

With The Gods 411

Chapter 411

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Hercules' fights were always like raging bulls.

Crack!

His fists shattered even the intangible. Water, fire, wind, and even intangible energy forms were broken and disappeared before his overwhelming strength.

Thud!

The slimes protecting the slab burst and covered Hercules' torso.

Ignoring this, Hercules extended his foot forward once again, ready to swing his fist.

And at that moment, something grabbed Hercules' two legs.

He felt a gaze downward and saw something clinging to his legs.

It was the remains of the slimes he thought he had killed.

Kwung!

A Lightning Bolt passing by Hercules threw the approaching slimes off him.

"Stay alert."

"...Thanks."

Swish...

Hercules grasped his club.

He had concluded that facing these beings without weapons was ineffective.

Especially against these beings, facing them without weapons was virtually suicide.

"It's not easy."

The fight had only started a few minutes ago.

Each of the single-celled cells that looked like slimes did not have great power. Their bodies tore easily with just a punch's impact, so he initially underestimated them.

But...

As he punched more, pushed away the slimes blocking his path, and cleared a path, Hercules began to feel something different.

"My body feels heavier."

It was as if they were sapping the energy from his body.

It wasn't a difference he would have noticed had he not paid attention, but it definitely wasn't an illusion.

"Ubbo-Sathla absorbs the energy and vitality of living beings."

Information that YuWon had learned from his battle with Ubbo-Sathla.

"At first, it's so subtle that you barely feel it. But like clothes soaked in the rain, it eventually robs you of your energy and weakens you."

"Is it absorption-type? In that case..."

"It's not simple absorption. If it were, so many comrades wouldn't have died trying to take down Ubbo-Sathla."

That was true.

So far, there had been many comrades who had acted to take down Ubbo-Sathla.

But among them, no one had defeated Ubbo-Sathla, not even among those who returned alive from the nest.

Except for Daedalus, who was revealed as a traitor.

"Absorption. And then disappearance."

Extending two fingers, YuWon explained the fight with Ubbo-Sathla to his comrades.

"Just remember these two things for now."

Splash!

Hercules, who had punched the slimes blocking his way with his fist, frowned.

"Could they be gastric acid?"

One hand was occupied. The slimes lunged forward, repeatedly blocking Hercules' blows and causing him injuries with their strikes.

"It's different from that."

Tss, tss, tss...

YuWon reached out to the slimes lying before him.

"The property of these beings is closer to erasure than corrosion."

It felt similar to when the skin burned as if it were in contact with fire or when it was corroded by dark energy, but it was neither of the two.

The property of those slimes was erasure.

That's why.

[Tartaros is open]

Whoosh!

The darkness that sprang from the Uranus Heart swallowed the slimes. The ring he held in his hand instantly opened a door and trapped the slimes inside.

And in that short moment...

Crunch...

The remnants of the slimes clung to YuWon's body.

"It's pointless to cut them with a sword."

Thud, thud...

YuWon shook off the remnants that clung to his body.

They weren't fatally dangerous, but he thought it would be dangerous if this repeated.

A property that consumed and erased everything in the world, a type of absurd property.

"It's not good to prolong this."

It was dangerous to carry this into a long battle.

After realizing this, Hercules decided not to save more energy and fight with all his might.

Thump...

He gripped his club with both hands.

Although he had already used Complete Gigantification, he still had a method to further evolve Gigantification after obtaining Divinity.

"It has begun."

Vibrations that transmitted through the earth.

The myth that Hercules had been writing for a long time was the battle with the Giants.

It was the Gigantomachy itself.

Boooooom...

Hercules' club fell to the ground.

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' resides within your body.]

YuWon's ring emitted a blue light and enveloped his body.

BAAAM!

Pillars of smoke rose into the air. The solid ground of the nest was flipped, and numerous slimes that obstructed the view suddenly disappeared.

YuWon was surprised once again at the sight before him.

"I'm amazed every time I see this."

Hercules, the Giant Slayer.

The name began to gain notoriety during the long war between Olympus and the Giants, the Gigantomachy, in which Hercules had a prominent role on multiple occasions.

And within that battle, Hercules created his own legend.

"Now I understand why Zeus coveted him so much."

Hercules had mentioned that at some point.

"It was because of me."

The Gigantomachy. He said that the reason hundreds of millions of Giants died was because of him.

"Father tried to create me. He used Gigantomachy to create a Myth, and within it, he intended to give life to a monster."

Gigantomachy was a war so massive in the Tower's history that it marked a before and after.

And the reason behind this war was Zeus.

For a long time, he had intended to use Gigantomachy to create Hercules' own Myth, a condition for achieving higher Divinity.

"Why didn't he write it himself?"

"He had already been writing the Myth of the 'King of Olympus' for a long time. There was no need for another Myth."

"But why bother?"

"It was because of succession."

Zeus was the King of Olympus.

He had always been thinking about his succession.

"It was all for the good of Olympus."

That was how the monster was created according to Zeus's plans.

Hercules was not grateful for the Giant blood flowing through his veins.

He wasn't someone who was born but rather someone who had been created.

Hercules regarded his surroundings as cursed.

But it was thanks to that that he had been perfected.

"Without a single Arcane Power, this strength..."

Ubbo-Sathla, which consumed both Arcane Power and vitality.

The only person capable of confronting such power without using a hint of Arcane Power and still wield such strength was Hercules.

"Thanks to that, everything is clearer."

Woosh...

When the rising smoke finally dissipated, the vibration stopped.

YuWon and Hercules looked beyond the defeated slimes that had fallen next to the club and observed the shape that surrounded the slab.

From the beginning, they had been targeting the slab with the club.

Drip...

The drops of water around the slab began to move. What had previously lacked a definite shape now formed eyes, mouths, and continuously changed shape.

A monster whose appearance couldn't be clearly defined, with dozens of eyes, mouths, and limbs that looked like tails or legs but couldn't be said for sure.

Hercules frowned as he looked at it.

"It looks pretty repugnant."

"All of them are."

Most entities in this world had vague and indistinct forms that were difficult to describe with a single name.

And among them, Ubbo-Sathla was especially so.

That's why it was given the nickname "The Unbegotten Source."

Aaaa, aaaa~

A chilling cry spread from the center of Ubbo-Sathla. It sounded similar to a human wail, shaking the eardrums of YuWon and Hercules.

A cry mixed with the voices of countless people.

Twisting~

One of Ubbo-Sathla's numerous tails moved.

And at that moment...

Juwaack!

Hercules raised his arm against the rapidly extending tail.

And at that moment...

Scaaat...

YuWon drew his sword first.

Schwack...

The tail was cut long following the sword's trajectory.

Chiiiiik...

YuWon pushed Hercules' body backward, away from Ubbo-Sathla.

It seemed as if Hercules was asking why YuWon was interfering. Then, Hercules frowned.

"What are you doing?"

"I told you not to clash with it."

"We should face it at least once to understand it."

"In the fight, both Son OhGong and you are equally ignorant."

"I've already finished talking..."

How did they know?

So, among the countless mixed voices, YuWon and Hercules looked at Ubbo-Sathla. The being that had protected the slab began to blink its numerous eyes irregularly.

How did they know?

Among the many mixed voices, YuWon and Hercules could distinguish the presence of a familiar voice.

"...Siegfried?"

"It's not just him."

["Sensory Field" activated.]

["Audition" in the process of activation.]

A voice divided into hundreds.

In YuWon's ears, Ubbo-Sathla's voice sounded fragmented, one by one.

Reply.

Reply.

Reply.

Reply.

And, as expected.

YuWon looked at the eyes and mouths of Ubbo-Sathla that appeared in front of him.

"Are all those who were believed to be dead there?"

Ubbo-Sathla absorbed the Arcane Power and vitality of living beings.

This information was quite well-known to YuWon and his companions up to this point. However, Hercules, who faced Ubbo-Sathla directly, didn't have sensory abilities like YuWon.

More than that, Hercules had never directly heard Ubbo-Sathla's voice.

That's why they couldn't obtain this information.

"Is that what happens if that guy eats you?"

"We need to catch it as soon as possible."

Zas...

The tendons in Hercules' forehead tensed.

Normally, he didn't get angry easily. And when he did, it was even more terrifying.

Hercules seemed unable to bear the idea that Ubbo-Sathla would eat his companions and treat them like this.

But...

"Try to calm down a bit."

YuWon approached Ubbo-Sathla.

Ubbo-Sathla had revealed its form to protect the slab.

If the entire nest was Ubbo-Sathla's body, then what was in front of them was like the source of all the creatures it had accumulated so far.

It was as if the tastiest prey had just appeared.

"There was someone waiting for a long time."

"?"

Someone waiting.

Here, only YuWon and Hercules were present. Moreover, there was no time to wait for anyone else.

What was he thinking?

Chuk...

It was at that moment...

Behind YuWon.

A large mouth with sharp teeth appeared, revealing its razor-sharp fangs.

['Amorphous Chaos' shows its teeth]

['Egg' squirms]

The mouth that had devoured Satan.

The creature that had been roaring its hungry belly since it entered the nest had finally entered the world.

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The first time he moved was when he was fighting Satan.

Pung!

No matter how much he cut, his body wouldn't break. Eventually, Satan came into YuWon's range and began to fight using his robust body.

'It's really tough.'

Satan didn't have special abilities.

In fact, in terms of technical skills, YuWon far exceeded Satan. The only idea Satan had was to "approach."

That's how physically strong he was, and that meant he didn't need strategies, tactics, or technical skills.

Pung!

Despite cutting him with his sword, there was only a dull sound.

It meant the sword couldn't penetrate Satan's skin.

'There's no need to rush.'

Fireee~

YuWon's sword was surrounded by black flames.

Dark attribute flames surrounded the sword.

The destructive properties of darkness and fire continued to erode and weaken Satan's body.

'We have plenty of time.'

The fight with Satan was challenging at that time, considering YuWon's current skill level.

At that time, he hadn't received the body-strengthening ritual yet, and although the difference in Arcane Power wasn't that great, the difference in physical ability was like that of a child and an adult.

However, it didn't mean he couldn't win.

'I think it's slower and weaker than it used to be. Maybe it's because it's missing a wing.'

Pung~

Kim YuWon slightly moved to dodge the fist that passed by him.

Thanks to Golden Cinder Eyes and the Sensory Field, he could dodge more easily, but...

'His speed and strength are clearly lower than they used to be.'

While his body remained robust, the blow of losing an arm and a wing seemed to have been greater than expected.

He came to this point, so it was natural for Satan's ranking to drop.

'I'll take him to a long game and gradually push him away.'

YuWon was drawing the fight with Satan that way in his head when...

['Egg' squirms]

Danpung that had turned into an Egg reacted for the first time.

"!"

Buuung-

He was surprised and reacted a little late, almost receiving Satan's punch.

YuWon quickly regained his composure.

The fight was like walking on a tightrope. If his concentration relaxed, the situation could change in an instant.

At that moment...

Behind Satan, a giant mouth appeared.

It was a familiar sight.

'Predator?'

['Amorphous Chaos' shows its teeth]

YuWon was startled by the warning that appeared in his head.

The name has changed.

Amorphous Chaos.

The shape didn't change completely, but the true name hidden behind the name was revealed:
Predator.

Kwasik-!

With teeth that looked capable of devouring Satan in one bite, the creature took him into its mouth and closed its palate.

However, weakened as he was, Satan was still a High-Ranker within the top 20.

Satan resisted with his one arm, preventing Predator's jaws from closing.

Burr, burr *

Satan's arm trembled.

But that was just for a moment.

YuWon wasn't so slow as to miss the opportunity that presented itself.

[The power of a Giant resides in your arms]

['The Uranus Heart' creates a Lightning Bolt]

Crack, craack-le.

