

With The Gods 181

Chapter 181

The Lightning Bolt (Thunder Bolt) was in his hand, but it was difficult to use it.

Clack-.

An object that was not under his control.

It was as if to say, you can't be my master.

'I'll have to give up using it for now'.

A glowing golden orb.

Yuwon had never used this kind of object before.

How the hell did Zeus get this thing in his eye and use it?

He put it in his hand, but hesitated for a moment.

'The whole point of stealing the Thunderbolt (Lightning) is for me to use it.

Weakening Zeus' power simply to catch him is half the result.

Besides, since the Thunderbolt represented all of Olympus, its power was greater than anything YuWon had ever acquired.

Arguably, this item was Hephaestus' greatest masterpiece.

Pajjik-!

[The 'Thunderbolt' refuses to be used]

[The 'Blessing of the Sea' fails in its resistance].

"Mmm....."

An exhilarating feeling coursed through his body.

Even Triaina's skill, Blessing of the Sea, was ineffective at this moment.

Triaina was of water attribute.

It was the opposite of Lightning, which had the power of lightning.

'Does this mean I can't handle it with the pieces I have?'

Of course, there are cases where an item can mask its owner.

If it was an ego-shaped item that the player had created and managed, it was quite possible that the player would choose and reject the owner.

However, at least as far as YuWon knew, the Lightning Bolt was not that kind of item.

So there was only one thing he could think of.

'Zeus' influence still lingers.'

The Thunderbolt was an object that Zeus had been working with for thousands of years.

What's more, it had become part of Zeus' body as his prosthetic eye.

It was very likely that Zeus' influence would endure, imposing restrictions on the conditions of activation.

'Does that mean it can't be activated unless you have Zeus's mana?' he didn't expect that.'

Difficult activation conditions.

I could handle it eventually if I took the trouble to tame it, but right now I couldn't use it.

I was disappointed.

I really wanted to try Lightning right away.

Fazizit-.

It was then...

In the sky.

In the thick, dark clouds, created by the power of Zeus.

The clouds were thick and familiar, as if thunder was about to break out at any moment.

'Is it the Lightning?'

I could feel a kind of Arcane Power I had not felt before.

Zeus unleashed the power of the Lightning.

All the remnants of the lightning in that cloud belonged to Zeus.

'Maybe...'

There was also Hargaan in those clouds.

He might be exhausted from his role now, but he was riding the Chariot of the Sun.

If it's him...

"Pandora."

Pandora, who had repositioned her broken arm upon hearing YuWon's words, turned her head away.

She was too broken to fight anymore.

"Throw me."

"Throw you...?"

She had a look on her face that said, Why, where?

YuWon looked up and pointed at the clouds. Pandora approached him with an indecipherable face.

"Really?"

"Yes. As far up as you can. Up there."

No matter how powerful YuWon's jump was, he couldn't reach the top of the clouds. If he used Cloud Steps, he could jump upwards, but there was no way he could reach the clouds in five seconds.

Pandora, on the other hand...

Chak.

Pandora grabbed YuWon's arm.

She didn't need to prepare, but was quicker than she thought.

"I'll throw you."

"Huh? Already?..."

Boooooong-!

The sight changed in an instant.

It had been a long time since she had felt like she was flying so high, defying gravity.

"This..."

YuWon quickly balanced himself in the air.

['Cloud Steps' are activated]

[Increases movement speed by 100% for 5 seconds]

[Can step on the sky for 5 seconds]

['Ash Eyes' read the path]

After balancing...

Yu-Won used his Ash Eyes to verify the location of the Sun Chariot.

It wasn't hard to reach.

"Ugh....."

Hargan was lying on top of the Sun Chariot.

Half dazed, he barely got up when he saw YuWon.

"Uh, uh, uh...? Kuk, is it over already?"

"Go to sleep, there."

He didn't need Hargan's help anyway.

The Lightning Fragment he possessed was quite large, but it wasn't the 'fragment' he had to deal with now, it was the 'body' itself.

'The power I can use is a very small part of it, but....'

Clak-.

The sound of thunder in the clouds.

'Rather, for now, it's much better for me on this side, where Lightning can't hear me.'

The Thunderbolt wanted a familiar power.

