

With The Gods 471

Chapter 471

C471

Craack, craack-le

The place where the Lightning Bolt swiftly passed...

Eyes, red like the moon, blinked slowly. Zeus felt his heart dropping to the ground as it seemed there was no apparent damage.

"How irritating."

It would be better to fight passionately.

However, those eyes simply stayed open, doing nothing more than reviving the Outers within their reach.

It was like dealing with a formless necromancer.

Bum-!

Once again, a spear formed in Zeus's hand.

Once again, he grabbed the lightning, but Zeus didn't throw it right away.

He also knew.

Throwing the spear that way would be a useless waste of energy.

'A different method is needed to bring him down.'

The strategy had been wrong from the beginning.

He knew. But the problem was that knowing it didn't provide a clear solution.

The moment Zeus made eye contact with the eyes in the sky and held the Lightning Bolt in his hand...

"It seems like you're suffering more than you should."

Woo~

Black darkness rushed in, dispelling the bright light created by Zeus.

There was no need to be alert.

Because he knew to whom that darkness belonged.

"How did you get here?"

"After coming to help with so much effort, you talk to me like this?"

"Even though it seems like you won't be of much help..."

Zeus's final words faded away.

Something was off.

Although they hadn't interacted much, brothers were brothers. That's why Zeus could feel the change in Hades.

"What are you thinking?"

"I wondered if I was the older brother Kim YuWon was waiting for."

"Wait? For me?"

Hades, confused by what he was saying, recalled the title he had been given.

King of the Dead.

It was YuWon who granted him that title. His behavior seemed as if he knew in advance that he would be here.

"You should join this fight too."

Hades realized late.

That he had moved like a pawn according to YuWon's intentions.

King of the Dead.

It wasn't a free gift.

He looked at the eyes blinking slowly towards him and Zeus.

Were you asking me to take care of those eyes?

"Well, it seems you did well in waiting for me."

A dark shadow loomed over the star's eyes. The "King of the Dead" devoured those eyes while absorbing the power they brought with them.

Tremble~

The eyes that didn't flinch at Zeus's attack began to tremble.

And over the red eyes, dry and wrinkled like dehydrated eyeballs, cracks began to form.

"A star that resurrects the dead and kills the living, that's what it is."

It was visible in Hades's eyes.

At first glance, they were just red eyes, but in reality, they belonged to neither life nor death.

"It neither dies nor lives. It's simply cowardly on both sides."

The King of the Dead said. Those eyes weren't meant to be killed but resurrected.

To inflict direct damage to the red eyes, he first had to resurrect them and bring them out into the world.

["The King of the Dead resurrects 'The Star That Brings Destruction'."]

Woong, woong, woong-.

The red star trembled. The star that revived the dead and killed the living and was on the border between life and death, under the control of the King of the Dead, came back to life.

"It seems like this is why he gave me this power."

The screaming star didn't have the power to protect itself.

The King of the Dead, who resurrected the souls of the dead and revived the bodies of the dead, was a natural enemy for the red star.

Of course, the red star didn't give in so easily.

["'The Star That Brings Destruction' resists 'The King of the Dead'."]

In an instant, Hades's eyes trembled, and he almost lost consciousness for a moment as if something were tearing his insides apart.

It didn't matter.

Anyway, it wasn't his role to finish that.

"...The time I can hold him is not long."

Craaack, crack-le.

Behind Hades, strands of golden hair gleamed.

"It's okay; it's enough time for me."

Zeus grabbed the Lightning Bolt, which was several times larger than him.

Thus, in the next moment...

Baaang-!

The Lightning Bolt released from Zeus's hand pierced through the red moon.

Tremble, tremble-.

Under the clouds, a shake was felt.

Under the torn clouds, a golden gleam was glimpsed.

It was such a powerful strike that it affected even the high sky. Despite not being in the best physical condition, the fact that he threw such a large spear confirmed certainty.

'Looks like they're doing well there.'

After being distracted by the strong Lightning Bolt for a moment, YuWon's eyes turned to Foolish Chaos.

Flap-.

The hat of the cloak that hid his face was torn off.

Despite being engulfed in flames, Foolish Chaos seemed calm and unperturbed.

Above all...

'That face never ceases to amaze me, even when looking at it again.'

Without eyes, nose, or mouth, not even a single hair, a face as white as snow.

It was like looking at a doppelgänger. But that's only apparent when seen with the eyes and nothing else.

Woong~

Over the face as white as snow, hundreds of faces crisscrossed. Among so many faces, it was impossible for ordinary people to distinguish which one was real.

Perhaps that's why...

'A face that can't be seen anyway. Whether covering it or uncovering it, it seems to be the same.'

He vividly remembered the surprise when he first saw that face.

Perhaps that's why...

The moment he saw that face, he vividly recalled what happened back then.

Woong-.

The sword held in his hand resonated.

Now that he thought about it, he remembered something.

Although it wasn't exactly the same item, YuWon defeated that thing with this sword.

"It's a sword that seems to show many things."

The eyes of the countless faces floating above Foolish Chaos were focused on the sword in YuWon's hand.

Yuwon defeated many Outers with this sword. Since it was created by merging their bodies and souls, he also understood the true nature of the sword.

He understood that.

However...

Foolish Chaos: "I was cut by that sword too, right?"

Yuwon's eyebrows trembled.

It was a look that hinted at knowing something.

There was a clue.

"He took Mimir's eye, didn't he?"

In the deal between Foolish Chaos and Mimir, he took one of his eyes.

Now he understood.

It wasn't him who won in the fight with Shub-Niggurath.

In that fight, Foolish Chaos gained more.

"It's too late to find out."

Firee~

['The Dancer Who Dances With Fire' controls 'The Flames of Death and Corruption.']

Clang-!

The flames flying towards Foolish Chaos cut through his body. Wrapped in fire, Foolish Chaos showed no resistance.

Thus, Foolish Chaos was consumed by the flames and revealed his form once again. Looking at Foolish Chaos, melting like marshmallow, YuWon sighed softly.

"Don't you have the intention to fight?"

"I didn't say I didn't. Regardless of the outcome of this fight anyway."

"Don't you covet the Name I have?"

"Of course, the name she had tempts me. But, as you can see, I didn't bring the name with me."

Names are like hearts for the Outers. The names surrounding a true name have the power to prove their existence.

Among the Outers that YuWon knew, Foolish Chaos had the highest number of names. And what was in front of him now was just a small fraction of those names.

Whoosh~

YuWon brushed away the flames.

Everything was clear. There was no point in fighting against that shell.

"Are you just going to leave?"

"I'll be back next time. Make sure to bring many Names this time."

"I haven't received a proper answer yet. Was I also cut by that sword?"

"It's meaningless to tell you that for free."

"Is there something you want?"

"Your neck."

"It's amazing that it's exactly what I want."

No more response was expected. Foolish Chaos knew that if YuWon didn't respond immediately, he wouldn't respond at all.

"Next time, bring them properly. So I can take your neck."

"I'll keep that in mind."

At Foolish Chaos's response, YuWon took a step forward after looking at him for a moment.

Under the clouds.

Watching the Lightning Bolts burst beneath his feet, YuWon opened his mouth.

"You're dreaming in vain."

Dreaming...

A smile appeared on Foolish Chaos's white face upon hearing those words.

Maybe that's what he thought.

"For many Names you accumulate, your true Name won't change."

"Who are you now?"

Many eyes watched YuWon.

Foolish Chaos felt a strange presence in YuWon's words.

It didn't make sense, no matter how much he thought about it.

How could he know all these things?

"Are you Kim YuWon, the Player, or...?"

Before the question continued, YuWon fell directly under the clouds.

Naturally, the conversation didn't continue. Foolish Chaos chuckled ironically as he watched YuWon walk away.

"Are you chasing something too?"

YuWon had the same goal as him. Surely, that was the only way to win this fight.

Foolish Chaos, now alone, looked around.

"... You've grown faster than I thought."

They were just a few Names.

Even before obtaining a Name, he already possessed a power stronger than many Named Outers.

Probably even in a distant future without a single Name, he defeated many Outers.

Moreover, they killed Shub-Niggurath. YuWon and Foolish Chaos, despite being enemies for a moment, joined forces.

Ius ad bellum (Using barbarians to defeat barbarians), a common strategy between the two.

But now...

Perhaps he also had the same goal as him.

"Who will be the King?"

Tremble, tremble, tremble~

The eyes pierced by the Lightning Bolt trembled.

The eyes that forcibly revived at the boundary between death and life thanks to Hades screamed in agony.

-Aaaaah!

[The Star That Brings Destruction cries in pain.]

[The Star That Brings Destruction sings to end the night.]

Sssshhh...

The eyelids of the red eyes closed slowly. Zeus instinctively realized that if those eyes closed, he would lose sight of them.

"Are you trying to escape?"

Craaack-le!

As if it were impossible, several Lightning Bolts formed around Zeus, aiming at the eyes.

If he lost it, who knows when he could catch it again. Letting that creature that revived dead Outers go free could become an even bigger problem in future battles.

A drop of sweat ran down Zeus's forehead.

Thus, when Zeus created dozens of Lightning Bolts, about to throw them at the eyes, something fell from a higher sky than where the red moon was.

Shkaaak!

A long line that cut the moon in half.

Following that line with his gaze, his eyes met YuWon's.

"I'm sorry for getting in your way."

YuWon's flames that cut the moon illuminated the night sky.

"I couldn't allow it to escape."

[You have obtained the name 'The Star That Brings Destruction.']

A new name was engraved after YuWon's name.

Chapter 472

C472

Odin and Mimir sat facing each other.

Odin, with white hair and a long beard, murmured as he stared at the fire burning in front of him.

"The sword was well received, don't you think?"

"It must have been well received. I should have understood its meaning as well."

Mimir, with one lost eye, spoke with his visibly emaciated face.

"Because he's smarter than you."

"Although I'm not sure if he's doing a good job."

"Worry about who you should worry about. Kim YuWon is not someone you should worry about."

"True, if we had only sent that monkey, then we should worry there."

Kim YuWon and Son OhGong.

Both were the most competent among themselves. Although Odin's rank was the highest, that was only the result of the passage of time. However, YuWon and Son OhGong quickly closed that gap and reached the same level as Odin without anyone noticing.

Therefore, everyone agreed to send YuWon and Son OhGong to the past.

"And that eye? Are you okay?"

"Ironically, after losing one, my mind feels clearer. Maybe I can stay awake for a few more years."

"Lucky, considering the big problem that is looming."

Two people conversing by the fire.

It was then that a horrible sound resonated in their ears.

-Beeeh-.

A terrifying sound that echoed in their heads.

"I can't get used to that bleating, no matter how many times I hear it."

"It's inevitable. By the way, it's already quite close."

"I guess we can't just keep running away."

Perhaps someone didn't like seeing the two so calm?

