

## With The Gods 521

Chapter 521

C521

When Azathoth first discovered Nyarlathotep

The child, who still had no Name, was thin and hungry for having nothing to eat.

For a long time, Nyarlathotep hated this world. He said it was a world where everyone was hungry and miserable.

That's why the child blamed Azathoth.

He said Azathoth had enough power but did nothing and abandoned this world.

"Like me, huh..."

YuWon pondered Nyarlathotep's words.

At that moment, YuWon couldn't answer for himself whether he was Kim YuWon or Azathoth.

"Indeed, the mistake was on our side from the beginning."

YuWon's gaze turned to the barren desert.

This place had been ruined long ago. In a world where not a drop of water flowed, of course, no one could live.

In that place, Azathoth wanted other living beings to live.

So, he gave them a Name, and that was the result.

Finally, he was the one who would have to clean all this up.

"Should I consider this luck?"

In one of YuWon's eyes, the scene inside the Tower was reflected.

"Who is this beauty? She's comparable to Aphrodite."

"Pandora. Kim YuWon's girlfriend."

"...Kim YuWon has a girlfriend?"

"Why is a guy who's going to return soon flirting with a woman here? Let him die."

"No, I just..."

"And she's stronger than you and Baruna, right? We couldn't see her from where we were."

Son OhGong's clone laughed heartily in front of Pandora. Pandora, who received help in an urgent situation, reacted with confusion, not knowing what was going on.

The companions who came from the future.

YuWon was able to confirm their existence through Pandora's eyes.

'Mimir.'

It didn't take much thought to know what sacrifice Mimir had made to create this moment.

'Anyway, thanks to him... it's been much easier.'

Originally, the idea was to defeat Nyarlathotep here and return to the Tower. He thought that if he hurried, he could make it in time before the battle ended.

But thanks to Mimir, a significant change occurred on the other side.

Odin and Hercules crossed with their companions.

There was nothing to worry about anymore. The Outers without Yog-Sothoth, Shub-Niggurath, and Nyarlathotep could be left to them.

After all, they were warriors who had survived fighting against the Outers for so long.

So...

'I no longer have to save that Name.'

All reasons to doubt had been eliminated.

"Nyarla."

Nyarlathotep took a while to respond to YuWon's call.

The child answered belatedly, wondering what he was thinking.

"Yes, Father."

The child saw two people in YuWon.

A Player named Kim YuWon who had fought against him for a long time.

And Azathoth, the father who gave a Name to a hungry child wandering the desert.

Of those two, Nyarlathotep responded, considering YuWon as Azathoth.

"Please speak."

And YuWon, this time as Azathoth, asked.

"Don't you think of stopping here?"

"If I stop, will you forgive me?"

"If all of you return..."

"You're going beyond what I thought."

The corner of Nyarlathotep's mouth curved into a mocking smile.

"My foolish father. Don't you know now? All the Names you loved put a knife in your back."

"Still, return immediately."

"It seems you're giving me a chance."

Nyarlathotep's arms opened wide.

"The Names you have are fewer than mine. Do you think you can handle all these Names with just Amorphous Chaos?"

YuWon's eyes could see more than a hundred Names, even those as high as the Name of Amorphous Chaos.

It seemed he had been accumulating Names for some time.

Moreover, he had devoured the Name of Yog-Sothoth, so it was understandable that he was so confident.

However...

"You make the same mistake she did."

In the end, he was making the same mistake as Shub-Niggurath.

"The power of the Names has faded, and only the shell of the True Name remains."

Both Shub-Niggurath and Nyarlathotep had become obsessed with the Names and had forgotten the most important thing.

"The True Name is not a shell but the essence. The many Names you cling to are just empty shells."

The same word, without a single wrong letter.

That showed how much Foolish Chaos and Shub-Niggurath resembled each other.

"I am Azathoth."

The moment that Name was heard...

Woo-!

The world surrounding Nyarlathotep changed. The purple sky, cracked by battles, also changed.

As if black ink had been poured over a carefully drawn picture, the world surrounding Nyarlathotep turned jet black.

And in the deep darkness...

"I am the unrighteous King sitting on the throne of Amorphous Chaos, preparing for the Great Chaos."

YuWon, sitting on the throne with his chin resting on his hand, looked down at Nyarlathotep.

"There is no greater Name than mine."

Nyarlathotep's eyes widened.

He couldn't believe he had to look at him like this again. He felt his stomach churn.

"-It's an exaggeration."

"It might seem so."

YuWon descended from the throne.

Slow steps.

Nyarlathotep used his Name to devour YuWon, but...

"There's nothing here."

Nyarlathotep's Name did not respond.

"Neither Name nor anything."

YuWon descended from the throne entirely.

His height seemed much greater than before.

When Nyarlathotep looked down, his hands, which were thin and bony, had turned into the palms of a small child.

"What happened...?"

"Didn't I tell you? The Names you cling to are just empty shells."

YuWon looked at Nyarlathotep.

The small child, not even reaching YuWon's waist, had lost even the face he had gained.

"You said you wouldn't abandon this world like me?"

And YuWon said.

"You were wrong."

And he revealed a truth he had not told Nyarlathotep until now:

"I was the one who made that world you hated so much like this, Nyarla."

"...!"

Nyarlathotep seemed shocked, his thin arms trembling.

"Aza--oh!"

Gugugu, gugugugu-!

Nyarlathotep's anger resonated in space.

The anger made the throne YuWon was sitting on waver, but that was it.

"How could you!"

"It's not a matter of how I could. Simply, you trusted me."

What surprised YuWon the most by having Azathoth's memories was this.

Azathoth loved the world so much. In a distant past, unknown even to the Outers, it was a being who turned this world into a wasteland.

"So I won't insult you for betraying me. I will only criticize you for what you did to others."

"Why... no, how...?"

Nyarlathotep was desperate.

"Are you still that big?"

Unlike him, who was thin and small, YuWon seemed increasingly larger. Even though he had many more Names.

Crack-!

The throne YuWon, or rather Azathoth, was sitting on cracked.

"No matter how many Names you have-"

Crack, crack-!

The cracks in the throne widened more and more.

"If I want, everything will turn to dust."

"...Are you planning to disappear?"

Nyarlathep asked as he watched the cracks in the throne spreading.

He knew very well what that throne meant.

It was not a simple object but the very power of Azathoth. Azathoth had always controlled his power sitting on that throne.

But now, that throne was about to be destroyed.

Azathoth.

The essence of that Name, in itself.

"Even you, who are you, if you lose all your Names and use so much power-"

"All Names come from Azathoth."

The devastated world. Nyarlathep. The greed of other Names that started from him.

The whole root of the problems was Azathoth, so YuWon had thought of this ending.

"So, it's natural that I bear it."

Gugong, gugugugu-!

The image of Nyarlathep seeing YuWon became increasingly larger and majestic.

It wasn't the weak and shrunk Azathoth that had been left after the Names were stolen.

It was the Azathoth he had first seen.

The Azathoth who had all the Names and was almost omnipotent.

Crack, crack-!

Yuwon glanced sideways at the Azathoth's throne behind him.

"I didn't plan to do it so soon, but..."

Huuuuuu!

All the air around enveloped Nyarlathep's body.

As soon as he tried to respond to the changing flow of air,

Crack!

Nyarlahotep was surprised to see that his two legs were bitten by the teeth, and quickly tilted his head.

"What...?"

In a short time, Nyarlahotep's two legs were swallowed by a bottomless abyss that seemed to have no end.

He wanted to kick desperately.

But it was futile resistance.

Within this place, Azathoth was omniscient and omnipotent, and the Names he possessed had no power.

"Time is running out."

Crack, crunch!

More than half of Nyarlahotep's body had disappeared.

If it were only the physical body, there would be no problem, but the abyss swallowing Nyarlahotep made his essence, his Name, extinguish.

As his existence disappeared, Nyarlahotep uttered the last curse words.

"I... hate you."

Nyarlahotep remembered the time when he wandered hungry and alone.

"I curse you. Your powers, your Names, everything!"

"..."

Yuwon nodded.

"Do as you please."

Woo~

Thus, Nyarlahotep completely disappeared from the world.

YuWon silently looked at him.

Nyarlahotep.

A small, hungry, and helpless child who barely survived in a destroyed world.

A child who hated that world and wanted to change it.

For that purpose, the enemy took control and destroyed YuWon's world.

YuWon had no intention of blaming that child as a problem. In a way, it was just a twisted outcome, and the child was also a victim.

'All problems are...'

YuWon closed his eyes for a moment.

Now was the time to decide who he was.

'I am Azathoth.'

Originally, he had tried to delay this moment as much as possible.

But an unexpected variable emerged.

Crack!

The cracks in the throne grew larger and larger.

There was about half a day left until Azathoth's Name would completely extinguish.

As much as it was said to be a shell, the current Azathoth had lost most of his Names.

In that state, to use the same power as in his heyday with just one True Name, there would be many consequences.

'There will still be time.'

Probably, the destruction of the throne and his own extinction would occur together.

'Until the gate closes.'

Chapter 522

C522

The situation on the battlefield began to change rapidly.

Bang, bum-!

The two Hercules stretched their fists and swung their clubs at different enemies.

Son OhGong wielded his staff between the two Hercules, and the three stood together at the forefront of the battlefield.

And above their heads...

Craaack, craaack-le~

Zeus gathered Arcane Power with his shining golden eyes.

For a considerable time.

The lightning accumulating in the sky, again and again, formed a figure resembling a flower.

A Lightning Flower that shone beautifully with a golden color.

Just before releasing that power, Zeus opened his mouth.

"I have no intention of taking responsibility even if they get caught up in this mess."

[Thunderstorm (雷英雨)]

Flash!

Bang, bum!

From the accumulated Lightning Flower, thousands of lightning bolts fell.

An ability with enough power to change the battlefield in an instant.

The comrades fighting alongside him were stunned by that skill of unimaginable reach.

"As expected..."

"In a battlefield like this, no one is as good as Zeus."

Zeus's lightning was different from Hercules', who concentrated lightning in one point.

If Hercules was more specialized in one-on-one combat, Zeus showed his overwhelming power in the fight against multiple opponents.

If he wished, he could have easily turned a city into a desolate field.

"I don't know what happened, but..."

Arcangel Michael, leading the Rankers in place of Lee Rangjin, who had left due to a serious injury, murmured.

"It seems like we're winning..."

[The king of Asgard hovers over the battlefield.]

[All attributes increase.]

[Resists all negative effects.]

[All...]

Although Odin was dead, how did that effect persist?

Clak!

It wasn't necessary to understand.

That could be expected.

Now was the time to secure this victory.

Flap!

Shhh!

Miguel's wings on his back spread fully. As his white clothes and wings fluttered, Arcane Power began to emanate from his entire body.

Vuuu!

Miguel's body turned into wind and flew.

The Rankers, who had seized the opportunity to make a comeback, unleashed their last strength and magic.

And in the midst of them,

Pandora was sweating as she threw punches at the Outers.

Crunch!



Bum!

In the body of the Outer that was hit and blown away by Pandora's fists, a hole appeared.

But then,

Grrr!

"...?"

A shadow loomed over Pandora's back.

An Outer with the same appearance as the one Pandora had defeated.

As if they were twins, the creature opened its mouth to swallow Pandora's body.

And at that moment,

Crack!

Bum!

Hercules' fist struck the head of the Outer.

Grurr!

Hercules, who appeared alongside a lightning bolt, looked at Pandora.

Pandora, who was tense, blinked and looked at Hercules.

"You...."

A face that was familiar to her.

"Hercules?"

"You have a good eye. From your face, it seems like you're confused."

In the midst of battle, Hercules stood there for a moment to look at Pandora.

