

## With The Gods 101

### Chapter 101

Hephaestus's works consisted of many things. 「Hermes's Treads」 that were currently being worn by YuWon was one of his works, and so was the 「Shield of Medusa」 that Athena had. Even the 「Sun Chariot」 of Ares was made by him.

However, if you asked anyone to pick which one was his masterpiece, they would all say the same thing.

It was Zeus's 「Lightning Bolt.」

‘Kyneē and the Trident are only similar in materials, but they weren't made by Ahjussi.’

Hephaestus was Olympus's, no, the Tower's greatest blacksmith and the 「Lightning Bolt」 of Zeus that he had created truly displayed enormous might.

With one swing of the 「Lightning Bolt,」 an entire island could be blown away, and it was an item where if you willed it, you could manipulate the weather of the sky. This was the 「Lightning Bolt.」

Cr-Creak—

「Kyneē's」 eye slowly opened, and YuWon's palm became numb.

Shwaaaaah—

It felt as if his right hand was going to be ripped off from trying to suppress the flood of mana that was flowing out of the eye.

‘The one who made Hades's Kyneē was a disciple that Hephaestus was raising.’

Creak, crunch—

Even if you searched the entire tower, there were less than ten people who could handle adamantium. And even between those ten people, their skill with adamantium was also different.

Adamantium was a unique material that could conduct the power of the 「Divine Dark Crystal,」 the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 and the 「Divine Sky Crystal.」

Depending on how proficient one was at working with the material, the difference in the item's performance would be like heaven and earth.

‘That's why this Kyneē is...”

Crackle, crunch—

Squeeze—

Clenching 「Kyneē」 after its eye opened wide, YuWon started to walk forward again.

‘...A much better item than what Hades had.’

Step, step—

“Grrrrrrrr—”

“Gyaaaaa—”

As YuWon approached, the monsters curled up and flashed their fangs in a threatening manner. But none dared to charge first towards him.

No, rather, it was the opposite.

Shift, shfff—

One after another, the monsters started to part to the sides. They acted like herbivores that were in the presence of an apex predator.

“Kng, kng—”

“Knng—”

Some monsters even flattened their bodies into the ground and leaked painful moans.

YuWon hadn’t done anything. He was only drawing on 「Kynee’s」 power with all his might.

‘That’s half.’

Step—

YuWon continued moving towards the 「Divine Sea Crystal」

His heart was impatient, but he couldn’t let that show on the outside because wielders of absolute power must always be relaxed. If those monsters who only acted while believing in numbers were to ever see unrest or an opening, they would charge at YuWon again.

That was why he didn’t rush. Slow and steady in every step, he was only walking between the monsters who were dividing themselves left and right.

But then...

Woong—

Flash—!

The 「Divine Sea Crystal」 embedded in the mana heart of the Sea Turtle emitted light.

“...Tsk.”

After clicking his tongue in disapproval, YuWon’s steps grew faster.

Dash—

After kicking up his speed in an instant, YuWon ran directly to the 「Divine Sea Crystal.」 He used 「Hermes's Treads」 as well to instantly close the distance by half. But in that moment...

“Kuaaaaah—!”

The mass of monsters that had parted in two around YuWon all lunged at him again.

“You wouldn't die if you stayed still...”

Clench—

Yuwon put strength into his hand and wielded his sword against the encroaching tide of monsters.

“Seeing you charge in, knowing you'll die, you've all been controlled more firmly than I thought.”

Crunch—

「Kyneē's」 eye started to produce light, and the mana that was now flowing without restriction flooded out through YuWon's sword.

In the next instant...

Flash—!

Following the path of YuWon's sword, 「Kyneē's」 magic power consumed its surroundings.

Fwaaaaah—!

Cr-ack—

In YuWon's path, the bodies of the monsters that had charged in from all directions became nothing. The monsters that were annihilated in the sword's path looked as if they had been consumed by something gargantuan. In an instant, over a hundred monsters disappeared.

However, the path hadn't fully opened up yet.

‘Not yet.’

Throb—

Krrshk—

Yuwon could feel the hand equipped with 「Kyneē」 being ripped apart. It was because of the excess flow of mana that couldn't be handled by his body.

‘Two more times after this.’

It didn't feel right to exhibit 「Kyneē's」 great power that was above his expectations, even more so as his body was creaking from not being able to fully contain the power, like right now.

However, he had to endure it at least two more times.

Shshshshsh—

The power flowing from 「Kyneē」 became empowered once again.

And then a follow-up hit.

Swoosh—!

Just like drawing a line on a canvas with a brush, another wide gap was created in the path of the sword by YuWon's swing at the swarm of monsters that was obstructing his advance.

Krrshk—

His palm was ripped apart again. It was as if his hand was going to explode.

‘As I thought, is it still too much?’

The inherent skill of 「Kyneē」 [Hell.]

No, it was a type of ‘phenomenon’ that couldn't even be called a skill.

The eye that opened on the back of his hand was like a type of door. Where it was connected to, just what type of place that was, YuWon nor anyone else knew.

However, one thing was certain. An enormous power that not even YuWon could estimate flowed in that space.

‘I can swing it only about one more time.’

Clench—

YuWon tightened the grip of his right hand which was equipped with 「Kyneē」 and his sword again, and it shook.

Only one more time. That was YuWon's current limit.

Still, fortunately, if he hadn't increased his Arcane Power to three digits, he wouldn't have been able to use 「Kyneē」 as he had now.

Woosh—

Wind started to pick up close to the ground under YuWon's feet. His body became as light as a feather, and it lifted into the air with the wind.

[Activating Sky Step.]

[Movement speed has increased by 100% for 5 seconds.]

[You can step through the sky for 5 seconds.]

The innate skill of 「Hermes's Treads」 [Sky Step,] which could only be used once per day, was activated.

Thump—

He stepped on empty air and took more and more steps, and his featherlike body flew into the air.  
The distance was closed in an instant.

Five seconds.

It wasn't a long time, but in a situation like this, that time was more precious than any treasure in the world.

Badump—

The mana heart of the Sea Turtle beat more slowly. The 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was embedded in there quite deeply.

‘The mana heart of the Sea Turtle is more sturdy than most metals.’

It was the self-preservation instinct of the Sea Turtle. A monster that curled up inside its shell and struggled to survive as hard as possible.

The mana heart of such a Sea Turtle was as sturdy as the shell that covered its body.

‘There's no point if I can't cut it out here.’

The 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was right in front of his eyes. If he was able to extract it, if he was able to obtain it...

‘I'll cut it in a single strike.’

Crrrunch—

One more time—no. For the last time, 「Kyneē's」 eye illuminated with black light again. Simultaneously, the color of YuWon's eyes also changed to red.

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

His sight was brightened, and the mana heart that contained the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was made known. The mana heart was bigger than a house, but the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was as small as a fingernail.

If he wasn't able to locate the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 and obtain it in this instant, the monsters behind him would reform into a great wave and lunge towards him again. It would become quite the predicament if that happened.

In this moment, when he had to focus on what was going on outside as well, he couldn't afford to lose more time and energy to the monsters.

‘Where are you.’

YuWon's eyes started to scan.

‘Just where are you.’

Badump— Badump— Badump—

The mana heart started to beat faster.

With his sight enhanced by both the effects of [Sensory Field] and [Cinder Eyes,] the blue light that was as broad as a house that was emitted by the heart started to shrink, and soon the light shrank to about the size of a small boulder.

Somewhere in that light was the 「Divine Sea Crystal.」

YuWon was tempted to make a gamble, but in that instant before he swung his sword...

[Another small fragment of Kyneē is reacting.]

He could see a small stone that was lodged deep inside the mana heart.

Skoosh—!

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

Shwaaa—

Drip, drop, drop—

The blood fell like rain and flowed down. It was the blood that had flowed inside the mana heart.

Drip—

The blood began to wet the ground.

The mana heart wasn't the only thing that got slashed.

Grrrr—

Shii, shwaaa—

The myriad of monsters that was surrounding the heart to protect it had also disappeared as if they had never existed in the first place.

A circular ring was drawn where the mana heart had been as the center. Everything had been cut.

The monsters had all forgotten their desire to protect the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 at some point and now kept a distance. Their expressions were filled with fear.

“Shiiiiiee—”

“Gyaaa—?”

As nothing seemed to happen after a long time, the monsters started to move one by one towards where the mana heart used to be.

Twitch—

Something that had been submerged in the blood moved. There was no way the observant monsters could miss it.

“Grrrrrr—”

Gulp—

A few monsters seemed to be hungry because they were licking their lips.

They only gauged each other for a moment, and the biggest of the group, an Aqua Dragon, moved forward and opened its mouth really wide, as if to eat its food in one bite.

The other monsters didn't dare to challenge the Aqua Dragon and curled their bodies up behind it.

In that moment...

The prey that had been submerged in the blood moved a little.

Scraaak—

A line was drawn through the center of the Aqua Dragon's body.

Creak—

The Aqua Dragon's body was sliced in twain and flopped lifelessly to either side.

The reactions of the monsters that had been intimidated by the size of the Aqua Dragon were also split in two. They either thought of this as an opportunity and stepped forward, or they would get even more scared and step back.

Limp—

YuWon stood up slowly from the pool of blood.

Because his right hand was a mess, he had to wield the sword with his left. Thanks to this, the feeling of his slash wasn't as smooth as before.

“...That's awkward.”

As he had become drenched in blood after slashing open the mana heart of the Sea Turtle, YuWon used his hand to wipe the blood off his face. After lightly wiping off the blood on his body, he looked around his surroundings.

“Grrrr—”

“Kyaaaah—”

The monsters were drooling with their mouths open, seemingly having completely forgotten what happened to the Aqua Dragon just then.

To risk their lives for one mere meal... YuWon felt that a monster was still just a monster in the end.

‘I'm tired.’

YuWon opened and closed his right hand and looked down at his palm. Because of 「Kyneē,」 he couldn't see it, but his right hand had been ripped apart, and the bones had all been misaligned. It was the consequence of using strength above his means.

‘It’s still difficult to perfectly wield Kyneē’s power. Rather than a problem with my competence, was it a problem with my stats?’

The two important stats in the future would be Arcane Power and Constitution. The stat that was necessary to use [Sensory Field] more effectively was the Perception stat.

It was difficult to raise the Arcane Power stat right now, but there were enough methods to raise the other ones.

‘Looks like I’ll need to focus on leveling up for now.’

Feeling his lack of stats, YuWon wondered if he had been focused too much on climbing. It was important to climb the Tower, but it was also important to not neglect leveling up.

‘Whatever. End of self-reflection.’

Yuwon lifted his head. He was wondering why the fishy smell had become worse, but it was just because another Sea Snake had approached.

‘Then...’

YuWon opened his left hand, and inside...

Woooooong—

...Was a beautifully shining blue gem.

## **Chapter 102**

[Player Kim YuWon has passed the test.]

That was the message that appeared on the test examiner player kit.

For Theseus, who had been waiting for a long time, the message was like a lightning bolt out the blue.

‘He passed?’

His gaze shook slightly. He even checked again to see if he had seen something wrong, but it wasn’t an illusion.

“Something happen?”

Suhtahr didn’t miss the slight change in Theseus’s expression.

“Looks like something didn’t go like you wanted?”

“What damned...”

Before Theseus could swear, he stopped as he noticed Suhtahr had turned his head to the side.

“...?”

Theseus’s gaze also turned in the direction that Suhtahr’s had. It was in the direction of the ocean where the Sea Turtle was.

Shwooo—



The Sea Turtle's head dropped, and Theseus doubted his eyes again. He had definitely confirmed the contents of the message just now, but seeing it with his own two eyes, he couldn't believe reality.

Pang—!

The head of the Sea Turtle falling into the ocean created a great tsunami, and the sea water that shot upwards fell back down like rain.

Tshuu—

The rain soaked Theseus's hair, and the cold water awoke him from his daze. He felt as if he had just barely returned to reality.

'A 20th Floor player actually defeated...'

Just how many monsters must have been inside the body of the Sea Turtle? He couldn't even begin to guess. There were probably thousands, no, tens of thousands in there.

To find the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 inside the body of such a beast, was it really possible?

'That's a test that not even Rankers are able to pass.'

He had naturally thought that even if Kim YuWon was incredible, he wouldn't be able to pass this test. That was why Theseus thought to make his move after YuWon failed the test. If he interfered at that point, the Administrators wouldn't interfere with him either. However...

'Damn it.'

Crunch—

Theseus shouted, "Find Kim YuWon!"

"Yes, sir!"

Suhtahr didn't stay still either.

"Stop them!"

"Yes!"

The Rankers from both the Giants and Olympus moved at once. As the Rankers from the Giants moved to stop him, Theseus glared at them in rage.

"If you don't move aside now, history will repeat itself," he said.

"If we move now, it will again be our defeat," Suhtahr replied.

"Are you saying you don't care if the Gigantomachy occurs again?"

"Wasn't this in preparation for that? Don't even think that such a threat will work on us."

Suhtahr unsheathed his blade, the sword burning furiously with the fire that represented one of the highest-ranked High-Rankers and the person at the center of the great disaster Ragnarök, Surtr.