Step!

A thick shadow approached behind Odin.

"It's time to get serious."

The size of the shadow, covering Odin's body, belonged to one of his companions.

"Hercules."

"You're back?"

After bidding farewell to YuWon and Son OhGong, the one who had been absent for a long time reappeared.

With only one arm, he refused to hide from the Outers and leaped outside.

He said he would keep fighting.

"Shub-Niggurath is approaching."

"I know."

"She's looking for us."

"She has already found us."

Despite the warning, the two people did not seem surprised. And that wasn't all...

The same happened with the other surviving members of the group.

The heavy air filled the space. A tension much tighter than usual. Hercules glanced at his resolve.

"It looks like they're ready to fight."

"It's time to end this."

"Is your body okay?"

At Hercules' question, Odin nodded.

"Yes."

Clack, clack-.

The bonfire, which had not gone out for a long time, shone in Odin's eyes.

Frrr~

The fire, burning in red, mixed with purple. It was a change that had begun to occur as Shub-Niggurath approached closer and closer.

"We have to finish this."

"...."

In the face of Odin's determination, Hercules closed his eyes for a moment.

He had faced Shub-Niggurath several times. In that process, he killed many goat and now headed towards the end of the fight.

YuWon, who had retreated in time, was probably fighting in the same way.

He still felt guilty for him.

For burdening him with such a heavy load.

'I hope you try a little harder.'

Skkwak-.

Looking in the direction of the bleating sound of Shub-Niggurath, Hercules tightly gripped his club in his hand.

'We're not just sitting and waiting.'

Hercules turned his head.

The fight with Shub-Niggurath.

That's why so many companions had gathered here.

And among them...

"Do you plan to stay here and toy around all the time?"

Thunk-.

Hercules' expression twisted at the appearance of the most annoying companion.

With an arrogant face, a man appeared behind them.

"Let's go."

Zeus turned his head towards Shub-Niggurath and spoke.

The night has ended.

Floor 11 lay devastated. Although it wasn't a very long fight, a city was completely destroyed and turned into a sea of fire.

YuWon found a relatively intact building. The distance to the administration office was too great, so he was looking for a temporary resting place.

Plop!

Clic!

Zeus, sitting on the old bed, tilted his head with difficulty.

He never bowed his head or showed weakness under any circumstances.

It seems that this time he was quite tired.

"In that state, do you still say you're going to keep fighting?"

Hades, who looked at Zeus with disdain, clicked his tongue.

"It's always been like this."

"I'll recover if I rest a bit. Don't worry, brother."

"With that labored breathing, you don't seem very convincing."

It was the first time he had seen Zeus so weak, so Hades looked at him with concern.

"Is this why you left? Is this why you abandoned your post?"

"It seems like you're already sure, does it make sense for me to answer?"

Zeus lifted his head and looked Hades in the eyes. When the two people's gazes clashed in the air, the building they had managed to find began to shake.

"Settle your sibling disputes later, not while I'm present."

YuWon, who didn't want to go back out on the street, stopped both of them.

Then, Hades, who had been watching Zeus for a while, took a step outside. It was a suggestion that sibling fights could wait until later, and they should first deal with current matters.

After Hades left that way...

"Were you following me?"

YuWon asked the question he had been holding since Zeus appeared.

"Hpmh, why would I follow you?"

"Otherwise, why are you here?"

"I've come following the sky. You may not have realized it, but for the past year, I've been constantly following the sky. And right under that, there was you."

"Your body is burning, isn't it?"

"...."

There was no immediate response.

This silence was an affirmation. Looking at Zeus, YuWon sighed.

Sweat soaked Zeus's entire body. A sweat he hadn't shed even when he destroyed Olympus. Definitely, his condition was not good.

Firee-.

The eyes that turned fiery red scanned Zeus's body.

Reflected in the Golden Cinder Eyes, Zeus's body seemed as if it were a mass of fire. Although he had said he was burning only with words, he was really on fire.

'The Arcane Power is dissipating. By force.'

Originally, after an intense fight, the power should have returned.

But it wasn't the case for Zeus.

The Arcane Power and the body were slowly dissipating and disintegrating.

It felt like he was rusting away.

'This is not an injury.'

Zeus's state, confirmed by the Golden Cinder Eyes, was more severe than he thought.

'It's disappearing.'

In this condition, there was nothing to be done to treat this injury. Zeus was a key piece. It would be advantageous to keep him alive.

But...

'There's no immediate solution.'

There was no such illness anywhere in this Tower. Naturally, YuWon didn't have a solution either.

"Don't push yourself too hard. There might be another way."

"Don't worry about that. I'm not so weak as to need your concern."

Zeus wiped the sweat from his forehead and stood up.

He hurriedly adjusted his clothes.

With a serene expression, he asked:

"What are you going to do from now on?"

YuWon hesitated at that question.

After thinking for a moment, YuWon answered.

"Our goals are not different."

"Goals?"

"Because I will seek the same sky you are seeking."

"I thought you might have some other idea."

The answer was too obvious from what he expected. He hadn't found another path either, but maybe he had hoped too much.

But then...

"There's something I will seek."

A story that piqued Zeus's interest came out of YuWon's mouth.

"Seek? What?"

"There is something like that."

"Why bring it up if you're not going to say anything?"

"Because there's no need, as this time I can't move with you."

"I didn't intend to, but why?"

"Because this time I will move with Pandora."

Zeus's eyebrows trembled at the name mentioned by YuWon.

Pandora.

When she saw him, she rushed towards him regardless of anything. Although he knew she couldn't defeat him. In Zeus's current state, even trying to calm her down would be an exhausting task.

Much less holding hands with her was something he couldn't even dream of.

"By the way, is there something I want to ask?"

"What?"

"About the box you gave to Pandora."

The object known as 'Pandora's Box' in the world.

It was Zeus who handed her the box infused with the power of the Outer (Outer Power).

"Where did you get it?"

-...Surely the title has disappeared.

A black soul floated next to YuWon.

Susanoo's soul resonated loudly as if it were dissatisfied.

-Why the hell am I still by your side?

The first time he became YuWon's summon was when he obtained the title of "King of the Dead."

The title of King of the Dead was like a dream come true for Players of the Necromancer class. YuWon became his summoner by obtaining that title that originally belonged to Susanoo.

However, now that title was in Hades's hands.

Even so, Susanoo couldn't distance himself from YuWon.

"Why? Are you expecting something? Do you think you can escape from me?"

"I've never thought of wanting to escape. Being by your side means many opportunities for a fight."

"But why?"

"I just don't understand. What happened?"

Now that the King of the Dead had disappeared, YuWon's ability as a Necromancer should have disappeared as well. Susanoo's doubt was natural since he was the original owner of that title.

"Is it because of the power of the Name or something like that?"

"You know well."

"It seems like you really intend to collect them."

Shub-Niggurath. And Tulszcha and Gross. (Note: The real name of The Star That Brings Destruction was Gross)

Moreover, YuWon had acquired numerous Names of Outer Gods.

Every time he had a Name in his hands, he felt the color returning to his memory that was once blank. That's why YuWon couldn't stop collecting Names.

YuWon paid his fee and got off the boat. He returned to the 10th Floor, to the Murim World, and headed to the inn where he had stayed briefly.

"Is that why you allowed Pandora to accompany you?"

Susanoo asked him that while YuWon walked.

It was a perceptive question.

YuWon nodded and looked at the inn that was now close.

The inn where he left Pandora alone for a moment.

He could already imagine the reaction she would have.

"It will be chaos when I enter."

"It will be a mess."

"I suppose so, of course."

A sigh escaped his lips.

His journey with her probably wouldn't be so beautiful. Most of the time, the path YuWon chose was thorny, and this time he decided to walk that path with her.

He felt regretful.

For leaving her here. And for having to be with her from now on.

Actually, whatever decision he made would hurt her.

"You're right."

On the way to the inn.

YuWon, about to pull the door, stopped for a moment and spoke.

"What do you plan to do from now on?"

"I will collect Names."

That was also an answer to Zeus's question.

Shub-Niggurath. Tulszcha. Gross.

The many Names that came from outside the Tower, still unrevealed.

Place those names behind one, gather them all.

"If possible... all of them."

That was YuWon's answer to Zeus's question.

Chapter 473

C473

As expected.

For YuWon, who had returned, what came back was Pandora's fiery fist.

He had left Pandora with the promise that he would return soon, but that "soon" had turned into several days, and she greeted him with such an intense reaction.

Yuwon's reaction wasn't much different from the one he had with Hephaestus.

He could dodge the blow, but he took it. Hoping that the feeling of the punch impact might alleviate Pandora's anger a bit.

-How many times do you plan on using that stupid method?

"Next time, I'll try to dodge it. It hurts more than I thought."

Ugh...

Yuwon clutched his stomach, struck by Pandora, with one hand and frowned.

Pandora's fist turned out to be stronger than he thought. It was a shocking blow to receive without any preparation.

I'd prefer being hit in the head with Hephaestus's hammer.

"So, how long do you plan on staying here?"

-It's been a while since I went out, so I feel a bit reluctant to leave so soon.

"I'll call you again soon, so for now, come in. There will come a time when you'll have to fight, whether you like it or not."

-Really? Well, okay. I'm curious to see who my next opponent will be.

Puff...

Susanoo's soul that lingered around YuWon disappeared. He seemed bored after a year without being called to fight.

Yuwon, who had been touching his sore chest, finally stood up. In the meantime, Pandora watched him from next to the door.

"...Are you hurt?"

"I'm fine; it's just this."

Walking outside, YuWon was followed by Pandora. YuWon glanced at Pandora and asked.

"Are you really okay?"

"What?"

"The fight might be quite tough. You're strong enough, but... probably that's not enough."

Pandora wasn't in YuWon's plans.

Of course, she had enough strength to join the fight. But she hadn't become stronger of her own accord.

That was the reason.

For a long time, he hesitated to travel with her.

But YuWon wasn't the type to avoid difficulties.

"Yeah, I'm fine."

She raised her eyebrows as if asking what the problem was.

YuWon had already thought it would be like this, but still, the answer was too easy.

Momentarily relieved to see her smile so brightly, YuWon finally smiled and patted Pandora's head.

"It's okay. I understand."

"Are we going together this time?"

"Yes, we're going together this time."

YuWon nodded.

Perhaps that answer gave her the reassurance she needed?

Pandora, tightly gripping the sleeve of his clothes, finally let out a wide laugh.

And so, their journey together began.

In the deep night.

In the middle of the vast forest that extended to the end of the world, Hargan stood firmly on the ground.

Crack...

Thus, by pressing his foot on the ground, he firmly fixed the elbow to extend the fist.

Hercules wasn't just strong.

From his stance to the direction of the fingertips on the fist. Everything was a skill to harness that overwhelming strength.

Kwak...