Although he had heard of her during his time on Olympus, Pandora did not exist in the future.

"I'm glad to have seen you at least once. You make a good couple, really."

Hercules, who smiled, soon walked away with a dull noise.

"...What is this?"

Several Rankers from the future already passed by Pandora's side to see her.

It all started with Son OhGong's words: "Kim YuWon's girlfriend."

Of course, there were some people who wanted to see the appearance of Pandora, one of the most beautiful women in the Tower.

At that moment when she was trying to regain her senses to resume fighting.

Zap-.

In Pandora's eyes, the familiar figure of someone appeared.

"...YuWon?"

He shouldn't be here.

Rubbing her eyes with dusty hands, Pandora frowned.

Surely, it seemed like she had seen him entering some kind of white radiance.

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Tic-tac.

Tic-tac, tic-tac, tic-tac.

A sound he hadn't heard in a long time.

YuWon walked through the swirl of white light and paid attention to that sound.

"Somehow, they managed to do something like this."

YuWon looked around at the path that connected the future and the present.

This path probably wouldn't be permanent either. In fact, he felt that the space he was walking in real-time was gradually narrowing.

But even if that was the case, how was it possible to connect two timelines that couldn't meet in one space?

"How much have they sacrificed to do this?"

Plop.

After feeling like he was stepping on emptiness for a long time, he finally felt the sensation of stepping on the ground.

Moreover, color filled YuWon's eyes, and the world beyond the white path appeared before him.

Huuuh.

A stifling and unpleasant air that stung the nose.

A sky tinted with a dark purple color.

Kyaaaa, ooo, ooo.

The unpleasant howls of the Outers.

This world was like this everywhere.

YuWon looked for a moment at the destroyed world.

'I killed Nyarlathotep and Shub-Niggurath...'

The remaining Names.

The corner of YuWon's mouth curved as he looked at them.

"Good job, everyone."

He returned to the past with Son OhGong and thought that everything was in their hands.

But even during that time, they didn't stop. They continued fighting and preparing for what would come.

"Thanks to you all, the work has been much easier."

YuWon's gaze turned to the sky.

"Now, what remains is..."

It seemed like he might finish it much faster than he thought.

-----

In the purple sky.

The nebula shining like the universe violently stirred.

Yog-Sothoth.

The Sky of the World and The Nonexistent Void were agitating.

"It's been a long time, but... it's too soon to see you again."

YuWon looked at the creature from the midst of Azathoth and Kim YuWon with complex feelings.

It was for this creature that they abandoned this world.

"How could you..."

Uuuuh.

The nebula stirred, and the door within it began to open.

However, the door couldn't open at all.

"You don't have to bother coming out."

The throne cracked even more.

"I already know what you were preparing inside."

Suuaaaa.

The Sky of the World was covered in immense chaos.

The stars forming the nebula faded into darkness, as if being absorbed by an infinite gravitational force.

The same happened with the main body of Yog-Sothoth, which was in the center of the nebula.

"A■thoth!!"

Yog-Sothoth, absorbed by the infinite gravitational force, disappeared without a trace.

From that guy's point of view, it must have been an absurd situation.

Azathoth, who couldn't be seen anywhere in this world and who, according to them, had died and disappeared, suddenly appeared here.

Huuh.

The sky that had been covered in immense chaos had turned into a dark night sky.

He wanted the last sky he saw to be a blue sky, but...

"Why does it have to be night?"

Crack, crack.

The cracks in the throne increased more and more.

YuWon's view blurred.

"Not much time left, huh?"

It seems his end is near.

YuWon wanted to accomplish three tasks at once with this decision.

That the dormant Azathoth, who had lost so many Names, would regain his former power.

And use that power to eliminate Yog-Sothoth from the future and make Azathoth's name naturally disappear.

Ultimately, all three were successful.

The only thing that could destroy the name of Azathoth was the power of Azathoth.

And now, he could feel that his name was slowly disappearing as it couldn't withstand Azathoth's power due to excessive use.

Crack-.

Proof of that was that the throne he was sitting on, the "Throne of the Wicked King," was gradually crumbling.

Step-.

YuWon, who had descended to the ground, began to walk through the hallway again.

The path that Mimir opened, connecting time.

As he walked along that path, his strength weakened.

Plop-.

In the middle of the path connecting timelines, filled only with ticking sounds...

YuWon collapsed in a place he didn't know if it was the past, the future, or somewhere in between.

"Anyway, with this, did I do everything I had to do...?"

The disappearance of the Name.

Since he obtained Azathoth's name and memories, YuWon had been thinking of this kind of ending since then.

The problem was one.

It was that he couldn't immediately give up Azathoth's name because he had the future he left behind.

Even Azathoth couldn't freely travel between timelines across time.

That's why YuWon decided to delay this moment as much as he could.

He couldn't give up Azathoth's Name until he was certain he could return to the future.

Woo, woo~

It could be seen that his body was slowly fading, from feet to head.

What would happen to himself after giving up Azathoth's Name?

"Will I also disappear?"

Even at this moment, he remained confused.

Was he Kim YuWon or Azathoth?

If Azathoth disappeared, would his existence completely fade away?

It was a problem that he himself couldn't be sure of.

Would Azathoth fade away, or both?

Thus, sitting, YuWon murmured.

"Name... What was my name?"

Aza-

-thoth-

One letter at a time, the Name fades away.

And then, soon, YuWon's Name also faded away.

The Name fades away.

Then, YuWon understood.

That the Name extinguishing meant that existence was forgotten by the law of cause and effect.

Like Chronos.

'I wondered why the old man turned out like that-.'

A scornful laugh escaped him.

'I guess it's because of this.'

In the past he returned to with the Clock Movement, Chronos became an Outer.

At that time, he didn't have time to think deeply about the reason. After all, YuWon wasn't the type to worry about issues that had no answers.

But he now understood.

The reason Chronos became an Outer.

It was because no one remembered the name "Chronos."

Only his footprints remained.

[Lost Void In Time]

That was Chronos's name after becoming an Outer.

His story, which included Olympus, Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades...

Thanks to leaving traces somewhere, Chronos didn't completely fade away. Only the name "Chronos" disappeared.

The only reason that Chronos could fight alongside YuWon against Shub-Niggurath was one.

Because YuWon remembered his Name.

'So, for me...'

YuWon looked at his hands, which had become transparent, and thought.

'What will happen to me?'

If he faded away like this, he probably had the same fate as Chronos.

Maybe no one would remember him. Unlike Chronos, he himself had destroyed his Name, so he might have an even worse outcome.

Probably, in nine out of ten cases, no, in all cases, he would fade away.

It was then...

"What do you want to do after everything ends?"

A question that arose from the depths of his memory.

To that question, YuWon murmured.

"Why did that bastard have to say something like that...?"

Why did he leave him so uncomfortable in the end?

YuWon's words couldn't continue.

The person who should continue speaking had disappeared from that place.

Chapter 523

C523

"We won!"

Son OhGong's shout echoed in the sky.

That shout was the signal.

"Aaah!"

"We won! Aaah!"

"I'm alive, I'm alive!"

The joy of victory. The joy of having survived.

Rankers, intoxicated by victory, screamed. As they shouted until the earth trembled, Son OhGong, who shouted first, collapsed backward.

Plop.

No more enemies approached.

All tension faded away, and there was nothing left to do.

Still, it felt good, and a triumphant smile escaped.

"Good job."

"You fought well, Monkey."

"We did it, in the end."

Son OhGong's comrades approached him.

While Son OhGong smiled widely, he saw the figures of his comrades gradually fading away.

"Are they leaving already?"

At Son OhGong's question, Odin nodded.

"The time is up. The path is gone, so we have no choice but to return."

"Ugh. I'm fine."

Unlike his fading comrades, Son OhGong was fine.

Unlike his comrades who had forcefully opened the door, Son OhGong was completely subservient to the timeline of this place.

Son OhGong clicked his tongue in disappointment. On the other hand, he was also worried.

"What will you do with the other side?"

Although the battle in this place had been won, it was different on the other side.

Yog-Sothoth was still there, and on the other hand, there was no way to cross from here.

"Mimir said that if we solve this side, everything will be fine."

It was an incomprehensible statement.

After studying the Clock Movement together with Odin, and since Zeus came to the future, Odin thought that the two worlds were completely separate.

But would everything be fine when they returned?

"I thought they weren't connected and were parallel worlds... Isn't that right? Or maybe that guy has another trick up his sleeve, but we'll know when we go back."

Despite that, Odin believed in Mimir's words.

Odin and his comrades' trust in Mimir was almost absolute. So far, there was nothing that had not been true of what he had done and said.

"Yes. If that guy says so..."

Son OhGong nodded and got up with difficulty.

He couldn't bid farewell to his comrades lying on his back.

"Goodbye, friends."

Whoosh~

The comrades scattered on the battlefield disappeared. Son OhGong looked at them with melancholic eyes as they faded away with a faint halo of light.

Now everything was over.

Really...

At that moment...

"And YuWon?"

Pandora, who had been looking around for someone since the battle ended, approached Son OhGong and asked.

"Where is he?"

Clearly, he had appeared on this battlefield. Pandora was sure she hadn't seen things.

But YuWon's figure was nowhere to be seen.

"Eh?"

A bewildered and silly face, as if asking what was that. Normally, Pandora thought that face was amusing, but at that moment, that expression seemed creepy to her.

Son OhGong didn't remember YuWon.

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The war had ended.

The Tower had experienced a period of turmoil for quite some time. The power shift among the Great Guilds due to Odin's death and the war led the Tower to a different kind of chaos.

Fortunately, the one who resolved that turmoil was Zeus, who had returned to life.

"From now on, Olympus will form an alliance with Asgard."

The alliance between Asgard and Olympus.

Despite Odin's death, Asgard's strength remained the same.

To that was added Olympus and Zeus.

A force with power that no one would dare to challenge.

Moreover, in Olympus, not only Zeus was present.

"Conflict to expand power is prohibited. Do it with words, only with words."

Also Hercules, now called Hero not only for the Gigantomachy but for the entire Tower.

"I'm fine with that, but..."



"If you want to fight, I'll face you. So help me a bit."

Son OhGong, feeling bored due to the lack of an opponent, also became a mercenary for Olympus through Zeus's trick.

A Guild with overwhelming power was enough to suppress fights with its mere existence.

Thus, Olympus began to play the role of a brake to conflicts in the Tower, just like the ancient Asgard did.

Years passed this way.

Crunch~

Pandora ate well-baked bread while soaking in the sun.

She lived in a building owned by Olympus. That spacious palace, costing millions of points, became Pandora's property.

Zeus spared no expense in his support. Of course, even after more than thirty years had passed, she still hated Zeus.

While Pandora ate bread and stew in her home, Hercules and Son OhGong came to visit.

"What's that?"

"A gift."

When they opened the door, Son OhGong waved his arms in greeting, and Hercules brought out a gift bag he had in his hand.

It was about to be the umpteenth time.

The two visited her once every few years. Hercules always brought gifts, such as clothes or desserts she liked, every time he visited.

Recently, it was said that he lived as a carpenter. He earned points, but had nothing to do with them, and used most of the points he earned to donate or give gifts like this.

"Bring Kim YuWon."

"...?"

"...?"

The two made the same expression.

This time was the same reaction.

Seeing the two who didn't remember YuWon, Pandora closed the door.

"If you don't know, leave."

Clang!

The door closed with a loud noise.

Seeing the closed door in front of him, Hercules muttered with a embarrassed expression.

"That's why the door always squeaks."

Criiii!

At that moment, the door opened again.

Pandora reached out. Her hand went for the gift bag that Hercules had brought.

Pass~

Pandora grabbed the bag and closed the door again.

Claas!

