Chapter 21 : Chapter 21

Chapter 021 : Worsening

“It's been a long time since we've tilted our glasses together like this, just the two of us.”

I sent everyone else back.

At the proposal of the Ice Palace Head—no, my Father-in-law—to drink as man to man, even Seol Ye-rin returned with a pouting lip.

Trickle.

I received the drink my Father-in-law poured into my cup.

I thought he might test me by infusing the drink with Inner Qi, but there was nothing like that.

After receiving it promptly, I took the White Liquor and poured it into my Father-in-law’s cup.

“Can you handle your liquor?”

“I think I drink a moderate amount.”

While living through the past three lives.

In the first life, I did not even touch alcohol.

Since I was an athlete, I stayed away from alcohol.

In the second life, because I lived as a scoundrel doing everything I hadn't done in the first life, I think I was always drunk.

In the third life, because I lived a life like a graduate student, I couldn't enjoy drinking and dancing at all.

In other words, this drink was the first I was having since gaining another opportunity.

“By nature, a man should know the way of drinking.”

Father-in-law gallantly gulped down the White Liquor.

I also knocked back the White Liquor in one go.

A burning energy passed through my throat.

I nodded as the sensation of it passing down the esophagus and into my stomach hit.

“Kaaa—as expected, this is the taste.”

“It seems decent.”

“Hoo, your face doesn't even change color.”

After deciding to drink together, I reached an agreement with my Father-in-law to drink without utilizing Inner Qi.

It was a matter of determining who had the stronger tolerance.

‘You'll regret it.’

In truth, I could drink alcohol like water.

Because the Extreme Yang Qi flowing through my body did not even consider this mere White Liquor as alcohol.

It seemed Father-in-law was completely unaware of this situation.

“Take it.”

Trickle—

My cup was filled again, and I also poured it for my Father-in-law.

While contemplating what story to bring up while drinking plain White Liquor without a single snack.

“Thank you.”

My father-in-law broke the ice first.

What was he thankful for?

Preventing the Extreme Yin Qi from spreading through Seol Ye-rin?

Wiping out the Horse Bandits?

Or... finding the legacy of the Martial Gods?

Whatever it was.

“It was naturally something I had to do.”

It was a reasonable answer.

“Nothing in this world is natural. We were the ones who called you to the Ice Palace, and although the Heavenly Demon would have had no choice but to send you. If you hadn't intended to come, you could have chosen not to.”

That was true.

If I hadn't lived through my previous life, I would have thought about running away.

“I have brought the snacks.”

Just as I was about to answer, Tae Un-seo entered carrying food.

At that sight, my eyebrows twitched.

“...Who made this?”

“I prepared it together with Young Mistress Wi.”

“That is a relief.”

Only then did it seem I could eat with peace of mind.

The snacks Tae Un-seo brought were raw ice fish and soup.

“Do you even know how to slice raw fish?”

“I am confident in everything involving a knife.”

“I will eat well.”

“Yes, Palace Head.”

Even though a person who was once a member of the Snow Tiger Squad was working like a chef, Father-in-law did not even blink an eye.

“Since the snacks are out, have another drink.”

Trickle—

The drinking speed became very fast.

Gulp. Gulp. Gulp.

I continuously received the alcohol Father-in-law gave.

Sizzle—

The alcohol that passed into the esophagus could not withstand the Extreme Yang Qi.

“It's more delicious than I thought?”

The taste of the raw ice fish sliced by Tae Un-seo was superb in itself.

As expected, Wi Ji-yeong's skill was extraordinary.

Thus, I tilted my glass with my Father-in-law in a perfectly sober state.

Incessantly.

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‘This fellow, why isn't he getting drunk?’

He had clearly promised not to utilize Inner Qi.

The number of liquor bottles the two had drunk already exceeded twenty.

Usually, Seol Baek-ho drank a lot, but this was the first time he had drunk more than ten bottles at once.

The problem was that he began to feel like he might lose the drinking contest he was certain he wouldn't lose.

“Now that it seems we've drunk a fair amount, speak frankly.”

“What kind of talk do you mean?”

“What is it that you want?”

He asked point-blank.

Seol Baek-ho was no fool.

As soon as he arrived at the Ice Palace, he treated the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

He became a Captain of the Ice Palace’s military force and even gained the recognition of the North Sea people through the annihilation of the Horse Bandits.

Furthermore, he even brought back the legacy of the North Sea Martial Gods that no one had been able to find.

If he just married the Young Palace Head like this, he might truly be recognized as the live-in son-in-law of the North Sea Ice Palace.

‘If that happens, I would become the first Ice Palace Head to take someone from the Demonic Cult as a live-in son-in-law.’

Since the past, the relationship between the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult and the North Sea Ice Palace was close to that of enemies.

Although the moment it went sour had been forgotten by the public, the mere fact that the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult and the North Sea Ice Palace entered into a political marriage held great significance for the Murim.

Therefore, the North Sea Ice Palace Head was curious about Hyeokryeon Yeom’s intentions.

If this was his strategy, it was as if he had been completely outplayed.

So he was curious.

What the fellow wanted.

“There is exactly one thing I want.”

“What is it?”

“Your daughter.”

Pause.

Seol Baek-ho’s movement to swallow his drink stopped at Hyeokryeon Yeom’s answer.

“...You say you want my daughter?”

A smoldering gaze stared directly at Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“Yes, that is correct.”

“I'd like to ask the reason.”

It was a political marriage using a blood alliance as an excuse.

He naturally thought their hearts could not possibly be connected.

However, it seemed this fellow’s thoughts were a bit different.

“You are asking something strange. I also possess a constitution where I cannot find a normal partner for the rest of my life. But I thought that if I am with Lady Seol, I could lead a happy honeymoon.”

The Extreme Yang Body and the Extreme Yin Body met.

Where else could there be a better match than this?

“So, that means you also like Ye-rin.”

“Yes. If I follow my heart, I'd want to take responsibility for her right now.”

“……And yet?”

“I am still very lacking.”

Seeing Hyeokryeon Yeom humble himself, Seol Baek-ho’s expression changed strangely.

“Who dares to say that you are lacking?”

Along with the address, Seol Baek-ho’s momentum changed.

Hyeokryeon Yeom grinned as he watched Seol Baek-ho’s eyes smolder.

“Father-in-law, it seems you just utilized Inner Qi.”

Seol Baek-ho was startled.

He realized he had utilized Inner Qi without even knowing it.

“No!”

“I think I won today’s drinking contest.”

“No, there is still so much alcohol left like that……”

Having his pride as the Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho was about to say they should drink more, thinking he couldn't back down like this, when.

Bang!

“Father! Just how long are you going to keep drinking!”

Seol Ye-rin entered with a cold expression.

“Ye, Ye-rin.”

“Just how much alcohol are you trying to feed someone who just returned today after finishing the annihilation of the Horse Bandits……”

How long had it been since his daughter shouted like this?

“Gaga, stand up.”

“Hmm? Oh, I see.”

Seol Ye-rin made Hyeokryeon Yeom stand up with a cold tone that was different from usual.

“We are going to go to sleep now. Father, you should rest too.”

“S-sleep, do you mean you're going to share a room……”

“Palace Head.”

Crackle, crackle—

When a woman harbors a grudge, it went beyond bringing frost; she was even freezing her Father-in-law.

Thinking it would be disastrous if Hyeokryeon Yeom stayed any longer, he got up from his seat as if he couldn't help it and took a clasped hands greeting.

“Let’s settle the match next time, Father-in-law.”

At those words, the Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, could not answer.

It was because he had frozen over.

After Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom went outside.

Crackle—

The ice that had frozen Seol Baek-ho fell away.

“Her ice arts have become very fierce.”

In any case.

“What a spiteful fellow.”

Until the very end, with every word, Father-in-law, Father-in-law.

At this rate, Seol Baek-ho really didn't like the feeling that he might have to treat Hyeokryeon Yeom like a son-in-law.

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“What were you doing still awake?”

“Ahem, I was so worried about what the Palace Head would say that I couldn't sleep.”

Seol Ye-rin let out a sigh and peeked at my reaction.

“He didn't say anything strange, did he?”

“There wasn't anything particularly strange.”

“Then what kind of talk...?”

At Seol Ye-rin’s gaze, which seemed truly curious, I grinned and spoke.

“A secret just between men.”

“H-mph. I'm not even curious!”

You look very curious, though.

I laughed and headed toward the lodging.

In any case, it was true that I was able to escape from my father-in-law's hands thanks to Seol Ye-rin.

“Let's go and sleep quickly. From tomorrow, we'll have to move around again.”

“...Are you really planning to find all the legacies of the Martial Gods?”

“Of course.”

I looked to the side.

-Chuckles, what are you looking at?

-They are such cute children.

As long as I possessed the Snow Wind Sword and the Cold Snow Secret Realm, the Sword Venerable and the Demon Queen were always with me.

The commonality between the two was the fact that all Martial Gods possessed the Extreme Yin Qi that Seol Ye-rin had.

“Then, see you tomorrow.”

“Wait a moment.”

“Why?”

“...I've come to want to see the Cold Snow Secret Realm.”

At Seol Ye-rin’s words, I looked back at the Demon Queen.

-I wondered when we would be able to talk. Would you introduce us?

The Cold Snow Demon Queen showed a gentle smile.

Thus, the two of them met.

Holding the Cold Snow Secret Realm in her hands, Seol Ye-rin gazed at the Cold Snow Demon Queen before her with eyes full of tension.

-Nice to meet you. I am called Jang So-ryeong.

“Nice... to meet you.”

At the sight of Seol Ye-rin being tense, Jang So-ryeong smiled brightly.

-There is no need to be so tense. It would be good if you just thought of me as a grandmother and talked comfortably.

“G-grandmother?”

-Even though I look like this, there's quite a large age gap with the Young Palace Head, you know?

The face of Jang So-ryeong, who usually maintained her beauty, began to be filled with wrinkles.

At the sight of Jang So-ryeong, who looked full of benevolence to anyone who saw her, Seol Ye-rin showed a look of being more relaxed than before.

“I look forward to your kind guidance!”

Watching that scene, I tried to stand up from my seat.

Since full-scale training to handle the Extreme Yin Qi would proceed, I intended to step out now.

At that moment.

-Where are you planning to go?

The Demon Queen's voice struck my ears.

“Excuse me?”

-One can only practice if there is a person to be the opponent.

“Did you need an opponent?”

-That's right, especially since there is only one person who can be an opponent for the Young Palace Head.

“I wouldn't say only one……”

-Young Palace Head, you want to handle the rampaging Extreme Yin Qi well, right?

“Yes... that's right!”

-Then pour all of your Extreme Yin Qi into Hyeokryeon Yeom right now.

“What?”

-Just as you froze the others, I'm saying blast your Extreme Yin Qi with the momentum to turn Hyeokryeon Yeom into an ice statue.

Wait a minute.

“Lady Demon Queen?”

-You don't need to worry. Hyeokryeon Yeom is a mass of Extreme Yang Qi who possesses the Extreme Yang Body! Even if you discharge Extreme Yin Qi to your heart's content, he will not freeze.

“Yes, I understand!”

At the Demon Queen's instructions, Seol Ye-rin’s eyes sparkled as she turned back to me.

“Third Young Master, I look forward to your kind guidance.”

“W-wait a second……!”

Flash! Crackle!

Before I could say anything, the Extreme Yin Qi Seol Ye-rin shot out and froze the space next to me.

“As expected... Control is difficult. This time, I will definitely hit.”

-At maximum power!

“Yes!”

Wrummmm—

At the sight of Seol Ye-rin pulling up her Extreme Yin Qi, I also pulled up my Extreme Yang Qi.

Because it seemed like I would freeze over if I just stayed still like this.

“Stay right there!”

“No, it's training, so why are you really thinking of freezing me?!”

“Because Lady Demon Queen told me to do so!”

Watching the two of them bickering, the Sword Venerable muttered.

-Chuckles, it's a good time.

-It's the prime of youth.

The Demon Queen, who had instructed Seol Ye-rin to discharge her Extreme Yin Qi, sat down next to the Sword Venerable.

-In any case, looking at you like this, you have aged quite beautifully.

-Come to think of it, this must be the first time the Master sees this appearance.

-That's right.

-Hoho, it will be troublesome if you fall for this humble one.

-Chuckles, you are as mischievous as ever.

-Who do you think taught me like this?

The night, where the full moon rose dimly, began to deepen.

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At that time.

“Bring more alcohol.”

The Ice King, Seol Baek-ho, gave instructions to General Manager Seol Su-hyeok who visited the Palace Lord’s Hall.

Looking at Seol Baek-ho, Seol Su-hyeok spoke with a heavily stiffened expression.

“Palace Head, I am sorry, but I do not think I can bring any more.”

“...Why is that?”

“There is no more alcohol in the warehouse.”

Seol Baek-ho’s eyebrows twitched.

“Then can't you just buy some.”

“There are no... funds, Palace Head. As you know.”

At Seol Su-hyeok’s words, Seol Baek-ho’s expression stiffened.

Seol Su-hyeok continued speaking.

“We are in a situation where there is nothing left to sell. Due to the amounts used to save the Young Palace Head, we no longer have the capacity.”

Just as Seol Su-hyeok said, Seol Baek-ho had mobilized all sorts of means to save Seol Ye-rin.

Because he was so desperate to the point of selling off the inner cores or treasures that the Ice Palace once boasted of.

Leaving the Horse Bandits to run wild was also due to these inner circumstances.

Because of this, even the trade with the Central Plains was blocked, truly a repetition of a vicious cycle.

When money becomes scarce, problems erupt from all sides of an organization.

The reality of the current North Sea Ice Palace was that such problems were piling up.

Thinking like that, Hyeokryeon Yeom's active performance was extremely welcome in Seol Baek-ho's inner thoughts.

"...I must find a way out now."

Seol Baek-ho fell into thought while fumbling with the liquor cup he was holding.

The Martial God-level live-in son-in-law of the North Sea Ice Palace.

Chapter 22 : Chapter 22

Chapter 22 : Ice Wolf Squad

I took the completely exhausted Seol Ye-rin to the Young Palace Head's Hall.

Accepting the Extreme Yin Qi was quite hard.

Enough to exhaust most of the Extreme Yang Qi I possessed.

But after doing so, my body feels a bit lighter.

"Hmm, did we really have to go this far?"

-You need to empty it at least once. It will fill up with Extreme Yin Qi again once I sleep and wake up anyway. The Extreme Yang Body is the same, right?

That's right.

It was a characteristic of Extreme Yang Qi to fill up quickly as if asking when it was ever consumed after just one night.

-Have you heard of the aesthetics of emptying?

"Are you saying there is something to be known when one empties?"

-Right. You can think of it as a story that the more you take out, only the most important root remains.

Although Extreme Yin and Extreme Yang are things that cannot be lessened even if one tries to take them out.

If I repeat the same process as now, certainly.

'I will be able to avoid dying young.'

Instead, blood-vomiting effort would have to accompany it.

Because using energy until exhaustion like that was not an easy task.

“I think I need to empty it too.”

It was a short distance, but after taking Seol Ye-rin to the Young Palace Head’s Hall and coming back, Yang energy was surging madly.

In my previous life, there were many times I discharged Extreme Yang Qi like this.

When I gave my all during a match, when I researched the body frantically.

I experienced many things where I couldn't endure the rising heat if I didn't move my body.

In my second life where I lived like a scoundrel who was killed by Hyeokryeon Geuk, I wonder if I lived that long because I took many women.

Even the freezing weather of the North Sea could not block the Extreme Yang Qi.

Since it was quite late, it was a bit awkward to call out Eun Bin, Baek Mu-yong, or Tae Un-seo.

In the end, it means I have to go do gymnastics under the moon alone somewhere.

“Haap!”

A shout was heard from somewhere.

“This sound is.....”

Thinking there was an armed unit training even at this late hour, I headed to the place where the shout was heard.

-Grrr.

Pure white wolves were gathered at the training ground.

-It is the Snow Wolf.

‘Snow Wolf?’

-They are wolves that inhabit the North Sea. Seeing that they are with the Snow Wolves, those guys must be the Ice Wolf Squad.

Ice Wolf Squad?