Hargan's fist-holding posture became quite similar to that of Hercules.

Thus, fully harnessing the power of the Lightning residing in his heart, Hargan threw a punch with all his might.

Bum!

A lightning bolt shot straight. The trees in the forest collapsed.

The forest lit up as if it were daytime. Once the intensely bright flash that illuminated the night disappeared, the forest returned to darkness.

Tsu, tsu, tsu...

Looking at the landscape he had just created, Hargan smiled with an expression full of emotion.

The punch he had just thrown was a difficult attack to block even for High-Rankers. Staring at the remaining Lightning in his fist, Hargan muttered.

"It's okay..."

Although he had only imitated it to some extent.

Definitely, his fist resembled Hercules.

Pum, pum, pum...

At the sound of applause coming from behind, Hargan turned his head.

Naturally, he thought it was Hercules, but when Hargan turned his head, his eyes widened.

"That form is quite convincing."

"...Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

A white-haired man sitting on a thin branch that seemed to break at any moment.

It was Son OhGong.

At the edge of the world, he thought there wouldn't be anyone else besides him and Hercules in such distant places. But suddenly, Son OhGong appeared.

Crack.

Watching Hargan step back unknowingly, Son OhGong, who was clapping, stopped and asked.

"What's wrong, are you scared?"

"Scared?"

"I have no intentions of harming you. You're Kim YuWon's friend, even Hercules's brother."

Smiling carelessly, Son OhGong lightly jumped from under the tree.

"So don't be so afraid. After all, aren't all friends friends of friends?"

Although Son OhGong was trying to smile, Hargan couldn't easily approach him.

"Even if you say that..."

Grrr.

A strange pressure was felt behind Son OhGong.

Perhaps because of that, Hargan felt like his heart was about to burst.

"If you exhale so much power, who wouldn't be scared?"

Thud.

At that moment, another giant appeared in the forest behind.

Hercules, who had been with Hargan for the past year, felt the presence of Son OhGong in the midnight, woke up, and came out.

"Sorry, I just remembered you."

"If that was the case, you could have shouted."

"I just didn't want to call only you."

With a gentle laugh, the pressure felt behind Son OhGong disappeared.

Somehow, what had just been a monstrous giant now looked like a village idiot. Hargan's stifling breath eased, and he could breathe easily.

Son OhGong, looking at Hargan, who seemed like this, said.

"You said you lost the Lightning?"

Son OhGong, who had been observing the previous strike from above, now turned to Hercules.

"It seems you've raised him quite well."

"Really?"

Hargan alternately looked at Son OhGong and Hercules, wondering if there was something more he didn't know.

Hercules' reaction was quite calm to Son OhGong's unexpected visit. Judging by his expression, it seemed like Hercules already knew about Son OhGong's visit.

"But one is coming late."

"It seems something happened down there."

Fwoosh.

Then, Son OhGong felt a strange movement among the bushes.

Golden Cinder Eyes.

The eyes symbolizing the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, that penetrate the truth of all things, looking through endless distances.

"Still, you came faster than I thought."

Step...

Another guest revealed herself from the bushes.

This time, it wasn't one but two.

Son OhGong, who spotted the guest, smiled as he waved.

"What's going on? It seems you've got yourself a pretty girlfriend."

"Don't talk nonsense. Don't act like you don't know."

YuWon, who arrived at the agreed-upon place, quickly cut off Son OhGong's jokes. But despite this conversation, Son OhGong, accustomed to this kind of interaction, chuckled and looked at Pandora.

"Yeah. That's right. Pandora, right?"

Pandora, clinging to YuWon, glanced at Son OhGong sideways. Although Son OhGong tried to shake hands with her, Pandora quickly turned her head.

Son OhGong would prefer them to become friends quickly, as they would have to work together for a while.

'But maybe that's asking for too much.'

Pandora just followed him.

It was impossible to expect her to share the same camaraderie or bond as he and Son OhGong did. But there was nothing wrong with her gradually relaxing.

"Is it your first time seeing her?"

"Clearly. When would we have had a chance to meet?"

Pandora was a beauty that took anyone's breath away at first sight. Even Hargan, when he first met her, experienced the feeling that the world stopped for a few seconds.

But for Son OhGong, that didn't happen.

"But it seems she's shy."

"Understandable. She has a history."

"Are you talking about the story related to Zeus?"

"Don't ask knowing. Just in case, don't mention his name anymore. She might get angrier than it seems."

"That, I understand."

YuWon and Son OhGong, along with Hercules, held a conversation.

Meanwhile, Hargan stood there, observing the situation with confusion.

The most important thing was to understand why these three people had gathered.

Crack, crack, crack.

After quickly chopping a fallen tree into pieces, they lit a fire with the wood and started cooking.

Son OhGong simply grilled some jerky, brought it to his mouth, chewed, and waited for YuWon to say something.

"We're going to catch Ubbo-Sathla."

YuWon pronounced the conclusion from the beginning.

But those words seemed hard to understand for someone.

"Uvo, what?"

"Wubo, Taphla?"

Hargan heard a part of the name, and Hercules heard the other part.

The two people who didn't know Ubbo-Sathla's true name couldn't hear his name at all.

Hercules, at least, seemed to have heard it more.

"The name doesn't matter. Anyway, if we catch that thing, we can learn something about them, right?"

The presences from outside the Tower.

Recently, inside the Tower, Hercules also showed great interest in those called "Outers."

The Outers had a strong enmity towards the creatures inside the Tower, and especially after personally facing Shub-Niggurath, Hercules began to think that they might bring about the destruction of the Tower.

So, naturally, he was curious to find out more about the Outers.

But...

"Probably."

"Probably?"

YuWon's response didn't sound convincing.

However, Hercules decided not to delve into it.

At this moment, in this position, only three High-Rankers had gathered.

Kim YuWon, Son OhGong, and Hercules.

They hadn't gathered to make a fire and roast meat for no reason. Surely, YuWon knew the answer.

The only question was...

"Is it something else you can't say? That's why you can't explain the reason and say 'probably.'"

This time, as if he didn't want to let it pass. Hercules straightened up in his seat, raising his fist to look at YuWon.

YuWon looked at him with narrowed eyes as he glanced at Pandora, who was sitting next to him, looking at the fire.

"It's a good time."

Pandora, who received the attention, showed a perplexed expression.

Hercules and Hargan were equally surprised.

The meaningful smile at the corner of Son OhGong's lips disappeared.

Even though he had spent several years with YuWon, he had no idea about the decision he had made.

"Anyway, I was about to tell you. Especially you, Hercules."

"To me?"

Hercules pointed at his own face with his finger as he asked.

YuWon nodded in response.

"It's a story that concerns Son OhGong, me, and you."

Swoosh.

Then, YuWon's gaze shifted to Hargan and Pandora, who were sitting together.

"And all of us in general."

Chapter 474

C474

Crunch, crunch-.

YuWon's gaze was fixed on the campfire the whole time.

As the story continued, no one opened their mouths. Neither Hargan, nor Hercules, nor Pandora, everyone kept their lips sealed even when there were questions they could have asked.

Until the final point was put on all the stories. It was slow, but the night was long, and YuWon's words finally came to an end.

Although he hadn't told all the stories.

"...I always thought it was strange."

It was Hargan who spoke up first.

He was the first to meet YuWon even before Hercules and Pandora.

"From the moment we first met, I felt that you were different from others. I thought it was because you're ahead of others."

"You're not wrong."

"Yeah, you're not wrong. But I didn't understand. How can someone who is not of Pure Blood be like this? Can it be explained just by talent?"

Hargan was of Pure Blood, even from the prestigious Olympus Great Guild.

He was born not in a pit but in the ocean, and he grew up sailing the sea like a whale cub. For him, YuWon's presence he encountered in the Tutorial was a tremendous shock.

"I thought I knew everything about the sea, but it turns out there are monsters in the pit."

The Tutorial was a pit for Hargan.

Even those of Pure Blood gathered from all around in the Tower were just novices in Hargan's eyes, who hadn't even obtained the name of a "Player" yet.

Not to mention those who didn't even know about the existence of the Tower.

But it was in that Tutorial that Hargan met YuWon.

"It's not really surprising."

On the other hand, Hercules' reaction was quite calm.

"It's not that surprising. Rather, now it makes a bit of sense."

"What? Are you letting this go so easily?"

"What were you expecting? That I would have an amazing reaction? This is enough; let's just accept it. Is there anyone normal in this Tower anyway? Even if he had said he has been reborn, instead of coming back, I would have believed it."

Maybe it was a joke or a truth.

In an unusual manner for Hercules, YuWon finally smiled with the quite amusing response. Actually, more than amusing, it was closer to being a relieved laugh.

'It's much more comfortable after saying it.'

Having an undisclosed secret is uncomfortable.

The presence of the Clock Movement. The time difference because of that.

After talking about that, YuWon felt as if a barrier between him, Hercules, and Hargan had faded away.

Unlike the other two, Pandora, in particular, didn't say anything.

It was unknown what she was thinking.

"So, what? Can we learn something if we defeat that guy?"

After YuWon's story ended, Hargan pointed to the crux of the matter.

Although YuWon had shortened Ubbo-Sathla's name since the others couldn't hear it. In summary, that was what was going to happen.

"First of all, I think so."

"But according to what you said, wasn't that guy out there?"

He definitely was.

Existences outside the Tower. The only way to fight against them was to wait for them to break down the Wall or cross a certain path to enter the Tower.

Even in the distant future, it seems that, in the end, they failed to break down the wall.

"Usually, that's true."

"Usually?"

"He's an exception."

"An exception? Explain that more in detail."

"Ubbo-Sathla..."

YuWon, who was about to say his true Name, closed his mouth.

No.

Anyway, these three wouldn't be able to hear that Name fully, even if he said it.

In that case, it would be better to call him by another name.

"The Amorphous Creator. He is inside the Tower."

To fight well, it is necessary to rest well. Also, he didn't intend to move immediately.

Taking advantage of the moment when everyone was asleep, YuWon repeatedly drew the sword from its sheath and put it back.

By holding this sword, even when it was so peaceful, he felt like he was fighting without reason.

The sword barely had traces of the Edge of Nightfall.

In the first place, this result occurred because of YuWon's request.

"As you said, I erased the traces of the Edge of Nightfall. I never thought I would end up using that good thing as reinforcement material. Seriously."

After the fight, YuWon met Hephaestus to finish the remaining work.

And in return, YuWon told him about the origin of the Otherworld Sword.

Then, for some reason, Hephaestus took out a cigarette and started smoking intensively.

"Is this what my future self did?"

Hephaestus opened his mouth after a long time.

YuWon told him a bit about the future. How miserable that world was. And what choice Hephaestus made in that world.

And the result of that choice was the sword that was now in front of him.

"This is maddening."