“Let’s put an end to this here, Theseus.”

Fwoosh—

The surrounding air became boiling in an instant. The sky turned crimson, and the ground that was cold from the rain became hot. The world started to heat up from Suhtahr’s Arcane Power.

‘He’s serious.’

Theseus suddenly thought back to the Gigantomachy. He had clashed against Suhtahr three times, but they could never finish the fight. Because the Giants were always on the losing side, Suhtahr couldn’t continue and would choose to retreat.

However, Theseus knew that the results of all those fights would have been in his loss. If he fought to the end, he wasn’t confident he could defeat Suhtahr.

“Suhtahr.”

“...?”

“History is repeating and unchanging.”

A crooked smile appeared on Theseus’s face.

And in that instant...

Bubble, bubble—

The center of the ocean started to boil.

Suhtahr, having had an ill-fated relationship with Olympus for a long time, remembered this scene like it was yesterday.

“No way...”

Psshk—!

A huge chariot flew up from under the ocean. It was thickly covered with gold. This chariot that wielded a fire as hot as Suhtahr’s was definitely much smaller than what he remembered, but he clearly recognised it.

“The Sun Chariot...”

“It’s a mass-produced replica, but it looks like you remember.”

It was a copy of the 「Sun Chariot」 that Apollo rode around on.

The 「Sun Chariot」 that shot upwards without a horse pulling it stopped in the sky. Then the doors of the Chariot opened, and ten Rankers stepped out of it.

Rumble—

“What the—Why is it like this here?”

“Hot damn, the weather’s hot.”

“It’s because of that guy.”

“No way, is that Surtr?”

“No, it’s not Surtr.”

“It’s understandable that you’re confused. The children of that guy all look pretty similar.”

“But he definitely changed a lot after becoming a demon.”

“How so?”

“He became more icky.”

The Rankers that got out of the 「Sun Chariot」 started to talk amongst themselves after seeing Suhtahr. They were the Rankers on the side of Poseidon who came after receiving a call from Theseus.

“How’s this?”

Theseus looked upon Suhtahr and the Giant Rankers that came with him and even the young Giants that were hiding behind them.

“Didn’t I say history repeats itself?”

“Theseus, you bastard...”

Crack—

Suhtahr ground his teeth.

“History repeats itself.”

He had heard that phrase from Theseus a disgusting amount of times. He said it in the final fight in the Gigantomachy. After not being able to overcome the difference in numbers, Suhtahr could always only choose to take his other Giant comrades and flee, and that phrase said by Theseus also echoed an untold number of times in his dreams as well.

“Aren’t you ashamed as a son of Poseidon?!”

“When did bastards like you ever take pride in my father? Don’t make me laugh.”

Theseus finally lifted his trident after becoming a bit more relaxed.

While gripping his burning blade, Suhtahr glared at the Rankers who stepped off the Sun Chariot.

There were exactly ten of them. As Rankers of Olympus, all of them were pretty powerful. Even if none of them were High-Rankers on par with Theseus, the other Giants wouldn’t be a match for them.

On top of that, Suhtahr was sure that he was caught by Theseus as well.

‘So again, in the end...’

It was then...

“Gyaaaaaaah—!”

A monstrous screech was heard from the direction of the Sea Turtle’s corpse. It was the screams of the sea monsters.

“How noisy.”

“Is it the Sea Snakes?”

“I do see them the most, but that’s not all.”

“I see an Aqua Dragon as well.”

It wasn’t too unusual of a situation. Since there was a fight near the ocean, and the ocean had warmed up considerably because of Suhtahr and the 「Sun Chariot,」 it wasn’t strange to have drawn the attention of the monsters.

There was no need to be alarmed. In the end, they were only monsters that appeared on the 20th Floor. Even if dozens or hundreds of Sea Snakes attacked a single Ranker, it wouldn’t be a difficult task for the Ranker.

However...

“Am I seeing it wrong right now?”

“Why are there so many of them?”

“Are those... all... Sea Snakes?”

...The story changed if the number wasn’t in dozens or hundreds but in the thousands and tens of thousands.

Shwoooooosh—

It looked like a tidal wave as the number grew larger and larger.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

A black wave of Sea Snakes was quickly approaching them.

Inside, there was an occasional Aqua Dragon, Lightning Eel, Angler Fish, Sea Mantis, and other such common monsters mixed in between. On top of that...

“Wh-What’s that?”

“Leviathan! It’s Leviathan!”

“What? Really?”

“What the hell? What’s going on here?”

Leviathan. It was a monster that only appeared a few times in the entirety of the 20th Floor. Normally, it was an entity that was seen on much higher floors, and yet a monster that could be a named boss-rank on the 20th Floor had appeared in a mess like this.

This was a disaster, a disaster that had never happened before.

There was no way these monsters that would kill and be killed by each other would move in unison like this.

‘No way...’

Theseus recalled a legend.

“The one who finds the Stone of the Sea will become the god of the sea.”

It was a legend that had been passed down for a very long time.

When he first heard this, Theseus had snorted. Wasn’t it just an item in the end? No matter how impressive an item was, there was no way one could achieve a level of power befitting that of a god. He had treated it as nonse.

But...

‘It was true.’

The power to rule over everything in the ocean. That was truly none other than the power of the god of the sea.

A flash of greed passed through Theseus’s eyes. He finally understood a little more why Poseidon had searched for the Stone so much. Most legends were nonsensical, but this one had been an exception.

“Gyaaaaaaah—!”

A huge snake thrashed against the ocean and flew up into the clouds.

The Leviathan that was also called the Imoogi\* of the Sea wasn’t lacking itself in any way to be called the ruler of the sea.

\*PR/N: An imoogi is a proto-dragon, a great, hornless lizard comparable to a sea serpent from Korean mythology.

This was Theseus’s first time facing it, and he completely understood that even if he didn’t have the penalty, he wasn’t fully confident he could hunt that beast.

It was then...

Shwaaaaa—

The ocean split in two, and through the middle, someone could be seen leisurely walking out.

“I apologize for saying this while everyone is working hard...”

Step—

“But as you can see, I’m quite tired right now.”

YuWon’s visage that was drenched half in salt water and half in blood was quite amusing. His entire body from his hair to his toes had been drenched, and he looked like a rat dunked in water.

“So I’ll appreciate it if everyone pisses off.”

Vwoong—

A blue light leaked out between the fingers of his fist.

Theseus realized what it was, and his eyes went wide.

‘The Stone of the Sea.’

The item that his father, Poseidon, had looked for for so long and the item that would make him Poseidon’s successor was right there in his hands...

“Let go of it—!”

Bzzzzt—

The penalty flowed through Theseus’s body. It was in reaction to raising his mana and showing hostility against YuWon, a target who wasn’t a Ranker.

Shwaaa—

The water pulled from the ocean started to gather under Theseus’s feet, and after getting on the formed wave, Theseus swiftly glided towards YuWon.

“Theseus—!”

The penalty that started to flow through Theseus’s body wasn’t normal.

He was thinking to grab the Stone from YuWon, no matter if an Administrator was watching or not.

Suhtahr tried to swing his burning blade to stop Theseus in his tracks, but that was only for an instant.

“Where do you think you’re going?”

“Block Suhtahr!”

The Rankers from the 「Sun Chariot」 all came together to stop Suhtahr’s path, but Suhtahr didn’t hesitate as he swung his sword.

Fwoosh—

The flames that enveloped the sword were as big as a house. An attack that could cleave through a small mountain was coming from Suhtahr’s sword.

“Move, you small fry!”

Thwaack—!

The fierce flame drew a single line and flew at the Rankers blocking Suhtahr's path, mangling one of their bodies in an instant.

But the difference in numbers couldn't be overcome that easily.

Bang—!

Suhtahr's blade couldn't break through the defense formation of all the Rankers in the end. No matter how strong he was, he still couldn't defeat ten Rankers with a single strike.

"Damn it!"

Suhtahr quickly retracted his sword, but the Rankers didn't seem to have any intention of counter-attacking in the first place and solidly stood their ground.

He wouldn't be able to get through them fast enough at this rate.

'Since that guy went and passed the test for me, I can't let the Stone get stolen here...'

Suhtahr looked over at Theseus and YuWon. And in that moment, he saw an unbelievable scene.

"What...?"

Theseus was dropped to the floor with a dazed expression of disbelief on his face, and he saw the form of YuWon standing before Theseus, looking down on him.

### **Chapter 103**

Theseus's thoughts went white. Small thoughts began to fill his mind which had become like a new sheet of paper.

'What just happened?'

He didn't usually think these kinds of thoughts, but it seemed he was thinking about it often today. How long had it been since he had to look up at someone? If you didn't count those huge Giants, it had probably been a few decades at this point.

It was probably when he saw Poseidon for the last time.

'My strength disappeared in an instant.'

At the moment when he used the sea water to glide, Theseus felt for an instant that all his strength had drained away. As the water disappeared, he lost his balance, and then he had fallen to the floor as if he had collapsed.

This was the reason that Theseus was now looking up at YuWon.

"So you can't do anything when the water is gone?" YuWon muttered to himself in disappointment as he clenched the 「Divine Sea Stone」 in his hand. "You're like a fish."

Crunch—

A blood vessel popped on Theseus's forehead.

The person in front of him was none other than the player that he was instated to be the test examiner for. It was someone who should have been looking up at him, and it should've been quite difficult for him to look up at that.

“You dare say such a...”

Shwaaa—

Water started to gather around Theseus's trident. The compressed water held great power. The size was small, but it held enough power to rival that of a tsunami.

The moment he stood up to swing the trident at YuWon...

“One can only say who ‘dares’ when they have the right to do so.”

Bang—!

The bubble gathered around the trident exploded, and water spilled out in all directions.

“But it looks like you don't have that right.”

“What the hell is this...?”

It was another unbelievable situation.

Theseus had felt that his power had been dispersed by something interfering, and there was only one thing that he could think of that could be the source.

Vwooong—

The stone in YuWon's hand was only the item that could make the one who owned it the god of the sea.

Grind—

He ground his teeth. His pride had been damaged.

No matter how strong the item was, no matter if YuWon was nicknamed the strongest player, for the testee to make him kneel in the test that he was the examiner for...

“You dare, you dare, you dare...!”

Theseus lifted the trident high into the sky again.

He didn't use mana because it was obvious that the water-attribute mana that he used would be nullified by the effects of the 「Divine Sea Crystal」.

Vwoosh—!

A spear that was swung with only strength alone.

Yuwon looked at the tip of said spear and clicked his tongue.

“Looks like you can't understand me.”

Vwoooong—



Mana flowed through YuWon's sword. It was difficult to use 「Kyneē」 right now, but he still had enough mana and health left.

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

[Activating Sensory Field.]

Thanks to the combined effects of both skills, he could clearly see the trajectory of the spearpoint of Theseus's swing. The ripple of muscle, the intensity of his strength, and even his footwork.

YuWon's sword moved slowly.

After lightly parrying away the trident, YuWon's sword swung past the shaft and went straight for Theseus's neck.

Shwing—

Fwit—

The sword that slashed at Theseus's neck was unbelievably faster than when he had parried the spear.

Fortunately for Theseus, he quickly moved his head away and didn't end up getting sliced on the neck, but his blue hair got cut, and a clump of it fell on the ground

Tang—!

Theseus's trident and YuWon's sword clashed.

The sword didn't budge.

YuWon supported his lacking strength with Arcane Power, and soon he moved his sword away from the trident and swung it at Theseus again.

Vwoong— Vwong—

Clang! Ka-ka-clang—!

The sword flew in, targeting his blind spots.

The attacks weren't strong enough to be unblockable. Even though Theseus didn't use magic power, his crushing strength was much stronger than YuWon.

However...

‘Why is this so difficult?’

Even though he was receiving the attacks, Theseus couldn't predict the trajectory of the blade. Even though the sword was slow enough for him to see coming, since it evaded his sight and came from his blind spot, it was difficult to react to it. On top of that...

‘He's already ready to dodge even before the spear moves forward.’

He could sense that he wouldn't be able to hit YuWon at all. It was as if he was facing a slippery eel rather than a man. Just like the movement of his sword, YuWon's movements weren't that fast either, but he was still dodging all the trident strikes by a hair's breadth.

‘What can I...’

As he was racking his brain for a way out while being careful of YuWon’s sword, Theseus was struck with inspiration.

‘If I don’t use my mana to manipulate water...’

Theseus was of Poseidon’s bloodline, so he had to learn and polish skills related to water. The nature of his mana was the same. He was born with talent in water-attribute mana, so he had been able to change the nature of mana freely even when he was a newbie.

But this was a situation where all his means had been blocked off.

However, just because he was good at one thing didn’t mean Theseus hadn’t learned any other skills.

Gwiiiiing—

Mana gathered at the point of Theseus’s trident.

It wasn’t a special skill. It was an arcane spear created from pure mana without changing its nature.

Bang—!

Karakak—

The spear fell and pushed down the sword. Being unable to overcome the power, YuWon’s feet dug in and sank into the ground.

