made YuWon snap out of his thoughts suddenly.

Well.

He could go over everything later. Now, the first thing was to deal with the annoying tasks at once.

Changing direction, YuWon continued walking toward Goblin City.

That should have finished the problem at the tomb.

What was left was Bull Demon King's responsibility.

"It looks like this is over."

-----

It was a short period that didn't even last half a day.

The brief rebellion triggered by the four Masked Goblins holding hands passed without causing any change in the Goblin Country.

Yuwon headed straight to the residence of the Bull Demon King.

The Bull Demon King was having a quiet conversation with the Goblin King.

"Have you come?"

A casual greeting.

YuWon thought maybe he had just gone for a walk. Similarly, the Bull Demon King seemed quite calm despite having killed many goblins.

"Nothing happened?"

"No. The goblins came, but now everything is under control."

"Really?"

That meant this was the face of someone who had killed hundreds of goblins.

At that moment, Son OhGong's words came to mind.

"That guy was really crazy."

'So that's what he meant.'

Now, finally, it seemed he understood the meaning of those words, and YuWon nodded.

"Why are you like this?"

"It's nothing."

"You two seem to get along quite well."

Tik, tik~

The Goblin King filled a cup with liquor in front of the Bull Demon King.

No...

Although the cup was for liquor, what he poured was not liquor.

'Tea?'

The herbal aroma slid gently into his nose, comforting him. Until a few days ago, the Goblin King would have drunk liquor in one gulp, but he suddenly started drinking tea instead of liquor.

"We get along well; in a way, we're like brothers."

"Brothers?"

As if asking if it was true, the Goblin King looked at YuWon.

YuWon raised his hand.

"Not yet."

"Whose statement is correct?"

The Bull Demon King laughed heartily.

A reaction of the "So what?" type.

The Bull Demon King's laughter made the Goblin King look at him disdainfully.

"Despite your age, you still enjoy forming a family."

The Bull Demon King had been searching for a family for a long time.

Neither the Goblin King who raised him nor the goblins who ostracized him because he was of a different race.

What he was looking for was a true family that was solely his.

"Come and sit. I've already prepared the cups."

"Thank you, I appreciate it."

Scuttle~

YuWon sat down, and the Bull Demon King poured a cup of properly prepared tea. After sipping the tea, YuWon raised his head and alternated his gaze between the Bull Demon King and the Goblin King.

"I feel like I'm in Jotunheim."

"Then I guess this place is Alfheim for me."

"Haha! Well, actually, you're the youngest."

"Don't call me the youngest. Then, wouldn't it be like Son OhGong's younger brother?"

"Was that the issue?"

There was a moment of casual conversation.

Mainly, it was the Bull Demon King who was talking.

Most of the conversation revolved around Son OhGong. YuWon had heard about Son OhGong's past story, while the Goblin King kept frowning continuously due to the tasteless tea.

While they talked...

"I heard that goblins are good with numbers."

YuWon refilled his cup with freshly brewed tea and opened his mouth to the Goblin King.

"Is that true?"

"Yes."

The answer came immediately.

"A merchant must be good with numbers."

There didn't seem to be any lies.

No matter how blinded goblins were by points, they were never cheats.

If they had debts, they would pay them without fail, and if they had to collect a debt, they would collect it without fail.

That was the rule of goblins.

"Then this debt will be accounted for in the next account."

"By the way, you said there were two matters."

One of the two matters, the Eyes of Foreknowledge, had already been acquired.

Now only one remained.

"I intend to give separate compensation to this guy, the Bull Demon King, later. And also to you..."

"It's already enough for me, so take care of this guy."

"Really? Then the calculation will be different."

The Goblin King nodded as if he had made a decision after a brief thought.

If they added up the debt he had with the Bull Demon King, there probably wouldn't be much they couldn't handle.

"Alright. What is your matter? Just say it. We're willing to hear anything you have to say because we can handle it all."

The Goblin King was willing to consider almost any request.

Of course, if it was something too difficult, they would have to charge an additional fee.

But...

"A Physical Enhancement Potion."

YuWon's words almost made the Goblin King drop the cup he had in his hand.

"I heard it can be made here."

Chapter 396

C396

For a moment, stillness overtook the scene.

The Bull Demon King looked at YuWon as if questioning what that was.

A Physical Enhancement Potion.

Even the Bull Demon King, who had lived among the High-Rankers for a long time, had never heard of this name.

"Where did you hear that?"

"Does it matter?"

"Yes, it matters."

"I heard it from outside. I can't reveal the source..."

"This guy has many secrets."

The Goblin King looked at YuWon, as if he was asking if he was this reserved from the beginning.

"Don't try to find out too much."

The Bull Demon King, who knew that YuWon had come from the future due to the Clock Movement, didn't pay much attention to such matters. It was common for information that was still unknown in the present to become known to many people over time.

The Goblin King looked at YuWon with a furrowed brow, as if thinking about something. In the face of this thoughtful expression, YuWon asked:

"I heard that goblins would do anything if given enough points. Is that right?"

"Well, that's true, but..."

"Then please do it."

"It seems you know some things, but not everything. It's not something we can do right away. We would need to gather various hard-to-find materials from scattered places in the tower..."

YuWon took something from his inventory and tossed it to the ground.

A round jewel.

"The Lich King's Chalice of Life."

Thud, thud...

"A fragment of bone from the Knight King. Fenrir's heart. Dragon horns..."

Materials emerged one after another from his inventory, enough to fill more than half of the spacious room.

"How did you get all of this?"

Each of the items that appeared were the necessary ingredients for the "Physical Enhancement Potion" mentioned by YuWon.

From the corpses of boss-level monsters scattered all over the upper parts of the Tower to rare potions hidden somewhere, and even magical items like the Lich King's Chalice of Life.

No, in fact, these materials were much better than what they had initially considered. The issue wasn't whether they knew the materials for the potion, but how to obtain them. Even if they knew the ingredients, getting them was a separate problem.

It was already astonishing that he had obtained these materials, some of which were difficult to acquire.

"I gathered them little by little."

"If you have enough points, making a Physical Enhancement Potion is an option."

Back in the future, the story of the goblins came up during a meeting.

A colleague who had been silent throughout the meeting raised his hand and said:

"Getting the ingredients can be a bit of a hassle, but..."

"The Physical Enhancement Potion?"

"What's that?"

It was a story everyone was hearing for the first time, but the skill and rank of the Ranker who spoke were not common to be ignored.

They found out it came from the Goblin Country in that very meeting room.

"...The ingredients seem to be complicated."

"If we want to get all that, we'll have to climb from the first floor while paying attention to the ingredients."

"Most things can be found on the upper floors. It would be better to get dragon horns if possible..."

"But that would take a long time. Is it worth the effort?"

Opinions diverged.

As a result, colleagues reached a conclusion.

"If Arcane Power is lacking, look for dragons to get the essence of a Dragon King. If something else is lacking, look for goblins."

That concluded the discussion.

Of course, it was a story without realism.