It seemed like she wanted to receive the gift, but seeing that they were not allowed to enter, it was clear that she was still very angry.

Since her anger had not dissipated in over thirty years.

"Who are you looking for like that?"

"I don't know."

Son OhGong shrugged at Hercules' question.

However, the two didn't specifically try to search for the name "Kim YuWon."

Even though, somewhere, his traces would surely remain.

Even though it was he who had ended that war thirty years ago.

No one wanted to remember his name.

-----

"Idiots!"

Pandora grunted as she unpacked the gift package that Hercules had brought.

Hercules' gifts included cakes, chocolates, and other desserts.

Sweet desserts were Pandora's only pastime, as she didn't leave her mansion. After she told them she liked sweets, the two always brought her such things.

Would those two wonder why they came to this place?

Probably not. Despite not being very close, they still took care of her, even if it meant being rejected at the door.

There was a reason.

It was probably because of their relationship with YuWon.

In particular, Hercules had protected Pandora for YuWon in that war, so it made sense that he took care of her.

Since the day Pandora declared she would marry YuWon, Hercules called her "sister-in-law" with a mix of seriousness and jest.

However...

"They are true idiots."

So they took care of her, but they didn't remember YuWon's name.

In the end, these senseless acts led to the two abandoning their thoughts when they heard the name YuWon.

As soon as they heard the name "Kim YuWon," they turned back no matter how much effort they had put into getting there.

Truly, the word "idiots" suited them well.

Pandora took a bite of cake and chewed it.

"Why don't they remember?"

Suddenly, her hands began to shake.

It had been more than twenty years since she awaited him, but he still hadn't returned.

"Why... did you leave?"

The woman eating the cake couldn't help but sob. She wanted not to cry, but she couldn't. So she started eating the cake again to avoid having to move her hands nervously.

Meanwhile, Pandora repeated over and over in her mind, preparing for that moment that might come.

Kim YuWon.

Even if everyone had forgotten, she would never forget.

And she would wait.

She would wait for the one who entered through that door not to be Hercules or Son OhGong but the one she was waiting for.

-----

Chiki-chiki-cha-cha-cha-choco-choco-cho!

Chiki-chiki-cha-cha-cha-choco-choco-cho!

Clack!

Turning off the alarm, YuWon got up with half-closed eyes.

He had been told not to set a song he liked as an alarm. Although it was an anime song he had liked since forever, it was too noisy to listen to in the morning.

"Ugh!"

Stretching his arms, YuWon looked at the smartphone in his hand.

[AM - 7:30]

It was quite early for a normal day.

He wanted to sleep a bit more, but he couldn't.

He couldn't be late on the first day of classes. Quickly, YuWon got out of bed and headed to the bathroom next to his small apartment.

Ssh-!

After taking a warm shower and drying his hair, he came out.

The school was not far. He had found an apartment close to the school, so he could go to class without spending money on transportation.

However, the rent was higher than that of other apartments.

"YuWon!"

While climbing the hill towards the school's main entrance, he heard a voice calling him from behind.

He turned around and saw his classmate, Han DaEun, running towards him.

"Is your leg not hurting?"

"I called you from far away, but you ignored me," said DaEun.

From her reaction, DaEun, she, seemed to have been calling for a while.

But YuWon couldn't hear her from afar because he had headphones on.

"Again with that song?"

"Yes."

"Why do you always listen to the same thing? Is it a concept?"

Not only once a day but every day.

YuWon listened to the same song over and over again, even if it wasn't from his generation.

Some people looked at him strangely, but well.

Even if a person is strange, if they're handsome, they'll always have friends. Plus, YuWon had a good character, except for his habit of listening to a strange song over and over again.

"For Son OhGong."

"Why Son OhGong?"

"I don't know, I just feel familiar with him."

"If that's the case, why don't you listen to Dr4gon B4ll too?"

"It's not the same, I don't know."

After answering like that, YuWon took the earphone from Han DaEun's ear.

The same song played again in his ears. Even though he had heard it thousands of times, YuWon kept listening to it.

No matter what Han DaEun said next to him.

YuWon focused more on the song.

"Son OhGong, Son OhGong..."

While listening to the song, YuWon kept thinking.

Son OhGong.

He was just a character from an old anime, and he only appeared in the mythology of "Journey to the West."

However, for some reason, YuWon didn't feel that Son OhGong was a fictional character from a mythology or a cartoon.

'...I know it's strange.'

Nevertheless, YuWon began to obsessively listen to this song at some point.

He felt that if he kept listening to this song, he might remember something.

Chapter 524

C524

When the class time arrived, YuWon took off the headphones he had on and put them in his pocket.

The class was boring.

More than half of the students had their heads down, trying not to fall asleep.

However, YuWon paid attention to the professor's words.

"So, the encounter between humanities and economics is something that can be often seen in our society, like in places nearby..."

Humanities.

It was the school and major he had chosen based on his grades.

But YuWon was more focused on the class than ever.

"The logo of the famous sports brand Nike, commonly known as a swoosh, is actually the side view of the wings of the goddess of victory 'Niké (Νίκη)' from Greek mythology..."

At that moment...

"Niké doesn't have wings."

"What?"

Han DaEun, who was dozing off next to YuWon, was surprised to hear the mumble that unconsciously came out of YuWon's mouth.

YuWon was surprised and shook his head. Han DaEun went back to half-closed eyes, pretending like nothing happened.

Although pretending to be focused, YuWon was confused.

'Again.'

The goddess of victory, Niké.

It was evident that he didn't know her. After all, how could he know a deity?

However, YuWon thought:

Niké doesn't have wings.

It was a certainty, not a question.

The problem was that he couldn't understand where that certainty came from.

'It's not the first or second time.'

It always happened the same way when he heard stories about myths.

This strange déjà vu sensation had lingered since his childhood.

Clack.

YuWon stood up from his seat.

He put the headphones back on and left the classroom.

Han DaEun, who had been asleep throughout the class, followed YuWon, who was picking up his backpack.

"What's going on, are you skipping class?"

"Yes."

"Why?"

YuWon had never skipped class before. So when he suddenly left the class, Han DaEun was perplexed.

"Just, not feeling well."

"What's this, puberty?"

"Don't talk nonsense and go to sleep."

Clack.

YuWon opened the back door of the classroom and left.

He went down the school hill and walked along the avenue. The déjà vu sensation grew stronger.

Beep.

He stopped next to a bus that came to a halt.

In the crowded bus, people getting on and off, he saw a poster.

It was a movie about Thor, the prince of Asgard.

'Ragnarok.'

He had already seen it. From the moment it was first released, YuWon headed to the theater to watch it as if he were possessed by something.

He thought that if he watched it, something would come back to his memory. But instead of remembering, the déjà vu sensation only intensified.

Throughout the whole movie, YuWon only thought of one thing:

'Ragnarok is not like this.'

It was as if he had experienced Ragnarok.

It was absurd, of course.

'Really, should I go see a shaman...?'

-----

The door closed, and YuWon walked out.

The sound of birds was particularly clear in the woods. Hurried voices were heard from inside.

"Shaman! Shaman!"

"Why did I suddenly faint...?"

"No, I don't know. You were fine until the morning..."

The conversation heard from inside made YuWon's heart race.

Let's run away.

YuWon ran downhill through the mountain, panting, and looked up the path he had traveled.

He had gone to see a powerful shaman to see if he remembered his past life, but the shaman suddenly fainted when she looked into his eyes.

"What's happening?"

As he had gone to look for a powerful shaman, time had become late.

When YuWon arrived home by bus, it was already night.

Plop.

"Ahhh."

Tossing the backpack to a corner, he lay down on the small bed without taking off his socks.

He felt a strange sensation.

The more time passed, the more the déjà vu sensation intensified.

Sideways.

YuWon's gaze went to the nightstand.

A small box.

It was the first object he saw when he came home.

When was it?

A few years ago, a woman who crossed paths with him on the street suddenly gave him a gift.

She was a beauty that made your eyes widen. So much so that even most celebrities looked like squids or frogs in comparison.

"Don't ever open it."

A gift they told him not to open.

"Of course, I'm curious."

What was inside that box that they told him not to open?

If she wasn't his ideal type, he probably would have thrown it away or ignored the warning and opened it.

But even so, he hadn't thrown it away and had kept it for a few years.

YuWon's gaze kept going to the box.

"I'm curious."

A box that couldn't be opened.

They called it...

"Pandora's Box?"

Saying that, YuWon's chest tightened.

He couldn't contain himself.

Clack.

Reaching out, YuWon opened the box.

The box opened easily, unlike the time he had waited and hesitated.

As easy as it was disappointing.

"What is this?"

And as easy as it opened, the content was also disappointing.

"There's nothing."

Inside the box, there was nothing.

Clang.

After checking the inside of the box, YuWon let it fall to the floor.

The feelings he had felt when she handed him the box a few years ago, as if they were bubbles, extinguished.

'Was she just playing with me?'

He had waited in vain. YuWon stared at the ceiling for a while, dazed.

The more time passed, the stranger he felt. His gaze went to the box that had fallen to the floor.

Although he had checked with his eyes that there was nothing...

"What am I doing...?"

YuWon picked up the box again and looked inside.

As much as he looked, it was an empty box. Even if he turned it, not a speck of dust came out.

But if he didn't check it more, he couldn't get rid of this unpleasant feeling. So YuWon approached the box and looked closely to make sure.



"Still nothing..."

YuWon's murmurs ceased.

At the bottom of the box, something blurry began to become visible.

The more he concentrated, the clearer it became.

It was a woman with orange hair and beautiful features.

It was the woman who had given him the box in the middle of the street.

She wore a red dress and had a pastry in her mouth.

Tears streamed down her cheeks as she whispered someone's name.

"YuWon, Kim YuWon. Kim..."

The woman's voice echoed from within the box. The name she murmured was YuWon's.

At that moment, YuWon realized what he had been feeling all this time.

He hadn't forgotten...

"Kim YuWon..."

The person who had given him the box.

To Kim YuWon.

-----

Knock-knock.

Someone knocked on the door of Pandora's mansion.

Pandora, who was sitting at the table muttering the same name, rushed to see who it was.

She wanted to confirm who was knocking on the door.

"YuWon..."

"Is it you, Pandora?"

"..."

It was a man with bronzed skin. He held a bouquet of flowers in his hand and knelt before her, extending the other hand.

"I am Varuna, a High-Ranker of the Devas, and I would like to formalize a relationship with you..."

At that moment, a shadow loomed over Varuna's face.

Buuuung-!

Varuna turned into a star and flew across the sky.

It wasn't worth listening to him further. Pandora punched him and closed the door, shaking her hand.

It happened often.

Men, upon learning that the most beautiful woman in the Tower lived in an isolated mansion, came to court her without a second thought.

And the next one.

And the next one after that.

Every time it happened, Pandora always kicked them out.

"It doesn't matter who it is."

There were only two people she didn't kick out.

Sssshhh-!

Son OhGong or Hercules, who always came with a pastry.

By the way, Hercules was also here, but he stopped a little before the door.

"I see you're waiting for someone."

"..."

Pandora frowned.

Hercules noticed Pandora's expression and asked:

"Who are you waiting for?"

"Does it look like I'm waiting for someone?"

"Then it's not?"

It was true.

But she wondered why Hercules had never mentioned it before.

"I just saw Varuna flying. Even if he's a bit unpleasant, he's very popular for his good looks."

Hercules smiled and asked with a playful expression.

"Do you love that person you're waiting for very much?"

"Yes."

Pandora nodded.

"We're getting married."

"We're getting married."

In Hercules's mind, a scene overlapped.

For some reason, these words from Pandora didn't seem like the first time he had heard them.

Hercules, who had been sitting there like a fool, returned to reality upon hearing Pandora's voice.

