

Mayhem 491

Chapter 491 – The Supreme Sword (5)

-Kwaaaaargh!

The Great Strength King writhed in pain, his leg severed.

The Golden Nine-Tailed Fox was genuinely amazed at this sight.

Among the Six Demons, the Great Strength King Ox Demon King possessed the strongest power and physical body.

Although he had been sealed for a long time, even she, who had gained almost the same level of demonic energy over the years, could barely wound his body only when he was off guard. How could Mok Gyeong-un, a human, cut off his leg?

-Goooooooo!

The aura flowing from Mok Gyeong-un now was surpassing even herself, one of the Six Demons.

‘...It’s hard to believe even as I’m seeing it.’

It’s said that humans were shaped as imperfect imitations of gods.

There shouldn’t be a vessel more imperfect and limited than humans, so how could he exert such power?

-Thud thud!

As Mok Gyeong-un approached Mok Gan, who had become one with the Great Strength King and was writhing in pain from his severed leg, he spoke.

"If you're the will that needs to control the Six Demons, I suppose you're the main body, right?"

-Kwaaaaargh.

"You're being quite dramatic for this being just the beginning."

-You bastard!

Was Mok Gyeong-un's sarcastic remark a provocation?

Mok Gan, who had become one with the Great Strength King and was in pain, couldn't contain his fury and swung his hand covered in lava towards Mok Gyeong-un.

Mok Gyeong-un's gaze was expressionless as he looked up at the giant hand filled with red and black heat.

-Woong woong woong!

The evil sword Evil Commandment Sword, stained black with demonic energy, resonated.

At that moment, Mok Gyeong-un's body soared as he swung his sword upward, and surprisingly, the Great Strength King's enormous hand was deflected upwards.

-Clang!

The eyes of those watching this scene widened.

If he had blocked it with a formless sword that could be called the extreme of swordsmanship, they might have understood, but to block a giant hand covered in lava with just one sword?

It was a scene that defied common sense, both in terms of weight and the energy flowing out.

‘What the hell is this guy?’

Mok Gan, who had become one with the Great Strength King, was equally surprised.

No matter how quickly he was getting stronger, even if he was an incarnation, he thought it would be absolutely impossible to reach the realm of the Six Demons.

But the power contained in the sword was beyond imagination.

Should he call it heaviness?

Despite being no larger than a dot on his palm, the moment the sword touched his hand, he felt pain as if he had been struck by a hammer larger than his palm.

In that instant, Mok Gan’s three eyes, flowing with red light, wavered.

‘Could it be?’

Along with a strong sense of humiliation, anger surged.

Although it was a leg without any defense, he had cut off the leg of the Great Strength King, who was called the strongest among the Six Demons in terms of strength and physical body.

Even though he had covered his palm with lava, that sword of his might have inflicted a wound in some way.

‘Did he deliberately not cut?’

To show him the difference in class?

If that was the case, it was truly nothing but humiliating.

How many long years had he spent trying to obtain the Great Strength King?

Having seen countless beings, he was certain that once he obtained this body, there would be no more beings to fear.

Even if it was the Golden Heavenly King, his creator.

But,

‘Why! Why is this happening?’

How could it be possible that the incarnation, who had lost the core that could be called the source of power for the demon clan and became human, losing all his power, was surpassing his own strength?

If he had trained for thousands of years, no, even hundreds of years, it would be understandable.

It hasn’t even been twenty years since he became human.

‘Is it not a matter of the vessel?’

-Grr! Grr!

The blood vessels around Mok Gan's eyes on the Great Strength King's forehead bulged and protruded.

He had thought that since he originally didn't have his own physical body to be a source, everything stemmed from the capacity of the physical body that became the vessel.

That's why he had been so focused on obtaining the best physical body.

But...

'...Is it not the physical body? Is that not it?'

For a moment, Mok Gan fell into confusion.

And that brought him a fatal opening.

-Crack!

'!?'

Mok Gan's third eye began to protrude from the Great Strength King's forehead.

'Oh no!'

The panicked Mok Gan tried to burrow back into the forehead.

However, once the eyeball had popped out, it couldn't easily burrow back into the Great Strength King's flesh, and instead, the blood vessels that had been attached were gradually breaking off.

-Pop! Pop!

‘No! I can’t control it.’

There was something he had overlooked.

Although he had changed bodies countless times until now, most of them were humans or beasts.

The times he had become one with evil spirits were few and far between, and even those mostly failed due to being in an incomplete state.

That’s why he had sought to obtain the forbidden technique of the Wicked Granny.

Although evil spirits were said to be different from the human soul structure, he had succeeded in becoming one by replacing that role with the forbidden technique.

But this body he had occupied was not an ordinary evil spirit.

Born from the distortion of the earth, it was a being infinitely close to a divine beast that had existed since ancient times.

No matter how weakened its mind had become due to the seal, it was impossible for such a being to be completely swallowed up by Mok Gan’s will.

‘No! Noooooo!’

-Kwaaaaargh!

-Rip!

With a roar, the blood vessels attached to the Great Strength King’s forehead were completely torn off.

The forcibly protruded eyeball reflected someone's figure.

That figure was Mok Gyeong-un.

'Damn it!'

"Go."

Mok Gyeong-un was about to swing his sword in a straight line towards this eyeball.

Looking at the eye filled with fear as it sensed its impending death, Mok Gyeong-un momentarily recalled his deceased grandfather.

'This is entirely for you.'

Although he initially said it was for the incarnation, later he truly raised him like his own child.

Thanks to that warmth, he was able to establish the foundation of his emotions.

He was angry for him and now sought revenge for him.

-Swoosh!

It was at that moment when Mok Gyeong-un's sword was about to cut Mok Gan's eyeball.

-Flinch!

-Boom!

Mok Gyeong-un's body, about to swing the sword, fell straight down due to an enormous pressure.

It wasn't just Mok Gyeong-un.

-Whoosh!

Mok Gan's eyeball also fell downwards due to the pressure, and the Great Strength King's head plummeted towards the ground.

-Boom!

As the Great Strength King's head, no, his entire body fell to the ground, fragments of the destroyed earth and dust erupted in all directions with a thunderous sound.

-Kwaaaaargh!

-Boom boom boom boom boom boom!

The Great Strength King roared and tried to raise his body, but it was futile.

Every time he tried to rise, he only burrowed deeper into the ground due to the tremendous gravity, and gradually, his robust body was being crushed by the pressure.

The Great Strength King wasn't the only one experiencing this phenomenon.

Mok Gyeong-un's body continued to burrow into the ground.

'...Amazing!'

Having regained all his memories, Mok Gyeong-un realized where this power was originating from.

Above the ground where gravity continued to increase, there was a being fluttering golden wings – it was the Golden Heavenly King.

The ornate sword held by the Golden Heavenly King was emitting a bright radiance, and the surrounding space was gradually rippling.

-Woong woong woong woong!

From within the rippling space, the Golden Heavenly King spoke with a voice filled with ecstasy.

-Yes. That's right. There's no way you could have completely lost your power. Demon King.

He was certain that Mok Gyeong-un's demonic energy was the power of the demon clan.

That's why he believed he could draw out this much power with a body no different from that of an insignificant insect.

Now that I know you've regained this much power, even if it's not your prime, this is no longer a game.

I'll crush you to death with gravity right here.

-Woong woong woong woong!

As more radiance flowed from the sword, the surrounding space became even more distorted.

The rumbling sound from the ground gradually diminished.

At this, the corners of the Golden Heavenly King's mouth turned upward.

‘Having lost your divine weapons to a former limb, you can never be a match for me.’

If the Heavenly King had the Five Great Divine Artifacts, the Demon King had Seven Divine Weapons.

Among them, the armor could withstand even supernatural abilities, so gravity wouldn’t directly affect it, but now the situation was different.

He could crush and kill him with gravity like this...

-Boom!

Someone flew up into the sky, breaking through the ground about fifty jang away.

It was Mok Gyeong-un.

-Ho. You used a clever trick.

Did he escape the range of gravity?

The Golden Heavenly King, having located Mok Gyeong-un’s position, swung the Sword of Aden towards him.

-Swoosh!

Then,

-Woong woong woong woong!

The space where Mok Gyeong-un was rippled, and

-Whoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un's body soared straight upwards.

The gravity had completely reversed.

At this, Mok Gyeong-un kicked off the air in the opposite direction while executing the Thousand-Jin Hammer technique and stretched his index finger towards the Golden Heavenly King.

Then,

-Woong woong woong woong!

At that moment, the space around the Golden Heavenly King seemed to compress, converging into a single point as if his body was being sucked into the center.

'This is?'

This was the Eight Thought-Shattering Techniques's Void Suppression technique.

It was a method that instantly compressed a space of about four jang in the desired direction.

"Hmph!"

At this, the Golden Heavenly King didn't panic at all and raised the Sword of Aden upwards.

-Woong woong woong woong!

As radiance flowed from the sword, the space that was about to be compressed by the marvelous principle of the Eight Formulas was forcibly expanded by gravity.

-Don't tell me you can manipulate gravi-

-Clang!

At that moment, Mok Gyeong-un's sword, having closed the distance in an instant, clashed with the Sword of Aden.

As the swords collided, an enormous boom echoed, and a storm-like wind pressure swept through, causing the entire space to ripple and shake.

The Golden Heavenly King's gaze became quite serious as their swords met.

'This sword... what is it?'

This was because the Sword of Aden itself was a gravity field, so no ordinary sword should be able to withstand it, yet this black-stained sword was holding its ground.

Although he could sense a demonic nature from the sword, it was only at an ordinary level.

And the power he had thought was similar to the energy of the demon clan, he realized upon clashing that it was clearly different.

Does that mean this power is pure capability?

-What the hell have you done?

The Golden Heavenly King was genuinely puzzled.

He had lost his core and become human, and even those proud divine weapons were gone.

So what was this power?

Then the Golden Heavenly King's eyes met Mok Gyeong-un's.

-Flinch!

They say a strong will is directly conveyed?

In Mok Gyeong-un's eyes, there was only murderous intent to cut him down.

It was so persistent and intense that for a moment, the Golden Heavenly King felt a chill run down his spine for the first time.

'Could it be?'

To him, Mok Gyeong-un spoke in a low voice.

"So you were the root of all evil?"

Chapter 492 – The Supreme Sword (6)

Boom boom boom boom boom!

The Six Demon Great Strength King continued to be driven into the ground by gravity.

The strength with which he tried to escape and the ever-increasing gravity caused even his robust body to begin to crumple.

-Kwaaaaargh!

It was at that moment when he was about to face the worst crisis due to the crushing force.

'!?'

The gravity suddenly disappeared.

As the pressure from the gravity vanished, the Great Strength King's body, which had been crumpling and bleeding from various places, began to recover at a rapid pace.