‘He’s calmer than I expected.’

Theseus’s biggest weakness was his mentality. After being shocked once, YuWon expected he would take quite a while to recover, but he seemed to have snapped out of it earlier because the shock was greater.

“Hand it over—!”

Bzzzzt—

The penalty flowing through Theseus became stronger. It was probably quite painful, but he didn’t relent and pushed through with his strength.

“Give the Stone—!”

Crash—!

The ground underneath YuWon broke away as an effect of Theseus swinging his trident.

Yuwon was able to move away quickly after leaping twice in a row using 「Hermes’s Treads.」

Clench—

Theseus clenched his trident tightly and glared at YuWon, who had flown into the air.

Yuwon would have the advantage now.

But then...

“Theseus!”

The Rankers of Olympus who were on his side came and grabbed Theseus’s shoulders.

Theseus glared at them, thinking they were obstructing him, and his expression was full of bloodthirst, looking as if he would kill anyone regardless of if they were his ally or enemy. However, they couldn’t afford to step away just because of his bad expression.

“Look over there.”

Only then regaining his senses, Theseus turned his head and looked around.

The black wave of monsters had come closer, including the Leviathan that could be seen from afar.

“Now’s our only chance of getting out of here. The Giants are here as well, so we need to hurry.”

“Run away?”

Theseus’s mind was in chaos.

The 「Divine Sea Crystal」 that was flashing in YuWon’s hand and the tens of thousands of monsters that were beginning to come onto land from the sea.

If they landed, then they really wouldn’t be able to turn the monsters back. Just like they said, they really might lose their last chance of running away.

However...

“Find the Stone.”

Even at this moment, the words of his father, Poseidon, were swimming in his head.

“If you do, I’ll acknowledge you as my son.”

Theseus’s expression crumbled.

It was the thing he had been looking for this whole time. He would’ve been content with just being acknowledged as his son. It was a promise from Poseidon that he felt would forever be impossible to accomplish, but the thing he had been longing for all his life was right before his eyes.

“...We’re retreating.”

But the only decision he could make right now was to run away.

Looking around, he saw that Suhtahr had already defeated four Rankers. Even this time, he wasn’t able to fight to the end, but the situation was completely different.

He looked back at YuWon, who was still completely fine.

While Suhtahr was busy fighting the four Rankers, Theseus wasn’t able to break YuWon and take the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 from him.

‘Even though he had the Stone with him, in the end, I wasn’t able to overpower him.’

That was the truth.

From the first clash of his trident against his sword, Theseus hadn't treated YuWon as a player. If not for the penalty that was flowing through his body, he might've even forgotten that Yuwon wasn't a Ranker but just a player.

‘Kim YuWon.’

Theseus glared at YuWon with killing intent.

Because of the current seaside location and the giant obstacles, he could do nothing, but that was only the situation right now.

‘Someday, one day, I'll definitely kill you myself. And then...’

That treasure, the 「Stone of the Sea,」 would be recovered by him.

“Let's go.”

Theseus got on the 「Sun Chariot,」 and after all the Rankers got inside, it shot up into the sky.

And at that moment, Leviathan arrived.

“Gyaaaaah—!”

An enormous tail that could even block out the sun struck the roof of the 「Sun Chariot.」

Bang—!

The tail and the 「Sun Chariot」 struck the sea, breaking the water's surface again. The water flew back up into the sky, and for an instant, it blocked everyone's sight.

And then a little bit later...

‘They got away.’

Yuwon could see a small sun flying through the sky. Even if it was just a replica, a 「Sun Chariot」 was still a 「Sun Chariot.」 It probably wasn't that hard to dodge the tail of the Leviathan.

“Did we... win?”

There was an acute feeling of uneasiness.

Suhtahr wasn't the one who stopped the fight nor the one who decided to retreat first. Rather, at this moment, it was the opposite.

Suhtar looked at his surroundings. The remaining Giants, the monsters that were moving around in the sea according to YuWon's commands... It felt real.

“...We won.”

It was the first victory in the long history of the Giants.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

“Cheers!”

“Yeaaaah—!”

Tang— Clang—

Wooden and glass mugs collided. The liquor inside rocked and spilled onto the floors.

The Giants were in a festive mood. They were victorious for the first time in their confrontations against Olympus.

“Here, here! Get another drum of beer!”

“Get it yourself, you punk!”

“Meat, bring me meat!”

“Am I your goon? Huh?”

It wasn’t a big battle like the Gigantomachy, but it was still a victory, and oh how sweet this victory was.

YuWon shook his head as he heard the rowdy sounds coming from outside.

“Seems everyone is excited.”

“Even I didn’t know we would celebrate with food and drinks like this right after we returned.”

Urpha clicked his tongue and muttered, “Kids these days...” but his expression was still pleased.

The joy brought by this victory was that great for him. If he didn’t have to care about his outer image, he may have gone outside to party and drink with them as well.

“Why don’t you go and enjoy yourself with them? You’re the main star of the party.”

“One drink of theirs would be like an entire barrel for me. It’ll be a burden, and I don’t particularly enjoy drinking that much.”

“Well, that’s true.”

Urpha’s happy and smiling expression suddenly turned dark.

“But it’s worrying. It was true before as well, but Olympus will harass you more severely now.”

The 「Stone of the Sea」 was the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 that Poseidon had wandered thousands of years in search of.

One didn't even need to elaborate on his obsession, and after learning that it was in someone's possession, Poseidon wouldn't give up so easily.

"They probably won't do that."

However, YuWon didn't treat Urpha's worry as that important. Although he said 'probably,' it was an answer that held a bit of certainty.

Urpha doubted this a little and asked again, "'Probably not'?"

YuWon didn't answer.

Urpha saw that he knew something. He saw a small smile creep across his mouth because YuWon was then thinking of his conversation with Hercules.

## **Chapter 104**

"You'll become a target of Olympus after getting the Divine Sea Crystal."

The first one to talk about it was Odin.

He was a man of few words, but it looked like he couldn't afford to spare words this time. That was just how much of a double-edged sword the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was.

"It's definitely a great item, and it's an item that must never fall into Olympus's hands... but the storm that will come after taking it won't be small either."

"Maybe it would be better to give up the Divine Sea Crystal and buy some time?"

"Take the safe route? That's not a bad plan if you want everything to fail."

The opinions were split in two—the ones that said it was still too dangerous to openly oppose Poseidon at that point, and the ones who said choosing safety wouldn't change the outcome.

In a sense, since YuWon sought out Hephaestus early on, he was in conflict with Olympus, but until this point, the majority's opinion was "It's dangerous."

However...

"You won't have to worry about that."

The one who knew more about the internal affairs of Olympus than anyone else spoke.

"My uncle won't be able to move that actively."

"Do you know something?"

Hearing Odin's question, Hercules nodded.

"The three main bloodlines of Olympus were from a single family, but their relationship with each other wasn't that good. Especially between my father and Uncle Poseidon."

“Isn’t that another already famous story?”

“Even more so than the famous story.”

After hearing Hercules’s words, everyone gathered around in silence with shining eyes. It was for the joy of hearing a story never told before.

“Between the three stones, my father got the Divine Sky Crystal, and after making the Lightning Bolt, over half the authority in Olympus became his.”

Everyone knew the story up to this point. The power of the 「Lightning Bolt」 increased Zeus’s power many times over, and because of that, Zeus was able to become the King of Olympus acknowledged by everyone.

“After that, my father had an epiphany, that the Divine Dark Crystal and the Divine Sea Crystal couldn’t fall into the hands of my uncles.”

“So what you’re saying is that Zeus didn’t want Poseidon to obtain the Divine Sea Crystal?”

“Yes.”

“Then on the other hand, what’s the chance that Zeus would aim for the Divine Sea Crystal?”

“My father can’t afford to move that much. If it’s in the hands of some random player and not Poseidon, he won’t be able to move since he has to keep wearing the crown.”

“...Is that so?”

In reality, after becoming the King of Olympus and the end of the Gigantomachy, Zeus had stopped most of his activities.

In addition, if the King of Olympus started moving, the other big guilds would also start to move. And if they were to believe what Hercules said, that meant that unless Poseidon had the Stone, Zeus wouldn’t personally move against a random player.

“Well, back in those days, even I paid attention to what Zeus did.”

Odin, the head of the main rival guild to Olympus, Asgard, also knew this well.

Zeus couldn’t afford to let his attention wander beyond Olympus, which meant that if the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 was outside Olympus, all Zeus could do was stop Poseidon from getting it as well.

“Then the answer is obvious.”

An outline had started to form.

“Since we can’t give up the Divine Sea Crystal, we can only make Zeus and Poseidon fight themselves.”

\* \* \*

“Why isn’t it possible!”

Rumble—

The enormous temple shook. The ground rumbled as if there was an earthquake, and the air grew heavy.

His third son, Orion, who came after hearing the news, answered while kneeling on one knee.

“It may be to ban further skirmishes with the Giants and...”

Orion couldn’t continue speaking because of the goosebumps that started to appear on his back. He felt that if he spoke one more word, his entire body would be ripped apart by the existence in front of him.

‘Why the hell did I have to get the short stick?’

The news had to be relayed by someone, and the man who had to receive it was someone who had hair more like the ocean than the ocean itself.

He was one of the three main gods of Olympus, the God of the Sea, Poseidon.

“It is not against the Giants but just a mere player,” Poseidon said.

“The Ruler of the Skies doesn’t think that little of this incident.”

The Ruler of the Skies. Among the names given to the great High-Rankers of Olympus, that was the greatest name. It was a name given to signify that none should dare to speak his real name so easily.

Poseidon, the Ruler of the Seas, was enraged by what he heard.

“He just dislikes the idea of me obtaining the Stone of the Sea!”

Bang—!

Crunch—!

The small table was broken into pieces as his fist struck down on it, and Poseidon’s face grew red with anger as he glared at Orion.

“What are your thoughts? Zeus, that bastard is scheming, isn’t he?”

“How dare I give my thoughts on...”

Orion was stuck in a difficult position. No matter which side he took, either would bring him trouble. There were thousands of eyes and ears in the temple, and the moment he answered wrong, Zeus would end up hearing what he said.

“You damn bastard...”

Poseidon thought of Zeus’s face and ground his teeth.

They said they were brothers under one family, but they were quite distant from each other. This was even more evident after Zeus became King of Olympus.



After he obtained the 「Divine Sky Crystal」 and then got Hephaestus to make the 「Lightning Bolt,」 Zeus's strength far exceeded Poseidon's and Hades's, and the balance between the three main gods was broken.

“Thank you for letting me speak, but I feel the message also means that you mustn't further attack a player who isn't even a Ranker.”

“And how long ago did he grind his teeth saying that guy interfered with capturing Hephaestus?”

“Th-That is true.”

“That rat dog bastard!”

Poseidon continued to publicly curse Zeus as he destroyed more furniture. The Rankers inside the temple could only pray that Poseidon's anger wouldn't reach them.

After destroying even more furnishings, Poseidon's anger slowly subsided. Only then did he start to organize his thoughts, and he could see why Zeus would make such a decision.

‘He chose practical interest rather than an easy revenge. As expected of Zeus.’

Zeus's personality was always like this. He put more importance on practical benefits than emotions.

This was the reason that, even though he was Zeus's brother, Poseidon was secretly afraid of him. If nothing else, it was because of his personality that made Poseidon think he wouldn't be surprised if no blood even flowed inside Zeus.

‘No matter how much talent that Kim YuWon has, he's still only a player. It would still take hundreds and thousands of years until he has enough power to match me.’

It was only natural for the great tree in front of him to be of higher priority than the little sapling. By giving up the small prey called YuWon, Zeus had made up his mind to keep Poseidon in check.

Flap—

After getting up in his rage, Poseidon finally sat back down in his seat.

“So is that where the justification is...”

The reason that Zeus was always able to openly keep him in check was because he always had ‘justification.’ He had also always been an advocate for the Laws of the Tower, the set of rules that many Administrators and big guilds formed together. On top of that, he even combined it with Olympus's internal rule where one was banned from clashing with the Giants.

“Looks like I'll have to practice some self-restraint for a while.”

He smiled at the baffling situation.

Through this incident, Poseidon ended up losing a lot of things. The opportunity to find the 「Stone of the Sea」 that he so desired, the justification to move and use Rankers, and the rights to do so. He ended up losing all of them.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

YuWon opened his eyes.

After the rowdy party ended and after exchanging some light final greetings without any big farewells, he ended up climbing to the 21st Floor.

He felt as if he had slept for two days straight. This was a sign that his body's condition had deteriorated that much, and it was also from the aftereffects of pushing 「Kyneē」 past his limits.

‘I can’t overuse it.’

His torn and broken hand had recovered, and his creaking body was refreshed. In the end, nothing beat a good night’s sleep for recovery.

Creak, crack—

After sitting for a bit, dazedly looking at the ceiling, YuWon began stretching his body. He relaxed his stiff joints and drew up an image in his head.

‘It was my loss in the fight against Theseus.’

Theseus was a High-Ranker. From the beginning, he wasn’t someone YuWon could clash with right now. It was mostly because the difference in stats and levels was too big.