"What's wrong?"

"Ah, it's nothing."

Hercules shook his head.

"It's nothing."

"Really?"

Pandora, expecting something, sighed.

This time, she thought it would be different, but in the end, the reaction was the same.

Hercules bid farewell to Pandora after chatting at the door for a while and left. Pandora watched him go before turning around.

Clack-.

The door closed slowly.

For the past few years, Pandora had not let anyone enter through this door.

She prayed that the first person to cross this door would be the one she was waiting for.

So, just after turning her back to the door and entering the mansion, Pandora grabbed a fork to eat the pastry Hercules had brought after a long time.

Knock-knock.

Someone knocked on the door again.

Hercules had left not long ago. If it were Son OhGong, he wouldn't calmly knock on the door but would already be making a lot of noise.

An unwanted door sound.

But she couldn't ignore it.

Hiss!

Just as she was thinking it would be somewhat nice to eat the pastry Hercules had brought after a long time, she got angry thinking her time had been interrupted. With a fork in one hand, she walked decisively to the door.

Pandora swore to herself.

This time, she wouldn't blow him away but would stab him with the fork.

So Pandora opened the door.

Clank-

"Who again?"

Pandora's eyes widened when she saw the face of the visitor, whom she thought would be another idiot.

Under the bright sun.

YuWon looked at Pandora.

"From your reaction, I see many have come."

With a face as calm as ever, despite being so annoyed. Despite having waited so long, when the moment arrived, Pandora stood there paralyzed, not knowing what to say or how to react.

She wanted to ask many things.

Where did you go?

Why have you come just now?

Why does no one remember you?

So many questions that she couldn't say anything.

A brief, awkward silence.

"It seems like I'm asking something obvious, but..."

With concern, YuWon awkwardly opened his mouth.

"Do you remember my Name..."

Do you remember my Name?

At that moment, Pandora lunged at him and hugged him by the neck.

"YuWon!"

As if she had already heard the question.

Shouting the Name at the top of her lungs.

-----

"I had a strange dream."

YuWon recounted the dream slowly.

In that place, he was a student.

In that world, Son OhGong was considered a deity from the Journey to the West mythology, and an anime was created with him as the protagonist.

The funny and cheerful song "Chiki-chaka-choco-cho" was still spinning in his head. /watch?v=Q0AMybcHlxg)

Upon careful consideration, Son OhGong was unusually popular in that world.

It's not known how many types of anime there were with his name as the protagonist.

Listening to the story, Son OhGong's shoulders lifted a lot. He looked at Hercules and shrugged as if to say, "See?".

An anime based on Olympus was published in over 30 volumes of comic books. The comic book "Olympian Mythology," which exceeded 10 volumes, was a bestselling masterpiece that sold over 10 million copies in total.

At this point, Hercules complained a bit that he wasn't the protagonist.

A movie starring Thor caused a great stir worldwide. The actor who played the role won the Best Action Actor award at the film festival the following year.

Unfortunately, the protagonist was not Odin.

Furthermore, in the dream world YuWon had, the stories of countless Guilds spread everywhere and integrated into people's lives.

So when YuWon told the dream to Pandora, Hercules, Son OhGong, and the others, Son OhGong was the first to laugh and say.

-Where is that world?

-THE END "LWTG"-

Chapter 525

Side Story 1

A decade had passed.

The Administrators gathered in one place.

The 100th floor, the highest of the Tower.

In the sky above the world's clouds, the Administrators spoke.

has disappeared."

An existence so immense that its Name couldn't even be mentioned.

It took ten years to confirm its complete disappearance.

And finally...

They reached a conclusion.

"Are Players still necessary?"

This was the topic for which the Administrators had convened.

Now that there were no more enemies threatening the Tower, it was time to discuss whether the existence of Players was truly necessary.

"Olympus, Asgard, Veda, and the Demon Kings..."

The 100th floor Administrator listed the names.

The Great Guilds that dominated the Tower.

Though it's the Administrators who manage the Tower, in reality, the world is ruled by various Great Guilds and their High-Rankers.

"There are too many obstacles."

Obstacles.

Until ten years ago, they had been the protagonists in the war against the Outers, but things were different now that the great beings known as Azathoth and Yog-Sothoth had disappeared.

"It won't be easy to get rid of them."

"Odin died, luckily."

"But there's still Zeus. There's also Son OhGong and Hercules."

"They should have died more in the war. Surprisingly, many survived."

The Administrators joined the discussions.

However, some of them had expressions that didn't seem very pleased.

"Shouldn't we discuss if it's right to maintain the Tower?"

The gazes of the Administrators turned to the voice's owner.

The Tutorial Administrator. Following his lead, some Administrators began expressing their opinions they had been holding back.

"I'm against it. I don't know if it's necessary to go this far."

"It's not even necessary to destroy the Tower. Even in this state, the Tower is in an era of stability like never before. Players aren't challenging us either..."

"I don't care."

"Me neither, I'm satisfied with what we have."

Opinions were divided.

Some Administrators stood up from their seats and turned away.

The number of Administrators fading into the clouds slightly exceeded twenty.

"Damn it."

The 100th floor Administrator clicked his tongue.

It was a pity, but there was nothing he could do.

They had already maintained this world for too long.

During that time, Administrators who genuinely cared for the Tower had also emerged.

However...

"But most are on this side."

With that murmur, the Administrators nodded.

They had no intention of dragging their colleagues who had changed their minds.

Fortunately, most Administrators did not forget their original intent.

"It's been a long wait."

The 100th floor Administrator then said, as if declaring something.

"Now it's our turn to be the owners."

After thousands or tens of thousands of years, the beings that had been managing the Tower began to move again.

However, they forgot about one person.

-----  
The 1st floor was the only world of the Tower that had no Administrators.

The world that had been destroyed by the Outers' attack was quickly restored to its original form by the Great Guilds, including Olympus.

After all, the 1st floor was the world where Players arrived after completing the Tutorial, so they couldn't leave it abandoned.

Thanks to that...

"Ginseng Herbs for sale, a specialty from the Murim World of the 10th Floor! If you consume them, you too can..."

"Hey, hey! These swords from Asgard's Valkyries are the best! There's only one, so take a look!"

"Dionysus's wine, a specialty from Olympus! Now available!"

"Hey, you! Why is this Ginseng so small? It's not a twenty-year Ginseng, but..."

The 1st floor world regained vitality.

Step~

A man dressed in a shirt walked towards the store where a customer was arguing about ten-year medicinal herbs.

The noisy store suddenly fell silent.

The merchant carefully observed the customer's behavior.

The goal was to check if the customer had a lot of money or not.

"Do you have ginseng?" he asked.

The store owner stepped away from the arguing customer and approached the new customer with folded hands.

"Of course! We have ginseng of ten, twenty, thirty... even a hundred years," he replied.

"A hundred years?! What are you talking about?! This doesn't look like it's more than twenty years!" shouted the arguing customer. "This man is a scammer!"

"It seems to be about eight years old," murmured the new customer while examining the ginseng root.

The store owner's smiling face turned serious.

Eight years.

The customer across could tell how old the ginseng was just by looking at its condition.

And what's more,

"I heard they started cultivating it on the top of the Tower. It seems to be going quite well," said the customer.

The customer even knew the news from the upper floors.

"How much is it?" the customer asked.

The store owner shuddered as he met the black eyes of the customer.

Now he couldn't raise the price as he had with the previous customer.

"A hundred points," he said, stammering.

"What? Didn't you just say it cost three hundred points?!" protested the previous customer.

The man ignored the customer's protests and extended his hand.

A hundred points.

It wasn't a small amount, but ginseng was a type of elixir that increased Arcane Power.

A hundred points wasn't cheap, but it wasn't expensive either.

The store owner received the points and handed the ginseng to the man.

As the man walked away with the ginseng in his inventory, the store owner sighed in relief.

"Phew..." he said.

Luckily, the man hadn't threatened to report him to the Administration.

At that moment, the store owner realized he had forgotten someone.

The customer wasn't the only one in the store.

The other customer, who had been listening to the conversation, also knew that the store owner had tried to deceive him.

However, the customer said nothing.

He simply looked in the direction the man who bought the ginseng had gone.

"What's wrong?" the store owner asked cautiously, thinking he might take advantage of the situation.

"That man... he seems familiar," replied the customer, with a thoughtful expression.

"Me too," said the store owner.

"But I don't remember well. It's not very common to see people with black hair in the Tower."

The two men continued pondering the man who had just passed by for a while.

But in the end, they couldn't recall him.

-----

Creaking sound~

As he opened the door, YuWon paused for a moment.

The door that should open smoothly creaked.

"I'll have to fix that," he said.



"Do you know how?"

A deep voice made YuWon turn his head.

Hercules emerged from the house.

Son OhGong's clones were cleaning the house, and Pandora was devouring the chocolate cake Hercules had bought.

"Leave it. I'll fix it. Go prepare that ginseng soup."

"It's ginseng stew."

"The ginseng?"

"Here it is."

"It's a shame to cook it in stew."

"There's nothing else that can replace it."

"For those who just came up to the first floor, it would be a miraculous elixir."

Hercules looked at the ginseng YuWon pulled out and grabbed a small hammer.

The hammer, fitting in his palm the size of a head, looked particularly small.

"Today? Wasn't there anyone who recognized you?"

"There wasn't."

"It was about time they started noticing."

"If it took you guys more than a year, they took much longer, I suppose."

It took a year for Son OhGong and Hercules to remember YuWon.

At first, the two would constantly visit the house to see Pandora.

The reunion wasn't very pleasant.

"Who is this guy?"

"The boyfriend?"

Hercules and Son OhGong didn't recognize YuWon immediately.

The only one who recognized YuWon right away was Pandora.

But fortunately, over time, the two began to feel a sense of unease.

"Eh? What's this?"

The memory suddenly came one day.

Son OhGong, who had suddenly come with Hercules, was dumbfounded at the sight of YuWon.

YuWon's face suddenly came to his mind.

"What's wrong with you? Are you an idiot for a day or two?"

"Why didn't you say it?"

This was Hercules' question.

YuWon answered while drinking tea with Pandora.

"Because talking won't make things go faster."

"Pandora?"

"She remembered me a long time ago."

"...I feel embarrassed."

The two saw YuWon's face several times, and after a while, they finally remembered.

Of course, no one in the Tower remembered YuWon's name.

There were records, but no one wanted to think about who YuWon was upon seeing them.

That was the same even after ten years since the war against the Outers ended.

"Are you going to keep living like this?"

Son OhGong said, rolling on the sofa.

YuWon, preparing food by putting chicken and ginseng into boiling water, nodded at his question.

"Is there anything wrong with that?"

"Don't you really feel bad? You could play the hero."

Hercules, who had just fixed the door, looked at the house's ceiling. The house was neither luxurious nor poor. If YuWon wanted, he could have built a castle on the first floor with his points.

"Do you remember the conversation that day?"

"That day?"

Hercules furrowed his brow for a moment, but then remembered what YuWon had said.

"What I want to do the most is to do nothing."

"Enjoy the peace, sleep a lot, not plan anything, not be busy."

Hercules recalled those words and looked at the house again.

Everything YuWon wanted to do was there.

"Leave it. He says he's happy," said Hercules.

"But soon it'll be his wedding, and there will be a lot of people..."

"Son OhGong, stop!"

Hercules shouted at Son OhGong, who was about to take a chicken out of the stew.

Son OhGong's clones jumped in surprise and shouted.

"I just wanted to taste it!"

"Your 'just tasting' is not just tasting! Get rid of your clones, idiot!"

"You eat more than me! You're the size of an orc boss!"

"Are you done talking?"