"Indeed, one thing is lacking in Arcane Power, but what if one doesn't have the body to support it?"

"Yes, that's true. Then it would be labeled as a completely useless character."

"Useless? What does 'useless' mean?"

"A character that has utterly failed."

Common players often lacked Arcane Power.

Body strengthening naturally occurred as they leveled up, and training methods through discipline were also quite established.

But it wasn't the same with Arcane Power.

Even if you had Kim YuWon and Son OhGong, who naturally had an excess of talent for Arcane Power, they didn't have enough Arcane Power.

Although there were cases where the resistance statistic couldn't keep up with strength or where the reflex statistic couldn't keep up with agility, it rarely happened that the body couldn't bear the excess of Arcane Power.

'I really didn't expect it to be like this.'

It was something that had been memorized just in case.

Ultimately, the one lacking much more was this body that couldn't bear the excess of Arcane Power.

Swish-.

Kim YuWon raised his head and looked at the ceiling for a moment.

Above the head of the Goblin King.

Someone was hidden without revealing their appearance.

'So, after losing the bet, you were here all along, huh?'

A High-Ranker who suddenly appeared in the Tower.

YuWon wondered where he came from and what he was doing, but it turned out he had been tied to the Goblin Country all along.

Momentarily, he showed interest in his old colleague.

"What do you think?"

Kim YuWon asked again while looking at the Goblin King, who seemed momentarily puzzled.

"Can you do this with this?"

-----  
Kim YuWon was led to a room thanks to the Goblin King's consideration.

Inside a spacious tiled-roof house, Kim YuWon received a room large enough to comfortably accommodate at least five people and began to unpack his belongings before taking a shower.

After the fight with the Goblin Peasant, his body was covered in dust and dirt, so he comfortably heated up before lying down on the bed. During the past few days, which had passed with nothing to do, today had been a rather productive day.

YuWon closed his eyes.

Then, before coming here, the fight with the Goblin Peasant came back to his mind.

Chang!

Swords clashed.

Even though he knew, he intentionally clashed.

'Anticipating the direction of the sword strike and clashing...'

YuWon intentionally clashed his sword following the Goblin Peasant's sword.

It was an exercise to use the Eyes of Foreknowledge.

Swish-.

The Goblin Peasant's sword appeared before Kim YuWon's eyes.

It wasn't about seeing the sword's trajectory. Kim YuWon literally saw where the Goblin Peasant's sword strike was going, seeing his movement.

Among countless trajectories.

It was the true sword of the Goblin Peasant.

'Instead of relying on the senses, especially sight, it seems safer, but...'

Kim YuWon had won against the Goblin Peasant.

However, it wasn't a satisfying fight.

"That would be enough with my senses maximized with the Sensory Field."

Sensory Field, an ability that read all movements in a certain space.

It was an ability that, although similar to Golden Cinder Eyes, had an effect that went beyond raising reflexes like Golden Cinder Eyes.

In the fight with the Goblin Peasant, it was enough to read his movements as usual with the Sensory Field and Golden Cinder Eyes.

Excess is as bad as deficiency.

Blur-.

YuWon tightly closed his eyes, which were still full of fatigue.

'Proficiency is a problem, but the bigger problem is the body.'

Arcane Power was sufficient.

Thanks to Danpung, Kim YuWon had acquired dozens of Arcane Power statistics that were originally not in his plan.

Unlike other things, at least when it came to Arcane Power statistics, he didn't lag behind Odin or Son OhGong.

The problem was elsewhere.

'My statistics other than Arcane Power remain the same.'

Originally, there wouldn't have been such an asymmetry.

Arcane Power was a statistic known to be the most difficult to increase among the five statistics that included strength and agility.

It could be said that Arcane Power was a gift from heaven.

'It was a fight that only wasted my stamina for no reason.'

It became clear what was missing.

The skill level could gradually increase over time.

While moments of inspiration and revelation were important, the safest way to increase skill was undoubtedly to constantly use the abilities.

So, what remained was just one thing.

"The Physical Enhancement Potion."

He could only increase statistics other than Arcane Power.

-----

The fragrant aroma of tea.

The Goblin Servant looked at the Goblin King, who held a considerably large cup.

"What are you thinking?"

"I didn't know you were such an ill-suited companion for tea."

"Do you want me to punch you?"

"Fine, never mind. A punch won't be enough to end it all."

The Goblin Servant extended his hand. He was very aware of the Goblin King's power. If he punched you, your head would probably fly off without a problem.

Then the Goblin King raised the cup again.

Although it was a cup, what it contained was tea with a bit of alcohol. He hadn't completely given up alcohol yet, and he couldn't endure without drinking something.

The Goblin Servant, unable to bear the awkward situation, finally spoke.

"Your first defeat must have been quite shocking."

Splash!



The cup fell on the table.

No matter how heavy the cup was, it made a solid sound when it fell.

"I started drinking alcohol when I was seventeen."

The Goblin King spoke dramatically, as if in a movie, while refilling his tea cup.

"Within my body, alcohol has accumulated tremendously. It seems it will take some time to get it out."

"You've thought it through."

"Old age is really strange."

"You, who don't age, must be happy."

The Goblin King, who had been laughing for a moment, took a big sip from his cup and asked:

"Kim YuWon, he wants a Physical Enhancement Potion."

"I've heard that too."

"You've taken it too, haven't you?"

The Goblin Servant nodded.

An affirmative silence. The Goblin King, with a pensive expression, muttered as he savored his tea cup again.

"Are you willing to listen?"

"He has enough points, that's for sure."

"It seems like he's really rich."

"If it's just about points, I have more than him and Odin. And unlike you, who are compensating for the lack of points with your body, he doesn't need to do that."

150 million points.

For most Rankers, that amount was an unattainable dream.

There was an enormous difference between the points the Goblin Servant had when he first arrived in the Goblin Country and this amount.

"But that guy..."

"What about him?"

"I have the feeling he knows me."

"Really?"

In terms of time, it didn't make sense.

YuWon had entered this Tower only a few years ago. On the other hand, the Goblin Servant hadn't left the Goblin Country for thousands of years.

The two had never crossed paths. Originally, YuWon shouldn't even have known about the existence of the Goblin Servant.

But how...?

"I don't know..."

After thinking for a moment, the Goblin King, who scratched his head in a complicated manner, raised his tea cup again.

There was no answer, no matter how much he thought. It was an unnecessary waste of time.

Now he had to solve the problem in front of him immediately.

"Leave the construction of the tomb to the Goblin Jester, and you'll see me tomorrow."

"Are you planning to start right away?"

"One day is enough to prepare. After all, if Sorcery goes wrong, it will be a big problem."

"Is it just the two of us?"

"The mediocre ones can stay out. You, me, and the Bull Demon King are enough."

The Goblin Servant nodded.

Of course.

With the Bull Demon King, the Tower's top Sorcerer, and the creator of Sorcery, the Goblin King, in addition to the Goblin Servant himself, there was no room for other goblins.

"I'll be tired for a while."