He could still clearly remember the spearpoint that cornered him without using any mana.

‘If I didn’t use Sensory Field and Cinder Eyes, I wouldn’t have been able to take all his attacks.’

YuWon recognized just where his skills and abilities were.

‘My luck was good as well.’

He had used the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 to nullify Theseus’s Arcane Power, but he couldn’t use it for a long time. On top of that, if Theseus had recognized that his mana was only nullified in relation to ‘water’ a little earlier, the situation would’ve become much worse.

Of course, YuWon had also been in an exhausted state where he wasn’t able to use 「Kyneē」 at all...

‘Even if we fought at full power, I still wouldn’t be able to win.’

Even though he had an enormous advantage because of the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 the outcome of the battle would still have been the same.

However, YuWon didn’t let it discourage him. Rather, as YuWon envisioned his fight with Theseus in his head, his eyes became brighter.

‘Yet.’

The fight would be doable in a sooner time frame than expected. He already had this much power at the 20th Floor.

Yuwon wasn’t an idiot who didn’t even know how much power he had, but he could never be sure. That was why when the opportunity presented itself, he had clashed with Theseus. And through that fight, a new sense of assurance was born.

‘I’ve reached here already.’

Originally, he had planned to get to this point in three years minimum, five years maximum.

If others were to hear that, they would still feel it was an impossibly short time to get so strong. Because originally, a Ranker was an existence that would take anywhere from a few hundred to a few thousand years to be created.

However, YuWon currently possessed power that could rival a Ranker’s even though he wasn’t one right now. Past the point of putting up sails in a gentle wind, he felt as if he could fly through a thunderstorm.

‘Now, the 21st Floor.’

He had practically cleared the lower floors at this point. He had obtained power and most of the important items and skills he needed to get through tests.

With this much, he was confident.

“Looks like I’ll be able to run a little faster.”

As he had now obtained the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 time was on his side since Zeus and Poseidon wouldn’t be able to move for a while, keeping each other in check.

‘Should I take the test now, or should I level up like I decided on the 20th Floor?’

It didn’t take long for YuWon to come to a conclusion. After obtaining the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 the things he had to do were already decided.

“I’ll be seeing him for the first time in a while.”

After getting up from his seat, YuWon pulled out his player kit and started to write a letter immediately.

“Ahjussi.”

\* \* \*

Time passed.

News of the incident that happened on the 20th Floor quickly spread throughout the Tower.

The 「Stone of the Sea,」 the item the God of the Sea and King of the Oceans, Poseidon, was looking so long for. And the rumor said that the one who obtained it was no Ranker but a player none other than Kim YuWon.

“I thought he was just a little chick, but isn’t he quite the funny guy?”

The white-furred monkey heard this and laughed out loud, “Those fools of Olympus will feel pretty bad ’cause of this.”

And the King of Asgard was also smiling at the first good news he had heard in a while.

“When the opportunity arises...”

The Battle God of Three Heads and Six Arms ignited his fighting spirit at anticipating a future opponent.

Kim YuWon. The player who had obtained the 「Stone of the Sea.」

His story had started to spread secretly among the High-Rankers related to Olympus.

## **Chapter 105**

“You’re pretty good at bringing back things like these, kid.”

Hephaestus didn’t talk for a few minutes after seeing the 「Divine Sea Crystal.」

The one thing he said was just a laugh mixed with amazement and wonder, and then he continued to observe it afterwards.

Vwooong—

The blue stone shone brightly in Hephaestus’s hand. He looked at it for a long time before asking a question.

“Is it perhaps ‘the thing?’”

YuWon answered without asking what he meant by “the thing.”

“Yes.”

It was an obvious question.

“Really? Is this really the Stone of the Sea or whatever?”

“That’s right.”

“It’s—damn, haha...”

Hephaestus could only exclaim, baffled, for a bit and then grasped the handle of his millstone while muttering, “I can’t believe it.”

Well, it only sounded like that to YuWon’s ears, but the true meaning was completely different.

“Just where did you get this? This is an item that my uncle couldn’t find for over a thousand years.”

“I got lucky.”

“Does that even make sense?”

Hephaestus was so filled with frustration, he looked like he would burst.

But he couldn’t really tell YuWon off. What could he say when he said he got lucky?

Fortunately for YuWon, Hephaestus wasn’t worried, unlike Urpha and the other Giants.

“In any case, this will keep my father and uncle busy in Olympus for a while, keeping each other in check, so they won’t be able to pay you any attention.”

He knew the relationship between Zeus and Poseidon, and he also predicted that the appearance of the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 would put the two in a battle of paranoia.

With the start of this war of nerves, they had no choice but to leave YuWon alone. Zeus couldn’t personally move because of the pressure from the other big guilds, and Poseidon couldn’t move either because of the pressure from Zeus.

In the end, the one who profited the most from this incident was YuWon.

Having thought up to that point, Hephaestus marveled at him.

‘No way he predicted all this, right?’

He had thoughts like this because he knew YuWon was a pretty smart kid. However, this was still too much of a stretch.

Ignoring the fact that he knew where to find the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 Hephaestus thought that YuWon predicting this would have been impossible unless he somehow knew the inner workings and relationships in Olympus. He knew YuWon was the strongest player he had ever seen, but this was a totally different problem than just being an outstanding individual.

‘And also this...’

Hephaestus closely analyzed the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 in his palm.

‘It’s just like Father’s Lighting Bolt.’

The nature was completely different, but they were similar.

It wasn’t just with the 「Divine Sea Crystal,」 it was the same when he was crafting 「Kyneē,」 which was currently on YuWon’s hand. Both of them were quite similar to the core material of the 「Lightning Bolt,」 the item that could be called the symbol of Zeus.

“Can you work with it?” YuWon asked without a hint of doubt.

He was asking the person who had already crafted the 「Divine Sky Crystal」 into 「Lightning Bolt.」 He had also already created excellent work with the 「Divine Dark Crystal,」 so naturally there would be no problem with the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 either.

Hephaestus answered affirmatively and clenched the Sea Crystal in his palm.

“Before refining, this is the same as that thing on your hand. If I’m to make a proper item, I need other materials.”

Even Hephaestus couldn’t create something from nothing.

“I need a certain quantity of adamantium, but there isn’t a place to get it either..”

“How long would the refining take?”

“It’ll take about ten days this time.”

“Is that so?”

After thinking for a bit, YuWon nodded. “I’ll go get it as fast as possible and bring it here.”

“The materials?”

“Yes.”

“Are you rich?”

“I don’t have too much since I used it all when making this,” YuWon said while shaking his right hand with 「Kyneē」 on it.

The amount of adamantium needed to be able to withstand the power of a refined 「Divine Sea Crystal」 would probably be similar to the amount needed for 「Kyneē.」

To acquire that much right now would be impossible even if one had the money, but YuWon said he would “go get it” all too easily.

Even though he was hearing another absurd thing, Hephaestus felt a weird sense of believability.

‘He’s someone who’ll definitely do what he says.’

Of course, he didn’t know the exact duration of YuWon’s “as fast as possible.” It could take a few years at most, and at the least, a few months would be reasonable.

However, one thing that was sure was that YuWon would definitely go and acquire that impossible thing that any other person would never even be able to touch, even if they looked their entire life for it.

“Where are you going now?” Hephaestus asked while rolling up his sleeves to start working.

He knew YuWon wouldn't just stay here idly. Since YuWon was always busily moving around, Hephaestus knew the punk would go climb again.

"Are you going to challenge the test right away?"

"Well, just as you said, Ahjussi, I've bought some time now."

While he was coming down to the 1st Floor, YuWon had already thought of how to spend the rest of his time.

"For now, I'm thinking of using the time to raise my level."

"Bought some time?"

Hephaestus was more interested in the 'time' rather than what YuWon would be doing.

"No way, you brat. Are you really thinking of fighting Olympus?"

It was another story he had heard before. YuWon had already become an enemy of Olympus because of him, and he said he would bring Olympus down from the skies.

Hephaestus thought it was a nonsensical statement. He thought that YuWon was just an immature kid who didn't know the goings-on of the world and thought, 'He probably feels like he can take on the world right now.'

But dreams were usually like that. At first, they were bigger than reality, but as time went on and one learned more about reality, they would become smaller and more vague.

However, it was the complete opposite for YuWon. Rather, his dreams would get bigger with time and were becoming clearer.

On top of that...

"Do you think that's all?"

YuWon's goal didn't just stop at Olympus.

"What are you talking about?"

Hephaestus was taken aback from the completely unexpected answer to his yes-or-no question.

YuWon didn't elaborate further. Instead, he nodded once at Hephaestus and turned to leave the workshop.

"Then I'll leave it to you. I'll pay you the fees later, so don't worry."

"...Alright."

Hephaestus was quick-witted, and asking a question he knew the person didn't want to answer didn't fit his style. He believed that there was a reason YuWon wasn't saying more about it.

Thinking this, Hephaestus looked around the workshop for his refining burin.

Step—

YuWon left the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 to Hephaestus and left the workshop.

It looked like Hephaestus was worrying too much because he thought YuWon was going into battle against a foe too big to handle. YuWon hadn't known him for a long time, but he could tell that Hephaestus was someone who worried a lot. He probably worried about many things but was just choosing to not show it on the outside.

"He would really fall over if he knew everything."

[?'s Egg wiggles.]

Was it because its incubation rate had increased? Nowadays, it was awake for about half the day, and this time, it answered YuWon.

Yuwon smirked a little while questioning if the Egg even knew anything at all and started a conversation with it for the first time in a while.

"You'll probably be able to meet your siblings soon."

[?'s Egg tilts its head in question.]

It was like a little kid that didn't know anything yet. Just what would it be like if it hatched? YuWon was half looking forward to it and half worried about it.

"It's going to become pretty fun, and the rotten parts of the Tower will start to be revealed one by one."

The Egg reacted as if to say it still didn't completely understand.

Well, this thing was only interested in one thing.

"Don't you grow by eating them?"

[?'s Egg nods.]

A child that only cares about eating. Like a gluttonous little kid, it showed a strong appetite for the Outers and grew by eating them.

He didn't know just what was inside the Egg, but he was certain that it was at least friendly towards him.

"Soon enough..."

Yuwon started to move towards his destination.

"I'll let you feast."

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

The world on the 1st Floor was vast. Many worlds were like that, but the 1st Floor was especially so. You could arrive at an area that had yet to be developed in about half a month. After leaving the City of Beginnings, going through the forest, and then going on for a while longer, you could arrive at the second world that wasn't recorded on the map.



‘After this point, there’s only about eight developed places.’

How surprised YuWon was when he found out that the final known size of the 1st Floor was about five times the surface area of his original earth. Because of this, he didn’t even dream of traveling by foot. Rather than that...

“Thank you for using the pride of Olympus, the Sun Chariot!”

He used one of the fastest methods of transport in the tower, the 「Sun Chariot」 replica he saw on the 20th Floor.

[1000 points have been used.]

Naturally, he had to pay the expensive usage fee, but the 「Sun Chariot」 was a method of transport that could move about ten people at once. It boasted a fast speed that could travel between the upper and lower floors, and as the symbol of Apollo, there was a rumor that the real one could travel from the 1st Floor to the top in just one day.

“Please come again!”

Receiving an aggressive sales greeting, YuWon dismounted from the 「Sun Chariot.」

He had been flying for over two days, and since he couldn’t do much during that time, his entire body was sore.

‘I’ve arrived.’

In front of YuWon was a tall wall without an end in sight. The black wall looked as if it was a barrier between night and day. As he walked closer and put his hand on it, it felt solid and cold.

This was it.

The edge of the world.

The huge world wall of the so-called ‘Tower.’

The Outers had definitely come from outside here.

‘We thought it would never break.’

No High-Ranker could break this wall. Not even Zeus, the great King of Olympus, nor Odin the King of Asgard, nor Asura, nor Hercules, not even The Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal, Son OhGong.

Let alone break the wall, they couldn’t even make a dent in it. That was why they thought the Tower was safe.

No, they didn’t even suspect from the start that there was anything outside it.

‘No one expected the wall to fall apart on its own.’

Swish—

YuWon lifted his hand off the wall and turned around. He didn't come here just to reminisce and fall into his thoughts. The reason he used up two days to come here was because he was certain of something.

‘That’s not a dungeon that would appear on the 1st Floor.’

The difficulty of the dungeons that appeared on a floor was set to be similar to the levels of the players on that floor, but that was only relevant when talking about naturally generated dungeons.

The thing YuWon was looking for was an ‘artificial’ dungeon.

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

His eyes turned red, and above this wasteland of nothingness, YuWon found a single sign.

“If you get the opportunity, try going to that place once.”

The one who told him this bit of information was the King of Asgard, Odin.

Vwong, vwooong—

Inside YuWon’s inventory, the 「Totsuka no Tsurugi」 that he obtained after passing the 1st Floor test began to vibrate.

“Before that guy died, he seemed to have hidden an incredible thing.”

Vwong, vwooong, vwongwongongong—

The sword started to become erratic.