A Lightning Bolt formed in his hand.

The muscles of his right arm, holding the Lightning Bolt, swelled like a spring, and YuWon's body bent backward like a bow.

A shooting posture.

The moment the Lightning Bolt left YuWon's hand...

Kwalung *

The Lightning Bolt went perfectly through Satan's body.

"Kaah...!"

Satan's body trembled.

Originally, it was a blow that could have been easily resisted.

Although the Lightning Bolt was charged with a considerable amount of Arcane Power, unless Nir was activated, it would be difficult to inflict a fatal blow to Satan.

But...

From the beginning, YuWon's attack had no intention of inflicting a fatal wound on Satan's body.

It was enough if he could create a gap for a short period of time.

Amorphous Chaos soon completely enveloped Satan's body, whose arms suddenly lost strength after being hit by the Lightning Bolt.

YuWon looked at the Predator that had appeared around him.

He thought the Predator was merely hungry and asking to be taken out, but it seemed not to be that simple.

[Amorphous Chaos' is claiming hunger]

[Amorphous Chaos' is showing its teeth to an unknown enemy]

It wasn't just that it was hungry.

Beyond that, certain emotions like hostility and anger were shared and flowed towards YuWon.

Ubbo-Sathla in front of him seemed to waver.

It wasn't a response of fear, but rather of surprise.

Why?

"Do you know anything about this guy?" YuWon asked.

Ubbo-Sathla didn't respond.

Its eyes were fixed solely on the Predator behind YuWon.

Naturally, the Predator didn't respond.

First of all, it didn't have high expectations.

"Do as you please," YuWon said with a chilling approval.

Kwak~

Drawing a thick, black line, the Predator passed by YuWon. Running straight towards Ubbo-Sathla, it opened its mouth as if about to devour the slab.

Jjuak~

Several arms came out of Ubbo-Sathla. Then, a viscous and irregular substance began to pour out.

Cheolpeok, cheolpeok~

The tentacles wrapped around the Predator. It looked as if the teeth of the Predator, which had been shown earlier, quivered as if they were about to touch something hot.

But that was also for a moment.

The sticky substances clinging to the body of the Predator melted. They disappeared as if they had never existed, not even turning into vapor.

And at that moment...

Yeeing~

YuWon, who approached behind Ubbo-Sathla, lifted his sword.

[Eyes of Foreknowledge]

Eyes of Foreknowledge. Eyes that looked through dozens, hundreds of thousands of futures.

Thanks to that, YuWon was able to sneak up behind Ubbo-Sathla without it noticing.

Ooh~

Arcane Power concentrated at the tip of the sword.

It was just a simple "cut."

It was different from the way YuWon had been fighting so far. It wasn't a skill, but his own "cut."

Of course, it wasn't an amazing skill in comparison.

First of all, it wasn't a comparison. Most of Asura's skills were achieved through acquiring abilities through martial arts, rather than hidden pieces or rewards through Trials.

It didn't suit YuWon, who needed results in a short period of time.

But...

Hwarrung~

Holy Fire surrounded the sword's tip.

At the same time, YuWon followed Asura's teachings and cut with his sword.

"Remember the feeling of passing instead of the feeling of cutting."

Slaaash~

The sword's branches spread like a spider's web.

It wasn't cutting, but passing through.

Not wielding the sword with the hand, but with the back of the hand.

Only then could YuWon wield the sword at a speed beyond his limit.

Swhaak~

YuWon's sword cut through Ubbo-Sathla.

Ubbo-Sathla tore apart.

Watching from a slightly distant place, Hercules frowned as he looked at YuWon.

"Is that exactly what we were looking for?"

The Asura techniques.

Hercules' own transformation into a Giant.

And even Son OhGong's Golden Cinder Eyes.

It was an appearance that came very close to Perfection. Originally, this complete existence that had all of this in his hands was exactly what Hercules and his companions expected to see with the help of the Clock Movement.

But unfortunately...

"It's a little disappointing."

YuWon's appearance didn't meet Hercules' expectations.

It was only natural.

YuWon wasn't complete yet. In fact, he was somewhere in the middle of the process of becoming complete, so to speak.

However.

"Still, that's..."

Hercules' gaze shifted towards the Predator that was tearing and devouring Ubbo-Sathla's body with its teeth exposed.

Crunch, crunch...

"I don't know what it is, but it's definitely threatening."

Looking at it made his body tremble. Although it wasn't a significant threat to the current Hercules, instinctively, his heart pounded heavily.

There was a fundamental difference.

At the moment, it had only shown its teeth, but he could feel that its true form was much larger than what was in front of him.

Crunch, crunch...

The Predator was devouring Ubbo-Sathla.

YuWon, who had been focused on wielding his sword, was surprised to see the Predator.

"Hey, if you eat it all..."

YuWon reached out to the Predator's teeth and urged it to spit out.

This would have been unthinkable in the past.

But for quite some time, YuWon had confirmed that this thing was not his enemy.

"Spit it out quickly!"

Pfft!

The Predator, which hesitated for a moment due to YuWon's blow, spat out the slab it had in its mouth.

YuWon quickly picked up the slab and breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, it didn't appear to have been damaged or torn in any way.

"The problem now is to read it."

YuWon looked at the characters on the slab.

It was a font he had never seen before. Of course, he didn't know all the languages of all races, but this was the first time he had seen characters with this appearance.

Fortunately, Players had a convenient function called "System" that allowed them to communicate between different races from different worlds.

But...

[Information inaccessible.]

[Information inaccessible.]

[Information inaccessible...]

[...]

[This information is not provided in the Trial.]

It couldn't be translated.

It wasn't a problem of interpretation; it seemed that the text couldn't be read in the Trial.

"Maybe we need the original version."

After all, this is just a simulation and not the real thing.

Although the slab that Ubbo-Sathla had in its possession has been recreated, it seems that the Trial doesn't provide the characters from that slab.

Could it be that these characters are especially difficult?

Or perhaps the problem lies with the Trial framework itself.

"At the end of the day, we have to find the real one."

There was no message or stat increase related to the Predator that ate Ubbo-Sathla, which was a little disappointing. However, there was still a notable achievement.

"Now I can summon it again."

He didn't know if this would be a temporary thing, or if it would act unpredictably like during the fight with Satan. However, he confirmed that this individual with the name "Amorphous Chaos" had a strong grudge against the Outer Gods. That was already an achievement.

YuWon dropped the slab on the ground. In the end, if he couldn't read it, there was no point in keeping it.

So...

Crash!

Breaking it was no problem.

["Ubbo-Sathla Fragment Defeated"]

"As I expected."

The message he was waiting for.

This slab was the true form of Ubbo-Sathla. No matter how many parasites inside his body he killed, Ubbo-Sathla didn't even get a scratch. And at the same time...

"I'm not dead yet."

Gugugugugu...

The voice of the individual resonated from within Ubbo-Sathla's body.

The corners of YuWon's lips raised.

It was a story he knew very well.

"I understand. You're quite resilient."

The shattered slab on the ground was just one of the many pieces he possessed.

There were still a few more pieces.

"But, aren't you forgetting something important?"

From the ceiling, a voice caught YuWon's attention and turned to Hercules, who, like him, was smiling.

"Why are only the two of us here?"

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"Uwaaaa!"

The Lion King roared with all his might.

Dozens of arms pushed him backward. His cries mixed with the pain of his burning body.

YuWon was right.

"No... hurry! Kali!"

"It's already done."

Rumble, rumble, rumble...

Black waves filled the ceiling.

The waves flowing through Kali's hand surrounded Ubbo-Sathla, who stood in front of the Lion King.

"If you don't want to get swept away, retreat on your own."

"What? Wait...!"

Surprised, the Lion King quickly released Ubbo-Sathla and turned back.

When Kali spoke this way, everyone knew it was dangerous.

The Lion King quickly retreated, leaping back on all fours and leaving his mark on the ground.

And then, right after that...

A flow of mana fell on the spot where the Lion King had been a moment ago.

Kwaaaah!

A gigantic wave engulfed Ubbo-Sathla and the tentacles surrounding him. This was a technique prepared by Kali, considered one of the best at using magic manipulation in this Tower.

Of course, it also required a strong tank to withstand this.

"Huff, huff...!"

"You did well."

"Were you trying to kill me?"

"You have quick reflexes."

"What do you mean?"

The blushing and panting Lion King looked at Kali.

Kali, ignoring the fiery figure behind her, headed toward Ubbo-Sathla's remains.

"If you keep going this way, you'll probably encounter those protecting the slab. Kali, go with the Lion King."

"Me? With this guy?"

"It will be difficult for you to go alone. Originally, you need someone to protect you while you do your thing."

Kali looked at the remains as she spoke.

"So, what? Should I kill the creature protecting the slab?"

"No. If you can read the letters written there, recover the slab first. If you determine that you can't read them, you can destroy it."

"Is the slab itself the target? Why?"

"Because that's the true form of that guy."

These were words she didn't understand.

At first glance, it seemed to be just a common stone. Although it had letters on it, she couldn't read them.

Was this thing really the true Ubbo-Sathla?

"You'll understand if you destroy it."

There was no need to think further.

After all, she was just carrying out the mission YuWon had entrusted to her.

Kali lifted a leg and forcefully stomped on the slab lying on the ground.

Crack!

And then, as Kali was about to destroy another slab.

Thud, thududududuk...

Another fragment of Ubbo-Sathla fell to the ground in thousands of pieces.

The slab was gone. From the beginning, the fight was just a means to an end, and she didn't care about the letters on the slab.

Crack...

Asura, with his heavy and exhausted body, stumbled and fell to the ground.

Although it wasn't a violent battle.

Due to the nature of Ubbo-Sathla, he couldn't prevent his strength from dwindling more and more as he faced it.

Sssik...

Two faces smiled at the same time.

It wasn't a long fight, but it was quite entertaining.

YuWon was right.

"Asura, you will go on alone."

"Why just me?"

"Hercules and I will handle the larger main form. Here, only Hercules can break through the wall hiding the main form. Also, Kali and the Lion King work best as a team."

From the beginning, Asura didn't have the right personality to work as part of a team.

For him, the best partner was another Asura sharing his body. Swinging his sword in accordance with the team's movements would only dull his blade.

That's why Kim YuWon had Asura move on alone.

And as a result.

"It's definitely a guy who keeps his promises."

Asura was able to fight enough to be satisfied.

The shattered slab on the ground caught Asura's attention.

The slab that was destroyed along with Ubbo-Sathla.

Still, it seemed like a good idea to make sure.

Kwaat!

Asura swung his sword from where he was seated. The slab turned into dust and dispersed; at the same time, the nest where Asura was trembled.

Gugu gugu gugu...

The ground shook.

It wasn't just the nest that shook.

It was the sound of the Outers that were still left in Ubbo-Sathla's nest, heading toward them.

"They're causing a ruckus."

Sssik...

Asura got up with his sword raised.

Even though he had expended a lot of energy and vitality in his fight against Ubbo-Sathla.

He still felt excited by the fact that he could keep fighting.

The battle was not over yet.

['Fragment of Ubbo-Sathla' has been destroyed]

['Fragment of Ubbo-Sathla' has been destroyed]

[Ubbo-Sathla weakens]

YuWon smiled as messages appeared one after another.

They hadn't finished too late.

"Isn't that right?"

Kali and the Lion King.

And then, Asura.

The two of them had succeeded in breaking two of the three slabs.

Ubbo-Sathla's nest trembled. It was the shudder of Ubbo-Sathla's body.

Who are you?

Zzzooong...

On the ceiling.

A gigantic eye opened.

It was Ubbo-Sathla's eye, looking into the nest.

The eye was staring at YuWon.

It was filled with questions and curiosity.

He never told me about you.