The process of melting ingredients with Sorcery and turning them into potions didn't get completed in one or two days. Furthermore, the task of infusing those potions into the user's body was quite complicated. Therefore, just thinking about doing that tedious work already made the Goblin Servant feel exhausted.

However...

Strangely, the Goblin King seemed to have expectations rather than complaints.

"Even if you're tired, it will probably be quite fun."

"What kind of fun are you talking about?"

"There were so many ingredients that I couldn't verify them all properly before, that's what I mean."

The countless ingredients that YuWon had brought out.

After checking them, the Goblin King felt that he had finally recovered from sobriety for the first time in a long time.

"There were quite valuable ingredients mixed in."

Thinking that something amazing might come out of this.

Chapter 397

C397

The sleep was brief. After only a few hours of sleep, someone knocked on YuWon's room door.

On the other side of the door, the Bull Demon King was standing.

Without warning, the Bull Demon King gestured for YuWon to get out of bed.

YuWon had an idea of what was happening. Before going to sleep, he had asked the Bull Demon King for a favor.

He didn't expect it to happen so quickly.

He yawned and got up.

YuWon followed the Bull Demon King out of the room. They stopped in the backyard of a nearby tiled house.

"Are we doing it here?"

"Anyway, didn't you say you were training your eyes?"

The Bull Demon King unleashed a movement of his fingers.

He didn't take out the Mixed Iron Rod. However, energy gathered in the Bull Demon King's hand, and YuWon's eyes turned golden.

"Well, you're right."

"Let's begin."

"Yes."

As soon as he replied, YuWon's eyelids closed. In an instant, his vision darkened.

His senses were blocked. He blocked his sight and suppressed the always-alert nerves.

It had been a long time since he had felt this sensation.

Even when he closed his eyes to sleep, he always felt like he could see clearly around him. His senses were so sharp that he could detect even a nearby mouse or insect.

But now, intentionally blocking it, he felt like he was floating in space.

Now, only one thing remained.

Giiing-.

From beneath his closed eyelids, YuWon's eyes radiated light.

Thus, his golden eyes gleamed, and a red energy covered them.

[Eyes of Foreknowledge anticipate the future]

[Golden Cinder Eyes reveal falsehood]

After the skill manifested...

Sssh-.

Countless scenes appeared over YuWon's eyes.

The Bull Demon King threw punches. First to the neck, then to the chest and the side.

YuWon recognized the true punch among all and reached his hand forward.

Bang!

The palm of his hand stopped the Bull Demon King's punch. If it had been a full-strength punch, it wouldn't have been easy to stop, but from the start, this wasn't a brawl of brute strength.

With closed eyes.

Blocking all senses.

Depending on the power of the Eyes of Foreknowledge, YuWon blocked the Bull Demon King's punch.

Bang, bang, bang!

The speed gradually increased. The strength also became more powerful.

Amidst the multiple futures passing through his mind, it took time to discern the truth.

"In the chest or the side?"

Two options he couldn't distinguish clearly.

Finally, he had to choose.

Bang!

"Uuugh...!"

A punch hit the side.

YuWon's eyes snapped open. A bit of nausea washed over him, but he held it back with difficulty.

He staggered.

His legs weakened, and his body trembled. He only avoided falling to the ground thanks to managing to stay on his feet with difficulty.

"It seems harder than I thought."

Was it too fast?

The Bull Demon King licked his lips quietly.

The Bull Demon King's response shook YuWon's self-esteem.

"I'll try again."

After taking a breath, YuWon closed his eyes again.

He blocked his senses and relied solely on the Eyes of Foreknowledge. Multiple futures spread before him, and amidst them, he found the truth.

"...it's okay."

The Bull Demon King threw a punch. This was because he thought he could do it as YuWon wanted, having talked so much.

That day...

YuWon received a beating from the Bull Demon King until he lost consciousness.

-----

Three days passed.

The sun rose and set, so it was difficult to know how time passed. The only way to know that the day was progressing was to check the clock from time to time.

Bang, bang!

Boom!

The Bull Demon King's punch was blocked by YuWon's hand, while the other punch struck empty air.

Although the speed increased, YuWon successfully blocked and dodged the punches.

What initially seemed unnatural had now become quite natural.

Boom!

Another strike.

The fist hit empty air. The process in which the Bull Demon King extended his punch and YuWon dodged it was as smooth as the flow of water.

"He's starting to react before the punch comes."

He predicted every move. Unless there was a vast difference in skill, this was impossible.

But YuWon was doing it.

"You've become quite skilled, haven't you?"

The Bull Demon King observed YuWon's closed eyes.

He hadn't opened his eyes in over two days.

The question was whether YuWon could open his eyes properly, and moreover, if his senses would return to normal after being strained so much.

"Of course, before that..."

Bang!

".....!"

The Bull Demon King's fist dug into YuWon's abdomen.

"I have to deal with other problems first."

He grunted.

His knee bent.

YuWon, who had fallen to the ground, quickly got up. Even though his body was drenched in sweat, and his legs were trembling, getting up was a kind of instinct.

"It's time."

Kim YuWon's eyelids lifted.

His eyes, now revealing their color, shone even more intensely in a golden hue than before.

Those eyes probably knew what he was going to say from now on.

"Although your eyes have grown stronger, we also need to figure out what to do with this fragile body of yours."

Woosh~.

YuWon's eyes returned to their original state.

Since it was already a problem he knew well himself, YuWon wasn't surprised by the Bull Demon King's observation.

"Is that so?"

The Bull Demon King nodded.

Although it wasn't a skill he personally used, he had been closely observing YuWon's abilities for the past few days, so he was aware of the strain that the Eyes of Foreknowledge were putting on him.

And furthermore...

"But even if they are just the eyes, you were able to withstand these punches of mine..."

The Bull Demon King furrowed his brow as if it were pathetic.

It felt a bit unfair.

Both his brother Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King himself were considered among the best in physical abilities in the Tower.

Especially the current Bull Demon King didn't lack strength in the Tower, at least in terms of physical strength alone.

So simply enduring the Bull Demon King's punch was an impressive feat in itself.

However...

"You're not wrong."

For several days, Kim YuWon had relied solely on the Eyes of Foreknowledge.

He didn't use Arcane Power to strengthen his body or use Gigantification.

Of course, the Bull Demon King had also done the same.

And the result of facing strength against strength was truly overwhelming.

"That's why you need it."

"Are you talking about that potion?"

"Yes."

"Although you're smarter than OhGong, I'm worried..."

The Bull Demon King, who hesitated for a moment, spoke with a worried expression.

"It seems like it's going to be quite painful."

He sighed.

The Bull Demon King turned.

The last few days of training had started without him having a good rest.

And the remaining time to keep progressing was limited.

"Rest well for at least one day. You'll need that to endure."

One day.

That would probably be the time left until the potion was ready.

Kim YuWon nodded and lay down on the ground. He didn't have enough strength left in his body to get up and walk to his room.

So, he spent a day lying on the floor.

