

With The Gods 111

Chapter 111

Clang—!

A blade aimed at YuWon's back flew through the air and was deflected.

At that moment, he felt a sharp premonition that something was above him.

[Sensory Field is active.]

Vwoong—

He felt the signs of it in his surroundings through his skin. But even then, it felt as small and sneaky as a little rat.

Fwip—

YuWon tilted his body.

A blade cut through empty air.

At that moment...

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

Flex—

YuWon empowered his left arm and punched up.

Bang—!

Crumble—

The sound of fragmenting bones could be heard, and the assassin that had appeared above his head was flung far away and into a wall.

Boom—!

Flop—

The skeleton assassin crumbled to dust, but it seemed to have particularly sturdy armor as YuWon's fists throbbed in pain.

YuWon spoke to Susanoo, who was observing him from somewhere.

“...You also planned shitty tests like this well.”

Sweat formed on YuWon's forehead.

His surroundings were particularly dark so he couldn't see well, but more importantly, his eyes were sunken, and his focus was waning.

Exhausted, tired, and above all, his need for sleep was overpowering.

The 99th floor. He had finally arrived here after climbing nonstop for three months.

The contents of the floor's test were simple.

[Survive for 10 days.]

Ten days was a decently long time.

Since the 40th floor, each test became pretty hard, so they would take multiple days at a time, but none of them had taken ten days.

Although the time taken was a bit of a waste, it was good because of its simplicity.

However, the problem was these guys.

Swoosh—

Smack—!

A blade flew at him from the front.

Thanks to [Sensory Field,] they weren't difficult to dodge, but the difficulty came from their unrelenting attacks, which didn't allow YuWon to rest for even a moment.

'They stab with their swords without revealing their presence. And...'

Yuwon's gaze shifted downwards.

Crunch—

"Wooooo—!"

A gigantic mouth opened up from the ground.

Slash—!

Pshk—

It collapsed after its head was cut off. It was an unknown undead monster whose head was twice as big as its body.

'These monsters are mixed in between the undead assassins.'

The monsters attacked continuously.

If it was like any other dungeon, he could've taken at least a few minutes of sleep, but that wasn't the case here. If he let down his guard for even a moment, the monsters that were hiding their presence would appear in an instant.

Throughout the ten days, YuWon was always in a state of alertness, constantly without rest, as he prepared for the next strike.

"Let's finish this quickly and get some sleep."

Yuwon looked up. He saw an Undead on the tall ceiling, hiding its presence in the darkness, and it was staring at him.

His sight with [Cinder Eyes] was bright even in any darkness. Additionally, the awareness granted by [Sensory Field] allowed him to detect even the tiniest of muscle movements, no matter how hard they tried to hide their presence.

But even then, even if it was YuWon, sustaining both of these skills for ten days straight was difficult.

But it didn't matter as this would all end soon.

[Remaining Time: 001 : 07 : 24]

Only a little over an hour left.

When he thought back to the 240 hours he had to survive over the last ten days, the end was really within grasp now. He couldn't afford to lose concentration after coming all this way.

Maybe the others knew his time was soon coming, so all the entities that were scattered around gathered together.

"I'm only popular in situations like this." YuWon let out a deep sigh and talked to the dozens of assassins on the ceiling, "What are you doing?"

Clang—

Clack—

The assassins pulled out their metal weapons from in between their clothes and bones.

"Aren't you gonna kill me?"

As soon as those words left his mouth...

Clatter—

The assassins fell down on YuWon like rain.

Fwoosh—

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

[Your level has increased.]

[Your Strength has increased by 1.]

[Your Constitution has increased by 1.]

[Your Perception has increased by 1.]

He felt like he heard a pretty nice message, and maybe because of the increase in level and Constitution, he thought his body felt a little lighter as well.

[You have cleared the test of the 99th floor.]

However, as soon as the test ended, YuWon collapsed on the ground and fell asleep. Not being able to sleep for ten days was no different from torture.

For one entire day, YuWon was in a deep sleep.

The floor's test had already been cleared, so there were no assassins left to kill him.

After waking up from sleeping without worry, the first thing YuWon did was look around.

‘The door is...’

He found a heavily locked door that led to the next floor.

‘That way.’

Yuwon let out a yawn and stood up. He knew he had slept for a long time.

Susanoo was nowhere to be seen. Since the top floor was coming up soon, YuWon expected Susanoo to be making a lot of noise talking, but that guy didn’t reveal himself.

‘My level increased.’

His level which hadn’t increased much after hitting level 90 finally went up after climbing these floors.

Yuwon checked his status.

[Name: Kim YuWon]

[Level: 96]

[Strength: 99]

[Dexterity: 93]

[Constitution: 98]

[Perception: 99]

[Arcane Power: 102]

His levels had gone up quite a bit. His Arcane Power stat had increased by two, and other than Dexterity, the other stats were getting pretty close to 100. It was especially nice to see both Strength and Perception increase with the level-up just then.

‘I need to work on them one by one.’

It was a little unfortunate. However, with these stats and levels, he had practically completed his first goal of entering Susanoo’s dungeon.

Levels and stats and even items you could only get inside a dungeon...

He had spent a long time there due to its difficulty, but the things he obtained were sufficient.

“The problem now is...”

Yuwon looked towards the door that had opened up at some point.

“I’m a little afraid to continue.”

After passing the 90th floor, the tests became exponentially harder. Other Rankers like Arthur appeared as Undeads, and the tests required all types of weird methods.

This dungeon was probably crafted by Susanoo with immense care because YuWon was able to find many of his legacies hidden in multiple places deep in the dungeon.

‘I have enough health.’

He hadn’t taken any major damage. Although he had some small injuries, thanks to the total darkness of the 99th floor, his health had recovered quite fast. His lack of sleep had recovered enough from this as well.

“Fuu—”

He took a deep breath and relaxed his mind.

He had been running for a while.

A nervousness that he didn’t normally feel tightly gripped his heart. It wasn’t because of the unknown ahead of him but because he knew what was waiting for him.

He took the steps up to the next floor.

His heart grew heavier.

“Hihihi—”

“Hih, hihihi—”

The first thing he heard was laughter.

Maybe he had gotten used to the spirits a little, but YuWon felt the essence of the dead that shouldn’t have had any energy nor physical strength.

Laughter. It was the universal reaction of the oldest spirits who went insane over time.

‘Chilling.’

After coming to the top of the staircase, a door could be seen.

The laughter came from beyond that door.

Truly a mountain of spirits were waiting for him.

Clack—

Creak—

The door which had been locked for a long time was opened.

As soon as the door opened, the expected message was heard.

[You have entered the final floor.]

[Upon completion, you will be able to obtain Susanoo’s Legacy.]

Until now, YuWon had obtained a lot of Susanoo’s legacies by completing his dungeon. Including the 「Elemental Worshiper’s Garment」 and Arthur’s

「Excalibur,」 YuWon had thought that they were all legacies of Susanoo that he had obtained by going through his dungeon. However, that didn’t seem to be the case.

‘All the things I’ve obtained until now were items used by the Undeads controlled by Susanoo.’

This was YuWon's own misunderstanding. Among the items YuWon had obtained, none of them were items Susanoo had used while he was alive.

Although 「Excalibur」 was an incredible item, compared to 「Edge of Nightfall」 which Yuwon was using right now, it was a little lacking. If you were to compare it to Susanoo's sword as well, it would be a little embarrassing.

Step—

His footsteps could be heard more clearly than when he was on the narrow staircase.

The spirits spread around the area all silently observed YuWon.

YuWon looked around the interior of the 100th floor. He felt it was similar to the floor where he met Arthur.

The test area was also the same—an open floor with nothing on it.

One thing that was different was that unlike the 10-meter-tall ceiling of the other floors, this floor's ceiling was so high it couldn't be seen.

Creak—

It was a space where sound echoed quite loudly.

YuWon heard something move and turned his head. Although it looked small enough to be mistaken for a dot, the sound could be heard clearly.

Chill—

His entire body got goosebumps.

He felt that his entire surroundings would be coated in ice in an instant. The cries of the dead, the chill, everything felt as sharp as blades.

Step—

As he continued moving slowly, he freed himself from the nervousness he felt from standing still.

As he approached the dot, he could finally see its form.

Kik—

The dot-like entity was in fact an Undead sitting in a giant chair.

The chair was unnecessarily huge. It was a simple chair with no patterns, but it was so big that even a giant could sit in it.

And the one sitting on it looked to be a Death Knight just like Arthur.

A skeleton knight wearing a purplish light suit of armor.

It wriggled a little and started to move.

Clack—

It felt very similar to the situation with Arthur. However, unlike that time, YuWon didn't move hastily.

A thin blade could be seen grasped in the Death Knight's hand.

Clack—

The Death Knight lifted its head. The black voids in the place of its eyes acknowledged YuWon's presence. It definitely didn't have any eyes, but YuWon felt as if their gazes had met.

‘Should I move first?’

He slowly brought out his mana and raised his guard accordingly.

He couldn't make a decision.

Then...

“It's that guy.”

A familiar voice was heard.

It was Arthur's voice, which was using 「Kyneē」 as a medium and spoke directly into his mind.

“I know it as well.”

The spirits gathered around the Death Knight. At the edge of his blade, tens of thousands of spirits covered it and disappeared.

Clack—

Just as the Death Knight was going to stretch its legs and stand up...

[Holy Fire]

Fwoosh—

Bang—!

YuWon pulled out his sword, and a purple fire erupted from it.

He exploded the mana he was slowly gathering all at once through his sword strike.

Fwooosh—

Crack, crackle—

A thick flame burned the chair, and for a moment, the flames obstructed his vision.

“Did you kill it?”

“Please don't ask that.”

It was an unlucky phrase. Whenever someone said this, it felt like the opponent would never die, and even if they did die, they would come back to life.

He didn't even think for a second that the test would be complete with a single attack.

A small injury, or maybe an entire leg and an arm if he was lucky was what he was hoping for.

However...

Crackle, crackle—

The Death Knight simply walked out of the flames.

Flesh had appeared on half of its boney face at some point.

The skeleton spoke. “After getting hit, it’s hotter than I expected? Looks like it isn’t just some normal fire.”

It was a tone that YuWon knew well. He had thought ‘what if,’ but now that ‘if’ had become reality.

The worst enemy he could think of had appeared in front of him.

[Defeat the ‘Death Knight — Susanoo’.]

Chapter 112

Susanoo was one of the “Three Precious Children” and a High-Ranker, ranked 57th. A powerful individual who had shaken the Tower a long time ago.

Rattle—

Someone like him had become a Half-Death Knight and stood in front of YuWon.

“There really aren’t many things known about Susanoo’s Dungeon. I’m stating the obvious here, but we don’t have a Ranker similar to the ‘Three Precious Children’ among us.”

In a sense, Susanoo’s Dungeon was an adventure. It was a dungeon that lacked information. There were only records of the start of the raid and the Rankers who succeeded in it, but the information about its interior was practically nonexistent.

‘Even then...’

Yuwon looked at the Susanoo before him.

‘For him to actually make himself the boss of the dungeon...’

As Susanoo absorbed more of the spirits scattered around the 100th floor, his face started to take shape. At this point, about half of his face had regained flesh and was looking back at YuWon.

“What are you doing? All frozen in place and whatnot. I was looking forward to this quite a bit.”

His lip quivered. He was probably laughing, it was just hard to tell with half his face not existing.

“Honestly, I didn’t expect you to reach this place.”

Susanoo’s shoulders moved a little. The hand grabbing his sword shook, and the pitch of his voice changed every single time.

“So put on a good show. Don’t disappoint me.”

Yuwon could tell even with these few words the reason this guy left a dungeon behind after dying.

Legacy and inheritance? No matter how strong his love for his fellow Precious Children, he didn’t look like someone who cared about the things that would happen after he died.

Did he want to leave evidence of his life? No. Susanoo wasn't someone who strived for appearances either.

There was only one reason he created this dungeon.

He, no matter through what method, just wanted to fight more.

'Creating a dungeon to gain the protection of the system to delay his death... He's pretty smart.'

Only by becoming an Undead could you hold back death. However, after becoming an Undead, you were naturally subject to a necromancer's control, and there were currently no known methods of transforming your own self into an Undead.

There were stories of some demons becoming liches, but in the end, they were nothing more than specters clinging to their bodies.

Transforming yourself into a perfect Undead was currently known to be impossible.

'But, as expected...'

"It's unstable."

Fwoosh—

YuWon's eyes lit up red.

[Cinder Eyes reads the path.]

He could clearly see the unstable shaking of Susanoo's soul. He could already tell by seeing that Susanoo only had half a face. This was probably different from his initial plan.

"Even if you're under the protection of the system, there's no way a masterless Undead can maintain itself forever."

An Undead was an existence that required a master to bind its soul and constantly feed it mana.

However, all the Undead inside the dungeon were masterless, including Susanoo. They were barely being maintained with the power of Susanoo's skills and the protection of the system.

"An unstable soul inhabiting a rotten body that died a long time ago. That is your current state."

The skull, which was regaining its flesh little by little, had stopped its regeneration at some point.

Susanoo's preparations were only to this point. In the end, he wasn't the Susanoo that was ranked 57th in the Tower but just a boss in a dungeon.