The recovery wasn't limited to his physical body.

-Crack!

Cracks appeared on the red jade staff that had fallen not far away.

As the cracks widened, the red light gradually faded, and the red glow in the Great Strength King's eyes slowly changed to a vermillion hue.

-Whoosh!

Along with the changing glow, various memories flashed through the Great Strength King's mind like a kaleidoscope.

As these filled his mind, the Great Strength King's eyes blazed like flames.

‘How dare you!’

To think that something so insignificant would burrow into his mind, weakened from being sealed!

Since ancient times, he had fought numerous formidable opponents including the Three Pure Ones' immortals, renowned sages, the stone monkey born from a jade stone concentrating the energy of heaven and earth, and the nine-tailed fox that toyed with the world, but this was the first time he had experienced such humiliation.

‘A mere parasitic evil spirit that can only survive by borrowing the body of another being dares to toy with me, the Great Sage.’

It was unforgivable.

The fact that such an insignificant being tried to control him made the Great Strength King’s anger rise to the top of his head.

-Boom!

The Great Strength King stretched his hand upwards and pulled at the ground.

As his massive body soared upwards, the Great Strength King’s body began to shrink gradually.

His shrinking body changed to almost human size.

-Whoosh!

While it seemed to become completely human in form, his head remained no different from when he was gigantic.

It still retained the shape of an ox.

The only difference was that he was now wearing imperial robes that an emperor might wear, giving him an air of majesty, and his robust appearance exuded an incredible pressure.

If there was a flaw in this robustness, it was that one of his horns had been cut off and his eye was also damaged.

“Damn it!”

The Great Strength King’s expression twisted terribly as he touched his unrecovered cut horn and eye.

Although it was thanks to being controlled by that Mok Gan fellow, it was extremely unpleasant.

Was it that fox bitch who did this to his horn and eye?

The fox’s ominous demonic energy was hindering the recovery of his body.

He wondered how many countries she had destroyed and how much human fear and terror she had absorbed during his sealed state to increase her demonic energy to this extent.

In terms of demonic energy alone, she had even surpassed his prime self.

‘This is infuriating.’

It’s not even that stone monkey anymore, now even a fox dares to challenge his dominance?

Now that he’s freed from the seal, he might as well clear them all out.

First, it’s that guy.

The one who occupied his body...

-Flinch!

At that moment, the Great Strength King furrowed his brow.

What is this? These tremendous energies felt from above?

-Whoosh!

When he was buried deep underground due to gravity, he didn't notice, but as he rose higher, he could clearly sense extraordinary energies beyond imagination.

One felt alien, as if it didn't belong to this world, and the other was even more peculiar.

As the Great Strength King reached the surface, his eyes caught two beings floating in the air.

'What are those?'

-Throb!

At that moment, memories of being controlled flashed through the Great Strength King's mind.

As he recalled these memories, the Great Strength King's gaze became serious.

What on earth are those things?

Although they had human forms, both of them were emitting an immeasurable aura as if they had returned to ancient times.

Instinctively, the Great Strength King felt that those two were extremely dangerous.

'...I shouldn't deal with that parasitic eye first.'

Those were more dangerous.

It would be difficult enough to face one of them, but if both were to join forces, it would be quite troublesome.

-Swoosh!

As the Great Strength King extended his hand, something emerged from his ear.

-Whoosh!

Then it instantly grew larger, transforming into a huge fan in the shape of a plantain leaf with gold and red patterns.

-Tap!

'Spirit Demon Great Treasure Plantain Leaf Fan.'

Among the ancient spirit beasts that were infinitely close to the realm of divine beasts, there were a few who had reached the level of demon immortals and possessed divine artifacts called Great Treasures.

One of them was the Great Strength King himself, and this Spirit Demon Great Treasure amplified his demonic energy and possessed divine power to control storms and lava.

'This is the only chance.'

If he could seize the moment when those two were preoccupied with confronting each other, he might be able to annihilate them with the Lava Great Storm created by the Plantain Leaf Fan.

Just as the Great Strength King was about to raise his demonic energy in the Plantain Leaf Fan,

“Hey, cow.”

“What?”

The Great Strength King instinctively turned his head at the familiar voice.

At that very moment, a dazzling five-colored light struck his one remaining eye, and as he furrowed his brow, his body rapidly began to stiffen.

‘This is?’

The Great Strength King couldn’t hide his bewilderment.

His body was gradually stiffening due to petrification.

Thanks to his ancient memories, he could instantly recognize what was causing this.

‘Spirit Demon Great Treasure Fox Spirit Bead!’

-Whoosh!

The Great Strength King hurriedly tried to turn his body and swing the Plantain Leaf Fan towards the five-colored light.

However, due to the tremendous demonic energy emitted from the five-colored light, the petrification accelerated, and in an instant, 80% of his body, except for his head, turned to stone.

-Crack crack crack crack!

“You damn fox bitch!”

“Cool your head for another few thousand years.”

“You think you can do this to me, the Heaven-Leveling Great Sage Ox Demon King.....”

-Crack crack crack crack!

Before he could finish his words, the Great Strength King completely turned to stone.

As the five-colored light gradually diminished, a golden-haired beauty of unparalleled looks appeared, holding a dazzling bead the size of a fist in both hands.

She was the Hundred-Faced King Golden Nine-Tailed Fox.

“Haa... Haa...”

The Golden Nine-Tailed Fox, exhaling rough breaths from exhaustion, approached the petrified Great Strength King and placed the bead against his forehead.

-Click! Rumble rumble rumble!

The bead burrowed into the Great Strength King’s forehead and became embedded there.

The completely embedded bead no longer shone and changed its texture to that of a rough stone.

Looking at this, the Golden Nine-Tailed Fox clicked her tongue.

“This doesn’t seem profitable at all.”

She didn’t expect to use the fox bead containing demonic energy accumulated over thousands of years to seal the Great Strength King.

If her demonic energy hadn’t been superior to the Great Strength King’s due to his seal, even this would have been difficult.

The loss is not small.

It will take that much time to generate a new fox bead.

-Tap tap!

The Golden Nine-Tailed Fox lightly tapped the petrified Great Strength King with her finger, her lips twitching.

Her finger touching the stone was rippling with purple poison energy.

The fox bead is a symbol of transformation.

Originally used for self-protection, it gains petrification and poison energy.

That’s why something turned to stone by a fox bead is also called a killing stone.

A killing stone created with this level of demonic energy would be untouchable by anyone for thousands of years.

-Thud!

Having exhausted all her demonic energy, she slumped to the ground.

Then, looking up at Mok Gyeong-un and the Golden Heavenly King floating in the sky, she muttered.

“I’ve done all I can. It’s up to you now, Heavenly Demon.”

“So you were the root of all evil?”

A chilling intent emanating from strong killing intent.

It was an emotion that couldn’t be felt from the past Demon King.

This was clearly anger.

The being who had been full of emptiness throughout their countless years of confrontation was now showing intense hostility.

The corners of the Golden Heavenly King’s mouth, who had felt a chill down his spine from Mok Gyeong-un’s anger filled with killing intent directed at him, slowly began to spread.

-Grin!

And his mouth split open wide enough to reach his ears.

With an expression that was nothing short of chilling, the Golden Heavenly King, his face filled with ecstasy, said to Mok Gyeong-un.

-You've only realized it now?

-Whoosh!

At those words from the Golden Heavenly King, Mok Gyeong-un's killing intent grew explosively.

The Golden Heavenly King didn't hide his joy at this sight.

He didn't stop there, but provoked further.

-It's truly delightful to see you, who once had your toes stepped on by a subordinate because of a mere human woman, fall to the human realm, become human yourself while trembling in fear trying to escape my gaze.

-Clang!

At that moment, the sword that had been pressed against each other was deflected by the tremendous power that surged along with the killing intent.

Mok Gyeong-un, who had deflected the Sword of Aden, stabbed at his chest.

The evil sword Evil Commandment Sword piercing through his chest.

However,

-Stab!

The blade of the evil sword Evil Commandment Sword protruded from none other than Mok Gyeong-un's back.

As if he had suffered a penetrating wound, the clothes around Mok Gyeong-un's chest were stained with red blood.

Blood even flowed from the corners of his mouth.

Seeing Mok Gyeong-un in this state, the Golden Heavenly King raised the corner of his mouth in a sneer and mocked.

-Ah. I suppose you couldn't see it because I was wearing the holy garment.

With those words, the Golden Heavenly King tore off the upper garment he was wearing.

This revealed a sacred-looking silver armor with intricate patterns engraved on the chest.

The surface of the armor was so smooth that it reflected everything around it.

To this, Mok Gyeong-un opened his mouth slightly.

"Mirror Surface."

-Ho. Even as a human, you haven't forgotten. The other name of this Armor of Aden.

Each of the five divine artifacts of Aden possessed by the Golden Heavenly King had its own divine power.

Among them, the Armor of Aden was also called the Mirror Surface Armor, and it had the divine power to completely reflect all attacks back to the opponent.

-Grab!

The Golden Heavenly King grabbed Mok Gyeong-un's shoulder and said.

-How foolish. Why did you become human? Your face is already turning pale just from having your chest pierced. How stupid to willingly choose such a weak body that even struggles to breathe. Truly foolish.

-Crunch!

As the Golden Heavenly King's grip gradually tightened, his fingers dug into Mok Gyeong-un's shoulder.

"Wouldn't it have been better to stay hidden? To think you could oppose me with just power derived from will alone, without your core or divine artifacts..."

-Tap!

At that moment, Mok Gyeong-un's palm touched the Golden Heavenly King's armor.

Seeing this, the Golden Heavenly King sneered.

-What do you think you can do? Spitting towards the sky will only dirty your own face. You..."

Before those words could finish,

-Boom!

-Kugh!

The Golden Heavenly King's chest bent backwards, and blood spurted from his mouth.

The Golden Heavenly King's eyes filled with incomprehension at the strange pain penetrating his body.

To him, Mok Gyeong-un spoke in a low voice.

"Penetrating Force."

-What?

Penetrating Force.

It's a type of force emission that directly raises force inside rather than on the surface.

Because of this, the Golden Heavenly King couldn't help but be bewildered by the force that had penetrated the Mirror Surface.

'The armor doesn't work?'

-Swoosh!

At that moment, as Mok Gyeong-un reached out his hand again, the Golden Heavenly King tried to create distance by flapping his wings.

Although he didn't know exactly what technique it was, if the Mirror Surface, the divine power of the armor, didn't work, he had to avoid direct contact.

But something huge blocked his path behind him.

It was,

-Woong woong woong woong!

A massive formless sword about thirty jang long.

‘This is?’

But there wasn’t just one formless sword.

Suddenly, enormous formless swords appeared in every direction the Golden Heavenly King looked, creating a wall as if to surround him and prevent his escape.