-----

Boggle, boggle-.

Kim YuWon looked at the huge bubbling pot in front of him.

He had come thinking that the potion would be ready, but instead of a potion, there was a boiling tub like scalding lava.

"Is this...?"

"Well, did you think it would be so easy to swallow?"

"Well, of course..."

YuWon started to speak and then stopped.

It was an obvious question. Usually, when people talked about potions, they meant small bottles in jars.

But what was in front of him was enough to swim in.

"Where did you get so many ingredients? You're lucky that this amount came out. Originally, it should have been much more."

It was an accurate observation.

The ingredients YuWon had brought filled an entire large room. It made sense that a potion made from so many ingredients would produce a pot as abundant as that.

But no matter how much he understood it...

"I didn't know that instead of a potion, bone broth would be cooked."

Unless he had mixed all the ingredients and boiled them for a long time, he would have never imagined getting such a large amount.

"How am I supposed to consume all of this?"

Eating all of this would make him explode.

Even if he reluctantly ate it, it would take at least ten days to finish it all.

"You're not going to eat it. Get in."

"Get in?"

"You'll know when you get in. You have to pay attention to two things."

The Goblin King spoke while folding one of his two extended fingers.

"Keep your mind in order, and don't skimp on spending your Points."

Next, the Goblin King nodded toward the tub. "Get in there," he said.

YuWon glanced at the Bull Demon King and the Goblin Servant around the tub.

Three of the top Sorcerers had gathered.

At least in terms of Sorcery, there was no reason to worry.

YuWon walked directly to the bathtub.

As he approached, a repulsive smell hit his nose like a lie. It was black water with no floating impurities.

Drip-.

He first put one foot in.

He didn't feel anything strange, so he jumped directly into the bathtub.

Splash!

The bathtub was deeper than he expected.

It must have been at least 4 meters deep. Curiously, even inside the water, he could breathe, but once he entered the black water, it felt like he was floating in space.

"A strange sensation."

At first, he didn't feel anything at all. He expected the water to be boiling due to effervescence, but it wasn't.

It felt as if he were simply floating in warm water.

YuWon raised his head to look up.

The Goblin King, the Goblin Servant, and the Bull Demon King.

All three of them were placing their hands on the water's surface.

"Let's begin now."

YuWon nodded.

He had the determination to endure the pain. He also had enough points.

Now was the time.

Buzz, buzz, buzz-.

Sssss-.

Through the substances surrounding him, the Sorcery of the three transmitted to YuWon. At the same time, the bubbling potion that had been boiling began to infiltrate YuWon's body.



"...!"

Kim YuWon's eyes opened wide.

The potion that began to infiltrate his body twisted every muscle of his body. His body strongly rejected the potion, and the large amount of potion being forced by Sorcery twisted YuWon's flesh and bones.

It was the beginning of the "physical enhancement."

[Starting the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual']

['A dragon horn imbued with magic' is seeping into your body]

[A penalty will be applied. The 'Physical Enhancement Ritual' will be interrupted]

[Do you wish to continue the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual' using points?]

[1,012,190 points are required]

From the beginning, 1,000,000 points were needed. YuWon had the feeling that he understood why he had been told not to skimp on points.

The pain that twisted his body, his body rejecting the potion, and the penalties.

YuWon understood the essence of this ritual.

"Points are ultimately the strength that defies the Tower's laws and system. They make the impossible possible, create something from nothing. That's what comes from points."

The physical enhancement potion that Kim YuWon had in his body had been forcibly created in the form of a potion from monster bodies and special materials that originally couldn't become a potion.

But points are the strength that defies the laws and the system.

To continue with this ritual, it was necessary to pay a proper price for defying the laws.

'From the beginning, 1,000,000...'

[You have 141,478,900 points]

He still had a significant amount of points.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say that he had earned points for this day, so the choice was natural.

'I use it.'

[You will consume 1,012,190 points.]

[Resuming the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual']

Chak, chak...

His muscles tore and distorted like rice paper. The potion swallowed the screams that were erupting from his teeth.

And so, the ritual began, and it didn't take long.

[Your Arcane Power slightly increases.]

[You are absorbing the properties of the 'dragon horn imbued with Arcane Power.']

[Your endurance increases.]

[Your endurance has increased by 1.]

One of the ingredients YuWon had prepared had completely infiltrated his body.

But this was only the beginning.

[Starting the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual']

[You are absorbing the 'Heart of the Fenrir Wolf King.']

It was only the beginning.

---

Chapter 398

C398

The potion in which YuWon was immersed was bubbling increasingly stronger.

The unpleasant odor, which seemed to gather all the bad smells in the world, caused the Goblin Servant to furrow his brow. Then, suddenly, he looked at the Bull Demon King and the Goblin King who were still injecting the potion into YuWon's body.

"It's been approximately a day."

One day since the ritual began.

It hadn't been that long.

However, the Goblin Servant, who was conducting the ritual, started to feel his endurance and Arcane Power gradually depleting.

"If you're tired, take a rest."

It was the Bull Demon King's response, who noticed the Goblin Servant's state.

The Goblin Servant was about to say he was fine, but he nodded instead. He had understood that if he insisted stubbornly, he might become a nuisance.

He sat down on the floor and began to breathe calmly.

"Hold out well," the Bull Demon King said before refocusing on the ritual. The Goblin King yawned in boredom.

"This isn't a common job."

No, it definitely wasn't.

What was boiling in the pot was a collection of ingredients that even High-Rankers would have difficulty obtaining, as they came from monsters and divine beings.

Forcing those ingredients to release their power required a large number of points, but external help was also needed.

You never knew what kind of side effects might arise if the potion was mixed incorrectly or if another ritual started during the process.

"Of course..."

Burble...

The Goblin Servant's gaze went to YuWon, who was submerged in the boiling potion.

"Even that guy enduring this ritual is the same."

The Goblin Servant had already experienced a similar ritual in the past.

Back then, it had been the Goblin King who had helped him. However, at that time, the Physical Enhancement Ritual wasn't as big as it was now.

Having collected so many ingredients was thanks to YuWon's skills, significantly increasing the ritual's burden compared to what the Goblin Servant had experienced.

"I hope he can endure it."

If the person receiving the ritual lost consciousness, the ritual would be meaningless.

No matter how much effort the external Sorcerers put in, if the recipient couldn't accept it, everything would end.

"Hold out well."

-----

[You have absorbed the characteristics of the "Ancient Knight King."]

[Strength increases by 1]

[Endurance increases by 1]

Just as he was beginning to feel mentally exhausted, a message arrived.

Despite everything, he was relieved that there was a reward. If it weren't for this, he might have given up much earlier.

"This is exhausting, really."

Burbble...

He had no trouble breathing.

What made it difficult to breathe was the effect of the potion flowing inside his body. The properties of all the ingredients mixed in the potion were being introduced into his body. Although he gained many statistic points in return, his mental endurance and physical stamina were gradually declining.

If he hadn't been recovering his endurance as statistics from time to time, he would have lost consciousness long ago.