"...You seem more interesting the more I look at you."

YuWon heard a voice in his ear. Susanoo who was speaking in front of him had suddenly appeared a step to his right.

“How could a brat who has only passed the 20th Floor climb up here? And how do you have such comprehensive knowledge about necromancers, of which there are less than ten in the entire Tower...” he said in a calm voice.

Although he definitely could have made a sneak attack on YuWon in that instant, he didn't seem to have that desire. Instead, he stared at YuWon, observing him more closely.

“Just what are you? Are you actually a Ranker? A half-baked Cinder Eyes and Gigantification, a fire of unknown origin... You are certainly something special.”

Yuwon turned his head to the side, and as their eyes met, Susanoo's lips formed a smile.

“Did you not react? Or were you not able to react?”

“You sure talk a lot.”

He gave a vague answer. However, that was enough for Susanoo.

“So you knew all along.”

Maybe he could have reacted to him.

Yuwon had seen Susanoo's feet with [Cinder Eyes,] and his perception was raised to the max with [Sensory Field.]

“I don't know what it is about you, but I'll find out after we fight.”

The tip of Susanoo's sword moved.

The desire to fight that had been suppressed by his curiosity was starting to show itself.

It was then...

“I'm not a Ranker,” Yuwon said. “Not now.”

““Not now?””

Another vague answer. But it was the first clue to sate Susanoo's curiosity.

Just what kind of existence was Yuwon, where did he come from, was he a pureblood, and if so, from whose faction? How was he able to become so strong?

“Then are you saying you were a Ranker before?”

It was an impossible speculation. Once a player reached the top of the Tower, they definitely became a Ranker. Even if they were to climb back down, that wouldn't change.

It was impossible for a player to have been a Ranker in the past unless they were somehow able to traverse backwards through time.

“Looks like you're still curious.”

A smile appeared on Yuwon's lips.

Seeing that, Susanoo's expression grew cold. He felt that Yuwon was mocking him.

“You dare—”

“Before we fight, let’s set a condition.”

Susanoo, who looked like he would bring out his killing intent as soon as he had a hold of his sword, reacted unexpectedly.

‘A condition...’

“The loser will have to answer anything the winner asks.”

“Anything?”

“Yes. Anything.”

Susanoo smiled widely. The displeased expression from before was nowhere to be seen.

“You don’t have to if you’re not confident.”

““Not confident?” Susanoo said, then he nodded. “I’ll accept your condition.”

[‘Susanoo’s Bet’ has been established.]

[Upon victory, you can acquire an answer to one question.]

[The answer must be the truth.]

The system rang.

A bet with Susanoo, who was recognized not as a player but as a dungeon boss and who had become a part of the system.

In any case, YuWon could guarantee that the answer that would come out of Susanoo’s mouth would be the truth.

‘It’s a shame I can only ask one.’

If possible, YuWon wanted to learn a lot more about the “Three Precious Children.”

Step—

Yuwon took a step back.

The distance was too close. Since he didn’t know all of Susanoo’s abilities, he needed to keep some distance as they fought.

Susanoo didn’t follow YuWon as he moved. He was thinking the same.

“That’s a relief.”

“Kihihihhi—”

“Kyahaha, hahahaha—!”

The thousands of doomed spirits all started laughing at once.

The spirits that had become Susanoo’s flesh and blood were now gathering around his sword.

“A guy like you has received my invitation.”

Shiver—

YuWon’s body grew numb, and a chill filled the air.

But the presence he felt wasn’t oppressive. Compared to what was expected of a High-Ranker ranked 57th, this was pathetic. However...

‘This killing intent is real.’

It was the killing intent of a murderer who had killed thousands of Rankers, millions of players, billions of people.

This was the karma tied to his soul—that even if his power dissolved after death, it would never disappear. Only that killing intent remained the same as when he was alive, and it was loudly revealing itself.

Bzzt, bzzt—

The atmosphere became tense, giving the illusion of the feeling of one’s skin being peeled away.

YuWon focused on Susanoo’s movements.

And just then...

Shnnk—

Susanoo pulled out his sword.

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

Clang, cla-clang—!

“Kuaaaaah—!”

“Ahah, AAAAAAAH!”

The cries of the dead rang out every time their blades clashed, and they grew louder and louder.

Though the movement of his hands looked slow, the end of Susanoo’s blade was so fast it was hard to track with YuWon’s eyes.

Cr-crack—

The two blades glided off each other.

YuWon sharpened and empowered his senses.

Susanoo swung the sword covered in specters again.

Ting-ting-ting-ting—

Crack—!

His sword was swung over ten times in an instant.

YuWon had to take steps back as he took the force of the blade. He felt as if the energy imbued in the sword would crack his body in two.

“You block pretty well.”

Clang, cl-cl-clang—

Sweat had formed on YuWon’s forehead already. His focus was being pushed to the limit.

Susanoo’s sword was so fast that he needed to focus his all into just barely seeing the hundreds of slashes in a single moment.

Although he should have been a rotten and rusted corpse after being dead for so long...

‘So Susanoo is still Susanoo no matter how much time passes.’

Swordsmanship that was nigh supernatural. Odin’s praise wasn’t for nothing. It was true that he was a horrifying murderer, but it was also true that he was a genius in swordsmanship.

Clang—!

YuWon’s body was flung into the air.

Thanks to [Cinder Eyes] and [Sensory Field,] he was able to react to the speed, but he was being pushed back in strength.

Crack—

His right arm became enlarged.

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

He was overflowing with strength again and swung his sword as hard as he could.

Bang—!

A weird sound echoed out as the two swords clashed.

Thanks to using [Gigantification,] YuWon wasn’t pushed back in strength. However...

“That won’t be enough.”

Swoop—

Susanoo’s palm covered YuWon’s vision.

In the moment that the essence of the dead from the specters blocked his vision...

Flick—

YuWon moved his head to the side.

Crack—

Susanoo’s hand missed and grabbed his shoulder instead. YuWon felt a strong, evil energy flow through his shoulder, giving him a burning sensation.

Tshtshtsh—

The essence of the dead instantly corroded YuWon's shoulder.

He tried to move his mana to protect himself, but it was no use. Even then, he didn't have the strength to push Susanoo away.

"I got you."

Susanoo smiled as he finally captured the eel-like YuWon who had dodged all his strikes.

However, this was what YuWon wanted.

Grab—

YuWon didn't try to dodge or break free but rather grabbed Susanoo's shoulder as well. And simultaneously...

Fwooosh—

A purple flame spread from Susanoo's shoulder.

At the burning feeling, Susanoo's expression darkened.

"It's this flame again."

Flicker—

The fire continued to spread over his body.

[Holy Fire] would never stop burning unless YuWon's mana ran out. Rather than continue facing this new sensation, Susanoo chose to let go.

Thwap—

Distance was created instantly.

YuWon grasped his shoulder. He couldn't feel anything from his arm which was corroded black, and he couldn't put strength into it either.

The powers Susanoo wielded were definitely fatal.

However, that was also true for YuWon.

Fwooosh—

Rather than going out, the flames continued to burn hotter.

"...This is definitely dangerous."

It was a sensation he had never felt in his life before.

Susanoo frowned after trying to pat out the flames YuWon had created. For some reason, the flames didn't go out on his body. And also...

'It's not burning up more.'

The flames stuck to Susanoo's body didn't burn any more and stayed in the same condition.

'So is he saying he's not afraid of something like fire?'

[Holy Fire] was a flame that grew bigger by consuming the fear of the target. It was one of the most effective skills YuWon had as it would increase in power from the instinctive fear and repulsion of its target.

However, Susanoo didn't fear the [Holy Fire] very much. This wasn't because of the nature of [Holy Fire.] Rather, it was because the one who was wielding it, YuWon, was still lacking in skill.

'Strength, speed, mana. I'm being pushed back in all aspects. The Holy Fire doesn't work as well either...'

Although the battle wasn't long, he could feel that the gap between their power couldn't be closed easily.

YuWon looked down at 「Kyneē」 on his right hand as he held his sword.

'It would be nice if things went according to plan.'

Chapter 113

"What are you thinking about so much?"

Susanoo approached YuWon. Although his body was still covered in purple flames, he moved as if they didn't hinder him.

"We don't even have enough time for fighting."

Swift—

The sword moved again.

YuWon's eyes followed the blade, and with the enhanced senses from [Sensory Field,] he was able to feel the movement as well.

But the sword was still so fast it was hard to follow.

On top of that...

Vwoong—

The specters melded to the tip of Susanoo's blade were burning with a ferocity like compressed Arcane Power.

Fwaaaaah—!

Ke-ting—!

A distinct line was created in the path of Susanoo's sword.

This had the power to make the boundary between the living and the dead ambiguous and instantly switch their places.

After dodging by a hair's breadth like he did last time, YuWon loosened up his tenseness.

'This won't end with just some blood being spilt after getting cut.'

There was a chance that the wound would be something he could never recover from, and it would cause him to suffer for the rest of his life.

“It’s no fun if you just keep dodging,” Susanoo muttered regretfully and then nodded.
“Well, this is still something.”

The tip of his blade moved again.

The sword looked like an afterimage.

Although he had both [Cinder Eyes] and [Sensory Field] active, the blade was changing so much that it was still hard to follow.

‘His nickname of “Sword Spirit” wasn’t just for show.’

There was more to this attack than what he could see. Thanks to [Cinder Eyes,] he was able to at least get closer to seeing the true nature of the sword, if he didn’t even have that, he might have seen multiple swords at once.

“You dodge well.”

Fwoosh—

Susanoo charged while his body burned from the [Holy Fire.] The flames didn’t get any hotter, meaning that Susanoo didn’t fear them.

Tang—!

YuWon parried the sword up into empty air instead of it hitting his chest.

The look in Susanoo’s eyes changed.

“You little...”

He smiled.

Bzzzt—

From the glove on YuWon’s right hand, black light shone out.

[Kyneē]

The item that Susanoo was looking forward to all this time had finally activated its power.

Crack—

The back of 「Kyneē」 opened up, and a yellow light began to shine through.

The rate at which the ‘eye’ opened was very slow. If one wasn’t paying attention to it, it would be hard to tell if it was opening or not.

Crash—!

“That’s right! This is how it should be!”

“Kyahahaha, hahahaha—!”

“Kyaaaaaa—!”

The spirits wrapped around Susanoo’s body cried out, and the specters’ energy increased explosively.

In an instant, Susanoo's body felt many times bigger and heavier.

The space around YuWon and Susanoo froze solid, and the air was filled with the breath of the specters.

YuWon looked at Susanoo.

Rank 57.

He looked as if he was trying to regain his past glory. You couldn't even tell that he was an Undead that had been dead for over a thousand years with the immeasurable power that was coming off of him. He was fortifying his strength and his weak, rotten body with the souls of the damned.

"Please, don't die too easily."

Crack—

Susanoo took hold of his sword with both hands and took the stance of 'One Cut, Two Pieces.' He was planning to cut YuWon's body in half as he raised his sword.

"I have a lot to hear from you."

YuWon could feel with his entire body the grand energy imbued in Susanoo's sword. It was as if a great storm was advancing upon a small candle flame.

Compared to the power of the bottomless amount of specters that he was exuding, YuWon's strength was still little and very lacking.

But even then...

Swoosh—

YuWon didn't dodge as he held his blade.

"Are you trying to crack a boulder with an egg?"

To face it head-on rather than step aside... Susanoo felt both expectation and disappointment as he saw YuWon's incomparably poor sword. He thought that maybe YuWon would reveal another trick to resist him, and at the same time, he also thought that YuWon had given up.

Vwooooooong—

In that stopped time, YuWon's thoughts moved.

'I can see it.'

"Hii, hihhi—"

The cries of the specters could be heard, and their forms could be seen.

His vision had become clear. YuWon had seen them for a long time, and he had felt them as well.

'The Divine Sea Crystal has the power to dominate all that live under the sea.'

YuWon thought back to the time he controlled the monsters of the sea through the
「Divine Sea Crystal.」

‘And the Divine Sky Crystal has the power to dominate all that are in the sky.’

Bzzt—

Black Arcane Power poured out of 「Kyneē.」

‘That means, the Divine Dark Crystal...’

Through the yellow gap, YuWon’s will emanated.

“Follow...”

He could hear the voices of the dead, and he looked at them head on.

At that moment...

‘...Me.’

Flash—!

The eye of 「Kyneē」 opened.

[Summoning Hell.]

“Kihihih—?”

“Hyaaaak—!”

The specters cried out in confusion as if they had lost their way.

With that, Susanoo, who had been increasing his power through them, also became confused.

“What...”

The specters started to escape his control.

These specters had followed and moved by his will for thousands of years. But to come all the way to this point just to listen to another’s command...

As the power of the specters disappeared, the half-human form of Susanoo also started to turn back into a skeleton.

“What is this? Answer me!”

“It’s what you told me.”

Susanoo had told YuWon that he was not wielding 「Kyneē」 properly. After that, YuWon had tried to discover a way to use 「Kyneē.」

“Of course, you only thought of this the same as other necromancers.”

“> Ah, alright. So it wasn’t something like you feeling guilty about using it or something like that?