By "he," of course, he referred to Foolish Chaos.

He was the mind behind the Outer Gods.

A being with the power to contain all the Outer Gods' power in three fingers.

However, despite his power, the being that had been active in the Tower for a longer time, the one who had the greater impact on the Tower, was indeed, Foolish Chaos.

And, of course.

Ubbo-Sathla was also acting in accordance with Foolish Chaos's will.

"Of course not. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense to be here."

Pzzzz...

YuWon had no intention of answering Ubbo-Sathla's curiosity.

Instead.

He had another response in mind.

"When we fought against you, we were concerned."

YuWon turned to look at Hercules.

Hercules, who had been resting for a moment, held his club in his hand.

There was strength in the fist holding the club. YuWon nodded when their eyes met.

And then...

Boom!

Hercules slammed the ground with all his might.

Grrrrrr...

The entire nest trembled.

The club didn't stop. Hercules struck the wall again.

Boom!

The ground quaked.

YuWon's voice continued.

"How can we catch you? We can't find an answer just by fighting."

Kwaaaang!

Hercules's club shattered Ubbo-Sathla from the inside.

Unlike the ceiling that didn't break, the walls and the floor easily crumbled in front of the club.

Despite the attempts of other Outers to stop Hercules when he started swinging his club with all his might, stopping Hercules once he started moving was an impossible task, even for the Gods.

Kwaaaang!

Grrrrrr...

Ubbo-Sathla fought inside.

With a presence as powerful as Hercules within his body, it was challenging to resist when he began releasing his power.

"The answer is inside."

The broken slabs.

They didn't know what letters were written on them, but they were the core of Ubbo-Sathla's power.

"The slabs."

"The slabs?"

"When we broke them, they weakened his power."

It was thanks to the loss of one of Hercules's arms.

Hercules's ability to escape from Ubbo-Sathla's nest had been a genuine stroke of luck.

"Are there more of these slabs?"

"That's what we're going to find out from now on. We don't know if there are more."

"Is there no way to attack from the outside?"

"There isn't any."

"So, do we finally have to go back in there...?"

"I will."

"Alright. Stay here. This team..."

The team was formed.

Another sacrifice had been made. YuWon heard the news of the death of companions he had barely begun to know and remember their names.

That's how they found out this information.

"Without them, he can't use his power."

Kwaaaang!

Ubbo-Sathla collapsed.

The being that was more like a living fortress than a living being turned into a powerless sandcastle.

"But why? What could have been written on a simple stone slab that had him so attached?"

How to attack Ubbo-Sathla. That implied recovering or destroying the slabs he protected from within.

That was what made YuWon deeply curious about the slabs.

'After all, it seems like it was just an ordinary stone slab.'

A slab with letters written on it.

No matter how he examined it, he didn't feel any special power in the slabs. They didn't have any notable magical devices, and even Players who had just ascended to the first floor could easily break them.

However, remarkably, that slab was Ubbo-Sathla's main body.

As if it had been born solely to protect the slabs.

Since he became aware of the existence of the slabs, YuWon had been unable to shake that idea from his head.

Unfortunately, there was no way to verify it here and now.

This place was a Trial, not reality.

Kwuuuuung!

At that moment, a wave of dark energy spilled into YuWon and Hercules' location.

"Roooooooooar!"

"Stop shouting so loudly. It's confusing enough without your noise."

Thud!

Two people arrived riding the wave.

They were the Lion King, who was roaring, and Kali, who had joined them to ride the wave.

Kali kicked the Lion King off the wave with a kick. It seemed they had reached their destination.

'They're still on good terms.'

YuWon smiled at the Lion King's boisterous reaction.

And that meant they had arrived.

Gradually, the other side was also arriving.

"It's noisy here too."

Unlike the other two people, Asura looked quite exhausted.

Because he had been acting alone, he seemed physically more tired than the other teams. Definitely, Asura had carried the heaviest burden among the three teams.

'Everyone is here.'

YuWon raised his head.

The trial to defeat Ubbo-Sathla.

The Adversary of This World.

Now was the time to finish this Trial.

"Let's get out of here."

"So, that was the reason you told us to meet after finishing."

Asura, the most exhausted, was the first to step forward. He still had enough energy to squeeze a handful of remaining Arcane Power from the tips of his four swords.

And the other team members did the same.

"Should we break everything like that guy?"

"It doesn't seem to be so difficult."

Just as the other team members were about to move...

Thunk.

"Is it over already?"

Hercules lowered the club he held in his hand and wiped the sweat from his face with the other while looking at YuWon.

"...?"

Their looks seemed to ask what was going on.

Instead of responding to those looks, YuWon looked at the obstructed ceiling.

Hercules' commotion was only a diversion to protect Asura, who was coming with the other members and YuWon.

"We can just stand still and watch."

The real thing would appear from above.

"Once we clear the slabs, our task here will be done."

It was time to bring this Trial to an end.

Chapter 414

C414

The purple sky momentarily changed to white, as if it were daytime.

Whoosh!

A white lightning bolt descended from the purple sky, piercing it.

The ground trembled as if it were a living being, raising its head. An eye shone as it saw the beam of light and, weakly, shed tears.

Oh-oh-oh-oh!

At that very moment, Ubbo-Sathla sensed its fate.

It wasn't the first time it had seen such a beam of light. It had seen something similar before, but the situation was different now.

Having lost the slabs it was meant to protect and weakened, that beam of light was powerful enough to pierce through Ubbo-Sathla's body.

Fwoosh!

The beam of light passed through its body.

And in the nest inside, Ubbo-Sathla, who had been looking up, closed its eyes.

Now that it had lost all the slabs.

Ubbo-Sathla's mission had come to an end.

Fwoosh!

Light~

A white lightning bolt cutting through the purple sky.

Looking at that beam of light, Susanoo sighed.

"Fly so refreshingly."

Standing at the edge of a cliff, with his upper body bare, displaying his well-toned muscles, the man threw his spear with all his might and then turned around with a tired expression on his face.

"Are you sure the coordinates are correct?"

Susanoo nodded in response to Odin's question.

"I'm sure. From what I've heard, it seems that guy, Ubbo-Sathla, keeps changing nests."

"That's the second problem. The more complicated problem is the nature of that guy who absorbs Arcane Power."

"So you were trying to solve that."

Ubbo-Sathla could absorb vitality and Arcane Power.

Previously, Odin had encountered Ubbo-Sathla and had thrown Gungnir at it, doing his best to pierce Ubbo-Sathla's nest.

But the result was a failure.

Even Gungnir, thrown with all his might, couldn't ultimately pierce Ubbo-Sathla's nest.

"If his nest has weakened, it shouldn't be difficult to attack him. Anyway, the fact that Daedalus betrayed us is shocking."

"Is it really possible to reach that thing?"

Susanoo asked curiously, looking at the pure white line drawn in the sky.

Although he was also a High-Ranker who had made a name for himself at the top, it was hard to believe that he could accurately throw a spear at such a long distance.

"It should have already arrived, even if it's a bit far."

"That's incredible."

"It's not difficult to guess as long as you know the coordinates. Even if that means the end of the world."

The best spear-thrower in the Tower.

Indeed, those words fit perfectly. Although Susanoo had seen many High-Ranker Players beside YuWon, future Odin had skills that were literally on a different level.

Of course.

"It looks a bit weak."

Not even Odin was perfect.

In Susanoo's eyes, Odin seemed exhausted just from throwing a single Gungnir.

"I'm a little tired."

Odin turned around.

After hearing the news from YuWon through Susanoo's mouth, while sweating despite his heavy body, Odin smiled.

"Well. We did it; this is a success..."

A massive white beam of light pierced through the ceiling.

The Lion King, who had recoiled and fallen to the ground, stammered in surprise.

"G-Gungnir?"

"I told you to step back."

Gooooooooo-.

A spear of immense Arcane Power pierced Ubbo-Sathla's body as it fell.

The being who could accurately throw the most powerful spear in the Tower.

Odin.

He was the one who threw Gungnir here.

"I almost died..."

"You wouldn't die from a mere graze on the head. I intentionally had you land as far away from here as possible, so don't worry too much."

"Is that why you asked us to meet here?"

Ubbo-Sathla, who had lost the slabs he protected and was weakened, and the Gungnir that fell on him.

That spear was completely embedded deep into the earth, piercing through Ubbo-Sathla's entire body.

"Odin, it's been a long time since you threw Gungnir."

"Yes. Since the fight with Shub-Niggurath..."

Throwing Gungnir required a tremendous amount of power. Even in his prime, Odin could only throw it twice before reaching his limit. Throwing it more than three times would require so much Arcane Power that it would exhaust him.

And given Odin's weakened state after his battle with Shub-Niggurath, he only had the strength to throw it once.

"But how did you transmit the coordinates to me? It shouldn't work in here."

Kali, who was unaware of Susanoo's existence, asked a valid question.

YuWon simply shrugged and avoided giving a detailed response. There was no time to delve into more details.

Moreover, this was YuWon's typical response when he wanted to avoid answering questions.

Kali didn't inquire further. Instead, he looked up at the purple ceiling being pierced by Gungnir's spear.

"Anyway, it's over."

After learning about the existence of Ubbo-Sathla, Odin had tried to throw Gungnir at it before, but it had been a failure.

Not only had Odin retreated in vain, but ultimately, Ubbo-Sathla had also survived.

But look at the result now.

Odin's spear had completely pierced Ubbo-Sathla's nest. Ubbo-Sathla was no longer writhing in its immense nest, and all the Outers living as parasites within it had been eradicated by the Arcane Power of Gungnir.

This battle had come to an end.

Completely.

The scene before YuWon's eyes was definitive evidence.

[You have defeated 'Ubbo-Sathla']

[Completed 'The Otherworld Adversary' failed]

A message resounded.

Naturally, as he had achieved the purpose of the Trial. YuWon hadn't paid much attention to the System.

Instead...

Ssshhhhh-.

YuWon looked at the countless dark souls that appeared before him.

[The 'King of the Dead' faces the dead]

Thousands, tens of thousands.

Souls howling with familiar voices.

"Thank you, thank you..."

"Kim... Yu..."

"Now... I can... rest..."

The voices of the souls echoed.

The King of the Dead.

A title that had the power to see the souls of the dead and hear their voices. At times like this, it was annoying for this title to suddenly surface and use its power.

There was nothing good in hearing these stories.

"Yu... Won..."

Among the familiar voices.

Amid the souls withering in the darkness, there was one soul that particularly resonated in his ears.

"Siegfried."

A High-Ranker who had once worked on the same team as YuWon.

He was calling YuWon from this place after becoming a soul in Ubbo-Sathla's nest.

Finally, he could rest in peace, thanks to this. He was grateful. That's what he was saying.

The souls of YuWon's companions, who had entered Ubbo-Sathla's nest and died there, found comfort in the idea that they could die in peace, rather than continuing to fight in a dirty battle like this, even if it meant dying elsewhere, in a better place.

Even if it was a garbage dump, it was still better than continuing to fight in a place like this.

Even mentally strong High-Rankers had difficulty enduring a battle against the Outers that pushed them to their limits, even in their right minds.

However...

"They were all here."

"Aigoo-."

Souls that couldn't rest properly even after death and were turned into nutrients by Ubbo-Sathla.

Yuwon exhaled deeply at their laments.

He knew this wasn't real, but...

"It's annoying."

It felt so real.

At that moment, YuWon was about to release the thin thread of reason that he barely held. In his heart, he wanted to break through the barrier separating the Tower from the unknown and run out to capture Ubbo-Sathla for real.

Grrr...

He clenched his fist so tightly that his nails pierced his skin, making blood well up.

"There haven't been any victims yet."

Remembering that, he barely managed to calm his anger. He cooled his head again.