"Is this the twentieth or so?"

Then, how many more were left?

Since he hadn't been counting, he had no idea. YuWon began mentally listing the ingredients he had collected.

But at that moment...

[The 'Heart of Surt' is merging with you]

[A penalty is being applied. The 'Physical Enhancement Ritual' stops]

[You can continue the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual' using points]

[Do you wish to use points?]

[51,248,900 points are required.]

Ahhhh!

He felt intense pain as if his muscles and flesh were burning. YuWon's eyes opened wide.

"Finally, it's here."

The Heart of Surt was the material YuWon considered the most important when planning the Physical Enhancement Ritual.

He had to focus on it without fail. Failing in this would practically mean wasting half of the ritual.

[You will spend 51,248,900 points]

[Resuming the 'Physical Enhancement Ritual']

In an instant, 50 million points vanished.

But the Heart of Surt was a worthy item.

Even during the Tutorial, YuWon had gained a considerable amount of statistics through the Heart of Surtra.

"This is like the expanded version."

Surtra was one of the many sons of Surt, one of the "Sons of Muspel."

But Surt was different.

If Surtra was one of the many branches of a great tree, Surt was the trunk and the roots.

The heart of this Giant held power that was in a dimension different from the Heart of Surtra that YuWon had consumed in the tutorial.

Chii-!

"Ah...!"

A pain that felt like his entire body was burning.

Hwaak-.

YuWon's eyes turned red.

['Golden Cinder Eyes' resists the 'Demon Giant's Fire at its Peak']

['Holy Fire' resists the 'Demon Giant's Fire at its Peak']

['Golden Cinder Eyes' fails to resist the 'Demon Giant's Fire at its Peak']

['Holy Fire'...]

Even though he tried to resist the pain that felt like his whole body was burning, it was impossible to resist it completely.

The potion containing the heart of Surt seeped into his body under the guidance of Sorcery.

Resisting and accepting those flames was YuWon's responsibility.

The pain that had become familiar intensified once again. YuWon twisted his body due to the pain that felt like his body was on fire.

Without a doubt, he would overcome it.

One way or another.

-----

The sky was a bright purple.

A hooded man walked among the fallen leaves on the ground, making his clothes rustle.

Crunch-.

The trees, the ground, everything was a Black Woods.

The hooded man murmured as he looked at the woods he was visiting after a long time.

"I always feel uncomfortable here."

Walking into the woods where all the tree leaves were dead and crawled as if trying to ensnare him, Foolish Chaos advanced.

As he approached the dark woods, he had the strange feeling that something was drawing him in. Mediocre creatures would be devoured the moment they set foot in the woods.

Beeeeh.

Because of them.

A small goat blinked among the black bushes.

Though it still looked like a baby, it was looking at Foolish Chaos while licking its lips.

It was pitiful.

"Come over here."

Foolish Chaos gestured to the goat.

Crunch-.

The goat broke through the underbrush and approached Foolish Chaos.

The goat, roughly up to his waist, came closer to Foolish Chaos and suddenly opened a giant mouth.

Shluuuk-!

And in that moment...

"So fleeting."

Saaah-.

The goat's body turned into black ashes and scattered.

There was no sound. The ashes drifting in the wind marked the end of the goat.

"Go to a better place."

Beeeeh-.

Beeeeh-.

The surrounding goats began to bleat.

The appearance of an 'enemy' who killed one of their own caused dozens or even hundreds of red eyes to appear everywhere.

And as he looked at those goats.

"There are many of you who will go to a better place."

Foolish Chaos began to move without hesitation.

To kill all the goats he saw in front of him.

But then...

-Beeeh-.

In the distance, another type of bleating was heard.

Chilling, chilling~

A fear that made the body tremble. The heads of the goats turned in the direction of that bleat.

Foolish Chaos also stopped his action.

That was enough.

"You should have done this a long time ago."

With a snort, Foolish Chaos turned and walked towards where the bleat had come from.

The bleat sounded once and then vanished. The goats that had obstructed Foolish Chaos's path hid back in the underbrush, leaving only glimpses of their eyes.

Thus, at the end of his journey through the Black Woods...

Flash-.

A pair of purple eyes met Foolish Chaos.

-Why are you here?

The Black Goat of the Woods with a Thousand Young.

True to that name, it lay deep in the heart of the Black Woods surrounded by goats.

Through the purple eyes, Foolish Chaos's image was reflected.

Gently, Foolish Chaos inclined his head in greeting.

Shub-Nigurath, before him, was one of the few beings with a higher rank than him.

"Long time no see."

-Did you know I would come out if you did this?

"I thought you would because you seem to value your offspring a lot."

"You're good at speaking nonsense. Although you know it's not true."

Shub-Niggurath didn't respond to the empty remarks.

Instead, he slowly rose and began to look at Foolish Chaos.

And around Shub-Niggurath's neck.

"I've heard the stories."

Bite marks could be seen.

"It seems your wounds aren't healing easily."

-It seems it will take quite some time. Oddly, don't you think?

Shub-Niggurath's wounds should have healed in a day if it were his regeneration power. However, Shub-Niggurath's wounds, which had been around for quite some time since he was injured, still hadn't fully healed.

-You knew, didn't you?

Shub-Niggurath's eyes gleamed with a terrifying look.

With a quick movement, the Black Goat of the Woods's face approached Foolish Chaos.

-Was this also part of your plan?

"I needed to confirm it."

-Did you use me as a sacrifice?

"That's why I came to apologize."

Foolish Chaos clasped his hands and lowered his head.

He didn't hesitate to seek forgiveness. He knew what he had done was wrong, but Shub-Niggurath didn't want to fight Foolish Chaos in this situation.

-Indeed. If 'he' is truly alive, then you will have more work cut out for you.

"Thank you for understanding."

Foolish Chaos's head bowed even deeper.

When he came here, he was prepared for at least one of his arms to be torn off. Being in this situation was a relief.

-Leave. If you stay any longer, you might become food for these offspring.

"Understood."

How many times did he have to bow?

Foolish Chaos left behind Shub-Niggurath after giving his final salute and exited the black forest. On the way out, the goat offspring followed him, but he paid them no attention. Messing with them could only anger Shub-Niggurath, who was already calm enough.

So after leaving the Black Woods.

"Shub-Niggurath was wounded..."

Foolish Chaos's mind became complicated.

"He truly was."

In Foolish Chaos's mind, the image of a small child appeared.

A child the size of a palm, laughing with an innocent face.

It didn't seem like anything special at first glance.

But above the child, an existence that Foolish Chaos knew was superimposed.

Someone who should never have appeared before him.

That's why he wanted to confirm it.

His abilities were insufficient. As a lesser manifestation, he couldn't reach Zeus or Kim YuWon at that time.

So Foolish Chaos decided to use Shub-Niggurath.

'I lost a lot because of that...'

His head lifted, and he looked at the purple sky.

"But at least I've confirmed what I needed to."