At this moment, he realized just by looking at his intense desire for the remnants of the Thunderbolt stretched out around him.

It was the power that Zeus had unleashed with his lightning bolts.

Liu Yuan used the Lightning towards that power.

Cre-akle.

[The 'Lightning' reacts to the 'Remnants/Remnants of the Lightning']

It was a different reaction from before.

So far, the guy who was dissatisfied with YuWon and vehemently rejected it began to devour the remnants of the power it exuded.

The remnants of the Thunderbolts came together.

The huge Thunderbolt unleashed by Zeus, which had remained in the clouds, began to coalesce around the Thunderbolt in YuWon's hand.

"Kugh..."

Standing atop the Sun Chariot and holding the Thunderbolt, YuWon's hands trembled with power.

This power was not something he was capable of in the first place.

It was daunting just being around it, let alone using it.

But that was all the more reason to endure it.

['Mana Master' resists 'Lightning Bolt'].

[Mana damage is reduced]

[Your 'Lightning Fragment' resists the power of 'Lightning'].

[Resistance to Lightning Attribute is increased].

Fortunately, he had quite a bit of Lightning Attribute Resistance.

The Mana Master's influence was also quite helpful. Thanks to this, YuWon would have an easier time dealing with this lightning.

'Now I have to give it a form.'

The accumulation of power had been a success.

Now the question was how and in what form to release it.

Now it was all a matter of imagination.

And the cohesion of the mana was important.

'Shape, shape...'

As for the form, it would be good if it was something familiar.

A sword, then.

But he didn't know how it would look if he wielded it against Zeus in this situation.

And he didn't know if he would feel comfortable wielding something of such immense power.

'Then again.

A spear would be better.

The Thunderbolt would probably feel more comfortable with that.

Fajijit-!

A lightning spear began to form in Yuyuan's hand.

Literally, the Lightning began to take shape.

A thrilling sensation coursed through his body.

The taste of blood lingered in his mouth.

[You have created a 'Lightning Bolt' for the first time]

[The 'Lightning Bolt' recognizes you a little bit].

A laugh burst from within at the message that came to his mind.

'Do you really have an Ego?' (Note: Ego means rationality, i.e., that you can think like an intelligent creature).

Before the Regression, it was an object that had disappeared with the death of Zeus.

YuWon smiled at the slight feeling of betrayal (?) and put strength into the hand that held the spear.

Kwak-.

'I can only throw one shot.'

He could no longer feel his arm.

Looking down, he saw Zeus rising through the sea of Poseidon.

And just in time...

As if on cue, Zeus was watching him too.

'The power you've been wielding...'

YuWon's body tightened like a bowstring.

His javelin technique was surpassed only by his swordplay.

'Take it.'

The moment the Lightning Bolt was flung from Yuwon's hand....

Flash-!

A bright golden light enveloped the World.

* * *

Pak-.

The sea water fell into a deep well.

It was as if another huge ocean had been created.

The deafening roar had long since ceased. Poseidon and Hades reeled under the impact of the Thunderbolt.

"What power..."

"Is this, the Arcane Power of Zeus?"

The two men were clearly brothers, born on the same ship as Zeus.

However long they had been together, it was impossible for them not to know the nature of each other's Arcane Power.

The two men raised their heads and looked up.

The place where the lightning had struck.

YuWon's figure, teetering atop the Sun Chariot, looking down.

It wasn't hard to realize what had happened.

'He managed to deal with Zeus' Lightning.'

'So it's not an incomprehensible situation, but...'

Hades stuck out his tongue at what was happening.

'Still, it's impressive.

Lightning may have won, but his opponent was Zeus.

YuWon had harnessed an enormous amount of Arcane Power that most Player Rankers would have trouble even coming close to.

How much control did it take to control that tremendous Arcane Power?

If it was him, would he be able to control it?

Hades wasn't sure.

'This isn't simply a matter of being strong or weak.'

It is an ability that can only be mastered by those who have wielded High Rank items, such as Lightning, and have very high level skills, such as Zeus.

A skill that can only be used by those who have mastered the power of first level items such as Lightning and high rank items such as Zeus.

Right now, YuWon had put it into practice with his own hands.