It was a cigarette pulled out after several centuries, but it didn't help at all in clearing the dizzy head.

Finally, after smashing the cigarette he had in his hand with impressive force, he pushed YuWon away with a gesture of his hand.

'He must have been surprised.'

If he hadn't been, it would have been even stranger. It was a sign that the situation had become so difficult that he had to resort to melting his beloved hammer to use it.

Hephaestus admired his own work while despairing about the impending future.

Thus, YuWon held in his hands a work created by two Hephaestuses.

[Otherworld Sword (Second Version)]#A sword created with a weapon from the future that Hephaestus brought from the future. It contains the essence of the other world.#Possesses strong lethal power against entities from the other world.#Divine Power is amplified up to 50%.#Automatically accumulates Divine Power.

The item description had some modifications.

It wasn't the original Otherworld Sword but a sword created with materials from the future and the present. An option based on amplification similar to the Edge of Nightfall was also added.

Some time ago, he would have had trouble understanding the meaning of this description.

Until recently, YuWon had no idea what Divine Power meant.

But now he knew it clearly.

Divine Power.

This force, which felt vague, was the force necessary to use the power of the Name used by the Outers.

'This is a different idea from Arcane Power. It's a force used by the Outers, not the Players...'

"What are you doing?"

An unexpected voice suddenly intruded.

Son OhGong's face appeared suddenly in front of YuWon's eyes, turned upside down. While YuWon was lost in thought, Son OhGong crouched behind him and turned his head upside down.

YuWon waved his hand as if swatting away a fly to get Son OhGong off.

"Hey, you're a boring guy."

"You don't like anything other than fighting. Don't make noise and go sleep a bit more."

"I can't sleep. But, what are you thinking?"

"...Stop asking. Anyway, it won't change anything even if I tell you my thoughts."

Whether it was about Hephaestus or the Otherworld Sword, similar thoughts came to his mind. No matter how much he reflected here, Hephaestus would make his own decisions about what would come next, and he wouldn't get accustomed to the new Otherworld Sword until he used it.

The sun began to rise. In a momentary pause in the conversation, Son OhGong asked with subtle anticipation.

"Do you plan to stay here for a while?"

"Of course. We need to coordinate."

"I see..."

Son OhGong looked towards the cabin where Hargan, Hercules, and Pandora were sleeping.

"That guy is a bit..."

The 'that guy' Son OhGong referred to was Hercules.

YuWon, Son OhGong, and Hercules. The three had fought together many times in the future.

But the Hercules they had before them now was different. He didn't have the experience of fighting alongside them.

It's easier to coordinate when they know each other well. Even in the fight against Shub-Niggurath, if the three had coordinated their movements in advance, the process might have been a bit easier.

"You've got a new sword, and it seems neither of us is sleepy."

Clack.

Son OhGong loosened the knuckles of his fingers as he raised a sly smile.

"It's been a while since we fought; how about a round?"

Boom, bang!

When the ground where he slept shook, Pandora, who had been sleeping deeply, opened her eyes.

She got up slowly and looked around, only to realize that the windows were all broken.

Boom-.

Again.

The sound of the earth vibrating.

Beside the broken windows, Hercules, who had already awakened, was sitting, looking outside.

"Did you wake up?"

Hercules turned his head to look at Pandora.

Hargan, who must have felt the same disturbance, also woke up and was rubbing his eyes.

"It's not a big deal. You can go back to sleep."

"What's happening?"

At the brief question, Hercules pointed with his chin outside.

"As you can see."

Crash!

On the other side of the broken window, the Ru Yi Bang could be seen piercing the sky through the clouds.

In Pandora's pupils...

The figure of Yu Won running and jumping on the Ru Yi Bang was reflected.

"YuWon?"

"These two fools are making noise from the morning."

The fight of the two had wreaked havoc around. Every time the Ru Yi Bang staggered, a mountain flew, and YuWon's flames engulfed the Ru Yi Bang threatening Son OhGong.

Now she understood.

The two were quite far away. So far that they could barely see each other, even for someone like Pandora or Hercules.

"YuWon? Is Kim YuWon there?"

Hargan frowned and looked outside with narrowed eyes.

Soon, a question mark appeared on his face. Unlike Pandora, he couldn't see YuWon because he was too far away.

"I don't see him."

"Of course. He's too far for you to see him."

The place where Yu Won and Son Oh Gong were fighting was tens of kilometers away. Moreover, YuWon was busy moving around while fighting Son Goku.

Therefore, it was natural that he didn't see them, unless he was a High-Ranker like Hercules or Pandora.

'It doesn't seem like they're fighting or something.'

In this kind of fight, the goal was obvious.

'Are they trying to coordinate?'

Watching the fight for a moment, Hercules suddenly stood up.

Toward the Ru Yi Bang flying towards the cabin.

Hercules raised his fist toward it.

Whoosh!

Crack!

The Ru Yi Bang flew into the sky. Just as the fist that hit the Ru Yi Bang felt a vibration, the sounds of Son OhGong and YuWon fighting were heard again.

Thud.

Hercules, who landed on the ground after hitting the Ru Yi Bang. In an instant, the veins on his forehead swelled.

"They're fighting senselessly."

They probably knew he was there, so they were fighting leisurely.

"Hargan."

"Yes."

"Take Pandora further away. Very. Very far away."

Still, he couldn't help but feel annoyed.

"If possible, don't leave Pandora's side. If you don't want to die, of course."

Kwaaak.

With clenched fist, Hercules headed toward where YuWon and Son OhGong were.

Instinctively, Hargan realized that Hercules had decided to intervene in that fight.

With YuWon and Son Oh Gong, they were already terrifying, and now Hercules too...

Craack-le-.

As the power of Lightning began to emanate from Hercules' body...

"P-Pandora."

Hargan began to move quickly, calling Pandora.

"Let's go, quickly..."

Chapter 475

C475

Boom!

A lightning bolt echoed in the sky.

Under that thunder, the world crumbled. Hercules' fist struck the earth with force.

Crack!

Crash, crunch, crunch!

The earth split open, creating the illusion that the world was turning upside down. Behind Hercules, countless Son OhGong appeared.

"Grow!"

A voice echoed in a reverberating tone.

And toward those Son OhGong...

Fwoosh!

Hercules' other fist, wrapped in lightning, extended.

Bum!

The Son OhGong were swept away and vanished. The torn remnants of the Son OhGong turned into smoke and disappeared, and amidst that, a Son OhGong with a body as black as coal emerged holding the Ru Yi Bang.

This one wasn't a clone.

Buuuuuuuum.

Ru Yi Bang aimed at Hercules' neck. It was too late to dodge, so Hercules extended his fist.

And then...

"Stop."

Swish.

Wjoosh.

A sword line drawn vertically from above.

Along that line, flames rose, and the two individuals who were about to collide halted.

"That's enough."

"Ah, why?"

"I can still do more."

The sound of cold water poured onto the long-burning fire. It would be strange if it didn't make a loud noise.

But...

"It's me who's tired. Me."

YuWon decided it was time to stop.

If it kept burning, the entire place would turn into an uncontrollable wildfire. Hercules didn't retreat once the fight began, and Son OhGong wasn't the type to withdraw first.

Of the three, he was the only one capable of mediating the fight.

"Curses."

"...I don't like it."

As if it were regrettable, as if they could still fight more, the two complained, but their bodies were no longer in that condition.

Son OhGong, swaying a little. And Hercules, already drenched in sweat.

Both were clearly reaching their limits. In the past month, the two had fought countless times and had yet to reach a proper conclusion.

And during that time...

YuWon truly felt the sensation of chasing someone after a long time.

"They've truly become monsters."

With the power of lightning, Hercules had fully adapted to that power.

Son OhGong as well.

After the Golden Headband's seal was broken, he gained power rivaling that of Hercules.

The two had become monsters beyond YuWon's expectations. Although he thought he could keep up with them, it turned out to be more challenging than he thought.

"Even so, this should be enough..."

Although it wasn't as good as he remembered, at least what he expected lined up quite well.

One month.

It was a time when the three fought without rest.

Because they fought so much during that period, they could even foresee how the opponent would move, and that would be an advantage when they fought together.

If that were the case, at least they wouldn't trip over each other.

Furthermore, Hercules and Son OhGong. Both were opponents YuWon couldn't easily face.

The fight with them not only consisted of coordinating their movements but also helped them better understand the new power.

"Hercules has changed a lot too."

Yuwon's gaze turned to Hercules' back, which seemed filled with dissatisfaction.

Unconsciously, he was now skillfully handling the power of lightning. At first, after using lightning, his body was surrounded by electricity for a while, but now the electricity quickly disappeared at his will.

Son OhGong was the same.

Since the Golden Headband's seal was broken, he gained power rivaling that of Hercules.

He, too, couldn't fully control the power flowing into him, and he hadn't used it to its full extent yet.

Even until now.

"Well..."

When YuWon opened his mouth while observing the fight between Son OhGong and Hercules, the two, walking in opposite directions, stopped.

"Should we move?"

Smile~

The corner of Son OhGong's mouth, who was turning his body the other way, lifted.

It seemed that fighting like this also became boring. Or perhaps he was eager for the fight against Ubbo-Sathla?

"I like your person, but I don't like your cautious personality."

As if he had been waiting, Son OhGong raised his fighting spirit again, which had been paused for a while.

Sweat flowed from Hargan's body. Golden lightning permeated his entire body. Although he fought generously with all his power, he was no match for Pandora in front of him.

"Why is she so strong?"

The power of lightning had practically fully recovered. Moreover, he had perfected the way of using that power in battle.

The last year was the most valuable period for Hargan. During that time, Hargan considered that he had experienced significant personal growth.

However...

"Is it over?"

All his experience didn't work against Pandora at all.

Neither the power of lightning nor the fists he learned from Hercules.

None of it affected Pandora.

"Well, this time..."

Pam!

Pandora's face appeared in front of him.

If it weren't for this situation, there would be nothing strange about his heart pounding.

"I'm going in."

Splash!

"...!"

Pandora's fist struck Hargan's chest. The feeling that the bones in his chest were breaking into pieces filled his mind, and his consciousness drifted away for a moment before returning.

But even that was only for a moment.

Crack.

Hargan gritted his teeth to regain composure. To defend against Pandora's continuous attacks, Hargan enveloped his body with the power of lightning.

Craack-le!

Each blow seemed like it would snatch away his consciousness. Barely holding on, when he faced Pandora manifesting between the attacks, his spine automatically shivered.

Spine-chilling...

An unknown energy...

Pandora, usually seeming as gentle as a lamb. Hargan also had a fairly friendly relationship with her.

They joked and played.

But when they fought like this, she suddenly turned into a fierce beast.

Even showing her fangs and aiming at his own throat.

Crack-.

Hargan gritted his teeth and clenched his fists.

Just blocking didn't suit his temperament. For a month, he had only focused on blocking Pandora's attacks.