Chapter 493 – The Supreme Sword (7)

Goooooooo!

Suddenly, enormous formless swords appeared in every direction the Golden Heavenly King looked, creating a wall as if to surround him and prevent his escape.

This majestic sight was enough to draw exclamations even from the martial artists fighting the remaining evil spirits in the distance.

A wall made of formless swords called the Sword Extreme.

It was truly the realm of a martial god.

However, the Golden Heavenly King, trapped within the wall of formless swords, sneered at this sight.

-You think you can contain me with just this? With my divine artifacts alone...

“Use them all you want.”

-What?

“It will all be futile struggling.”

-Whoosh!

With those words, Mok Gyeong-un’s form instantly burrowed to the front.

Having closed the distance in an instant, Mok Gyeong-un tried to plant a fist into the Golden Heavenly King’s jaw.

However, at that moment,

-Swish!

The Golden Heavenly King’s form scattered, and

-Swish swish swish swish!

The number began to increase.

This wasn’t afterimages left by moving quickly, but truly about a hundred clones appearing in an instant.

The hundred or so Golden Heavenly Kings opened their mouths simultaneously.

-You, who have fought me for so long, should know well that the Mirror Surface doesn’t simply reflect.

-Whoosh!

As soon as those words ended, the hundred or so clones surrounding Mok Gyeong-un simultaneously swung their Swords of Aden.

-Rumble rumble rumble!

At that moment, the space where Mok Gyeong-un was distorted, and a black sphere the size of a dot appeared.

The space itself had distorted as gravity concentrated in one place, and the gravitational pull was beyond imagination.

-Whoosh!

Gravity is also a kind of weight.

Due to the tremendous gravitational pull, Mok Gyeong-un's body was about to be sucked into the black sphere as if it were a piece of paper.

At that moment, Mok Gyeong-un stretched his finger towards the dot.

'Void Suppression!'

At that instant, the surrounding space seemed to compress, converging into a single point, conflicting with the black dot created by the Golden Heavenly King, and the intersecting space tore apart.

-Crack crack crack crack!

-Whoosh!

Not missing this gap, Mok Gyeong-un repeatedly kicked the air.

Then, wind rose from the tips of Mok Gyeong-un's feet, his form quickly vibrated, and then began to multiply.

-Swish! Swish! Swish!

'This guy?'

The Golden Heavenly King's eyes narrowed.

Mok Gyeong-un's forms multiplied as whirlwinds swept through.

As if he were using the Mirror Surface ability of the Armor of Aden to increase his clones, they suddenly increased to several dozen.

Seeing this increased number, the eyes of Dam Baek-ha of the Nine Blood Cult, who was watching from afar, widened.

'Is that the Wind Shadow Eight Forms?'

The Wind Shadow Eight Forms was a secret technique of the Jin Clan.

It was a supreme martial art that created up to eight clones using the Wind Shadow Step, the world's best lightness technique, to simultaneously unleash eight different martial arts.

But now, Mok Gyeong-un had broken through the limits of the Wind Shadow Eight Forms and created even more clones.

Just how fast was he moving?

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!

It must be at a speed difficult to discern with the naked eye.

The multiplied forms of Mok Gyeong-un simultaneously rushed towards the clones of the Golden Heavenly King in front of each of them.

-How interesting. To create clones without relying on the power of divine artifacts. But!

-Woong woong woong woong!

The hundred or so Golden Heavenly Kings simultaneously gripped their Swords of Aden in reverse and drew up divine power.

Then, as pure white radiance flowed out,

-Whoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un's clones flying towards the Golden Heavenly King were thrown up, down, and sideways against their will due to the gravitational anomaly.

And the clones that were thrown away became blurry and disappeared.

-Hastily created clones won't work...!?

-Swoosh!

The Golden Heavenly King, who was about to mock the clones disappearing so easily, hurriedly swung the Sword of Aden.

This was because formless swords were flying towards him from where the clones had disappeared due to the gravitational anomaly.

The clones were simply a distraction.

-Woong woong woong woong!

'What? Gravity doesn't work?'

He tried once again to change gravity to blow away the formless swords.

But the formless swords didn't stop, instead flying towards them.

There was one thing he didn't know here.

Formless swords are aggregates of sharp energy with no mass, only sharpness exists.

It was impossible for them to be affected by gravity.

-Swoosh!

Therefore, the formless swords passed through the gravity field effortlessly and reached the clones of the Golden Heavenly King.

But at that moment,

-Grin!

The corners of the Golden Heavenly King's mouth turned up ominously.

'Do you know what it means to have a form even if it has no weight?'

-Woong woong woong woong!

-Slash!

The formless swords seemed to burrow into the armor, but they didn't destroy it.

They were burrowing into the Mirror Surface, the divine power of the armor.

As they were sucked into the Mirror Surface, the Golden Heavenly King turned towards where another clone was.

Then,

-Slash!

The sword reflected by the Mirror Surface flew towards another clone,

-Woong woong!

And passed through the Mirror Surface again.

But in this process, each time it passed through the Mirror Surface, it gained speed as gravity was added by the Sword of Aden.

-Whoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un swung his sword intent to erase the formless swords, but at the point they passed through the Mirror Surface, they were no longer the formless swords he had unleashed.

The formless swords that had escaped control continued to pass through the armor worn by the Golden Heavenly King's clones, being reflected and accelerating.

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Before long, the formless swords had changed to a speed close to light.

It was difficult for the human eye to discern, and the surroundings were being filled with streams of light.

"Haa... Haa... That's insane."

Yu Wujin of the Yoo clan, watching this confrontation from afar covered in wounds, clicked his tongue at this sight.

Mok Gyeong-un, whom he saw again, had become even more of a monster, but that was truly a being humans couldn't handle.

How could one possibly block that?

It seemed impossible even if the entire Yoo clan combined their strength.

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Over a hundred formless swords had become streams of light themselves through the Mirror Surface and gravity.

-Can you handle acceleration that surpasses even reflexes?

The Golden Heavenly King turned his body towards Mok Gyeong-un with a meaningful cry.

-Bam!

At that moment, over a hundred streams of light flew towards Mok Gyeong-un in an instant.

The formless swords moving at an invisible speed, even crossing space, seemed about to penetrate Mok Gyeong-un's body.

But in that fleeting moment,

-Woong woong woong!

The tip of Mok Gyeong-un's evil sword Evil Commandment Sword, stained with black demonic energy, rippled in the form of a huge wave, and the formless swords that had become streams of light didn't pass through the wave but rippled and rotated fiercely.

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

'What on earth is this!'

It was a technique of the Scripture of Transferring True Qi, which could be called the highest realm of grafting techniques.

Originally, it was a supreme technique that added one's own power to the opponent's attack, but here Mok Gyeong-un demonstrated a skill that would astonish even grand masters.

‘Ghost Blade Force Energy Transfer True Force Formless Penetrating Sword!’

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh! Whoosh whoosh whoosh!

The streams of light from the formless swords that had been rotating fiercely, caught in the marvelous principle of the Energy Transfer True Force, soon absorbed Mok Gyeong-un’s demonic energy and became black streams of light rushing towards the hundred or so clones.

‘Oh no!’

The Golden Heavenly King hurriedly exerted the divine power of the Mirror Surface at the tremendous speed.

But the moment the black streams of light touched,

-Tremble tremble tremble!

Their tips trembled, and due to the marvelous principle of the Penetrating Force that transmitted power, the black streams of light pierced straight through the Mirror Surface.

-Stab stab stab stab stab stab!

Black streams of light piercing through the chests of the hundred Golden Heavenly Kings and cutting through the air.

-Kugh!

-Kugh!

-Kugh!

The death cries of the Golden Heavenly King's clones.

'!!!!!!'

The mouths of the supreme experts watching this amazing sight fell open.

They had thought Mok Gyeong-un was in the worst crisis when the Golden Heavenly King's clones accelerated the formless swords into streams of light.

But this was beyond imagination, no, it was thrilling.

Even one marvelous principle alone would be a supreme technique, but to combine them all in a moment when his life was on the line.

'...A monster? No, even that's not enough.'

'That is the god of martial arts itself.'

There were even those who shed tears.

Although it was barely visible to the naked eye, just seeing these incredible marvelous principles flashing for a moment was overwhelming.

At some point, regardless of whether they were righteous or evil, everyone was filled with awe.

That's how much Mok Gyeong-un was demonstrating the pinnacle of martial arts that seemed to reach the heavens.

-Whoosh!

The penetrated clones burst into flames and scattered into ash in an instant.

Among the ashes, the only real body barely avoided the black streams of light, but his eyes were tinged with bewilderment.

That just now was the strongest attack, combined with the acceleration of gravity, the divine power of the Mirror Surface, and even his own divine power.

Even during the God-Demon War, it was difficult to demonstrate an attack of this level of power, so what on earth was this guy?

How could he display such incredible skills with just a human body?

These were powers close to miracles, without divine artifacts.

-Whoosh!

Meanwhile, his eyes met with Mok Gyeong-un's through the ashes of the annihilated clones.

The look in his eyes as he gazed at him wasn't that of facing a strong opponent.

It was the look of an absolute being gazing at him.

[Use them all you want. It will all be futile struggling.]

For a moment, Mok Gyeong-un's words flashed through his mind.

He had casually dismissed those words that suggested he could handle him regardless of becoming human or losing his divine artifacts.

But those words of his were sincere.

-Grr!

Recalling this, he was suddenly gripped by anger.

Do you really believe you can do anything to me with that insignificant human body?

If so, I'll call it arrogance.

I thought I wouldn't need to use my full strength to kill you who has become human, but I've changed my mind.

I'll annihilate everything gathered here, including you.

-Whoosh!

The silver crown on the Golden Heavenly King's head emitted a white light.

-Woong woong woong woong!

Then, numerous light spheres the size of fists appeared from all directions and flew towards Mok Gyeong-un simultaneously.

-Bam bam bam bam bam bam bam!

In that state, the Golden Heavenly King tightly clenched his left hand.

Then, the ring on his finger began to emit an intense radiance, and soon the space between the split dark clouds began to ripple.

This wasn't due to gravity.

-Crack crack crack crack crack!

With a strange sound that shook the eardrums, the sky truly split open, revealing a world as black as the night sky.

Countless stars were twinkling in the black world.

-Goooooooo!

As the Golden Heavenly King moved his left hand in that state, the black world moved and began to focus somewhere as if expanding, and something was visible there.

"Wh-what is that?"

"Could it be...?"

Everyone watching was in an uproar at the sight of numerous huge gray boulders visible in the split black world.

What on earth were those?

Could those be star fragments?

Amidst the murmuring sounds and the emotions of fear and terror rising here and there, the Golden Heavenly King raised the Sword of Aden with a chilling smile full of madness.