After YuWon grabbed the fragment of Tsurugi in his inventory, his eyes began to find a path.

‘Found it.’

The dungeon hidden at the edge of the world.

‘Susanoo’s Dungeon.’

Rank 57th. One of the highest ranked High-Rankers, Susanoo.

His legacy was here.

## **Chapter 106**

The day the legacy of Susanoo was originally found would be a few hundred years later.

Among the “Three Precious Children,” Amaterasu and Tsukiyomi would continuously wander in search of the legacy of Susanoo, because they thought that only after finding his legacy would the Three Sacred Treasures become complete.

Even if not for that, the Three Precious Children were comrades in arms and family who had climbed the Tower together since long ago. If it was the legacy of one of their Three Precious Children, even if it was just a rotten stick, they had enough reason to seek it.

However...

‘But it’s my lunch.’

YuWon thought back to a saying from a famous survivalist\* that he remembered from before and moved with light steps.

Vwoong—

The shaking floor—no, in reality, the floor wasn't really shaking. It only felt like that for YuWon because the sword fragment of Tsurugi was reacting with the legacy of Susanoo.

'The Three Precious Children had the fragment but didn't know the location of the legacy. It took about a few hundred years until they reached this place with Totsuka no Tsurugi.'

YuWon had ended up bypassing the efforts they made for such a long time to gain the legacy in one fell swoop.

'The Clock Movement was really good.'

Clang—

YuWon held the half-broken sword in a reverse grip and then stabbed it into the floor where the fragment was reacting.

Stab—

"..."

Initially, nothing happened. A long time passed, but the blade seemed to be sharp as the fragment was just stuck in the floor.

And so, after a moment...

'Did something go wrong?'

Just when he was worrying that something had happened, a message appeared.

[You have discovered the Hidden Dungeon – Legacy of Susanoo.]

[Checking your qualifications.]

[You are qualified]

[Initiating admittance.]

Fwoosh—!

The world became white with the fragment of 「Totsuka no Tsurugi」 that was embedded in the ground as the center. His sight had lost all color, and right afterwards, the white world started to repaint itself.

Swish—

Swaaaaaa—

After quickly regaining color, the world wasn't the same wasteland that he was in before.

It was a red wasteland with a huge tower that stretched high into the sky, and there were groups of red-furred hyenas spread around the area.

[Attack the tower.]

[Obtain the hidden legacy of Susanoo.]

[You may exit the dungeon only after you find the ‘key.’]

Ironically, you couldn’t leave a dungeon as you pleased after entering because the exit door was different from the entrance door.

Tap—

YuWon retrieved the fragment that was stuck in the ground.

The fragment currently wasn’t a weapon. Until he found the other piece and restored it to a whole sword, 「Totsuka no Tsurugi」 couldn’t perform its role as a weapon.

Grrr—

Rarf, rarararf—!

The hyenas that were spread out around the wasteland noticed YuWon and started barking at him. Seeing that they were licking their lips, they were probably pretty hungry.

‘The key and the legacy will probably be in there...’

YuWon looked up at the giant tower in front of him. It reached to the clouds with each floor being as big as the Colosseum. It was a pretty big dungeon.

‘I knew the location of the dungeon, but I couldn’t find any details about the inside.’

Slide—

YuWon pulled out his sword.

The number of hyenas that had gathered around him wasn’t normal. Only their appearance was like a hyena’s, but their size was like a tiger’s. They were monsters that would appear on the 40th Floor, Vampire Hyenas.

‘A species that drinks the blood of other lifeforms to increase their combat power. They have a tendency to move in packs...’

“They’re chock-full of EXP.”

A smile appeared on YuWon’s lips.

Bzzzzt—!

Mana burst out from 「Kyneē.」 He didn’t even need to use [Hell] because this wouldn’t be a fight. It would be a one-sided slaughter.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

[Heaven-Slaying Star's completion rate did not increase.]

[Heaven-Slaying Star's completion rate did not increase.]

[Heaven-Slaying Star's completion rate has increased by 0.001%.]

[Heaven-Slaying Star's completion rate...]

Even though the completion rate didn't increase, he didn't feel bad about it.

From the start, YuWon never expected the completion rate that hadn't risen in a while to suddenly increase against mobs like these.

'About 0.003%?'

Drip—

YuWon lightly flicked off the blood dripping from his sword.

Slash—

Drops of blood fell on the wasteland.

He left behind the hyenas piled up on the ground, and YuWon checked the completion rate of his [Heaven-Slaying Star.]

[Completion Rate: 99.546%]

The completion rate didn't budge at all.

It was honestly a blessing that it rose by 0.5% after slaying the Sea Turtle on the 20th Floor.

He had secretly wanted the completion rate to get to 100% at that moment.

'Is it too early?'

Maybe after he felt the inadequacy of his stats, YuWon had started to look forward to the completion of [Heaven-Slaying Star] more.

[Heaven-Slaying Star] was a skill that increased his stats as its completion rate increased. If he was able to complete it, he felt that he might be able to fill in the lacking stats.

[Name: Kim YuWon]

[Level: 80]

[Strength: 90]

[Dexterity: 80]

[Constitution: 83]

[Perception: 87]

[Arcane Power: 100]

[.....]

As his level increased and the [Heaven-Slaying Star's] completion rate neared its end, his stats had increased quite considerably. He had also just gotten to Level 80 after defeating the Sea Turtle. The other stats were high as well, but Perception was especially showing a steep increase.

[Perception: 87]

His once lowest stat had suddenly become his third highest. As the stat was low originally, he had continuously increased it with each level up. It was natural that higher stats would increase more slowly, through both elixirs and level-ups, and so his Arcane Power stat had completely stopped at 100.

‘Seven stats have increased thanks to Sensory Field. I might even be able to get Perception to triple digits before the other stats.’

The tower before him was gigantic. The number of monsters inside it was probably quite large as well.

He had packed enough food and water in his inventory, and YuWon hoped to get Level 100 in this dungeon if possible.

Step—

The entrance was a relatively small door only two meters tall. It looked like Susanoo never expected the possibility of Giants to come here in the first place.

Creak—

As he opened the door that was rusted by time, a dense layer of dust lifted.

Yuwon looked inside the first floor. Unlike the tiny door, the ceiling was quite tall. The size of each floor was probably ten meters, but of course there was no rule that said every floor had to have the same height.

Yuwon looked left and right.

‘Compared to the height, it isn’t that wide. Is it a maze-type dungeon?’

And as he was trying to confirm the interior of the dungeon...

[You have entered Susanoo's Dungeon.]

[Reach the 100th floor.]

[Pass ‘Susanoo's test.’]

Just like the test on each floor, Susanoo's legacy had a test as well.

There were two objectives—reaching the 100th floor and passing ‘Susanoo's test.’

‘It's as if he had miniaturized the real Tower.’

Yuwon had never met Susanoo. However, from hearing about him from his comrades, Yuwon could roughly guess what kind of person he had been.

“Susanoo? No one under the heavens is worse than him.”

“The worst. Do I have to explain any further?”

“I wanted to fight him. I heard his swordsmanship was like art.”

“If you were to pick out the person who killed the most humans, there’s a chance it would be that guy.”

These were the evaluations from his comrades.

From the people with a definite sense of justice, like Odin and Hercules, they talked of him with contempt. Asura ignited his fighting spirit thinking of Susanoo, and Chronos was quite objective in his assessment. Most of their evaluations made him look bad, but one thing was certain.

None could deny Susanoo’s strength.

Step—

YuWon took a step towards Susanoo’s Dungeon.

Creak, boom—!

The door closed with a loud noise.

YuWon didn’t turn to look. He never had the thought to because there was another problem.

Shwooo—

A purplish fog appeared around the entrance. He felt it was quite peculiar. It wasn’t like he felt a special mana, but when he looked at it, he got goosebumps on his back for some reason.

It was something he didn’t even feel when he faced 《Yamata no Orochi.》

‘It’s not Arcane Power, not the aura of demons, nor is it the power of the Outer Gods.....’

YuWon thought about why this energy felt familiar, then he narrowed his eyes.

‘Is it just killing intent?’

The purplish fog started to clump together in that spot for a while, and afterwards, from inside YuWon’s inventory, some red smoke leaked out.

Shshshsh—

It was the smoke coming from the fragment of 「Totsuka no Tsurugi.」

The red smoke met the purple and tangled together to form an image. It didn’t have any mass or energy, but it was ‘something’ that had been created by the condensation of killing intent.

“> What’s this?”

It was a small purple doll that was as big as his palm. It was a samurai with a sword on its hip that looked like an errand boy, and it opened its eyes and looked at its immediate surroundings.

“> Where is this? The small tower?”

Small tower. It was another name for Susanoo’s Dungeon. That name was probably first given to this tower by the small samurai standing in front of YuWon. Which meant...

‘Is this guy Susanoo?’

There was a small thought of ‘No way,’ but with everything here, this was probably the most likely because it would be able to explain the killing intent that was chilling his whole body.

“> That’s right. I died.”

Susanoo was in a dazed state for a second but muttered to himself after realizing the situation.

Then his eyes turned to YuWon.

The tiny body looked as if it would disappear if YuWon were to slap it with his hand. It was small, and there wasn’t any energy coming off it either. It was just a bundle of smoke.

However, the killing intent felt from this wicked manifested thought made YuWon uneasy.

“> Are you the one who brought Totsuka no Tsurugi?”

“Yeah.”

“> Yeah?”

Susanoo’s eyebrows shifted.

In the end, it was still just a small doll that was frowning. An incredible amount of killing intent was pouring out, but YuWon had already experienced killing intent like this before. It was bearable, and because the small samurai in front of him was frowning, it was even funny.

There was nothing to fear.

“> Looks like you don’t know who I am. I am—”

“Name, Susanoo. One of the ‘Three Precious Children.’ A master swordsman and necromancer. A killer recognised by the Tower. Top rank of 57 while alive.”

YuWon continued to spill all the information about Susanoo.

“Died while fighting Yamata no Orochi.”

“> ...”

“He was an incredible person. But I want to ask if he wants to receive respect after having lived like that.”

At YuWon’s words, Susanoo was dazed for a second before a small smile appeared on his face.

“> So you know who I am and are still acting like that... Goodness, some weird things have happened since I died.”

It was a reaction of amusement.

If it was the living Susanoo, he probably would’ve slain YuWon in a single slash right then.

However, he didn’t have the power to do that right now. Because now, he was just an evil thought that was just barely able to manifest.



"> I don't care about your respect. I didn't leave my thoughts behind for something like that either. But from the things you said, I will correct one thing."

He looked to be reminiscing his past, and Susanoo put on the most joyous smile YuWon had seen since meeting him.

"> It wasn't just 'like that.' My life was the best."

"You're bragging about having killed a lot of people..." YuWon nodded. It was as he heard before. "It's a relief you died early."

What would have happened if Susanoo was still alive? If so, then he would probably have been one of the top Rankers that YuWon would've needed to kill, and it would've been a bit more tiring to have the 57th-ranked High-Ranker as another enemy.

"> But you, you don't look like a Ranker from my faction. Where are you from?"

"I'm not from anywhere." YuWon lifted his player kit and showed his number. "Well, I'm not a Ranker either."

"> ...What?"

After confirming the number, Susanoo's eyes were filled with disappointment.

[21]

"> Just that?"

## **Chapter 107**

"> You're spouting off with only that much?"

Susanoo's tone changed. Just a second ago, he was looking at YuWon with an expression of intrigue and seemed entertained, but his gaze suddenly turned to that of scorn.

It was a reaction YuWon expected since Susanoo was a fighter that even Asura acknowledged.

'He abhorred the weak and respected the strong. That much was certain.'

He didn't see the players on the lower floors as human. You'd be lucky if he even treated you as an insect. Because of that, he was famous for killing any player he saw at random.

"Why can't I?"

"> ...I needlessly got excited."

Susanoo crossed his arms and shook his head.

"> This isn't a place an insect like you can climb as you please. Monsters that can't even compare to those of the 21st Floor roam around here."

"I already know."

"> 'Already'?"

Susanoo felt something was off. He had forgotten for a moment after seeing the 21 on the player kit, but outside this door were packs of Vampire Hyenas. These monsters were the ones that guarded this dungeon he had constructed. They were monsters that could only be seen after the 40th Floor, and there were quite a number as well.

“> You don’t have a party?”

Susanoo looked around, but as a simple manifestation of evil intent, he might not have been able to sense anything special going on.

“There’s none. I’m alone.”

Step—

YuWon started to move.

Susanoo’s entrance had caught his interest, but that was it. He was just a manifestation that wasn’t even alive. YuWon didn’t think to face him, someone who couldn’t impact the physical world, any longer.

Shwoo—

Susanoo followed behind YuWon.

Seemingly having changed his mind, his expression showed he was a little more interested than before.

“> I’ll follow you. It can’t be helped as long as you have that fragment.”

“Why?”

“> That’s just how the dungeon was created.”

“Interesting.”

YuWon kept moving as he gave half-replies to Susanoo.

The interior of the dungeon was quiet.