With this blow, Hades' perception of YuWon changed in an instant.

From an exceptional player who was hiding something, to something else.

He was even afraid now.

Because the person who could even get his hands on the Lightning couldn't imagine how far he would go.

And then it happened.

"Whoa-."

After casting the lightning, YuWon staggered for a moment, sweat pouring down his forehead like rain.

The amount of Arcane Power was too much for his body to bear. No matter how hard he tried to control it, the effects of the electric shock were unavoidable.

But no.

It was a miracle.

Throw a beam of this caliber with your current stats.

'Still not enough.'

I know it was greed.

I was only on the 40th Floor.

And yet, at this moment, I was looking up at a very high place.

Zeus.

A high-level High Rank, in the same league as his former self.

Comparing himself to Zeus was greedy, and he knew it.

But...

'I can still be greedy.'

The progress of the plan was much faster than he expected.

Originally, the destruction of Olympus, which he thought would only be completed right after he became a Ranker, was just around the corner.

Moreover, he had now taken another path of growth that was not planned.

'I've cornered you long enough...'

Pajik, Pajik-.

In the sea of currents that had not yet been extinguished.

[The 'Ash Eyes' reveal the truth.]

'Now is the time to bring it out, Zeus.'

Yuwon looked into the eyes of Zeus, which floated into him.

Those eyes were not yet closed.

Then.

Kak-.

Zeus' eyes closed.

And just for a moment...

The lightning beside him retreated, and his one remaining pupil slowly opened.

'Finally.

Violet eyes.

A faint hint of an Outside force could be felt within that eye.

Like Pandora's Box, something that Chaos Fool, who was in the Tower, had planted in her body.

A fragment.

"Baaaah!"

Danpung cheered at the appearance of those eyes.

Now, a word of warning.

Just eat slowly, so you don't get a stomachache.

Chapter 182

Pandora shuddered.

No, she was shaking.

She couldn't figure out why she was doing it all of a sudden. The shaking started slowly, then accelerated endlessly.

'W-Why?'

The struggle seemed to be over.

An endless, deep well.

Lightning with enough power to blow up several cities fell on Zeus' head.

Without the Thunderbolt, Zeus was weakened, while Poseidon and Hades were stronger than ever.

Worst of all, Zeus was now powerless to stop Hercules.

'But why...'

She wondered why Zeus' helplessness made her feel afraid.

Crouching and trembling, Pandora finally looked up.

The clouds had changed color.

The sky turned purple, as did the earth.

The air was vaguely familiar.

'The Box.'

A nightmarish memory suddenly came to her mind.

Pandora's face went white.

'This is....'

The same day she opened the box Zeus had given her.

Terrible forces and all kinds of negative emotions emanated from the box, and Pandora stepped in and out briefly.

'It's just like when I opened the box.'

* * *

Swoosh-.

Zeus, floating on the surface of the sea, stood up.

Poseidon, who thought the fight was over, rose with his trident.

"If I had known he was so persistent, his rating would have gone up another digit."

Now he was a dying man.

Poseidon intended to do the final finishing himself.

'If I kill him with my own hands, my ranking will go up a little.'

It would take quite some time to get out of Asgard's prison, but he could endure that long.

After all, power in this Tower was determined by ranks.

Killing Zeus and improving his ranking would finally allow him to move on.

Kwok-.

Then Poseidon approached Zeus.

At that moment...

"Wait."

Hercules stepped in Poseidon's way.

Poseidon frowned.

"Still, he's still the father who gave birth to you, and you're going to be greedy with his life?"

Seeing the greed in those eyes, Hercules asked with a disgusted face.

"Aren't you my father's brother?"

"Then you want me to spare his life?"

"Not so..."

Hercules saw Pandora tremble in the distance, and read the churning air.

"This is strange."

"Strange?"

"It's grown back. My father."

"He's grown back?"

It was something he couldn't understand.

Even if it was Zeus, he had lost his Thunderbolt and had become a mess.

If he's the Zeus of now, even Hercules could handle him on his own.

'But what did he say, that he's grown back?'

Poseidon looked at Zeus and saw no change in his appearance.

At most, he had gone from lying down to standing upright, but without his Thunderbolt, Zeus was still ugly and unsightly.