As radiance flowed from the sword and the power of gravity arose,

-Goooooo!

The huge gray boulders visible between the split stars began to move towards this place.

The approaching boulders were glowing red hot, and heat could be felt.

-Rumble rumble rumble!

The ground shook as if an earthquake had occurred due to the tremendous pressure, and the earth was being crushed.

The Golden Heavenly King shouted with maniacal laughter.

-This is the power of a god. With this...

-Slash!

It was at that very moment.

A black line appeared between the spheres of light.

As a sharp sensation arrived from something crossing space, a red line appeared on the right arm of the Golden Heavenly King holding the Sword of Aden.

‘What is this?’

-Swoosh!

Then, as the radiance flowing from his sword disappeared, his arm fell off.

Chapter 494 – Final Chapter (1)

Slash!

A single black line appeared between the spheres of light that were continuously being created, rushing in, and exploding.

A sharp blade crossed space, and in an instant, the right arm of the Golden Heavenly King holding the Sword of Aden was cut off.

-Swoosh!

'!?'

The Golden Heavenly King's eyes widened, not having realized what had happened until his arm was severed.

What on earth had just occurred?

The sharp energy didn't fly through cutting the spheres of light, but crossed space directly.

Because of this, he only belatedly realized he had been cut.

-Kugh!

The Golden Heavenly King's brow furrowed at the tremendous pain that came.

Even so, he didn't let out a scream.

Having lived for an unimaginably long time that humans couldn't even imagine, and having gone through countless wars, he could endure this level of pain.

However,

'I need to retrieve the sword.'

-Rumble rumble rumble!

Thanks to losing his arm, he had dropped the sword, and the gravity field was deactivated.

Because of this, even his attempt to open space and pull in meteorites was halted.

He needed to retrieve the sword again and put it back into orbit.

The Golden Heavenly King tried to raise his divine power to pull back his severed arm and the sword.

It was at that very moment.

-Crack crack crack crack crack crack!

As the spheres of light bounced in all directions, someone burst out from between them.

It was Mok Gyeong-un.

'You bastard!'

The Golden Heavenly King tried to create more spheres of light to prevent Mok Gyeong-un from approaching.

But at that moment,

-Whoosh!

Formless swords appeared around Mok Gyeong-un, rotating fiercely and deflecting the incoming spheres of light, preventing them from approaching.

Panicked by Mok Gyeong-un's approach, the Golden Heavenly King, unable to control his divine power, tried to move himself to retrieve the sword.

As they entered the realm of ultra-high speed, their movements slowed down infinitely.

Just as the Golden Heavenly King's hand was about to touch the sword,

At that very moment,

-Slash!

'Oh no!'

A red line appeared on his outstretched left arm due to the sharp blade crossing space.

As the sensation in his left hand disappeared, the light from the ring he was wearing quickly faded.

Then,

-Rumble rumble rumble rumble!

The space that had opened high in the sky closed in on itself and shut completely.

Along with this, the heat and pressure that had been crushing the earth disappeared, and those who had been pressed down by it looked up at the closed sky and cheered.

-Waaaaah!!!!

They had been dumbfounded by the falling stars.

However, when Mok Gyeong-un prevented it, regardless of whether they were righteous or evil, they couldn't help but shout with joy.

‘Mok Gyeong-un, you really...’

Mu Yutian, too, couldn't contain his excitement as he watched this scene with a trembling heart.

In the past, regardless of how it happened, he had thought his half-brother had entered the Heaven and Earth Society and abandoned righteousness, treading the path of evil.

But all of that was meaningless now.

Before his eyes now stood the world's greatest master and an unparalleled hero.

-Heavenly Demon! Heavenly Demon! Heavenly Demon!

Everyone called out to him with reverence.

Only he could kill this transcendent being who called himself a god.

That's why they became one in their wish.

As if hearing their wish, Mok Gyeong-un's form rushed towards the Golden Heavenly King, who was trying to create distance by flapping his wings, flustered after losing even his left arm.

-How can this be!

The Golden Heavenly King found it hard to bear, not from pain but from humiliation.

If it had been before he lost his core, it would have been slightly less shameful as it was done by the absolute being who had been opposing him for ages.

But now it was completely different.

He had lost his core and completely lost his power as the Demon King, and even had his divine artifacts stolen by a subordinate at his side, falling to the human realm and becoming human.

'How dare a mere human! How! How dare he push me this far!'

He couldn't bring himself to accept this.

-Grr!

Therefore, he finally had to make the choice he had been avoiding the most.

-Thump!

He had thought he could easily kill him with just the power of his divine artifacts, but that wasn't the case.

A hundred years ago, when his core was damaged by him, he had entered a recovery period after suffering critical damage, but only 30% had been restored.

That's why he had to avoid drawing out the divine power of his core as much as possible, but now he had no choice.

-Pop pop pop pop!

-Cough!

As he drew out the divine power of his unrecovered core, blood spurted from his mouth.

However, as his core moved for the first time in a hundred years, divine power circulated throughout his body, and tremendous power surged.

-Swoosh! Swoosh!

The circulation of divine power instantly restored his severed left and right arms.

As his arms regenerated, the Golden Heavenly King stopped fleeing and flew towards the rushing Mok Gyeong-un.

If he had to go through a long recovery process again, he might have to give up his position to someone else, but he was determined to kill him here and now...

-Slash slash slash slash slash!

At that moment, numerous trajectories of black lines embroidered a magnificent pattern in the air.

-Shudder!

The Golden Heavenly King's pupils shook frantically.

He couldn't see the trajectories of the sword this guy was drawing.

His eyes were filled only with lines cutting through the air, and he had no way to deal with it.

-Whoosh!

The Golden Heavenly King hurriedly wrapped himself with his large golden wings.

These wings were the crystallization of divine power along with his core.

When concentrating divine power, these golden wings boasted a hardness far superior to even the Armor of Aden.

But,

-Slash slash slash slash slash slash!

'!?'

As countless nerves connected to each wing were all cut,

-Whoosh!

Feathers split into thousands of pieces scattered in all directions.

In thousands of years of war, he might have suffered small wounds, but he had never lost his wings.

But now, those proud golden wings he boasted of were being destroyed.

‘This... This...’

Unlike his physical body, this couldn’t be restored in a short time.

But it didn’t end there.

-Slash!

Mok Gyeong-un’s evil sword Evil Commandment Sword, stained black, cut off his right arm, and simultaneously, his left fist was planted in his abdomen.

-Thud!

Penetrating Force coming through the fist.

At this energy, the Golden Heavenly King, who had been enduring the pain until now, opened his mouth.

-Kugh!

Not stopping there, Mok Gyeong-un’s elbow struck his chin upwards.

-Crack!

-Kugh!

With the sound of his jaw breaking, his head shot upwards.

"It's far from over."

-Flinch!

At Mok Gyeong-un's voice ringing in his ears, the Golden Heavenly King's face turned pale.

He didn't know exactly what he had done, but the fierce and sharp energies coming through each of his strikes were tearing his insides apart, giving him pain he had never experienced before.

'No!'

-Goooo!

The Golden Heavenly King raised divine power in his left hand, trying to create a whirlwind of light to deflect Mok Gyeong-un.

However, the left arm he extended,

-Slash!

Was cut off just like that.

-Aaaaargh!

Mok Gyeong-un grabbed the cheeks of his face as he let out a scream of pain.

-Grab!

“You’ll need to stay conscious until I chew and eat every bit of your flesh, bone fragments, and every point of your internal organs.”

‘You, you...’

At those words, the Golden Heavenly King felt a chill down his spine, no, his entire body trembled with goosebumps.

This guy was different from the Demon King he had known.

Gone was the figure full of dignity despite being of the demon clan, replaced by someone unspeakably cruel and vicious.

“Shall we start with those eyes first?”

Mok Gyeong-un reached out his fingers towards his two eyes with an incredibly chilling smile.

But it was at that moment.

-It would be best to stop there, Incarnation.

Mok Gyeong-un’s hand stopped midway at the will echoing in his mind.

As it wasn’t transmitted from very far away, Mok Gyeong-un could immediately pinpoint where it came from.

It was in the direction of the Ten Thousand Great Mountains.

Mok Gyeong-un slowly turned his head.

'!?'

As he turned his head, Mok Gyeong-un's two pupils shook.

Above the Ten Thousand Great Mountains, the figure of someone with a face full of scars was visible, and he could immediately recognize who it was by the third eye on his forehead.

It was Mok Gan.

'...Did he change bodies?'

Mok Gyeong-un had thought that Mok Gan, who had been forcibly expelled from the Great Strength King, would have been blown apart by the gravity field created by the Golden Heavenly King.

Despite his numerous evil deeds and madness, did he possess some kind of heavenly luck?

He truly had a tenacious life.

-Grip!

Strength entered Mok Gyeong-un's hand holding the evil sword Evil Commandment Sword.

This was because of the two beings held in both hands of Mok Gan, who had a face full of scars.

In his left hand was Cheong-ryeong, who had become faint after exhausting most of her spirit power, and in his right hand was Wi So-yeon, who seemed to have lost consciousness and was hanging limply.

Finally, both Wi So-yeon, the soul, and Cheong-ryeong, the spirit, had fallen into his hands.

-Grr!

Killing intent rose fiercely in Mok Gyeong-un's eyes.

He wanted to cut off his neck right away, but the distance was too far.

It was a distance that his mind's sword couldn't reach and was difficult even for the Bullet Sword Force, probably a result of careful calculation.

Mok Gyeong-un's prediction was accurate.

"Kuhehehehe."

Mok Gan, bursting into laughter filled with madness, couldn't hide his excitement.

He thought everything had come to naught due to numerous variables, but in the end, they had fallen into his hands.

Then a voice echoed in his mind.

-Well done. Half of the main body is down there...

-Shut up. From now on, I'll handle this myself. You just need to follow my will.

-...Do as you please. Your judgment has surpassed mine.

The yielding will was Mok Gan's, and the strongly rejecting will was Bi Yong-heon's.

Bi Yong-heon's will wasn't interested in things like the annihilation of the Central Plains martial world or the exclusion of humans for the sake of the Heavenly clan, and had only been waiting for this moment.

Mok Gan, no, Bi Yong-heon looked at Cheong-ryeong with a smile tinged with madness and said,

"Now we can go back to how it was before. So-wol."

-Before? Ha...

Cheong-ryeong had no more words for his madness and obsession.

She was just sorry to one person.

'Mortal.'

Cheong-ryeong looked at Mok Gyeong-un and shook her head.

She hoped he wouldn't make a foolish choice because of her alone.

'...Please don't do that.'

If he did, she wouldn't be able to bear it even until the moment of her annihilation.

She firmly resolved in her heart.

Although her spirit power was almost exhausted and she was at a stage where she could barely move, she planned to seize the one chance.