He first thought it was a maze, but seeing some furniture scattered around, it was as if he was in a giant house. Of course, it was far too disproportionately wide to be called a house.

“> So you’re not a pureblood, right?”

Susanoo kept talking without stopping.

“> Where did you live? And where did you get the fragment?”

He was talking about the fragment of 「Totsuka no Tsurugi.」

YuWon ignored him and kept walking. Even if he was bored, YuWon didn’t want to continue this meaningless conversation with Susanoo. It was tedious, and he wasn’t worth answering either.

“> This part is what I’m most curious about.”

“If I tell you...” YuWon turned to face Susanoo. “Will you at least tell me the direction?”

“> Direction?”

“The direction to the door or stairs to the next floor. These maze-type dungeons aren’t difficult, but I hate them because they take so long.”

Even though he had [Sensory Field,] he couldn’t figure out all the paths with it. It would take a few hours if he was lucky, and if he was unlucky, he might get stuck on this floor for more than a day.

If Susanoo was the one who created the dungeon, he must have known its layout.

After hearing what YuWon said, Susanoo thought for a moment before nodding.

“> Alright, sure.”

After looking around for a second, Susanoo pointed in a direction.

“> The door is that way. If you keep going down the path in that direction, you’ll find the door that leads to the next floor.”

“That way...” YuWon nodded. “Alright.”

Shwing—

He unsheathed the sword that he had put back after the scuffle against the Vampire Hyenas, and Susanoo repeated his question since he had given YuWon a hint.

“> Now answer my previous question. Where did you get that fragment?

“Do you remember the test on the 1st Floor?”

“> The Colosseum?”

“I got it from there.”

Bzzt, bzzzzzt—

Magic was pouring out through 「Kyneē.」 He hadn’t used [Hell,] but a sufficient amount of power was flowing into his sword.

“> I can’t understand that. You earned it from a test on the 1st Floor?”

“Because the head of that guy appeared in the last test of the Colosseum.”

After turning back, YuWon headed in the direction Susanoo pointed rather than the open pathways on the left and right.

“Yamata no Orochi.”

“> What? Who?”

The questions continued, but YuWon didn’t answer. Right now, maintaining his focus was of higher priority.

‘This isn’t like the real Tower.’

The tower at the edge of the world. Instead of that one time where it crumbled by itself, other than the outer wall that no one could break, all the other walls were breakable.

It was a maze, a test where you needed to ‘find’ the right path.

However, YuWon had always found a different way through.

‘The path...’

Fwooosh—

[Holy Fire] ignited his sword, and YuWon struck down the wall as hard as he could.

‘...Will be made.’

Crack—!

With the sound of an explosion, a crack formed on the wall.

YuWon swung again.

Bang—!

Crumble—

The wall collapsed.

YuWon moved through the flying dust and swung his sword against the second wall.

Bang, bang—!

Looking at YuWon as he started to break the walls, Susanoo wore a baffled expression. To make the path instead of finding it...

Although he was just a manifestation, his mind started to turn.

“> Yamato no Orochi...?”

A mere 21st Floor player. No, if what YuWon said was true, he had defeated Orochi on the first floor. Susanoo couldn’t believe that such a thing was possible.

If he wasn’t seeing the scene before him right now, he might have laughed it off as a bluff.

Bang—!

He had already broken through three walls. But that wasn’t all.

“Kehe, hehehehe—”

Spirits of the Dead had appeared with weary laughs. These monsters took the form of souls and came out like smoke, surrounding YuWon’s body.

In that moment...

Bzzzzt—!

On YuWon’s hand, 「Kyneē」 consumed the spirits.

“> What is that?”

Just what kind of item was that? Now he had gone past the realm of curiosity into confusion. Susanoo thought he knew everything in the Tower, but in this short period of time, he had been surprised multiple times.

To have an item that could consume monsters created from spirits...

"> Heh."

After silently looking at YuWon creating the path with his sword, a smile appeared on Susanoo's face.

This was entertaining.

He was entertained from seeing something new for the first time. Even beyond that, he felt something grow inside his non-existent body.

"> I'm looking forward to this."

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

It had only taken about an hour to pass through the first floor with this method.

[Your level has increased.]

[Dexterity increased by 1.]

[Constitution increased by 1.]

[Perception increased by 1.]

While he was passing through the first floor, his level had risen. It was because he had hunted quite a few monsters, and his experience was probably nearing a level-up.

And after that, the second floor, the third floor...

As YuWon continued to go up the floors, he could understand the special gimmick of Susanoo's dungeon.

'They're all spirit or undead-type monsters.'

It was rare to see spirit-type monsters. This was true for undead as well. Although there was a big difference in having a corporeal body or not, both of them had souls. Well, dead souls.

Also, it was quite obvious where these souls were from.

'They were killed by Susanoo.'

Susanoo was a master swordsman acknowledged by Asura. On top of that, he was one of the top spirit masters and necromancers in the tower.

And he was a mass murderer that killed the most people in the long history of the Tower.

'Did he gather the spirits of all the people he killed and make this tower?'

Although YuWon wasn't shaken by much, this was still a little spooky. It felt like he was climbing a tall mountain made of corpses. He couldn't ignore the feeling of stepping on a new corpse with every step he took.

"It's disgusting."

"> What do you mean?"

Hearing the nonchalant question, YuWon turned his head. Although he had ignored most of his words, it was hard to ignore this time.

"I'm talking about you."

"> A disciple of righteousness, are we?"

"'Righteousness'?"

YuWon furrowed his brow.

Was he truly on the right side? Strictly speaking, since he was moving to save the world, he could be considered righteous. However, YuWon didn't think that.

He couldn't defeat his sense of guilt at having to kill another, and in the end, he couldn't do it. Because of this, they had all died, and YuWon had survived.

He wasn't righteous.

All who lived in this world were sinners.

However...

"I've seen a lot of people, but you're a first."

Even YuWon hadn't seen someone like Susanoo before.

"> You sure act like you've seen a lot when you're just a brat at the 21st Floor."

Apparently he misunderstood what Yuwon meant.

Although there was more to what he said, YuWon didn't feel the need to explain himself.

YuWon pulled open the door.

Creak—

A staircase appeared. After following it up, he arrived at the next floor.

[You have arrived at the 10th floor.]

On the tenth floor, there were ten rooms, all of them labeled one to ten.

[Enter the first room and defeat the corresponding enemy.]

[After passing the first room, the second room will open.]

[After passing the fifth room, you may move on to the next floor.]

It was strange.

There were ten rooms, but you only needed to pass through the fifth one to advance. In a situation like this, there was only one answer.

‘The sixth to the tenth rooms aren’t at the difficulty of the tenth floor.’

“> I’ll tell you something.”

Susanoo’s voice had a laughing tone.

“> Just like you’re thinking, all the things here are people I killed when I was alive. Whether spirits or undead, I just grabbed all of them. The oldest one here has probably lived as an Undead for over 5,000 years.”

Even after hearing Susanoo’s words, YuWon was calm. He had already expected it. There was no need to become angry again. However, the time was a lot longer than he initially guessed.

Perhaps because Susanoo was a little surprised at YuWon being calmer than expected, he spoke up as YuWon moved towards the first room.

“> There’s no way to save these guys, unless there’s a better spirit master or necromancer than me. But they’ll be able to escape this place if you kill them at least.”

He was pushing for YuWon to not stop at the fifth room but to attempt the tenth as well.

“> What will you do? Are you just going to ignore them? Or will you keep going?”

It was an obvious provocation. But there was no reason not to fall for it.

“Even if you didn’t say that, I was going to attempt them anyway.”

Clack—

The door to the first room opened.

Inside was a man with long hair and a haggard face. His face was white and so thin that he didn’t even seem like a human.

An Undead.

The room was big enough to fight with about 20 meters to each side.

The Undead of the first room saw the door open and slowly raised its head. Its face had lost all expression. Most likely it had been stuck in this small room for hundreds of years.

“You don’t need to stand up.”

“...?”

The Undead was about to stand, but an expression appeared on its face for the first time. It was asking what he meant.

Then...

Fwoosh—

A purple fire attached itself to the Undead's body.

[Holy Fire]

Pssssshh—

The fire melted off its white skin, and it started to burn up from the toes.

The Undead didn't scream. It couldn't feel pain in the first place.

[You have passed the first room.]

After confirming the elimination of the Undead, YuWon turned away.

“Rest now.”

Yuwon stepped toward the second room.

And in that instant...

Hummmm—

On his right hand, 「Kyneē」 was illuminated with a soft light.

## Chapter 108

Ten days had passed.

[You have cleared the 40th floor.]

During that time, YuWon had focused solely on hunting. At about four floors per day, he ended up passing through fifty floors altogether.

His level that had refused to grow through the lower levels continued to steadily increase. Susanoo's Dungeon was as good as most upper floor hunting grounds.

On top of that...

[Resentment was absorbed by Hell.]

Unknown messages were given as well.

‘Save me... No, no, kill me...’

‘I want to get out of here! Please!’

‘I don't want to suffer any longer!’

The voices of the dead were heard every time he slayed Susanoo's undead.

Resentment that had accumulated for hundreds and thousands of years and the souls that had changed because of it. These things started to flow into 「Kyneē」 and into YuWon's ears.

“...So tiring.”



About after he reached the 40th floor, the rate at which he was climbing started to slow. The speed at which he was hunting had slowed down as well. Even though YuWon had the strength and skills far surpassing his current level, the difficulty of Susanoo's Dungeon was still quite high.

On top of that...

'These voices are eating away at my sanity.'

Hearing the voices of the dead was a first for YuWon as he wasn't a spirit master nor a necromancer. He felt that the more he heard the resentments of the undead that Susanoo had enslaved, the more his sanity would be ground away.

Just what was all this? Had he learned a skill that could hear the voices of the dead after acquiring 「Kyneē」?

He thought about it, but YuWon felt that wasn't the case.

'These are voices I haven't heard before. And hearing the voices of the dead is only possible for high-level necromancers like Susanoo...'

It was close to impossible for YuWon, who had no relevant skills.

One thing that bothered him was definitely the resentment of the souls that 「Kyneē」 was absorbing.

'I never knew Kyneē would have such an effect.'

Just where were these resentments going? He couldn't think of any place that they could go. He might have known if he was a necromancer, but that wasn't the case.

YuWon never even knew that 「Kyneē」 had this ability to begin with, and none of his allies had known either.

"> That glove... It's got a peculiar ability."

That was the first thing Susanoo said after observing YuWon for a while.

YuWon was wondering why he had been quiet for so long, but looked like he was quite curious as well.

"> Why aren't you using it properly? What, is it your secret ace or something?"

"Secret ace?"

"> Yeah. Looks like you're the same as me, but why are you hiding it and not using it properly?"

Susanoo saw YuWon's expression after he had talked a while, and he gave a short laugh.

"> Ah, alright. So it wasn't something like you feel guilty about using it or anything like that?"

"What are you talking about?"

“> You haven’t used that item properly yet.”

Susanoo’s gaze turned to YuWon’s right hand.

The black glove, 「Kyneē.」

It was true that he hadn’t used [Hell] all this time. However, YuWon’s focus wasn’t on that part. He said YuWon was the same as him.

“Then how can I use it properly?”

“> Now, I don’t know that.”

“So you just wanted to act like you knew.”

“> What? You punk, even if I tell you...”

Although a lot of complaints were said, YuWon didn’t pay any attention to it. They weren’t necessary to him.

The important thing was the thing he said before.

‘Use it properly?’

The clues about 「Kyneē」 were still lacking. The one who actually used this item before, Hades, wasn’t that close with YuWon, and even among the “Big Three” gods of Olympus, he was the Ranker most shrouded in secrecy.

Until now, YuWon had only used 「Kyneē」 as an amplification item that could bring out his mana. Even with that, 「Kyneē」 was quite a powerful item. However...

‘Was I not using this item properly yet?’

The properties of 「Kyneē」 and the item’s original owner, Hades.

‘It’s pretty decent information.’

It was always good news to hear that one could increase the effectiveness of an item. It couldn’t be helped that he would need to figure out how himself, but YuWon had some ideas.

He lifted his head and looked up.

A ceiling that wouldn’t break with his strength alone.

Unless a Ranker as strong as Susanoo was to come here, that ceiling was probably unbreakable. No, perhaps the small tower itself was recognized as a ‘dungeon,’ a test that could receive the support of the system. If that was the case, even if an Administrator was to come, they wouldn’t be able to break it.

“This will take a while.”

YuWon settled his thoughts and brushed himself off as he stood up.

It was time to climb again.

And so, a month later...

[You have cleared the 50th floor.]

[Your level has increased.]

[Your Strength has increased by 1.]

[Your Dexterity has increased by 1.]

[Your Constitution has increased by 1.]

[You have found Susanoo's first legacy.]

[You have acquired Elemental Worshiper's Garment.]

After clearing the 50th floor, he received the first reward.

It was a welcome sight for YuWon, who had only climbed with experience and leveling up in mind. When he grasped the clothes, YuWon nearly shouted in excitement, forgetting for a moment that Susanoo was there.