Somehow, he felt that he should at least land one blow to vent his frustration.

To do that...

Zzeek!

"What...?"

Pandora's fist stabbed into Hargan's forehead. Hargan, looking surprised at Pandora, extended his fist.

Clang!

Just as the extended fist was about to hit Pandora's face...

Zaap!

"Calm down."

Someone grabbed Hargan's wrist.

Kwaaaack.

"Ugh..."

"Oh, sorry."

The one who stopped Hargan was Hercules.

When he released the caught wrist, Hargan quickly wrapped his own wrist with one hand and frowned with an unsatisfied expression.

"It was my chance to land a blow, why did you stop me?"

"There was a chance, yes. But still, I had to stop them."

"Why?"

"Because she wouldn't have stopped either."

"...Pandora?"

Hargan looked at Pandora, who was hiding behind Hercules, as if wondering what that meant.

Had she been holding back until now?

Certainly, the anger she felt towards him was always genuine. Hargan knew that the cause of that anger was his resemblance to Zeus.

Both in appearance and in handling the power of lightning.

Hargan was called 'the young Zeus' in the outside world, so it wasn't strange for Pandora to show hostility towards him.

"Even so, you did well."

Pak, pak.

Hercules patted Hargan's shoulders.

Somehow, he managed to make her more authentic. Indeed, it was an unexpected achievement.

"Pandora."

"Yes."

"Don't go anywhere. Soon everyone will gather here."

Hargan, who seemed dissatisfied with Hercules' explanation for a while, opened his eyes.

"What's the destination?"

Until now, YuWon had only mentioned the goal, but he hadn't given details about when and where they would go.

All he had said was that they should focus on improving their skills and coordination.

"Floor 91."

"If it's the 91st floor... Nibelung?"

Rankers and Players affiliated with Great Guilds usually first thought about the Guild representing each floor. And among them, the Guild representing the 91st Floor was Nibelung.

It wasn't as large as Asgard or Olympus, but it was still a Great Guild representing the best of the Tower.

"Yes, exactly. Let's go to Nibelung."

"To Nibelung?"

There was nothing special about Nibelung.

In fact, it was rather peaceful, perhaps the quietest city on top of the Tower.

That was the reason.

"Isn't that where Siegfried reigns?"

The reason Hargan hesitated about that destination.

Hephaestus remained stuck in his workshop for a while.

At first, he thought it would only be a moment. Doing nothing was uncomfortable, so he held the hammer in his hand as usual.

Melt iron. Harden it. Shape it, hammer it.

That's how Hephaestus began making weapons again.

Clang-.

It was then...

Although it should have been locked, someone entered Hephaestus' workshop.

"I'm not here for business."

Bang-!

Feeling the presence, Hephaestus opened his mouth while hammering.

He didn't turn to look. Normally, he would have opened the door first and thrown the hammer at the visitor without ceremony, but today he had no intentions of doing so.

However...

"The quality is quite good."

Clang-.

Hearing the sound of lifting his piled-up children beside him, Hephaestus finally turned his head.

"What the...?"

Hephaestus turned around so quickly that his mouth stiffened.

He didn't expect to see that face at all. Now that he thought about it, the voice seemed familiar to him.

It seems he was very distracted; otherwise, he would have recognized that horrible voice.

"It's you."

While grabbing a spear created by Hephaestus, Zeus seemed to smile weakly.

"It's rare to hear bad words after so long."

"... What are you doing here, father?"

"Did I come to a place I shouldn't be?"

A question answered with another question.

Hephaestus looked at Zeus with a face full of questions.

Does he want to reconcile now?

Or perhaps witness the opening of his new workshop?

But...

"I came to ask you a favor."

A favor?

The Zeus that Hephaestus knew would have said "order" instead of "favor" and would have sent someone to ask instead of coming himself.

"What favor?"

"It seems you're thinking of making weapons again."

Zeus' gaze was still directed at the spear created by Hephaestus.

Although the materials were mediocre, the spear was well-made. Even though Hephaestus made it just because he was bored, the spear's tip was sharp enough to pierce through steel even if a child stabbed it.

"That's right..."

"Make a weapon for me. If possible, as soon as possible."

Hephaestus's eyes widened.

It wasn't just a "request" to make weapons. Zeus wanted a weapon he could use himself.

Like back then.

When he got him the Heavenly Divine Crystal to make the Lightning Bolt.

Clang-.

Hephaestus clenched the hammer in his hand tightly.

In his heart, he wanted to give the same answer as last time. That he would no longer make weapons for you. That I'm not making weapons for war.

He wanted to say that.

But...

"How soon do you want it?"

Perhaps it was a twist of fate.

At the only moment his heart wavered, Zeus arrived at the workshop.

"I don't have time."

After agreeing, Zeus spoke with a relieved face.

"I'd appreciate it as soon as possible."

Chapter 476

C476

Nibelung was the name of a Great Guild, a country, and a city.

The city located on the 25th floor. Camelot. Nibelung was like an extension of the city ruled by the Round Table.

From the beginning, the story that both Guilds had the same roots had a reason.

Golden hair, slim waist, and broad back.

Standing in the middle of a stadium as wide as the Colosseum, he looked at his knights.

"Next."

Upon the command, the knights of Nibelung unsheathed their swords one by one. All traced the same trajectory with their swords.

The king instructing them, Siegfried, corrected the disordered postures of the knights, giving a demonstration.

"Put strength into the index and middle fingers. Not with the edge of the sword, but with the tip a little towards the point..."

Siegfried's education.

The ten knights gathered in that glorious place were more focused than ever.

He was the King of Nibelung and the strongest knight.

Every teaching word was worth more to the knights than millions of Points.

So, the training continued for a while.

"Your Majesty."

Step, step-.

Although he wasn't running, there was a sound of urgent steps.

Today was an important training day.

It wasn't a moment for an ordinary knight to interfere.

He knew that.

"What's going on?"

Still, interrupting the training in this manner.

That meant it was something urgent.

"A visitor has arrived at Nibelung."

"Visitor?"

"Yes, at this moment in the city..."

The knight's words weren't long. All he said was who, where, and what had happened.

And that summarized story was enough to attract Siegfried's attention.

Especially in the 'who' part.

"Really?"

Flutter-.

At the knight's next words, Siegfried put on a cloak over his armor.

"You will continue training next time. Disperse for now."

Nibelung was a country where humans and Dwarves lived together. Undoubtedly, the city was covered in mist for half of the year, and the outside of the city wasn't as beautiful.

The Dwarves, who had no power, considered themselves persecuted.

And indeed, they were.

It was inevitable for low and weak races to be eliminated from the Tower.

Perhaps that's why there weren't many Players among the Dwarves.

And among them...

Somehow, a Dwarf had stood out and returned gloriously as a Ranker.

Robin Wadge raised his head to look at the visitor, who was very tall.

"You're Kim YuWon, right?"

Unlike others, Robin Wadge wasn't intimidated by YuWon.

With a stature that didn't reach his waist and a large spear that didn't suit him. He stood in front of Nibelung's castle entrance and blocked YuWon's way.

"From here on, you'll need the King's permission to enter. If you take one more step, you'll be considered an enemy immediately..."

Thud-.

At that moment, someone covered Robin Wadge's mouth and grabbed him by the body with a rough movement.

It wasn't just one.

They were the Rankers guarding the gate along with Robin Wadge.

YuWon listened carefully to their voices, which were shouting muffledly a bit away.

"Hey, are you crazy? Do you want to destroy the country right now?"

"You didn't even check his ranking? Huh? How old are you, man?"

"That's why Dwarves are..."

A Dwarf being scolded by several Rankers.

YuWon made a wry face for a moment and approached them.

"Enough."

The soldiers who had surrounded the Dwarf, cursing and criticizing him, stopped their actions.

"That guy's just doing his job. What's the problem?"

"Well..."

"No, there's no problem."

The knights guarding the castle front nodded at YuWon's words. YuWon stood with crossed arms, as if he was about to stay there waiting, just as he had said.

Knights moving frantically.

Probably, the news had already spread. The knights looked at YuWon with eyes expressing uncertainty, whether it was fear or suspicion.

YuWon also looked at them.

Among them was a Dwarf.

Robin Wadge.

In principle, the Dwarf population wasn't very large. In the vast 100-floor Tower, their habitable space was limited to just two floors.

Moreover.

'Nothing is confirmed yet.'

In the future YuWon knew, the Dwarves had disappeared.

And the reason was here.

'Although it's still too early to say.'

In the distance.

Siegfried was approaching.

Unless he was at war, the King didn't move under any circumstances.

He moved majestically, just as YuWon remembered.

So...

Shriek...

"It's the first time I've seen you."

With his heavy armor on, Siegfried introduced himself.

"I am the king of this country. My name is Siegfried."

A guest destined to be controlled by Ubbo-Sathla.

Siegfried, the ruler of Nibelung.

Woo...

The tea water splashed YuWon's face. It was a clear and fragrant tea, the most expensive tea in Nibelung.

The tea cost 1,000 Points per cup. Siegfried offered it to YuWon.

"Drink it. I don't know if you'll like it."

"My taste is quite cheap. I don't know if it will suit my preferences."

Yuwon lifted the tea cup. Around him, about ten of Siegfried's knights watched him tensely as he drank the tea.

"Why have you come so far?"

As if waiting for YuWon to take a sip, Siegfried asked directly.

After lowering the cup as if indicating that he had already drunk it.

Yuwon looked at the knights around him.

"It seems there are many spectators."

Siegfried waved his hand.

Once the expulsion order was given, the knights escorting him hesitated.

As real as the king's order was, the opponent was a single-digit High-Ranker.

Moreover, he was not from Nibelung.

"Do you need to say it in words? Retreat, all of you."

"But, Your Majesty..."

"Even if they're present, how are they going to help?"

"..."

They couldn't answer that.

The reason Siegfried became the King of Nibelung was one and only one. He was the strongest. And overwhelmingly so.

Moreover, the opponent was Kim YuWon.

Ten superior Rankers with mediocre skills were of no use.

Clang...

Thud...

Thus, all the knights escorts withdrew, and the door of the negotiation room where YuWon and Siegfried faced each other closed.

The soundproofing of the negotiation room was perfect. There was no way the conversation would leak.

That's why he dared to say...

"The Dragon War."

He mentioned a name that no one else should hear.

"Are you planning it already?"

Siegfried's hand, holding the cup, momentarily stopped. He didn't look into YuWon's eyes and hid his gaze behind the cup.

How would those hidden eyes shine?

The bait was thrown, and now what remained was whether he would bite or not.

"What's that?"

Of course, this was the expected reaction.

"A war among Dragons, Humans, and Dwarves. A fight with the goal of exterminating the Dragons."

"I'm hearing that story for the first time."

"Your voice is trembling right now."