Susanoo treated 「Kyneē」 as an item that could control the Undead. That was why when YuWon wasn't using it to control the Undead, he misunderstood it as YuWon's moral choice to not turn a dead person into an Undead.

In a sense, it may not have been an entirely wrong answer. In reality, Hades had entire armies of the dead, as much as Susanoo did. If he was able to use 「Kyneē」 properly, YuWon might become able to control Undead as well.

However...

‘This is electrifying.’

‘The real power of 「Kyneē」 was absolute dominion over the dead.

“In any case, since the boulder got smaller...”

Bzzzzzt—

The magic power pouring out from 「Kyneē」 surrounded his sword, and YuWon intruded into Susanoo's space.

“It now looks breakable.”

「Kyneē」 had stolen Susanoo's control. Susanoo attempted to bring the dead back under him, but it didn't go as he wanted.

Shwooo—

The specters still covering Susanoo's body were only half the amount from before. Even now, about half of the specters had escaped 「Kyneē's」 control and were still under Susanoo's command.

The stationary blade began to move again.

The blade infused with the power of the specters fell down.

Crack—

Crash—!

A wave of purple light melted away the specters' souls and flooded the ground. YuWon exploded his Arcane Power from within and faced the sword head on.

It was a reckless move.

Shwaaaa—

The thousands of specters that were following Susanoo consumed YuWon. The ground the two men had stood on split into a million sections.

That one sword slash had changed the terrain of the room.

Susanoo rested his sword on his shoulder and looked at the place YuWon had been.

“Me? Breakable?”

YuWon did show quite an interesting trick. He also had incredible skill that made it hard to believe that he was just a 21st-Floor player.

But even then, Susanoo didn’t think for a split second that he would lose.

“You dream of the impossible.”

This dungeon was his eternal playground. He would never lose, and even after dying, he would enjoy fighting.

That was what must happen.

But...

“A dream? That’s too grand.”

Bzzz, bzzt—!

The purple wave split as YuWon revealed himself.

“You’re but a small detour where I’m going.”

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

Bzzzt—!

The yellow eye flashed again.

[Summoning Hell.]

A black spot formed on the ground below where YuWon was standing.

Now, he could make a guess as to what that was. There was no need to think too deeply about it.

Hell.

‘The world where the dead live.’

He lifted his sword.

‘And Kyneē is the medium through which the power of that world is borrowed.’

Ironically, the method to properly wield 「Kyneē」 could be learned unintentionally.

YuWon had faced many specters as he climbed from the 1st floor to the 100th floor of the tower. And during that time, 「Kyneē」 had absorbed the resentment of many spirits, and YuWon was able to realize the original abilities of the item called the

「Divine Dark Crystal.」

Vwoong—

The sword gripped in the hand with 「Kyneē」 fell down.

Clang—!

“Kyaaa—!”

The spirits cried out.

Susanoo’s strength shook, unstable.

As YuWon struck down with his sword multiple times, Susanoo’s stance broke for the first time.

This was the time to push him in.

Rumble—

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

The strength in his arm increased by another increment. His right arm became so tense that it felt like it would explode.

Bang—!

“Kugh...”

The boney arm quaked.

Susanoo glared at YuWon as he took on the sword strikes. He was starting to get pushed back in strength, little by little.

Susanoo increased his killing intent and tried to gather more spirits of the damned, but it was no use.

‘Just how?’

Just how was he able to stand so tall in front of him? Susanoo had killing intent that even most High-Rankers would fear. To stand so confidently in front of him was an anomaly.

However, after clashing head-on like this, Susanoo felt that the things he felt were strange this whole time were just the tip of the iceberg.

Being able to withstand killing intent was not a matter of how strong or weak you were, and without willpower and experience, it was impossible to resist.

“You... What are you really?”

It wasn’t something one should say to another while crossing swords. However, he really couldn’t hold back his curiosity in the end.

At this, YuWon said, “I said I’ll tell you if you win.”

He spoke while half-ignoring him and swung again at Susanoo’s sword.

Clang, bang—!

The two swords clashed consecutively.

The advantage had slowly started to shift after the eye of 「Kyneē」 had opened.

‘Just why!’

Susanoo burned the souls of the specters like fuel. However, at some point, the specters had escaped Susanoo’s control. With that, as his fuel started to run out, the balance between strengths was rapidly breaking down.

‘Just why are they still escaping my control?’

That wasn’t the end.

Bzzzzzt—!

The eye of 「Kyneē」 shone fiercely.

As the shell of specters around his body all disappeared, Susanoo was able to meet its eye directly for the first time.

When that happened...

Gwooong—

An intense fear covered his entire body and pierced his mind. He couldn’t put strength into his hand holding the sword. It was as if his hand was shaking with fear.

‘What is that?’

A giant, yellow eye could be seen behind YuWon.

Susanoo froze.

At that moment...

Fwooooosh—

“Ku-aaaahhhhh!”

A burning pain that felt like it was scorching the inside of his bones.

In reality, it was a sense of pain that he hadn’t felt for a long time.

Susanoo struggled to put out the flames on his entire body.

It was odd. He had definitely died and become an Undead, an existence which could not feel pain.

The flames didn’t die down and became even fiercer.

YuWon looked at Susanoo and smirked.

“So this is scary for you.”

[Holy Fire] consumed the fear of its target to grow, and that still applied even if the fear wasn’t of the flame.

“No matter how great a High-Ranker you were, you were still someone who died in the end.”

The dead were under the influence of 「Kyneē」. That influence didn't merely affect the specters that Susanoo was controlling. Susanoo himself was also an Undead that had died a long time ago.

As the armor of spirits was stripped away from him, Susanoo started getting affected by 「Kyneē」 as well.

“What a meaningless end...”

Step—

YuWon approached Susanoo.

“This is perfectly fitting for you.”

They were close enough that he could touch him if he stretched out his hand.

As Susanoo was suffering under the flames, he glared at YuWon.

“You dare—!”

Shwip—

The blade flew directly at YuWon, aimed at his neck.

However...

“Stop.”

Grab—

Susanoo's sword wasn't able to reach YuWon.

The hand holding the sword trembled.

The will to kill YuWon and the will that opposed it fought in Susanoo's mind.

It was YuWon's command that won.

Tang—

YuWon's palm covered Susanoo's face.

Susanoo had lost all his strength at some point and became a true skeleton.

“Goodbye.”

Flash—!

The eye of 「Kyneē」 emitted another flash of light.

Crumble—

Cracks formed in Susanoo's bones, and he crumbled to dust.

[You have cleared Susanoo's Dungeon.]

[You have obtained Susanoo's Soul.]

[You have obtained Susanoo's Legacy.]

[You have obtained Title – 'King of the Dead.']

[You may leave the dungeon with the 'Return' command.]

[The dungeon will collapse in 30 minutes.]

Chapter 114

Zzoom—

The eye of 「Kyneē」 closed.

The back of YuWon's hand throbbed. As expected, at least now, backlash due to overusing [Hell] still occurred.

'But now it's a bit bearable.'

It was a skill he wasn't able to use a lot at first before getting exhausted. But now he was able to endure it even after using it a considerable amount. It was thanks to his stats increasing enough to support its use.

“—Did he really die?”

It was Arthur's voice. YuWon was able to hear Arthur from about the 90th floor. It was probably then that he realized the true power of 「Kyneē」.

“He was already dead. To be precise, the connection between his spirit and body has now been severed.”

“—I-Is that so?”

“And please don't say something like that in the future. I'm scared a dead guy will come back to life.”

“—S-Sure.”

YuWon gave Arthur that important warning and then checked his rewards.

'Soul and legacy, and a title...'

The legacy was a reward he was expecting already. The things he hadn't expected were his soul and the title.

'Kyneē is able to absorb souls...'

It was an unexpected variable. He didn't think too deeply about it in Arthur's case because he just thought it was possible due to a quest being created through the system. As it was a quest related to Arthur, it wasn't strange for his soul to be attached to him afterwards. However...

'This is my first time hearing about getting a soul as a reward.'

Of course, depending on the player who received it, it could be quite an incredible reward. If they had a necromancer-related skill, they would be able to control Susanoo as an Undead, which could

be compared quite favorably to any other item in the Tower. Unfortunately, the current YuWon had none of those skills.

YuWon turned his attention to his other rewards.

‘The legacy... is that way.’

On the enormous chair Susanoo was sitting on before was a box.

For a dungeon to be created through the system, a reward must definitely exist. That was the rule decided by the Tower, and even for Susanoo to create a dungeon, he needed to prepare a final reward for it.

YuWon walked towards the box.

It was quite big, enough to easily fit a person inside.

YuWon opened the container darkened by rust and dust.

Creak—

A singular sword came into sight.

‘Kusanagi no Tsurugi.’

He knew what Susanoo’s legacy was from the start.

As one of the Three Precious Children’s Three Sacred Treasures, 「Kusanagi no Tsurugi」 was a reward Susanoo had obtained after defeating 《Yamata no Orochi.》 It was an item that was never able to shine after disappearing with Susanoo’s death. However, 「Kusanagi no Tsurugi」 would later become an item that represented the Three Precious Children.

But...

‘It doesn’t fit me.’

Tsurugi was a spirit blade. It increased the strengths of the user immediately but would gnaw away at the user’s strength and lifeforce in the long run.

YuWon wasn’t so weak to rely on a sword like this right now.

Shwoop—

YuWon put 「Kusanagi no Tsurugi」 into his inventory. He might use it in an emergency, but it would be used in another way.

‘And finally...’

YuWon checked his title.

[King of the Dead]

▷ Classification: Title

▷ Grade: S

- ▷ The one who oversees the dead. Withstand their weight and become their king.
- ▷ Can control the spirits of the dead using mana.
- ▷ Can put a spirit of the dead into a body using mana.
- ▷ Can summon the body of the dead soul using mana (if you have it).
- ▷ Can empower the body of the dead by using resentment.

After checking the effects of the title, YuWon's eyes shook.

“Wait, this is...”

The name was familiar to him, and on top of that, the effects were also abilities related to necromancers.

“Did Hades's skills come from this?”

The High-Rankers that represented Olympus were called by many names. Poseidon, God of the Sea; Hades, God of the Dead; Zeus, God of the Sky. Additionally, Zeus was also called the “Ruler of the Sky” and King of Olympus among other names.

From these, Hades had another name that YuWon knew of—King of the Dead. He had simply thought that was just a name that was associated with Hades.

“So this isn't a reward that's obtained after completing this dungeon.”

It looked to be a reward that was created after being able to wield 「Kyneē」 to a certain degree.

It was only then that YuWon looked down at 「Kyneē」

First Arthur, and now Susanoo's soul.

‘Then this soul as well...?’

He did think it would be nice to have a necromancer skill after seeing Susanoo's soul. But even for YuWon, necromancer skills were quite difficult to obtain, and on top of that, getting a skill of a rank that could control Susanoo's soul would be even harder to find.

However, with the power of this title, if this truly was the power of the King of the Dead, Hades's power, he might really be able to control Susanoo's soul and summon him as a Death Knight.

“This is beyond expectations.”

It was enough to make him not care about what Susanoo's legacy was.

Rumble—

The dungeon started to shake.

The system did say that the dungeon would crumble after 30 minutes, so the destructive phenomenon had probably started.

“I'll need to hurry up.”

YuWon decided to check the effects of his title later. For now, he opted to get out of this suffocating dungeon.

“Return.”

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

Step—

A lonesome forest.

In the world of the 1st Floor, this was the forest that was the closest to the edge of the world. A place far from human reach and uninhabitable. No one would step foot here since it took quite a while to reach this place, even with the Sun Chariot.

‘This is the perfect place.’

There was no one watching, and even if something happened, no one would get hurt. And if it was only this much, even Administrators and Messengers wouldn’t care much about it.

[King of the Dead]

YuWon focused on his new title. Although he obviously couldn’t use 「Kusanagi no Tsurugi」 right now, the title was a different matter. The title “King of the Dead” could become his strongest weapon depending on how he used it.

‘A necromancer...’

It was an unexpected gain. But because of that, his research on the related skills were lacking.

‘There’s no choice but to check it myself.’

YuWon held up his hand.

「Kyneē」 contained both Arthur and Susanoo’s souls.

Vwoong—

As he closed his eyes and focused, 「Kyneē」 trembled a little.

“—I’m getting the chills. Is it because of this guy?”

Shwaaaaa—

Just like Arthur said, there was a chilling feeling.

Like a cry that contained all the resentment in the world, Susanoo’s soul was still constantly resisting YuWon right now.

Crackle—

The soul of one of the highest ranked High-Rankers. Susanoo wasn't a soul that YuWon could handle right now. Most of all, he was someone who had controlled spirits as a necromancer much longer than YuWon.

'I won't be able to control this guy for the time being.'

An uncontrollable Undead was just an ally that could turn at any moment. Right now, it was better to create a more certain ally.

'How is this done?'

He tried lifting his hand that was wearing 「Kyneē,」 but he couldn't figure out the right method. It was usually actions like this that let you use the skills obtained through a title.

'There isn't a message either...'

“—What are you trying to do?”

As his concentration broke from Arthur's question, YuWon frowned a little.