His greed did not disappear.

Poseidon turned up the tide.

Bang-.

"If you don't do it you-".

"Uncle!"

Poseidon rode the waves toward Zeus.

Hercules reached out his hand toward Poseidon, but Poseidon, already riding the current, was far away.

"I'll do it."

Chak-.

The tip of the trident pointed at Zeus' head.

The sea rose, water gathered at the tip of the spear, and the immense pressure of the water seemed to split Zeus' head in half in an instant.

But the next moment...

Swoosh-.

Zeus looked up, his eyes locked onto Poseidon's, and he froze in place.

'Wh-what.'

His eyes turned purple.

Poseidon had never seen those eyes on Zeus before.

It wasn't just a color change.

Unlike his original eyes, which contained infinite power, it was another force beyond his understanding.

At that moment...

Poseidon saw Zeus as something else entirely.

A monster that could swallow oceans whole.

Or a scorching sun that returned all the oceans to nothingness.

He literally had before him his own "monster," one whose very existence was its antithesis.

And so

Jjeouk-.

The monster slowly opened its mouth in front of him.

Kwareung-!

A lightning bolt fell from the sky.

It was much less powerful than the first one, but the flash in front of him brought Poseidon to his senses.

An unfamiliar back appeared between Zeus and Poseidon.

"Please step away."

"Kim YuWon?"

A person who fell with the lightning.

It was Kim YuWom, the man who had thrown the Lightning Bolt at Zeus.

"This is my opponent."

Gulp-.

The tension from a moment ago was nowhere to be found.

Instead, Poseidon questioned Yuwon's words.

'I admire your skills, but.... Facing him yourself?'

YuWon's skills definitely surpassed most Rankers.

No, it's more than surpassing them, it's enough to convince him that he had reached the High Rankers.

He even had Lightning, so there was no doubt of his ability.

But the opponent was Zeus.

A single-digit High Rank.

Now that he had lost his lightning, his rank would be much lower, but it was clear that he was still in the rank of the Three Gods.

YuWon was still no match for Zeus.

In an all-out war, he would be dead in a matter of seconds.

Of course.

'I will not stand up to Zeus.'

That was something YuWon knew.

He was no match for Zeus yet. Even having the Lightning in his possession.

The opponent was a High Rank with high stats, enough to have a single digit ranking.

It was still too much for him.

Therefore, at this point, YuWon had a clear idea of what he had to do.

'What I have to do is...'

A violet color flashed in Zeus' eyes.

Looking at it, he saw a landscape of despair.

It had no particular shape.

He had seen this kind of Outlander before.

'It is a hard nut for a first-timer to crack. For all living men fear an opponent beyond common sense and perception.'

This power of Zeus was not just big and intimidating.

The essence of it, if you look at it deeply, was not so difficult to understand.

Fear of the unknown. Confusion about the unknown.

Zeus merely threw a sharp jab into the breach.

'Have you managed to control it?'

If so, this was truly remarkable.

In the first place, it was nothing more than a seed sown by Chaos Fool, waiting for chaos in the Tower.

It could not be controlled, and was not meant to be controlled.

But to plant such power in his eyes and use it.

It was to the point of admiring Zeus' abilities again.

He didn't move up the rankings for nothing.

He was currently in ninth place.

Later, he jumped four spots to fifth place, and it wasn't just because of the power of the Outsider.

The reason was simple.

Zeus.

Because he himself was just as powerful.

'He'll certainly be much easier to catch now than he was then.'

Yuwon looked at Zeus without avoiding his eyes.

In those eyes, Poseidon must have seen what he feared most.

And that was the most terrifying thing about that power.

On the other hand...

YuWon was familiar with that power.

'It's fake anyway.

The Outsiders, the beings outside the Tower, outside the conglomeration of worlds.

Their greatest fear was when they failed to 'understand' something.

It was the same with YuWon.

They had fought countless times, for so long, and he still hadn't understood them.

However....

That did not frighten him.

'Not worthy of fear...'

YuWon had lost too much, the experiences he had been through were not easy.

'Just a bigger fish than normal.'

YuWon had seen worse despairs.