"..."

He took another sip of tea. This time, he closed his eyes completely.

From the reaction, he already understood.

The Dragon War.

It wasn't an unexpected event. Everything unfolded under a plan, organized by Siegfried.

If this continued, Nibelung would fall.

And the one responsible would be, nothing more and nothing less, Siegfried himself.

"The Dragon War will lead to the destruction of Nibelung."

"Stop talking."

"There is a way to avoid it."

"It's useless advice."

"You don't even deny it now."

Hwaaah!

Siegfried's killing intent enveloped YuWon. If he were an ordinary Ranker, he would have lost consciousness, and a mediocre Player would have lost his life as it was. In moments like this, he truly looked like a sword.

A great sword.

Feeling that his internal thoughts were revealed, Siegfried created a severe aura.

"Don't interfere."

"What are you thinking?"

"It's a warning for you to stop."

Swish.

A blade slid under YuWon's neck.

Suddenly, Siegfried drew the sword he had. He stared with blazing eyes and asked:

"Can't you understand it?"

"If you want to consider me an enemy, stab me more."

In other words, saying that meant if he pushed the sword more, he would become an enemy.

Siegfried's sword tip trembled slightly. Although it was a small difference, YuWon could see it clearly from the distance.

That guy couldn't make him his enemy.

The Dragon War.

If YuWon became his enemy in that battle, Nibelung would surely be destroyed, and its objectives wouldn't be fulfilled.

"...They say you have a good head."

Swoosh~

Siegfried sheathed the sword he had drawn.

Neither the surprise attack nor the threat worked. YuWon already knew he planned The Dragon War, and he already had an enemy; creating another enemy was an uncomfortable situation.

So...

"What do you want? For now, I'll listen."

This game could only move in the direction it was being dragged.

It was an absurd situation.

Nibelung. The king of an empire that dominated a floor, himself, was being threatened right at its heart.

His pride was hurt, but he couldn't help it. For Siegfried, fulfilling his goal was more important than his pride.

And his other goal was...

"If you intend to defeat me, your attitude is not bad. But, drop the weapons."

"You're quite insolent."

Siegfried was left speechless when YuWon immediately figured out what he wanted.

So, it seemed he himself was being drawn by YuWon.

"What is your wish? First, let's see what you want from me."

"Well."

"Well?"

"I don't have it yet."

"You don't have it yet? You came all the way here without a wish?"

"That's right. Let me think about it a bit more."

"Do you go this far...?"

Even leaving aside the Knights' training, receiving such a response after postponing important matters was incredible. Looking at Siegfried, who was stunned by the answer, YuWon smiled internally.

'For now, it's enough.'

He had confirmed that Siegfried had already planned The Dragon War. At least up to this point, he had gained what he needed in their first meeting.

Of course, that didn't mean everything was resolved here.

The Dragon War. Although that fight, where he destroyed Nibelung and wiped out half of the Dragons, was important, there was an even more crucial matter.

'Nibelung has been erected on Ubbo-Sathla.'

The country where Siegfried lived and breathed.

Looking at Siegfried in front of him, YuWon raised the tea cup this time to hide his gaze.

'Did you know, Siegfried?'

Chapter 477

C477

"Ah, what is this?"

Son OhGong complained.

As it wasn't the first time, Hercules ignored Son OhGong's reaction. There was still a long way to go.

"How far do we have to go?"

"You're being noisy."

Pandora covered her ears. In the long, empty cave, Son OhGong's voice resonated even louder.

"Ah, this is boring!"

"Should I cover his mouth?"

A sigh accompanied by murmurs came out.

Really, that guy didn't know how to stay still. Son OhGong only shut his mouth and became serious when it came to fighting.

Perhaps that's why...

Hercules would prefer something to happen rather than listen to Son OhGong's endless complaints.

But...

'There's nothing.'

Inside the enormous cave separated from YuWon.

Inside that incredibly vast cave, nothing could be seen.

'Really nothing.'

In his heart, he thought it would be great to destroy everything.

If Son OhGong created clones and extended the Ru Yi Bang, even if the cave was gigantic, it wouldn't be that difficult to destroy it.

But he couldn't do that.

'After all, it's beneath Nibelung.'

Above, there was the gigantic guild and kingdom of Nibelung.

If he brought it down hastily, everyone would die.

Moreover...

'I'm still not sure.'

Yuwon said that here was the gigantic Outer called Ubbo-Sathla.

But Hercules still couldn't believe it.

A giant kingdom boasting thousands of years of history. And beneath that, an existence that came from outside the Tower and was sleeping.

He couldn't do anything until he confirmed its existence.

Hercules raised his head.

'Of course... his role is more important now.'

On the surface.

Probably at this moment, YuWon would be moving.

The King of Nibelung.

A Rank 19 High-Ranker leading a gigantic guild.

What kind of work is he doing here? And who is he really?

Was The Dragon War really caused by Siegfried's revenge?

Yuwon moved to find out.

Siegfried provided YuWon with a secure room in the castle.

It was a dazzling room to the point that the eyes hurt. Decorated with gold and expensive tapestries. Lodging befitting a king.

Though only for a moment, YuWon spent a luxurious afternoon there.

Unknown fruits and foods, servants in numbers more than ten.

After bathing in warm water, YuWon, lying on the bed for a moment, finally enjoyed a rest after a long time.

'More luxurious than I thought.'

Among his companions, Siegfried had the image of being a fair and upright inspector.

But by personally coming to Nibelung, he was much more of a king than YuWon thought.

Munch~

While lying on the bed and chewing on an almond, YuWon waited for more time to pass.

That's when dinner time approached.

"His Majesty invites you to the table."

The table prepared while he waited.

As the servants opened the door, Siegfried, who was already waiting inside with a long table, became visible.

"Sit."

"It's quite luxurious for a meal."

Pook-.

As soon as YuWon sat down, he stabbed the fork into the meat.

Among steaks, smoked meats, soup, vegetables, the number of foods on the table was enough to easily have twenty varieties.

Literally, a feast. To eat all this, he would even need to bring Son OhGong.

Moreover, Siegfried, whom YuWon knew, wasn't the type to eat much.

"This is what it takes to win your heart."

"I don't like those kinds of compliments."

"What can I do. Right now, I have to show off in front of you."

"Are you saying it sarcastically?"

Munch~

Yuwon cut a piece of steak and brought it to his mouth. The blade was shorter than what he usually used, so it felt a bit uncomfortable.

He looked at the silver cup containing red wine. In the cup, Siegfried's image was reflected.

This was a date that Siegfried had arranged for him.

The sole purpose was one.

To get YuWon to join his side for the War between Men and Dragons, The Dragon War.

"Do you like the dish? Does it suit your taste?"

"It's a luxurious meal like few I've had."

"I'm glad to hear that. I put in a little effort."

"Will you tell me the reason for this date?"

"The Dragon War..."

Suddenly, Siegfried seemed uncomfortable saying those words. He repeated them several times inside.

However, it seemed he was satisfied with the name, so he nodded.

"So, how do you know that I'm trying to fight against the Dragons?"

"Knowing that is the reason I'm here."

"It's an extravagant argument, but somehow convincing."

After ascending the Tower for several years, YuWon became a High-Ranker, and now he was one of the indisputable rulers of the Tower, having reached fourth place in the rankings.

His position now rivaled that of the Great Sage, Equal to Heaven.

He was already a monster who had destroyed the Tower's ecosystem, and nothing seemed more astonishing than YuWon's presence.

"Any other questions? Nothing else to say?"

"What is really your wish?"

Siegfried's gaze landed on the food set on the table.

"Though I'm trying to persuade you, it seems you won't be easily convinced. Your attitude is like that."

"Is it that noticeable?"

"You had no intentions of hiding it from the beginning, so it was something obvious."

Words flew like swords across the table.

Before, they didn't get along, but they weren't that much enemies either.

But this was how it had become.

'Is it because he's trying to be cautious and friendly at the same time?'

This situation was a bit bitter, but he still had to know.

Siegfried.

Is there a snake living inside him, or not?

Firee~!

[The 'Golden Cinder Eyes' reveal the truth.]

['Siegfried' suspects the 'Golden Cinder Eyes'.]

Stop~!

Siegfried's hand, which was cutting meat, stopped.

YuWon's eyes turned red.

Those eyes pierced him. An unpleasant sensation enveloped him, and his Arcane Power activated on its own.

The knife moved again.

"Your eyes are unique."

Swoosh, swoosh-.

The knife's cut continued again.

He could have asked what the hell he was doing, but Siegfried didn't.

Instead, he chose to openly resist the gaze of YuWon's Golden Cinder Eyes.

If you can read me, read me.

Siegfried seemed to be saying that.

"Why do you hate Dragons?"

Siegfried's plate shattered at YuWon's question.

It was a question that had never been answered in the past.

The Dragon War took place in Nibelung. If the reason was simply a fight for territory, he didn't know, but from this point, Siegfried had been planning to confront the Dragon race.

Then the story changes.

Why he was planning to fight against the Dragons?

"Who ordered you to do it?"

"Ordered?"

As if he was saying what nonsense, he shook his head. And Siegfried's reaction prompted a response in YuWon's Golden Cinder Eyes.

The Golden Cinder Eyes didn't show significant changes.

The reaction was genuine. Unless Siegfried was deceiving the Golden Cinder Eyes...

'It's not Foolish Chaos behind this...'

Although the situation was a bit bitter, he still needed to know.

Siegfried...

There was still much to discover about him.

"So, why? Why do you hate Dragons so much?"

"I loathe them."

"Why?"

"Do I have to say that too?"

"If you say it, I might be willing to help you."

"Curse."

Without waiting for a response, a curse came out of his mouth.

Since the story about the Dragons emerged, Siegfried began to show such intense reactions.

The assumption was quite obvious.

Why he was doing this.

"They destroyed my people."

YuWon's face recalled a person.

Indra.

A High-Ranker who, upon learning that his tribe had been annihilated by the Dragon race, relentlessly hunted them.

Although he was raised by the Dragon race, he didn't stop seeking revenge. Siegfried also had similar reasons for seeking revenge.

"So, you founded a country here."

"What I'm fighting for is not for an individual but for an entire race. I need power."

"Nibelung was a country created to fight against the Dragon race, right?"

The disappearance of the Dragon race happened twice.

The first reason was Indra. Known as the Dragon Slayer, he bravely died after bringing down countless Dragon wings.

It was just as Siegfried said.

An individual couldn't defeat an entire race. It would probably be the same even for the current YuWon.

That's why he built Nibelung on this land. And he became the King.

"In the 91st floor lie the Dragons. If we don't want them to take this land from us, something is sure to happen when they awaken."

"Are you saying you settled here on purpose?"

"Anyway, it's land we'll be driven out of. Thanks to me, this world has gained power, and I've created a country that can fight against them. It's a story where no one comes out harmed."