“I've obtained a title related to a necromancer.”

“—A title?”

“Yes. But I can't tell how to use it at all.”

“—An Undead is an entity that is built with a soul and a body.”

At hearing Arthur's words, an idea came to him.

A soul and a body. Between them, the only thing YuWon had right now was a 'soul.'

▷ Can summon the body of the dead soul using mana (if you have it).

He had forgotten such an obvious thing. Now that he thought about it, there weren't that many people around him that knew skills related to necromancers.

It was a totally unknown and foreign ability.

“Are you saying I need to obtain a body?”

“—Yes. For the method of putting a soul into a body, I probably don't have to tell you that.”

That would probably be fixed by one of the title's abilities.

The problem came from the body needed for the soul to inhabit.

After thinking for a bit, YuWon started to move again.

“It's like I have a necromancer senior now. Thank you for your help.”

“—Don't say such a horrifying thing. I am Arthur. The 'King of Knights' Arthur. To compare me to a necromancer, I'm different from those lowlifes.”

Although he replied while complaining, there was a little sense of pride.

“Then...”

YuWon half-ignored what Arthur just said and walked deeper into the forest.

“I’ll be in your care in the future.”

Arthur replied without knowing what YuWon meant.

“—Alright.”

* * *

“Just what is this?!”

A totally tired tone. A scratchy voice and an unnatural movement, a weird mass bound by bones.

The orc corpse stood up and shouted.

[You have summoned your first specter.]

[Will you give it a name?]

A message popped up. It was a success.

“Arthur.”

[You have registered ‘Arthur.’]

The first Undead summon that YuWon obtained. It was quite satisfactory. Although the final product wasn’t that good, in any case, it was a moment where he had learned how to properly use the title.

‘Quite a shame I left the remains in the dungeon.’

Although it couldn’t be helped since the dungeon collapsed with the disappearance of Susanoo, it truly was a shame. If he had the real body of Arthur here, he would have become a really dependable ally.

‘But this isn’t too bad either.’

The “King of Knights,” Arthur. As a Ranker in the upper tier, he would still have incredible skill, even with this body. And the body, the container of the soul, could be improved little by little as time goes on.

But of course...

“Bring my body right now!”

Unlike for YuWon, this was the worst possible outcome for Arthur.

It was understandable that his ego wouldn’t allow being inside this average Orc body when he had been the incredible King of Knights before.

“I don’t have it.”

“What?”

“After defeating Susanoo, who was registered as the boss, the dungeon disappeared. It’s not that unusual.”

“No way...”

If he could make an expression with his face, it was probably like he saw his world ending.

YuWon did his best to suppress the laughter that was threatening to spill out in this situation and continued to speak, “Please be satisfied with that body for now. There’s no way to get another one right now.”

Flop—

In the end, Arthur ended up falling on his knees for the first time in his life and unlife. If he had tears to shed right now, he would have created a waterfall.

However, Arthur’s reaction was not YuWon’s focus. There was something more important right now.

YuWon fully woke up 「Kyneē」 and spoke.

“You should come out now.”

Wriggle—

The light pouring out of 「Kyneē」 became stronger.

In that moment, the power of 「Kyneē」 that was binding Susanoo’s soul became weaker.

“—This is a disgusting feeling.”

He was someone who had toyed with the souls of others for his entire life. And now that he was on the opposite side, Susanoo felt a disgust that he had never felt before.

“You need to keep your promise, right?”

The bet against Susanoo.

Right now, his powers could only restrain his soul, but as the bet was established by the system, he could force him to answer his question.

“—Seems like you have a lot of questions.”

“I have one question.”

“—Is it related to that idiot?”

“Uaaaaaah!”

Arthur was still screaming his heart out.

YuWon continued to ignore him and nodded his head.

“Yes.”

“—Ask away.”

“Who asked you to kill the King of Knights?”

There was only one answer he could receive. And YuWon was asking this after being certain that it wasn't by chance that Susanoo killed Arthur.

However...

“—Sorry, but I can't answer that.”

“Why?”

“—Because I don't know what that guy was either.”

Yuwon furrowed his brow.

It was a totally unexpected answer. He had confirmed that someone was behind it, but he wasn't able to confirm who it was.

“—But I have a way to show you.”

Shwoooo—

The fog produced by 「Kyneē」 covered YuWon's body.

At that moment...

Bzzzt—

‘This is...’

An endless army of Undead.

He could see through the eyes of someone in a colorful dragon robe who was sitting down.

Through this dark blanket of fog, Susanoo's memories were laid before him.

Chapter 115

“Huaaaaaaanh—” Susanoo yawned.

The story being told by the person in front of him was far too boring.

‘So he's going to show it to me like this.’

It wasn't a bad way to answer the question about who asked him to kill Arthur. If Susanoo didn't know who they were, showing them to YuWon would be the most certain method to convey the answer.

”So you want me to kill that Arthur guy?”

“Yes. Please.”

“Just a random person who isn't even a High-Ranker... Why should I? Why does it have to be me? Also, besides that...”

Susanoo rested his chin on his hand while staring with vacant eyes at a person wearing a robe.

“Who are you to talk to me?”

Shwaaaaa—

The incredible amount of killing intent covered the robed person’s body like a thousand blades coming together. Simultaneously, Susanoo’s army rumbled like a wave.

“Grrrrr—”

“Click, clack—”

“Clack—”

Thousands of Death Knights, incorporeal specters, and even monsters made of bone formed the impossible army.

Susanoo, with his own strength and this army, was able to climb to the high rank of 57th. He boasted an overwhelming presence.

“It’s not important who I am.”

However, the robed person didn’t flinch at all, even though he was facing Susanoo. Dying to Susanoo wouldn’t simply be death. Dying here would mean that they would join the thousands of Undead and become a part of his army.

“Isn’t the important thing what you want?”

“What I want?”

Curiosity filled Susanoo’s eyes for the first time.

He had climbed to the end of the Tower to become a Ranker and was able to receive a near-immortal life through the system. Afterwards, he spent every day in dullness and boredom.

What did he want?

It was an amusing topic.

“What is that?”

“Don’t you want war?”

“War...?”

It was a tempting word.

The robed person continued to speak. “Don’t you want to see this Tower drenched in blood?”

Susanoo’s eyes wavered. He felt an electrifying feeling.

War.

A blood-soaked Tower.

And change from day to day as a result of that.

His sword would never stop. As soon as a war started, he wouldn't have to worry about penalties or interference by Administrators. He would only need to enjoy his days under the skies of war.

"That's an interesting story."

Susanoo became curious.

Woosh—

The robed person took off the hood covering their head, and he saw a monstrosity green face with a single pupil-less eyeball stuck in the middle.

'That guy...'

YuWon's expression shifted as he looked through Susanoo's eyes at him.

In comparison, Susanoo stared at the dubious, green face.

"It's my first time seeing a face like that. Are you a Ranker?"

An unusual face. No, it wasn't a face that could be recognized in the first place. Normally, there should have been a rumor if someone was going around looking like that.

"I am someone who isn't part of the Tower." Seemingly ashamed of his own face, the robed person put his hood back on and continued speaking, "Anyways, you don't really care about who I am, right?"

"That's true."

"The death of the King of Knights is but a very small seed. But..."

The form of the robed person slowly started to fade.

Susanoo reached out with his hand to grab him, but he couldn't.

The robed person disappeared like a mirage.

"That seed will slowly but surely grow."

With that phrase, the robed person disappeared from sight.

Clench—

Susanoo clenched his outstretched fist and thought back to the robed person's appearance.

"Seed, a seed..."

An electrifying feeling.

"Uha, uhaha, hahaha!"

Refreshing laughter exploded out for the first time in a while.

The "King of Knights," Arthur. A Ranker quickly climbing the rankings and also the monarch of Britain. The master of the guild The Round Table.

"Alright, sure."

Susanoo stood up from his seat.

He put behind him the inactive days where he would fight against his own Undead army and now began to move.

“I’ll dance to your tune.”

* * *

Shwooo—

The wide fog disappeared.

As the world seen through Susanoo’s memory disappeared, the original scene spread out before him.

—“That was all. Even I don’t know what that guy was. Thanks to that, I was able to fight with this guy and had some fun times as well.”

As YuWon turned his head, he could see the dejected and dispirited Arthur crumble to the ground. Just how much longer was he going to mope about his body?

YuWon felt that he should get him a usable body afterwards.

“So? Did you get what you wanted?”

—“Not long after that, a great war started.”

“The Gigantomachy?”

—“I enjoyed that quite a bit. It was because of Hades’s interference that I wasn’t able to enjoy it more.”

It looked like Susanoo intruded on the Gigantomachy and was restrained by Hades. Then again, with Susanoo’s personality, there was no way he would have sided and fought with either the giants or Olympus. But Hades wouldn’t have been able to leave Susanoo alone either.

—“Anyways, it looks like you didn’t get the answer you wanted. You probably wanted the death of that guy to be connected to the ‘Three Precious Children.’”

“That’s what I initially wanted.” YuWon’s thoughts started to whirr. “But my head hurts now since the situation is more complicated.”

—“More complicated?”

Was he talking about the war that would drench the Tower in blood that the robed person was talking about?

However, for some reason, Susanoo felt that YuWon wasn’t holding onto a ‘what if’ like that.

—“Do you know who that guy is?”

“...I do.” YuWon nodded. “Very well at that.”

—“Who is that guy? I couldn’t find him no matter how hard I searched.”

“That would be the case. That guy can become anything and do anything.”

YuWon’s voice faltered for a second. He tried to be as calm as possible, but it wasn’t easy to do. He didn’t know he would see that guy this soon, even if it was only through the eyes of someone else.

‘Foolish Chaos.’

Asura, Merlin, Vishnu, and his other allies. They all died in the final fight. They succeeded in defeating 《Foolish Chaos》 in the end, but it was just a fight riddled with bloodshed.

“—Who is that guy?”

“The oldest god to have invaded this Tower.”

An Outer God.

YuWon replied with determination, remembering the fight against it, “It killed my friends, and I killed...” YuWon shook his head. “And I will kill him in the future.”

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

YuWon found accommodations on the 1st Floor.

As he rested his head on a pillow, the thoughts that he had struggled to suppress started to resurface. He wasn’t in a condition to meet Hephaestus right now. He felt weird.

《Foolish Chaos.》 That was what everyone called that guy.

‘Everything is going faster than I expected.’

After returning using the Clock Movement, YuWon had experienced many things. Most of them were things he had initially planned for with his allies, but the plan had progressed faster than he expected, so he felt that everything was proceeding fine.

‘Arthur died about a thousand years ago.’

The only one who saw Susanoo’s memory was YuWon. Arthur probably didn’t know who or why someone wanted him dead.

‘That guy wanted to plant a seed in Britain through the death of Arthur.’

It had already been a thousand years since then. It had been quite a while, enough time that one could harvest the fruit of the seeds they planted. If that really was the truth...

‘The things that happen with Britain at its center...’

YuWon thought back to the many incidents that he remembered.

The second Gigantomachy, Ragnarok, the War of the Heavenly Realms, the Great Heavenly Demon War...

He thought about all the major incidents, but there weren't many that he could link to Britain. They wouldn't have taken this long just to simply change the monarch of Britain, and the seeds that were spread by 《Foolish Chaos,》 who wanted to bring chaos into the Tower, were probably part of a bigger picture.

“...In the end, is that the only one?”

The major events that were related to Britain... As he thought about some of them, a picture started to form in his mind.

YuWon stood up from his bed and shook his head. Just thinking about it wouldn't change anything.

‘The situation can be changed.’

Vwoong—

YuWon looked at the dormant spirit of Arthur inside 「Kyneē.」

The Arthur that was making a fuss to find him a better body this instant would become Britain's hidden card.

‘For now, there's no choice but to climb.’

Everything was at the top.

* * *

Just like anyone else, sleep found him when he least expected it.

If one thing was different about him, it was that YuWon could usually tell that he was in a dream. Thanks to this, most of his dreams were lucid.

‘Is it the dream from that time?’

YuWon blinked at the scene in front of him.

It was a familiar sight. Hundreds of Rankers were in a state of alert and determination. The man that stood at the front wiped off the blood on his neck with the back of his hand.

“Was the second head cut as well?”

As expected, the scene played out just as he remembered.

The first person to speak was an old man who had grown a white beard down to his chest.

The great magician Merlin. As the guardian of Britain, he was someone who had fought alongside YuWon for a long time.

“It doesn't matter.”

“It does matter. Your brother died.”

Merlin clicked his tongue. He looked on with pity at the man who only had one head left.

Asura. The “Monster of Three Heads and Six Arms.” One of the highest ranked High-Rankers, ranked 16th.

He was looking up at the sky with his one remaining head.

“I just need to avenge them.”

“Then will they even come back to life?”

“None of your concern.”

“You’re too prickly.” At receiving such an edgy reply, Merlin shook his head.

The mood was heavy because everyone was thinking that this would be the last fight.

“Well, I don’t know about the others, but we need to catch that guy, Foolish Chaos, no matter what.”

Merlin was looking at the huge, purple wave that was approaching from a far distance.

YuWon scanned his surroundings. The powers from outside were consuming the Tower, and the world was being tainted by its colors.