Shub-Niggurath's throat was torn. There shouldn't be any entity within the Tower capable of inflicting such a wound.

Which meant one thing.

"Oh, our foolish and blind father. Oh, you who are in chaos and ignorance."

An Outer God.

Specifically, the original owner who used to go by the name "Foolish Chaos."

"It seems we are destined to meet again."

Foolish Chaos closed his eyes.

Now he had to prepare to face him once more.

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Chapter 399

C399

Thousands of years ago.

The Goblin King encountered a small goblin.



"I see you're alone. You're the Poison Goblin (Dokgak), right?"

The small goblin was thin and dying.

The Goblin King found him in the remotest corner of Goblin Country.

"I've heard about you. You're the boss of this street, aren't you?"

At the same time as they called him "poisonous," the young goblin's eyes shot flames.

Literally, it was a look full of poison. It was astonishing how that poison could emanate from his emaciated body.

"You may be good at fighting, but your body is quite weak."

The Goblin King was intrigued by the Poison Goblin.

It was as if he felt the same sensation as when he first encountered the Bull Demon King a long time ago.

The Goblin King saw potential in this Poison Goblin. And this feeling had never failed him before.

"Take this."

Plop.

A small mask fell in front of the Poison Goblin.

"Come to see me later with that. At that time, I'll adjust it to your size."

"...Who are you?"

The Poison Goblin asked as he picked up the mask.

Despite sensing an imposing atmosphere when seeing the Goblin King, the Poison Goblin showed no sign of fear.

The Goblin King liked that attitude, so he smiled wryly.

"Hmph, a cheeky brat who doesn't even know the king's face."

"The king? Are you?"

"You? Haha, really, this guy. The more I look at him, the more I like him."

The Goblin King stroked his chin.

In his mind, a strange way to transform the slender Poison Goblin's body came to him.

"Do you want to become stronger?"

"...Yes."

"I didn't hear you, say it louder."

"Yes."

"I see, that's how it is. You want to become stronger, right?"

The young Poison Goblin.

The Goblin King opened his mouth as he looked at the mask that the Poison Goblin held in his hand.

"From now on, your name will be Servant (이매)."

Years passed.

The Poison Goblin, who had been fighting in the alleys, suddenly disappeared. The other young goblins who had fought against him sought revenge but never found him.

Hundreds of years passed.

A goblin with a familiar mask appeared in front of the Goblin King.

"I, Servant, greet you."

"Good."

At that moment, Servant was barely at the level of a Ranker.

The only reason he had such a high rank was the few spells he had learned from the Goblin King and his natural poison.

But that's why the Goblin King held him in such high esteem.

"Now all you have to do is fix that body of yours."

That same day.

Servant underwent a physical enhancement procedure.

His weaknesses were compensated for, and he became the strongest goblin apart from the king.

That was the birth of the first of the King's Masked Goblins, Goblin Servant.

-----

Boggle, boggle-.

Goblin Servant looked inside the boiling potion.

At some point, YuWon was no longer moving. He thought he had lost consciousness, but that wasn't the case.

The fact that the ritual continued without interruption was proof of it. Three days had already passed.

"It seems he's in a deep meditative state."

It was clear that YuWon was somewhat out of it.

It was astonishing that he could withstand and continue the ritual in that state. His mental resilience was truly impressive.

"Does he really plan to complete all of this?"

At first, Goblin Servant thought YuWon was too ambitious. He would be content if he could obtain at least half. Getting power from the Heart of Surt would be a great achievement.

But now...

Three days had already passed. YuWon didn't even move.

"It seems to be coming to an end."

The Goblin King also appeared exhausted.

Both shared the same opinion.

There's nothing left.

Boggle...

Goblin Servant still gazed at the boiling potion. The tar-black color remained unchanged.

What the hell is coming to an end?

"...A smell?"

Goblin Servant's attention was drawn to the tip of his nose.

Suddenly, the stench emanating from the potion vanished.

He thought he had simply gotten used to the smell, but that wasn't what was happening.

Goblin Servant's gaze shifted to the inside of the potion.

And at that moment...

Chiiing...

From the previously vigorously bubbling potion, scorching steam began to rise suddenly.

Until now, the potion had been boiling due to a phenomenon caused by Sorcery. It wasn't evaporating due to heat.

But now, it was different.

An intense heat was transmitted through the steam.

The potion was evaporating.

"Why is this happening?"

Goblin Servant, the Goblin King, and the Bull Demon King had no choice but to stop the ritual due to the scorching heat emanating from it.

"You should step back."

The Bull Demon King spoke as he took a step back due to the blazing heat.

"...?"

At the Bull Demon King's words, Goblin Servant and the Goblin King also began to retreat.

As they moved further away, the heat became more intense.

Chiiing, chiiii...

The bubbling steam created dense clouds rising into the sky.

Although the moonlight was hidden, ironically, the surroundings seemed brighter.

Fwoosh!

Red and purple-toned flames mixed and rose upwards. The flames instantly caused YuWon's potion to evaporate.

There was no trace of the foul smell.

Only a faint earthy scent was perceptible where the steam met the ground.

From the mist of the steam, someone emerged.

It was obvious who it was.

"Kim YuWon?"

Inside that place, there was no one else but YuWon.

Despite that, Goblin Servant briefly doubted the obvious answer.

"Is it really... Kim YuWon?"

Until now, it was only a blurry figure through the steam.

Still, despite appearances, Goblin Servant couldn't think that the figure on the other side of the steam was YuWon.

It was as if countless beings were appearing through it before Goblin Servant's eyes.

Finally, when YuWon slowly emerged from the steam.

Sssh...

Goblin Servant noticed that YuWon's eyes were unfocused.

"Is he conscious?"

Well.

He had been enduring unbearable pain within that place for three days. Being conscious was even more astonishing.

What was even more surprising was that YuWon was now moving.

"You're okay..."

"Don't come closer."

The Bull Demon King blocked Goblin Servant's path to YuWon.

It was a strange atmosphere. He could have calmly walked out, but YuWon chose to evaporate the entire potion.

It meant that he couldn't control his power.

"You might hurt yourself for no reason."

Kugh~

Immediately after the Bull Demon King stopped Goblin Servant, the Goblin King began to move.

It was out of curiosity.

How much more powerful had Kim YuWon become after completing a ritual of this magnitude? And the question he had in mind was whether the person in front of them was really Kim YuWon, whom they had known just a few days ago.

"It seems to be a success, but..."

The Goblin King stroked his chin.

"Well, I'm not sure yet."

The distance between the two was only ten steps. However, for the Goblin King, those ten steps were reduced to just three due to Kim YuWon's speed.

"He might have lost his mind..."

But then...

Bwoong...

A body soared upward.

"...?"

The Goblin King furrowed his brow, filled with questions. What had happened in that short period of time?

The Goblin King's body, which had been flipped, landed on the ground.

Kwaaaah!

The ground cracked as the Goblin King fell. A large hole formed, and in the center of that hole, the Goblin King realized that his arm was trapped by YuWon.

Kwaaak...