I have heard of it somewhere.

Just then.

“Haap!”

Those who appeared to be martial artists of the Ice Palace were wielding swords.

‘Fast.’

The pure white wolves were dodging the martial artists' swords and rushing in to bite the martial artists.

“Dodge!”

“Heup!”

The wolves were rushing in to really bite the martial artists as if they were undergoing actual combat.

Just as I was thinking that no unfortunate event would occur since they must be well trained.

“Heok!”

An Ice Palace martial artist who was about to fall because his feet got tangled while trying to retreat hurriedly was caught in my view.

A situation where the martial artist would likely be bitten by the wolf if left like that.

“Flame Butterfly.”

A red butterfly intervened between the wolf and the martial artist.

Whoosh!

At the sudden soaring flames!

-Whimper!

The wolves quickly retreated.

“Who is it!”

The five martial artists gathered at the training ground quickly turned their heads at the appearance of a third party who suddenly intervened.

“I intervened because it looked dangerous.”

“You are…….”

“…Demonic cultist?”

I swept away the horse bandits and healed the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, but the perception of Hyeokryeon Yeom seemed to still be a demonic cultist.

“I am Hyeokryeon Yeom.”

“…Did you peep on the training?”

“How could I not look when you are causing such a disturbance in the middle of the night?”

I was proud.

It was also because this training ground was not a closed training ground.

In Murim, peeping on others' training is considered taboo, but witnessing it while passing by such an open place was not a wrong action.

“Retrieve the Snow Wolves.”

“Yes, Vice Captain.”

My eyes sparkled at the word Vice Captain.

If it was a position around Vice Captain, he would know the fact that I am the Captain of the Small Snow Squad.

Nevertheless, speaking of me as a demonic cultist just now,

‘He did it on purpose.’

“By the way, for what matter did the Captain of the Small Snow Squad visit the training ground in the middle of the night like this?”

“I was on my way to take the Young Palace Head back.”

Them flinching at the word Young Palace Head.

“I have a question.”

“What is it?”

“Is that rumor really true?”

“Which rumor are you talking about?”

“The rumor that the Small Snow Squad Captain swept away the horse bandits with only four members.”

“If it is true?”

“The Small Snow Squad must have snatched the credit for the Young Palace Head dealing with most of the horse bandits.”

It is true.

Besides, since the Great Grasslands are in a frozen state, those who actually went out to investigate the Great Grasslands would have returned seeing nothing but ice sheets.

I grasped the members of the Ice Wolf Squad.

The guy called Vice Captain was ignoring me while leading guys who looked weaker than Baek Mu-yong.

I thought it worked out well.

I was thinking of emptying the Extreme Yang Qi anyway.

“Would you like to test it?”

Like that, a duel in the middle of the night with the Ice Wolf Squad was established.

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The Vice Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad, Seol Un-cheol, took out his sword.

“Vice Captain?”

“We will handle this place.”

“He is not someone you guys can handle.”

The Ice Wolf Squad is a unit that traverses the North Sea with the Snow Wolves called the wolves of the North Sea.

Seol Un-cheol, who was supervising the training for the new recruits to tame the Snow Wolves, was welcoming the Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom, who intervened in the training.

‘They said he was a scoundrel, but he is extremely arrogant.’

No matter if the Palace Head appointed him to the Small Snow Squad Captain position, to order around Squad Leader Baek who had his Snow Wolf taken away like that.

Still, perhaps because he is from the Demonic Cult.

‘He is strong.’

Seol Un-cheol was also a man who could not guarantee victory.

‘It seems rumors are not entirely just rumors.’

The rumor that he burned the Snow Tiger Squad Captain as soon as he arrived at the Ice Palace seemed not to be just a rumor.

“Draw your sword.”

At the sight of Seol Un-cheol aiming his sword at me, I glanced at the Snow Wolves.

“I heard the Ice Wolf Squad moves together with the Snow Wolves.”

“That is correct.”

“I have a Squad Leader from the Ice Wolf Squad in my platoon as well, so strictly speaking, it means he also moved with a Snow Wolf, right?”

I heard the story of Baek Mu-yong, the Second Squad Leader from the Ice Wolf Squad who was recently assigned to the Small Snow Squad.

“If it is Squad Leader Baek's Snow Wolf, we took it over to the Ice Wolf Squad.”

“Still, it must be a comrade he shared joys and sorrows with for a while, that is too harsh.”

“Since he left the Ice Wolf Squad, parting with the Snow Wolf is a natural thing.”

“Is that so? Then let’s do this. Did you say you were the Vice Captain?”

“I am Seol Un-cheol.”

“If I win in this duel, I would like you to transfer the ownership of the Snow Wolf that Baek Mu-yong used to take around.”

“That is…….”

“What is he saying right now!”

“Vice Captain, you cannot!”

Seol Un-cheol examined Hyeokryeon Yeom’s eyes.

It was not because he coveted the Snow Wolf.

It seemed Hyeokryeon Yeom really wanted to take the Snow Wolf for Squad Leader Baek.

‘I heard he was a scoundrel.’

Seol Un-cheol, who saw Hyeokryeon Yeom in person, could guess that the information he knew and Hyeokryeon Yeom’s appearance were quite different.

‘I think I might understand why Eun Bin was satisfied with being a Vice Captain.’

He heard the story that Eun Bin, who volunteered to escort the Young Palace Head, entered under Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Seol Un-cheol, who knew his usual temperament, realized that that fact alone meant Hyeokryeon Yeom had quite a great existence.

“Are you suggesting a bet?”

“Exactly.”

“Then, if the Small Snow Squad Captain loses in this duel, what can you bet?”

Among the things I can give up right now, something the Vice Captain would be enticed by.

“I will hand over the Small Snow Squad Captain position.”

Flinch.

The Vice Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad, Seol Un-cheol, flashed his eyes.

Small Snow Squad is the unit protecting the Young Palace Head.

Seol Un-cheol knew that the Vice Captain position was the limit in the current Ice Wolf Squad anyway.

If he wins in this duel and takes over the Small Snow Squad Captain position, Seol Un-cheol would also be able to obtain a higher level of power.

“Good.”

He could return about one Snow Wolf of Baek Mu-yong with the Vice Captain’s authority.

“A man’s word-”

“-is worth a thousand gold.”

As soon as my answer ended,

“Hojung!”

-Grrr!

A Snow Wolf with a bigger build than the Snow Wolves I saw a while ago followed Seol Un-cheol.

Shuwak!

At the same time, Seol Un-cheol extended his sword.

I had to mind Seol Un-cheol’s sword while also minding the Snow Wolf Seol Un-cheol called.

Clang!

As soon as I blocked Seol Un-cheol’s sword,

Slash!

Sharp claws aimed at me.

“So this is the Ice Wolf Squad’s combat style.”

Flare!

The Snow Wolf called Hojung could not embed its claws into my body.

It was because flames bloomed from my whole body just before the claws touched the body.

“F-Flames.”

The blooming flames began to melt the surrounding snow.

“Still, you must have grown fond of it in your own way. I cannot let a guy I took in as a subordinate be separated alive from his pet dog.”

Sizzle-

Steam rose and began to block Seol Un-cheol’s vision.

Anyway, the sword was just a decoration for me.

Swoosh-

A fireball blooming from my hand flew towards Seol Un-cheol.

***

The Elder from the Ice Wolf Squad, Baek Seol-pung, was coming out of the Council of Elders and heading to the Ice Wolf Squad’s quarters.

It was to convey the plan to pressure the Small Snow Squad using the Snow Tiger Squad and Ice Wolf Squad to the Ice Wolf Squad Captain.

Boom!

However, an explosion sound burst out from the training ground.

‘Are they taming the Snow Wolves?’

Training new recruits of the Ice Wolf Squad to tame Snow Wolves at dawn was a long-standing tradition Baek Seol-pung created.

Therefore, he could roughly guess that there were people training at the training ground at this time.

“It shouldn’t be this noisy though?”

It is a time when everyone else is sleeping.

It was clear that the members of the Ice Wolf Squad, for whom stealth is essential, caused an accident.

Even if postponing meeting the Ice Wolf Squad Captain to next time, since he had to prevent the Snow Wolves, the Ice Palace’s military power, from becoming a problem,

Baek Seol-pung headed to the training ground.

And there,

“Cough-”

-Whimper.

He could discover the Vice Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad, Seol Un-cheol, who had become a bloody mess along with the Snow Wolf.

“It was impressive. If the opponent wasn't me, it was a tactic that would have had enough of a chance of victory. However, it seems the duel is my victory.”

A man wrapping his whole body in flames, holding a sword to Seol Un-cheol’s neck, came into view.

“Gal! What are you doing!”

Upon seeing that appearance, Baek Seol-pung forgot the purpose of visiting the Ice Wolf Squad and swung his sword abruptly.

Clang- Clang clang clang!

‘What?’

The man whom he thought he could naturally suppress with one exchange reacted to Baek Seol-pung’s sword.

The flames surrounding him accepted Baek Seol-pung’s sword and retreated.

“...Who are you?”

Not only did he accept the sword, but the man was also leisurely asking about Baek Seol-pung’s identity.

Only then could Baek Seol-pung recognize who the opponent was.

“Hyeokryeon Yeom?”

“Elder Baek!”

The voices of the Ice Wolf Squad members who were unable to do this or that behind the Vice Captain were heard welcoming Baek Seol-pung.

“How did this happen?”

“T-That is…….”

“We had a duel, and I won just now.”

“What?”

A duel in the middle of the night like this?

It even seems the Ice Wolf Squad Vice Captain lost.

He heard the story that Hyeokryeon Yeom made Eun Bin of the Small Snow Squad submit and swept away the horse bandits with the Young Palace Head.

But Baek Seol-pung had dismissed it as a rumor.

Because he thought the horse bandits of the Great Grasslands were not guys to be beaten by just one person.

However,

‘Did this guy really sweep away the horse bandits?’

That leisurely atmosphere seemed to have a possibility.

“For what matter are you here at this time, Elder?”

“…I was passing by.”

“It seems you had business with the Ice Wolf Squad?”

‘What kind of eyes…….’

He is clearly a guy much younger, but those eyes were deep enough that he could not even guess.

“…If the duel is over, I think it would be good to retreat from here.”

“I haven’t heard a definite answer yet.”

“What?”

“We made a bet. To grant what the winner of the duel demands.”

At those words, Baek Seol-pung raised his eyebrows.

A betting duel.

“Un-cheol-”

“S-Sorry.”

“...So what is the demand?”

“I would like you to return the Snow Wolf that Squad Leader Baek Mu-yong used to take around.”

Although he withdrew from the front lines, the news that Baek Mu-yong, who was an Ice Wolf Squad Leader, was drafted to the Small Snow Squad was a matter Baek Seol-pung also knew.

“That cannot be done.”

A person who is not of the Ice Wolf Squad must not take a Snow Wolf around.

The matter Hyeokryeon Yeom is demanding now was a story shaking the foundation of the Ice Wolf Squad.

“Why is that? The Snow Wolf Squad Leader Baek took around is a Snow Wolf that shared joys and sorrows with Squad Leader Baek anyway, isn’t it?”

“Because Baek Mu-yong is no longer in the Ice Wolf Squad.”

“Wasn’t it sufficiently possible with the authority of the Captain or Vice Captain?”

“That is.....”

He had to speak well here.

If he says there is no such authority, the Vice Captain, Seol Un-cheol, who lost in the duel, becomes a liar.

However, if he even has the Snow Wolf taken away by the guy in a situation where it is obvious he already lost, it was clear that the face of the Ice Wolf Squad would fall to the ground.

“Can you return it or not?”

Flames began to bloom from the guy’s whole body again.

‘Extreme Yang Qi.’

Heat he had never felt even once in the North Sea was rising.

Baek Seol-pung, who pondered for a moment, looked back at Seol Un-cheol.

Getting angry in front of him is only a loss. He intended to return Baek Mu-yong's Snow Wolf first, and then talk to the Ice Palace Head about what Hyeokryeon Yeom did.

"Return Baek Mu-yong's Snow Wolf."

"E-Elder."

"I will talk to the Palace Head about this matter."

"S-Sorry."

However, even at Elder Baek Seol-pung's words, Seol Un-cheol was bowing his head.

"What is it?"

"That... In fact, Squad Leader Baek's Snow Wolf was released outside the Ice Palace a while ago."

"What do you mean by that!"

Releasing a Snow Wolf that was tamed with great effort?

"Elder, I didn't want to say this, but we were in a situation where feed to give the Snow Wolves was insufficient."

"What?"

Feed is insufficient.

That meant there was a problem with the Ice Palace's finances.

At the story of the two people, I approached with sparkling eyes.

"Just now, that story. I would like you to tell me in detail."

Chapter 23 : Chapter 23

Chapter 023 : Fist Fight

To send a Snow Wolf out of the Ice Palace because they couldn't feed it.

That meant the Ice Palace's financial state was not good.

Come to think of it.

‘I also heard the story that the Ice Palace Head used various means to save the Young Palace Head.’

It seems I also heard rumors in my previous life that the Ice Palace fell into poverty.

If I, in those days lived like a scoundrel, heard the rumor, it means it was practically an established fact.

It really meant that the North Sea's financial situation was not good.

“You didn't intend to keep the bet from the start, did you?”

At my words, Seol Un-cheol bowed his head deeply.

“Since you chased the Snow Wolf outside, can I understand it as saying the Snow Wolf Baek Mu-yong took around has no owner?”

Elder Baek Seol-pung reluctantly nodded at my question.

“Thank you for the confirmation.”

I took a clasped hands greeting to Elder Baek Seol-pung and turned back without lingering attachment.

Situation analysis is over.

While returning to the quarters, I asked the two ghosts.

“Sword Venerable sir, Demon Queen ma'am. Do you happen to have any money stashed away in the old days?”

At my words, the Snow Wind Sword Venerable and Cold Snow Demon Queen, who were revered as the Martial Gods of the North Sea, looked at each other.

-Ahem.....

A feeling that they were somewhat pricked.

-Master, it seems you had an inheritance you didn't leave to me.

-What about you, do you not have hidden assets? Seeing that the Ice Palace seems very troubled, try taking out something.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen started to bicker with each other.

“So are you saying there is, or there isn't?”

-There is... something stashed away.

The Demon Queen declared giving up first.

“Can you tell me?”

-I can only give it if I tell you. But whether it still remains is unknown, you see.

Indeed, since two hundred years have passed, the probability that whatever was hidden still remains was low.

“If you just tell me the location for now, finding it, I will search for it diligently.”

-Then let’s go together tomorrow.

It was too late today.

Returning to the quarters, I lay on the bed and closed my eyes, thinking that a day in the North Sea is truly long.

Next day.

“Are you up, Young Master!!”

Wi Ji-yeong shouted loudly.

“What is it from this morning?”

“Warrior Baek said he heard the story about yesterday.”

“If it's the story about yesterday.....”

“Hearing the story that the Snow Wolf that was with Warrior Baek went outside the Ice Palace, they say he went out to find the Snow Wolf!”

“What?”

I intended not to tell Baek Mu-yong on purpose.

‘Looking at it calmly, it is strange.’

Thinking about it, it is so.

It hasn’t been a few days since Baek Mu-yong’s assignment changed from the Ice Wolf Squad to the Small Snow Squad.

‘Judging by the attitude Elder Baek showed yesterday…….’

A tamed Snow Wolf must be a particularly precious resource even within the Ice Palace.

To send such a resource outside immediately just because there is no feed money is hard to accept.

‘If it is a precious resource, they could hunt wild animals to feed it…….’

Then the conclusion leads to one thing.

‘This is clearly someone's scheme.’

Having reached a conclusion, I nodded.

“Where are the Vice Captain and Tae Un-seo?”

“Tae Un-seo is preparing breakfast to give to you, Young Master!”

“Tell him to stop that immediately and call everyone.”

Outside the Ice Palace surrounded by citadel walls, a harsh snowy field spreads out.

If someone is targeting Baek Mu-yong in a situation where he went out of the Ice Palace alone, it is clearly dangerous.

A while later.

“Did you call?”

I joined Eun Bin and Tae Un-seo.

“I could not serve breakfast.”

“It’s fine.”