"Pandora, stop eating cake, and let's eat. You two, if you want to fight, go outside. You're going to destroy the house."

The house was full of noise.

YuWon sighed and began to serve the food on plates.

Pandora, with chocolate on her hands, approached YuWon and helped him.

"Shall we kick them out?"

Pandora asked, holding a tray and plates.

Even behind them, Son OhGong and Hercules were still fighting.

Both were High-Rankers who could destroy a house with a simple sneeze.

They had already destroyed two houses because of their fights.

YuWon had already warned them that if they destroyed the house again, he wouldn't invite them again.

"Leave them be. In the long run, we'll move anyway."

YuWon shrugged and started setting the table with Pandora.

The house was full of noise.

YuWon looked at Son OhGong, Hercules, and Pandora, who were glaring at each other with gritted teeth.

A bit of chaos, but there was no need to be more greedy.

Crack-.

The sound of a broken plate rang out.

But it didn't matter.

The house hadn't broken.

'This is enough for me.'

YuWon's only concern was the truth of this world, which he had learned through Azathoth's memories.

'... If only those guys would stay still.' (Note: It's unclear if YuWon is talking about the Administrators or these two bastards)

Bang- Crack-

YuWon left the tray he had in his hand and pulled out a sword from his inventory.

If he wanted to stop them, he couldn't simply use words.

Chapter 526

Good Friends, this coming week I will go out all week for family reasons. :

See you next week

Side Story 2

Fortunately, the house was safe.

The dispute was resolved when Hercules, upon seeing YuWon draw his sword, retracted the tusk he had thrust at Son OhGong first.

And that night, Hercules rose from his seat, stating that he had to leave earlier than usual.

"My father has summoned me."

"Zeus?"

"What's happening? Why would he call you personally?"

"Son OhGong, you too."

"Eh? Me too? I don't want to!"

Heracles and Son OhGong.

Zeus called both of them at the same time.

In the current Tower, Olympus had transformed into a Grand Guild surpassing Asgard.

Thanks to Zeus and Hercules' ranks having increased much more than before.

Son OhGong, so to speak, was a mercenary of such Olympus.

In the Tower, disarrayed by Odin's death, there were hardly any forces that could resist Olympus with Son OhGong and Hercules present.

"It must be something important, right?"

YuWon felt an unusual flow in Zeus's call.

While it might be understandable to call Hercules, who belonged to Olympus, calling Son OhGong, who was difficult to control even under normal circumstances, meant that a strong hand was needed.

"Maybe we won't be able to come for a while."

"We've already come too often."

YuWon let them go without remorse.

There was no need to feel lonely.

At dawn, after the two had left, YuWon headed to the garden as usual.

There was no particular reason.

It was like a habit he had been following since before returning using the Clock Movement.

-Ssss-

He repeated the regular breathing of inhaling and exhaling.

Consciousness sank deep below the surface of the water and soon arrived in another world.

In that place, YuWon fought every morning.

-Boom!

At first, with Son OhGong wielding the Ru Yi Bang.

-Grrr!

-Boom!

Then, with Hercules wielding a Club wrapped in Lightning Bolt.

Sometimes, he also faced the two at the same time, and he also fought against Zeus or Odin.

-Boom, boom!

Under the depths of the water, the Lightning Bolts of YuWon and Zeus clashed.

Lightning Bolt was originally Zeus's specialty.

Unlike YuWon, who handled Lightning using the Uranus Heart, Zeus was a Ranker who handled Lightning-type magic from the beginning.

Facing such Zeus alone with Lightning Bolts was challenging.

But...

'First of all, my advantage is not something like Lightning Bolts.'

YuWon's advantage was versatility.

Making the most of that was YuWon's best advantage.

-Plop!

YuWon crawled in front of Zeus, who was releasing Lightning Bolts.

With one hand, he held the 'Kusanagi Sword' to cut through the Lightning Bolts, and with the other, the 'Yata Mirror' to repel the Lightning Bolts.

And then...

Kiii-!!

The world distorted with the sound of the door opening.

YuWon's sensitivity returned to the surface.

The morning's fresh air cooled the hot sweat and passed through his face.

Chirp!

The moment he heard a bird's song, he realized with certainty.

The concentration broke, and at the same time, the battle with Zeus also faded away like an illusion.

"A guest?"

Son OhGong and Hercules had already left. Since they said they had urgent business, they wouldn't return the next day either.

So, the only person who could come to this house was one.

"...It's that guy again."

-----

Aphrodite, Tsukuyomi, Pandora...

If there are beautiful women representing the Tower, on the other hand, there are handsome men representing the Tower.

Varuna was the most popular among those handsome men.

He was popular for being sociable and having a High-Ranker status.

And that man...

"Oh, Pandora-."

He had recently fallen in love with a woman.

"Today, you're beautiful again."

No, it was too long to say that it was recent.

Varuna knelt on one knee and carefully lifted a bouquet of flowers with both hands.

In front of him was Pandora, rubbing her sleepy eyes with one hand.

"You again?"

Pandora, who was very sleepy in the morning, glanced at him while yawning.

It was the nth time.

Varuna returned to his house after a few months, even if he was rejected.

It was obsessive love.

"Do you want to die?"

"If I lose my life in your delicate hands, I would accept it gladly..."

"Ah-!"

She couldn't really kill him.

Pandora covered her head with her hands and stuck out her tongue.

She realized that she could no longer eliminate the leech in front of her simply by blowing it away.

Step~

Footsteps were heard in the distance.

Although it was still far away, Pandora realized that YuWon was walking in the garden behind the house.

"If you continue, you'll get into trouble."

"I've bet everything."

Pandora shook her head with an expression of seeing a cockroach at Varuna's fiery gaze.

And then,

Step~

YuWon arrived between the two.

"I don't know..."

With the approach of the footsteps, Varuna's gaze turned to YuWon.

"Who are you?"

Varuna's power spread around. His eyes turned cold, and his sclera turned blue.

Shortly after, a bow appeared in his hand, surrounded by steam.

"Who is coming out of her house?"

"My husband."

The answer didn't come from YuWon but from Pandora.

Varuna's eyes wavered.

"...Husband?"

Did Pandora have a husband?

Varuna looked at YuWon's face.

YuWon's face, with black hair and eyes, was a fairly handsome face that was not common, but compared to Varuna, it was quite normal.

However, why?

'It seems like I've seen him somewhere.'

YuWon's face seemed familiar to Varuna.

But no matter how much he searched his memory, he couldn't recall.

In the end, Varuna thought it was likely that there was someone similar whom he was confusing.

"If I defeat this guy, will you accept my marriage proposal?"

With Varuna's jealous and fiery gaze, YuWon sighed.

It seems like this guy has also forgotten.

In these cases, YuWon found it uncomfortable when they forgot his name and face.

"Pandora."

"What?"

"I'll be back in a moment."

Pandora nodded, asking with a sweet voice, "And the food?"

"You eat first."

"No. I'll wait for you."

Did that conversation irritate him?

"How dare this guy speak like this in front of me?"

"Not suitable here."

Plop.

"..."

Varuna's vision was blocked by a palm.

"First, let's change the location."

Varuna's body floated like a feather.

He realized that his head was being held by YuWon's hand, and he was floating in the air when they were already in the clouds.

Bam!

Varuna, who was thrown to the ground, staggered and quickly got up.

At some point, the two had flown to a desert far from the city.

'It can't be. Did a nameless guy manage to do this to me?'

Varuna looked at YuWon with a confused expression.

He couldn't understand the situation at all.

Rank 516.

It was not a low rank.

Although he might be far from Pandora, a double-digit High-Ranker, there was by no means an easy find for someone stronger and more influential than Varuna in this vast Tower.

Moreover, for such a being, wouldn't it be natural for his name and face to be known?

"At first, it only bothered me a little."

YuWon sighed and approached Varuna.

"But I don't know why, but it became more and more annoying."

Ten years.

That was the time he had lived under the same roof as Pandora.

Furthermore, she was the only person who remembered him in the hundred or more dimensions.

After three years, YuWon accepted Pandora's feelings.



And during that time, Varuna had kept visiting Pandora constantly.

"Wake up, Varuna. If you don't stop here, you'll get into trouble."

"What nonsense are you talking about?"

Puff.

Around them, a water cloud rose.

He was a Ranker who mastered water-element magic.

He created a huge blue bow in his hand and then aimed it at YuWon with the arrow.

"My name is Varuna. It doesn't matter if you're a Ranker from some rural village, tell me your name!"

"My name is Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon? Was there a Ranker with that name?"

"I'm not a Ranker. I'm not registered on the list."

Not only Players and Rankers had forgotten his name.

Tower inhabitants, even Administrators and their Envoys, had also forgotten.

Therefore, it was natural that YuWon's name had disappeared from the rank list managed by the Administrators and their Envoys.

"Aren't you a Ranker?"

Varuna's forehead wrinkled.

YuWon's words irritated him even more.

The fact that a non-Ranker dared to flirt with Pandora, the fact that he had been caught by that guy and brought here, and the fact that a non-Ranker spoke so informally to him...

Sssshhh!

A fresh Arcane Power enveloped the area.

A dragon-like wave surrounded the arrow.

Click!

The bowstring tightened. With his shining blue eyes, Varuna opened his mouth.

"I won't take your life. But please quietly stay away from her. You're not the right type for her. She is..."

Varuna, who stopped for a moment, bit his lip and let out a sad voice.

"Well. I might not be the right type for her either."

His voice, like pouring butter, made YuWon's blood boil.

Upon closer thought, YuWon hadn't had a good relationship with Varuna in the future either.

It was probably because of his overly sweet personality.

But the person who had fixed that personality was Kali.

Kali almost killed Varuna for flirting with her.

But in those days, every person was valuable, so she didn't kill him.

"It seems like I have to straighten things out a bit here, Varuna."

"It seems like you've gained confidence after the luck you had a moment ago. I like your confidence, but... oh! It burns!"

Varuna was surprised and touched his cheek with a hand as he felt the burning on his cheek.

At that moment, he wondered what that was.

"Should I tell you something?"

The blue water enveloping Varuna was invaded by a wave of golden lightning.

"Water and lightning are incompatible. I'm just saying because they are rare elements. Maybe you've never seen them together."

Dark clouds spread across the sky.

In YuWon's hand, a massive Lightning Bolt spear was surrounded by its power.

Even Varuna, who was a tactless and overconfident guy, couldn't ignore that the situation was strange.

"Eh, eh?"

Varuna stepped back in surprise.

And as he walked slowly toward Varuna, YuWon sent a calm message to Pandora with the hand that didn't hold the spear.

He told her that he would probably be late.

Chapter 527

Side Story 3

In a vast desert, a scream echoed.

Varuna, who had been struck by the Lightning Bolts falling from the sky, collapsed to the ground, trembling.

"Get up."

"Yes!"

Varuna sprang to his feet at YuWon's command. His face, from head to toe, was as black as coal, clearly showing how much he had suffered.

"Repeat this."

"Yes!"

"From now on, I won't approach a woman who wants nothing to do with me. Ten times."

"I won't approach a woman who wants nothing to do with me. I won't approach a woman who..."

It was already dark.

Varuna, who had gone through a tough time being electrocuted and burned for half a day, had to cross the threshold of death at every moment.

"...I won't approach!"

"Alright. That's enough."

YuWon nodded satisfactorily as he saw Varuna, who had finally given up his pride, repeating his words.

Varuna knelt on the ground and slumped, his entire body limp.

He felt no humiliation or shame.

Firstly, he couldn't feel it because the person in front of him was too strong.

'Who the hell is this guy?'

Varuna glanced sideways at YuWon's face.

He didn't remember seeing him anywhere.

However, the more he looked, the more he felt like he had seen that face somewhere.

'No wonder. My intuition can't be wrong.'