But that didn't mean he could forget what he had just witnessed.

He extended his fist, which had previously been clenched so tightly that it made blood flow, and made a silent promise.

"I assure you you'll be the first to die."

Ubbo-Sathla.

He felt the need to hurry and fight it in some way in this place, even if it meant finding the slabs that hadn't been verified yet.

And also, to ensure that his comrades didn't end up in a similar situation.

Tzzt, tzzt...

The world where YuWon stood began to fade away.

As if someone were erasing it with an eraser, the colors disappeared, and time in the world passed slowly.

The Lion King, who was jumping, saying he was tired and wanted to go back quickly, Kali, who scolded him, and Asura, who had turned into a puddle on the ground, all turned into black and white.

The disappearing world.

Yuwon looked up at the purple sky visible from the perforated ceiling.

It was losing its color now, but someday, the sky would return to being blue.

[You have successfully completed the 'Failed Otherworld Adversary.']

[Your level has increased]

[Your level has increased]

[Your level has...]

[...increased]

[Your title 'Otherworld Adversary' is changing]

[You have obtained the title 'Equal to the Otherworld']

Purple sky

Steps~

Foolish Chaos advanced with slow, unhurried steps.

"You're still just as slow," someone said.

Foolish Chaos turned to look at the young goat following him. At first glance, it looked like a goat that hadn't fully developed its coat yet, but through its unblemished eyes, there was a gaze that inspired fear.

"It's not slowness; it's caution," Foolish Chaos replied.

After visiting the Black Woods, Shub-Niggurath had assigned one of her young goats to Foolish Chaos. It was a form of surveillance to make sure Foolish Chaos didn't make any more foolish mistakes.

"Isn't it the same thing?"

"Whether you go fast or slow, it doesn't matter. What matters is the direction."

"You always talk about complicated things," Shub-Niggurath's goat said.

Shub-Niggurath's goat kept a certain distance from Foolish Chaos as they advanced.

It felt like it was being watched. However, Foolish Chaos continued on his way without special complaints.

How much time had passed?

The goat from Shub-Niggurath, walking alongside him, finally spoke.

"Are you trying to go to Sathla?"

"Yes."

The response was brief.

When Foolish Chaos arrived, the ground he stood on opened up and revealed a long slope descending underground.

The gigantic Ubbo-Sathla writhed and made way for Foolish Chaos. Thus, Foolish Chaos entered Ubbo-Sathla's body and reached the end, where the hidden slab lay.

Twisting~

The opaque form surrounding the slab writhed. However, in an instant, as if the opponent realized that it was Foolish Chaos, it simply handed over the slab it had been protecting.

"You've seen it thousands of times, so there must be something you're thinking about again. It seems like you have a lot on your mind because of 'it'."

"You can't not know. Even now, it hurts in the back of the head. You too, isn't it because of 'it'?"

Before he started reading in earnest, Foolish Chaos corrected Shub-Niggurath's words.

"It's not 'it'... it's 'them'."

Chapter 415

C415

Swooah...

YuWon opened his eyes, feeling a sensation of cold running through his body.

A blue sky.

It was something he always took for granted, but strangely, today, it looked different.

It seemed like the image of the purple sky he had seen during the Trial was still deeply imprinted in his mind.

"...Refreshing."

As he lay on the beach and gazed at the sky, he felt a pleasant sense of calm.

Thud...

He heard the sound of footsteps approaching the beach.

YuWon's eyes, which had been enjoying the feeling of lying down and relaxing, moved. The shadow looming over his body was considerable, and he saw a familiar face.

"Hercules?"

"It really is you."

Hercules, with his imposing presence, held a wet lion's pelt in one hand and looked at YuWon.

YuWon got up and looked at Hercules.

"What are you doing here?"

"You're asking me that question. When did you get here?"

When Hercules had challenged the Trial, YuWon hadn't yet reached the 100th floor. Therefore, finding himself in this place was unexpected.

"It's been a while."

"Then, is this...?"

"I passed the Trial and came here. And you?"

"The same. I opened my eyes, and here I was."

Scratching his head as he replied, Hercules seemed much calmer than his future self who had been with YuWon until recently. Maybe because he hadn't yet started the fight with the Outers.

YuWon looked up at Hercules, who stood over two meters tall.

"It seems you also finished the Trial."

The timing seemed quite fortunate.

Whether by coincidence or some kind of Tower prank, YuWon hadn't expected to meet Hercules again in this place.

YuWon looked down at his saltwater-soaked clothes and spoke.

"Let's get something to eat."

Swooah...

Hercules tore a piece of meat with one hand.

It was a whole roasted hind leg of pork, but in Hercules's hand, it looked almost as big as a giant chicken leg.

He ate quickly.

"Don't eat so fast; it's uncomfortable to eat together."

"I'm eating as slowly as I can."

This restaurant was the first one they saw in the city they had arrived at after walking quite a distance from the beach.

Other customers at the restaurant continued to glance at YuWon and Hercules.

Not only their faces but also Hercules's imposing figure were impossible to ignore wherever they went.

At first glance, it was hard to tell whether he was human or a Giant, and that confused people.

"How tall are you, really?"

"Is he a giant?"

"Wow, he eats incredibly well."

"By any chance, Hercules..."

Although they lowered their voices, that didn't mean they couldn't be heard.

Some people had already recognized Hercules.

"You stand out no matter where you are."

"What can you do if you're born this way? Ah, if you're not going to eat that, pass it over."

"Are you so hungry that you're begging?"

YuWon tilted his head at Hercules's appetite, who was eating an entire pork leg while sitting.

He had always had a big appetite due to the muscles that encased his entire body like armor, but he had never seen anyone eat so quickly.

"You seem to have worked hard."

There was a moment of silence.

Hercules, who was eating, stopped his hand and raised his head.

Although his usual demeanor was indifferent, he now had an exhausted expression, both mentally and physically.

"What kind of Trial did you go through?"

"Didn't you hear anything I said?"

"Was it the Gigantomachy?"

Hercules shook his head with disgust at YuWon's question.

He couldn't hide anything when he was in front of YuWon.

"The Trial was incredibly realistic. Even after realizing it wasn't real halfway through, still..."

"Did you win?"

"I won, so I guess I'm here. If you die there, you really die."

Hercules's myth, the Gigantomachy, was the best legend he had gained.

Zeus, the creator of the board, had originally planned to create the Hero named Hercules using the Gigantomachy. Therefore, it wasn't surprising that Hercules was the one who had obtained the title "Giant Slayer."

"Well, do you want me to tell you more details?"

"Alright. You seem to have a hard time talking about it. Eat some more."

"That's right, and you?"

Hercules started eating again and threw a bright look at YuWon.

"What kind of Trial did you pass?"

"..." Hercules's words referred to what kind of Myth he had completed.

And, depending on the type of Trial, the category and size of the reward would also vary.

While bringing a piece of meat to his mouth, Hercules's attention was entirely focused on YuWon's mouth.

Then...

"I'm hungry."

YuWon didn't speak further.

He was more focused on the food than ever, and the veins on Hercules's forehead tensed at the sight of YuWon eating so attentively.

"Damn glutton..."

Hercules muttered some of the foulest words he knew while continuing his meal.

A meal that continued in silence.

Tak.

After they finished eating and Hercules drank a beer to wash down his throat, he finally opened his mouth again.

"Anyway, you're really fast. You have the shortest period, right?"

"Ranker?"

"Yes. Furthermore, have you already reached this next world that other Rankers still don't know about?"

"Well, you have too."

"Anyway..."

Swooosh.

Hercules wiped his mouth with a napkin he had prepared.

Then, with a more serious look, he gazed at YuWon.

"What do you plan to do now?"

"What do you mean?"

"Usually, Players climb the Tower in search of power, honor, wealth, and the like. But for you, those aren't goals but means."

Hercules prided himself on having a keen eye for people.

In his eyes, YuWon had no ambitions like power or wealth. Otherwise, he wouldn't have been willing to confront Olympus from the beginning, fight Zeus, resolve Ragnarok, and dive into dangerous situations over and over.

YuWon had a purpose.

And that purpose was quite clear.

And for that, he needed power.

"Do you already have everything you need?"

YuWon looked into Hercules's eyes.

His eyes said it was time to talk.

The situation was uncomfortable.

"You don't need to ask that so hard."

"What?"

"By the way, you were in the middle of a Trial, right?"

YuWon pointed to the Kit he had left in a corner of the table.

"You should investigate a bit about what has been happening in the world while you weren't here. What has been going on while you weren't?"

Swoosh...

The thread moved.

Normally, Vishnu would have immediately picked it up, but he didn't do so this time due to the arrival of a visitor.

"Are you still holding onto that?"

Swoosh...

Under the sky as black as space, on a cliff where Vishnu was seated, a boy approached and sat beside him.

Vishnu paid no attention to the boy and spoke.

"Has it already happened?"

"Yes."

"There is still plenty of time."

"Agni was going crazy for me to move faster."

"Ten days..."

Swoosh...

The thread moved again.

Vishnu's eyes reflected the thin red thread swaying.

"Is Shiva already in motion?"

"It's his turn now."

"It's already time for him to get tired."

"He's excited."

Brahma reached his hand forward.

A red thread also flowed from his hand. Although it hadn't been long since they had started, he was already yawning at the idea of continuing.

"So, how are you doing?"

"I can't see what you can't."

"Is it more fun this way?"

Brahma stood up and yawned as he leaned back. Vishnu continued to watch the swaying thread as he spoke.

"I was bored."

"Were you?"

"It's changing. Continually. Without stopping."

Brahma sprang to his feet.

Fate is changing.

That hadn't happened in thousands of years, and Vishnu said it was happening over and over again.

"Since when?"

"Not many years ago. So I keep monitoring."

"Is it changing in what direction?"

"Well, who knows. I'm not sure if it's a positive or negative change."

"What are you saying?"

The question resonated in a chilling tone.

Swoosh...

Vishnu pulled the thread.

With a sound like water splashing upward, a gigantic monster resembling a Dragon emerged through the thread in his hand.

Roar!

The monster, with a mouth as enormous as a sea monster, rose into the sky, only to fall behind Vishnu shortly after.

Thud...

The small island where Vishnu and Brahma were trembled.

Brahma, looking at the monster, made a pitiful expression as if it were a shame and muttered.

"An Imoogi trapped in a crevice? It must have been hard."

Having caught a big fish, Vishnu lowered another thread.

Watching Vishnu, who didn't stop, Brahma asked:

"Don't you feel sorry for them?"

"It's an occupation for when I have nothing to do."

Pulling out unfortunate beings trapped in dimensional rifts was what the Deva founder Vishnu had been doing repeatedly for thousands of years.

Moreover...

"The unseen fate started to become seen. But it doesn't seem to be something good."

Reeling out another thread, Vishnu spoke quietly as he sank.

"It looks like something big is happening at this upcoming Reconciliation Meeting." (Note: The meeting that will be held in Asgard)

"...Something big happened."

It was the first word that Hercules spoke after reviewing everything that had happened through the Kit.

A collapsed wall.

And an entity from another world more powerful than Odin that had entered from the other side of that wall.

Definitely not something ordinary.

For Tower inhabitants who only knew up and down, the "Outer" was practically an unknown world.

Furthermore...

"They don't seem to have any intention of getting along with us."

Hercules looked at YuWon with a gleam in his eyes.

Why?

While reading these articles, he had the feeling he understood everything YuWon had been doing up to now.

If YuWon already knew about their existence.

If he had been preparing to fight them for a long time.

Then...

"There will be a grand meeting."

"There is probably no Guild uninterested in the Outer."

"Olympus, Deva, Demon Kings, Celestial Realm... the number of major Guilds is quite high. Even with a simple search, you can know the number. If we add Guilds not appearing in records, the scale will be much larger. It will be the biggest meeting in history and is likely to be a historic day."