There was only one situation where this happened.

‘It’s approaching.’

“It’s coming.”

A long distance away, outside the Tower, many Outer Gods were coming together.

Asura stepped towards them.

Was it because of the death of his two brothers? He was normally the one who would step forward for any fight, but today, it looked like he took a few more steps.

YuWon looked at Asura’s back.

He would definitely die today, in this spot.

No...

‘Everyone but me.’

Step—

YuWon stepped up with Asura. Even if this was a dream, he wanted to perhaps change the outcome.

“That’s unusual. You stepped up before everyone this time.”

Asura was intrigued at YuWon’s actions. Before this, there were many fights YuWon participated in, but there weren’t many times he stepped up like this. However...

“True.” It was a voice filled with regret. “I should’ve done this from the start.”

Because if he had, maybe some other people would have survived as well.

Fwoosh—

Was it because it was a dream?

[Cinder Eyes] ignited in YuWon's eyes. Through the flaming sight, he could see the form of the Outer Gods that were approaching from a ways away. And among them...

'Come at me.'

《Foolish Chaos》 was leading the Outer Gods towards him.

'I'll keep killing you.'

Chapter 116

Even though it was just a dream, he felt like he fought pretty hard.

This was just a recreation of the past.

YuWon swung the sword that was created from grinding down Hephaestus's hammer and swung it again. He swung it until the sword broke and turned to dust.

At some point, YuWon regained his senses.

Woosh—

Wind blew in through the slightly open window. As he looked outside, morning had come.

'Is it still early morning?'

He woke up earlier than expected.

There was no need to sleep further, but since he just got out of the dungeon yesterday, he was planning on sleeping for the whole day. But now, he didn't even want to sleep any more.

Trill—

As he poured himself a cup of water, his consciousness became alert.

He remembered the dream clearly.

"Damn it."

They were able to kill a lot, but they were killed just as much in return. Asura, who fought while clearing the purple wave at the front, ended up getting his final head eaten by the Outer Gods.

As YuWon thought back to that moment, his stomach churned.

Tap—

He put the cup back down on the table.

To reconcile his frustrated heart, he internally repeated his magic-like mantra, 'The future can be changed.'

That was why he had come to the past.

There weren't many things that had changed yet, except him. The changes that came to the Tower because of YuWon were still too small.

'This is the start.'

* * *

“Get out, you punk!”

Fwoosh—

Smack—!

The hammer immediately flew at him, but seeing that it was flying towards his chest and not the head, he was probably not intending to kill.

YuWon didn't dodge the hammer, and a considerable amount of pain struck his chest.

Having not really expected his hammer to actually hit, Hephaestus was surprised for a second.

“Has your anger subsided now?”

“What took you so long to come back?”

“I went to a faraway place.”

“Not even doing the test, just what did you do...”

YuWon could hear all the mumbling and grumbling from him.

Since Hephaestus knew that he didn't take the test, he probably did try to check where YuWon was.

“I'm sorry.”

“Tsk. Is where you got hit alright?”

“It hurts a little.”

“Why didn't you dodge?”

“Wouldn't getting hit decrease your anger? Even better if you feel sorry.”

“...You stupid punk.”

Hephaestus scratched his head in frustration. But since he wasn't angry anymore, he didn't throw his hammer again.

YuWon had seen him get mad on multiple occasions, and the method to stop him from being angry was to get hit once or twice since he wasn't throwing to kill but to vent his anger. It did hurt a bit after getting hit, but it was much better than Hephaestus staying angry.

“Fine, so what did you do all this time? Let's hear your story.”

“I went to a dungeon.”

“Until now? Just one?”

“Yes.”

“You're not at a level where you would struggle with a single dungeon...”

“It was a bit difficult.”

“Difficult?”

“It wasn’t a normal dungeon.”

Hephaestus made a curious face, not being able to understand what he meant.

He was one of the people who knew YuWon’s skills the best. YuWon already had the strength to fight Chryses on the 1st Floor, and the item 「Kyneē」 he was currently wielding was also a creation made by Hephaestus’s hands.

The 21st Floor. For there to be a dungeon that YuWon found difficult to clear below this low-level floor...

“Looks like you’ve been to another weird place again.”

Hephaestus picked up the hammer that had fallen to the ground.

He didn’t ask any more. The dungeon had already been cleared, and as a blacksmith, dungeons weren’t something that Hephaestus was interested in.

“Did the crafting go well?”

“Yeah.”

“That’s a relief.”

“I had to stop myself multiple times when I just felt like destroying it.”

YuWon followed Hephaestus into the storage room.

The storage room was still as fantastic as ever. It held the masterpieces of the best blacksmith of the Tower, Hephaestus. If any one of these were to be taken outside, it would create a huge commotion. When Hephaestus ran out of money to live or to buy materials, he would take one or two of these out and sell them.

“Where did I stick it... Ah, it’s here.”

After going through the items he piled up, Hephaestus pulled out a wooden chest.

“Here. Check it.”

YuWon took the wooden box and opened it. Inside, he could see a gem shining with brilliant, blue light.

He felt as if the entire sea had been condensed into this small, beautiful gem.

[True Divine Sea Crystal]

- ▷ The fragment imbued with the water created at the beginning. Made of water mana.
- ▷ Classification: crafting material
- ▷ Can rule all oceans.
- ▷ Can change mana to water attribute.
- ▷ Summon [Sea] (limited)

▷ 50% increase in resistance against water-attribute mana.

▷ 30% decrease in water-attribute mana consumption rate.

The overall specs of the item weren't that different from the 「Divine Dark Crystal.」 The difference was that the item's attribute was water and the effect to 'rule all oceans.'

“Rule all oceans”... I can't exactly tell what this will do.'

He felt that it was different from when he controlled the Leviathan and other sea monsters at the test on the 20th Floor. Rather than living monsters, he felt that 'oceans' had a much broader effect.

Understanding the effects of “rule all oceans” would probably only be possible after trying it out himself.

“For now, embed it in Kyneē and use it. It'll be much better than using it by itself.”

“Is that possible?”

“If you just create a small groove, it'll work. I'll just have to work on it a bit. Give it to me, I'll finish it in about half a day.”

YuWon took off 「Kyneē」 and gave it to Hephaestus.

Hephaestus took out his crafting blade immediately and started the delicate work. As it was made with an adamantium base, changing 「Kyneē」 to have even a small groove wasn't an easy job.

YuWon waited for him to finish his work.

It was late at night.

A groove was made on 「Kyneē,」 and Hephaestus embedded the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 in it.

“This is just to make it easy for you to carry it around, but it's not finished yet. If you want to use both of them, you'll need to get another similar item.”

Fwip—

YuWon equipped 「Kyneē」 on his hand again. It was only a small groove, but it felt unusual. He felt that the glove had become a little colder as well.

YuWon checked 「Kyneē」 up and down and asked, “Is there a method to just strengthen Kyneē's power directly?”

“Strengthen the item?”

“Yes. By using other materials or using mana.”

Hephaestus fell deep into thought for a second.

Strengthening a completed item... A method like that currently did not exist.

But YuWon knew. Later on, Hephaestus wouldn't just create items, but he found a way to strengthen them, and he shook the Tower with this knowledge. Hephaestus was definitely someone who was capable of it.

As expected...

"Strengthen, strengthen it..."

Hephaestus sounded like he found a clue as he continued to mumble.

YuWon waited for him to finish thinking.

If he was able to realize the method to strengthening it earlier than before, it wouldn't be impossible for him to use both fragments, the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 and the 「Divine Dark Crystal」.

"You're pretty useful sometimes."

"Sometimes?"

"Don't overestimate yourself." Hephaestus turned away and gestured with his hand.

"Money is fine. You paid your keep today at least."

Hephaestus started to work in his forge. He probably had a lot of ideas.

Although it might have been a story that one heard in passing and forgot, that wasn't the case for Hephaestus.

Although he had worked for half a day already, Hephaestus didn't seem to be tired as he lifted his hammer again and started hammering away at an item he had already created.

'It'd be better to leave him alone.'

YuWon said his goodbyes and left Hephaestus's workshop.

He received the 「Divine Sea Crystal」 and there were only a few days left until the 21st Floor's test.

For about three and a half months, he had remained on the 21st Floor.

"I guess I'll start climbing again."

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

Day arrived.

In Hephaestus's forge, there were many swords, spears, armor, and other such things laid out around the floor. They were all half-broken or bent, and the items had all become useless.

“Strengthen...”

Hephaestus fell deep into thought while holding the hammer in his hand. He had experimented multiple times, but they were all failures. He had tried many methods, such as increasing the strength of an item by imbuing it with more mana or fusing it with a new item.

“It’s difficult.”

It didn’t come easy to him. However, the words YuWon left behind still echoed in his head.

He had lived his entire life hammering away to create new items. Although he always liked and enjoyed doing it, there was no person that wouldn’t get bored from doing the same thing everyday.

It was the same for Hephaestus.

However, the field of ‘strengthening’ was something that Hephaestus was unfamiliar with.

‘This would be doable with those strengtheners and enchanters, but at the end of the day, those are temporary. One can’t permanently increase the abilities of equipment.’

A wrinkle appeared on Hephaestus’s forehead.

‘Strengthen. Strengthen...’

His blacksmith senses were speaking to him. It wasn’t an impossible task. That was why he needed to find the method.

Hephaestus felt himself get fired up as a blacksmith for the first time in a while.

Bang, bang, bang—!

At the top of the stairs that led to the ground floor, someone was knocking on the forge door.

“Who’s here so early in the morning?”

Hephaestus frowned as his concentration completely broke.

After glancing at the door, he lifted his hammer again and went to hammer away at a perfectly fine sword again.

But then, the knocks continued.

Bang, bang, bang—!

“You brat!”

Hephaestus stood up from his seat angrily.

The knocks constantly broke his concentration. He lifted his hammer like he was going to beat someone up.

But then...

Boom—!

“...What?”

That wasn’t the sound of a knock, it was the sound of the door breaking.

‘Is it Olympus?’

It was strange. It hadn’t even been a year since the Administrator of the 1st Floor gave them a warning. He had felt that they wouldn’t be able to move as they pleased on the 1st Floor for at least a few years, maybe a few decades. Because in the end, if they were to antagonize the Administrator just to take Hephaestus away, they would lose more than they would gain.

‘There’s no way Father wouldn’t have calculated that. Then, is it an underling?’

Grip—

He increased the strength of his grip on the hammer. He brought out his mana and readied for combat.

Step, step—

Someone was walking down the stairs.

From just the steps, he could tell that it was only one person. If that was the case, it was doable.

The steps grew closer.

Long legs first, he could see the figure of the unexpected guest.

“Hey, Ahjussi.”

A young voice like that of a teenager. Lanky arms and legs and a white fur coat.

“You’ll die if you swing that. So how about you put that down?”

“You...”

The unwelcome guest who had come in after breaking down the door was someone Hephaestus had known for a long time.

A long time ago, he had come here to ask him to create a long staff for him.

“Just what are you doing here, you monkey?”

“Huh?”

The unexpected guest’s eyes grew wide.

The one who called himself “The Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal.” Son OhGong.

He looked in surprise at Hephaestus and asked him, “You live here?”

Chapter 117

The air in the workshop didn’t cool down because the roaring flames of the forge were burned from a special type of tree.

The conversation continued in the heat of the shop.

“Why did you come here?”

Hephaestus glared at the man who was in front of him.

The “Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal.” A very well known High-Ranker. Someone that was comparable to the “Big Three” gods of Olympus.

But for someone like him to make an appearance at the 1st Floor, this wasn’t an ordinary occurrence.

“Now that I see you properly, it looks like this isn’t your real body.”

“If my real body were here, the Administrator wouldn’t stay still.”

Hearing Son OhGong’s reply, Hephaestus nodded his head.

The Administrators paid close attention to High-Rankers within the top 100 in the rankings. It would be fine if they were on the higher floors, but if someone like that came down to a lower floor, and the lowest floor at that, it was only natural that the Administrator would need to pay even closer attention.

“And my main body has something to do right now.”

“Alright.”

“What’s that reaction? Aren’t you curious?”

“Why would I be? You’re probably messing around with the guys from Heavenly Realm again.”

“Well, something like that.”

Their encounters with Son OhGong were famous.

The great guild, Heavenly Realm.

The one that was fighting a solo war against them was Son OhGong. The nickname of “Great Sage, Heaven’s Equal” was derived from this.

“Are you using that weapon I made you well?”

“No, I threw it away.”

“Threw it away?”

“I found something even better.”

“Who made it?”

“I don’t know. It was something the Dragon King had, but apparently it’s not even a weapon to begin with.”

“It’s not a weapon? What is it then?”

“Dunno. I didn’t ask.”

To use something that wasn’t a weapon as a weapon... Hephaestus found this situation strange, but as he took a closer look at Son OhGong, he could see a long, thin staff attached to his back.

‘Is that it?’

Looking at it from here, it didn’t look too impressive. It was as thin as a finger, and the length was only about a meter. Even if it was an amazing item, its base length and width were too lacking.

‘Who the hell made it?’ he thought. Then he said, “But why are you here?”

Although he couldn’t say he was friends with Song OhGong, it wasn’t like they had a bad relationship either.