This guy clearly has some kind of secret.

A powerful individual who was with Pandora.

He was such a methodical person that he had even avoided the surveillance of the Administration Bureau.

'I should report it to Vishnu-nim when I get back...'

"Do you have anything else to say?"

Varuna shuddered.

After being tormented for half a day, his thoughts about Pandora had already been replaced by fear of YuWon.

Just as YuWon desired.

"No, nothing."

"You plan to report to Vishnu as soon as you return, right?"

YuWon leaned forward and said with a mocking smile, as if he could see through Varuna.

"Vishnu will be delighted to know that a Ranker from his Guild was beaten by a non-Ranker Player for flirting with a committed woman."

Varuna's eyes shook at those words.

"Varuna."

"If you cause trouble with women again and tarnish the name of Deva..."

"Then, at that very moment, I'll lock you in the Sura Hell for a thousand years."

Varuna felt a chill.

Varuna had already had problems for being a womanizer.

He had received a warning for that just a few years ago.

And if, on top of the troubles with women, the shame of a Deva Ranker being defeated by a non-Ranker Player was added...

'It might not be a thousand years, but an infinite prison.'

In that cold situation.

"If..."

Craaack~

YuWon approached Varuna and pointed the tip of his Lightning Bolt spear towards his private parts.

"If you come back, that will disappear."

"Gah!"

A shiny black aura enveloped Varuna's body.

Varuna felt something and looked down.

The ground, which had turned into water, hid an infinite darkness that stared back at him.

"Gah!"

Varuna's face turned pale, and he nodded incessantly.

He wasn't sure if he heard correctly, but YuWon stopped there.

If he ignored the warning and came back, YuWon would lock him in Tartarus.

'In Tartarus, he'll rot for a few years, and his mind will be cleared.'

Of course, if that happened, Varuna would regret it a lot. He would say it would be better to be locked in the Deva Hell.

Sssh-.

While dispersing the Lightning Bolt in his hand, YuWon turned around suddenly, realizing something, and looked at Varuna.

"Oh, right."

Although he only looked at him, Varuna trembled under YuWon's gaze.

In case he changed his mind and acted immediately.

And to that Varuna, YuWon leaned down and brought his face close and asked:

"Do you remember me?"

"...Yes?"

Faced with the unexpected question, Varuna momentarily looked foolish.

But soon, he began to seriously contemplate YuWon's question.

From their first encounter, his face seemed familiar somehow.

YuWon's question meant that this déjà vu feeling wasn't just his illusion.

"Umm."

Varuna's contemplation lasted several minutes.

But in the end, he didn't remember YuWon.

However.

"It seems like I've seen you somewhere, but... I don't remember."

"Have you seen me?"

"Yes, but I don't remember."

"Really?"

YuWon didn't have a disappointed expression.

For now, that was enough.

"Then, it's okay."

-----

When YuWon gave him permission to leave, Varuna rushed away from the place.

YuWon didn't care if he went back to the Guild and told Vishnu what had happened or not.

Even if it was a matter of guilt, Vishnu wouldn't be on Varuna's side.

What worried YuWon was something else.

"It seems like I've seen you somewhere, but... I don't remember."

It wasn't just nonsense.

From the moment their eyes met, he looked at him with a puzzled look.

Not only that.

'Yesterday, when I went to the market.'

"That customer, it seems like I've seen him somewhere, but... I don't remember."

The merchants and customers he met at the market.

Among the people who crossed his gaze, there were quite a few who couldn't take their eyes off him.

Moreover, what it meant that they had seen him somewhere was just one thing.

'Are memories returning?'

Initially, he didn't believe this phenomenon would be permanent.

But it was faster than he thought.

He thought it might take decades, even centuries, before his memories about himself returned.

'Too fast.'

It was a mix of joy and sadness.

YuWon was also a human, so he didn't like everyone forgetting him.

But anyway, Pandora, Son OhGong, and Hercules remembered him, and for now, he enjoyed this peaceful life.

Clack-.

YuWon returned home.

Varuna had taken more time from him than he thought.

Looking up at the sky, he saw the sun setting from the edge.

'Is it already night?'

YuWon had been separated from Pandora for a long time. The door opened softly thanks to Hercules, who had fixed it the day before.

When he entered the house, the first thing he saw was the living room on the first floor. Pandora was sitting there.

The table was set with cold soup, bread, baked potatoes, and meat. There was also food for YuWon on the opposite side.

"Have you had dinner?"

"It's morning."

"...?"

YuWon was about to ask what that meant when he finally understood and asked:

"Haven't you eaten?"

"Yes."

The table in front of her was not dinner but a breakfast table.

She kept waiting without eating.

It seems she hadn't eaten a single meal until now.

"You could stop waiting."

Pandora had already waited for him long enough.

When everyone forgot about him, she waited alone at home.

She didn't step out of the house one step and waited for him, and waited.

Although it was shorter than back then, this time was the same.

She kept waiting without eating.

"I could have eaten first..."

YuWon was about to say that when Pandora interrupted him with a bright smile.

"But I like it. I like YuWon, and I like waiting for him."

She liked waiting.

Those words softened YuWon's heart.

Why did she love him so much?

Pandora ignored YuWon's stunned expression and looked at the cold table.

"It's cold. Shall I heat it up?"

"No. It's okay... Ah."

"Really?"

Clack-.

Finally, Pandora picked up the utensils.

YuWon sat in front of her, and they began to eat together.

Although the food was cold, the meal was more delicious than ever.

A month into their marriage, YuWon finally realized while eating the food she had prepared for him.

Now, she was his other half.

-----  
Varuna quickly returned to Deva. Although his body wasn't well, the first thing he had to do was get as far away from the first floor as possible.

So, he sailed upwards on the Deva Boat for several days.

During those days, Varuna constantly thought about YuWon.

What should he do with him?

How could he defeat him?

Should he report to Deva or not?

As his thoughts about YuWon grew deeper and deeper, Varuna sighed regretfully from the bow of the ship.

'No matter how I think about it, it's strange. Why did I confront Kim YuWon?'

While trembling, YuWon's image appeared in Varuna's mind.

He wrapped himself in Lightning Bolt and cut through the water arrows he had created with his Kusanagi Sword.

It wasn't a fight.

From the beginning, he wasn't an opponent he could fight.

Kim YuWon.

Who was he?

Wasn't he the hero who saved the Tower from the Outer invasion ten years ago?

What YuWon showed in his fight with me was only a tiny part of his power.

If I touched the woman of that Kim YuWon, maybe it's lucky that I didn't die...

"Eh?"

At that moment, Varuna felt something strange.

Until a moment ago, he considered him an enemy and feared him.

"Was that guy... Kim YuWon?"

He murmured as if knowing it for the first time, but it wasn't.

"My name is Varuna. I don't know if you're a Ranker from some rural village, but state your name!"

"I'm Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon? Was there a Ranker with that name?"

He had clearly stated his own name.

However, he couldn't remember the name Kim YuWon, a name that anyone living in the Tower, even a Ranker from some rural village, should know.

At that moment...

"What, what is this?"

Many questions ran through Varuna's mind.

Why couldn't he remember it?

Why did the world forget him?

After pondering for a while, Varuna took out his Player Kit and called somewhere.

-...What's up?

Vishnu's voice.

Varuna first greeted the great existence that ruled the Devas.

"Have you been well lately?"

-Did you cause another accident?

"Eh? What did I...?"

-You're always causing accidents. Because of women.

Varuna's expression turned into a grimace.

It wasn't a lie, so he couldn't contradict it.



Above all, it was impossible to contradict Vishnu's words.

-In any case, you haven't caused an accident.

"Yes..."

-Then, what's the matter?

"There's something I want to ask His Majesty Vishnu."

"What is it?"

Varuna tensed with hope that it wasn't.

Then, he asked the question.

"Do you remember Kim YuWon?"

-Kim YuWon? Who is that?

A voice full of doubt.

The moment Varuna answered yes to the uncomfortable question,

"Is that all?"

Varuna's eyes wavered at Vishnu's words.

Chapter 528

Side Story 4

"Don't you remember?"

Why are you asking me about that guy?"Well..."

Varuna was at a loss for words at the question posed to him.

If he wanted to explain the reason, he would also have to mention that he had been courting Pandora incessantly for the past ten years.

"Don't you have anything to say?"

"No, it's not necessary. If you don't remember, it's fine."

"Is that so?"

Hmm.

Vishnu fell silent for a while, looking suspicious.

But soon, the call ended, as if he thought he had nothing more to say.

"...Alright then. I'll hang up."

Blip.

Varuna looked again at the empty screen of the Player Kit with a puzzled expression.

His head became confused trying to figure out what was going on.

It was known that Vishnu, the owner of Deva, had a quite close relationship with Kim YuWon.

But not even Vishnu remembered Kim YuWon.

In the end, Varuna shouted:

"Ship, ship! Turn the ship around!"

-----

In the world of the 25th floor.

In the place where the nation of Britain, ruled by the guild "Round Table," is located.

At its heart is the sacred Round Table, where a hundred knights sit.

But today...

The owners of the table were not a hundred but the absolute leaders of various guilds.

"They're late."

"Where are those guys who never keep their promises?"

"Maybe it means the protagonist will appear at the end, huh?"

Several Rankers sat at the table.

Gawain, the new Leader of the Round Table.

Merlin, the Guardian of the Round Table.

Thor, the new King of Asgard.

The Lion King and Kali, Vishnu of Deva...

Countless stars gathered in one place.

The knights of the Round Table, who were on guard around them, nervously swallowed saliva.

The Round Table was not a small guild, but compared to the stars in front of them, it was infinitely small.

"What's going on, damn it?"

"I don't know either."

"Oh, I want to go home...."

"I can't even breathe."

The only person who seemed fine among the Rankers of the Round Table was Merlin.

The people they were waiting for were two.

The pillars of the current Olympus, Zeus and Hades.

While over a hundred stars awaited them,

"...Alright then. I'll hang up."

Blip.

Vishnu ended the call that had come from Varuna and murmured:

"I don't know if he's up to some nonsense again."

"What's going on? Is there a problem?"

Son OhGong peeked his head through the side.

As if bored, Son OhGong couldn't stay still and kept pacing around the table.

"Can't you stay still? You're driving me crazy."

"Anyway, it's still a long time until they gather."

"That's true, but..."

"I'm dying of boredom. If you have any issues, fight with me."

"I decline."

Vishnu sighed deeply.

No one could control this straightforward Son OhGong, at least not in this Tower.

Unless Odin, who had died, came back to life.

"Well. I already felt uncomfortable, so it's fine."

They couldn't really fight in this small meeting room, so Vishnu opened his mouth to alleviate Son OhGong's boredom.

"Do you know Kim YuWon?"

"Kim...?"

Son OhGong's eyes flickered.

Then, he approached Vishnu and shouted:

"Do you finally remember...?"

A voice that crawled like a mouse in a hole.

At that moment, YuWon's warning popped into Son OhGong's head.

"Just in case, don't go around saying you remember me."

"Why not?"

"It's just better if we stay like this for now. Anyway, someday, they'll remember him again."

"What if I say it?"

"Our friendship is over."

Son OhGong's radiant smile deformed.

Vishnu looked at him with strange eyes when he saw Son OhGong's expression, with pursed lips and a disappointed face.

Then, Son OhGong looked at Vishnu and turned around.

"Ah, I'm hungry. Hey, Hercules, do you have anything to eat?"

"I see."

Son OhGong was surprised at Vishnu's confident words.

With an awkward smile, Son OhGong turned to Vishnu and whistled.

"What, what?"

Ffff, swiriri-.

An empty whistling sound unnaturally rang out.

In his mind, Son OhGong thought, "Maybe I'm overdoing it."