The largest-scale meeting in history. And that day was only ten days away.

"What are you going to do?"

Hercules asked YuWon.

Would he participate in this meeting or not?

"Of course..."

And YuWon's choice was already made.

"I will go and take a look."

It was clear.

Chapter 416

C416

Floor 64.

It was a world located on the highest level of the Asgard Realm, called Valhalla.

The Asgard Meeting would be held right there.

"It's quite lively around here."

"It's because people from all over have gathered here. Just the participating Great Guilds alone are several."

Yolche tore a piece of bread he was holding in his hand and stuffed it into his mouth while muttering.

Hargan, who was walking through the crowd with him, frowned as he watched the passing people.

"Do they think this is a party or something?"

"You and those guys have different perspectives. For them, the meeting is another world's story."

For most players, things like the interests of the Great Guilds or the meeting were stories from another world.

When Rankers gather, it turns into a party. Players gather to see the famous Rankers of the Tower. And merchants gather to do business with those Players.

There's no reason for people not to gather in a place of this magnitude.

"This is not the place for..."

"Those guys or you, doesn't matter."

Yolche glanced at the liquor bottle in Hargan's hand.

A special product they liked to drink in Valhalla. Hargan immediately opened his wallet upon seeing the Valhalla liquor being sold at street stalls.

Paying no mind to Yolche's sighing reaction, Hargan took big strides.

The place Hargan was heading to was a massive Colosseum located in the middle of the street.

"Wow!"

"Elda! Elda!"

"He won!"

"Why are the odds so bad?"

A Colosseum the size rivaling the 1st-floor Colosseum.

The Colosseum, rather than being considered a sanctuary by the warriors of Valhalla, was more of a betting place where Points were wagered and predictions were made on who would win and who would lose.

As sacred as Valhalla's warriors were in battle, they couldn't live without earning a penny.

"Is this the famous Valhalla Colosseum?"

Hargan's eyes sparkled. The Valhalla Colosseum was one of the places he was most interested in throughout the Tower.

When he ascended the Tower in a hurry, he didn't have time to see it in person and just passed it by, but today he had time.

"Oh..."

"...Sigh."

Yolche shook her head at Hargan's gaze, who was completely absorbed in the Colosseum.

Even she had forgotten that she was already eating several snacks.

"The next challenger is a Murim Master! A Ranker who wields a giant spear as if it's a tree branch! Ban Muryul!"

"Ban Muryul?"

"Isn't he a Ranker fresh out of the Murim? They say he uses the spear like a ghost."

"I guess the real masters are finally starting to appear."

The next fight began.

Hargan watched the intense battle between a dwarf Ranker and a Murim Ranker in the spacious Colosseum.

It was quite a fierce fight.

It was impossible to stay still and watch quietly.

"I give up! I give up!"

The dwarf Ranker, Elda, raised both hands and shouted. Despite his short stature, he fought well, but he had already had several fights before, so his stamina had run out in comparison.

"The winner is Ban Muryul!"

"Wow!"

"Ban Muryul! Ban Muryul!"

"Alright! I double my bet on him!"

Some cheered, others despaired. It was a common sight in the Colosseum where Points were wagered, and bets were made.

"Next challenger?! Is there anyone else to challenge? If you win the fight, you'll receive a 0.4 percent commission on the Points wagered..."

Yolche, who had been watching the fight along with Hargan, turned around.

She had thought that once they had seen a fight, they would be done.

"Let's go if you're done watching."

"Wait a moment."

"What else do you want to do?"

"I just want to be able to pass through there."

"What? Don't tell me..."

Although she had doubts, Hargan raised his arm.

"I challenge him!"

Hargan stepped onto the Colosseum stage.

No matter how much they tried to dissuade him, Hargan was the type of person who always did what he set his mind to.

"When are you going to correct that personality of yours?"

Yolche sighed and shook her head.

Hargan, perhaps aware or unaware of her reaction, smiled as he put gloves on his hands.

"Hargan. I've heard that name a lot."

Ban Muryul spun his spear in one hand.

A middle-aged Murim Master with hair so scarce that you could barely find a single strand.

He decided to shave his head long before becoming a Player, claiming that his hair would only get in the way during fights. He had recently risen quickly in the rankings.

"You're a direct descendant of Olympus, right? You recently reached the 98th floor."

"My name has become known even among the Rankers?"

"You'll also enter our world soon, quite fast too. So at least your name should be heard."

Swiish~

The spear Ban Muryul held in his hand moved faster and faster.

"But you arrived too late. If a Player wants to challenge this Colosseum, they should have come in the morning. Now it's Ranker time."

Valhalla's Battle Colosseum had become a stage for both recently-arrived Players on the 64th Floor and high-ranking Rankers in the afternoon.

In the Colosseum, the winner stayed, and the loser withdrew. As time passed, stronger fighters naturally appeared. So Valhalla's Colosseum had become a morning stage for Players and an afternoon stage for Rankers.

"Come back after becoming a Ranker."

The sound of a strong wind blowing.

Ban Muryul pointed his spear at Hargan as if to say, "Go away."

But...

"You're mistaken."

Crack, crack-le.

Hargan unleashed a lightning attack, scoffing at Ban Muryul's words and lifting the corners of his lips.

"It's not late; in fact, I'm here early."

"What?"

[The fight has begun.]

At that moment, the starting message sounded.

Simultaneously, Hargan's hand reached forward.

Crack!

Baaaaaam!

A golden flash of energy shot out from the palm of his hand, filling the Colosseum.

When the discharge passed, Ban Muryul was on his knees on the ground, holding his spear and staggering, almost collapsing.

"How...?"

"What happened? Did you withstand it?"

With a proud gesture, Hargan clapped his hands together.

What had happened in the blink of an eye.

Ban Muryul, confused, slowly raised his head.

"What... what happened?"

"It's an obvious question."

Hargan raised a finger.

"Because I'm stronger than you."

Kwaaaaang!

A beam of energy shot down from his finger.

Ban Muryul's already unsteady knees gave way, and he lost consciousness.

A fight that ended in the blink of an eye.

"Oh..."

"Wow..."

The cries of admiration came a little late.

Meanwhile, Yolche, who had been watching the fight, sighed deeply and shook her head.

"That fool."

She understood that Hargan's body heated up when he saw duels. But shame was everyone's companion. She would probably see an article about Hargan in the newspaper tomorrow.

"Well..."

So, while Yolche covered her face with one hand, embarrassed, she watched Hargan responding to the cheers of the crowd, waving his hand.

"Anyway, only two floors left."

Just two floors.

Hargan's team was just two floors away from the 100th floor.

Yolche, a Pureblood, never doubted that she would become a Ranker once she joined Hargan's team.

She also had exceptional talent, to the point where, on the floor where she lived, if you weren't a Player, she had no rivals.

However, no matter how talented she was, she had never thought she would become a Ranker so quickly.

All of this was thanks to Hargan.

As a direct descendant of Zeus, from the beginning, he had no rivals among the Players on the same floor.

Although there was a wall named Kim Yuwon, it was only because he was outside the standard.

Hargan had an exceptional talent that surpassed all Rankers in history.

Furthermore...

'Since that day, he became incredibly strong.'

After the destruction of Olympus.

Hargan began to grow strong rapidly.

The power in his Lightning Bolts far exceeded that of most Rankers from a long time ago.

Additionally, now that he was on the cusp of becoming a Ranker, he had enough power for most Rankers not even to dare to show their business cards.

"Did he say he obtained a Lightning Shard?"

It was a story Hargan once shared about himself.

The Lightning Zeus used to wield.

He said he gained a portion of that power and spoke while intoxicated.

"Today, the winner has been decided in the Colosseum."

Unless Brunhilde, the leader of Valhalla, came personally, it was impossible for the wandering Rankers in the Colosseum to stop Hargan.

Multiple times.

Kwaaaang!

The Rankers who challenged Hargan fell one by one.

"Winner, Hargan."

"Wow..."

"The odds are too low."

"Is this difficult even for the warriors of Valhalla?"

"It's overwhelming."

"It's probably impossible for most regular Rankers."

The last Ranker who challenged him was a Valkyrie from Valhalla, a Ranker from Asgard.

She definitely resisted the most.

She managed to dodge Hargan's attack once and got close.

But...

'Actually, close combat is more complicated.'

From Yolche's perspective, it seemed like a foolish fox was rolling in front of a tiger's mouth.

'Because that guy's specialty is close combat.'

Hargan had a fighter's combat-oriented personality.

While he could shoot Lightning Bolts, it wasn't his style to create spears like Zeus and throw them. He preferred to surround his fist with electricity and deliver a precise blow.

A fighting style that matched well with his fiery personality.

"Are there no more challengers?"

"..."

"..."

The Rankers cautiously looked at each other.

The audience in the stands had grown quiet. Some renowned Rankers even received contemptuous looks.

Wondering why they weren't accepting the challenge.

That indicated how overwhelming Hargan was at the moment.

Yolche took out her Kit and sent a message to Hargan.

[If you're done, come back.]

Hargan, who was getting bored without challengers, took out his Kit on the stage and checked the message.

The response came immediately.

[Hargan: I can't.]

[Why not?]

[Hargan: Before debuting as a Ranker, I must have a performance like this.]

Hargan's message made it clear why he was acting so conspicuously.

His ultimate goal was to become the King of Olympus.

To achieve that, rapidly climbing the ranks was his primary task.

What he was doing now was preparation for that moment.

"Are there no more challengers?"

But unfortunately...

After several crushing victories, there were no more challengers.

About ten minutes after the last challenger, the announcer sighed deeply.

"If there are no more challengers..."

"I'm here."

Just before the announcer gave his permission...

"This time, I'll be the one to challenge."

The next challenger stepped onto the stage.

Hargan, looking confident, glanced at the challenger's face, and then his surprise was evident.

"Hey, you! Why are you here?"

Chapter 417

C417

At first, he thought he was mistaken.

Not just Hargan, but everyone seemed to feel the same way.

Why is he here if he's not someone who should be here?

"Why? Who is he?"

Of course, not everyone knew the Player stepping onto the stage.

Despite their rankings, not all Rankers had been in the business for a long time. There were some people in the crowd who didn't recognize many faces, so they asked their peers about the man.

Then...

"Don't you know?"

They looked at the group that asked the question as if they were pathetic.

For the regular audience in the Colosseum, knowing information about High-Rankers was essential. They needed to know their rankings and other information to make decisions on where to bet.

"It's Kim YuWon..."

"Really?"

"Wow, it's the first time I've seen his face."

Most people must be like that, right?

The crowd stood up to see YuWon, who had appeared in the Colosseum.

Despite his reputation, he wasn't so well-known by his face. This was partly because his career as a Player was relatively short compared to other Rankers.

That was understandable.

YuWon ascended the Tower only a few years ago.

And YuWon and Hargan...

"Why are you here?"

Upon YuWon's same question, Hargan had no answer.

There was only one reason why they might be on the 64th floor right now.

"...the meeting?"

"That's right."

"Anyway, why the hell are you suddenly entering the Colosseum?"

Hargan scratched his head as he spoke.

Well.

He had also suddenly jumped into the Colosseum, so he realized he had no right to say anything.

"Let's talk about it later."

"Alright. Let's finish the fight first."

With YuWon's consent, Hargan clenched his fists and assumed a stance.

Originally, this fight was like his debut stage before becoming a Ranker. He thought there would be no better debut than surviving in a fight where Rankers competed with overwhelming skills.

But now, the plan had to change.

'Somehow, I'll survive.'

The opponent was Kim YuWon.

The friend who had somehow become one of the most powerful High-Rankers, even rivaling his father, Zeus.