-Swoosh!

Cheong-ryeong looked at Wi So-yeon, who could be called the body containing her soul.

Bi Yong-heon would surely try to use the forbidden technique to make her and Wi So-yeon's body one.

She planned to aim for that moment and perish together with her soul.

'I will absolutely not hold you back.'

Although you will be sad, if I can save you, I can vanish with a glad heart.

As expected, Bi Yong-heon began to chant some kind of spell.

It was clearly the forbidden technique of the Wicked Granny that dealt with souls and spirits.

It seemed he was trying to merge the soul and spirit into one right away to achieve his goal.

-Swoosh!

Bi Yong-heon brought himself close to Wi So-yeon's body.

Cheong-ryeong waited with tense eyes.

Just once.

She had to aim for the moment when she came into contact with the soul.

But then Bi Yong-heon, who had been chanting the spell, stopped his spirit body right in front of Wi So-yeon and said something that surprised her.

"I won't let him take you away three times."

'!?'

Cheong-ryeong's two pupils shook.

Three times?

Could it be...

Her eyes turned to Mok Gyeong-un, who was not taking his eyes off her from afar.

Then,

-Whoosh!

-Aah!

Spell power burrowed into the back of her spirit body's neck, and soon completely stiffened her spirit body.

To the surprised Cheong-ryeong, Bi Yong-heon grinned and said,

"If you were planning to do something, forget it. I've been waiting for this moment alone for a hundred years, do you think I'd let my guard down so easily?"

With those words, Bi Yong-heon began to chant the spell again and tried to insert Cheong-ryeong's immobilized spirit body into Wi So-yeon's body.

-Swoosh!

Cheong-ryeong's eyes reddened.

She had just realized something, but she couldn't forget everything like this.

However, her spirit body was already slowly seeping into Wi So-yeon's body.

Bi Yong-heon smiled meaningfully as if he had won.

But,

'!?'

Suddenly, Bi Yong-heon's expression contorted.

"What is this..."

-Stab!

At that moment, Wi So-yeon's eyes flew open, and she tried to stab something into Bi Yong-heon's heart.

-Bam!

Because of this, Bi Yong-heon let go of Cheong-ryeong and hurriedly grabbed Wi So-yeon's dagger.

Then he shouted in an angry voice.

"How dare a mere vengeful spirit be inside this body!"

“You should have checked, shouldn’t you?”

“What?”

-Grab!

Wi So-yeon, no, Guard Go Chan who had entered her body, used all his strength to try and stab the dagger into Bi Yong-heon’s chest, but it was useless.

From the start, the difference in power was too great.

Enraged at being interrupted for a moment, Bi Yong-heon,

-Clang!

Instantly broke the dagger, then placed his hand on Wi So-yeon’s chest and chanted the Demon Resistance Technique.

Then,

-Whoosh!

Go Chan’s vengeful spirit in Wi So-yeon’s body was forcibly ejected.

-Ugh!

For a moment, Bi Yong-heon, who was about to annihilate Go Chan’s vengeful spirit out of anger, seemed to realize something and remembered he had dropped Cheong-ryeong’s spirit body, so he reached his hand downwards.

It was at that very moment.

-Slash!

His arm was cut off, and someone soared upwards.

'!?'

It was Mok Gyeong-un.

Not missing the small gap created by his spirit servant and vengeful spirit Guard Go Chan, Mok Gyeong-un, who had flown here in an instant, caught the falling Cheong-ryeong.

Cheong-ryeong spoke in a trembling voice to Mok Gyeong-un, who was holding her and soaring upwards.

-Mortal, no, you... You...

Before she could finish her words, Mok Gyeong-un gently caressed her cheek and spoke.

"It was all me."

At those words, tears poured from Cheong-ryeong's reddened eyes.

Chapter 495 – Final Chapter (2)

"It was all me."

The flowing tears cannot be contained.

-Sob... You... You...

-Swoosh! Woong woong woong woong!

Countless memories flooded in through Mok Gyeong-un's palm touching Cheong-ryeong's cheek.

Her red eyes, shedding tears, wavered.

Memories were being painted before her eyes.

-'Why do you entrust this to me, a mere human vessel?'

-...

-It's not mere. Isn't it shining even more brightly?

'You...'

[Someone once said, it shines brighter because it's short. We can live like that too, can't we?]

Her brightly smiling face.

That was my everything.

Born as the Demon King, virtually immortal, I longed for a human life that was fleeting yet shone brighter than anyone else's.

-Swish swish swish swish!

The black flame was gradually getting smaller.

It was dying out.

-It truly... was long and arduous.

'Stop. There's no need to completely dissolve your will into me like this. No, why are you trying to disappear?'

-I'm not disappearing.

'You!'

-There's no need... to think... like that. I am... you. You are... me. In the end... we are one.

As the black flame reduced to the size of a finger, even the voice was gradually becoming fainter.

'Stop! Stop it. Didn't you want to meet her? Didn't you want to speak to her every moment you awoke?'

I could understand because all the memories had been assimilated.

In those few moments of awakening, he repeated the same words dozens, hundreds, thousands of times in his mind.

[I missed you so much. My one and only bride.]

Yet, he never uttered these words aloud.

I knew well why he did this.

It was to leave no lingering attachment.

If even a hair's breadth of attachment remained, he might want to give up on assimilating with me, the human vessel.

-The beautiful... and... shining story... of So-wol... and me... ended... then. Now... it's the story... of Cheong-ryeong... and you.

The dying ember.

In the ember, he depicted his meeting with her in a flash.

And he recalled his bride, who was so beautiful, for the last time.

-She was beautiful... So beautiful, like a single red peony.

-Whoosh!

The ember thus extinguished and scattered like a heat haze.

As the memories contained in the thoughts were engraved as if unfolding before her eyes, Cheong-ryeong shed tears even more sorrowfully.

'I knew. You knew.'

A hundred years ago, after breathing her last, she became a vengeful spirit, fixated only on revenge.

To her, who was desolate and filled only with darkness, Mortal started as someone in a similar position of shared suffering, but before she knew it, he became a ray of light, and gradually, she came to hold him in her heart.

She thought she would never hold anyone in her heart again.

But she couldn't hide that emotion.

That's why you became Mortal as a human, not your former self.

[...Yes. We'll be together. Even if it's just for a fleeting moment.]

Now I think I understand why he said such words.

He truly regretted it.

All those moments.

[The shining story of So-wol and me has come to an end.]

Yet, you left without leaving even a trace of lingering attachment, holding in your heart the brief but beautiful sparkle of our time together.

No, you became one with him.

His voice from that time faintly echoes in my ears.

[I missed you so much. My one and only bride.]

-Aaaaah!

Cheong-ryeong wailed sorrowfully and tightly embraced Mok Gyeong-un.

I missed you so much.

Just once... even if it's just for a moment, I thought I'd be willing to disappear forever if I could see you just once.

-Grip!

She embraced him tightly as if he might disappear somewhere.

But at some point,

-Swish swish swish swish!

Her spirit body tried to pass through Mok Gyeong-un's body.

'!?'

Mok Gyeong-un's pupils shook.

Although her spirit body had become faint due to the depletion of spirit power, he thought there was still some left, but her spirit power was rapidly being exhausted.

"Cheong-ryeong?"

-Ah... I... Why...

-Creep creep!

He could feel spell power.

Then, Mok Gyeong-un's eyes caught sight of Mok Gan, no, Bi Yong-heon, forming a hand seal with one hand.

The surrounding area for dozens of jang was filled with his spell power,

-Ugh... Ma-Master.

Guard Go Chan, who had tried to move Wi So-yeon's body, which was the soul, groaned in pain as his spirit body became faint.

The spirit power of the vengeful spirits was being rapidly depleted due to the wall created by spell power.

-Whoosh!

Intense light flowed from Mok Gyeong-un's eyes.

At that moment, Bi Yong-heon's face, who was chanting a spell while forming a hand seal, contorted in pain, and fresh blood spurted from his mouth.

-Puh!

This was because he had been struck in the heart by the mind's sword, the Sword Intent.

Mok Gyeong-un's mind's sword, having regained his original memories and become stronger in will than anyone else, was incomparably stronger than before.

However,

“Cough cough!..”

He endured the pain of his heart being torn apart and continued to chant the spell.

Bi Yong-heon’s face was contorted with pain, but his eyes were filled with anger and madness.

-Swish swish swish swish!

“Cheong-ryeong!”

It was useless to try to hold her with spell power.

Cheong-ryeong’s body, which had become faint to the point of disappearing completely, passed through Mok Gyeong-un’s arms and fell downwards.

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Soldier! Fight! Split! Formation!

As Mok Gyeong-un chanted the spell along with the hand seals of the Nine Word Revival Technique, four pillars appeared around the falling Cheong-ryeong, creating surfaces that contained her.

This was the Four Peaks Linking Technique.

-Grr!

-Whoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un's form reached in front of Bi Yong-heon in the blink of an eye.

Nevertheless, Bi Yong-heon continued to chant the spell without even thinking of blocking or avoiding.

His eyes, filled with madness, were saying:

'If I can't have her, I won't let anyone else have her either.'

Even if that meant Cheong-ryeong's eternal annihilation.

-Whoosh! Shudder!

In response to his unceasing madness, Mok Gyeong-un split Bi Yong-heon's body in half with a single stroke filled with tremendous killing intent.

-Slash! Crack!

Only when he was cut in half did Bi Yong-heon's mouth stop uttering spells.

-Slash slash slash slash slash slash slash!

As if this wasn't enough, Mok Gyeong-un instantly created hundreds of trajectories, annihilating Bi Yong-heon's body without leaving a single piece.

Still not satisfied, Mok Gyeong-un was about to fly towards the falling Cheong-ryeong.

But then,

-Swish swish swish swish!

Something faint was visible in the blood scattering like dust.

It was a vengeful spirit.

As Bi Yong-heon, his face still full of scars, appeared as a vengeful spirit, Mok Gyeong-un grabbed the neck of his spirit as if pleased.

-Grab!

He had decided to annihilate even his soul, preventing him from entering the cycle of reincarnation.

Then, as if trying to resist, the vengeful spirit Bi Yong-heon reached out his hand towards Mok Gyeong-un's face.

To this,

"Disappear."

-Whoosh!

Bi Yong-heon's spirit body began to scatter due to demonic energy and spell power.

But the expression of Bi Yong-heon, who had just reached out his hand towards him with an angry face, was different from before.

It was a face as if he had let go of everything.

At that moment, Bi Yong-heon's unconscious thoughts flowed in through his spirit body.

-Slash! Slash!

[Stop. Please... stop.]

Bi Yong-heon was suffering as he created self-inflicted wounds, cutting his own face with a dagger.