But that whistle was like an advertisement saying, "I'm suspicious now."

Sideways glances from those present in the meeting room focused on Son OhGong.

Who was Son OhGong?

After fighting against the Celestial Realm and overthrowing the Jade Emperor, he earned the name "The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal" and was one of the heroes who contributed greatly to the war against the Outers.

The secret that Son OhGong hid was something that couldn't help but interest people.

And one person overheard the conversation.

"That foolish Monkey..."

Hercules covered his head with his hands and muttered the worst curse he could say.

And the next moment.

"They're making a lot of noise."

The meeting, which had become chaotic because of Son OhGong, calmed down as if someone had poured cold water on it.

Plop-.

The sound of footsteps from two people entering the meeting room was heard.

Son OhGong, who was whistling, Hercules, who was cursing Son OhGong, and Vishnu, who was trying to remember YuWon's name, all turned their gazes to the two men.

"They've finally arrived."

"Ten years, huh?"

"His face has become brighter."

The Rankers present in the room were all High-Rankers chosen by the Tower.

They had experienced the war against the Outers and had survived.

And they had maintained their ranks since then, being the de facto rulers of the Tower.

However, the presence they had before their eyes was dazzling.

The Throne Owner who had surpassed Odin, the master of Devas, Vishnu, and had become Rank 1.

The King of Olympus, who had surpassed Asgard and become the Tower's top Grand Guild.

"Zeus..."

Zeus and Hades.

The two kings who ruled Olympus made their appearance.

"It's very noisy in here."

Hades stroked his beard and looked at the crowd.

His eyes stopped at Son OhGong.

Apart from the knights at the round table inside the conference room, no one else was standing.

"Again because of that Monkey?"

Crack.

Veins marked on Son OhGong's forehead.

"What's wrong, man?"

"Calm down. This is an important place."

"Who started the argument?"

Thud~

A large hand crushed Son OhGong's head, who was speaking loudly.

Hercules, with his hand, covered Son OhGong's face, who grimaced.

"It was you who started the commotion. Go to your seat."

"Oh, come on!"

No matter how stubborn he was, he wasn't so foolish as to continue interrupting the meeting.

In the end, Son OhGong headed to his seat, grumbling.

Hercules, who had calmed down the troublemaker Son OhGong, looked at Zeus.

"Let's begin."

Zeus nodded as he met Hercules' gaze.

"...Father."

-----

Five days passed.

Varuna returned to the first floor again.

He had returned some time ago.

However, he couldn't go directly to YuWon.

Varuna, sitting in a café and trembling in his legs, couldn't bear the restlessness and finally bit his nails.

"Why did I come back?"

What was he doing sitting all day in a café?

He had returned, but he didn't know what to say to YuWon when he came back.

He was also afraid that if he said something, his head would be cut off.

So, Varuna had entered any café and was there, worrying.

"Hey, sir...."

Varuna turned his head at the sound of a voice calling him.

The café owner, with her hair tied up in a cute ponytail, smiled awkwardly and asked.

"Do you need anything else?"

Varuna looked around.

The café was full.

In fact, it had been full for a long time.

It seemed like he had entered in the morning, but it was already getting dark.

"It's a good restaurant, huh?"

He felt ridiculous for having sat all day in a crowded café with just a cup of coffee.

Varuna cleared his throat quickly and opened his mouth.

"Uh... Give me another cup of coffee and a piece of strawberry cake."

"A cup of coffee, a strawberry cake... Okay. Ah, and Varuna-nim."

"Do you know me?"

"Of course. If you don't know Player Varuna, you're nearsighted. Can I ask for an autograph, if it's not too much trouble?"

"Haha, gladly. I feel a little relieved to finally do something after occupying a seat for so long."

With a cheerful smile, Varuna gave the café owner an autograph.

Then, after receiving thanks, Varuna turned his head to look out the window.

'Alright. This is the right thing to do.'

Even though he shamelessly asked if she knew him, she actually did.

The fact that most people in this café were looking at him.

'Well, at my level, isn't it obvious that everyone knows me?'

In this Tower, Varuna was almost like a celebrity.

Attractive looks.

Polite tone of voice.

Skills sufficient to be a Deva officer.

After publishing a photo book and having a high ranking, it was natural for him to attract attention.

However...

'Kim YuWon.'

He was different.

'If it were him, there shouldn't be anyone who doesn't know him.'

In his prime, YuWon had reached rank 4.

He was even a hero who predicted the Tower's last war, fought against the Outer called Foolish Chaos from the beginning, and avoided the Tower's chaos.

Even if it was only his remembered achievements, they were even higher than Zeus, who was the de facto ruler of the Tower.

Although it's not known why he didn't appear in the last war...

'Wait a moment.'

"Him?"

While surprised to hear himself thinking of YuWon with admiration, suddenly.

"As the outside was noisy, I thought it might be..."

Sssshhh-

A face full of fear naturally sat in the seat in front of Varuna.

"Were you the unpleasant presence?"

"Kim..."

Varuna's eyes widened.

Then, to stay as calm as possible, he took a deep breath.

'It's still fine. This is a café.'

YuWon said clearly.

That he wouldn't leave him alone if he approached Pandora again.

But this was a café in the city.

There was no need to be scared if he hadn't done anything wrong.

"What's going on in the café..."

"What kind of tone is that?"

YuWon looked at Varuna's cold coffee and pale face.

"Your coffee and cake order have arrived."

Just when the menu arrived...

The café owner who brought the coffee and cake greeted Varuna.

Then, her gaze landed on YuWon for a moment and moved away.

It was a look that examined YuWon, who was with Varuna.

And with that look from the café owner.

"...Ah"

YuWon realized one thing seeing Varuna's expression in front of him.

The gaze of the café owner and Varuna were completely different.

"Do you remember?"

While lifting Varuna's freshly ordered coffee cup, YuWon asked.

"Who am I?"

Chapter 529

Side Story 5

In a bustling cafe,

Varuna's vision narrowed.

What he could see and hear was confined to a small space.

Varuna wasn't sure whether to admit he remembered YuWon or not.

He had been sitting, pondering since the morning.

Why don't others remember Kim YuWon?

Did he perhaps erase himself?

Or am I hallucinating? Memory manipulation?

Yes, that's the most likely possibility.

No chance, damn it. I already checked if I was affected by an ability or not.

Varuna's mind tangled, and for a moment, he felt the urge to pull out his hair.

But that was only for a moment.

He knew he couldn't deceive the person in front of him, and if he were to pretend not to know him, he wouldn't have returned.

"...yes."

A concise response.

Puff!

With that response, a veil of magic spread around YuWon and Varuna.



An invisible but clearly present veil.

Judging by the amount that could be felt, even the strongest Rankers would have difficulty noticing its existence.

'He can block sound with that much magic.'

Magic so inconspicuous that even Varuna, a High-Ranker, wouldn't have noticed if he hadn't been inside.

Immediately after admiring YuWon's technique to block sound, Varuna apologized to YuWon.

"...I was reckless, I apologize."

But he didn't bow too much.

This was a public place, and since they had blocked the sound, he probably didn't want to attract attention.

"You've got a good eye."

YuWon set down his coffee again and looked at Varuna with crossed arms.

Even though he had returned to the first floor, Varuna hadn't gone to look for Pandora.

Instead, he had sat in a café on the first floor.

Judging by his look, it seemed like his memories had also come back more or less.

'It seems the responsibility falls on me.'

If his memories returned, he should have naturally felt that something was amiss.

Kim YuWon, ranked number 4.

Registered on the ranking before reaching Floor 100, the discoverer of conditions for obtaining Divinity.

Anyone who didn't know YuWon clearly shouldn't be in this Tower.

"What do you mean by being reckless?"

"Um... Kim YuWon... I failed to recognize you and dared to..."

Varuna couldn't say he had been courting YuWon's wife, so he left the sentence hanging and lowered his head.

As much as he liked women, his life was the most important.

"It doesn't matter that you didn't recognize me. There were reasons for that."

"Yes, thank you."

"So, in any case, from now on, pretend you don't know anything."

"Really?"

"Don't go around proclaiming that you know me. At least for a while."

At YuWon's words, Varuna's eyes widened in surprise.

In Varuna's eyes, looking at YuWon from the other side, reverence and respect suddenly appeared.

'Did he really do it intentionally?'

Everyone in the Tower had forgotten YuWon.

As the saying goes, "a true master withdraws and disappears," YuWon had erased not only his trail but also people's memories to live a quiet married life.

It was truly an astonishing skill.

'This is an opportunity.'

Only he and Pandora remember YuWon's face and name in this tower.

'I will now make a good impression on my older brother.'

In Varuna's mind, the relationship between him and YuWon was already like brothers.

If he could now befriend YuWon before anyone else.

If he became brothers with the one who is the greatest and most powerful in this Tower, on par with Vishnu, what could be safer than that?

If that happened, it was natural that his position within Deva would also increase.

'I don't know how long it will take, but...'

Moreover, YuWon clearly said "for the time being."

That means that someday, when the time comes, he will reveal his existence in this Tower again.

'Life is originally a waiting game.'

While imagining becoming the power behind the throne of Deva with Kim YuWon at his back.

Varuna couldn't hide his excited voice and opened his mouth, unlike before.

"If you say it's for the time being, how long will it be?"

Varuna's bright eyes made YuWon's gaze furrow.

What's with that uncomfortable look?

Until a moment ago, he was somewhat restless and scared, but now he had an expectant expression.

"Until I allow it."

"Understood. Trust only me!"

Varuna, pounding his chest, made YuWon sigh.

Until a moment ago, at least he acted cautiously, but now no more.

"Don't overdo it."

"Yes!"

Laughing cheerfully, Varuna began eating the cake that came with the coffee.

YuWon looked at him as if he were a strange creature.

He knew he had always been a cheerful and sociable person, but he didn't know his attitude would change so suddenly.

"But why isn't it possible now?"

Varuna's question was natural.

Indeed, YuWon hadn't thought about keeping this a secret until recently.

"Did I hear they're holding a meeting?"

"With me?"

"Not you. They say the Great Guilds are gathering at the Round Table."

"How do you know?"

"I just know."

Varuna didn't ask further; they were still in the stage of becoming friends, and he couldn't bother him with more questions.

"Yes. For some reason, the sides of Olympus and Asgard have called for a general meeting of all the Great Guilds. Scale-wise, it's impossible for it to be a secret, but apparently, it's still being conducted covertly."

"That's why."

"That?"

An interrogation mark appeared over Varuna's head.

"So does 'that' have something to do with that meeting?"

Deva hadn't been informed about the meeting's subject.

Even Varuna, a High-Ranker of Deva, and Vishnu, who personally attended the meeting, didn't know what it was about.

But the man in front of him knew.

"Probably."

"Probably?"

"There's one thing that worries me..."

YuWon recalled something for a moment and then shook his head.

"For now, let's hope it's not the case."

It was still just a speculation.

Until confirmed, it's better not to reveal oneself.

YuWon thought the conversation had ended and tried to get up from his seat.

But then...

"Is something wrong?"

Varuna's gaze was not normal.

His eyes shone as if they contained the Milky Way.

His gaze followed YuWon, who was getting up from his seat, and slowly rose upwards.

"Uh, perhaps...?"

"What? Is there something else you want to say?"

"Yes, I have a request."

Varuna nodded with a determined expression. With eyes shining like stars and a voice that sounded as if he were determined, he spoke.

"Can I call you brother...?"

"I'm out."

-----  
After the meeting, Vishnu, who had returned to Deva, had been busy for several days.

A wooden chair and a desk. A paper on top.

"...It's frustrating."

He had many things to ponder.

According to the meeting's topic, it wouldn't be surprising if a disaster occurred in the Tower at any moment.