A presence that had come so far that it would be too much to bring out his pride.

Against YuWon, the more he could withstand, the more his own worth would increase.

"Begin the fight!"

Boom!

Crack!

At the referee's call, Hargan threw a punch.

An intense blow that he had been preparing before it began. That golden stream of electricity engulfed YuWon along with his body.

"Good luck, competitors!"

The opponent was the 11th ranked High-Ranker in the Rankings.

To bet even a single breath against an opponent like YuWon, he couldn't afford to hide anything.

Bang!

Hargan moved forward with force.

Filling his fists with golden lightning, he gripped tightly.

"Come!"

So when Hargan gathered his determination and rushed towards YuWon.

"He's quite good."

A golden wave began to gradually recede.

Within that wave, YuWon's and Hargan's eyes met.

And at that moment, Hargan had a hunch.

The moment YuWon couldn't be shaken by the first blow... This fight had practically already ended.

Flash!

A light of the same color as the one he had just emitted burst before Hargan's eyes.

Crack!

A Golden Bolt filled the Colosseum.

Hargan was swept away by that Bolt, thinking:

'Oh, sh*t...'

And that was it.

And that was the last thing Hargan thought.

The consciousness that had slowly drifted away began to return.

Before his eyes opened.

Along with the feeling of someone approaching, he heard a sighing voice.

"Aigoo, you idiot."

It was the first time Hargan, who had regained his consciousness, heard those words.

His sight returned blurry. In Hargan's eyes, he saw Yolche looking down at him.

"...Listen to me."

"Eh?"

"...You should have listened to me."

Although her words were sharp, Yolche remained resolute.

"I told you to listen to me."

Yolche was the only teammate on the team who wasn't afraid of Hargan. At times, she didn't hesitate to sharply criticize Hargan, who sometimes acted impulsively.

At first, there were times when Yolche's words and actions seemed unpleasant, but as time went on, Hargan got used to Yolche's way of speaking and felt more grateful for it.

Because she was the only teammate on the team who could control him.

This time was no different.

Yolche sat by the bed and squinted, looking at Hargan.

"Why don't you listen to what I say?"

A critique that hinted that if Hargan had stopped when he was told, he wouldn't have gone through this humiliation.

That was true, but Hargan also had something to say.

"How was I supposed to know that guy would participate in the fight, huh?"

Even though it was an excuse to avoid a reprimand, Yolche didn't have much to say in this situation.

Given the situation, maybe it wasn't so far-fetched that one or two high-ranking Rankers would participate in the fight, but Kim YuWon was beyond all consideration.

"And him? Where is he?"

"He's here."

Just at that moment, YuWon entered through the door with a basket of fruits in hand.

"I came because I was told you were in the hospital."

"You talk like I had an accident on the road somewhere."

"I came because of me. That's why I'm here to see you as well."

YuWon threw an apple that Hargan caught with an unsatisfied expression.

"Couldn't you have waited a little?"

"I know what you're thinking, but save your debut for next time. There will be other opportunities."

YuWon looked through the reasons behind Hargan's participation in the fight. So, Hargan asked with an expectant voice.

"Is there any good opportunity?"

"Probably."

"Probably," YuWon said. He never spoke empty words. Among the people Hargan knew, YuWon was the most realistic and straightforward.

There should be a better scenario. If it wasn't just empty words, there would surely be a scenario that wouldn't compare to Valhalla's Colosseum.

"It's okay. Let's overlook this for now."

"Your attitude is quite strong."

"You didn't shoot a deadly Lightning Bolt, did you? I just lost consciousness. I'm not seriously injured."

"That's because I didn't think of killing you, but still, I didn't expect you to be in such good condition."

"Why? Did you want to leave me nearly dead?"

Hargan thought YuWon was joking and chuckled to himself, but upon seeing YuWon's unsmiling expression, he asked seriously.

"Are you serious?"

"Yes."

"Should I curse you like a friend, or should I thank you?"

When he thought about it, YuWon wasn't the type to consider his friends too leniently. It's not that he was prone to unnecessary harm, but he also wasn't known for being especially compassionate to avoid hurting someone.

So, that meant he was even tougher than YuWon thought.

"If I had known you'd be so well, I wouldn't have even come."

YuWon was surprised to see Hargan, who had been hospitalized in a nearby hospital.

Hargan seemed much better than YuWon had imagined.

In reality, Hargan seemed to be in a condition to be discharged immediately, even if he thought about it.

YuWon, who had come for no apparent reason, sat on a chair that Yolche had left vacant.

In any case, there was nothing much to do until the Gathering started.

With no need to stay in bed, Hargan got up from his bed.

So, when Hargan left the hospital along with YuWon, a giant-like man entered the hospital entrance.

"You took quite a while for a little outing."

A green-eyed man leaned against the wall with his arms crossed.

Hargan's older brother, Hercules.

"Suddenly, I made a friend."

"A friend?"

Hercules turned his head to look at Hargan.

When their eyes met, Hargan quickly nodded in greeting.

"Nice to see you again, big brother."

"So, you're Hargan."

"Yes, I'm Hargan."

"Why are you so nervous? Relax. Make yourself at ease."

"Thank you."

Even though it wasn't their first meeting, Hargan couldn't feel completely at ease in front of Hercules.

Hercules, the Giant Slayer and the Hero of the Gigantomachy, was a figure Hargan had admired for a long time.

No matter how hard he tried to stay calm, it was only natural to feel tense in his presence.

Hercules looked at Hargan, who bowed in greeting, and began to speak.

"The fact that you came here..."

"Yes, exactly!"

"Is that so?"

Hercules nodded and then turned to YuWon.

"If you've finished your business, let's go."

"Alright."

"It was a pleasure meeting you. Anyways, we'll see each other again soon."

"Please take care, big brother."

As they bowed and said their goodbyes, YuWon and Hercules slowly walked away.

Hargan watched them walk away and thought to himself, "This Gathering is no joke."

Even just by watching YuWon and Hercules walk away, Hargan could tell that this Gathering would be of significant scale.

YuWon was ranked 11th in the Rankings. And Hrcules, who was standing right next to him, had risen to 16th place after Satan's death. Just by looking at these two, each of them had enough power to compete with a Great Guild.

The fact that both of them were participating in this Gathering already indicated it would be of great magnitude.

"Yolche."

"Yes."

"The list of participants in the Gathering hasn't been published yet, right?"

"It will probably be released today. However, most of the important Rankers have already been announced as guests, but..."

Yolche was thinking the same thing as Hargan.

"Looking at those two, it doesn't seem like that's necessarily the case."

High-level Rankers affiliated with Guilds had to take a stance on their participation in the Gathering because their Guilds had interests at stake. But people like YuWon and Hrcules, who weren't affiliated with any Guilds and acted independently, were different.

In some way, it seemed like this Gathering was going to be much bigger than they expected.

"But in reality..."

Hargan looked at the back of YuWon, who walked alongside Hrcules, and thought, "Who the hell were you trying to tell you came here to?"

Chapter 418

C418

The Valhalla Castle was experiencing one of the most frenetic moments in Asgard's long history.

"A guest from the Demon Kings has arrived. Demon King Belial..."

"Even a guest from the Celestial Realm has arrived. Great General Lee Rangjin came with a celestial army..."

"Where is Brunhilde?"

"No idea!"

"Who's looking for Brunhilde? Only a leader can..."

Due to the chaotic situation, the voices of the guild members responsible for Asgard's administration involuntarily rose.

Especially Brunhilde, who was in charge of the 64th floor of Asgard, was on the verge of collapse.

"Even if I had ten hands and ten feet, it would still be insufficient," she thought, lamenting. Even Asura, known as a three-headed, six-armed monster, could have handled this situation much more easily.

The reality was that Brunhilde was a leader of warriors and was not accustomed to dealing with people in this way.

'By the way, I'm not sure if Asura will be present or not.'

The list of participants had not yet been completed, and Brunhilde didn't know everyone who was going to attend.

"There are likely people who will show up at the last moment."

High-Ranker participants were often very independent, especially those ranked in the top 100. It wasn't easy to expect them to be respectful or formal.

Even in the case of the Demon Kings, some Rankers would suddenly appear and cause trouble for the Valkyries on the same day.

"Hey, Brunhilde..."

"What's going on now?"

"Demon King Astaroth has challenged Brunhilde to a duel."

Again.

The Demon King Rankers, who were proud and drunk with power, showed a great interest in Brunhilde, the leader of the Valkyries.

"How strong must she be to lead those great Valkyries?" they thought.

And Brunhilde's response was...

"Seems like I have plenty of time for that."

"What?"

"No need for a long response. Just tell them what I just said."

She also hated giving long answers.

This particular guy was the fourth or fifth to make a similar request.

Given the rush she was in, she couldn't remember exactly how many there were.

'Fine.'

Brunhilde was confident that after this Gathering, she would have the chance to face at least five Rankers.

Although she was currently making preparations for the Gathering and welcoming guests without any help, she was the best Valkyrie warrior.

She was looking forward to finishing this boring Gathering and having some fun in battle.

"Understood. I'll convey your response."

"Very well."

Brunhilde headed towards Lee Rangjin, the Grand General currently leading the Celestial Realm.

Despite losing to the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and the Great Sage, Who Pacifies Heaven, the Celestial Realm remained one of the solid pillars of the Great Guilds.

However...

"Kim YuWon also wishes to participate in the Gathering," a voice behind Brunhilde said as she hurriedly walked.

"Who wants to participate?"

Brunhilde was surprised and turned her head at the unexpected voice. The Valkyrie with her was also surprised and was about to scream at that moment.

But after seeing the person, the Valkyrie calmed down and, with her head lowered, answered Odin's question, who had suddenly appeared.

"It's... Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon. It seems that friend is coming as well."

They hadn't misheard. Brunhilde and the Valkyrie shared the same thought upon seeing Odin's intense gaze.

'Friend?'

For thousands of years, Brunhilde and the Valkyries had served Odin, but apart from Mimir, they had never heard Odin call anyone "friend."

However, Odin was now calling a young newcomer to the Tower who had only been here for a few years "friend."

That was surprising, even to them.

"When did you arrive?"

Odin, who had organized the Gathering on behalf of Asgard and then delegated the authority to Mimir, had disappeared. He hadn't responded to messages through the Player Kit and had been nearly absent.

"It's been a while. I arrived last night."

"Where did you go? You didn't say anything."

"I went to a place I can't talk about."

"I see. You're not the type to go out drinking at such an important time."

Odin had organized this Gathering. Without him, there wouldn't have been so many Guilds on the move. That showed how much influence Odin had in this Tower.

Brunhilde examined Odin, who had returned after months. He was sweating profusely. He didn't seem like he had gone out to fight, but he didn't seem like he had rested comfortably either.

"Why are you looking at me like that?"

"I was just thinking a bit."

"I have no intention of answering anything, so keep thinking. Ah, and bring me some clothes to change into."

"Did you hear?"

"Yes, I understand!"

Brunhilde's words prompted the Valkyrie beside her to move quickly.

The leader of the Valkyries didn't need to personally take care of such trivial matters.

"When the clothes are ready, I will also move. Thank you for handling all the difficult tasks until now."

"Understood. The citizens have also been waiting for you for a long time."

"That's right."

"It's a perfect coincidence. Since it's said that Lee Rangjin-nim from the Celestial Realm has arrived, I would appreciate it if you could meet with him on my behalf. It seems that we are currently very short-staffed."

Lee Rangjin was the representative of the Celestial Realm. Although Brunhilde had planned to meet with him instead of Odin, in terms of position, it made more sense for Odin to do so.

However...

"There is someone I must meet."

"Do you already have an appointment?"

"There is no agreement yet."

There was someone he had to meet, but there was no agreement. What kind of conversation was this?