Rather, it is fortunate.

“For what matter did you call?”

“Baek Mu-yong went outside the Ice Palace.”

“Alone… you mean?”

“Is it a matter to call like this just because Squad Leader Baek went outside the Ice Palace, he isn't a child?”

I told the two people what happened with the Ice Wolf Squad yesterday.

“...If it is like that, we certainly need to chase after him.”

Eun Bin’s narrow eyes opened slightly.

It seems Eun Bin also recognized the seriousness of the situation.

“Let’s depart quickly.”

I nodded and began to unfold my movement arts.

Wi Ji-yeong, Eun Bin, and Tae Un-seo began to chase after me frantically.

***

At that time.

Baek Mu-yong was moving to find the Snow Wolf, White Night, whom he had shared joys and sorrows with.

‘Who is it?’

The fact that the Ice Palace's financial situation is not good was something Baek Mu-yong already knew.

He also accepted without a word that he would be separated from White Night as a member of the Ice Wolf Squad due to the Small Snow Squad assignment.

Because he thought White Night, who grew up with him, would be able to do well even alone.

However, he didn't know someone would chase White Night outside the Ice Palace.

If he hadn't received the letter someone sent this morning, finding out would have been delayed.

“Outside the Ice Palace is dangerous.”

Even if it is a Snow Wolf called the wolf of the snowy field.

If it meets a white bear, it can only be helpless.

Since it trained with martial artists of the Ice Wolf Squad in the Ice Wolf Squad, White Night would also have no big problem living in the wild, but.

‘Dare to send White Night out without even asking my intention?’

From Baek Mu-yong’s position, it was utterly hard to accept.

White Night must be waiting for Baek Mu-yong somewhere clearly.

‘I am sorry to the Captain, but.’

To Baek Mu-yong, White Night was more important than the Captain whom he hadn't met long ago.

“Where are you, where are you?”

Searching is the Ice Wolf Squad's specialty.

With a Snow Wolf, that efficiency increases madly, but even without a Snow Wolf, basically Baek Mu-yong was a master of searching.

“Found it.”

Ice Palace east direction.

Traces of White Night were found in a place where snowy mountains rose sparsely.

Since it seems they chased White Night out while he went to the Demonic Cult, it must have entered the snowy mountain because it was hungry.

The problem is the fact that Snow Mountain White Bears exist in the snowy mountains.

An apex predator that can crush without budging even if multiple Snow Wolves are traveling in a pack attack.

“Please, just be safe.”

Even if he had to fight the Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad, Baek Mu-yong intended to take White Night around.

The more he climbed the snowy mountain, the more Baek Mu-yong’s expression hardened.

“Bloodstains?”

Red fresh blood scattered over the snowy field entered Baek Mu-yong’s view.

It is clear there was a battle.

Examining the traces, fortunately, traces of a white bear did not exist.

It was the moment judgment was made that at least White Night would be alive.

However, something more unpleasant than that entered his eyes.

A collar symbolizing the Ice Palace's Snow Wolf has fallen.

‘It is not White Night’s. That means…….’

Baek Mu-yong, who confirmed the battle traces placed in front of his eyes, noticed that these traces were battle traces of the Ice Wolf Squad where he belonged for a long time.

Precisely,

‘The driving hunting method of beasts.’

Grind-

Baek Mu-yong ground his teeth.

“…I will kill them.”

The reason there are many who are jealous of Baek Mu-yong, who was merely a Squad Leader of the Ice Wolf Squad, is one.

‘A mere illegitimate son.’

Just like the Five Great Demon Clans of the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult, the North Sea Ice Palace also has five clans including the current Palace Head’s clan, the North Wind Seol Clan, as the lead.

Each clan is divided by internal armed groups like other sects.

This means each force has a hierarchy centered on the bloodlines of the five clans.

Among them, the power of the Elders belonging to the Ice Palace Council of Elders, the Ice Council, was as mighty as the Clan Head of each clan.

Baek Seol-pung of the Ice Wolf Baek Clan.

He had a son he cherished whom he had early, and that son brought a child from the Outer Regions, not the North Sea, one day.

That was Baek Mu-yong, Baek Seol-pung's unrecognized grandson and an illegitimate son mixed with blood not from the North Sea.

Therefore, Baek Mu-yong could understand Hyeokryeon Yeom's situation better than anyone.

People envy what they do not have.

Although an illegitimate son, because he was from the Baek Clan, Baek Mu-yong could be assigned to the Ice Wolf Squad.

He had to endure all of others' envy and jealousy.

It didn't matter if they touched Baek Mu-yong himself.

Because he thought it was something he had to bear.

However,

'What sin is it of White Night?'

White Night, who grew up as a pedigreed Snow Wolf, had no fault.

"White Night! Where are you!"

A ringing voice vibrated the snowy mountain.

"....."

But what came back was no sound at all.

"Damn it."

If the guys chasing White Night are still chasing White Night, he had to find White Night quickly.

Rustle-

Just then.

A presence was felt.

The moment he turned his head quickly,

Swoosh!

A sword flew aiming at the back of Baek Mu-yong's neck.

It was too late to dodge.

Boom!

Because it was difficult for Baek Mu-yong, who deploys the profundity of a heavy sword rather than a fast sword, to react.

Rather, he put the weight of the heavy sword and concentrated the cold energy.

Crack-!

The emitted energy began to freeze the sword.

"Sword Control with Qi?"

A voice he had heard and a familiar sword strike.

Baek Mu-yong could predict immediately who swung the sword.

"...Was White Night bait?"

"I intended to kill that damned wolf guy too, but for a wolf, it was trickier than I thought."

Thud thud.

The one who ambushed Baek Mu-yong was a person Baek Mu-yong knew well.

"Captain. As expected, it was you."

Ice Wolf Squad Captain, Seol Jin-ho.

One of the people who extremely hates Baek Mu-yong.

He is one of the few power holders who can chase White Night out.

"What on earth is the reason for doing this so far?"

"You bastard... don't know."

Seol Jin-ho was trembling all over his body from the moment he saw Baek Mu-yong.

"Do you know how happy I was when you bastard was assigned to the Small Snow Squad? The fact that I could finally walk a different path from you was insanely enjoyable to me."

Baek Mu-yong and Seol Jin-ho have been acquaintances since childhood.

A branch family member of the Seol Clan who finds fault with Baek Mu-yong at every turn.

Unlike the direct line including Ice Palace Head Seol Baek-ho, the branch family could be said to be in the same situation as Baek Mu-yong in a way, but.

The problem was that Baek Mu-yong was of Baek Seol-pung's bloodline.

Baek Seol-pung was an Elder from the Ice Wolf Squad and he interfered in the Ice Wolf Squad's affairs at every turn.

'I have endured everything until now, but.'

This situation, clearly, crossed the line.

"Where is White Night, Captain."

"Your bastard appearance still treating me as Captain is truly detestable."

"I am no longer affiliated with the Ice Wolf Squad."

"Right. Then shouldn't you not care whatever happens to White Night? Since a guy who isn't even an Ice Wolf Squad member cannot take a Snow Wolf around."

Every word is correct.

However,

"White Night has no fault, does he?"

"Existence itself is a fault."

At that one word, Baek Mu-yong's reason snapped.

"If other Snow Wolves also think like that....."

Schwing.

Baek Mu-yong aimed his sword towards Seol Jin-ho.

"I will no longer acknowledge you as the Ice Wolf Squad Captain."

"I was also just thinking it was a waste to leave you as a Squad Leader. Let's see the end here."

If he was going to kill Baek Mu-yong, he should have certainly finished it during the ambush just now.

The moment Baek Mu-yong's sword wrapped in blue sword qi was about to make the surrounding air heavy.

Flare-

Flames soar.

As Baek Mu-yong turned his head at the familiar warmth,

"...Captain?"

"Small Snow Squad Captain?"

The live-in son-in-law who came from the Demonic Cult.

Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom, revealed himself along with Wi Ji-yeong, Eun Bin, and Tae Un-seo.

***

It didn't take a long time to find Baek Mu-yong.

"Amazing, he was really here."

"I received information a while ago that wolf howling sounds were heard from the east of the Ice Palace. Wolf howling sounds must be a Snow Wolf clearly."

I don't know how he acquired it, but Eun Bin was acquiring quite a lot of information.

Synthesizing this information, pinpointing the location where Baek Mu-yong would have moved was not a difficult task for him.

-It is Ice Wolf Squad Captain, Seol Jin-ho. He has usually considered Squad Leader Baek as a nuisance.

Eun Bin knew everything.

"What business do you have with the Squad Leader of the Small Snow Squad, Ice Wolf Squad Captain?"

Hyeokryeon Yeom and Seol Jin-ho are positions of the same rank.

If it was usual, he wouldn't have spoken informally at the first meeting, but.

‘Looking at the current situation, anyone can see the relationship doesn't look good.’

There was a need to seize the momentum.

“Hmm, I didn't think the Small Snow Squad Captain would move this fast.”

Seol Jin-ho was examining me.

I felt a sense of incongruity at that appearance.

‘Alone?’

Even if it is to ambush Baek Mu-yong, moving alone was strange.

‘Are the members of the Ice Wolf Squad chasing Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf?’

Ah.

Come to think of it, I realized the strangest point.

It is known that members of the Ice Wolf Squad mostly move with Snow Wolves.

Naturally, Captain Seol Jin-ho would also take a Snow Wolf around.

But right now, no Snow Wolf was seen near Seol Jin-ho.

In other words, “Ji-yeong, Tae Un-seo. Find the Snow Wolves roaming nearby. The probability is high that they are chasing Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf.”

“Yes! I understand!”

“I will chase immediately.”

Wi Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo started to move.

Seol Jin-ho just watched the appearance of the two leaving.

“You are not blocking them?”

“Because there is no reason to block.”

Seol Jin-ho was alone, but he was taking an attitude that he had nothing to be inferior about.

“Is Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf not important, but being able to kill Baek Mu-yong here is more important?”

“You are quick-witted.”

“Even though Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo left. You should know that you are behind in numbers?”

“A person who says he will become the Ice Palace’s live-in son-in-law wouldn't do a joint attack, right?”

At Seol Jin-ho’s words, I stroked my chin and thought.

‘This bastard, he still doesn't know me properly.’

Just then.

“Captain, I am sorry.”

Baek Mu-yong offered an apology.

“What is there to be sorry about? You just ran out to find family.”

To Baek Mu-yong, the Snow Wolf must have been like family.

Therefore,

“Touching family means crossing the line.”

While looking at Seol Jin-ho, I asked Eun Bin.

“Vice Captain, is that guy a guy whom it doesn't matter even if I beat him up a bit?”

“Fist fights between Captains are a common occurrence in the Ice Palace.”

At Eun Bin’s answer, the corners of my mouth curled up.

Chapter 24 : Chapter 24

Chapter 024 : Lucky Charm

I stared at the Ice Wolf Squad Captain, Seol Jin-ho.

Seol Jin-ho looked similar in martial prowess to Baek Mu-yong, who was the Second Squad Leader of the Ice Wolf Squad, to be called a Captain.

“Baek Mu-yong. You go too.”

“Yes?”

“There is no need for three people to be here. Go quickly and find your family and bring them.”

Although I sent Tae Un-seo and Wi Ji-yeong, chasing a Snow Wolf would be a bit more of Baek Mu-yong's specialty.

“You must not kill him.”

Baek Mu-yong seemed to be worried about Seol Jin-ho, not me.

At that appearance, Seol Jin-ho looked back at Baek Mu-yong as if it was absurd.

Baek Mu-yong started running without looking back.

“Everyone is gone.”

“Is that so?”

Eun Bin slowly retreated back.

Since he had already suffered from my flames once, Eun Bin knew too well.

Flare-

The Hyeokryeon Yeom whose flames soared was scary.

“I will make you pay dearly for touching your family.”

Flame Butterfly.

At the appearance of fluttering butterflies flying in, Seol Jin-ho flinched.

Tak.

Flare!

At the appearance of butterflies wrapped in flames that burn everything they touch, Seol Jin-ho swung his sword.

However.

“Kugh.”

Seol Jin-ho had never unfolded a sword that cuts flames.

“Ice Wolf Sword - First Form.”

Snow Wolf Roar.

Roar!

A roar was heard from behind.

“Great Snow Wolf, swallow him!”

Seol Jin-ho’s Snow Wolf, which I thought would be moving to chase Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf.

A massive Snow Wolf was rushing at me while roaring.

Clang clang clang!

The Snow Wolf’s teeth began to bite the sword.

“I didn't intend to beat up even a wolf.”

“Then I will handle this side.”

Eun Bin intruded into the battle.

Rather than being worried about me.

It seemed he intended to create a situation where I and Seol Jin-ho could fight one-on-one entirely.

“What to do? The Vice Captain says he will deal with your Snow Wolf instead.”

“Tch.”

Seol Jin-ho smacked his lips as if it was regrettable and raised his sword.

In a situation where he knows my specialty is flames, Seol Jin-ho seemed to think he could sufficiently achieve victory in this duel if he just dodged the flames.

-Kukuku, it seems there are still many who do not know.

Seeing Seol Jin-ho’s starting stance, the Sword Venerable laughed in vain.

-It seems so, tsk tsk.

The Demon Queen also clicked her tongue.

Why?

‘Because there would be no one who thinks I learned the Snow Wind Sword Technique, which is practically the origin of the Ice Palace’s martial arts.’

The name of the sword Seol Jin-ho took the starting stance for is Ice Wolf Sword.

And Ice Wolf Sword was a martial art derived from the Snow Wind Sword Technique.

Naturally.

‘If he takes that starting stance, I can roughly guess, if not know all, what technique will be manifested, that is what I mean.’

In other words, a situation where I recognize the technique of Seol Jin-ho will unfold just by looking at the starting stance.

Knowing beforehand what technique the opponent will unfold means.

‘It means I am in an incredibly advantageous situation.’

Flare-

My sword began to burn again.

“Stop with the trickery!”

Ta-dat-

Sword qi soared from the sword of Seol Jin-ho who rushed in.

“Even without being with an Ice Wolf, I am sufficiently strong!”

Who said the martial artists of the North Sea Ice Palace are fools who only believe in strength ignorantly.

Seeing the Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin or the Palace Head Seol Baek-ho, I had never thought that even once.

Seeing Seol Jin-ho, I felt like I knew why.

“Fire Art Sword, Flame Wind-”

The moment the wind of flames covered Seol Jin-ho.

‘It is a sword derived from the Snow Wind’s fifth technique, Snow Wind Consecutive Dance.’

“Ice Wolf Sword - Fifth Form.”

Ice Wolf Consecutive Dance.

I knew it would be like that.

I recognized it immediately because he was taking a starting stance similar to the Snow Wind Sword Fifth Form, Snow Wind Consecutive Dance.

Therefore.

“What?”

I unfolded a sword form tailored to the countermeasure.

“Consecutive Dance.”

Boom boom boom boom!

As all sword forms were countered, Seol Jin-ho spewed blood from his whole body.

Kyaoook!

Upon discovering Seol Jin-ho spewing blood.

The Snow Wolf that was dealing with Eun Bin rushed towards me.

“...Did you kill him?”

“No way.”

The story that the Small Snow Squad Captain killed the Ice Wolf Squad Captain spreading in the Ice Palace is not good for the current situation.

“This much is sufficient for now.”

Looking at the Great Snow Wolf that stepped forward to protect the fallen Seol Jin-ho, I asked.

“If you tell me where Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf is, I will spare your master.”

Growl-

As if understanding my words, the Great Snow Wolf put Seol Jin-ho on its back and began to move.

Since blood continued to flow, I didn't forget to stop the bleeding through acupoint sealing.

Moving along Seol Jin-ho’s Snow Wolf like that,

“Huff huff.”

We could discover the bloodied Baek Mu-yong and the Snow Wolf on the mountain ridge.

Baek Mu-yong looked exhausted as if he had been in a fierce battle.

-Grrr.

“That guy must be Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf.”

A pure white wolf revealing its teeth in front of Baek Mu-yong.

It seemed to be the Snow Wolf that had been with Baek Mu-yong.

In front of the Snow Wolf, other fallen Snow Wolves and men in black were confronting them.