If it was anyone else, Hephaestus might have suspected that they came here as a proxy of Olympus after receiving their orders, but Son OhGong was different.

Known by Hephaestus and the various worlds, Son OhGong wasn’t someone who would lower himself below anyone.

“I’m looking for someone.”

“Someone?”

“Kim YuWon. Do you know him?”

Hearing a familiar name, Hephaestus’s expression wavered for a second.

And Son OhGong didn’t miss the subtle change.

“So you do.”

“I don’t.”

Smile—

The edge of Son OhGong’s lips curled upwards. His black eyes suddenly changed to a different color.

[Golden Cinder Eyes]

“Lies won’t work on me.”

One burned brightly, and the other sparkled with a golden shine.

Hephaestus faced Son OhGong’s two eyes and asked him, “Are those the famous Golden Cinder Eyes?”

“Its powers are a bit lacking since it’s from a clone.”

“The eyes that can see through lies and pierce the truth...”

A fake laugh leaked out of Hephaestus’s mouth.

Just how would he escape those eyes? At least right now, he didn’t have the power to do that. Although he was facing a clone, it was still Son OhGong.

‘Looks like I won’t even be able to lie like this.’

However...

“I don’t know.”

Hephaestus’s answer didn’t change.

“You don’t know?”

“That’s right.”

“You do know.”

“I said I don’t. How many times do I need to repeat myself?”

“Hmm...”

Son OhGong scratched his head. He scratched his head so hard that multiple strands of hair fell out.

Hephaestus didn’t avert his eyes from Son OhGong’s and stared at him straight on.

“Ahjussi. I really don’t want to do this, but if you don’t tell me, you might die.”

Fwoosh—

The [Golden Cinder Eyes] stared at Hephaestus.

The eyes that could see through all things. Those eyes could pierce the truth and were said to be able to see the past and future. Even if it was currently from a clone, Son OhGong would definitely know that Hephaestus was lying.

“Then should I lie and say I do know something I don’t?” Hephaestus crossed his arms and widened his stance as if telling him to strike his belly. “I. Do. Not. Know.”

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

After climbing past the 20th Floor, one becomes a relatively serious player. This was well known in the Tower. They say one couldn’t call people under the 20th Floor players and that the real magic of the Tower could only be experienced after climbing past the 20th Floor.

In truth, the difference between players who did and did not climb the 20th Floor was massive because the players who had passed the 20th Floor, also called the second wall, had at least one skill that they were known for.

But just as there existed High-Rankers above normal Rankers who had finished climbing the Tower, it was natural for famous players to exist within the ranks of the lower floors. And naturally, the best among them was...

“Is Kim YuWon not coming to this test either?”

...Kim YuWon.

Even though it hadn't even been a year since he entered the Tower, his name was etched into the minds of many players.

The winner of the Grand Martial Arts Tournament. The super rookie that set new records on all floors.

He, while climbing the Tower at an incredible speed, had stopped at some point and wasn't taking the tests at all.

"Probably. It's already been over three months since he stopped."

"Did he decide to settle here?"

"If I was like him, I would've at least tried to become a Ranker."

"Well, if you become a Ranker, living life becomes easier, and you get to do anything you want."

"If he climbed up with those grades, wouldn't he have acquired a ton of points as well? It's understandable if he wants to live comfortably like this."

YuWon's name was tossed around many times as the players gathered at the testing area chatted.

Three months wasn't that long of a time. There were many cases where a player would stay years at a time on a single floor because they couldn't climb to the next floor or for other reasons.

However, for a player of Kim YuWon's caliber, the story was different.

"I heard he died?"

"Really? I did hear that his relationship with Olympus wasn't good."

"Isn't that just a rumor? I heard he's friends with Hargaan."

"Really?"

As a lot of rumors started to come out...

"That's the end of that. We should just focus on our test now. If we fail this time, we don't even have enough points to try again."

"Yes."

"Alright."

The team leader said their piece, and the team members all stopped gossiping and started to focus.

'Kim YuWon, Kim YuWon, huh...'

The team leader who was leading the five man team, the elf Reinhar, was looking around his surroundings.

An underground cave a little taller than 100 meters. There were luminous stones embedded in the roof of the cave. Thanks to this, it wasn't too difficult to see.

‘If possible, I don’t want that guy here.’

It was natural for one to not want a competitor. On top of that, if they were a skilled person like Kim YuWon, it was even more obvious. However, it was natural for one to always feel uneasy about it.

“Who’s talking about me?” A brutal voice spoke. “You want to die?”

Reinhar turned his head. In that spot, a player was staring down at them with crossed arms.

“Talking about me?”

He was unsure of what they meant. But then he saw the clothes worn by the player.

A red cloak.

That was definitely the 「Pyromancy Robe.」

“N-No way...”

“Kim YuWon?”

“What? Really?”

The players were all startled, and they began stepping away from the man.

The man’s lip curled into a smile.

“Pussies.”

“Are you... really Kim YuWon?”

Hearing Reinhar’s question, the man’s eyes narrowed.

“What are you trying to say?”

Shwaaa—

Chilling mana spread out from YuWon’s body.

Feeling the killing intent that was suffocating his body and piercing his skin, Reinhar evaded his eyes.

“I-It’s nothing.”

He was no average genius. With an astounding mana stat, YuWon’s mana alone was enough to choke other people.

On top of that, the 「Pyromancy Robe」 was a luxury item that cost over 500,000 points. It was definitely an item too expensive to be used by an ordinary player.

It was also the item that Kim YuWon used in the Grand Martial Arts tournament, and so it was like his symbol.

‘It’s certain.’

Gulp—

Reinhar moved back with the other players and glanced at YuWon once in a while.

‘Kim YuWon has started his climb up the Tower again.’

A tiger had appeared in the midst of sheep.

* * *

The players who were waiting all shut their mouths silently. It was because of the appearance of a tiger named Kim YuWon.

It was a situation where if they somehow caught his attention and angered him, their heads would fly before the test could even begin.

And so, time passed.

[The test of the 21st Floor is starting.]

[The Crystal has been created.]

[Defend the Crystal from the waves of enemies.]

[‘Doppelgangers’ exist within the team.]

[The number of Doppelgangers is not known, and if the number of players becomes 0 or the Crystal is destroyed, you will fail the test.]

[Doppelgangers can destroy the Crystal.]

[Find and eliminate the Doppelgangers.]

[The test will end when all the Doppelgangers are eliminated.]

In the center of the cave...

Creak—

A large blue crystal, about one meter tall in size, appeared while shining a bright light. This was the mechanism that would be the central focus of this test, the Crystal.

‘Doppelgangers?’

Reinhar turned to his left and right as he looked at the people near him.

The other players were doing the same.

In an instant, they were all wary of each other and checking for anyone suspicious.

‘Are Doppelgangers already mixed into this group?’

If that was the case, they couldn’t know who was a Doppelganger and who was a real player. Doppelgangers mimicked the appearances of people and even absorbed their memories. It was an impossible task to just try to sense them out.

“This is quite complicated.”

“You can’t tell who’s a Doppelganger or not like this...”

The number of players gathered was about a hundred. Among them, not one stepped up first.

Silence reigned for a while. But then...

“Retards.”

Flinch—

The quiet voice that pierced through the crowd gathered everyone’s attention.

The player in the 「Pyromancy Robe,」 Kim YuWon, had opened his mouth.

“You can’t do anything because you got scared of a test like this? Just staying silent like dumb idiots.”

“Wh-What...”

“Shush. Hold back.”

Although a few players showed dissent at YuWon’s attack, they didn’t step forward and stayed silent.

YuWon clicked his tongue and continued to talk. “Since it’s already hard for me to clear the quest myself this time, please at least don’t drag me down. And the Doppelgangers...”

Kim YuWon turned his head to the side.

At that moment...

Shck—

The sword he pulled out instantly created a flash of light and decapitated the man standing beside him.

Crunch—

Splat—

The fallen head turned viscous and started to melt after hitting the ground.

The players nearby were all startled and shouted.

“The fuck?!”

“M-Monster?”

Doppelganger. Monsters that didn’t have a form of their own and lived out their lives stealing others’ existences.

Kim YuWon had found out one of them in an instant and slashed them.

“While the test is going, I’ll find the Doppelgangers.”

With those words, Kim YuWon sheathed his sword.

Right now, he couldn’t see any other Doppelgangers, and monsters hadn’t appeared yet either.

“Woah...”

“He’s actually so cool...”

Envy, respect, jealousy, and fear were all present in their eyes. These mixed feelings were all poured out to Kim YuWon through their gazes.

YuWon's skill was as they had heard, which he showed as he cut off the head of the Doppelganger in a single slash.

However, among them...

"Interesting."

One person was looking at Kim YuWon, amused.

"This test will be interesting."

Chapter 118

Rumble—

The walls of the cave opened up.

"They're coming!"

"Everyone ready! Take your positions!"

"Anyone here able to use buff skills?"

"I can!"

"Tanks move to the front! I'll support you."

"Show some respect to me, you punk!"

The test had officially started.

The number of monsters that flowed out of the opened wall segment was over a hundred, but the number of players taking the test also exceeded three digits.

"What the...? Isn't this kinda easy?"

"Yeah. I thought some pretty strong guys would come out or something."

"The Doppelgangers are the real problems. Don't let your guard down."

"We have Kim YuWon on our side, so what's there to worry about?"

Thanks to the existence of Kim YuWon, the mood of the testing area was like a festival. The players that had worried about what would happen if they failed this time could be relieved instead as they took the test. The Crystal would never be destroyed because Kim YuWon was protecting it. There was no reason to look for Doppelgangers either, because he would soon find them.

And so, the first wave of monsters finished, and a few moments later...

Rumble—

Pathways opened up from two different directions.

"There's two this time?"

“Then will there be twice as many as well?”

“Damn it. I was wondering why it was so easy.”

“Block them! Block!”

Although the monsters’ numbers had increased twofold, it wasn’t a big problem. Tanks, healers, ranged attackers, and other positions were being adequately filled, and the player group was looking strong. It was enough to easily block the attacks of the monsters who only believed in their numbers and charged at them.

Even Reinhar felt good about this test.

‘The morale is good.’

“Isn’t it weird?”

Reinhar, who had taken a step back to rest, heard a voice next to him and turned his head. Once he did, his eyes grew wide with surprise.

“Kim YuWon?”

No, he was mistaken. Although he looked similar to Kim YuWon, the clothes he was wearing were different. Unlike Kim YuWon who was wearing the 「Pyromancy Robe,」 this man was wearing a totally gray outfit.

‘They really do look similar.’

He looked back and forth between the man in front of him and Kim YuWon, who was standing far away.

They were really similar.

One difference was that this guy’s hair was a bit longer.

‘I nearly mistook him.’

Reinhar calmed his heart and asked, “What’s weird?”

“That Kim YuWon. After finding the first Doppelganger, he hasn’t found a single other one yet.”

“It probably takes some time. It’s not that weird.”

Doppelgangers were monsters that could completely mimic the appearance of someone else. They didn’t just copy their outward appearance and voice but even their behavior, habits, and memories. It was natural that it would be hard to find them. Honestly, the fact that he already found one was incredible.

“Really?” the man replied with a doubtful expression at Reinhar’s answer. “...Is it really just luck?”

“What?” Reinhar looked at the man with a quizzical expression.

Maybe he had nothing more to say, but the man turned away and walked towards the Crystal. He was probably planning on protecting it.

‘What an odd fellow.’

After watching him for a bit, Reinhar lost interest. It was natural that there were quite a few doubtful people.

He didn’t think that was a bad thing as the more people who had doubts in a test, the better it was for the whole.

And so, the test continued without much disturbance.

* * *

Translator – Jreaming

Proofreader – BringTheRayn

* * *

[25 : 02 : 12]

A day had passed since the test started.

“How come we haven’t found a single other Doppelganger?”

“Who’s the Doppelganger?”

The difficulty of the test continued to increase. As time passed, the monsters started to pour out from a total of five different paths.

There was no time to rest. People started to get tired, and the number of injuries increased.

It was really about time they needed to find some Doppelgangers.

“Dammit. He said he’d find them himself...”

“Shush, he’ll hear you.”

Kim YuWon hadn’t moved from his spot since the test started. After he caught the first Doppelganger, he had continued to only stand next to the Crystal and protect it.

Because of this, no one could approach within a certain distance of the Crystal. If one got too close, Kim YuWon would block them.

Complaints started to pile up, and the situation started to become even more dire.

But then...

“This won’t do.”

Kim YuWon, who had stayed silent this entire time, opened his mouth.

“Everyone, gather ‘round. I have something to say.”

“Something to say?”

“Has he finally found them?”

Thinking that he might have found some Doppelgangers, the players gathered with the Crystal at the center. They were all thinking to quickly kill the remaining Doppelgangers and finish this before the next wave of monsters came.

“Have you found them?” Reinhar asked impatiently.

His party members also looked tired as they looked at Kim YuWon with impatience in their eyes.

He shook his head, “No.”

“How...”

“It looks like they all hid after I caught the first one. They might have tried to attack the Crystal, but that didn’t happen, and nothing feels off either. They’ll probably slowly wear us out and kill us.”