Foolish Chaos, Swampy Frustration, Stupid Catastrophe....

And Despair That Closes the Sky.

Yes...

When it came to despair, there was no existence beyond him.

Compared to that guy, this is just a nightmare.

A mirage, a dream that would vanish upon awakening.

YuWon looked at Zeus without averting his eyes.

And at that moment.

Boggle-.

Like Poseidon, YuWon was sucked into the endless abyss.

Deep.

Very deep.

YuWon was quite relieved to be disconnected from the World.

This way, he could really only fight the Outside, not Zeus.

'You made a mistake.

In a deep swamp...

What YuWon faced in the midst of that was a monster that could not be defined in just one way.

Jjeouk-.

The mouth of the monster, whose shape was hard to determine, swallowed YuWon whole.

It existed to devour this world. But its power was contained in the eyes of Zeus, and until now, it had been suppressed, unable to wreak havoc.

How long had it been?

The one who jumped like this and opened his mouth to covet something.

A form that was neither here nor there, a mixture of animals and monsters.

It was the desperation that YuWon hid within.

This indistinct form.

Because.

'Because someone like you wouldn't be able to understand what my despair is.'

Jeobuck, Jeobuck-.

YuWon took a step towards him.

The monster was inside him too.

And it was much bigger than him.

['The Predator' bared its teeth.]

But another monster started baring its teeth.

Danpung, which had taken the shape of an egg, appeared on YuWon's shoulder.

"Baat-."

Danpung greeted him with open arms.

He was like a child trying to reach a cute animal.

And at that moment...

Grr-.

The form of despair in front of YuWon retreated.

Transforming into countless forms that can't be counted, the guy threatened YuWon.

No.

Rather, he was protecting himself.

There was only one reason.

"Abaa-, baa-."

A tiny hand whined, trying to reach out to the Outsider.

But every time the hand came closer, it retreated a step.

It was like a frightened little animal.

'Are you being cautious with this guy?'

He was afraid of this little guy on his shoulder.

It seemed that Danpung's existence was really bad for them, the Outsiders.

Also.

And underneath such a creature...

Jjeouk-.

Something huge opened its mouth.

'Now I am the Predator, bigger than you.'

Kwadeuk-!

[Initiating 'Predation']

* * *

Zeus and YuWon were facing each other.

They were doing nothing, just staring at each other.

Poseidon questioned this strange situation.

It was short, less than a minute, but what the hell was going on?

"He says he's your opponent, and he's just standing there."

Poseidon looked at Zeus.

His eyes were unfocused.

Now, for some reason, he thought a surprise attack would work.

Of course, that was a thought in his head.

But no.

When he remembered what he had seen moments before, when he had charged with the same idea, he froze.

'What the hell was that?'

Until that was resolved, it was hard for Poseidon to move too fast.

Zeus' left eye.

He didn't know what that eye was hiding, but it's probably more dangerous than the Thunderbolt on the right.

He wondered how many minutes passed like that.

Thrrrrrr-.

Then Zeus' eyes, which were tinged with violet, began to turn black.

Chapter 183

Kwadeuk, Kwadeuk-.

Now I knew what those teeth were, chewing through the Exterior.

Predator.

An ability that belonged to Danpung and now belonged to YuWon.

But still, YuWon couldn't understand that.

'It's like they're fighting each other.'

That's what the first egg form was like.

Purple pattern.

And a familiar color that emerged as the hatching rate increased.

That led YuWon to believe that an Outsider would emerge from within.

Of course, the result was unexpected.

Who would have thought that a tiny child, barely the size of the palm of a hand, would emerge.

The Zeus Outer fought back furiously.

It was a very different reaction from the corpse of Yamata no Orochi, who was already dead, or Lancelot and Pandora, who were dying.

But...

No matter how much they fought, in the end, the position of Predator and prey would not change.

Kwazik-!

His head was being bitten off, and he was gradually becoming helpless.

Watching that scene, YuWon got goosebumps.

Could those teeth one day be directed against him?

If so, he would not allow it.

He had plenty of opponents to fight without the need for that, and he didn't want to have to face someone like that.

Dak, dak, dak, dak, dak.

Teeth paused for a moment as he engulfed the Outsider.