YuWon's hand tightly gripped the Goblin King.

The Goblin King used to be someone who believed that no one could surpass him in strength. No matter how weak he was from using Sorcery for a few days, he was surprised to feel someone controlling him like this.

"What kind of power is this...?"

Apparently, the ritual had been quite successful.

Of course, that was one thing.

But then...

Plop...

A vein on the Goblin King's forehead began to swell.

After spending several days without eating or sleeping while assisting in the ritual, this was the last thing he needed.

"What are you doing...?"

But right at that moment...

Srrrk...

There was a sudden release of the gripping force.

Plop...

YuWon collapsed to the ground, losing consciousness. The Goblin King, who had been lying on the ground due to the sudden turn of events, looked at YuWon with a puzzled expression.

"What the hell was that?"

A sudden attack, followed by a collapse.

Confused, the Goblin King looked around.

The ground was crumbling and cracking. The tiled house had collapsed due to the impact.

In the midst of all the chaos, the Goblin King muttered.

"This is going to be... costly."

-----

YuWon had started feeling dizzy quite some time ago, probably since he began to battle the Heart of Surt.

He was half-lost in a trance-like state. Although one positive thing was that, compared to the pain of the Heart of Surt, the other features he had gained afterward were not as painful.

"When did I lose consciousness?"

That was his first thought when he regained his senses.

His eyelids felt heavier than usual today. Even though his body seemed capable of lifting Ru Yi Bang with a burst of energy, his eyelids were too heavy.

But what could he do? He had rested enough, so he had to get up.

So YuWon slowly opened his eyes.

"Are you awake?"

And just as he did, the Bull Demon King was waiting for him.

Instead of responding, YuWon rolled his eyes and looked around, taking in the room he was lying in along with the ceiling.

It was an old house. What happened to the Goblin King's tiled roofed house?

He clearly remembered that he had been living in the Goblin King's residence with his permission.

Reading the questions in YuWon's eyes, the Bull Demon King spoke.

"We couldn't help it. You destroyed the entire house."

"...Was it me?"

He didn't remember any of that.

Him destroying the Goblin King's house. When the hell did that happen?

A throbbing headache made him groan. It seemed like his body still wasn't fully recovered.

"Your body is fine. The problem is your mind. I tried to forcefully hold back your mind from disconnecting, so your head hurts."

Gurgle.

Steam was rising slightly from the tea cup.

YuWon accepted the tea cup offered by the Bull Demon King.

"Drink it. The aroma should help clear your mind."

"Thank you."

Although he didn't know the tea's name, he definitely felt a bit calmer inhaling its aroma.

While sipping the tea, he tried to reflect, but as expected, he couldn't remember anything.

He had no choice but to ask if he couldn't remember.

"What happened?"

"You've gained a lot of strength."

"Really?"

"It seems like you really don't remember anything."

The Bull Demon King's reaction suggested that he wasn't joking. After all, he wasn't Son OhGong, and he didn't seem to be joking about something like this.

YuWon waited for the Bull Demon King to tell him what had happened. It seemed like he had caused some kind of trouble, considering he mentioned destroying the house.

He thought the Bull Demon King would probably tell him what had happened soon. Meanwhile, YuWon continued to silently drink his tea.

"What do you think?"

Sliding his hand gently toward YuWon, the Bull Demon King asked, "Would you like to spar with me?"

Chapter 400

C400

YuWon looked at the outstretched hand of the Bull Demon King.

"A arm wrestling match?" he asked.

What kind of simple proposal was this?

It wasn't a suitable offer for someone who had just recovered from fainting. If the proposal had come from Son OhGong, he might have considered it, but based on his experience, the Bull Demon King didn't have such an impulsive personality.

However, the expression on the Bull Demon King's face seemed serious for some reason.

"The Bull Demon King was known as the King of Great Power in ancient times," Kim YuWon thought.

As his name suggested, the Bull Demon King was known for being unmatched in terms of strength.

If someone were willing to compete in an arm wrestling match with the Bull Demon King, perhaps only Heracles could do it.

"Don't you find it amusing? Anyway, your body is fully recovered... in fact, it seems you've even improved since last time," said the Bull Demon King.

Somehow, it seemed that the Bull Demon King had developed an interest in this procedure.

Now that he thought about it, YuWon was also curious.

How much had his stats changed with this procedure? And, above all, how much strength had he gained?

[Name: Kim YuWon]

[Level: 125]

[Strength: 148]

[Agility: 131]

[Endurance: 151]

[Senses: 140]

[Arcane Power: 177]

[Available Points: 34,150,400]

[Acquired Skills]

[High-Quality Magic Sword, Mana Cannon, Golden Cinder Eyes, Holy Fire, Gigantification...] - Details

It was the first time in a long time that YuWon had checked his status.

He believed that feeling the stats directly in his body was more accurate than just looking at them with his eyes.

And there had been many things he hadn't checked for a long time.

But still, he couldn't help but be curious.

In particular, how much his strength had increased.

"...It has increased quite a bit."

The most remarkable was undoubtedly his Arcane Power.

An impressive 177. His Arcane Power had increased a few points since before the ritual.

But that wasn't a significant change, as his Arcane Power was already above 170 before the ritual.

The most significant changes were in other stats.

"My strength and endurance have increased significantly."



That was what he had really wished for.

A resilient body capable of withstanding an Arcane Power of 177.

After checking his stats, YuWon looked back at the Bull Demon King, who still had his hand outstretched.

"An arm wrestling competition," Kim YuWon thought.

During the time when YuWon was at his peak as a prominent Ranker in activity, the Bull Demon King had already lost his life long ago and was simply an ancient High-Ranker who had disappeared from the rankings. The reason he could still hear something about him was largely thanks to Sun Wukong's company.

Originally, the difference in power between Son OhGong and the Bull Demon King wasn't that great, but now, after passing the trial and gaining Divinity, YuWon wondered what the real difference would be.

"Let's give it a try."

Yuwon grabbed the Bull Demon King's hand.

No signal was needed to start.

Yuwon began to pull the Bull Demon King's arm towards himself from the air.

"Will this be enough?"

Thud~

Yuwon's expression frowned due to the force emanating from the Bull Demon King's hand.

Definitely, even after receiving the ritual, defeating the Bull Demon King with just strength alone was still difficult.

So...

[The power of a Giant resides in your arms]

Thud~

The Bull Demon King's arm finally moved for the first time.

The Bull Demon King's expression changed. Finally, his mouth curved up with a satisfied expression.

"Now you're a decent rival."

Crack, crack...

The bed on which Kim YuWon was lying began to break.

Both their arms didn't move in the air. The Bull Demon King looked at YuWon, challenging him with his own strength. YuWon using his Giant transformation.

"You've acquired some special abilities, haven't you?"

Not only could he feel the strength in his grip and arms, but the Bull Demon King also remembered how YuWon had buried the Goblin King in the ground with a single blow.

"But this isn't all."

YuWon still hadn't unleashed all his power.

He wanted to see where that strength came from.