It seems Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf is stronger than other Snow Wolves.

“……Captain?”

“You confess yourself that you are an Ice Wolf Squad member.”

Those who discovered the Great Snow Wolf carrying Seol Jin-ho called Seol Jin-ho without realizing it.

Thinking that the martial artists of the North Sea are indeed stupid, I examined the Snow Wolf.

“I am Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom. If you want to save Seol Jin-ho, it would be better to retreat now.”

I aimed my sword towards Seol Jin-ho who was carried on the Great Snow Wolf’s back.

“What will you do?”

The men in black seemed to ponder for a moment, then threw off their masks and prostrated themselves.

“We apologize. Please spare the Captain at least.”

They made a very good choice.

If they had rushed in to save Seol Jin-ho, I intended to kill them.

“Since it would have ended up like this anyway.”

Seeing Baek Mu-yong and the Snow Wolf relying on each other, I spoke to the prostrated men in black.

“Stand up.”

Since they were guys who tried to kill Baek Mu-yong at first, I intended to light a fire like I did to Eun Bin.

But I soon remembered the fact that subordinates only move as instructed.

‘The mages the Magic Tower Master used also had no sin.’

They just moved as ordered.

-Kukuku, well done. Sometimes you must know how to bestow mercy.

-What are you saying, Master? You have to teach guys like that a lesson!

Listening to the conversation of the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, I signaled to the Great Snow Wolf with my eyes.

“Take him.”

-Grrr.

The Great Snow Wolf began to move, taking Seol Jin-ho.

The Ice Wolf Squad also glanced at me and started to move.

Looking at the receding Ice Wolf Squad, I turned back.

“Is this friend the Snow Wolf that has been with you during the Ice Wolf Squad days?”

“Yes, he is called White Night.”

“It is a name that suits well.”

“Thank you.”

“Ahhh, Young Master! You should have asked if his body is okay first!”

Wi Ji-yeong, whom I sent with Tae Un-seo to find Baek Mu-yong’s Snow Wolf, seemed to have arrived later than us.

Wi Ji-yeong, who ran hurriedly, began to examine Baek Mu-yong’s whole body.

The appearance of treating wounds was very natural.

‘Indeed, when I came back beaten up every day, Ji-yeong treated me.’

The days I lived like a scoundrel.

There were days I lived with wounds.

From then on, Wi Ji-yeong had treated me.

“I will boil a soup that can warm the body.”

Seeing Tae Un-seo taking out cooking tools, I made a serious expression.

“Let’s treat quickly and go back. It is a situation where there is a lot to do anyway.”

“I apologize.”

I shook my head.

“It is a matter of a Small Snow Squad member, naturally we should do it. Isn't that right, Vice Captain?”

“I will acknowledge this case.”

Eun Bin also seemed to relax his expressionless face while looking at the Snow Wolf, White Night, and licking Baek Mu-yong.

I, who was watching the appearance of such Small Snow Squad members, stopped moving.

Zing- Zing-

Because Extreme Yin Qi was surging from somewhere.

“This is.....”

It is an energy I felt not long ago.

As I turned my head to find the source.

-Ah, you noticed now?

I saw the Demon Queen digging the ground at a slightly distant place.

‘Surely…….’

-Uh, coincidentally, it seems this is that place.

-Kukuku, seeing that the Extreme Yin Qi from two hundred years ago still remains, the probability is high that what the disciple guy stashed away remains.

I approached the source of the energy.

***

Cold Snow Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong, reminisced about the past.

Two hundred years ago.

Cold Snow Demon Queen Jang So-ryeong was actually not on the direct line of the Ice Palace.

It was just that her master, Baek Un-han, was treated close to the Young Palace Head of the Ice Palace thanks to being revered as the Martial God of the North Sea of that time.

Since the situation was like this, naturally there were many who approached the Demon Queen.

Naturally, bribes accompanied them.

Usually, one would tend not to accept such bribes considering the master's honor.

The Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong, received and took all bribes that were bribes.

Of course, if this fact entered Baek Un-han’s ears, it was obvious she would be scolded, so she had to hide the received bribes.

Deciding to bury them in a place neither near nor far.

-I buried them here and laid a formation.

‘Were you knowledgeable in formations too?’

-Not just anyone can become a Martial God.

“Third Young Master, is something here?”

As I was only looking into the ground, Wi Ji-yeong approached.

Looking at the approaching Wi Ji-yeong, I looked behind.

“You guys should go back first.”

“Yes?”

“I think I have a place to stop by for a moment.”

At my words that there is a place to stop by, Wi Ji-yeong turned her head sharply.

“Come now, Vice Captain, Warrior Baek! Chef Tae! Let’s go back!”

“……? What about the Captain?”

“He says he is busy!”

Watching Wi Ji-yeong quick-wittedly taking the Small Snow Squad members and returning, I checked the hole Jang So-ryeong dug.

It was to the extent that it was unbelievable that no one noticed for two hundred years.

“Is this really the right place?”

-Kukuku, it seems you lived only being deceived.

-Come out.

Wooong-

As Jang So-ryeong injected Extreme Yin Qi.

The formation began to open.

It was not a general hole.

Whoosh!

“It is not as deep as I thought?”

Inside the hole was full of black jars.

I thought dust would have piled up enormously, but perhaps because it was buried in the severe cold of the North Sea, it was just frozen hard.

It didn't seem particularly damaged.

“Can I have this?”

The energy of gold felt from inside.

Jang So-ryeong’s legacy seemed likely to be used very usefully later.

-Since I became a body like this, I have no place to use it, and can you make just one promise instead?

“Please speak.”

I listened to the story of the Cold Snow Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong.

“...You mean find your descendants?”

Nod nod.

-I have no intention to argue about my death. However, if descendants carrying my blood are alive, I want to meet them by all means.

“I will try my best.”

It is a request of the Martial Gods who are of great help to me.

I wanted to grant it, and I also became curious about the Martial God’s descendants.

-Thank you.

“Then I will use this well.”

I took out one jar inside the hole and opened it.

Flash!

An immense golden flash paralyzed my eyes.

***

Knock knock knock.

“General Manager.”

North Sea Ice Palace, General Manager's Office.

Someone knocked on the door of the General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, who was suffering from headaches due to the Ice Palace's financial problems.

"Who is it?"

"I am called Baek Mu-yong of the Small Snow Squad."

"Squad Leader Baek? Come in."

While Seol Su-hyeok was having doubts at Baek Mu-yong's sudden visit.

Baek Mu-yong entered the General Manager's Office.

"What is the matter?"

"Receiving the Captain's order, I came to deliver this to the General Manager."

Baek Mu-yong put down the jar he was holding in front of Seol Su-hyeok.

"This is?"

"Captain Hyeokryeon Yeom said that with this, we will be able to endure for about this year."

"What does that……."

Seol Su-hyeok opened the lid of the jar Baek Mu-yong put down.

"Hahahaha."

It felt like the old indigestion that was piled up until just now was washed away.

"Then, I will take my leave."

"Thank you, please convey that I am definitely thankful!"

"Yes, General Manager."

To Baek Mu-yong's ears who came out of the General Manager's Office.

"Lucky charm, a lucky charm has rolled in by the vine!!"

The laughter of General Manager Seol Su-hyeok burst out piercing the door.

Baek Mu-yong had lived in the Ice Palace for decades, but it was the first time seeing Seol Su-hyeok liking something like that.

Indeed.

‘It is the first for me too.’

That he sincerely wanted to follow someone’s order.

Hyeokryeon Yeom was melting the frozen North Sea.

Chapter 25 : Chapter 25

Chapter 25 : Treasure

“...Hyeokryeon Yeom helped with the finances?”

At the General Manager’s report, the Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho’s brow twitched.

“What money does that guy have?”

“I should have asked that.”

The jar itself also looked very old.

“Anyway, thanks to it, we can breathe a sigh of relief.”

“We owe him.”

“Yes.”

“Is there a way to repay?”

“We will probably have to trade. Still, thanks to Young Master Hyeokryeon sweeping away the horse bandits in the south, it seems we will be able to open a trade route to the Central Plains.”

“Can we finally sell Cold Iron to the Central Plains?”

“Even if we can send it over just once, we will be able to make a profit.”

The Cold Iron coming from the Ice Palace was often used by martial artists of the Central Plains to make swords.

Swords made of Cold Iron, which do not break easily and are sturdy, were popular among martial artists and expensive.

Until now, they couldn't think of sending Cold Iron to the Central Plains in large quantities due to the horse bandits, but the situation has changed.

The problem was that trading companies from the Central Plains couldn't come over to the Ice Palace because of the horse bandits.

“Since the horse bandits are swept away, the trade route is open. How about contacting a trading company and telling them to come get the Cold Iron?”

“Just in case, entrust the escort for the trading company?”

“Would there be anyone other than the Ice Wolf Squad or Snow Tiger Squad to carry out the escort mission?”

The two people met each other's eyes.

There was.

Someone to trust and entrust it to.

“Wouldn't the Young Palace Head try to follow?”

“She would just be escorting the Merchant Guild Leader. It wouldn't be bad for Ye-rin to experience outside the Ice Palace with this opportunity.”

Just because he cherishes his daughter doesn't mean he wants to overprotect her.

It was just that he was worried she might die young due to the unique constitution called Extreme Yin Body, but now that the possibility of recovery has arisen through Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Seol Baek-ho hoped Seol Ye-rin would experience as much as possible.

“Sweeping away horse bandits, financial help, and if he even sells off the Cold Iron and comes back, the Heavenly Demon would feel like he lost a precious son.”

“It is strange as his appearance is completely different from the rumors.”

A thought that suddenly occurred.

Would the Heavenly Demon really have not known this fact?

He proposed a political marriage for the purpose of a blood alliance, but looking closely, Hyeokryeon Yeom was practically a hostage.

At first, he didn't even intend to give Seol Ye-rin.

However, looking at the moves Hyeokryeon Yeom is showing.

‘He is worthy to be made a live-in son-in-law.’

Even if he is said to be the youngest among the Heavenly Demon’s children.

In the end, he is a child carrying the Heavenly Demon’s blood.

Even if he failed to become the Young Cult Leader.

‘Rather, it is a good situation.’

Because it was safe to see him as a talent who could make the Ice Palace great again.

“What is Hyeokryeon Yeom doing now?”

“Yesterday, there was friction between the Ice Wolf Squad Captain and the Small Snow Squad Captain.”

“Friction? Because of what?”

“It seems to be a matter of Small Snow Squad’s Squad Leader Baek, but for now, he said he would report after the Small Snow Squad Captain resolves the friction according to the rules.”

“To even fight with the Ice Wolf Squad Captain, he will become quite a famous figure.”

“The Small Snow Squad Captain has already become a famous figure within the Palace from the time he saved the Young Palace Head.”

The current Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, has only one daughter.

Furthermore, as the story circulated that the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, might die young due to her unique constitution.

He heard that those aiming for the position of the next master of the Ice Palace appeared in the dark.

Representatively, the Council of Elders was giving such a feeling a lot.

It feels like everyone is waiting for Seol Baek-ho to step down and Seol Ye-rin to die.

‘Since Ye-rin recovered, the situation has changed.’

Although he designated Hyeokryeon Yeom as a live-in son-in-law.

He didn't know if there might be sons of Elders moving to win Seol Ye-rin’s favor to become the Ice Palace Head.

“General Manager, grasp well if there are guys approaching Ye-rin.”

“Yes, I understand.”

Ice Palace’s Head, Seol Baek-ho, was not even thinking about the next Ice Palace Head yet.

Live-in son-in-law?

Of course, he brought Hyeokryeon Yeom under the pretext of a blood alliance, but in truth, Seol Baek-ho was thinking that Seol Ye-rin’s intention was the most important.

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Ice Palace’s Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, woke up from a sound sleep after practicing the Cold Snow Secret Realm of the Cold Snow Demon Queen.

Asking the maid, she said she had been asleep for six double-hours.

“To fall asleep for six double-hours.”

It must be because I completely consumed the Extreme Yin Qi.

“Emptying is important, I see.”

When was the last time I slept soundly like this?

A feeling that the skin became moist.

“The Third Young Master is.....”

Since I slept for six double-hours, when I opened my eyes, the sun was hanging in the middle of the sky.

“I know he is at the Ice Wolf Squad training ground right now.”

“Ice Wolf Squad training ground? For what matter?”

“While the Young Palace Head was sleeping, they say Young Master Hyeokryeon Yeom had friction with the Ice Wolf Squad.”

“What?”

It seemed I had to move immediately.

He is really a man who goes around causing many incidents and accidents.

Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin, having dismissed the maid, moved her steps to the Ice Wolf Squad’s training ground.

A while later, Seol Ye-rin, arriving at the Ice Wolf Squad’s training ground, could witness a strange spectacle.

Whine- Whine-

Numerous Snow Wolves were whining in front of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“What... are you doing right now?”

“Heok! Young Palace Head!”

As I asked one of the Ice Wolf Squad members who were controlling the Snow Wolves surrounding Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Startled exclamations burst out.

“Miss Seol?”

At the sudden appearance of the Young Palace Head, Hyeokryeon Yeom looked back at Seol Ye-rin.

Thud thud.

As Seol Ye-rin took steps slowly,

Crack-

The ground began to freeze.

“Hiek!”

The Ice Wolf Squad members who discovered that appearance retreated.

“Are you okay?”

“Yes, more than that, the story you were having wasn't cut off because I entered, right?”

Nod.

As Seol Ye-rin seemed curious about what Hyeokryeon Yeom was doing.

“Currently, we were choosing a Snow Wolf for the Small Snow Squad Captain to take around.”

Eun Bin answered for him.

“Isn't the Snow Wolf something only the Ice Wolf Squad can take around?”

“That is correct. However, since the Ice Wolf Squad Captain and Ice Wolf Squad members did wrong to the Small Snow Squad Captain, they sought forgiveness by handing over a baby Snow Wolf to the Small Snow Squad Captain.”

“Forgiveness?”

As Seol Ye-rin had doubts, Eun Bin began to explain the whole story.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, leaving Seol Ye-rin behind, looked back at Baek Mu-yong.

“Is it okay to end it like this, Squad Leader Baek?”

“Of course. I was also granted the authority to raise a Snow Wolf despite no longer being Ice Wolf Squad, and also Seol Jin-ho was expelled, so it is done.”

Attempting to kill a comrade was an act that could not be forgiven even if he is a branch member of the Seol Clan and the Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad.

-Return White Night to Squad Leader Baek, and we will give the Captain the authority to raise one baby Snow Wolf as well.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, who wanted a stronger punishment saying expulsion only creates grudges, could not achieve his will.

It was because the Vice Captain of the Ice Wolf Squad, Seol Un-cheol, who now became the Ice Wolf Squad Captain, made a request to the two people.

“We have no obligation to grant the Vice Captain’s demand, but.”

“I ask you this. If you need help, whenever it may be, I will move for the Captain.”

It was quite an attractive proposal.

Since there will be a time when he can borrow the Ice Wolf Squad’s power someday.

Hyeokryeon Yeom stared at the Great Snow Wolf who was making a dejected expression in the corner.

“I also ask you something like this.”

Baek Mu-yong seemed to want to give it a chance one more time.

A feeling of wanting to trust a childhood friend one more time.

Hyeokryeon Yeom nodded.

Because this was a matter for Baek Mu-yong to choose rather than Hyeokryeon Yeom.

More than that.

Hyeokryeon Yeom began to examine the baby Snow Wolves.

If he takes a Snow Wolf around, it seems he could completely remove the feeling of being an outsider.

-Whine, whine.

That is also true, but,

-Ho-oh.

-It seems there is one guy who properly inherited the bloodline.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen were admiring seeing one of the baby Snow Wolves.

“How is this guy?”

“That guy is the one who eats the least and has no activity among the babies, so it would be better to choose another guy.”

-Ha, you have to give it food it can eat for it to eat.

-Trying to raise a guy whose bloodline itself is different from other guys the same way, that is the problem.

Elder Baek Seol-pung also seems not to know this Snow Wolf’s identity.

Then.

“I will take this guy.”

I decided to settle the relationship with the Ice Wolf Squad with this for now.

I worried if Seol Jin-ho might pull another trick.