After a while, he turned his teeth in YuWon's direction.

I wonder if he's looking for another meal.

Or maybe.....

'Is he asking me to praise him for a job well done?'

Somehow, it felt different than before.

The strange alien creature seemed a little nicer at this point.

It wasn't hard to figure out why.

"Abba!"

Then, he climbed onto his shoulder, patted his belly and spoke excitedly.

This was him.

[The level of 'Danpung' has increased]

[The level of 'Danpung' has increased]

[The level of...]

[The Divine Power of 'Danpung' has increased by 15.]

[The growth rate has increased by 12.57%.]

[The Arcane Power has increased by 5.]

[You have defeated "The Dream-Devouring Despair".]

[You have acquired 300,000 points.]

Your first meal after hatching.

Satisfied, he quickly fell asleep. Hugging Danpung, who was swaying precariously and threatening to fall over, YuWon was lost in thought.

Five stat points.

That wasn't little, indeed, it was a lot.

So much that he wondered if it would be possible to get them so easily.

But at this moment, YuWon couldn't see anything like the five stat points.

'Divine Power...'

He wondered what that was for.

Only one stat was high.

First of all, Danpung didn't seem to fight in person. He used Predator to fight the Outsider, but that was only one of his skills.

Divine Power (神力).

Literally, the Power of the Gods.

Is this the power of the Outer Gods? We don't know much about that yet.

'I'll have to find out.'

After all, I had a lot of time to spend with this creature. What abilities it might possess, what divine powers it might have.

What it would look like when it finished growing.

These were all things only time would tell.

'Well, thanks to this...'

Grr-.

The curtain was lifted on the world that had turned purple.

'The biggest challenge was easily solved.'

The Outsider Zeus had.

His name was Dream-Devouring Despair.

It was so big and strong that even a High Ranked player would have difficulty facing it.

Therefore, it was unclear whether the current YuWon would be able to handle him, no matter how much experience he had in fighting Outsiders.

Normally, he would have joined Hercules and fought alongside him.

But thanks to an unexpected power, he had an easier way to fight the Outsiders.

Of course, the Outsiders he had faced so far were far inferior....

'But the test was a success.'

Now that he had confirmed it, he was relieved.

This power could certainly become a weapon that would help him greatly in the future.

And just like that, he came back to reality.

Thrrrrr-.

Zeus' eyes met his.

The world that was changed by those eyes returned to its original form.

And then...

The figure of Zeus, with black water flowing from one eye, entered YuWon's field of vision.

"You had it too."

Zeus' voice was calm, with no ups and downs.

But his yellow hair had turned white, as if bleached, and his face was pale as well.

- The Power of the Peak.

A voice echoed inside him.

Yuwon shook his head, realizing where Zeus was referring to.

".....?"

An expression of doubt crossed Zeus' face.

Surely he saw the Predator with YuWon, as a larger Outsider ate a smaller Outsider, and Zeus had seen it better than anyone else.

And yet YuWon denied it.

'Not from the Top...'

Yuwon moistened his lips and replied.

'From outside.

"Outside...?"

Apparently, Zeus had thought that the power he possessed came from the Top.

A piece of the Outside, given to him by Chaos Fool.

The higher power Zeus so craved was the power that would lead them to destruction in the distant future.

"Well, whatever, after all..."

Crunch-.

Zeus' hair crumbled helplessly as if it were drying.

"It's over."

All eyes turned to Zeus.

Poseidon, Hades, Pandora.

And Hercules.

Meeting their gazes one by one, Zeus lifted the corners of his mouth.

"Do they hate me?"

Tak-.

Hercules ground his teeth at that question.

Poseidon wielded his trident, and Pandora shook her head.

Each had come here for different reasons. Zeus knew that, but one thing was certain.

They were all his enemies.

"Then come at once."

Kwareung-!

A flash of lightning shot out of Zeus' hand.

Now that the Lightning and the power of the Outsider were gone.

All that was left of him was his naked body.

And at that moment...

Quang!

Hercules slammed his fist into Zeus, who was now completely naked.

* * *

The fight that followed was more of a battle between Zeus and Hercules.

Hercules, rolling his eyes, looked no further.