He was trying to stab the eye on his forehead with the dagger, but having lost control of his body, he ended up cutting his face.

[Please... Please...]

The incoming thoughts of that guy.

They were miserable memories of trying to take his own life or trying to remove that guy whenever he briefly escaped Mok Gan's control over the past hundred years.

He constantly fought between the inherent madness and reason within himself.

However, all those results were nothing but the encroachment of madness.

-Swish swish swish swish!

Having read these thoughts, Mok Gyeong-un's eyes became strange.

So you too were unable to escape from madness due to Mok Gan's control.

But the reason he pretended to attack him without any explanation even after escaping that control when he became a vengeful spirit was,

[I must be annihilated. I must disappear as evil until the very end.]

His thoughts wished for his own annihilation.

It was because only by disappearing as the root of evil until the end could he completely wash away her resentment.

-Swish swish swish swish!

As if knowing that Mok Gyeong-un had read his thoughts, the scattering and disappearing vengeful spirit Bi Yong-heon shook his head with a subtle look.

It seemed as if he was asking not to tell her anything.

And so, the vengeful spirit Bi Yong-heon completely scattered and even his spirit body was annihilated.

Even if he tried to do something for her at the very end, Mok Gyeong-un felt no sympathy for him.

After all, all that madness had originated from him.

-Whoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un moved the Four Peaks Linking Technique to the ground, dispelled it, and then checked on Cheong-ryeong.

Having become completely faint and on the verge of disappearing, she spoke with difficulty.

-Bi... Bi Yong-heon?

“He...”

At her question, Mok Gyeong-un was about to say that he had annihilated him but then hesitated.

Her spirit body was already on the verge of disappearing.

If he were to inform her of the annihilation of Bi Yong-heon, who could be considered the subject of her resentment, what would happen?

If she were to attain enlightenment like this, the worst situation could occur.

Wi So-yeon, who could be considered her soul, had already escaped even the cycle of reincarnation, so she could be annihilated just like that.

‘What should I do?’

He who had been unhindered in everything, at this moment, couldn’t decide anything.

She had already exhausted most of her spirit power and was on the verge of disappearing.

He couldn’t take risks in this state.

-Haa... Haa... Master.

At that moment, Guard Go Chan, who had protected Wi So-yeon’s body until the end despite facing the crisis of his spirit body being annihilated, approached.

Seeing Wi So-yeon being carried on Go Chan’s back, Mok Gyeong-un’s eyes wavered even more.

‘.....’

It was because he recalled the conversation he had with Wicked Granny Cheol Suryeon when he obtained the forbidden technique that could unite soul and spirit.

[Is it possible to make the spirit the main subject and unite it with the soul using the forbidden technique?]

[The spirit as the main subject? Do you think that's possible? The spirit is like a strong thought from one's lifetime. It scatters and is washed away on earth when the soul goes through the process of reincarnation. In the end, the soul becomes the subject of reincarnation.]

[...Then what happens when the soul and spirit become one? Is everything related to the spirit completely washed away?]

[Yes. That's the principle.]

-Grip!

Strength entered Mok Gyeong-un's clenched fist.

-Drip!

His nails dug into his flesh, and blood flowed.

At the end of their journey, they had come to know each other's existence, so why did it have to end like this?

It would be right to unite her soul and spirit to allow her to live, but if that happens, due to the cycle of reincarnation, everything of Cheong-ryeong, the spirit, would be washed away.

She would no longer be Cheong-ryeong he knew, but her previous life.

-Swoosh!

At that moment, despite being unable to make contact due to her faint spirit body, Cheong-ryeong reached out her hand towards Mok Gyeong-un's clenched fist.

With a look as if she knew everything, she moved her lips, saying it was alright, and smiled with tears in her eyes.

Chapter 496 – Final Chapter (3)

-Ugh...

The Golden Heavenly King, who had lost all four limbs and both eyes, let out a groan of pain.

Even during the war a hundred years ago, he had never been injured to this extent.

The humiliation and pain were unbearable.

‘Damn it.’

He had tried to escape from him when his creation, Mok Gan, drew his attention.

He thought it was certainly possible since his attention was divided, but in that fleeting moment, not only did he gouge out both of his eyes, but he also stabbed his sword at the location of his core.

-Cough cough...

Perhaps it was to deal with him quickly to prevent future troubles.

However, there was one thing that he didn't know.

Because of the damage to his core a hundred years ago, he had moved its location slightly lower than the center of his chest, just in case.

Thanks to this, although the upper part of his core was blown away, it avoided complete destruction.

However,

-Twitch twitch!

The damage to his core, which was already not fully recovered, made recovery even slower.

If it weren't for that, he would have quickly restored his arms, legs, and eyes, but now it was overwhelming just to recover his internal injuries caused by his blade energy.

It was utterly miserable.

It would have been somewhat better if it had been the result of contending with the Demon King, but this was humiliation itself.

To end up in this state because of him, who had become human, not even of the demon clan.

But now was not the time to dwell on humiliation.

He needed to recover enough to move his body somehow and return to the Heavenly Realm with his divine artifacts.

-Twitch twitch!

-Ugh...

But no matter how much he tried to calm down rationally, it was painful.

It felt like this resentment wouldn't subside unless he killed him and avenged this humiliation.

It was while he was consumed by such anger.

-Creep creep!

-Flinch!

He felt something approaching.

Normally, he would have noticed immediately, but having lost both eyes and with his core further damaged, he only realized something was approaching when it was very close.

-Whoosh!

That something enveloped him.

It was something sticky,

-What is this...

-Kuhehehehe. Even a creator is no different. When that arrogant pride crumbles, even if it's due to anger, greed overflows.

-You?

From the transmitted will, the Golden Heavenly King could recognize what had enveloped him.

It was the being called the third eye that he had created.

It was Mok Gan.

-How dare an insignificant thing like you...

-To think you've become so weak that you can't even prevent an insignificant thing from burrowing in. Truly pitiful.

-Ugh... You! Stop... Stop it!

-No. How could I? I've been waiting for this moment. An absolute being surpassing even the Six Demon Great Strength King has crumbled, how could I miss this chance?

-You bastard!

Even with severed limbs and damage to his core, he was still a being almost equal to a demigod.

There was strong resistance as he tried to burrow in to control his body.

It seemed the difference in will was too great.

However,

-Ah ah. You're no longer an absolute being. Just a has-been king of the heavenly clan who could be defeated by a mere human.

-Aaaaargh!

It was a simple provocation, but it was effective.

The crack in his boundless pride was enough to create an opening due to that humiliation.

-Crack!

As the Golden Heavenly King's forehead split open in agony, blood vessels grotesquely protruded from that area, weaving into a round shape.

It was becoming an eye.

-Whoosh!

The body of the Six Demon Lion-Grasping King turned to ash and scattered.

Jin Ye-rin's pupils, who had planted her sword in him, had returned to normal.

Along with this, she saw the almost completely burned secret of the Heavenly Concealed Divine Path Swordmanship before her eyes.

With her mind returned, she looked at the secret with reddened eyes and spoke.

“Ancestor...”

The form of Jin Woon-hwi was faintly visible in the secret.

Seeing his brightly smiling figure, Jin Ye-rin shed deep tears.

There was a time when she had resented her ancestor, but now she was grateful that he had helped her and the world until the very end, even breaking some of the natural order.

-Whoosh!

As the secret of the Heavenly Concealed Divine Path Swordmanship was about to burn completely, Jin Woon-hwi's form gradually became fainter.

Jin Ye-rin knelt before him and bowed.

"Jin Ye-rin, the last bloodline descendant of the Jin Clan, sincerely thanks..."

-Swoosh!

-Don't do that. I'm an incompetent ancestor who couldn't protect many things for you. So please, from now on, live your own life.

With those words, Jin Woon-hwi gave a light bow to Sima Chak of the Moon Evil Sword, who was standing behind Jin Ye-rin.

Sima Chak also nodded slightly, bidding him farewell.

Although he didn't know much about immortal techniques, he realized that once that secret was completely burned, they would never meet again.

Then Jin Woon-hwi looked somewhere with concern.

-I'm worried.

"What?"

-He finally gained a human heart, but losing a precious bond, I'm concerned and don't know where that sadness and anger will be directed.

In the direction Jin Woon-hwi was looking, Mok Gyeong-un was in the distance.

Although he was watching the world through the secret, he was observing everything around, so he was concerned.

Then, recalling Mok Gyeong-un's strength, Jin Woon-hwi shook his head.

Although their meeting was brief, he believed that man would surely overcome even this sorrow.

It's regrettable that fate can sometimes be tragic.

To bring loss to a hero of the age.

-Whoosh!

As the secret was about to burn completely, Jin Woon-hwi bid farewell.

-Then, farewell.

But,

-Flinch!

The disappearing Jin Woon-hwi looked somewhere and hurriedly said something.

-Quickly dodge...

-Whoosh!

However, as the secret completely burned away, Jin Woon-hwi's form disappeared completely.

No sooner had this happened,

-Boom!

With a thunderous sound that could rupture eardrums, a huge pillar of light shot up from the ground.

The pillar of light had a dark red glow as if contaminated, and as it surged up, the ground shook and the earth shattered.

-Rumble rumble rumble!

“How can this be?”

“H-He’s not dead yet?”

Everyone looked at the contaminated dark red pillar of light with dumbfounded eyes, and in the center, they saw the Golden Heavenly King rising with horrifyingly grotesque wings flapping.

This resurrected being was giving everyone a feeling of despair as if the sky was collapsing.

‘Young Master Mok?’

‘My Lord?’

‘Heavenly Demon?’

Everyone’s gaze turned to Mok Gyeong-un.

The only one who could stop this despair-inducing being was Mok Gyeong-un alone.

But he was consumed by sorrow and suffering.

However, no one could urge him to step forward.

That’s how much his sorrow, shedding tears while beating his chest, was conveyed to everyone.

Then the voice of the Golden Heavenly King resounded.

-Rise, our only worthy opponent. Let us have our final battle to determine the fate of the world.

“The end...”

At those words, Mok Gyeong-un murmured softly.

My story has already ended in tragedy, losing my precious lover.

And at that end, even regret remained.

The fate of the world or anything else no longer mattered to him.

What meaning is there if she's not in this world, even if it's destroyed...

-Rustle!

At that moment, the only remaining fragment of ash gently touched Mok Gyeong-un's cheek.

At this, Mok Gyeong-un's closed eyes opened.

For the intangible fragment of her spirit body to touch his cheek.

Mok Gyeong-un looked at Wi So-yeon, who resembled Cheong-ryeong so closely, with his still reddened eyes.

[Become a grand master who embraces all.]

Cheong-ryeong's wish.

He thought nothing remained, but her wish was still there.

-Swoosh!

Mok Gyeong-un slowly rose from his seat.