"Who are you referring to?"

"It's the greatest person in this Tower."

"The greatest person..."

She didn't understand what was happening.

Usually, Mimir was the one speaking incomprehensible words. But now, Brunhilde had a strong headache because she was having a conversation similar to what she used to have with Mimir.

To make matters worse, fortunately or unfortunately, she hadn't seen Mimir for over a hundred years.

"It seems difficult to understand."

"That's right."

"If it's difficult to understand the 'standard of greatness,' isn't there an official standard in this Tower?"

Odin's question prompted Brunhilde to come up with an answer.

She could immediately think of what that 'standard' was.

"Ranking..."

Odin's official rank was second.

Although it might be considered a great achievement in this vast Tower, even he, who always seemed to be the best, still only held the second place.

Hercules was seeing something he had never seen in his life.

A spacious room of about 40 square meters.

A marvelous view of the city.

A clean bed and expensive furniture.

It was an especially pleasant place even in Valhalla, the great city.

And in the middle of that room...

"I'm hungry."

YuWon took out his Kit and searched for various videos as if he were bored.

"Can you order something to eat at least?"

"Anyway, I was thinking about it."

"Really?"

He had never imagined YuWon being so lazy. It was something he had never considered.

Hercules stared at YuWon. Despite saying he would order some food, YuWon hadn't made any moves yet.

"What are you thinking about?"

Reserving a costly room of 300 points a day and lounging in it. It seemed like he was on vacation.

They had the option to get a suitable place provided by Asgard, so it didn't make sense for him to be in a place like this.

"Anyway, I have nothing to do until the Gathering starts."

"So you're here doing this?"

"For the time being."

"For the time being?"

"Because I'm waiting for someone."

Hercules frowned.

The guy he was waiting for.

YuWon had undoubtedly jumped into the Colosseum saying those words. He said he'd prefer to make a fuss here instead of submitting his attendance list at the Gathering since he couldn't find that other person. Although it might seem simple, it was an effective method.

After looking at YuWon for a while as if he was amazed, Hercules nodded. If it were someone else, they might have felt uncomfortable or pitiful seeing YuWon acting this way. But because it was YuWon, he didn't feel that way.

"Well, it's not bad to take a break."

YuWon had been running tirelessly until now.

From the first floor to the hundredth. He had also participated in events like Olympus, the Celestial Realm, Asgard, the showdown between the Demons and The Heavens, and more.

Hercules wasn't present at all those events, but he could easily understand how YuWon was from the fact that he had been running tirelessly.

Hercules followed YuWon and sat on a large, spacious sofa to rest. The sofa was sturdy enough to support Hercules' body, in line with its high cost.

"You've submitted your attendance list at the Gathering. Are you going to stay here and wait now?"

"And you? Are you going to stay here the whole time?"

"Why? Where else am I going to go?"

"To Olympus."

YuWon's answer made Hercules stiffen like a rock.

As if he weren't even breathing.

For a while, the air in the room stopped, and time froze for a few seconds.

"...I'm not mentally prepared to go there yet."

After a long pause, YuWon asked so simply.

"Why? Because of your father?"

"Yes."

"If it's because of your father, you should give it a try. You probably don't think that just avoiding it will work, right?"

"I never thought he would come back like this."

For some reason.

When he returned from the Trial, the position of the King of Olympus had changed.

From Hades to Zeus.

It was only a return to his original position, but that alone changed the situation of Olympus a lot.

Once, Olympus held a status as high as Asgard. But when Zeus was brought down, the name rolled on the ground for a while. But now...

The Olympus ruled by Zeus was experiencing its second heyday.

"Do you feel ashamed?"

"Who said I feel ashamed...?"

Hercules, who was about to shout in anger, stopped his words. His pupils silently rolled.

YuWon, who seemed bored and was pacing around, also got up from his seat.

Then.

"Should I step aside for a bit?"

Hercules, who noticed the situation, asked.

YuWon nodded. He hoped there were no other guests in this place if possible.

"Unless you want to leave."

"That's how you tell me to stay out of the way."

"You heard correctly."

Was it his determination not to return to Olympus where Zeus was present?

Hercules got up from his seat without hesitation.

A few minutes after Hercules left the room...

"Now, there's no one else."

The wind blew through the window, which opened by itself.

YuWon's gaze turned to the hooded figure who entered with the wind.

The guy who had been following him since before the Colosseum.

"Now, how about we have a little chat?"

For the first time, a place was created for a conversation with Foolish Chaos.

Chapter 419

C419

So far, many people have wondered about the face behind the cloak.

However, only a few have seen what lies inside.

And YuWon was one of those few.

"So, you really called me."

"Didn't you come here knowing that?"

"You have your reasons for causing such a commotion. I thought something was calling me."

Foolish Chaos's gaze lifted from his seat and followed YuWon as he moved.

Calmly, while preparing tea, YuWon spoke.

"Well, you've come to the right place."

"How did you know I'd come back?"

"Because you didn't really die. I thought you'd come back right away."

Foolish Chaos had many eyes.

The grand guild meeting of Asgard was currently the loudest thing in the Tower. Foolish Chaos, whose purpose was to cause chaos in the Tower, couldn't help but take an interest in that commotion.

Even if he had to exaggerate a bit, he would definitely show up.

A fairly believable response.

But Foolish Chaos didn't think that YuWon would reveal everything in front of him.

"Do you want to have a cup of tea, at least? After all, you're a guest I called today."

"Are you mocking me?"

"It seems like you have no intention of taking off that cloak even if you die. In that case..."

YuWon took a sip of steaming tea. In a relaxed atmosphere, Foolish Chaos felt an inexplicable discomfort.

However...

"Aren't you afraid of 'us'?"

Woosh...

The air in the room turned cold.

The teacup that YuWon was holding froze completely.

An obvious threat.

But that was it.

YuWon put down the teacup he was holding and looked at Foolish Chaos.

"That 'us' probably includes that giant goat."

Anyway, the guy in front of him right now wasn't his real body.

No. Not to mention the main body, he was nothing more than a hastily constructed alter ego.

So there was no reason to be scared.

Hercules also knew that fact, so he kept his distance.

"Based on what you've said, it seems you know a lot about us. Also about me."

"Why do you think that?"

"Because it wouldn't make sense otherwise. Your existence, and what you've been doing until now."

The hidden gaze under the cloak seemed to move.

Foolish Chaos's gaze shifted from YuWon's outer appearance to something deeper.

"And also about the person who's with you."

The Outers had noticed that Danpung's presence was something special.

But what surprised YuWon even more was that even Foolish Chaos referred to him as a "person."

This only piqued his curiosity.

Who the hell was Danpung?

"But as for 'how,' I'm still not sure. So I'm not convinced."

Foolish Chaos was intrigued.

How could YuWon, who was right in front of them, know something about them?

And if he did, how could he stand so confidently in front of them?

"Who are you?"

"Did you come here expecting an answer?"

A rhetorical question that implied he had no intention of responding.

Of course, Foolish Chaos didn't think YuWon would answer his questions without getting something in return.

After all, they were enemies.

Revealing information only made sense when both parties benefited.

"I've been talking nonsense."

Foolish Chaos's voice mixed with laughter.

First of all, it didn't make sense to have this conversation.

"Let's talk about the truth. I came here to hear your story."

"To get to know me a little better?"

"If you already know it, what else do you expect? As I said before, the only thing that's certain is that you know about me. But I don't know anything about you."

If you want to beat your enemy, you must know them well.

This wasn't an expression exclusive to YuWon's world.

It was a universal saying in any world.

And in this saying, YuWon had the upper hand over Foolish Chaos.

"It won't hurt us to look each other in the eye and talk. The most I can do is try to get more information about you."

This was why Foolish Chaos responded to YuWon's provocation.

Hoping to get more information about him, even if just a little.

"Well, let's drop the trivialities."

"You're right. You called me because you have something to tell me, right?"

"That's correct."

"That's fine too. All those stories will add up so I can understand who you are."

The only puzzle piece that Foolish Chaos had overlooked.

He closely observed YuWon to discover the identity of that piece.

If he could figure out why he had summoned him, he would have a clue to get to know YuWon better.

"So, what is this story you want to tell?"

"I want to make a proposal."

"A proposal? From you to us?"

A question that seemed absurd.

There was no other way to interpret it.

So far, how many plans had YuWon thwarted from Foolish Chaos?

Any proposal would be hard to accept.

"Exactly, it's not 'you,' but it's for you."

It wasn't a personal vendetta.

It wasn't for the Outers, but a proposal directed straight at Foolish Chaos.

Although it was strange, it couldn't simply be ignored.

Depending on YuWon's proposal, Foolish Chaos might get what he had been looking for.

"Go on, I'll listen."

"Well thought."

Sssshhh...

The tea in the cups cooled again. The tea began to emit a pleasant aroma. YuWon sat on the sofa's armrest and began to speak.

The story wasn't too long.

The delay was due to contemplation.

"...."

"Think it over carefully. I'm willing to wait while I drink this."

The response had to be given right now.

YuWon rarely publicly disclosed his position in this way. Foolish Chaos knew it, that's why he couldn't just listen to the proposal and leave.

A prolonged silence.

After standing silently for a while like a tree, Foolish Chaos finally looked into YuWon's eyes.

"You also have a purpose for making a proposal like this, don't you?"

"My purpose is the same as yours; that's why I'm making this proposal."

"I don't know how you found that out. Do you come from the future or something?"

It was a sharp statement, but YuWon didn't show any change in his expression.

Not receiving a response from YuWon after attempting to probe with that statement, Foolish Chaos realized he couldn't continue wasting time needlessly.

"I accept."

'Done.'

The response made YuWon have to make an effort not to smile.

What if the other had not accepted the proposal?

He had been worried about not fastening the first button correctly, but in the end, everything went well.

"You can laugh if you want. Do you feel like you're about to go crazy?"

Foolish Chaos accurately sensed YuWon's inner thoughts.

Thanks to the truly fraudulent advantage of knowing the future, Kim YuWon had so far thwarted his plans, making them crumble. However, Foolish Chaos was like the chief strategist of the Outers.

He wasn't so foolish as to not even know that YuWon was inwardly laughing.

"Although I feel that you're interfering with my plans, it's not a bad proposal for me."

"Then, it seems we're done with the conversation."

"When the time comes, I will act on my own. At that time, you will decide for yourself."

"That's right."

YuWon nodded.

And at that moment...

Swoosh!

A club flew from behind, and Foolish Chaos's head flew off.

Ssshhhh...

Purple smoke rose above the decapitated head.

It was Hercules who beheaded Foolish Chaos with a club that flew from behind.

"Did you intend to act like good friends and say goodbye with a handshake just like that?"

Sssss...

Was it because the head flew?

The alter ego's body of Foolish Chaos lost its strength and dispersed into the air.

And in the midst of that dispersed smoke...

"It doesn't matter. As long as you keep your promise."

Foolish Chaos's voice was heard.

Perhaps he had already anticipated a situation like this from the beginning since his response didn't seem surprised.

YuWon nodded.

That's what he had been waiting for from him.

"Don't worry about it."

"I'm waiting."

Sssss...

The smoke dissipated completely.

That was it.

The not-so-good, not-so-bad encounter with Foolish Chaos came to an end.

"What kind of promise did you make?"

Hercules asked with his club resting on his shoulder.

They had had some conversation and made some kind of agreement, so Hercules had a general idea, but he hadn't heard the details.

"Exactly, I don't need to know the details of that promise. Anyway, you two are enemies, right?"

Hercules' concern was understandable.

"But do you think that promise will be properly fulfilled?"

A not-so-good relationship between the two.

Especially considering that if these guys really came from outside this Tower and consider us enemies, then the promise itself was senseless, something even someone not as intelligent as Hercules could understand.