[Elemental Worshiper's Garment]

▷ Fire, water, wind, lighting—armor with the four elements and the blessing of the Elemental King imbued into it. You gain a strong resistance to each of the elements.

▷ Increases resistance against the fire attribute.

▷ Increases resistance against the water attribute.

▷ Increases resistance against the wind attribute.

▷ Increases resistance against the lightning attribute.

▷ By resonating with mana, the resistance against each element can be increased further.

It was simple but effective. An item that granted strong resistance against the four most common elemental attributes. Additionally, it was a cheat item where one could increase the resistance even more by pouring mana into it.

‘Although its physical resistance is weak, I can sufficiently dodge those with Sensory Field.’

Shwip—

Yuwon took off his 「Pyromancer Robe」 and put it into his inventory and immediately put on the dusty 「Spirit Worshiper's Garment.」

And so an hour later, YuWon moved towards the next level.

“> This is interesting.”

Yuwon hadn't heard Susanoo's voice in a while, but as always, he ignored what Susanoo was saying as most of it wasn't useful at all.

"> It definitely showed you being a player at the 21st Floor on your player kit, but the way you fight looks like an experienced High-Ranker. And yet your skills are severely lacking to be a High-Ranker..."

"Stop buzzing around. You're not even a fly."

YuWon picked his ears and swatted his hands as if shooing a fly, but as this had become quite common, Susanoo didn't pay it any heed and continued talking.

"> And you've definitely become stronger than you were when you first entered."

YuWon's growth rate was surprising even for Susanoo, who had been by his side this whole time.

As YuWon's level increased one by one, his skills had also noticeably increased. This was an expected change.

In the field of fighting, YuWon was someone who had already become one of the highest ranked High-Rankers and had even fought against the Outer Gods.

Battle sense? Currently, there probably weren't that many who could compete against YuWon in battle ability in the tower.

The skills he had didn't even need to be discussed. [Cinder Eyes,] [Gigantification,] [Holy Fire,] and so on. He had numerous skills that even High-Rankers would be envious of.

Same with the items. If Hades were to find out that 「Kyneē」 and 「Edge of Nightfall」 were crafted from the 「Divine Dark Crystal,」 he would definitely try and acquire them.

All this meant was that the engine inside him was already quite incredible, but the problem came from the body that was utilizing the engine. Because of this, as YuWon's level and stats increased, his power didn't grow additionally but exponentially.

"> You... Just what are you?"

This was the question that swam around inside Susanoo's head, but YuWon didn't answer this time either.

Susanoo closed his mouth again.

The next time he spoke again was when YuWon had reached the 60th floor.

"> This part will be quite difficult."

"...?"

For the first time, YuWon was intrigued at something Susanoo said.

Difficult? That wasn't something Susanoo would say. He probably said this to match YuWon's level, but the fact that such a word came out of Susanoo's mouth was shocking.

"What is it?"

"> Are you finally curious now?"

A smile crept onto his face, but he closed his mouth again. He was probably taking his revenge like ‘Since you didn’t listen to me, I won’t listen to you.’

YuWon sighed with regret. If it truly was a dangerous floor, it would’ve been nice to get one or two hints from Susanoo, but if he wasn’t going to answer him, he could only face it head on in the end.

Step—

Creak—

He walked up the stairs and opened the door. The door was rusted and worn out, just like the doors to all the other floors.

[You have arrived at the 60th floor.]

The message appeared after the door opened, and he took a step inside.

The first thing YuWon did was to scan the interior of the floor.

Unlike the other floors that were decorated with different background elements, the 60th floor had nothing. It literally had nothing. There weren’t any of the common stones, nor furniture, nor walls. It was truly just an empty space.

‘Is there really nothing?’

After looking at his surroundings, YuWon walked forward.

If there really was nothing, all he had to do was to move towards the door to the next floor. But there would definitely be an entity that guarded that door.

Just as he suspected...

‘There is.’

In the distance, YuWon saw something as small as a dot. It was pretty far away, about a few kilometers.

YuWon used [Cinder Eyes] to check the form of the target.

‘Is it a knight?’

It was a knight sitting on the ground in heavy, full plate armor with a helmet on its head.

While approaching it, the knight seemed to detect YuWon’s presence, and it slowly lifted its head.

Clank—

As the rusted armor moved, it produced an unpleasant sound.

YuWon moved closer and looked down on the sitting knight.

It still wasn’t moving, probably because YuWon wasn’t close enough.

“Is this the thing you said would be difficult?”

Creak—

The knight stretched its knees and started to stand up. Seeing that, YuWon swung his sword. There wasn’t a need to wait for it.

Bang—!

The sword slash infused with [Holy Fire] cut at the knight's feet. However...

Chiiiiiii—

The sole unrusted sword of the knight had blocked YuWon's slash. It had done so while sitting down and with amazing speed and precision.

'It definitely...'

YuWon observed the knight standing up and readjusted the grip on his sword.

'Feels dangerous.'

The blue glint from its eyes shining through the helmet wasn't ordinary.

Although it definitely was an Undead, YuWon could nearly feel its essence from when it was alive.

It was different from all the other Undeads he had met until now. It felt like he was meeting a living entity for the first time since entering this tower.

The knight finished standing up and raised its blade.

At that moment...

[Defeat the Death Knight, the Knight of Knights, Arthur.]

The identity of the knight in front of him was revealed through a message.

"...Arthur?"

YuWon's eyes grew wide.

Was it really Arthur?

## **Chapter 109**

Arthur.

He was definitely a friend of Yuwon's ally Merlin for the longest time, and he was also the guildmaster of the mid-ranked guild The Round Table.

"King of Britain," the "King of Knights," "Master of the Knights of the Round Table."  
"Genius."

There were a lot of descriptors you could add to his name, but whenever Merlin thought back to Arthur, he would say this:

"The first time I saw my friend was when he was just a budding chick of a player."

Although their difference in age was massive, Merlin thought of him as a friend.

"His skill with the sword was extraordinary, and I knew he would become incredible. He was close with his allies, and so was their trust in him... Above all, his sense of justice was stronger than anyone else's."

Whenever Merlin reminisced about his old friend, the wrinkles around his eyes deepened.

Arthur, his one of a kind friend that he acknowledged.

“I do miss you. Friend...”

Honestly, YuWon had heard the stories of Arthur too many times since Merlin’s stories would all usually be centered around him.

Arthur suddenly didn’t return after going out hunting one time. Apparently...

‘So you were here.’

...That Arthur had died at the hands of Susanoo and became trapped in this tower after becoming an Undead.

Clank—

The “King of Knights,” no, the Death Knight Arthur moved his body. He maintained his disturbing gaze as he moved towards YuWon.

Step—

One step.

Step—

Two steps.

Vwooong—

Mana nestled itself inside Arthur’s sword, and bluish light emitted from it. It was a freakishly cold mana, the mana of the ice attribute.

Shhkt—

Clang—!

With Arthur’s sword strike, the air around where YuWon was standing became frozen solid. The moisture in the air turned to frost and fell like snow to the ground.

Having jumped into the air, YuWon looked down at Arthur’s sword.

‘The legendary sword Excalibur. Even after becoming an Undead, his items are still the same.’

Well, for a Ranker as highly ranked as Susanoo, maybe something like 「Excalibur」 didn’t interest him enough. He most likely left it with Arthur to bring out his strongest potential even as an Undead.

‘Arthur was a High-Ranker similar in rank to Theseus when he was alive. He didn’t end up becoming one of the highest ranked High-Rankers in the end, but from what I heard from Merlin, Arthur’s rank had climbed quite quickly.’

Swoosh—

Crack—!

A slash flew at YuWon through the air. The speed of ice-attribute mana was fast, second only to wind-attribute mana.

[Hermes's Treads]

Woosh—

Fortunately, YuWon had the capability to step once more on thin air, and after dodging Arthur's two sword strikes, YuWon landed behind him.

‘Normally, I wouldn't have any chance at defeating an undead Arthur.’

Wooosh—!

Arthur twisted his body and swung back at YuWon.

‘Should I dodge?’

While thinking of his next move, YuWon swung his sword.

[Holy Fire x Arcane Sword]

Fwoooosh—

The sword was enveloped by a purple flame.

Clang—!

The two swords of opposing attributes clashed, and the freezing cold air from the ice attribute was consumed by the fire and lost its edge.

Thankfully, the matchup wasn't bad.

‘But the one that's moving Arthur right now isn't Susanoo.’

Cr-cr-crack—

He pushed back the sword.

‘It's just a spirit of the damned.’

There was no way that Susanoo's current strength, after being dead for hundreds of years, would be the same as when he was alive. Naturally, as the strength of the necromancer waned, so would the strength of his Undead.

Clang—!

After parrying Arthur's sword 「Excalibur」 skyward, YuWon thrust his sword deep into his chest. He was planning on ending this in a single strike. However..

Fwoop—!

YuWon's sword ended up getting blocked by a sudden clear sheet between him and Arthur. He succeeded in penetrating through the sheet, but the strength of his attack had decreased.

‘It's ice.’

A sheet of ice stronger than steel.



It wasn't that easy to break the ice created from mana because Arthur was originally more defensive rather than offensive as a knight.

“Guardian of the Round Table”...’ YuWon thought. ‘He was called that before.’

Just because his defense was good didn't mean that his attacks were trash either.

Clang—!

The two swords clashed again.

The sword aiming for his vitals was quite fierce. Arthur's icy blade just barely missed slicing YuWon's neck multiple times.

At a speed too fast to follow with one's eyes, it wasn't irregular, it was as effective and quick as it was simple.

His nickname the “King of Knights” wasn't just for show. His swordsmanship mirrored the orderly standards of knights, and he wielded it to near perfection.

Fwit—

His shoulder was cut slightly, and YuWon furrowed his brows.

‘I can tell why he's alone here.’

Arthur's skills indeed matched his stories. YuWon hadn't taken a single injury since entering Susanoo's dungeon until now.

Although Arthur was alone, it wouldn't be wrong to say he was the ‘mini boss’ of this dungeon.

Crack—

Blades of ice littered the ground. This would be ordinarily hard to dodge.

[Activating Sensory Field.]

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

The space around him and Arthur was revealed to YuWon like the back of his hand. And...

Wriggle—

As if they were waiting, the ten blades of ice started to move. Their trajectories could be seen clearly, and YuWon moved his feet.

Shwaaaaa—

Fwoop, fwop, fwop, fwop—!

The blades smashed into the ground without slicing through YuWon.

Shwaaaaa—

But simultaneously, the cold energy came like a tidal wave and enveloped YuWon.

‘I can't dodge this.’

It wasn't a skill you could dodge. It was as big as a tsunami, and it was also a skill that followed the blades of ice.

The area of effect was too wide, so YuWon lifted his sword, and his body curled in on itself.

Shwaaaaa—

Crunch, cr-crunch—

YuWon's body started to freeze pale white.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

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His body started to rapidly cool down, and it felt similar to when he ate an 「Ice Crystal.」

Unsurprisingly...

[Your body temperature is dropping rapidly.]

[You are under the Status Effect: Frostbite.]

[The effects of Elemental Worshiper's Garment are resisting the cold energy.]

He could feel his body becoming numb, but thanks to the effects of the Garment, his body didn't fully freeze over.

YuWon shivered from the cold air, and as he lifted his head, he could see Arthur's sword thrusting towards his neck.

‘Using ice-attribute mana and skills to neutralize the target's movement, then coming in close to finish them off...’

It was a simple pattern, but it was flawless.

Arthur seemed to still perfectly remember his swordsmanship and fighting style that he had polished when he was alive as an Undead. Even though YuWon was fighting him head on right now, it was hard to believe he was up against an Undead.

‘Incredible.’

In that moment...

Fwoosh—

[Your body temperature is increasing rapidly.]

[Holy Fire is resisting the effects of Status Effect: Frostbite.]

[Succeeded in resisting.]

The flames drove out the cold energy, and as his frozen body thawed, strength returned to him.

Arthur's first plan of immobilizing his opponent had failed, and after that...

Crackle—

[Your arm has been imbued with the power of a Giant.]

[Your Constitution is lacking.]

[Partial Gigantification will occur.]

The muscles in YuWon's arm strengthened. With the new strength in his right arm, YuWon pointed his sword at Arthur, who was charging at him.

"This time..."

Clench—

"It'll be a little different."

Noticing the unusual change in YuWon, Arthur quickly retracted his sword and took a defensive stance. A sheet of ice enveloped his body like a suit of armor, and the ice even created lots of sharp spikes on the surface—a thornmail made of ice.

However...

Vwoosh—

YuWon didn't pay it any heed and swung his sword.

Crack—!

Crunch, crack—

His sword broke through the ice barrier, and as the flames on his sword melted the ice, the sword made contact with Arthur's armor.

Creak—

Unlike 「Excalibur,」 the armor around Arthur's body had already been too worn and rusted to function as actual armor.

Crush—!

YuWon rushed past Arthur's side and aimed for his back.

Clang—

And along with his armor, Arthur's shoulder was slashed, and his parts fell to the ground.

YuWon turned and faced Arthur.