And he turned his head to look at the Golden Heavenly King, no, the deformed being that had become one with Mok Gan, who was spreading tremendous energy in all directions as if an absolute god transcending good and evil had been born.

Strangely, the two beings stained with madness had become even stronger by becoming one.

However,

-Shing!

Drawing the evil sword Evil Commandment Sword, Mok Gyeong-un calmly extended the blade with a smooth sword intent.

-Woong woong woong woong!

Then his blade was stained black with demonic energy.

Seeing this, the corners of the Golden Heavenly King's mouth, who had become one with Mok Gan, rose as if about to tear.

The process was never important to begin with.

The one standing at the end is the true victor.

At that moment, Mok Gyeong-un took a stance as if about to slash him with his sword,

-Goooooo!

-Shudder!

At that instant, the face of the Golden Heavenly King, who had become one with Mok Gan, turned pale.

By becoming one, they could temporarily draw out all their divine power as the core recovered, but the capability emanating from Mok Gyeong-un now was surpassing even that.

It was truly supreme capability.

‘No.’

Instinctively, the two united beings realized.

This was already a being that had almost transcended the natural order.

No matter how much they combined their strength, it wasn’t something they could contend with.

At this, the Golden Heavenly King who had become one with Mok Gan hurriedly tried to open a gate to the Heavenly Realm, but at that very moment.

-Whoosh!

In an instant, Mok Gyeong-un reached in front of him.

-Y-You?

“I cut everything that exists. This is the ultimate sword I can wield.”

-Slash!

A single black line was drawn from the sky to the ground.

Along with it, space was cut, and a red line appeared from the top of the head of the Golden Heavenly King who had become one with Mok Gan, straight down along with the pillar of light.

‘!!!!!!’

Everyone watching was astounded by this tremendous sword that cut heaven and earth.

Has there ever been a more perfect and ideal sword throughout history?

-Crack!

As space was cut and distorted, the Golden Heavenly King who had become one with Mok Gan, about to be split in half, used his last strength to speak.

-A sword... that cuts... everything... that exists? This is...

“The Peerless Heavenly Demon Sword.”

-Whoosh!

As those words ended, the body of the Golden Heavenly King, which was being split in half, twisted into the cut space and was sucked in, then disappeared along with blood-red dust.

-Swish swish swish!

As if nothing had happened, the space that had been split from the sky to the ground reconnected, and the world became clean again.

-Waaaaaaah!!!!

All who had been watching anxiously cheered with joy at this sight.

Finally, everything had ended.

Despite these joyful cheers, Mok Gyeong-un’s eyes were tinged with emptiness and sorrow.

Although he had saved the world from crisis and ended all resentment, nothing remained.

Except for fulfilling her wish.

Mok Gyeong-un's eyes suddenly noticed Wi So-yeon on the ground regaining consciousness.

Her complexion was brighter than before.

Although her body had been incomplete without the spirit, now that the soul had become one, it was no different from a complete rebirth.

'Ah...'

Seeing her, who resembled Cheong-ryeong so closely, he becomes sorrowful again.

Now they'll never meet again.

Mok Gyeong-un, who had been staring at her, then descended to the ground and approached her.

Wi So-yeon, who had regained consciousness, spoke with confusion.

"Young Master Mok?"

Mok Gyeong-un approached her with a sad smile and embraced her.

-Thud!

And gently stroking her head, he said,

“I’ve learned what the most painful things are since becoming human.”

“.....”

Although she was bewildered, Mok Gyeong-un continued.

“It’s the loss of losing someone precious and the regret of not being able to fulfill what that precious person wanted.”

“Young master...”

“You may no longer remember, hear, or speak in there, but I want to tell you this one last thing. I love you.”

-Grip!

Mok Gyeong-un bit his lip tightly, closed his eyes, and embraced Wi So-yeon tightly.

Her pupils and lips trembled at Mok Gyeong-un’s voice and body heat, full of intense emotion.

She didn’t know why, but the moment she heard Mok Gyeong-un say “I love you,” her heart trembled and her chest ached so much.

But at that very moment,

-Swish!

A soft light flowed from Mok Gyeong-un’s body and seeped into Wi So-yeon.

A voice echoing in her ears.

-The beautiful... and shining story... of So-wol... and me... ended then. Now... it's the story... of Cheong-ryeong... and you.

Along with this, numerous vivid memories flooded her mind.

[...Yes. We'll be together. Even if it's just for a fleeting moment.]

[She was beautiful... So beautiful, like a single red peony.]

[I'm sorry, but I can't let you go. Cheong-ryeong is already my life.]

[It was all me.]

-Drip!

Wi So-yeon's eyes reddened, and tears flowed down her cheeks.

As Mok Gyeong-un tried to detach himself from her after conveying his final words,

“Mortal.”

Mok Gyeong-un's pupils wavered at that voice from Wi So-yeon's mouth.

Mok Gyeong-un's eyes quickly reddened at her face, smiling through tears as if she had missed him so much.

When something that can never be achieved is realized through earnest desire.

We call that a miracle.

The two embraced each other without hesitation and then kissed.

Chapter 497 – Final Chapter (4)

One month after the great war at the Ten Thousand Great Mountains that determined the fate of the Central Plains martial world,

Late at night, in the former Heaven and Earth Society's grand meeting hall.

Two days before the inauguration ceremony, they were entering the final vote on an urgent proposal that had been raised.

The proposal started with something quite trivial.

However, it was unexpectedly decided unanimously.

The First Elder Ou Cheon-mu, sect leader of the Spiritual Sword Sanctuary, sitting in the highest seat, announced that the proposal had passed.

-Bang bang!

“Then, as all votes are in unanimous agreement, we shall proceed as proposed.”

“Ohohoho. Indeed.”

The Seventh Elder Hwan Ya-seon, acting as the meeting's secretary, closed the finalized minutes.

Thus, the executives rose from their seats.

At that moment, someone sitting opposite approached the Seventh Elder Hwan Ya-seon.

It was the Fourth Elder Ho Tae-gang, sect leader of the Wave Destruction Clan.

“In all my years, I never thought we’d have a meeting, let alone a vote, on such a proposal.”

“I suppose it shows how sincere everyone is about this new organization. If it’s a name that will remain for hundreds, thousands of years to come, it’s only fitting.”

“Well, that’s true. But it seems you’ve had a change of heart too?”

“A change of heart?”

“Yes. Even though we decided to unify all martial houses and clans as branch clans, you didn’t need to change, but seeing that you changed your Shadow Clan to the Flying Ghost Clan, named after your unique martial art.”

At these words, Hwan Ya-seon made a subtle expression before answering.

“Although we were called ‘Shadow’ because we were in charge of spies and information, shouldn’t we now move forward as a martial house in this new organization?”

“Moving forward as a martial house... Is that ambition? Not bad.”

Much had changed in a short time.

Although it took the form of a religious organization, this new group pursued true martial arts without being bound by orthodox or unorthodox paths.

It had become the organization he truly desired.

All of this was thanks to their lord, the Heavenly Demon Cult Leader.

“But even though the vote was predetermined, why didn’t our lord attend the meeting hall?”

“Ah. There’s an unofficial martial arts competition.”

“An unofficial martial arts competition?”

The Fourth Elder Ho Tae-gang tilted his head in confusion.

In a sparsely populated plain not far from the Ten Thousand Great Mountains.

The entire area was devastated, and in the center of a huge crater lay a stunningly beautiful woman with blonde hair and nine tails, sprawled out and breathing heavily as if exhausted.

She was the Hundred-Faced King Golden Nine-Tailed Fox, one of the Six Demons.

The Golden Nine-Tailed Fox, breathing heavily, screamed as if frustrated.

“Aaaaargh! Why has that damned human become so strong?”

Just a few months ago, he was merely a novice, but now he had become a monster that she couldn’t handle even at full strength.

Someone approached her and looked down, saying,

“That’s the fourth time already. Give it a rest.”

That someone was Mok Gyeong-un, no, the Heavenly Demon.

He now fully called himself the Heavenly Demon, having abandoned the name Mok Gyeong-un.

The Golden Nine-Tailed Fox, unable to get up, shouted,

“Who says I’m doing this for anyone’s sake!”

The Heavenly Demon shook his head at her stubborn attitude.

Not long after the great war ended, she had come to him, insisting they were connected by fate and should spend their lives together.

Of course, the Heavenly Demon firmly refused.

Angered, she said that if she lost to him in a fight, she would follow his will, and that’s how it had come to this.

“Just give up. I’ve repaid the debt enough by entertaining you this much...”

“No! No! No! It’s far from enough. I won’t give up until I have you, so be prepared!”

“Be prepared...”

At her outcry, the Heavenly Demon chuckled and shrugged, then disappeared.

Looking at the faint afterimage of the Heavenly Demon, she grumbled.

“Jerk Heavenly Demon. Wicked Heavenly Demon. Bad Heavenly Demon.”

But still, she wanted him.

The more she saw him, the more she yearned for him.

As noon approached.

The sun moved towards the center of the sky, its rays warmly illuminating the earth.

As the inner city of the former Heaven and Earth Society opened, the square in front of the main building was so crowded with people that there was no room to step.

With people from the outer and inner cities, as well as invited guests from external groups like the Diviner groups including the Harmonious Immortal Pavilion, some from the Yoo clan, the Evil Alliance, and others, tens of thousands had gathered in the square.

“What’s with all these fires?”

“There’s fire everywhere?”

-Whoosh!

Although it was noon, braziers were placed throughout the square.

Because of this, it was hot enough to be stifling.

Not only were there braziers everywhere, but there was a noticeably large brazier on what looked like an altar platform.

The words “Holy Fire Stand” were engraved on the brazier.

“Is it not time yet?”

“When does the founding ceremony start?”

Everyone looked at the entrance of the main building, waiting for the founding ceremony to begin.

Then,

-Boom! Boom! Boom!

The sound of drums being beaten spread from the top of the inner city walls.

“It’s starting!”

“Ooooh!”

“Look over there!”

Warriors came out from the entrance of the main building in the inner city and spread out a long red silk cloth.

Soon, the executives who would hold key positions in the founding ceremony slowly walked out in two lines on either side.

First Elder of the Spiritual Sword Sanctuary, Ou Cheon-mu – Profound Realm

Second Elder of the Poison Demon Clan, Baek Sa-ha – Transformation Realm

Third Elder of the Sword Clan, Sword Demon Ji-oe – Transformation Realm

Fourth Elder of the Wave Destruction Clan, Ho Tae-gang – Transformation Realm

Fifth Elder of the Spirit Spear Clan, Gyu Jong-sin – Transformation Realm

Sixth Elder of the Crimson Flame Clan, Lee Ji-yeom – Transformation Realm

Seventh Elder of the Flying Ghost Clan, Hwan Ya-seon – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

Eighth Elder of the Bright Blade Clan, Son Yun – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

Ninth Elder of the Dream Illusion Sword Clan, Mong Mu-yak – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

Tenth Elder of the Light Martial Path Clan, Seop Chun – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

Eleventh Elder of the Demonic Fist Clan, Go Yeon-baek – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

Twelfth Elder of the Dark Demonic Clan, Hang Yeoryang – Pinnacle-stage of Peak Realm

“It’s the Elders!”