But.

"We didn't make a promise."

"Really?"

"Sharing the same goal, that's what we shared."

YuWon didn't trust Foolish Chaos.

The Inside and Outside of the Tower were clearly enemies, and the notion of shaking hands made no sense.

However, YuWon extended his hand to Foolish Chaos for a reason.

"This is a fight we can't win against each other."

There were opponents who couldn't be defeated without resorting to the enemy of the enemy.

"Based on the shared information, he and we are going to act together. It's not just the other party that can break the promise. We don't necessarily have to keep that promise either."

"So, what does this promise mean, then?"

"It's like a map to reach our destination. But if there are other ways to get to that destination..."

The corner of YuWon's lips lifted as he chuckled.

"We'll find any other way to get there."

"So, why make a promise with someone we don't plan to keep...?"

Hercules, who was about to continue speaking, asked in surprise again.

"We?"

YuWon nodded.

We.

That single word was the core of this promise.

"Neither he nor I have any intention of keeping our mutual promises."

From now on, it would be a battle of cunning.

The same desired goal.

The means to achieve that goal.

For that, they would have to be used and, at times, ally with each other.

"A complicated relationship."

"Where aren't there complicated relationships?"

With a sigh, YuWon left his tangled thoughts on the couch as he sat, almost lying down.

Looking up at the ceiling.

He remembered the moment he was planning this scheme in his mind.

"....."

"....."

Everyone remained silent.

An unbeatable enemy.

The question of how to fight against that enemy had no answer. Hours passed with no one opening their mouth. Even the most absurd ideas were better than silence, but not even those absurd ideas were emerging.

At that moment, YuWon's comrades realized.

Even if they could go back in time, it would be useless against overwhelming power.

"We're at a dead end."

"There's no way to do it."

"What if we just face them all together?"

"Please, shut up for a moment."

Son OhGong's impulsive suggestion of fighting without a plan was naturally dismissed. Frustrated, he repeated the same idea, with his lips even more pursed, as he leaned back in his chair.

The silence continued.

And then, at that moment.

"What if we do this?"

Finally, Kim YuWon spoke.

"Let's use Foolish Chaos."

Using Foolish Chaos was what he proposed.

Chapter 420

C420

The day had dawned.

Several Great Guilds had gathered in a city.

Thanks to that, Valhalla's expansive castle was about to overflow.

Thok...

"Oh, damn."

A Celestial Realm Ranker named Gyo Ryangjin grumbled when he bumped into someone's shoulder.

He was already tense, as his position didn't allow him to relax, but suddenly his irritation shot up when someone approached and bumped his shoulder.

"What the hell. You bumped my shoulder."

Then, a red-haired man stopped as he walked down the street and turned to face Gyo Ryangjin.

On the face of the man who ran into Gyo Ryangjin, there was a cheerful smile.

"So, are we going to fight then?"

"...?"

His tone seemed to take for granted that if you bumped shoulders, you had to fight.

And the confidence in his voice and expression was evident.

As Gyo Ryangjin started to realize something was amiss, he recognized the man's face.

"D-D-Diablo..."

"Let's fight."

Thud...

Then.

Someone grabbed Diablo's shoulder and pulled him away.

Pull pull...

Diablo, who was dragged without moving, looked at the man holding him with an unsatisfied expression.

"What are you doing, Belial?"

"Did you come all the way here to cause trouble?"

"So, are you saying we should just overlook a shoulder bump?"

Most demons were combative. Their world was full of fights, to the extent that they often referred to cities and villages where many fights occurred as "the demon world" contemptuously.

To them, not fighting after bumping shoulders was something that didn't make sense.

Moreover, Diablo, the Demon Lord, was more combative than any other demon.

"This isn't the Demon World, it's Asgard, and Valhalla is the holiest place of all."

"Weren't the Valkyries a warrior people?"

"Don't think we're the same as them, idiot."

"Are you calling me an idiot...?"

At that moment...

Sniff...

Diablo's nose reacted.

In the midst of the crowded people.

He had found an interesting opponent.

"That guy has a scent."

"Scent? What the hell are you talking about?"

"Mana and Demon Energy also have a scent. It's like the scent of all humans is different even if they're the same."

Thud...

Diablo pulled away Belial's arm that was holding him and smiled with delight.

"This is that guy's scent."

Diablo pulled away Belial's arm that was holding him and quickly made his way through the crowd. Some who bumped shoulders with him looked at him with anger, but soon recognized his face and lowered their heads.

Despite the many Rankers gathered in the place, no one was brave enough to challenge Diablo.

Finally, reaching the end of the crowd...

Thud...

Diablo grabbed the shoulder of a black-haired man.

"As I expected, you were here."

YuWon's eyes met Diablo's as he turned his head.

It hadn't been long since they parted, but Diablo had been constantly looking for YuWon.

"I knew you would come."

"You also participated as a Demon Lord?"

"There was something fun to do, so why not?"

Sss...

A red energy began to slowly emerge from Diablo's foot. It was a bad habit that Diablo showed every time his excitement grew.

"The world is really exciting these days. There never seems to be an end to the fights."

"Stop that. Today is the day of the Gathering. Are you going to ruin it? You could get us in trouble."

Grrr...

Diablo's eyebrows furrowed. There was something in those words that bothered him in the ear.

"You? Me?"

YuWon raised his head as if he were challenging Diablo with a provocative question.

"Even if it's not me, this is still Asgard."

Swoosh...

YuWon's gaze roamed around him.

Unbeknownst to him, the eyes of many had centered on him and Diablo. Among them were several Rankers.

And, as expected...

"The young friend is saying the right thing."

Diablo's attitude was always bothersome, so there was someone who tried to help YuWon.

An elderly man with green hair.

It was Lee Rangjin, a High-Ranker who led the Celestial Realm after the death of the Jade Emperor.

"You don't need to light the flame here. You should know that this place is where we will discuss what lies beyond our known world."

"And what does that have to do with me?" Diablo menacingly stared at Lee Rangjin as his red eyes burned. Through Diablo's eyes, Lee Rangjin could read his fiery temperament.

Although they were meeting face to face for the first time, Lee Rangjin didn't seem willing to back down easily.

"You look just like that Monkey I know."

Lee Rangjin muttered, thinking of Son OhGong, and his grip tightened. Then, his hand moved to his back, where he carried his curved sword.

"If you truly want to fight, this old man is willing to face you, even here."

The two contenders clashed.

Diablo, who would never give up no matter what, and Lee Rangjin, who had fought on the battlefields of the Celestial Realm all his life. Despite their differences in appearance, when these two clashed, sparks flew without fail.

It was at that moment, amid the growing tension...

Kaboom!

Someone else's Arcane Power infiltrated in the midst of their fight, deflecting them.

A chill ran down their spines.

At the same time as the Arcane Power and Demon Energy that accompanied their confrontation, they felt the presence of someone else.

Diablo and Lee Rangjin's eyes naturally turned to that presence.

"Today, you should control your temper. If you wait a bit longer, you can fight with joy again."

YuWon said this as he offered Diablo the glass of red wine he was drinking.

Although the situation seemed stifling to most Rankers, YuWon seemed exceptionally calm.

In fact...

"Look at that bastard?"

Diablo squinted at YuWon, who had controlled both him and Lee Rangjin solely with his presence.

For a moment, he thought that the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal might have come.

Having turned the Celestial Realm into a battlefield and fought monsters outside the Tower, the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, was one of the strongest within this Tower.

In reality, it was the power of YuWon's Golden Cinder Eyes that had simultaneously suppressed Lee Rangjin's Arcane Power and Diablo's Demon Energy.

This meant that YuWon's Golden Cinder Eyes possessed power rivaling that of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"Aren't you going to accept it?"

Diablo looked at the glass of wine that YuWon was offering. It wasn't just alcohol he was offering.

It was like a handshake, a gesture of reconciliation.

Normally, he would have rejected this immediately with his previous personality...

"I might not mind if it's alcohol."

Diablo accepted the glass and downed it in one gulp.

There was a moment of calm. Onlookers who had been watching the situation with tense faces dispersed. Lee Rangjin also lowered the hand that was heading for the Indestructible Sword.

YuWon, trying to calm the situation, reached for the snacks laid out on the side rather than the unpalatable drink, and said:

"Good choice."

"And you, what the hell happened to you?"

Diablo's voice softened.

It was a vaguely condescending question, as if he were trying to understand what was going on.

YuWon, chewing on a chocolate sweet, responded:

"What's wrong with me?"

"How the hell did you change so much out of nowhere?"

Diablo started thinking differently about the Rankings at this moment.

YuWon, who was right in front of him, had made his point. With a single move, he had broken the momentum of both Diablo and Lee Rangjin.

An expert of this caliber, and he was only Ranking 11.

Given the turmoil in the Tower, it seemed that the Rankings would also undergo a major shakeup.

YuWon nibbled on the chocolate and turned his head.

There, Zeus and Hercules were in an uncomfortable meeting.

"They are the same."

"Both of them?"

"The grander the Myth they create, the higher their status."

Zeus and Hercules were beings who had written such significant Myths within this Tower that they could count as some of the best. In particular, the Divine Status that Hercules had attained was even more significant than Zeus's in terms of size, and certainly not smaller.

With a look that seemed to say, "Do you understand what I'm saying?" YuWon turned to Diablo, who was gazing at him with a puzzled expression.

"Your 'Great Heaven Demon War' is not small either. It might not be perfect since I ended it myself, but..."

YuWon stood up from his seat at that moment.

As the atmosphere in the place began to heat up, just then, the central figure of the location, Odin, was starting to make his appearance.

YuWon moved in the opposite direction.

"Where are you going?"

"The conversation will be quite apparent."

"Well, there's nothing more boring than a speech."

The truly important place was not here at this moment.

There was a separate place where only top-level Rankers and Guild leaders who were the core of the Guild gathered.

This place was something of a "showcase" where all the leaders of medium to large-sized Guilds came to display themselves.

There was no need to waste time in a place like this when the important part lay ahead.

"But then, why did you come here? You could have arrived late like the others."

"I came because I had someone I wanted to find."

"Did you find that person?"

"Yes."

There was no time to waste.

YuWon turned his back to Diablo and started walking in another direction.

"I've found him."

Valhalla Castle was filled with ceaseless activity.

A green-haired man who had gone outside for some fresh air due to the oppressive feeling leaned on the railing and let the wind caress him.

And then, next to him.

Step by step, a man approached.

"Did you follow me?"

Vishnu's voice sounded inquisitive as YuWon deliberately approached, showing his presence.

"I also came to get some fresh air."

"You're good at lying."

"They say that if you know it's a lie, you're bad at lying."

"Anyway, no one can deceive me."

Vishnu turned to YuWon after withdrawing his arm from the railing and faced him.

"You may be quite a famous Ranker, but I have no interest in the world, so I don't know who you are. Please understand."

"I understand."

"I am Vishnu."

"I am Kim YuWon."

The two shook hands.

Despite his renown, YuWon was not surprised.

He thought Vishnu, the man with the ability to perceive even fate with a single fine thread, might feel this way.

"And anyway, you seem rather relaxed, unlike the others. You speak as if it's not the first time you've seen me today."

YuWon was not surprised.

He thought Vishnu, the cleverest man he knew, might feel this way.

If Mimir was the smartest person he knew, then Vishnu was the one with the keenest senses.

There was no need to be surprised.

"Looks like you have something to tell me."

Once again, he understood that there were only two people in this Tower he should not lie to.

One was Mimir, and the other was the Vishnu before him.

There was nothing wrong with it.

After all, YuWon wasn't a fan of beating around the bush in his conversation, especially with Vishnu.

"I know why you're here."

So YuWon got straight to the point.

"You're not allowed to meet."