Even though his side, hips, and even half his body had been slashed away along with his sword, Arthur reached for his sword on the ground with his left arm.

Even if he was an Undead, it would still be impossible to continue fighting with just his left hand.

"...It feels bad."

Flick—

YuWon slashed away Arthur's left arm as he was leaning down to pick up his sword.

After losing both arms, Arthur lifted his head and looked at YuWon.

And then...

Crack—

Vwoong, bang—!

After grabbing Arthur's neck, YuWon slammed him into the ground.

Yuwon's current strength that had been boosted by [Gigantification] was something that even the living Arthur would've had a hard time against. And after losing both his arms, he had lost all ways to fight back.

"Fuu..."

Only after confirming that the fight was over could YuWon breathe comfortably.

It was a short but intense fight, and if Arthur's armor hadn't been rusted, YuWon wouldn't have been able to slash through it with a single strike. If that had happened, the fight would have definitely been prolonged.

'Although, the results wouldn't have changed.'

Clack, clack—

Arthur continued to struggle even while being suppressed by YuWon. It put strength into its remaining body and tried to somehow break free from YuWon's grasp. But it was futile.

Yuwon looked at Arthur with pity and ignited his [Holy Fire.]

"You can rest now."

Fwaaa—

The fire flowed through his fingers and seeped in between Arthur's armor.

Inside the armor, the flames burned away his bones and began to purify him.

Shhh, shwiii—

The burnt body became ash and floated into the air, and just like all the other times, 「Kynee」 produced a light.

[Resentment was absorbed by Hell.]

Shwooo—

「Kyneē」 absorbed Arthur's freezing resentment that had been frozen for over a thousand years.

Yuwon muttered to himself as he looked at Arthur's body which had become ash and was now disappearing, "It would've been good for Merlin to be here."

It was then...

"Mer... lin..."

Vwoooong—

Within the resentment being sucked inside 「Kyneē」 a voice was heard.

YuWon immediately clasped 「Kyneē」 with his left hand.

Then the voice continued.

“Did you say... Merlin?”

“Arthur?”

It was a voice he was hearing for the first time, but it definitely knew Merlin.

This was the first time he was hearing the voice of a dead person after Susanoo. Although there were instances of Undead having self-awareness, Arthur currently wasn't even an Undead. And the only ones who could hear the voices of such existences were specialty classes like necromancers or spirit masters.

“So you were a necromancer as well.”

He probably misunderstood after realizing YuWon could hear him.

“That's not really...”

YuWon shook his head and stopped himself from refuting the ghost. In this situation where understanding had failed him, he couldn't think of a method to make him understand.

“Let's say that's true.”

YuWon thought that maybe Arthur would despise necromancers since he had suffered here for at least a thousand years because of one. However, the words he heard next were completely different from his worries.

“Do you know Merlin?”

He was probably concerned about hearing the Merlin's name from YuWon's mouth.

“Yes. A bit.”

“If you're a necromancer, could you let me meet with Merlin? If you accept this request of mine, I will even write a contract to become your slave forever.”

He was someone who had lived this entire time as an Undead. His resentment would be considerable, and his distress even more so, but he was talking about becoming an Undead again.

“Why do you go to such lengths?”

“I have a message I must deliver.”

A message he must deliver. That was probably the source of his resentment at not being able to return after his death.

The words that followed contained such strength that it was hard to believe it came from a dead man.

“Lancelot has betrayed Britain.”

## Chapter 110

Lancelot.

It was a name he had heard many times. The new master of The Round Table Guild.

He had climbed the Tower together with Arthur, and about a hundred years ago, he became a High-Ranker who raised The Round Table to the threshold of being a big guild. But for that Lancelot to be a traitor...

"...You are not surprised?"

As YuWon didn't give a reaction to this shocking news, Arthur thought something was weird, so he said, "Looks like you don't know who Lancelot is. Well, The Round Table has probably disappeared by now."

"The Round Table hasn't disappeared. Rather, it has become much larger than before."

"Really?"

Hearing such unexpected news after thousands of years, Arthur's tone became a little brighter. However, that was also only for a moment.

"Then Lancelot must still be there."

"Yes."

"...I'll need to hurry even more." A liveliness returned to Arthur's voice. "Will you accept my request?"

"Even if you ask me that..." YuWon let out an awkward sigh. "I'm not a necromancer."

"What?"

"The reason I can hear you right now is probably due to an effect of this item. I don't have the ability to raise you as an Undead like a necromancer can."

"Impossible..." Arthur's voice faltered a little, seemingly having lost all hope.

After thinking over Arthur's reaction a little, YuWon nodded. "But I can still try my best. It's not like there are no other methods."

"Methods?"

"There is a way. I was thinking of obtaining a skill like this since I had collected a bunch of souls recently anyway, so it's not that bad for me."

He was already planning to meet Merlin at some point, and now, there wasn't even a need to take a detour, and if Arthur became his ally, it would only be a great boon for YuWon.

'I did need to deal with Lancelot at some point.'

More than that, it wasn't just for Arthur's sake. YuWon couldn't bear to leave The Round Table and Britain to be corrupted, and if he was able to lure out Lancelot, a bigger fish might follow as well.

'It's good timing.'

YuWon nodded. "I'll accept your request."

"Thank you."

[You have accepted Arthur's request.]

[Starting 'Purification of Britain.']

[Upon completion, you will receive the full submission of the King of Knights, Arthur.]

[You have obtained the soul of the King of Knights.]

A message appeared, and quite an unexpected one at that. YuWon thought it was just a simple request, but for a system message to be created for it...

'Is this a type of hidden piece as well?'

It had already been over a thousand years since Arthur died. He had probably become a part of the system after existing for so long inside Susanoo's dungeon.

The Purification of Britain was probably a quest related to the traitor, Lancelot.

'His full submission...'

It might have sounded like an odd reward, but YuWon was satisfied with it.

'It's not bad.'

The two things required to control an Undead were a strong body and a strong soul. However, just those two weren't enough to completely control an Undead.

For an Undead to use 100% of the power it had when it was alive, the Undead must willingly choose a master and fully submit to them. In that sense, the reward for this quest had considerable meaning.

Shwoo—

As he removed the hand blocking the eye, Arthur's soul was sucked into 「Kyneē.」 This was the first soul YuWon had obtained.

As the fight had ended, YuWon picked up Arthur's sword, 「Excalibur,」 from the floor.

'Merlin... What will that grandpa think about this?'

He had an odd feeling. If he was lucky enough to obtain a skill related to necromancy, he might be able to reunite Arthur and Merlin. But if that were to happen, what would Merlin think of Arthur who had become an Undead?

'But I can't not let them meet because of something like that.'

Merlin had always wanted to reunite with Arthur, no matter what. He had searched all over the Tower for many spirit masters to see Arthur again.

Arthur also had some things he needed to say to Merlin, and so not letting the two meet wasn't a good choice at all.

"> It was less intense than I expected."

Susanoo mumbled to himself after observing the fight from the back.

"> I thought he would be a more useful fellow."

"Was it a coincidence when you killed Arthur?"

Hearing YuWon's question, a smirk appeared on Susanoo's face.

Arthur's death and disappearance left many unsolved questions, especially the fact that Susanoo had killed Arthur, which was news even to YuWon.

Susanoo was an aggressive Ranker. He didn't shy away from murder, and his personality was violent. It wasn't too strange to assume that Susanoo happened to meet Arthur, killed him, and turned him into an Undead...

But to call it a coincidence was still too weird considering the time period.

"> Who knows?" Susanoo didn't answer YuWon.

Both YuWon and Susanoo were individuals who wouldn't give out answers for free.

"> After you reach the very top, I'll answer that question as well."

Just what was at the top of this tower?

'Will I figure it out as I climb?'

After YuWon put Arthur's legacy, 「Excalibur,」 into his inventory, he continued to climb the tower again.

\* \* \*

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

\* \* \*

Time passed.

It had already been three months since YuWon stopped doing the outside tests and all other activities.

At the Ranking Management Bureau on the 50th Floor, the managers working there had become unusually terrified.

This was because of the appearance of a Ranker who had suddenly barged in.

"D-Do you have any other questions?"



The managers all had the same thought of turning this man away after doing the work he requested. Although the Ranking Bureau was defined as a non-aggression zone for all guilds, this man wasn't someone who cared about that.

His eyes showed his curiosity about something.

He turned and flicked his head and asked, "This guy, where is he from? Where is he right now?"

In an instant, the members in the Bureau became stiff with fright.

They were curious if he had come down to check the lower rankings for the first time in a while, but he was asking for this information.

The authority to browse a player's private information wasn't given to anyone, even the big guilds.

"We can't tell you that."

Creak—

Someone entered the room through a door. He had a young face, like a child who had just turned ten, but the other managers bowed their heads to him.

"Hey, errand boy."

"I'm the Director now. Where's your respect?"

The Director of the Ranking Management Bureau and also the right hand of the Administrators who governed over an entire floor. He was someone even Rankers would be fearful of.

However, the man wasn't afraid and even increased his energy.

Rumble—

A heavy air filled the room.

The managers all held their breaths and controlled themselves because they felt that if they let in even a single breath, the air would squeeze into their lungs and break them from the inside out.

The ground subtly shook, and as the man increased his energy, so did the Director to match him.

"Are you trying to fight the Management Bureau with just a clone?"

"..."

The man, Son OhGong, glared at the Director for a moment, but he soon turned away and left the Bureau. He knew it was an impossible request from the start. Asking to check a player's personal information was a special privilege of the Administrators.

Step, step—

"Puah—"

"Cough, hoo—"

After Son OhGong left, the managers could finally stop holding their breaths.

"Th-That was a clone?"

“It wasn’t his real body?”

Son OhGong.

As one of the highest ranked High-Rankers, it was known that he could create hundreds of clones at a time. But although they knew their strengths would be decreased proportionally, the Son OhGong just then was a weakened clone version of him.

“If that guy was in his real body, it wouldn’t be me but the Administrator who would’ve needed to come.”

Saying that the Administrator would’ve needed to come meant that not even the Director of the Bureau would have been able to do anything if Son OhGong had gone there personally.

It also meant that if someone wished to stop him, they needed to have power at least equal to an Administrator.

“I-Is he that strong?”

“In any case, other than information about rankings, other information must not be revealed. Even if that information may be minor.”

The Ranking Management Bureau didn’t just determine the ranks of Rankers, but it also had the job of recording the test results of each floor. That information was used to determine ranks, and that was why the Ranking Management Bureau had information about all the players.

This was also why all the big guilds always paid attention to what the Management Bureau said and did as they were known to have all the information in the Tower.

However, the Director’s eyes were glued to the individual that was on the screen.

“Of course, we don’t particularly have anything to tell them either.”

[Name: Kim YuWon]

[Origin: ?]

[Organization: – -]

[Ranking: – -]

[Grade: E]

[Potential: S]

Other than his name and appearance, all other basic information about him wasn’t properly known, not even to the Bureau.

Since grade was determined by the floor he was on, it was meaningless, and since he wasn’t a Ranker, his ranking wasn’t set either. There weren’t any known organizations he was a part of, which was understandable up to this point.

‘But for us to not know his origin...’

The director thought back to all the other ranks.

‘This is a first.’

He had lived as an errand boy for many thousands of years already. He had worked under an Administrator, and after coming into the Bureau, he had seen many Rankers. Among those, he had seen the highest High-Rankers who deemed themselves the masters of the Tower, and he had seen low Rankers who were only barely Rankers.

However, there wasn’t a single player among them he couldn’t find the origin for.

‘From our research, he seems to have come to the Tower from a world called Earth, but why isn’t information about his origin registered?’

There was no way the system could produce an error because it was an ever-unchanging and omnipotent power.

“There is a reason the Administrators are interested in this guy.”

He wasn’t just a player with outstanding test results. He was an existence even the system couldn’t determine the origin of.

‘He fought the test examiner to a draw on the 11th Floor. He obtained the Stone of the Sea on the 20th Floor and disappeared.’

The outcomes of his tests weren’t just high. Kim YuWon’s path of dominance through the Tower had never been seen before.

‘Now that I think about it, he’s been stopped on the 21st Floor for about three months now.’

Until then, news about Kim YuWon had arrived daily.

Maybe he had stopped his climb, but after YuWon advanced to the 21st Floor, he hadn’t shown himself for a long time.

‘It’s not unusual to stop there after being satisfied with the results...’

Most players would give up in the middle somewhere before becoming a Ranker because taking the test meant risking one’s life. So it wasn’t unprecedented for YuWon to stop now.

‘But I can’t say it’s not a shame.’

YuWon looked unstoppable only three months ago.

Shwip—

The director pulled out a cigarette from his pocket and held it in his mouth.

There had never been a player who had won a fight with a Ranker on the 10th Floor or lower. Even the “Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal,” Son OhGong, had only defeated the Chimera Creator on the 50th Floor, and he was the one who had become a High-Ranker only a few years after becoming a Ranker.

Maybe as a side effect of working this job for a long time, a question came to the director’s mind, ‘If a guy like this were to become a Ranker, what rank would he be?’