He was saying he was innocent because the humans who would one day be driven out by the Dragons had gathered around him.

In reality, he led humans to victory by cutting the neck of Fafnir, the leader of the Dragons.

For that act, Siegfried was revered as the hero of The Dragon War.

However,

'The problem is that this is no different from the Great Heaven Demon War.'

Yuwon, who was lost in thought for a moment, looked at the half-eaten meat on the plate.

Behind The Dragon War, there is no one else. However, it was Siegfried who planned and led that war.

'In the end, it seems there's no choice but to create a game board...'

"What are you thinking?"

The expressions were mutual, and Siegfried asked.

Clank-.

Yuwon completely left the utensil in his hand. And what he held again was the Player Kit.

"What is this?"

"I know it's not a good time to break etiquette, but it's an urgent matter."

Tick, tick, tick-.

He sent a message somewhere. Watching how his fingers moved, Siegfried struggled internally.

Should he stop him, or should he watch as he sends a message to someone obviously different while dining with him?

The decision on his dilemma was not made immediately. In the meantime, YuWon's message was sent.

"It's over."

"To whom did you send it?"

"Someone will receive it. We can worry about that later; for now, let's focus on the food. It got cold while we were talking."

That said, YuWon started eating again.

Siegfried, who lost words at his audacity, smiled bitterly and started eating again just like YuWon.

Then, suddenly...

'Later?'

Normally, it would have been said "Don't worry about it" in this case. However, YuWon stopped the conversation with the words "later."

As if something was going to happen soon, so he should fill his stomach now.

The meal continued in silence. When the meal was almost finished, with a fruit as the last, YuWon finally spoke up.

"You said your wish was to fight against the Dragon race, right?"

"What?"

Suddenly, Siegfried didn't understand what he was talking about.

In an instant, Siegfried's mind remembered the message YuWon had sent a moment ago.

Where was that message sent?

"What about now?"

"Now?"

"I'm sorry in advance. Even if you don't like it, there's probably no other option."

Bang-

A thunderous sound.

When Siegfried's gaze turned to the window...

"The important thing is not who I sent the message to."

Sun OhGong's clone, sitting on the windowsill, smiled as he twirled the Ruyi stick the size of a toothpick in his hand.

"It's who, and what I've brought."

Chapter 479

C479

"Empty the country?"

"What are you saying now?"

"If we're talking about... this country?"

"Are they telling us to leave even though we're well-established here?"

"Even if you're a High-Ranker, what kind of absurdity is this?"

There was a murmur around Hercules's words.

It was natural.

To ask them to vacate a land where they lived comfortably. Who wouldn't oppose that?

And that absurdity was felt by Siegfried as well.

"What are you saying now?"

"Exactly that."

"I didn't know that the great Hercules, the Hero of the world, was going around doing thug-like things."

The Hercules known throughout the world was a Hero.

The Hero of the Gigantomachy. And the reason he was called a "Hero" was because the achievements accumulated by Hercules were worthy of a Hero.

A representative High-Ranker who protected the weak and fought against the strong. Legends about him were not hard to come by even among Rankers.

But now, that same Hercules was attempting to take over a country.

This was something befitting Satan or Asura, infamous for their wickedness.

"If you continue like this, the Administrator might intervene, do you really want that?"

"I know. That's why I'm asking you."

"It sounds more like a threat than a request."

"That's also correct. It's half and half."

Son OhGong intervened suddenly in the conversation.

He looked at Siegfried with gleaming red eyes and spoke as if joking.

"So, cooperate a bit. Unless you want trouble."

His words carried a different weight than Hercules.

Though Hercules had strength, he respected and showed courtesy to his opponent. Son OhGong was different.

Son OhGong had a personality that could resort to force at any moment if necessary. Moreover, he had the ability to turn his words into actions.

Additionally...

'Perhaps... Kim YuWon is also on the same boat.'

Three single-digit High-Rankers were moving together. Even if Asgard intervened, it couldn't be guaranteed they could stop them.

And the same held true even if an Administrator intervened.

Even the great Administrator probably couldn't face those three.

"No response?"

The voice was still in a playful tone.

Hercules took a step back and shrugged, as if such threats weren't in line with his spiritual attitude.

In this case, Son OhGong suited better than Hercules.

"Well, it doesn't matter."

Puff, puff, puff, puff!

Dense smoke rose into the sky.

Above that smoke, thousands and thousands of Son OhGong's clones appeared.

"Do you need help making a decision?"

Fwoosh-.

Numerous Golden Cinder Eyes looked towards Nibelung. Even the Dragons in the sky were overshadowed by the presence of Son OhGong.

Son OhGong's clones filled the sky.

Mounted on the Flying Nimbus and wielding the Ru Yi Bang, Son OhGong's clones made the Nibelung knights falter in their presence.

This threat from a single person was more terrifying than the arrival of the Dragons.

Siegfried looked at Son OhGong's clones, hands sweaty as he held Balmung.

'There's no need to fear the quantity of clones. They don't all have the same strength.'

It was a well-known fact among the 'Celestial Realm,' a Guild that had long been fighting against The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

The clones of The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal weakened as their number increased. The first clone had the strongest strength, while the last created could be comparable or inferior to a common Ranker.

This was a fact that any Ranker well-informed to a certain extent knew.

But knowing it and experiencing it were two different things.

Looking at this scene now...

Who could ignore Son OhGong's clones before them?

Even for a brief moment, Siegfried couldn't help but admit he was nervous about the clones.

He had to admit it.

The moment the King got scared, this fight was practically lost before it began.

But still...

"Wagner."

"Yes, Your Majesty."

"Right now, seek cooperation from nearby Great Guilds. Tell them that Hercules and The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, are causing havoc."

"What?"

The eyes of Wagner, the knight who received the order, trembled at Siegfried's reckless decision. Whether by declaring war against the Dragons or, in this case, making enemies of Hercules and The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

Even in the face of the King's order, this choice by Siegfried was by no means reasonable.

And in the face of that order from Siegfried...

"As I thought..."

Son OhGong narrowed his eyes, illuminating his red eyes.

"You never intended to protect your country from the beginning."

And at that moment...

Clack-.

Someone grabbed Siegfried's head from behind.

Thud-!

YuWon remembered Nibelung as a kingdom that vanished in history.

By the time he became a Ranker, Nibelung had already been destroyed by The Dragon War, and Floor 91 was desolate, with hardly anyone living.

When they first spoke of Floor 91, the only source of information on The Dragon War was Siegfried.

There was no adequate information available.

Siegfried's claim was that Dragons attacked Nibelung suddenly, and if that were true, the Dragons should have been a race deserving of extinction.

But...

After meeting Siegfried again, YuWon's opinion changed a bit.

'I need to verify it again.'

Siegfried was a fellow fighter.

He was clearly a High-Ranker with a fair and calm personality. However, the Siegfried YuWon knew and the Siegfried in the strategy against Ubbo-Sathla were clearly different people.

YuWon wondered.

Why Siegfried specifically?

He disappeared without a sound. Siegfried, who moved to catch Ubbo-Sathla, was actually Ubbo-Sathla himself.

After that, YuWon wondered.

Was it pure chance that Nibelung stood on Ubbo-Sathla?

'It can't be.'

That was the reason YuWon sought Siegfried first.

"There are only three things to consider."

Before reaching Nibelung.

When he met Son OhGong, YuWon extended three fingers and said:

"Did he intentionally start The Dragon War? If he did it intentionally, did he intend to protect Nibelung at that time? And..."

He closed the three fingers.

It wasn't a difficult story. Son OhGong also agreed with YuWon's words that they had to focus on those things.

"If it's not?"

"Then I will personally apologize to Siegfried. For suspecting him."

"So, if one of the three is correct?"

"If it's not the last one, let's try to understand it somehow."

"If only one? What if it's two?"

"In that case..."

A moment of reflection.

Nevertheless, in the future, they were companions. It wasn't easy to rid oneself of him, even if his past was known.

But still, there was no other choice.

"We will consider Siegfried as an enemy."

Bang!

Crack!

YuWon grabbed Siegfried's head and brought it down with a blow.

The area fell silent for a moment due to the sudden incident.

But that too was for a moment.

"Your Majesty!"

"What are you doing!"

Shing, shing!

The knights of Nibelung drew their swords. Some, blinded by loyalty, even thrust their spears directly at YuWon.

But...

"Grow..."

The extending spears couldn't reach YuWon.

"Ruyi."

A giant staff stood between YuWon and the knights.

The representative item of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

Commonly known as Ru Yi Bang (Golden Folding Staff), it was a golden staff representing the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"Do not interfere, get out of here!"

"It seems my head hurts more when you interfere."

Click!

Hercules pushed Son OhGong's head down.

It meant for him to be silent.

Son OhGong, who had experienced this several times in the future, looked at Hercules again with rolled eyes.

Despite that, Hercules continued.

"I'm sorry."

Hercules bowed to the knights of Nibelung and the nearby residents.

"But now I ask for cooperation. If you stay here, you will all die. Please cooperate for your own good."

Son OhGong's stern action contrasted with Hercules's attitude.

In response, the residents and Players who were nervous for a while showed a more relaxed reaction.

"Aren't they enemies?"

"Yes, it's Hercules."

"He wouldn't do this without reason."

"Could it be related to those dragons?"

"Well... Shouldn't we listen to what they say?"

"Yes, there may be a reason for this."

The atmosphere changed at Hercules's words.

Until a moment ago, Son OhGong seemed about to confront all of Nibelung, but, unlike his eagerness, Hercules persuaded those unaffiliated with the Guild only with words.

That was the difference between Son OhGong and Hercules.

Having power but not using it indiscriminately.

Even due to this difference, YuWon decided to associate Hercules with Son OhGong.

Growl~

Yuwon pressed down on Siegfried with his strength.

No one moved to save him.

No, they didn't even dare.

It was natural, as he was being protected by The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

The knights who rushed to rescue Siegfried were already lying on the ground, unconscious.

Thud.

Applying force to his abdomen, he tried to get up with a groan, but it was in vain.

Siegfried could never overcome YuWon with strength alone.

[The power of a Giant resides in your arms.]

Thud, thud.

Now, with an enhanced ability, he could roughly mimic half of the abilities of Hercules.

Gigantification.

His strength rivaled that of the two behind him.

"You're... making a mistake."

Siegfried spoke with anger.

"Do you think the Administrator will let this go? What will the other Great Guilds do if you do this?"

Siegfried refused to yield.

He thought that if he used more force, he might understand what he was saying.

"You will be enemies of the Tower. You will be pursued by the Great Guilds."

"Is it because of the Dragons in front?"

Yuwon looked at Siegfried, who was under his control, with strange eyes.

"It's strange, you. You don't resemble the one I know at all."

"What?"

"Do you think we're doing all this for a piece of land?"