‘There will be no such thing.’

Seol Jin-ho couldn't even meet eyes with Hyeokryeon Yeom.

Reading the room by the Great Snow Wolf’s side was all.

It was doubtful how such a guy became a Captain leading the Ice Wolf Squad.

-Whine.

Hyeokryeon Yeom, holding the guy the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen picked, began to move out of the Ice Wolf Squad training ground along with the Small Snow Squad and Young Palace Head Seol Ye-rin.

“He is a cute guy. What do you intend to name it?”

Sparkle sparkle!

The moment Seol Ye-rin approached towards the baby Snow Wolf,

The Snow Wolf Hyeokryeon Yeom was holding jumped up towards Seol Ye-rin.

Thump.

The Snow Wolf that jumped into Seol Ye-rin’s arms soon,

Whooosh-

Began to suck in Seol Ye-rin’s Extreme Yin Qi.

Only then could Hyeokryeon Yeom notice what the baby Snow Wolf lives on eating.

“From now on, I have to call it Tamya.”

A wolf that covets energy and turns black like the night.

“This child, Yin Qi.....”

“I think it might be helpful to Miss Seol too.”

“...Just what happened while I was sleeping?”

There were quite a lot of things.

Rescuing Baek Mu-yong and White Night, finding the Cold Snow Demon Queen's treasure warehouse and obtaining a treasure chest.

It was enough to help the Ice Palace which had a severe financial crisis and then some.

"Ah, I have something to show you."

Originally, I intended to settle things with the Ice Wolf Squad and go out of the Ice Palace immediately.

But seeing Seol Ye-rin, I wanted to share with her what came out of the Cold Snow Demon Queen's treasure warehouse.

"We will prepare simple refreshments and come!"

Wi Ji-yeong moved to prepare food by taking Tae Un-seo.

Eun Bin and Baek Mu-yong, as if they had no intention to disturb us.

Started to guard the quarters iron-clad from the outside.

In the end, only Seol Ye-rin and Hyeokryeon Yeom, the two remained.

-Whine, whine.

Tamya, perhaps having consumed all of Seol Ye-rin's Yin Qi, showed signs of wanting to come out of Seol Ye-rin's arms.

Hop, hop.

Subsequently, Tamya jumped into Hyeokryeon Yeom's arms.

"Mm?"

Then,

Sizzle-

Smoke began to soar from Tamya's body.

"This guy."

It seemed it was consuming Extreme Yang Qi little by little too.

A feeling like cooling down with something warm because it ate something too cold.

Then gloss began to flow on Tamya's fur which was on the verge of being dried and twisted just before.

At that change, Seol Ye-rin's eyelids began to tremble slightly.

"...Third Young Master, what do you want to show me?"

Seol Ye-rin, with a feeling of barely holding back something, asked Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"It is this."

Hyeokryeon Yeom, having put down Tamya on one side, held out another treasure obtained from the Demon Queen's treasure warehouse to Seol Ye-rin.

Chapter 26 : Chapter 26

Chapter 26 : Ice Crystal

"This is....."

It was an Ice Jade.

Seol Ye-rin flinched upon seeing the pure white sparkling gem.

"Does it hold an energy similar to the Ice Crystal?"

"I was actually going to ask you about that. Miss Seol, you said you lived close to the Ice Crystal, right?"

"That is correct. The Ice Crystal, which is practically the sacred treasure of the Ice Palace, is designated as an item that successive Palace Heads must protect, so Father must be keeping it."

"How did you end up living close to the Ice Crystal?"

"Well, that is because I frequently went to access the Ice Crystal under the pretext of learning Ice Arts."

Thinking that there would be no problem since she had an Extreme Yin Body was a mistake.

Although Seol Ye-rin became stronger the closer she got to the Ice Crystal, she became unable to control her Extreme Yin Qi.

The result.

Her Extreme Yin Qi began to rampage and it is said that she went into seclusion in the Young Palace Head's Hall along with numerous victims.

'From what I heard from the Martial Gods... I heard that the Ice Crystal of the North Sea goes on a rampage every one hundred years.'

If that rampage were to actually happen, it seemed that not only the Ice Palace Head but the Ice Palace itself could be in significant danger.

'If I want to make the Ice Palace my base, I must first prevent the Ice Palace from falling to ruin.'

After wiping out the horse bandits and solving the financial difficulties, the problem regarding the Ice Crystal remained.

'If possible, I think I need to quickly find the legacies of the other two Martial Gods as well.'

No matter if I had an Extreme Yang Body, it was still unknown whether I could control the Extreme Yin Qi that the Ice Crystal itself possessed.

'I should meet the Ice Palace Head.'

Although I had gained the authority to visit anywhere in the Ice Palace last time.

I felt I had to ask if that included the place where the Ice Crystal was located.

"By the way, where do you intend to use this Ice Jade?"

The Ice Jade that the Demon Queen had stockpiled was a gem harboring Extreme Yin Qi.

The ways to utilize that were endless.

"I could sell it, I could use it, I intend to utilize it in various ways."

"Would it be alright if I took just one?"

"What do you intend to use it for?"

"I intend to use it to pour Extreme Yin Qi into it."

At Seol Ye-rin's words, I looked at Seol Ye-rin.

Come to think of it, after experiencing emptying once, Seol Ye-rin's Extreme Yin Qi seemed a bit stable.

-It certainly seems more stable than the last time.

The Cold Snow Demon Queen, Jang So-ryeong, was making a satisfied expression.

-Certainly, if she intends to go through the process of consuming Extreme Yin Qi every day, pushing the Extreme Yin Qi to the limit into an Ice Jade like this could also be a method.

Since the Demon Queen said it was a preferred method, I nodded my head.

"I didn't know I would end up delivering a gift in this manner."

When I held out the brilliant Ice Jade contained in a jade box to Seol Ye-rin, Seol Ye-rin's expression stiffened.

"To call something you picked up by chance a gift, you have no conscience."

"Where I came from, we used to say we picked up things like this on the way."

"...Are you saying that is the Demonic Cult's way of giving gifts?"

I thought about it for a moment.

Recalling the words the demonic practitioners of the Demonic Cult used when giving gifts to women.

"Ahem, it is safe to view it that way."

Realized the fact that most men were similar.

"Thank you. I will use it well."

Seol Ye-rin, who accepted the Ice Jade as if it were precious and smiled, was very beautiful.

"I must go meet my father-in-law."

"Pardon?"

"I mean I must ask when would be a good time for the marriage."

"Third Young Master!"

Half of it was sincere.

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“You came at the perfect time.”

-Pant, pant.

While the Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, was speaking with a heavy atmosphere, Tamya was wagging his tail furiously in my embrace.

It seemed that since I had sent Seol Ye-rin back to her quarters, he was coveting the Extreme Yin Qi felt from Seol Baek-ho.

“What is that fellow?”

“I obtained one from the Ice Wolf Squad.”

The North Sea Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, expressed doubt upon seeing me, who had brought a Snow Wolf with me.

Because it was the fact that the Ice Wolf Squad Captain let a guy who wasn't even part of the Ice Wolf Squad carry a Snow Wolf around.

“Raising one will not be easy.”

“I will try raising it diligently. Am I not an Ice Palace person now as well?”

“Not yet.”

Zap- Zap-

To Seol Baek-ho’s guarded appearance, I replied with a smile.

“So, what brings you here?”

“I came to ask because there is a place I wish to enter... but seeing the situation, it seems you intend to request something from me again this time?”

I asked while looking at the General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, standing next to Seol Baek-ho.

“Quick-witted as well. General Manager.”

“Yes, Palace Head.”

At Seol Baek-ho's instruction, Seol Su-hyeok stepped forward.

"Captain Hyeokryeon."

"……?"

The title had changed.

The Ice Palace's General Manager, Seol Su-hyeok, took a clasped hands greeting me.

"I am truly grateful that you resolved the financial crisis. Thanks to you, we are now able to trade with the Central Plains. So about that... this might be a shameless request, but could you perhaps take charge of escorting the merchant guild that will be visiting the North Sea from the Central Plains?"

At the word Central Plains, I began to search my memories.

Did the Ice Palace ever advance into the Central Plains?

The Outer Region forces began their activities in the Central Plains starting from when the Demonic Cult began invading the Central Plains.

'Did they not engage in Central Plains activities before that?'

I don't know that.

However.

'If it was Hyeokryeon Geuk, he would have tried to control the Outer Regions first.'

In other words, in the past, regardless of whether it was horse bandits or other Outer Region forces, the fact was that the Ice Palace advancing into the Central Plains was a much later event.

"Are you saying a merchant guild from the Central Plains is visiting the North Sea?"

"That is so. Since they must have heard the news that we were trading with the Moyong Clan merchant guild and that the horse bandits were wiped out, they will be coming to visit the North Sea soon."

"From where should I escort them?"

"From the entrance of the North Sea to the Ice Palace."

He was telling me to go out and greet them.

“I understand, I will take responsibility and bring them safely to the Ice Palace. Instead, I also have a condition.”

“A condition?”

I thought of the Ice Palace’s main military units, the Snow Tiger Squad and the Ice Wolf Squad.

There was a need to talk about what the Ice Wolf Squad Captain had done.

‘Trying to kill a fellow Ice Palace person for the sake of a personal grudge.’

There was a high possibility that Seol Baek-ho did not know about the matter with the Ice Wolf Squad.

‘Is the rumor that he is a Palace Head who abandoned the Ice Palace to save his daughter true?’

That would not be the case.

What did the martial artists of the Ice Palace think of Seol Baek-ho, who was known as an Ice Palace Head who only cared about the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin?

The General Manager Seol Su-hyeok, as a person of the Seol family, would have sided with the Ice Palace Head.

So he would have raided the Ice Palace’s treasury until the financial crisis came.

‘Naturally, there will be forces who do not like this…….’

In other words, it meant that now was the time when it was easiest to plot treason.

‘If the Young Palace Head dies young, and only the Ice Palace Head is broken, usurping the Palace Head position would have been nothing.’

There will be some.

Those who wish for the North Sea Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, and the Seol family to self-destruct.

The problem was.

It was me.

Many things changed as I came to the Ice Palace as a live-in son-in-law.

The Young Palace Head recovered and the Ice Palace which was collapsing was wriggling again.

The Ice Palace Head also began to pay attention to commanding the Ice Palace again.

From the perspective of those who wished for the Ice Palace to self-destruct, it would be a very annoying matter.

‘I should weed out the traitors one after another while performing the merchant guild task.’

If trade activities with the Central Plains restart, the position of the Ice Palace Head will become solid again.

Those guys won't want that.

Since I didn't sense such signs in the Snow Tiger Squad or the Ice Wolf Squad.

Now only one place remains.

‘The Council of Elders.’

Under the assumption that there was a high probability of a traitor being among the Elders, the condition I would put forward was.

“I wish to check the Ice Crystal once.”

“You want to... the Ice Crystal?”

I brought up the story about the possibility of the Ice Crystal rampaging to Seol Baek-ho.

Even if it wasn't through the Martial Gods, there must be content regarding the Ice Crystal passed down to the Palace Head.

It was certain that Seol Baek-ho knew the fact that the Ice Crystal could rampage.

“I cannot show the Ice Crystal to just anyone.”

“I am aware of that. However, am I not someone who is not just anyone, as I am scheduled to obtain the Martial God’s legacy and become a live-in son-in-law?”

“The person giving the rice cake isn't even thinking about it, yet you sure run your mouth well.”

“Thank you for the compliment.”

So are you going to show me, or not?

My father-in-law pondered for a moment before rising from his seat.

“Let’s go.”

“Palace Head!”

General Manager Seol Su-hyeok showed a startled appearance at that sight.

“If he sees the Ice Crystal, he might be able to treat Ye-rin a little faster, don't you think?”

At those words, Seol Su-hyeok shut his mouth.

Because Seol Su-hyeok knew all too well that if Seol Ye-rin was involved, Seol Baek-ho would not listen no matter how much Seol Su-hyeok tried to dissuade him.

“I did not know there would be a space like this underground.”

My father-in-law took me and headed to the basement of the Palace Lord’s Hall.

“From here on, only you and I shall go.”

“General Manager, please take care of this fellow.”

Drag, drag-

Seeing Tamya drooling, it seemed certain that the Ice Crystal was inside there.

I left him with General Manager Seol Su-hyeok because it would be troublesome if I took him inside for no reason and he tried to eat the Ice Crystal’s Extreme Yin Qi.

“Yes, I understand. Please have a safe trip.”

Rumble.

As Seol Su-hyeok took Tamya out, I began to go deeper inside together with Seol Baek-ho.

“Is it because you have an Extreme Yang Body? I see you can withstand this chill.”

Certainly, the deeper we went inside, the stronger the chill became.

“Hmm, perhaps because I experienced the Extreme Yin Qi that the Young Palace Head possessed once, it does not seem to be a big problem.”

“It is the first time I am showing the Ice Crystal to an outsider.”

“Is that so?”

-Kulkul, it is not a matter to pass over so indifferently. The Ice Crystal is the Ice Palace’s sacred treasure; even if the Ice Palace Head looks like that, it seems he has opened his heart quite a lot to you.

At that moment, the Sword Venerable spoke to me.

-He is the guy who took us out when we couldn't be found for hundreds of years. The master should just admit it too. The fact that he can handle the Snow Wind to this extent means you have to see that he has talent.

The Demon Queen continued the Sword Venerable’s words.

At the unexpected praise from the two Martial Gods, I gazed at the Ice Palace Head’s back.

I was unconsciously comparing the strongest person in the Ice Palace and the highest authority holder, the North Sea Ice Palace Head Seol Baek-ho, with my father, Hyeokryeon Hwi.

Comparatively, my father-in-law’s back looked smaller than my father’s back.

“Father-in-law.”

“Who is your father-in-law?”

“If, hypothetically, there was someone aiming for Father-in-law’s position, what would you do?”

Stop.

The Ice Palace Head, Seol Baek-ho, who was walking toward the Ice Crystal, stopped his steps.

“I have heard and know the fact that you are poking around the Snow Tiger Squad and the Ice Wolf Squad. Did you sense something?”

“It is not like that.”

“Even if you did sense something. That is my problem.”

Recently, Seol Baek-ho was feeling it too.

That he had not been managing the Ice Palace properly all this while.

He had only now realized that all his nerves were focused on his daughter, Seol Ye-rin.

“So you do not need to mind it.”

How could I not mind it?

The Ice Palace was now practically a second hometown to me as well.

Even to oppose Hyeokryeon Geuk, the Ice Palace must not fall.

“If you happen to need help, I hope you will please tell me. I wish to tell you the story that you benefited from your son-in-law.”

“I actually sent a gift to the Heavenly Demon saying thank you.”

“……Pardon?”

The mighty Ice Palace Head sent a gift to the Cult Leader of the Demonic Cult?

And saying thank you at that?

This was a bit baffling.

“You probably do not know how much the things you did after coming to the Ice Palace right now have helped me and Ye-rin. That is probably why I am showing you the Ice Crystal, the sacred treasure of the Ice Palace, like this.”

-Did you see? Did I not say he views you more favorably than you thought?

-This is what a father-in-law and son-in-law are.

-He is still a prospective son-in-law.

“I have already received a lot. I do not know what you want for helping me and Ye-rin. However, if you need something, speak. This family has that much power.”

We passed the underground passage and arrived in front of a stone door.

It seemed we had arrived at the place where the Ice Crystal was while we were talking.

Rumble.

The stone door began to open.

“…Thank you.”

I did not think that my father-in-law would be thinking of me to this extent.

It feels like I was acknowledged as a son-in-law.

“Now, take a look. How the rampage of this Ice Crystal can be stopped.”

Whoosh-!

As the stone door opened, Extreme Yang Qi began to soar from my whole body against the Extreme Yin Qi that was spewing out.

The North Sea Ice Palace’s Martial God-level Live-in Son-in-law

Chapter 27 : Chapter 27

Chapter 27: Ice Soul Spear Saint

Ice Crystal.

A sacred item of the North Sea Ice Palace, and from what I heard from the North Sea Martial Gods, a monster that goes berserk every hundred years.

‘But what happens if the Ice Crystal goes berserk?’

At my question, the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen answered.