“My goodness...”

“But we can’t just let them waste our time either.” Kim YuWon turned his head and looked at one of the cave walls. “Because a sixth pathway might open next time.”

“...”

Everyone had dire expressions on their faces. Even Kim YuWon, who they had put their trust in, didn’t have a way out.

“Then why did you suddenly gather us?”

He smiled.

“Let’s have a vote.”

“A vote?”

“Vote on who you think is a Doppelganger. Everyone comes out and speaks out against one person.” As he talked, he pulled out his sword. “If we start killing one person at a time, the test will end at some point.”

He was saying he would kill someone off even if he wasn’t sure.

Hearing this, the players who had gathered all felt a sense of danger. Even if they weren’t Doppelgangers, if they were suspected, they might be openly executed in front of everyone.

“It’s not me. My group has all met since the 10th Floor and climbed together.”

“That’s right. It’s not us.”

“We can vouch for each other.”

The first players who came forward to prove their innocence were the players who were in ‘teams.’

This was a natural progression. Since a Doppelganger wouldn't say that they were a Doppelganger, one couldn't prove themselves innocent with their own words, meaning it was a situation where someone who knew them had to speak up for them.

Reinhar also hurriedly shouted, "It's the same for us. Me and the five people here have all been climbing the Tower together since long ago."

"Really? Then..." Kim YuWon talked as if he was the judge and was making a decision after hearing their words.

Among the players gathered here, the players who were in teams were a little over half of the total. After thinking for a bit, YuWon gestured with his chin in a direction.

"Then the players in a team go in that direction."

With this order, the players who had been hesitant had split into two groups—the players with a team and the players without.

"Alright then, since we don't have time..."

The sword he was spinning stopped and pointed at someone.

"We should hurry up and start killing one by one."

"What?!"

"Wh-What are you saying?"

"Kill us?"

Voices of resistance spewed out. In an instant, the test area had become pandemonium. A few had already picked up weapons and armed themselves.

It wasn't only the ones who were selected to die that were surprised at his declaration...

"Y-Yeah, what do you mean by that?"

"Are you saying they're all Doppelgangers?"

...It was the naive people.

Even though they knew he didn't mean that, they thought that had to be the only reason.

As a few of them talked back to him, Kim YuWon put down the sword he had raised and replied, "Do you really think that there would be this many Doppelgangers?" He half-leaned on the Crystal and laughed. "But still, if we ignore the people who know each other, it means that they must be within this other group, correct?"

"Then will you kill them without certainty? Just because of a suspicion?"

Because one player was talking impolitely to him, Kim YuWon's smile quickly disappeared.

“Then?” The look in his eyes became cold. “Let’s just stay like this and all die together... Is that what you’re saying? Well, that doesn’t concern me. Because I won’t die in any case.”

His tone showed his incredible confidence in his skills. He was saying that no matter the number of monsters that poured out, he would definitely be safe. He was saying that in the end, the one who would suffer losses wouldn’t be him.

“B-But this still isn’t right!”

“Well, no one wants to die.”

Kim YuWon turned his head. “What are your thoughts? Do you really all want to die here nicely... Together?”

It was the whispers of a devil.

“That’s...”

“C-Cough.”

“That’s... Not...”

It was a difficult question to answer. Because the baseline was that someone else dying was better than them dying. Kim YuWon’s words had woven that fact perfectly.

Silence took hold for a few moments.

The corner of Kim YuWon’s lips curled up again.

“Then sure. I’ll take that as everyone agrees.”

He raised his sword again.

The man who was selected looked at the edge of Kim YuWon’s blade.

“So let’s start.”

His sword moved directly towards the man’s heart. He was planning on killing the first player with a single slash to check if they were a Doppelganger or not.

But...

Tap—

“...?”

The sword was stopped.

Confusion overcame Kim YuWon’s expression. Someone had blocked his sword. It was at a speed that most players shouldn’t have even been able to react to.

However, that wasn’t all he was surprised about.

“You grabbed it...?”

He was definitely barehanded.

Seeing that the person had a black glove on their hand, it looked to be some item, but it was still impossible. It wasn't even a gauntlet but a thin, frail glove.

Kim YuWon stared down at the man in front of him.

The man said with a complicated expression, "You're really dragging this out."

"What?"

Fwoosh—

The color of the man's eyes turned red.

Seeing his eyes, YuWon realized that something was wrong.

'Just what skill is that?'

He got a weird feeling as he met eyes with the man, as if his entire body was being revealed.

The man looked at Kim YuWon and the other players that had gathered around the Crystal.

"Saying that a Doppelganger is amongst these people..." The man smiled. "I don't know if you're smart or stupid."

"What?"

"I can understand that you wanted to keep playing tricks, and I can overlook that. But I can't just let you mess up the test like this."

"What the hell are you talking about?"

It was an unpleasant thing to hear.

Blue-colored mana enveloped Kim YuWon's body. Strength poured into his hand, and his sword became even sharper.

However, the outcome didn't change.

'I can't pull it out?'

It was the same no matter how much he struggled.

The man didn't even look like he was using much strength, but YuWon's sword felt as if it was stuck in a rock and didn't budge at all.

If someone were to see them from the outside, they might not even realize that YuWon was putting strength into his sword.

"But, those two... Don't they look similar?"

"Huh?"

"They actually kinda do?"

The people started to murmur amongst themselves as they looked at the two.

Although there was a difference in their clothes and hair length, their faces looked quite similar. Enough that one could mistake them for brothers or twins.

It was then...

From the mouth of Kim YuWon who was staring closely at the man's face, a name came out in a tone that said he didn't want to believe it.

“ Kim... Yu... Won?”

Two Kim YuWons had appeared at the testing grounds.

Chapter 119

After joining the test, YuWon was able to witness something amusing.

‘A self-proclaimed Kim YuWon...’

It was natural that there would be people who wanted to mimic famous people. The situation right now was something like that.

He was probably an impersonator who appeared because Kim YuWon hadn't attempted the tests in a long while.

‘He looks pretty similar to me.’

His face looked like it was copied with a skill or something as it was a near-perfect replica of the original. A part of his head looked a little off though since it looked like the imposter couldn't perfectly copy his hair style.

However, there probably weren't that many people who would doubt him because of something like that. And that guy also had the 「Pyromancy Robe」 he had been wearing until not long ago.

‘It doesn't matter.’

Whether there was an imposter or not, YuWon didn't pay much mind to it. It would become a problem if that guy continued to climb the Tower and do bad things, but it wasn't all too bad. As that guy climbed the Tower, he would attract the attention of Olympus at some point, and until that guy was discovered as just an impersonator, YuWon would be able to quietly climb the Tower himself.

However...

‘He instantly found a Doppelganger?’

Kim YuWon became curious about the imposter who he had thought was just normal.

‘What tricks did he use?’

It definitely wasn't that easy to find a Doppelganger like that. As a monster related to demons, to find them, you either had to be lucky to have a player who had light-attribute skills in your party or just suspect everyone and fight each other until all the Doppelgangers were found.

Kim YuWon had decided to observe him for a bit since there was no need to complete this test quickly. However...

‘He’s better than I thought.’

The imposter he observed for an entire day was quite skilled. His expression control was top tier, and his voice was also full of confidence without faltering. He was the spitting image of what people thought when they heard ‘Kim YuWon.’ Seeing him move when he went for the Doppelganger, he was pretty skilled as well.

Well, that was probably why he was even able to plan to act like he was YuWon. This guy was definitely able to perform the role of ‘Kim YuWon,’ and he was reaping the benefits of it. If this test ended well, the big guilds would probably move again to acquire this Kim YuWon.

He felt as if he was watching a child show off. However, there was a limit to how much a kid could show off before they crossed a line.

‘What? I thought he wasn’t an idiot...’

He thought the guy was smart, but that wasn’t the case.

YuWon grabbed the edge of the blade that was pointed at him.

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

“Kim... Yu... Won?”

‘Please, no.’ That was what the imposter’s trembling voice and shaky eyes were saying.

However, unfortunately for him, he had gone too far.

“I’ll see you later.”

Fwooosh—

[Cinder Eyes] lit up.

At that moment...

[Cinder Eyes reveals the truth.]

Crack, cra-cra-crack—

The face of the man who impersonated Kim YuWon started to split open.

“Ah, ahh, aaaaaaaaghh!”

Feeling the pain in his face, the man covered it with both his hands. His skin, no, the thin layer of leather that was on top of it was peeled away and fell on the ground.

Flop, plop—

The man whose face had been revealed covered his face with both his hands and struck his head on the ground.

It was a baffling situation.

The players who were surrounding them, watching the situation, all fell into stupor.

Just what was happening right now?

“Th-Then he was a fake?”

“Kim YuWon isn’t here?”

“No, doesn’t this mean that the guy over there is the real Kim YuWon?”

“Ah, that’s true...”

While they were trying to understand the situation, the man who was on the ground lifted his head.

“This bastard’s the fake!”

Through his split face, the pale face of a young man could be seen.

Sharp fragments of mana surrounded him. The mana that arose from insanity was much stronger than the mana of any of the other players.

“I’m the real one. I’m the real—!”

“Yeah, yeah.”

Crack—!

The man saw stars.

Crash—!

YuWon had kicked him in the head, and after he staggered a little, the color drained from his face, and he crumbled to the floor.

Flop—

“Take my name.”

“...”

“...”

A stillness overcame everyone.

It was one hit.

Just like the man who got kicked in the face, the other players that had all gathered around couldn’t understand what just happened. They could only recognize afterward that YuWon had somehow approached him and kicked him in the head.

“This part is sorted out...”

YuWon stopped caring about the guy who had collapsed on the ground. It was just a small commotion, and the test still hadn't ended yet.

"Have you been looking for who the Doppelgangers are?"

YuWon turned his eyes to the players who the previous fake YuWon had tried to kill.

They flinched under his gaze. They simultaneously had feelings of hope of finally being able to live and fear that now they would really die.

"I-It's really not me! Really!"

"It's not me either! I don't even know what a Doppelganger is!"

"I'll prove myself! What do I need to do?"

"My name is Myel, my hometown is..."

"I'm..."

A cacophony of voices were heard. Everyone was trying to prove their innocence.

YuWon seemed like he didn't really care about what they were saying and began to move.

Step—

As he approached them, their voices died down.

Were they really going to die here?

However, the target of their worries was moving somewhere else.

"...Huh?"

"Where is he going?"

After moving through the group of people, YuWon walked towards the other half of the players that had split off, the players who knew each other, the ones in teams.

Among them, YuWon approached Reinhar.

"We meet again."

"Ah, yes."

Reinhar nodded his head and greeted YuWon. He remembered him.

He had thought that he looked similar to Kim YuWon but didn't realize that he was the real one because of his clothes.

"Are you the real Kim YuWon?"

"Who I am isn't important to the test."

YuWon turned his head and looked around at the Reinhar's teammates.

His eyes turned red.

As Reinhar met those eyes, he felt uncomfortable, like he was being exposed.

“Why are you looking at me like...”

“Who are you?”

“What?” Reinhar questioned what he meant. However, he soon realized why YuWon was asking and smiled. “Are you suspecting me of being a Doppelganger?” He looked around at his party. “This is quite embarrassing. Guys, who am I?”

“You’re our team captain.”

“We vouch for him. He’s not a Doppelganger.”

“From before the test started until now, we haven’t been separated a single time, so I’m sure.”

“That’s right.”

The support from his party members. There was no clearer evidence than this.

All the players here had gathered with the single purpose of passing this test. Also, there was no reason to say they knew someone they didn’t and accidentally vouch for a Doppelganger.

However...

“Since you’re in a team, there’s no way that one of you would be a Doppelganger...”
YuWon reached his hand out towards Reinhar. “Is that really true?”

Shwooop—

Reinhar was startled and took a few steps back.

“Wh-What are you doing?”

He was startled again when he thought he had definitely dodged out of the way, but YuWon’s hand was right in front of his face.

Grab—

YuWon gripped Reinhar’s neck. His breathing became strained, and he felt like he was really going to die.

‘I can’t just die like this...!’

At that moment...

Snap—

Something broke in Reinhar’s mind. It was his human rationality, and with it, an explosive strength erupted from his body.

Reinhar’s eyes flashed open and he punched.

Swoosh—

Bang—!

Reinhar's hit landed on YuWon's side.

Explosive sounds were created as the mana-infused fist shook the air.

YuWon let go of him.

Reinhar's attacks had begun.

Clang, boom—!

A chain of punches were thrown.

The flow of his mana was unusual, and seeing this, his team members were all surprised.

"Uh, huh?"

"Captain?"

"Was he... always this strong?"

Since they knew him well, they were really surprised. Had he been hiding his true strength until now? If that was the case, then for what reason?

There was only one possibility.

"No way... Is he really a Doppelganger?"

White-washed eyes. An unusual flow of mana. Pale skin that was becoming even paler.

"Isn't this weird?"

YuWon dodged his attacks as he looked at the party members.

"Didn't you say you were together with him from the start?"

"We did say that..."

"Th-Then was he a Doppelganger since then?"

It was an odd situation. They definitely were with their team captain since before the test started. There was no chance that he could've been replaced by a Doppelganger. But then...