Siegfried's eyes, under control, stirred.

Definitely, none of the three, including YuWon, were interested in Guild territorial fights.

YuWon and Son OhGong were not affiliated with any guild, and although Hercules was under Olympus, he was also famous for not having an interest in Guild matters.

So, why?

It was at that moment that Siegfried's thoughts deepened.

'From...'

"No way..."

A voice that came out of his mouth without thinking.

Frrr~!

Fiery red eyes.

In the moment the mask concealing Siegfried's face broke, YuWon could sense it. (Note: The mask is representative)

"After all, you knew, right?"

That the establishment of Nibelung in this land was not simply a coincidence.

So, even more.

"It seems you have a lot to tell me."

At first, he hesitated.

Should he kill Siegfried immediately or just leave him unconscious?

But it seemed those respectful methods wouldn't solve the problem.

Swoosh.

From the ring on his middle finger, the Uranus Heart, dark attribute magic flowed.

Dark magic flowed from YuWon's hand into Siegfried's body. Though he tried to resist hastily, it was futile.

"What are you trying to...?"

Before he could shout what he was trying to do, Siegfried's mouth closed.

The voice didn't come out. The sound also disappeared, just like the surrounding noise.

Absolute darkness that showed nothing.

Unconsciously, Siegfried was in the midst of that coal-black darkness.

[Tartarus Invitation received]

[Status suppressed]

[Cannot reject]

'What the hell...?'

There wasn't much time to think.

Instead of thoughts, there was a step.

With the message, his body was absorbed more rapidly into the darkness.

[You are entering 'Tartarus'.]

Chapter 480

C480

The return to consciousness was marked by a gentle sound.

Or perhaps, consciousness returned just when a small sound was casually heard.

Siegfried opened his eyes. Before him, he saw small bubbles rising.

Was he underwater?

'Where am I...?'

Although he opened his eyes, he saw nothing.

A black sea.

That was all Siegfried could see.

And it was at that moment that he realized he had plunged into somewhere.

Woo~

Under the black sea, he felt the gazes of countless eyes.

Chilling~

A shiver ran down his spine. Involuntarily, Siegfried reached for the hilt of the sword at his waist.

Fortunately, the sword was still there. Gripping the sword out of habit, he felt a little relieved.

And then, in that moment.

-It's quite surprising, isn't it?

A voice whispered in Siegfried's ear.

-The ability to control the dead without the need for the "King of the Dead."

It wasn't the first time he heard that voice.

As if he had heard it somewhere before.

And it was an unforgettable voice.

Perhaps...

'Susanoo?'

-You have a good memory.

Susanoo's taunt made Siegfried furrow his brow.

It wasn't the first time they had met. While it was a well-known fact that Susano was bound as the summoned spirit of YuWon, Siegfried had known him long before.

When both were wandering swordsmen.

Before Nibelung became the massive Guild it was now, the two clashed as swordsmen.

-Back then, we couldn't come to an agreement, right? I was stopped by Tsukuyomi, and you by your knights.

Black flames rose from the depths of the sea.

Susanoo's soul.

It appeared in front of Siegfried and soon took the form of a human figure.

A faceless warrior with a red sword in hand.

It was definitely Susanoo.

The Kusanagi Sword, the attached Magatama Jewel, and the Yata Mirror.

Seeing Susanoo with the Three Sacred Treasures, Siegfried narrowed his eyes.

'Will we finish what we started-'

"Do you intend to do it now?"

The voice came out.

Gradually, he too was adapting to this world.

-There's no need to hurry. We are in Tartarus.

"Tartarus?"

Siegfried looked away and saw the ocean surrounding them.

And among that...

Somewhere on the border between life and death, the souls of the dead showed up.

-This is a place where you can fight endlessly without dying. The resting place of the dead. The boundary between life and death. There are many ways to describe it.

"Is there any way out?"

-Only the master can get you out of here.

"The master?"

It couldn't be, he thought.

But there was only one person who had sent him here.

"Are you talking about Kim YuWon?"

-Who else could it be but him?

"The great Susanoo, serving someone like a dog. That's laughable."

-Speak as much as you want. But your state isn't very comfortable right now, is it?

Numerous looks were felt. Siegfried's gaze moved back and forth, meeting the eyes that watched him from all sides.

Who were they all?

Were they alive? Or were they dead like Susanoo?

While those thoughts intertwined complicatedly...

Slash~

A red line was drawn across Siegfried's body.

Siegfried moved a step to the side to dodge Susanoo's sword strike, which had been swung without warning.

"Didn't you say there was no rush?"

-Since you didn't say anything, I thought you were starting now.

Susanoo swung the Kusanagi.

And as the fight began, other souls within Tartarus also started to move.

[Tartarus considers you an enemy]

A message appeared in front of Siegfried.

And at the same time...

-Oh, how unfortunate.

Woo!

The darkness of Tartarus enveloped Siegfried's body.

-Do I really have to share this?

Kiing-.

A bright light shone from Siegfried's sword. The moment Balmung moved in a cross shape, it cut through the Tartarus sea.

Slash!

The light emitted by Balmung destroyed Tartarus's darkness.

The spirits rushing to devour the living were torn and thrown, and amid them, Susanoo's Kusanagi and Balmung clashed.

Clang!

Thus, the King of Nibelung, Siegfried, began to fight in Tartarus.

An unexpected exodus began in Nibelung.

People moving to evacuate the land. And the knights leading them.

Wagner observed the situation.

It was he who stopped the knights who began to run wildly to save Siegfried. Although it was for a brief moment, all were subdued by the clones of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

But while caring for the fallen knights.

Wagner realized a fact.

'No one has died.'

There were no casualties among the knights. Everyone was either unconscious or subdued.

In this situation, only one thing can be considered.

That the enemy's goal is not to take Nibelung by force.

'If it's not that, then what is their goal?'

Thud~

A ground-shaking sound of footsteps.

Wagner's head turned back. Indeed, for a while now, YuWon, Son OhGong, and Hercules had been looking back.

And so, when Wagner turned, he took a deep breath...

Huaep-!

He was dumbfounded with surprise. The next moment, Wagner's sky was blocked.

A body covered in thick scales. A dragon with the Ruyi () in one hand and glowing red eyes.

It was a mix of giant and dragon. And in this way, there was only one of the Dragon Race in this Tower.

"F-F-Fafnir..."

One of the representative kings of the Dragon Race.

The Dragon King, Fafnir.

He had come to Nibelung.

Bump~

And before Fafnir, there were two people.

Someone in charge of guiding him.

We're back.

I'm back.

Those two people were Pandora and Hargan, who brought the Dragon Race along with Son OhGong's clone. Watching Hargan shake hands and Pandora, who remained expressionless, Wagner swallowed hard.

'Was Hargan involved too? Did Olympus move?'

He didn't recognize Pandora, but Hargan was an unmistakable face.

He was a handsome young man who had gained popularity among Rankers as well as among young Players in the lower levels. Moreover, his face was also included in the Ranking, so he had been rapidly climbing it.

Also, considering the fact that he is a direct descendant of the King of Olympus, Zeus, he is a more famous figure than most High-Rankers.

'What the hell is going on here...?'

Grr.~

When Fafnir opened his mouth, a sound resembling a beast's roar resonated.

Wagner, surprised, quickly stepped back. And it wasn't just Wagner who showed this reaction.

The other knights around as well.

Fafnir's roar made hundreds of dragons spread their wings and fly. The sight was so threatening that Hargan frowned.

"Can't you avoid making that noise? Everyone seems scared."

"Yes, don't be noisy."

To Hargan's words, Pandora added a word.

Fafnir closed his mouth again. Although he was leading hundreds of dragons with him, he couldn't help but shrink a bit this time.

Right. The kids will be scared.

If we're not going to fight, it would be good if you kept quiet a bit.

Don't get discouraged so quickly.

One by one, Son OhGong, Hercules, and YuWon.

Three people exchanged words.

Fafnir had seen YuWon before. Moreover, the other two were overwhelming beings for Fafnir.

Fafnir cautiously opened his mouth to avoid showing his teeth.

-Sorry.

He had to speak kindly.

The knights, who were tense, looked at each other.

They thought the fight would start at any moment, but it wasn't so.

Kim YuWon, Son OhGong, and Hercules.

The knights of Nibelung, who surrendered to their power.

And the Dragons, including the Dragon King.

The combined power of all those present was enough to wage a war that would change the Tower's history.

However...

None of them seem to want to fight.

They had even gathered to chat peacefully.

It was impossible to know what they wanted.

-Are you sure about that?

"Don't you know already since you also have ears?"

-I didn't know that 'they' had already reached out here.

"It's not right to say 'already' in this. It's been too long."

The answer was affirmative.

Fafnir's gaze fell downward. Whether he was angry or not, he silently showed his teeth.

YuWon glanced around for a moment.

Quite some time had passed, and most of the people present had left.

At this point, there were no residents left in the center of Nibelung's capital, including the royal castle.

The people left were mainly knights and mages affiliated with Nibelung.

In other words, Players and Rankers of level 91 or higher.

"Let's get started."

YuWon glanced briefly at Hercules, who nodded when their eyes met.

For a brief moment, there was tension between the three.

Son OhGong, who used to be playful, was also the same this time.

YuWon looked around again.

OhGong and his clones, Hercules, the members of the Dragon Race including Fafnir.

And the knights and mages of Nibelung, who had no idea what was going on.

Perhaps the dragons in the sky already knew something, but the knights and mages of Nibelung here were different.

"It will be an unknown fight for you."

YuWon had to clearly show them the "enemy" they would face.

And why that absurd Dragon War should not take place.

"Still, don't retreat or be afraid. If you do, not only will we die, but there will also be more people who are not present here who will die."

"What are you talking about?"

"Who are we fighting against?"

A moment of clamor.

Although it wasn't as long as a speech, YuWon's words conveyed a certain determination. Thanks to that, about half of them understood what YuWon meant.

Prepare for the impending fight.

And among them, at least half could guess what would happen soon.

If there was recently a single event that shook the Tower, it would be just one.

"Are you done?"

Hercules asked, and YuWon nodded.

Indeed, it wasn't the end.

Just the beginning.

Craack-le-.

Hercules' club was wrapped in a Golden Lightning Bolt. Lifting the club, full of power, the dragons in the sky roared.

Kwang! Kukung-.

The sound of lightning roaring from the ground, centered on the club.

To avoid being caught by that power, the knights of Nibelung stepped back.

Of course, there was no way to avoid it completely.

'Anyway, the residents are already gone.'

Players who are not residents, not even from the 91st floor.

And if you are a Ranker with good defensive skills, you can surely protect your own body.

'So now-.'

Bang-.

Thus, Hercules' club fell to the ground.

'It's time to bring out Ubbo-Sathla.'

Bum-!

Nibelung began to collapse.