-Why do you think a Martial God was born every hundred years?

‘Is it related to the Ice Crystal's rampage?’

-Those who stopped the Ice Crystal's rampage became Martial Gods, and those who failed died.

I felt goosebumps at the Demon Queen's answer.

It must be the influence of the Extreme Yin Qi emitting from the Ice Crystal.

‘Then if the Ice Crystal goes berserk this time.’

It meant there had to be someone to handle it.

‘Is there a condition for the Ice Crystal to go berserk?’

-It is Extreme Yin Qi. You can consider it bursting because the Extreme Yin Qi accumulated by the Ice Crystal for a hundred years can no longer be contained.

I glanced behind me while approaching the brilliantly shining Ice Crystal.

North Sea Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho or the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

Since they are the only two who get close to the Ice Crystal, one of them must have endured the Ice Crystal's rampage in the past.

And.

‘Considering I haven't heard any stories about the Young Palace Head...’

The probability was high that the one who took on the Ice Crystal's rampage was the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

“I can't let that happen this time either.”

Seol Ye-rin is the link connecting me and the Ice Palace.

If Seol Ye-rin dies, I can no longer coil myself within the Ice Palace.

Therefore,

Sizzle-

Steam rises.

As I got closer to the Ice Crystal, the Extreme Yin Qi emitted by the Ice Crystal and the Extreme Yang Qi began to clash.

‘I can't... absorb it.’

It possessed a chill on a different level from the Extreme Yin Qi that Seol Ye-rin carried in her body.

Crackle-

It was to the point that frost formed on the Yang Qi I was emitting.

“How long do you think is left until the rampage?”

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, who became Martial Gods, were both people who had experienced the Ice Crystal's rampage.

-Hmm, it is hard to see it as a rampage yet at this level.

-I agree. I don't think the Extreme Yin Qi held by the Ice Crystal is full. It seems to be scattering Extreme Yin Qi in reaction to the Yang Qi.

-But you see. It is strange. This is not the reaction of the Ice Crystal I knew... So-ryeong, how does it look to you?

-It looks strangely different to me as well... To call it a rampage, or to call it the appearance of the Ice Crystal I've seen so far. But considering the cycle, it is indeed time for it to go berserk. Perhaps it is an appearance we haven't seen.

Just as I was about to get a little closer to the Ice Crystal watching the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen tilt their heads at each other,

“I recommend you do not get any closer.”

Before I knew it, my Father-in-law was standing behind me.

“Why is that?”

“Isn't it a sufficient distance to observe the possibility of a rampage? What did the Elder Sword Venerable say?”

“He says it is okay for now, but.”

I was bothered by the puzzled reactions of the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen.

But if the possibility of a rampage seemed clear,

‘It is right to deal with it before that.’

If it goes berserk because it is full of Extreme Yin Qi and the Ice Crystal cannot absorb any more Extreme Yin Qi.

‘If I extract the Extreme Yin Qi held by the Ice Crystal in advance, the rampage will not happen.’

Surely, the method must be here somewhere.

My eyes began to turn red.

No matter how much water you pour into a bottomless jar, it does not fill up.

Just like that.

If I can make the bottom fall out of the Ice Crystal as well.

‘Phenomena like a rampage will no longer occur.’

The problem was whether I could make a hole in that hard-looking Ice Crystal.

Furthermore,

I had to get permission to damage the Ice Crystal from my Father-in-law, who was watching keenly from behind.

‘Groan.’

It was difficult.

-Hoho, to think there would be someone thinking of injecting Yang Qi into the Ice Crystal.

-Hmm, I think it is a good method?

-Do you think melting the Ice Crystal is possible?

It is said that the Ice Crystal has existed since the Ice Palace was founded.

The Sword Venerable said that melting such an Ice Crystal would be difficult even if the dead first North Sea Martial God, Ice Emperor Seol Cheon-u, returned.

“Well, I will know once I try.”

Shing-

As I drew my sword.

“What are you doing?”

My Father-in-law's questioning voice came from behind.

“I apologize, Father-in-law.”

Whether it was a sacred item or whatever, the best plan was to deal with any potentially dangerous elements as much as possible.

Fire Art Sword-

“-Flame Butterfly.”

Flutter-

A butterfly flapping its wings while raising flames flew towards the Ice Crystal.

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Seol Baek-ho stared at me with a dumbfounded expression.

‘Is the scene I am seeing right now reality?’

He truly did not expect me to wield a sword against the Ice Crystal.

He was so dumbfounded that he could not even stop me.

Naturally, I, Hyeokryeon Yeom's sword did not touch the Ice Crystal.

Crackle-

The sight of the flying butterfly freezing and falling was spectacular.

“Stop it. In a space of Extreme Yin, anything will freeze.”

“You mean it is Absolute Zero.”

“Absolute Zero?”

“There is such a thing.”

Hyeokryeon Yeom did not look like he had given up.

Blaze!

Rather, he seemed to burn his fighting spirit even more.

“Let's see who wins.”

Tremendous heat poured out from Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“This is... Extreme Yang Body.”

Hyeokryeon Yeom spewing out Extreme Yang Qi was worlds apart from the appearance Seol Baek-ho had seen until now.

“Flame Wind-”

‘That is...’

It is the sword of the Ice Palace, the Snow Wind Sword.

It is definitely the Snow Wind Sword.

The energy emitted from the sword is not Extreme Yin Qi but Extreme Yang Qi.

Flames swirled and stretched out towards the Ice Crystal.

Sizzle-

Tremendous steam is generated.

Seol Baek-ho, seeing the collision of Extreme Yin and Extreme Yang for the first time, could realize why I , who was merely at the Weak Crown age, could go around beating up the martial artists of the Ice Palace.

‘Was spreading the rumor that he is a scoundrel all planned?’

A guy possessing such martial arts could not possibly be unfaithful.

Even if I possessed a constitutional characteristic.

‘He is dodging all the Ice Crystal's attacks, shot into the space where it meets the Yang Qi.’

It is a tremendous dynamic vision.

Dynamic vision cannot be developed without continuous training.

It was clear that he had gone through harsh training since childhood.

‘Furthermore.’

Although little by little, the distance to the Ice Crystal was decreasing.

The will to reduce the distance no matter what.

That will is also not cultivated overnight.

It is an enthusiasm only possible if one possesses the will to constantly and passionately dig into something.

‘As Su-hyeok said.’

A lucky charm rolled in the vine and all.

However.

“No matter how much of a lucky charm he is...”

As the Lord of the Ice Palace, he could not allow damaging the Ice Crystal.

Just as he was about to use his hand to pull me away,

Sizzle-

Flames rose around my body.

‘Samadhi Divine Fire?’

The range is too wide for that.

Furthermore.

“The color... is changing?”

“To melt Absolute Zero, I just have to raise the temperature to the melting point.”

The orange flames began to turn pure white.

The moment Seol Baek-ho covered his eyes at the sight of the White Heat Flame rising,

Flash!

Light began to burst out from the Ice Crystal.

“That is...”

A light he had never seen before burst out from the Ice Crystal.

***

“...Where is this?”

When I opened my eyes, it was a strange space.

-Keulkeul, I really didn't expect him to have hidden it in the Ice Crystal.

-I wondered if there would be another madman who would attack the Ice Crystal like Hyeokryeon Yeom, but it seems the gamble succeeded.

The Sword Venerable and Demon Queen appeared.

“What do you mean by that?”

-I mean you were lucky.

I, who did not understand the two Martial Gods' story at all, looked around.

A pure white space.

It looked like a space filled with snow.

At least, it is a space that does not exist in my past memories.

Then,

“Come out.”

It means it is a space artificially created by someone other than me.

“You are a child with very excellent mental strength.”

“Is that so?”

It was a man holding a spear.

An appearance completely different from the current Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho.

A man with pale skin, tall stature, and impressive white hair appeared in front of me.

I could notice who he was.

The Martial God from a hundred years ago, Ice Soul Spear Saint Seol Yeong-jin.

The one I met third among the North Sea's Four Martial Gods, and the one who held the title of Martial God most recently.

“You put your soul in the Ice Crystal.”

“Correct. Because I hoped that someone like me would not appear in the next generation.”

The Spear Saint looked me up and down.

“But I never imagined that someone who is not an Ice Palace person would wake me up.”

“Was it a bit hot?”

“It was burning.”

-Nice to meet you, I am the Sword Venerable.

-It's the Demon Queen, descendant.

The Spear Saint tilted his head at the sight of the two Martial Gods snooping around next to me.

“Are you perhaps the Elder Snow Wind Sword Venerable and Cold Snow Demon Queen...?”

-Correct.

-I didn't know I would meet a descendant with a whopping two hundred years difference.

“The current generation has a three hundred year difference with Elder Sword Venerable.”

-Keulkeul, it means I don't even qualify to be treated as a senior.

In fact, looking at the lineage of Martial Gods, it is true that the Sword Venerable has the highest seniority for now.

The problem is that such things are not very important here right now.

“If Spear Saint putting your soul into the Ice Crystal was for the next generation, then naturally you called me here to give me help, right?”

This space right now could be said to be the space where Ice Soul Spear Saint Seol Yeong-jin put his soul.

The Ice Soul Spear Saint stroked his spear at my question.

Something, an ominous feeling began to arise.

-Keulkeul, stop it. That guy is here for a different reason. I know now that I'm here. There was a problem with the Ice Crystal, right?

“It is difficult to say right now. Elder Sword Venerable.”

The Ice Soul Spear Saint said while casting a wary gaze at me at the Sword Venerable's words.

“You. You are not an Ice Palace person.”

-Look at that guy's eyes. It is a look that shows he doesn't like that Yeom is not an Ice Palace person.

At the Ice Soul Spear Saint's words, I clasped my hands and said.

“Thinking about the surname, you are a distant ancestor of the person who will become my Father-in-law.”

“Father-in-law?”

“The person who uses the characters Seol, Baek, and Ho is the current Ice Palace Lord.”

“What about you?”

“I am Hyeokryeon Yeom, engaged to the Ice Palace Lord's daughter, the Young Palace Head.”

Twitch.

The moment I revealed my name.

The Ice Soul Spear Saint's brow twitched.

I had seen that twitching of the brow through my Father-in-law.

‘What did he not like?’

I only revealed my name.

‘Name?’

The thing one can associate as soon as they hear the name Hyeokryeon Yeom.

‘Damn it!’

The Hyeokryeon surname.

It is the surname of the family that produced the Heavenly Demon of the time.

And I know that the Hyeokryeon Clan has been ruling the Demonic Cult for over a hundred years.

In other words.

The North Sea Martial God from a hundred years ago, the Ice Soul Spear Saint, and the ancestor who possessed the surname Hyeokryeon, the Heavenly Demon of the Demonic Cult, must have met.

And,

‘Didn't they say the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult have been enemies since ancient times?’

“You were a Demonic Cult bastard.”

Ice Soul Spear Saint, Seol Yeong-jin raised his spear with an expressionless face.

“I am a live-in son-in-law. I mean I am a person who will become an Ice Palace person!”

“It seems the descendant made a wrong choice. How did he think of bringing in a Demonic Cult follower as a live-in son-in-law? Ice Crystal or whatever, I will have to deal with you myself.”

Whirrr!

The spear began to spin.

The snow piled up around fluttered and a tremendous snow wind began to blow.

I truly didn't expect this.

Since I was with the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, I thought I could easily obtain the legacies of other North Sea Martial Gods as well.

I realized once again that such things are not important.

In the end.

‘It means I have to get on the Ice Soul Spear Saint's good side.’

I raised my sword at the fact that surviving in the North Sea is truly damn hard.

I couldn't just stand there dazed and get hit.

“It won't be easy, Spear Saint.”

Because I also decided to survive with all my might in this life.

Ice Soul Spear Saint, Seol Yeong-jin's spear flew towards me.

Chapter 28 : Chapter 28

Chapter 28 : Ferreting Out

Clang!

Sword and spear clashed.

I, Hyeokryeon Yeom gave it my all from the beginning.

This place is the Mental World.

It is certain that my real body is stopped in front of the Ice Crystal.

Therefore, I thought I had to settle things quickly with the Ice Soul Spear Saint, Seol Yeong-jin.

“Demonic Cult follower...”

“Didn't I tell you... you have to listen to people until the end!”

Blaze!

Flames soar.

The time I met my death at the hands of Hyeokryeon Geuk began to come to mind.

-I have no intention of keeping my competitor alive.

-Don't you know that I... cannot be your competitor, Hyung-nim?

-Curse that you inherited the blood of the Heavenly Demon.

I cursed it.

Having experienced a modern life.

Having lived as a scoundrel in the Murim.

Even in the third life after that, although I couldn't use magic, I struggled to live somehow.

‘It is to land a blow on the guys who made me like this.’

I came back to achieve that.

“...Merely.”

For a ghost.

“Whether I am from the Demonic Cult or the Ice Palace.”

The place I wanted to make my home right now was the North Sea Ice Palace.

“Flame Wind.”

Blaze!

I countered the spear strike with a storm of soaring flames.

Sizzle-

With the hand holding the sword, the Snow Wind Sword Venerable's Extreme Snow.

With the hand not holding the sword.

Crackle!

I raised the Cold Snow Demon Queen's Cold Snow Secret Realm.

Handling Extreme Yang and Extreme Yin in one body is a very difficult task.

“A hundred years ago. I know there was a Martial God famous for his spear in the Ice Palace.”

I also know from stories passed down to descendants that Martial God was utterly crushed by the Heavenly Demon two generations ago, who was the Cult Leader of Our Cult.

The Heavenly Demon shattered the Ice Soul Spear that freezes souls.

How did he break it?

‘I don't know that either.’

Boom!

However, one thing is certain.

If I cannot do what the Heavenly Demon Founder did, he will end up dying to Hyeokryeon Geuk again.

‘Fuck it, yeah.’

Starting from Seol Ye-rin, I don't know how many times I've already fought against ice.

And the one who always won in every duel was me.

“Ice Crystal or whatever, I am also one of the people who wants to protect the North Sea Ice Palace!”

Blaze!

The Extreme Yang Qi reacted to Hyeokryeon Yeom's shout.

Extreme Yang Qi rising fiercely according to angry emotions.

The danger of Extreme Yang Qi lies in ‘emotions’.

The more angry one gets, the more one reveals ‘emotions’, the Yang Hard Art eats that will and flows while burning itself.

‘Ugh.’

At the moment when the heat and vigor rising as if to burn everything seemed like it would burn the qi and blood,

The swiftly flowing Yin Qi began to traverse every part of the blood vessels following the flow of Yang Qi.

At that moment, the burning agony disappeared.

Furthermore,

‘The control of energy has become free.’

Drip-! Drip-!

The frozen spear strike began to melt in the flames.

At that moment, the Spear Saint's eyebrow twitched.

“...A demonic practitioner of the Demonic Cult who handles Extreme Yang Qi and Extreme Yin Qi simultaneously.”

“Didn't I tell you several times that I am the Ice Palace's live-in son-in-law.”

The Spear Saint looked back at the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen who were watching the battle.

-Tsk tsk, what are you staring at?

-Huh? Master, but that friend seems to have his spirit significantly damaged...

The moment the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen's murmuring ended.

Whoosh!

The spear strike completely disappeared.

“If it is you... it might be worth entrusting it to you.”

“...?”

The purely white piled snow begins to melt.

As the spear strike scattered, the Extreme Yang Qi began to melt the snow.

“Check the Ice Crystal.”

Only then could Hyeokryeon Yeom check the Ice Crystal together with the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen.

The Ice Crystal, swaying with blue light, seemed to be emitting cold energy with difficulty as if breathing weakly.

Flinch.

The movements of the Sword Venerable and Demon Queen, who checked the Ice Crystal's condition, stopped.

-This... since when has it been like this?

“It was a hundred years ago. It is also the reason why I have no choice but to be here in this form now.”

“What is strange?”

-The Ice Crystal is... strange. It is in an unstable state, neither going berserk nor not going berserk.

A strange state of neither going berserk nor not?

What does that mean?

-Someone did something bizarre to the Ice Crystal. Did you catch the culprit?

At the Sword Venerable's words, the Spear Saint shook his head.