First of all, he was here to avenge his mother, Alcmene, rather than for any particular purpose.

Kwajik-!

Even if he didn't have the Thunderbolt, Zeus was Zeus.

Having lost both eyes, he fought none other than Hercules with only his naked body.

No.

Perhaps if his body had been fully intact, he would have been as good as Hercules in his own right.

'It's amazing again.'

YuWon looked at Zeus, who stumbled in front of Hercules.

The ground crumbled. The ground had cracked and the city was already gone.

Zeus, standing in the middle, closed his eyes and still maintained the dignity of a king.

"You wanted revenge, didn't you?"

He was clearly defeated.

As far as YuWon knew, there were no more hands left for Zeus.

He was already fighting a losing battle.

"Then there is no time to rest, my son."

"Are you really my father?"

"Your strength came from me."

Even up to this point, Zeus was proud of himself.

Of his power, to be precise.

His genes.

"That alone is reason enough for you to be grateful to me."

"That alone is enough to make you my father?"

"There are many people who would even give their lives for that. That's all, it's a pity."

He wasn't wrong.

Thoroughbred was not just a term used to describe a select group of players from an exceptional world.

They inherited the talent.

The talent to be great Players, to be great Rankers.

And in terms of talent alone, Hercules was at the top of the Tower.

It was a precious commodity that no amount of gold treasure could buy.

But...

"I see."

It was a short conversation, but the words hardened Hercules' heart.

"You are not worthy to be my father, to be a father in general."

That his relationship with Zeus was not one of father and son.

Boo-boo-.

Boom!

Hercules' fist slammed into Zeus' side. With a crunching sound, Zeus' body floated upward.

In this battle, Hercules had also been beaten to a pulp. But now, Zeus was in worse shape.

Kak-.

Squeezing his eyes shut, Zeus could barely hold his flying body.

It was the last dignity he had left as king.

A posture that would never be broken.

Right now, Zeus was struggling as he accepted death.

'My fight is over.'

YuWon turned away.

There was no place for him in this fight from now on.

There was no need or reason for it.

The Lightning he wanted was taken. The remnants of the Outsider that he considered troublesome had been devoured by the Predator.

Now all that remained was a battle between Hercules and Zeus, two father and son, and two enemies.

"Wait."

Just as he was about to turn around to leave....

"Don't you think you're leaving too fast? We have a lot to talk about."

An insidious voice was heard among the streams of water rising here and there.

YuWon sighed.

It wasn't that he hadn't expected it, but he hoped to avoid the annoyance if possible.

'I thought it was half and half...'

YuWon turned his head towards the person with the tousled blue hair.

Over six feet tall, with a handsome face that resembled the fighting Zeus over there.

He looked up to see blue eyes staring at him.

"Was there something we needed to talk about?".

Poseidon.

He, the Ruler of the Sea and one of the Three Gods of Olympus, was looking at him.

"I've never seen you before today."

If possible, he did not want to meet him (Poseidon) in this place.

As injured as he was, he was facing one of the Three Gods.

A top 100 player.

He wasn't ready to face him yet.

"Yes, I see you for the first time too."

Poseidon's eyes were filled with complex emotions.

Greed and resentment. Curiosity and fear.

All of it, directed at YuWon.

"Still, you have something of mine, so it's not like we're strangers."

"You mean the Sea Stone?"

"Yes. That."

It didn't take long, but Poseidon experienced the power of the Divine Sea Crystal.

The power was fascinating, and in fact, the Sea Stone was much more suitable for Poseidon than YuWon.

The value of an object depends on the person who uses it.

The reason why the Divine Sea Crystal fell into Poseidon's hands early on was for that good reason.

"Better yet, give me the Lightning."

Yuwon sighed at Poseidon's tone.

It didn't matter.

He had a reputation for being the toughest of the three, and there was no way he was going to settle for just a Sea Stone.

Maybe he thought he no longer needed it now that the fight was over.

Of course...

"If you need it that badly...."

Yuwon had no intention of giving it away so easily.

Pajik-.

An object that glowed with golden light and unleashed its own electricity....

Kuk-.

Gripping it tightly in his hand, Yuwon glared at Poseidon.

"Take it from me."

Chapter 184

"Take it from me."