The news brought by Zeus was concise and clear.

"The Administrators have started to move."

The Administrators.

Absolutes that exist one per floor, with power and authority rivaling the top High-Rankers.

That they had started moving definitively was not something normal.

'That's why they didn't show up during the war against the Outers.'

There were many opinions that that was also strange.

Why didn't they show themselves, who more than anyone sought the order and safety of the Tower?

In fact, Vishnu tried to meet with the Administrators after that, but they hadn't appeared in ten years.

But then...

"I ask them."

The question Zeus asked was like a bomb for the Rankers in the meeting room.

"Are the Administrators friends or enemies?"

"It's only been ten years."

The peace was short-lived.

The Tower, which had ended the war, was barely entering a phase of stability.

Disputes between Guilds had disappeared, and conflicts between races were gradually resolving.

Vishnu wanted nothing more.

He just wanted the Tower to stay that way.

But then, the Administrators began to move like a variable.

"I guess I should see them."

For several days, he pondered whether he should meet with the Administrators and talk to them.

But, of course, nothing changed by just sitting still.

"And..."

"Yes?"

Yama waited for Vishnu's next word, who had dropped the end.

Then...

"No. It's nothing."

"..."

Inappropriately, Vishnu changed his words.

Vishnu seemed about to say something.

Yama was curious but didn't ask.

If he didn't say it, there was a reason for that.

'Kim YuWon, Kim YuWon...'

What Vishnu wanted to ask was whether he knew Kim YuWon.

However, on the other hand, he thought that Yama wouldn't know a name that he didn't even know.

'It was clear that The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal knew something.'

The image of Son OhGong awkwardly whistling.

It was strange that, unless you were an idiot, you wouldn't notice.

Moreover, Vishnu discovered one more person showing a different reaction from others.

'Hercules also seems to know him...'

Maybe he shouldn't worry so much.

After checking the rankings, Kim YuWon's name didn't appear within the High-Rankers or after that.

So...

'Why am I so worried?'

It wasn't just because he was friends with Son OhGong and Hercules.

In the first place, Vishnu wasn't the type to be interested in others.

'...Kim YuWon.'

He couldn't recall any familiar name or face when thinking about him, no matter how hard he tried.

But why?

It felt like he had a big nail stuck in his throat that he couldn't remove.

While repeating the same name in his head several times,

"This is the list of survivors and casualties from the Reconciliation Day meeting."

After the war...

While Vishnu was reviewing the fight against the Outers from the previous day, Surya brought him news.

The record of the day of the fight against Shub-Niggurath.

'...Yes.'

Upon remembering that record, Vishnu could finally recall a clue about the name 'Kim YuWon.'

'He was there.'

Chapter 530

Side Story 6

"Reconciliation Day: List of Survivors and Deceased."

Deva was the oldest Guild in this Tower, along with Asgard.

They attached great importance to records.

Especially Surya, he recorded anything that happened in this Tower, any detail, to be prepared for the future.

That day was no different.

Surya recorded everything, from the fight against Shub-Niggurath to any event related to the Outers.

How much damage each Guild suffered in the war.

What reward was given to the Rankers who excelled in battle, etc, etc.

While reviewing the list, Vishnu asked, "How did you organize this?"

"I organized both contributions and survivors and deceased in order."

"Contributions?"

At first, he was clearly confused.

If it really was organized by contributions, the first name should have been Zeus, Odin, or even himself.

But.

"It's the first time I've seen this name."

In the first entry of those records, the name "Kim YuWon" was written, a name he had never seen in his life.

Normally, he should have felt something strange at that moment.

He should have investigated who Kim YuWon was and found out.

But Vishnu didn't.

No.

Not only Vishnu.

'Not Surya either. Not me. Everyone else didn't either.'

Thinking about it, finding out the name Kim YuWon was not only at that moment. It was endlessly frequent to see the name Kim YuWon in various records related to the Outers.

But each time, everyone ignored who Kim YuWon was.

Now, thinking about it seemed arbitrary and senseless actions.

'What the hell is going on?'

The head began to ache. It was a mystery why Vishnu didn't feel strangeness at that moment, and why now, suddenly, he remembered the situation from that moment.

"So, who the hell is Kim YuWon?"

-----

Eastern Zodiac Guild. A small Guild composed of twelve Rankers and a hundred Players. (Note: Don't confuse with the Zodiac Guild from Greek astrology. This one is from the Chinese)

The Guild Leader, Branil, was sitting in a mansion on the 15th floor, receiving a visitor.

"...What brings the Envoy here?"

A small child sitting on the other side of the long table.

An Envoy.

Those who acted on behalf of the Administrators, performing tasks in their place.

Originally, Envoys were not supposed to come directly to the Rankers, at least according to what Branil had in mind.

"Why? Does it make you uncomfortable?"

"It's because it rarely happens."

"Sorry for showing up unannounced. Oh, this tea tastes excellent. I'd like to take some on the way back if possible."

The man looked like a child, but his words were those of an elderly person.

Branil tensed up at the Envoy's smile.

The Envoy in front of him was at least equivalent to the Director of an agency under the direct command of the Administrators.

That is, he did not lag behind compared to the High-Rankers.

'Did we do something wrong?'

Eastern Zodiac was a small Guild.

Even if there might be something wrong in managing the Guild, there was no reason for a High-Rank Envoy to personally show up.

Even if they moved, only a few minor Envoys would be enough.

Moreover...

The Envoy in front of him had already been leisurely drinking for thirty minutes without saying a word.

"My name is Nabison, and I am the trial supervisor on the 15th floor. I apologize for the delay in introductions."

Most Envoys didn't have names.

An Envoy with a name meant that he was truly one of the few chosen by the Administrators.

Nabison.

It was a peculiar name to be called by a person.

It was not surprising.

Even the names of some known Envoys were mostly as peculiar as Nabison's.

"I don't need introductions. I suppose you already know anyway."

"Yes. Leader of the Eastern Zodiac Guild, the proud Ranker of the Dragon Tribe. Aren't you Mr. Branil-nim?"

"That's right. Anyway, now that we've introduced ourselves, why don't you tell me what this visit is about?"

He was nervous.

The mere existence of the Envoy called Nabison.

Although he hadn't caused a big problem, the persistent anxiety made Branil tremble.

Eastern Zodiac was not such an impressive Guild, but Branil was a Ranker leading the Guild.

Those who conquered the Tower up to the 100th floor had exceptional skills.

And what put Branil in this place was his ability to sense crisis.

'It's dangerous.'



The time it took for anxiety to turn into certainty was only about thirty minutes.

Nabison didn't respond twice when asked to explain his business.

Sipping his tea in silence. Looking out the window, saying nonsense like the weather was fine.

Drump-.

So, when Branil, suffocated by anxiety, stood up from his seat...

"Please sit."

Thud-.

Someone walked towards the door of the room where the two were.

"Because you came."

"Who came...?"

Branil's eyes widened.

Not only Nabison, whom he didn't even like, was in front of him, but another person had also invaded his space without permission.

"This is the Eastern Zodiac Guild. Even if you are an Envoy, you cannot enter my area..."

[In your area, you say.]

Gwoong-.

A sense of oppression as if the building were collapsing.

[Here is your area, isn't it?]

Kuduk, kudd-.

The firmly closed door dented.

It wasn't just that the door was dented.

The wrinkled plank quickly turned into something that couldn't be seen entirely.

Large enough for someone to enter without opening the door.

Looking up, Branil could finally realize the nature of the anxiety he felt.

[This world is mine.]

"I-I..."

Branil barely managed to speak with a trembling mouth.

"Administrator?"

The irregular flow of Arcane Power from that person's body.

As if a single person had woven everything in this world.

The 15th-floor Administrator appeared before Branil's eyes.

'It's huge.'

Branil looked up at the Administrator in front of him.

"Large" didn't just mean large in size.

In terms of size, it was nothing compared to the giants.

For Branil, who had met many giants while climbing the Tower, this size was not surprising at all.

However, even so.

'Have... have I shrunk?'

Branil couldn't help but feel like an infinitely small and insignificant speck of dust compared to the Administrator in front of him.

Thud-.

Branil knelt, overwhelmed by the Arcane Power emanating from the Administrator's body.

Step, step.

The Administrator approached.

The Envoy named Nabison knelt and bowed his head to him.

Many Envoys fluttered around the Administrator like fairies.

[You're too scared. We can't have a conversation like this.]

The Administrator clicked his tongue softly.

Branil was half-conscious due to the majesty emanating from the Administrator's body.

Of course...

As that was the intention from the beginning, there were no major complaints from the Administrator's perspective about the current situation.

[Get yourself together, Branil.]

"Ah, yes... I'm sorry..."

Branil stammered and quickly served tea.

He was out of his mind.

Fear consumed him, and he couldn't even think clearly.

At this moment, the only thing that mattered was to please the Administrator.

"Here... it is..."

[Branil]

The Administrator's voice softened.

It was kind and calm.

It was a sound that melted the brain.

"Yes, yes?"

Along with Branil's clumsy response, the Administrator took the tea cup offered by Branil, drank, and then asked:

[Won't you come with us?]

-----

Olympus.

In the castle located at the top of a massive mountain, a man was sitting on the throne with his chin resting on his hand.

Crunch-.

Dressed in golden armor, Zeus muttered something.

Tap, tap-.

As he drummed his fingers on the throne's armrests, the throne room's door opened.

"Your habit of talking to yourself remains the same."

The heavy iron door swung open, and Hades entered from outside.

"Are you so concerned?"

"Have you come, brother?"

"Yes."

Zeus nodded at Hades, who came behind him.

They were brothers, after all.

In public appearances, Zeus could be formal, but privately he used a more familiar tone with Hades.

"Still worried?"

"Yes."

"It's understandable. It's not a trivial matter. That's why we've summoned a meeting of the Grand Guilds."

The last time the Grand Guilds gathered was ten years ago, during the war.

Reconciliation Day. And the war against the Outers that began with the fall of the Wall.

Both events were moments when the Tower faced an unprecedented crisis.

And this matter, in Zeus's judgment, was as serious as those.

However...

"It still seems too early to judge."

"What's the problem with the Administrators mobilizing?"

"Administrators act for the Tower's sake. Their goals are not ours."

Perhaps having lived through a major crisis before, reactions to the Administrators' actions varied.

"It's not easy to see the Administrators as an enemy. Even if they are your words, fighting against them wouldn't be any different from repeating the battle of ten years ago."

"Do you believe them?"

A month before convening the meeting, the Administrator of the floor where Olympus was located visited Zeus.

"What's going on?"

The Administrator had come in person to Olympus.

He was sitting on the throne in the Great Hall, the heart of Olympus, the place reserved only for the Leader of Olympus, waiting for Zeus.

"Don't trust us."

"Us? Do you mean the Administrators?"

"Yes."

Zeus had maintained a fairly close relationship with the Administrators for a long time.

After all, the Administrators were the true rulers of the Tower, and back then, the relationship with the Administrators determined the Guild's influence.

However...

"Administrators don't act for the Tower. We only act for ourselves."

The Administrator's words that day completely changed Zeus's perception of them.

"...What do you mean?"

"I'll just say this. I, too, feel uncomfortable talking more than necessary."

He couldn't hold it back anymore.

The Administrator disappeared from the place along with those words.

Baffling words.

There was no evidence. However, Zeus couldn't easily forget the Administrator's words that day.

"It was a warning."

Zeus was sure.

"They dare, stupidly and shamelessly..."

Crack, crack.

Electricity leaked through the gaps in the armor.

Hades, seeing Zeus smirking scornfully, shook his head.

From the expression on his face, he knew for sure.

"They've shown their teeth."

The battle for Zeus had already begun.