It seemed clear that some trouble had occurred in the Ice Palace during the time the Spear Saint was called a Martial God.

“There were guys trying to seize the Ice Crystal. They barged into where the Ice Crystal was in one breath. Well, we caught the ringleader who laid his hands on it directly, but... since he committed suicide, we haven't been able to uncover the mastermind. Although there were several suspicious guys...”

The Spear Saint looked at Hyeokryeon Yeom with a fierce expression.

It seems the Demonic Cult was also a target of suspicion.

“That alone was insufficient to pinpoint them.”

-Tsk.

“...However, the spies they planted must still remain within the Ice Palace. That is also the reason I had to put my spirit into the Ice Crystal. If there is a fortunate thing, it is that their tails seem quite long...”

-Even if that is so.

Whoosh-

As the Sword Venerable swept his hand around the Ice Crystal, unstable cold energy flowed along his collar.

-What do you intend to do in this situation?

“Yes, the current Ice Crystal is dangerous without me.”

Wait.

“Then Elder Spear Saint...”

“The moment I take my hands off the Ice Crystal. The Ice Crystal will explode.”

Not a rampage but an explosion.

The Extreme Yin Qi the Ice Crystal harbored seemed hundreds of times more than the Extreme Yin Qi Seol Ye-rin possessed.

In other words.

‘If this explodes, everything will truly freeze.’

Those who can survive... do not exist.

“How can we... stop it?”

Ice Soul Spear Saint Seol Yeong-jin clearly said that.

That he would entrust something to Hyeokryeon Yeom.

“The First Founder, Ice Emperor Seol Cheon-u. Find him and bring him here.”

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Blink blink.

When I opened my closed eyes again,

“Have you come to your senses?”

At my Father-in-law's voice coming from behind, I, Hyeokryeon Yeom, could realize that I had returned to reality again.

“Did you see it?”

I asked my Father-in-law.

“If you are talking about being bewitched by the Ice Crystal, guys who saw the Ice Crystal for the first time always showed symptoms like you.”

“Does that mean the Palace Lord also met him?”

“Who do you mean?”

“...No.”

-Keulkeul, it seems he was unreliable.

-Isn't it because he is the Palace Lord? It would have been difficult to ask a descendant.

Talking with him, my Father-in-law did not meet the Spear Saint.

So, he probably has no idea that a Martial God from a hundred years ago is sleeping here.

“So, tell me your impressions. There must have been a purpose for wanting to see the Ice Crystal.”

“It harbors tremendous Extreme Yin Qi to the point that I paused for a moment. Please prevent Miss Seol from coming close to the Ice Crystal.”

Bringing Seol Ye-rin in front of an explosive that doesn't know when it will go off was a suicidal act.

“Surely... Ye-rin didn't become like that because of the Ice Crystal, right?”

“That is not it.”

The Extreme Yin Body is just a constitutional reason.

More than that,

“But Palace Lord, is there anyone else besides me who was shown the Ice Crystal?”

“Generations of Seol family direct lineages are the only ones who can see the Ice Crystal. I have never shown it to anyone other than you.”

Never shown it, huh.

Indeed, a hundred years ago, my Father-in-law wouldn't even have been alive.

‘The First Founder...’

It was good that I could hear stories about the North Sea Ice Palace's First Founder, Ice Emperor Seol Cheon-u, thanks to the Spear Saint, but.

‘How am I supposed to know where the tomb of the World's Best, whom even the Central Plains people trembled at, is and go find it?’

-Well.

-Isn't ferreting out the spy who touched the Ice Crystal the priority?

The Demon Queen is right.

“If you have seen everything, let's go back. Also, regarding the merchant guild matter, I sent a letter saying I would take you to the border of Liaoning Province in a week.”

I gained some time.

“That is fortunate.”

“Fortunate?”

“I think there is a need to turn the Ice Palace upside down once.”

“What does that mean?”

Hyeokryeon Yeom thought for a moment and then spoke.

Isn't Seol Baek-ho, who will become his father-in-law in the future, practically family now?

I had been thinking it was strange since the horse bandits entered the Ice Palace so easily.

“Perhaps someone is thinking of overthrowing the Ice Palace.”

I heard it from the Spear Saint.

He said there was a group trying to seize the Ice Crystal a hundred years ago.

That guy, who possessed martial prowess to the extent of not being pushed back even against the Spear Saint guarding the Ice Crystal, damaged the Ice Crystal when he couldn't steal it.

The aftermath of that damage could be said to be the current state of the Ice Crystal.

Even after that, if someone infiltrated the Ice Palace and was watching the Ice Palace, they would consider Hyeokryeon Yeom a thorn in their side.

“There might be... a spy?”

“Yes. I was certain after seeing the state of the Ice Crystal.”

Like this, the Ice Palace is in danger, Father-in-law.

“I have been neglecting many things while treating Ye-rin all this time.”

“I will ferret them out, Father-in-law.”

Everything is just speculation.

Since quite some time has passed, I couldn't conclude just by listening to the Spear Saint.

However, at the end of that causality existed Hyeokryeon Yeom of the past life who knew how the Ice Palace moved in the past.

If time flows without doing anything like this, the Ice Palace will...

‘Will end up burning at Hyeokryeon Geuk's hands.’

“Third Young Master!”

As I came outside, I saw Seol Ye-rin standing with General Manager Seol Su-hyeok holding Tamya.

“Miss Seol?”

“Ye-rin!”

“Dad! What if you take the Third Young Master to where the Ice Crystal is!”

Hyeokryeon Yeom made a troubled expression at the sight of his Father-in-law being persecuted as soon as he came out.

“I let him in because this guy wanted it.”

“But still!”

“It is fine, thanks to that I had a good experience.”

I did obtain information that would be helpful to the Ice Palace.

-Pant, pant.

I picked up Tamya who was held in Seol Ye-rin's arms.

Sizzle-

Whether he had been consuming Extreme Yin Qi again in that short time, as soon as he came into my arms, Tamya began to suck up Extreme Yang Qi.

“Stop eating, you'll get sick.”

-Growl!

Tamya snorted as if telling me to mind my own business whether he gets sick or not.

“For now, I will return first, Father-in-law.”

“Okay. Let's talk about the rest later.”

“Yes, Father-in-law.”

I bowed to Seol Baek-ho and Seol Su-hyeok, then left the Palace Lord’s Hall.

“Let's go together.”

“Wait, Ye-rin, you stay. Let's talk for a moment with this father.”

“Pardon? ...Understood.”

Seol Ye-rin, who tried to follow, seemed to be caught by my Father-in-law.

I waved my hand looking at Seol Ye-rin.

-Keulkeul, where do you intend to go now?

At the Sword Venerable's question, Hyeokryeon Yeom stroked his chin.

“First, I intend to hear those guys' thoughts too.”

-Those guys?

“Who is there that I can trust in this harsh Ice Palace?”

I, Hyeokryeon Yeom, returned to the lodging.

“Kyak! Warrior Tae! I told you not to put in just anything!”

“I'm sorry!”

Clang, Clang!

“Squad Leader Baek, there are still many lacking areas!”

“Vice Captain. May White Night intervene?!”

-Roar!

Tae Un-seo and Wi Ji-yeong who made a mess in the kitchen while cooking.

And I could discover Eun Bin and Baek Mu-yong sparring.

While the Captain is slaving away outside, the squad members seem to be completely carefree.

“Assemble.”

At My one word, the Small Snow Squad members stopped what they were doing.

**

Slurp-

“Oh, it's delicious today too. Did Ji-yeong cook it?”

“Warrior Tae played the role of assistant properly.”

“Thank you, Tae Un-seo. I will enjoy the meal.”

“Th, thank you!”

We, sitting around the table, began to talk while eating the wheat noodles Wi Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo made.

“I heard you came back from seeing the Palace Lord?”

Eun Bin asked, opening his thin eyes slightly.

“I did.”

“Is it a mission where you have to go outside again?”

At Baek Mu-yong's question, I shook my head.

“This time I intend to look around the inside.”

“...?”

Question marks appeared on everyone's heads at Hyeokryeon Yeom's answer.

“Going around the inside, what do you mean by that?”

“I mean I think I need to clean up the inside completely.”

Eun Bin's thin eyes opened more than halfway.

“Did I understand correctly right now?”

“Correct.”

“...It won't be the Snow Tiger Squad or Ice Wolf Squad. Then the remaining places are... clans excluding the Guardian Squad and the Seol family?”

I shook my head.

“I intend to meet the people who should take their hands off the Ice Palace's affairs.”

“Then...”

Excluding the Snow Tiger Squad and Ice Wolf Squad, there is one place left.

Eun Bin, who recalled that place, opened his mouth.

“Captain, are you crazy?”

Pfft,

I almost spat it out.

“Vice Captain, saying that to the Captain right now...”

“You are talking knowing that there are no people who touched them within the Ice Palace and survived, right?”

Listening to it, they are even more vicious guys.

So the probability was high that they festered and rotted even more.

“We are going to the Council of Elders.”

Because those who lived through the previous generation would know best about the past events.

Chapter 29 : Chapter 29

Chapter 029 : Guardian Squad

At that time,

The Council of Elders.

"To think that following Elder Gwak, even Elder Baek was defeated... It seems he wasn't a scoundrel, but a sleeping dragon."

"What if Ye-rin is bewitched by that guy?"

Elder Choi Han-rim and Elder Han Bing-ok were conversing.

"Elder Han, wouldn't acknowledging him be one of the options now?"

"Didn't I tell you I decline lechers?"

"Isn't the Young Palace Head's opinion what matters?"

"That is true, but....."

A lecher.

Wasn't it possible that Hyeokryeon Yeom had dazzled the Young Palace Head with sweet talk?

Elder Han Bing-ok crossed her arms and glared at Elder Choi Han-rim.

"Perhaps because you are from the Guardian Squad, you are quite favorable toward that live-in son-in-law, Elder Choi."

"That is not the case."

Thud, thud.

While the two were conversing, a figure approached.

"Hoho, it seems the two Elders are in deep thought because of the Small Snow Squad Captain."

"Chairman."

At the appearance of the Ice Council Chairman, Seol Un-gang, Choi Han-rim and Han Bing-ok turned to look at him.

"It is news I just heard. It is said that the Palace Lord showed the Ice Crystal to that guy."

"What?"

"What do you mean by that? From ancient times, the Ice Crystal is something that can only be shown to the direct bloodline of the Ice Palace Lord!"

"He violated the rule."

As if he had been waiting for this very day, a faint smile hovered around Seol Un-gang's lips.

"What do you intend to do?"

"As the Council of Elders and the Chairman of the Ice Council, we cannot simply watch this happen."

"Are you saying... you intend to personally reprimand the Palace Lord, Chairman?"

A slightly negative reaction to Seol Un-gang's opinion came from Elder Choi Han-rim.

"I agree. The discipline of the Ice Palace will only be established if the Palace Lord, the pillar of the Ice Palace, observes the rules first."

Han Bing-ok, with a flushed face, looked as if she would storm out right away.

"Shouldn't we listen to the opinions of the other Elders as well?"

"That is....."

Currently, Elder Gwak and Elder Baek are absent.

At that moment.

Creaaak—

"How about listening to the opinion of the person involved first?"

At the sound of the door opening, everyone's gaze turned toward the door.

The door to the Ice Council opened, and a man revealed himself in front of it.

"Nice to meet you, Elders. I am the Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom."

Hyeokryeon Yeom had visited the Council of Elders and the Ice Council on his own two feet.

***

"I wonder if this is alright."

"If the Captain says we go, we go."

"Baek Mu-yong. Is it my delusion, or has your loyalty to the Captain increased a bit since he retrieved White Night?"

"I tend to do my best in the squad I belong to."

The path heading to the Council of Elders.

Eun Bin and Baek Mu-yong began whispering.

"Is Warrior Tae using a kitchen knife again today?"

"This is comfortable."

"I understand, but you should use a different knife than the one for slicing food!"

"Of course."

It seemed Wi Ji-yeong and Tae Un-seo had become quite close as well.

-Pant, pant.

Tamya, who was riding on White Night's back, was also with us.

It was a situation where the entire Small Snow Squad, excluding the Young Palace Head, was moving in earnest.

-To think the Elders of the Ice Palace might be plotting to overthrow the Ice Palace... It's the end of the world.

-Just two hundred years ago, the Elders used to crawl beneath my feet.

'Just what kind of lives did you two live?'

-If I said that the entire Jianghu trembled when we advanced into the Central Plains, would you believe it?

I knew they had a record of being thrashed by the Heavenly Demon, but I didn't bother to mention it.

'Did the Murim fear the Ice Palace that much?'

-Of course. Would the Potala Palace, Poison Palace, Great Thunder Temple, and even the Small Thunder Temple have combined their forces to try and bring down the Ice Palace first otherwise?

'Was there such a time?'

-Is that all? Even the Ten Venerables under the Heavens representing the Murim Alliance, the Saphaeryeon, and the Blood Cult feared me.

The exaggeration was severe.

-It is not an exaggeration. It was the same for this Queen, you know?

Now, I had no choice but to bring up the story of the Heavenly Demon.

'Then why couldn't such people defeat the Demonic Cult Leader?'

-Kuhum.

-Oh my, as expected of someone from the Demonic Cult. You are too much.

I was curious, though.

If the stories of the Sword Venerable were all true.

It meant that the Heavenly Demon of that time was stronger than the North Sea Martial Gods.

"By the way, Young Master. What do you intend to ask when you meet the Elders?"

At Wi Ji-yeong's question, I briefly paused my conversation with the Martial Gods and thought.

As Wi Ji-yeong implied, even if I asked the Elders if they were plotting treason, there was no way they would answer yes.

"I intend to crash into them for now."

The process of ferreting out a traitor was a difficult task.

However,

'It is a necessary task.'

It was important that I could pressure the Council of Elders with the Ice Palace Lord on my back.

I had to find the person who caused the problem with the Ice Crystal.

Having entered the Council of Elders like that, I was able to spot the Ice Council Chairman, Seol Un-gang, along with Elders Choi Han-rim and Han Bing-ok.

Since Tae Un-seo had given me a detailed explanation about the Elders while we were heading to the Council of Elders, I could immediately recognize who was who.

"Nice to meet you. I am the Small Snow Squad Captain, Hyeokryeon Yeom."

"...Small Snow Squad Captain. What brings you here?"

"I exchanged greetings with the Snow Tiger Squad and the Ice Wolf Squad, but I hadn't offered my greetings to the Elders, the key figures of the Ice Palace, so I came to visit. Let me introduce them. This is the newly organized Small Snow Squad."

"I am the Small Snow Squad Vice Captain, Eun Bin."

"I am the Small Snow Squad Squad Leader, Baek Mu-yong."

"I am the Small Snow Squad member, Wi Ji-yeong."

"I am the Small Snow Squad member, Tae Un-seo."

At the fact that I was already bringing four members with me, the Ice Council Chairman, Seol Un-gang, stiffened his expression.

"The former Small Snow Squad Captain demoted to Vice Captain, a Squad Leader from the Ice Wolf Squad and even the troublemaker of the Snow Tiger Squad. The origins of your squad members are truly diverse."

It seemed like the Ice Palace's way of drawing lines based on family background.

Didn't they say the Elders were those who had stepped back from the front lines?

Hearing Elder Choi Han-rim accurately pinpoint the origins of Eun Bin, Baek Mu-yong, and Tae Un-seo, I smiled leisurely.

"They are talents to protect the Young Palace Head."

"Coming to greet us specifically. Did the Palace Lord order it?"

At Seol Un-gang's remark, I could instantly realize the status of the Council of Elders.

'They are completely disregarding the Palace Lord.'

I hadn't lived in the Ice Palace for long, but I couldn't shake the feeling that something was strange.

That was because things that would never happen if this were the Demonic Cult were constantly happening in the Ice Palace.

'In Our Cult, the Heavenly Demon's order is absolute.'

In any case, if the Cult Leader gave an order, whoever it was had to follow that order.

Just like that, normally, this place, the Ice Palace, should also be trembling in fear at a single word from my father-in-law.

However,

'The fact that the Snow Tiger Squad Captain provoked me when I first visited the Ice Palace, and...'