"I'm learning this for the first time as well."

Shwack—

YuWon's sword sliced between Reinhar's teammates.

"Did the Doppelganger who copied a player fool itself?"

Fwook—

"Huak!"

"Talial!"

Screams were heard from among the team as her head was blown off.

However, an unbelievable occurrence followed this.

Kyaaaaah—!

Glooop—

A scream of pain from being impaled by a sword and the white blood and liquid flesh that flowed away from it.

“...Uh?”

“T-Talia?”

Another one of their teammates had turned into a Doppelganger corpse and crumbled to the ground.

“How about showing yourselves now?” YuWon flicked off the clear Doppelganger blood that drenched his sword. “You Doppelgangers.”

Then...

“Krrk—”

“Kyaark—”

“Kyaaaaah—!”

Including Reinhar, all his teammates screamed monstrosly and clear liquid started to stream down their faces.

Doppelgangers. Monsters. No, demons that consumed the life of others and possessed their thoughts, emotions, and outer shells.

The test of the 21st Floor was the first time ‘demons’ would be revealed to everyone.

‘As it’s the first time, the death toll is high as well.’

Fwoosh—

[Cinder Eyes reveals the truth.]

YuWon’s eyes could see something.

The base form of the Doppelgangers who had consumed another’s life. After they turned into people, they had made themselves forget that they were Doppelgangers and entered the test.

Although they were demons, they were only low-ranking.

The reason this test was extended this much was because of that fake over there.

‘I’ll figure out the details later..’ YuWon appeared between the Doppelgangers. “Let’s start ending this test.”

Slash—

[Heaven Slaying Star’s completion rate has increased by 0.001%]

[Heaven Slaying Star’s completion rate has increased by 0.001%]

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

The messages kept ringing one after the other. It was a message that hadn't appeared when he was climbing Susanoo's Dungeon.

He was curious if the growth had completely stopped since the completion rate had not gone up at all, but now he could be certain of it. Killing an already dead thing that had become an Undead couldn't increase Heaven Slaying Star.

"O-Over there!"

"Th-The Crystal!"

Multiple players were running furiously towards the Crystal that was stationed at the center of the testing grounds.

They were Doppelgangers with white eyes, proof of being demons, and leaking demonic energy.

The Doppelgangers didn't just end with Reinhar and his party.

"Kyahak—!"

A Doppelganger that had used the chaos to attack the Crystal reached out its hand for it.

The moment the Crystal was destroyed, there wouldn't be a point to finding more Doppelgangers... because the test would end with failure.

But...

Stab—

Something stopped the hand of the Doppelganger that had reached for the Crystal.

It was an incorporeal flicker of a purplish flame.

[Heavenly Demon's Spirit]

Fwoosh—

Boom—!

YuWon's [Heavenly Demon's Spirit] that was protecting the Crystal lashed out at the Doppelganger and demolished it without mercy.

Chapter 120

His consciousness was faint.

In the darkness behind his eyes, one faint message could be heard.

[You have passed the test of the 21st Floor.]

[You are now able to move to the next floor.]

[Your level...]

The faint message felt like a hallucination.

Drip—

He felt something wet on his cheek, and his eyes naturally opened.

The first thing he saw was the black ceiling of the cave. It was the same place as the area of the 21st Floor's test.

'What... happened to the test?'

The man slowly opened his eyes more and looked around without moving his head. It didn't take long for his mind to wake as well.

"You awake?"

"Uwak!"

Because he could see YuWon's face right next to his. The real Kim YuWon was right in front of his eyes.

There was no way he wouldn't be surprised since he just took the test while impersonating him.

"K-Kim Yu..."

He couldn't bare to say his name.

"Name," YuWon said.

"Wh-What?"

"What's your name?"

"M-Mamos."

Fwooosh—

Staring into YuWon's eyes that were like roiling flames, Mamos flinched.

It happened last time as well, but oddly, whenever he saw those eyes, he felt as if he was being seen through.

"Since the test is finished now, it doesn't look like you're a Doppelganger..." YuWon furrowed his brow. "But it's not like you're not a Doppelganger.. What are you?"

"I... am a Doppelganger."

"You are?"

"Yes. But it's true that I'm a player as well."

An existence that was both a player and a Doppelganger. Hearing his answer, YuWon could only make a certain conclusion.

"You have demonic blood in you."

"...Yes."

A demon player.

He knew something was off. His identity was definitely that of a Doppelganger when seen through [Cinder Eyes,] but he felt different than the other Doppelgangers.

He looked more tricky to figure out, and his intelligence also seemed to be higher. On top of that, the Doppelganger had transformed into a player who was already taking the test, and from what YuWon knew, this had never happened before.

“Which bloodline are you from? You don’t look like a normal Doppelganger.”

The guy’s disguise was nearly perfect. Including his voice and outer appearance, he even had an incredible level of a transformation skill that even [Cinder Eyes] couldn’t perfectly see through. This wasn’t the skill level a player on the 21st Floor could have.

“My father... is him.”

“‘Him’?”

“Belial... King of Doppelgangers.”

Belial. It was a name he knew. No, it was a name he couldn’t not have known.

‘High-Ranker Belial. The King of Doppelgangers and the Monarch of Lies. One of the “Seven Demon Kings” of the major guild Demon Kings.’

A pretty big demon, bigger than expected, was behind Mamos. Just the strength of the guild, the Demon Kings, were comparable to Olympus. And if this guy was from Belial’s bloodline, his existence was no different than Hargaan’s.

Of course, unlike Olympus, there were many monarchs in Demon Kings.

“Why is a guy like you doing something like this here?”

“It’s hard to explain.”

Mamos scratched his head, seemingly finding it difficult to explain.

Pale and clear skin on top of a baby face. He looked like a child in their mid-teens. It was difficult to imagine that this guy was the bloodthirsty being that intended to kill all those players just earlier.

‘He’s not lying.’

If he was lying, there would have been no way to explain Mamos’s Doppelganger skills and his proficiency with them.

“Um, I know I shouldn’t really be saying this in this situation...” Mamos hesitated for a second, checking YuWon’s reaction. “But I’m a fan. Really.”

“A fan?”

“Yes. From even before the Grand Martial Arts Tournament, I became a fan from seeing your rankings. After seeing you fight in the Tournament, I became a true fan.”

“...?”

The sparkle in Mamos’s eyes said enough for him.

It was an unexpected story, but he didn't seem to be lying either.

[Cinder Eyes reveals the truth.]

YuWon was still maintaining [Cinder Eyes.] It had the ability to deduce the truth from a target's words even if they intended to lie from the start.

But Mamos had spoken so transparently about this.

'This was quite unexpected.'

The thought appeared in YuWon's mind that maybe the reason this guy impersonated him wasn't just to have an advantage during the test. Mamos certainly had the skills to pass the test of the 21st Floor easily without having to necessarily impersonate him. He, who was born from a royal demonic bloodline, was strong enough to compare against most players in the higher floors.

"I'm not saying to go easy on me because I'm your fan. I know what I did was wrong..." Mamos scratched his head in shame and bowed his head with a wry smile. "I'm sorry. I really won't do it again. I'll reflect on it."

YuWon narrowed his eyes and said in a heavy, intimidating tone, "Did you not think that I might kill you for this?"

"If you were going to do that, you wouldn't have waited for me to wake up."

YuWon smiled slightly.

The guy at least had some wits. Even if this guy was a young child, blood never lied. He didn't know why a Demon King's offspring was running around in a place like this, but it was worth waiting for him to wake up.

"You owe me your life now."

"...?"

Mamos had a doubtful expression as he watched YuWon stand up. He thought that since YuWon let him live, he would want something from him.

It was then...

"Give me your number."

"Huh?"

Number?

YuWon handed the baffled Mamos his player kit.

"I'll spare you, so help me with one thing."

* * *

Translator - Jreaming

Proofreader - BringTheRayn

* * *

It had now been a month since he received Mamos's player kit number.

The world received the news that Kim YuWon had resumed his climb of the Tower.

After waking from sleep, YuWon opened his eyes.

Vwooong—

His player kit vibrated.

A message sent by Mamos. The 'Salute!' at the end felt a little awkward.

YuWon felt that he may not have just said that he was a fan to save his life.

"He's kinda annoying."

YuWon let out a deep sigh, poured out a glass of water, and drank it. He flipped to the next page on the player kit's screen.

Flick, click—

He had searched the remaining test schedules.

The 22nd, 23rd, and 24th Floors. The tests remaining to get to the 25th Floor were these ones.

'If I don't fail any of them, I should be able to finish all three tests in the next ten days.'

Although he said that, YuWon naturally wasn't thinking of what to do if he failed.

They were still only tests on the floors in the 20s. Unless a Ranker at the level of Theseus interfered, the tests themselves weren't really that hard.

The test schedule wasn't bad at all.

Since Olympus wasn't run by idiots, they would have no choice but to be more wary of the Administrators. And about this time, Zeus and Poseidon's battle of wits would be in full swing.

'There's one more thing.'

YuWon discovered another message that arrived in his player kit.

It was a name he hadn't seen in a while.

He who had sent messages pretty regularly up until the Grand Martial Arts Tournament had just sent a message for the first time in a long time.

"...?"

It was an invitation out of the blue.

Hargaan had increased the speed at which he was climbing the Tower. Unlike YuWon who put effort into each and every one of his floor tests to get the best grades, Hargaan was aiming to become a Ranker as fast as possible.

Coming down to the 22nd Floor was a long way down for Hargaan.

‘Did something happen?’

There were a few days before he could take the tests, and he also had nothing special to do before arriving in Britain.

YuWon replied to Hargaan’s message.

Since he had already climbed past the 22nd Floor, Hargaan seemed to be pretty knowledgeable about the lay of the land.

If it was a beach club, YuWon had a few that he had in mind as well. It was a spot on the 22nd Floor famous for their coffee.

After quickly washing himself, YuWon immediately went to the meeting place.

On the terrace that was situated on the outside, Hargaan had already ordered a drink and was waiting for him.

“You’re here?”

The coffee that looked to be YuWon’s had steam gently coming off the top. In comparison, Hargaan’s looked to be quite mellow and also nearly empty.

YuWon sat opposite Hargaan and asked him, “When did you get here?”

“A little while ago.”

“Why alone?”

“I didn’t have anything to do, so it’s just for a change of pace.”

Hargaan spoke as he pulled out a cigar from his pocket. A thick cigar. It was the first time YuWon had seen him with one.

“Did you smoke before?”

“I did. Although, it was only one or two a year.”

“Then why now?”

“Just ‘cause. I remembered.”

Bzzt, crackle—

As Hargaan flicked his finger, the end of the cigar caught on fire. A thick smoke was produced, and Hargaan awkwardly spat out the smoke that had accumulated in his mouth.

“How far did you climb?”

“Me? The 34th Floor.”

“You’re fast.”

“It’s a problem from here on out. It’s getting more difficult to climb.”

He was complaining out loud, but being able to get to the 34th Floor already was incredibly fast. There probably wasn’t a High-Ranker in history who was able to have climbed as fast as him.

“Being excessively humble isn’t good.”

“I’m not really humble. I know that I’m good. And is that something you should be saying?”

“True.”

It was a trivial thing.

YuWon took another sip of coffee to refresh his mind and asked, “But what are you doing on such a low floor? It doesn’t look like you’re just here to see me either.”

“The Stone of the Sea. I heard you have it?”

YuWon nodded.

It was something those that should know already knew. Especially for someone like Hargaan, who had some influence within Olympus, there was no way he wouldn’t know. That was why there was no reason to deny or hide it.

“I don’t know if you knew, but thanks to you, Olympus is in a mess right now.”

“A mess?”

“The relationship between my father and uncle is destroyed. Because of that, the mood these days is a bit restless.”

Although he said it in a joking tone, it couldn’t be taken lightly. The ones Hargaan was talking about were Zeus and Poseidon, and those two had enough power and authority to shake the Tower itself. But if the relationship between them had broken, it was practically an omen that great chaos would sweep through the Tower.

“Well, because of that, you’ll be safe for a bit. But that’s fleeting as well.”

“I know.”

“You... You might really die.”

Hearing Hargaan’s words, YuWon put down his cup.

Hargaan continued, “Make a choice now at least. Bring the Stone to Olympus and lower your head or find a place that can protect you, like Asgard or the Heavenly Realm.”

“Are you done?”

“What?”

“If you’re done talking, I’m leaving. It’s not something I want to hear either.”

“That’s not what I’m... Haah...” Hearing YuWon’s stern response, Hargaan scratched his head hard and asked while throwing a fit, “Hey, are you really gonna do this?”

“I feel like I’ve said the same thing multiple times. Then have you made your choice as well?”

“I wouldn’t even be saying this if I didn’t.”

Although Hargaan spoke in a grumbling tone, he wasn’t wrong. From the start, just for the fact that he was close to YuWon, it couldn’t be helped that Hargaan’s position within Olympus was becoming shaky.

He had made up his mind to stand on the side completely opposite to Zeus.

“The 25th Floor.”

YuWon’s brows twitched.

Again...

“In there, be especially careful of Britain’s heart.”

Again, Britain was mentioned.

“Because that place is a giant ‘net’ made to catch you.”