"So..."

Of course, he would also increase his strength.

-What are they trying to destroy now?

A voice echoed from the ceiling.

The force was released from YuWon's and the Bull Demon King's arms. The bed had completely broken at this point, and the building was beginning to shake slightly.

-Now, both of you stay calm. If this place collapses too, you'll be expelled.

It was the Goblin King.

Clearly, he was quite upset, considering that the castle they were in had also collapsed.

Naturally, both the Bull Demon King and YuWon had to release their hands, feeling awkward.

"I did something unnecessary," laughed the Bull Demon King after hastily extending his hand to YuWon.

It seemed that he had thought it wasn't a suitable proposal for someone who had just awakened after fainting.

"I'm fine, I didn't get hurt."

"Well, thank you for saying that."

The Bull Demon King, sitting in a chair next to the bed, was of considerable height.

He observed the landscape outside the window for a moment. The goblins were still drinking and laughing cheerfully, apparently full of conversation and joy.

"Things are quite chaotic outside these days."

Since the appearance of Shub-Niggurath, the Tower had been going through a period of great turmoil.

The Bull Demon King, who had recently descended, could feel it.

"You must have known about this even in the future, right?"

"This is just the beginning," YuWon replied.

In YuWon's mind, Shub-Niggurath's staring eyes came to him.

"...It's a bit exaggerated, isn't it?"

Certainly, it was a tumultuous beginning.

And it wasn't just anyone but Shub-Niggurath.

"What do you plan to do about it?"

"I have to go up."

"Up?"

"Yes. Hyung (Big Brother)..."

The word "Hyung" naturally came from his lips, and YuWon paused briefly, feeling uncomfortable.

After a moment, YuWon asked, "And what do you plan to do now?"

"I'll have to look for Son OhGong."

Although he had been waiting for that answer for a long time, the Bull Demon King didn't show any special reaction.

He continued speaking with his usual calm face.

"Do you think that guy knows how to do anything other than fighting?"

The question, which mixed jest and seriousness, made YuWon laugh for the first time in a long while.

Yes, YuWon was also worried about how OhGong would find his way to the Celestial Floor in case he encountered Buddha and fought him.

But if the Bull Demon King were by his side...

He would still feel a bit more at ease.

Finally, after finishing the conversation, the Bull Demon King pushed his chair back and stood up from his seat.

"Do your job. I'll do mine. And later, when we need to join forces, or if you need my help, then I'll assist you at that time."

The matters in this place had concluded.

Both the Bull Demon King and Kim YuWon. There was no need to waste more time here.

The Bull Demon King left the room after a brief farewell.

"Rest now."

The door closed slowly.

The Bull Demon King descended the stairs. Although it was a world where it was always night, inexplicably it felt as fresh as morning.

Smile-.

His lips curved up without him even realizing it.

"Hyung, huh..."

He had barely heard a word, but his mood improved considerably, and the Bull Demon King continued walking.

-----

Another day passed.

After forcing a bit of sleep, his head, which felt a bit heavy, felt clearer after washing up.

Tuk~

He hadn't used his body for a few days, and he already felt that his muscles had stiffened everywhere.

Or more precisely, he hadn't adapted to his changed body.

"It's a complete mess."

If he had known it would be like this, YuWon would have had the audacity to ask the Bull Demon King to face him, even if he had to exaggerate a bit. Adjusting to one or two changes in his stats was already a challenge, but with dozens of newly acquired stats and abilities, moving immediately felt as unnatural as if he wasn't in his own body.

It seemed he would have to postpone the Trial for a few more days.

"It looks like it's time to start."

Yuwon started moving immediately.

The Day of the Gathering, organized by Odin and Asgard, wasn't too far away. From now on, the world would change rapidly.

The waves began to stir in the Tower, which had been quiet for a long time.

And the one who began causing those waves was himself.

"Still, I should say goodbye before I leave."

Yuwon changed into comfortable clothes and headed straight to find the Goblin King.

It wasn't too difficult to find the Goblin King's new residence. It was so well-known that any drunk person on the street could tell you where it was.

He walked there.

The Goblin King's second residence was much smaller than the previous one.

Another tiled house in the city center. There were goblins bustling around.

And in front of the main door...

"You've come?"

Goblin Servant was waiting for Yuwon.

"Have you come to bid farewell?"

"To bid farewell and for another matter."

"May I ask what the other matter is?"

"I haven't paid the price yet. If I take this without paying, I can only imagine what will happen next."

"You know it well. There will be blood."

Swish-.

Goblin Servant walked past YuWon.

YuWon, who thought that Goblin Servant would lead him to the Goblin King, turned his head to see where he was going.

"The King is not here."

Goblin Servant nodded, indicating for YuWon to follow him.

YuWon's gaze was fixed on Goblin Servant's feet. Each of Goblin Servant's steps seemed to cover more distance than ten steps of others. Goblin Servant's steps quickly moved away, increasing the distance in the blink of an eye.

A quick pace.

With a sigh, YuWon's steps quickened to keep up.

The place they were heading to was a forest away from the city.

"What is this...?"

Whoosh-.

The wind rustled through the bushes.

A bamboo forest.

"A good place for a fight."

Thunk-.

Goblin Servant's steps came to a halt.

YuWon, who followed him automatically, saw the Goblin King seated on a small chair made from a carved rock not far away.

"You did well."

"It was nothing."

Goblin Servant nodded to the Goblin King and stepped aside.

Kim YuWon noticed a determination in the Goblin King's demeanor that he hadn't felt before.

"We're going to fight in this bamboo forest, right?"

"This is the least I can do. After all, it would be a shame not to test the strength of the man who brought me down to the ground, wouldn't it?"

"Did I really do that?"

The Bull Demon King had mentioned that YuWon had destroyed the Goblin King's residence, and apparently, this was what he was referring to. However, YuWon was surprised to have defeated the Goblin King, who was clearly in the business of strength.

"I don't remember, but..."

"That's right. The Bull Demon said you weren't the same as back then."

The Goblin King, who had witnessed YuWon's strength up close, had been replaying that moment over and over again, hundreds or thousands of times, since that day.

What exactly had it been?

The power that had lifted him into the air and slammed him to the ground in a single blow.

The Goblin King wanted to know the true nature of that power.

"It seems you can't unleash the same power as back then, even if you try in moderation."

"So, why did you summon me here?"

It was an absurd reason.

Summoning someone to fight for an event he himself didn't remember and didn't know how it had happened.

"You've destroyed my home twice; you can't destroy it for the third time. Anyway, I got curious and wanted to check it out for myself."

"I have no idea what you're talking about..."

Grrrrr.

YuWon's eyes widened as the pressure weighed on his shoulders.

Just a few days ago.

Just like when he fought the Bull Demon King, the Goblin King increased his momentum.

And gradually...

"Think of this as a sparring match, and don't hold back too much. I'm warning you in advance..."

Swoosh-.

The mask covering the Goblin King's face began to come off.

"I am seriously considering killing you in this fight."