The fact that the Ice Wolf Squad, one of the Ice Palace's armed forces, moved independently to deal with Baek Mu-yong.

Situations continued to occur as if they were listening to the orders of someone other than the Ice Palace Lord.

"No, it is my own will. I happened to meet Elder Baek and Elder Gwak, so I became curious about the faces of the other Elders as well."

Since I judged that at least Baek Seol-pung and Gwak Tae-san were not traitors.

I suspected that one of the three Elders gathered here might be a spy.

"I was curious anyway, so this turned out well. I wanted to ask if you were a lecher or not."

At that moment, one of the three Elders, Elder Han Bing-ok, approached right in front of my nose.

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The Cold Blood Witch, Han Bing-ok, was an Elder representing the Cold Blood Han Family, one of the Five Families of the North Sea.

A position high enough to have competed with the Ice Palace Lord, Seol Baek-ho, for the seat of the Palace Lord.

Only she knew the reason why she gave up the Palace Lord seat and became an Elder.

There was something this Han Bing-ok was particularly obsessed with.

"The rumor that you are a lecher... is it merely a rumor?"

The fact that she insanely hated lechers.

"At one time, I did enjoy wine and women."

"Then you mean it is true?"

"Not anymore. As someone who has promised marriage to the Young Palace Head, I believe my relationships with women are clean."

"Such a guy brings a girl from the Demonic Cult?"

Elder Han Bing-ok's gaze turned toward Wi Ji-yeong.

"Member Wi is strictly a member of the Small Snow Squad. Please refrain from making insulting remarks."

I spoke while looking straight into Han Bing-ok's eyes.

'Straight eyes?'

In Han Bing-ok's view, the look in my eyes began to overlap with someone else's.

"It is your fault for having problems in the past."

"The past is merely the past."

"That sounds like saying there could be problems."

Realizing that words wouldn't get through to her, my attitude changed.

"Well, even if a problem arises, it is a problem for me to handle. Elder Han, it seems you have a lot of interest in my women's problems?"

Of course she did.

Although it was a political marriage, I might become the spouse of the Young Palace Head.

This matter was a very important issue to Han Bing-ok, if not to anyone else.

"It seems you still don't know... what it means to become the son-in-law of the Ice Palace."

"A son-in-law is a son-in-law, is there anything else?"

As I made a puzzled expression.

"Tsk tsk, you are truly a fledgling who knows nothing. Think about the relationship between the Ice Palace and the Demonic Cult. Do you really think you can become the son-in-law of the Ice Palace?"

Seol Un-gang cut in.

-Keul keul, from ancient times, the Elders of the Ice Palace used to give advice, but... since when did they start to directly oppose what the Palace Lord decided?

-Master, that's because the Master didn't treat the Elders properly.

'The gaze of the Ice Council Chairman is not very kind.'

-I don't think I could look at you with a kind gaze either.

'But it doesn't seem like he opposes me merely because I am from the Demonic Cult.'

I paid attention to Seol Un-gang's surname.

The current Ice Palace could be seen as being ruled by the North Wind Seol Clan for a hundred years.

'If the Ice Palace is overthrown, who benefits the most?'

First would be the forces of the Outer Regions.

It means that if they can absorb the power of the Ice Palace, they can concentrate the power of the Outer Regions into one.

All forces of the Outer Regions want to enter the Central Plains.

If they can become allies with the Ice Palace and invade the Central Plains, they would gladly help overthrow the Ice Palace.

My father sending me to the Ice Palace should also be seen as a part of an alliance in reality.

"Yes, I intend to hold a wedding with the Young Palace Head. However, I understand this is a matter decided by the Palace Lord and the Cult Leader... was it something that also required the permission of the Elders?"

I deliberately threw out a provocative remark.

While doing so, I turned to look at Elder Choi Han-rim, who hadn't said a word until now.

It was because I recalled what Tae Un-seo had said before we entered the Council of Elders.

'As expected, the Elder I need to be most concerned about is the Ice Council Chairman, Seol Un-gang, right?'

'No. The Elder you must be most concerned about is Elder Choi.'

'Why?'

To my question, Tae Un-seo had answered like this:

'Because Elder Choi Han-rim is a former member of the Guardian Squad, which protects the Ice Palace.'

Chapter 30 : Chapter 30

Chapter 030 : Calamity

Observing the situation, Elder Choi Han-rim, who was from the Guardian Squad, realized that the Elders were more hostile toward Hyeokryeon Yeom than expected.

'Even if he is a follower of the Demonic Cult.'

Looking at the actions Hyeokryeon Yeom had shown since arriving at the Ice Palace, one had to acknowledge what was due.

He saved the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, whom no one had been able to save despite all efforts.

Although it was by the Palace Lord's order, he wiped out the horse bandits.

Having such contributions recognized, the Palace Lord must have shown him the Ice Crystal, which he hadn't shown even to the Elders a single time.

'To think he came out perfectly fine even after seeing the Ice Crystal.'

Choi Han-rim stared at Hyeokryeon Yeom.

The Guardian Squad of the Ice Palace, unknown even to the Ice Palace Lord, would be watching Hyeokryeon Yeom.

If he was an existence helpful to the Ice Palace, they would help Hyeokryeon Yeom, and if he was a harmful existence, they would try to erase his very existence somehow.

Visiting the Council of Elders at this time should be seen as a good move.

It meant he could learn a bit more about the person named Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Permission? Of course, I must receive it."

At Hyeokryeon Yeom's single remark, Han Bing-ok stepped forward.

"Do not stop me."

There was no intention to stop her.

If Elder Han stepped up, he was rather grateful.

It was an opportunity to verify just what level of martial prowess Hyeokryeon Yeom possessed.

Elder Choi Han-rim's gaze turned toward Chairman Seol Un-gang.

Normally, he would surely have stopped Han Bing-ok's action.

But there was no restraint whatsoever.

Seol Un-gang might also be curious about Hyeokryeon Yeom's martial prowess.

"I visited the Council of Elders to offer my greetings, not to be acknowledged as the live-in son-in-law of the Ice Palace."

At Hyeokryeon Yeom's remark.

"I apologize, Elder. If you intend to harm the Captain, we have no choice but to block you."

Eun Bin slightly opened his slit eyes and blocked the path in front of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Basically, I heard the Small Snow Squad is a unit that protects the Young Palace Head, but to protect the Young Palace Head, the Captain must not be injured."

Tae Un-seo also stood in front of Hyeokryeon Yeom, holding a kitchen knife.

"If you intend to hurt the Young Master, you will have to deal with us first."

Wi Ji-yeong fearlessly stood next to Tae Un-seo.

"Kuhum, I have no intention of making enemies with the Elders, but since I am also a member of the Small Snow Squad."

Lastly, even Baek Mu-yong stood in front of Hyeokryeon Yeom.

"Ha."

Choi Han-rim's eyes widened at the sight of them prioritizing the Captain over the Elders of the Ice Palace.

It was a sight that had never been seen in the Ice Palace until now.

'Guys who should know full well the authority of the Elders.....'

They were voluntarily moving to protect Hyeokryeon Yeom.

'I heard it has only been a few days since he came to the Ice Palace.'

Even setting aside the maid he brought from the Demonic Cult.

'Eun Bin, who only had eyes for the Young Palace Head. Baek Mu-yong of the Ice Wolf Squad. Plus, the aspiring chef swordsman from the Snow Tiger Squad.'

It seemed Hyeokryeon Yeom had completely captivated those three.

Leaving aside whether he was a lecher or not, that ability to captivate people had to be acknowledged.

"How dare....."

The problem was that the high-nosed Elder Han Bing-ok was experiencing such a case for the first time.

"You will only come to your senses if everything is frozen."

Whoosh—

The Cold Blood Witch, Han Bing-ok's hair fluttered, and a tremendous chill began to emanate from her.

'Hmm?'

Seeing that, Hyeokryeon Yeom tilted his head.

It was strange.

Clearly, their faces did not resemble each other at all.

But the moment Elder Han Bing-ok emitted the chill.

Elder Han Bing-ok began to overlap with the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin.

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The moment Elder Han Bing-ok spewed out her ice arts.

-Pant, pant!

The Yin Wolf jumped out of my embrace.

"Oh my!"

Gulp— Gulp—

Then it began to suck in the Yin Qi.

"Snow Wolf?"

Seol Un-gang's eyes flashed at that sight.

"I told you not to eat just anything."

I ,Hyeokryeon Yeom, put the Yin Wolf back into my embrace and then kindled a flame.

'Just now, what was that?'

I wondered if the two people with completely different appearances overlapping were due to their martial arts.

Thinking that I should find out a bit more about Elder Han Bing-ok as well.

"If it were up to me, I would also like to experience the Elder's martial prowess, but it seems today is not the day."

"What do you...."

"What is this commotion!"

Two men entering the Council of Elders were seen.

They were Elder Gwak Tae-san, from the Snow Tiger Squad, and Elder Baek Seol-pung, from the Ice Wolf Squad.

"...Small Snow Squad Captain?"

"Why are you in the Council of Elders?"

"Two Elders, have you arrived?"

At my greeting, both of them made awkward expressions.

Having already had a scuffle with me, the two's expressions brightened upon seeing Elder Han Bing-ok raising her energy.

"Hoho, isn't it the Small Snow Squad Captain? Are you competing with Elder Han this time?"

"To hold a duel even in the Council of Elders. Impressive."

"...Elder Baek. Is that Snow Wolf the one you handed over to the Small Snow Squad Captain?"

At Seol Un-gang's words, Baek Seol-pung nodded.

"I had no choice."

"To hand over a Snow Wolf to someone who isn't even an Ice Wolf Squad member."

"...Isn't that outside my authority?"

At Chairman Seol Un-gang's words clearly rebuking Baek Seol-pung, Baek Seol-pung showed blatant discomfort.

'It seems factions are divided even within the Council of Elders.'

If there was a traitor among the people I had investigated through conversation so far.

'I don't know why, but Elder Han Bing-ok seemed sincere about Miss Seol's matters.'

If Tae Un-seo's words were correct, Elder Choi Han-rim, who protects the Ice Palace, wouldn't think of overthrowing the Ice Palace.

Then the remaining impurity was only one person.

'Elder Seol Un-gang.'

It seemed necessary to dig into his background.

'Since I seem to have roughly achieved my objective.'

It seemed time to leave.

"It would be better to postpone crossing hands until next time."

"Wait, where do you think you are going?"

At Elder Han Bing-ok's words, I pointed behind her.

"We can't fight in front of the Young Palace Head, can we?"

At my words, Elder Han Bing-ok looked at the figure following behind Elders Gwak Tae-san and Baek Seol-pung.

"You were in a place like this."

"Ah....."

Elder Han Bing-ok, seeing the recovered Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, for the first time, let out a gasp.

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"Thanks to you, I survived."

"You wouldn't have died even if I wasn't there, right?"

With the appearance of the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin, I was able to slip out of the Council of Elders without a clash.

-Pant! Pant!

The Yin Wolf wagged its tail as soon as it saw Seol Ye-rin.

"Not this time."

Since it had already absorbed Elder Han Bing-ok's Yin Qi, I stopped it from trying to absorb Seol Ye-rin's Extreme Yin Qi.

The Yin Wolf understood my words.

It seemed to understand the concept that too much is as bad as too little quite well.

"It's a very intelligent Snow Wolf."

"I wish it would grow up quickly."

Carrying it in my embrace all the time was also a chore.

"So, what brings you to find me this time?"

"We agreed to do the Cold Snow Secret Realm training together."

-How about dealing with her for a bit?

-Keul keul, since she understood emptying and filling, it would be good to combine it with actual combat next.

At the advice of the Martial Gods, I turned to look at Seol Ye-rin.

"That's a good idea."

"Pardon?"

"Ah, since Miss Seol is training in the Cold Snow Secret Realm, I thought I might as well learn some of the Martial Gods' martial arts."

-It will be hard for you to learn our martial arts.

"There is no rule that says you have to be good from the start."

Thinking to myself, it didn't seem like I lacked talent for martial arts.

Was it because I had experienced three different lives?

Improving the Sword Venerable's Snow Wind Sword to fit my constitution wasn't that difficult either.

'I heard they call this kind of talent the talent of a Grandmaster.'

I didn't think so at all.

In fact, rather than talent, this could be called the price of fierce effort until now.

'Analysis and effort.'

In my first life.

In my second life.

And in my third life.

I had practiced these two things without fail.

I was simply unlucky.

Come to think of it.

'Did my luck start to open up after meeting Miss Seol?'

I found the Sword Venerable's legacy that hadn't been found for three hundred years, and I also found the Demon Queen's legacy that hadn't been found for two hundred years.

Walking toward the training ground, I glanced at Seol Ye-rin's profile.

'She is certainly a beauty.'

The saying "Beauties have unhappy fates" doesn't exist for nothing.

Seol Ye-rin's life also changed quite a lot after meeting me.

Originally, she should have died young, but she was revived through Yin-Yang Unification with me.

It must have been from that time.

I started meeting the Martial Gods, recruiting squad members, and establishing my place in the Ice Palace.

'But has Miss Seol's fate completely changed just like this?'

Fate is not an easy opponent.

Having died three times, I knew that all too well.

"What are you thinking about so deeply?"

"I was thinking about Miss Seol."

"Pardon?"

"No, let's just train."

Lost in thought while walking, we had arrived at the training ground before I knew it.

The Young Palace Head's Hall.

Entering the training ground exclusive to the Young Palace Head, Seol Ye-rin and I faced each other.

-Hello? We met again.

"Hello?"

When I handed the Demon Queen's secret manual, the Cold Snow Secret Realm, to Seol Ye-rin, the Demon Queen began to be visible to Seol Ye-rin's eyes as well.

-Since you experienced emptying and filling, let's go full power this time!

"By full power, you mean....."

-Until now, you must have been unable to use your full power because you were afraid everything would freeze.

At the Demon Queen's words, I stared at Seol Ye-rin.

Seol Ye-rin is known to have achieved the twelfth stage of complete mastery in the Ice White Divine Art, the unique martial art of the Ice Palace.

The problem was that since she already had an Extreme Yin Body, she could make people freeze just by a light touch.

As the Demon Queen said, if Seol Ye-rin unleashed her full power, the surroundings would turn into an ice sheet in an instant.

"Really... is it okay to do that?"

-Of course. In any case, that side won't freeze, and besides, isn't the Snow Wind Sword Venerable with him?

The Demon Queen explained while pointing at me.

Watching the Demon Queen, I also asked the Sword Venerable.

"Who created the martial art called Cold Snow Secret Realm?"

-You could call her a distant ancestor of the Young Palace Head.

As soon as the Sword Venerable's words ended,

Vwoooooom—

A chill more terrible than the Yin Qi Han Bing-ok emitted in the Council of Elders just now began to pour out from Seol Ye-rin's entire body.

-If you don't want to die, you will have to block it with all your might.

"You heard that, right?"

-Lift Extreme Snow.

"I apologize, but I think the name of this sword needs to be changed now."

Fwoosh—

Flames began to soar from the tip of the sword.

-Naming the sword is up to you. But what name do you intend to give it?

"Extreme Flame."

To survive against Miss Seol unleashing the Cold Snow Demon Queen's martial arts with full power.

I, too, would have to put my Flame Soul into the sword with full power.

"...If you freeze, I will be disappointed. Third Young Master."

Craaaack—

Everything began to freeze.

As I raised the Extreme Yang Qi against that tremendous full power, I thought.

'The saying that frost falls even in May if a woman holds a grudge was a sheer lie.'

Correction was needed.

It's not frost, it's a calamity.

Even without holding a grudge, Seol Ye-rin herself was no different from a calamity.

And I,

Intended to become a comrade in the same boat as that calamity.

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At that time.

Heavenly Demon Divine Cult, Cult Leader's Hall.

"Cult Leader. A gift has arrived from the Ice Palace."

"A gift?"

The Cult Leader, Hyeokryeon Hwi, tilted his head at the report from the Strategist, Sa Ma-ui.

To think the Ice Palace, which was no different from an enemy, sent a gift.

"What gift did they send?"

"They say it is a wedding gift."

Clatter—!

At Sa Ma-ui's answer, the teacup Hyeokryeon Hwi was holding dropped.