“Waaaah!!!!”

A new official system had been announced two weeks before the founding ceremony, and this system was decided to strictly verify martial prowess to grant qualifications.

The Elders coming out now were the martial artists with the strongest martial might in the sect.

It was also the strongest force in history, incomparable to the former Heaven and Earth Society.

The sect leaders of each branch sect who would lead the new organization, the twelve Elders, walked out and took their places on either side of the red silk path, joining their hands and assuming a reverent posture.

The atmosphere was incredibly solemn, perhaps because they were all dressed in ceremonial robes.

Then,

-Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom! Boom!

-Bwooooooo!

After five drum beats and a long horn blast, someone finally appeared at the entrance of the main building.

A figure walking out majestically, wearing a black and red patterned dragon robe embroidered with golden dragons.

He was the One Demon Heavenly Demon, the world's number one person and the current pinnacle of the martial world, who would be inaugurated as the first Cult Leader (Founder) at this founding ceremony.

Regardless of his appearance, everyone couldn't help but bow their heads at his overwhelming dignity and atmosphere that dominated the crowd.

-Thud thud!

Following behind him,

Great Dharma guardian of the Harmonizing Demon Poison Sect, Guyang Sa-oh – Transformation Realm

Right Dharma guardian of the Wind God Glan, Ma Ra-hyeon – Transformation Realm

Left Dharma guardian of the Subduing Demon Clan, Ja Geum-jeong – Supreme Great Ability

Head of the Cult Leader's personal guard unit, Jang Neung-ak (Guard Go Chan) – Spirit Servant

—walked forward in step.

Everyone watched in hushed silence at this solemnity.

He passed through the red silk path guarded on both sides by the Elders, the highest executives of the sect.

The Elders he had formed connections with over time bowed their heads and greeted him with smiles, and the Heavenly Demon responded with light nods.

‘Kuh! Indeed, my choice was right.’

Seop Chun, who had become an Elder at a young age, looked at the Heavenly Demon with a face full of emotion.

He had wanted to rise to the position of Dharma guardian to be by his side, but as his martial prowess wasn't yet comparable to theirs, he postponed it to a later date.

If it couldn't be achieved in his generation, he hoped that his descendants could stay by the Cult Leader's side.

-Thud thud!

Upon reaching the altar platform, the Dharma guardians and the Head of the guard unit stopped there, and the Heavenly Demon walked up onto it.

Watching his back as he did so, Guard Go Chan, who had been able to possess Jang Neung-ak's body again, couldn't hide his satisfied face, his nose tingling with emotion.

"Sniff."

Who would have thought this moment would come when he was just a vengeful spirit in the Heavenly Demon's hands?

Now he was called the right-hand man of the world's number one person in name and reality.

It could be called a human victory, from a mere low-level assassin.

At that moment, the drum sound was heard again from the top of the inner city wall, and simultaneously, the sound of horns echoed throughout the entire city.

-Boom! Boom! Boom!

-Bwooooooo!

Someone appeared at the door of the main building.

A stunningly beautiful woman walking out, wearing a beautiful ceremonial robe reminiscent of a pure white lotus.

She was Cheong-ryeong.

In her past life, she was Ryu So-wol, and in this life, Wi So-yeon, but now that her soul and spirit had become one and complete, she called herself Cheong-ryeong.

As she walked out solemnly, so beautiful, everyone let out exclamations in a daze.

“It’s the Divine Lady.”

“Truly a beauty under the moon.”

She slowly walked along the red silk path and climbed the stairs.

The Heavenly Demon, who had been waiting, looked at her with a gentle smile, and she stood close by his side.

The Holy Fire Priestess approached her, handed over a torch, and whispered quietly.

“Divine Lady, please prepare the sacred fire.”

-Tap!

Cheong-ryeong nodded and took the torch.

Then the Holy Fire Priestess shouted loudly.

“Great Dharma guardian, bring forth the spirit tablet.”

At her cry, the Great Dharma guardian Guyang Sa-oh personally carried a pedestal with a crown and a spirit tablet inscribed with “Heavenly Demon Decree” up to the front of the platform.

As the spirit tablet arrived, the Holy Fire Priestess lifted it and shouted.

“Now we will proceed with the founding ceremony and the Cult Leader’s inauguration ceremony.”

“Waaaaaaah!!!”

All who were watching cheered.

-Bwooooooo!

As the sound of horns echoed long, all who had been shouting became quiet again.

Then the Holy Fire Priestess stepped forward, raised the Heavenly Demon Decree, and said.

“For the founding ceremony, there is a sacred object, this Heavenly Demon Decree made by melting fragments of the sacred fire. Founder and First Generation Cult Leader Heavenly Demon, receive the Heavenly Demon Decree!”

The Heavenly Demon stepped forward and received it with one hand.

Then he climbed to the highest level of the altar platform, raised the Heavenly Demon Decree high, which would become the sacred object symbolizing the Cult Leader, and shouted to everyone.

“The First Generation Cult Leader Heavenly Demon proclaims. Here today, I declare the founding of the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult that will create a myth for a thousand, ten thousand years!”

-Whoosh whoosh whoosh whoosh!

Along with this, numerous flags rose on top of the inner city walls.

The square erupted as the majestic flags of the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult fluttered.

And that excitement soon led to tremendous cheers.

-Waaaaaaaaah!!!!

Finally, a new martial arts organization was born.

Not stopping there, the First Elder Ou Cheon-mu, sect leader of the Spiritual Sword Sanctuary, raised both hands and shouted so that everyone could hear.

-Great Heavenly Demon Divine Cult! A thousand years! A thousand years! Ten thousand years!

Then everyone, including the other Elders, followed and chanted.

-Great Heavenly Demon Divine Cult! A thousand years! A thousand years! Ten thousand years!

The chant spread throughout the entire inner city.

-Great Heavenly Demon Divine Cult! A thousand years! A thousand years! Ten thousand years!!!!

Amidst everyone's cries, the Holy Fire Priestess pointed to the brazier of the Holy Fire Stand, holding a torch, and said to Cheong-ryeong who was waiting.

"Light the fire."

At this, she stepped forward and lit the Sacred Fire Stand's brazier.

-Whoosh!

Then, strangely, unlike the red flames of the torch, blue flames rose from within.

"Ooooh!"

"The color of the flames?"

Everyone couldn't hide their surprise at this sight.

How did such mysterious flames come about?

It was because the fragments of the sacred fire spirit left after making the Heavenly Demon Decree were used to make the Holy Fire Stand.

-Tap!

The Holy Fire Priestess knelt on both knees before the Heavenly Demon standing in front of the blue flames, crossed her arms on her chest, and recited.

"This body burns in the sacred fire, with no attachment to life or death. Eliminating evil for good and illuminating the light, joy and sorrow all remain as mere dust."

As she began to recite the scripture, everyone in the square, including the Elders, followed, crossing their arms on their chests and chanting the scripture.

"This body burns in the sacred fire, with no attachment to life or death!!! Eliminating evil for good and illuminating the light, joy and sorrow all remain as mere dust!!!"

This was originally a scripture passed down from the Zoroastrian religion, or Persian religion.

Both the Persian religion and Zoroastrianism worshipped fire, and since the Heavenly Demon was the incarnation of that, this was adopted as the official scripture of the Heavenly Demon Divine Cult.

“Pitiable are the mortals with many worries.”

“Pitiable are the mortals with many worries!!!”

The guests invited from outside had strange expressions at this ritual of reciting such scriptures.

From the content of the scripture alone, they felt it was not a demonic path but rather one that revered righteousness.

Through this, they could sense that this Heavenly Demon Divine Cult had a religious color.

Amidst this, Cheong-ryeong's eyes sparkled.

‘Yes. That's the figure I've been hoping for.’

The dignified back of the Heavenly Demon standing before the crowd that filled the square.

A grand master who embraces all.

It seems that dream has been fulfilled through him.

-Boom! Boom! Boom!

With the drum sounds, the Holy Fire Priestess, having finished reciting the scripture, stepped back, and it seemed the inauguration and founding ceremony were successfully concluding.

But then,

-Tap tap tap tap!

Suddenly, the Head of the guard unit Guard Go Chan jumped onto the platform, looked at the Heavenly Demon and Cheong-ryeong with a grin, and shouted loudly.

“Following the inauguration and founding ceremony, the grandest event will be the wedding ceremony of the Cult Leader and the Divine Lady!”

‘!?’

Cheong-ryeong had only known about the founding ceremony.

But at Go Chan’s shout, as she was about to be dumbfounded, female attendants appeared as if they had been waiting, carrying a beautiful bridal gown with red and gold patterns.

“Ah!”

It closely resembled the one she was supposed to wear in her past life.

[She was beautiful... So beautiful, like a single red peony.]

Cheong-ryeong’s eyes soon became moist.

To her, the Heavenly Demon gently extended his hand and said,

“Become my bride.”

A proposal in front of everyone.

At this moment she had longed for since her past life, Cheong-ryeong’s lips, which had been trembling, spread into a radiant smile.

That night.

The Heavenly Demon Divine Cult was bustling with festivities late into the night due to the grand events of the founding ceremony, the Cult Leader’s inauguration, and the wedding ceremony.

However, the main characters of these events, Cult Leader Heavenly Demon and Divine Lady Cheong-ryeong, were nowhere to be seen.

Where could they be?

On a mountain peak of the Ten Thousand Great Mountains.

The full moon hung in the center of the black night sky covered with starlight.

Between pure white flowers softly glowing in the moonlight stood a beautiful man and woman.

As they strolled among the flowers, the Heavenly Demon asked Cheong-ryeong,

“Now that we’re married, you should call me husband, but why do you still call me Mortal?”

“I don’t know why?”

“Hm?”

“To me, you’ll always be Mortal.”

At her words, the Heavenly Demon chuckled and held her hand tightly, saying,

“Then I suppose I shouldn’t call you wife either. Cheong-ryeong.”

To this, Cheong-ryeong smiled sweetly and looked up at the Heavenly Demon.

Charmed by her lovable appearance, the Heavenly Demon gently embraced her back and slowly brought his lips closer.

Cheong-ryeong softly closed her eyes and raised herself on her tiptoes, and the two shared a deep kiss under the moonlight.

The bond that began on a mountain peak of the Ten Thousand Great Mountains thus bloomed into a shining flower there again after a hundred years.