Hearing that, it was Poseidon who was surprised by YuWon's confident attitude.

He could tell by the look on Zeus' face that this was no mere bluff.

'Do you have any other cards you haven't shown?'

Rather, it was Poseidon who was surprised to see YuWon come out with such confidence.

Obviously, his skills were still superior. However, YuWon had abilities that he could not comprehend.

And at the thought that even this scene could be on the board he had drawn, Poseidon felt a pang of worry.

But only for a moment...

'After all, he's bluffing.

In the first place, this fight should be won by him.

Hercules, who seemed to be YuWon's friend, was distracted by Zeus.

After the fight, there was a good chance that he would get out if he attacked YuWon.

Also, he would have to return to his prison in Asgard after this fight.

There was only one chance to get hold of the Lightning Bolt and the Sea Stone.

'It's now or never.

"As you say."

Bang-.

The moisture gathered around Poseidon, and the Arcane Power that had gathered dispersed and spread through the air.

'No regrets.

Kkuudeuk, kkudeuk-.

Poseidon's Arcane Power began to crush YuWon's body.

It wasn't a special ability.

It was water pressure.

'It has already begun.'

There was no need for a long fight.

No.

This was a fight that could not be won by prolonging it.

This battle must be as short as possible.

Poseidon knew that too.

Phaat-.

Poseidon's trident extended through the waves. At the same time, the armor around YuWon's body, Triaina, reacted.

Ung-.

The moisture dispersed in the air trembled.

Poseidon's influence and Triaina's influence collided.

The moisture was temporarily trapped.

Poseidon paused for a moment before swinging his trident again.

Boom-.

Boom!

The spearhead slammed into the ground, splitting it in three. It was then that Hades, who had joined Hercules in the fight against Zeus, became aware of Poseidon's actions.

"Poseidon!"

Hades turned around.

The fight with Zeus he could leave to Hercules for now.

For the current Zeus was at a level that Hercules could handle on his own.

But if his relationship with YuWon deteriorated in the future, Olympus could be in trouble.

'That stupid bastard...'

Poseidon gritted his teeth at Hades' reaction.

And so did Hades.

At this point, there really wasn't much time left.

'All that's left is...'

Gii-.

The Arcane Power that had paused for a moment began to move again.

Boggle, Boggle-.

The sea shook. The sea churned as if it were alive, and soon it was moving as if it were angry.

The waves moved along the tip of the spear.

Now there was only one way out.

'A frontal assault.'

All he could do was crush YuWon to death and take everything he had.

Chaaaaaaaaah!

A huge wave engulfed him.

It swallowed YuWon like a monster's mouth.

Even with Triaina's power, the opponent was Poseidon.

An opponent who could not disperse Arcane Power as easily as Theseus.

'Frontal attack...'

Poseidon's thoughts were as clear as the palm of his hand.

It wasn't a bad idea.

When you're in a hurry, like now, going straight is better than circling.

If so, now was the time to respond in kind.

Pajik-.

A Lightning bolt moved in his hand.

It was speaking to him.

He could fight.

'...Let's go all out.'

The situation wasn't bad.

Even Poseidon couldn't unleash his full power while under Triaina's influence.

Besides, he was holding a lightning bolt in his hand, an object with the opposite attribute of water.

Pajik-!

[Creating a 'Lightning Bolt']

['Kyneē' reacts with 'Lightning']

The lightning bolt in his hand turned black.

YuWon's hand stretched forward.

And the next moment...

Purrrrrrrr-!

Poseidon's wave crashed into YuWon.

* * *

Pow!

The wave crashed into the ground. The turbulent waters crushed the rocks to dust and pushed the ground down.

With a single wave of his hand, Poseidon changed the landscape.

Hades ran toward him.

"Poseidon!"

With a thud...

Hades grabbed Poseidon by the neck and lifted him up.

Although it wasn't enough compared to the Mana he normally wields, but with this power, some High Ranks would be crushed to death.

"You bastard, how dare you do this..."

YuWon was the benefactor of Olympus.

Thanks to him, Hercules was able to find his way and avoid a great war that would have stained the tower with blood.

He was able to do the impossible: destroy Olympus.

But to think that Poseidon would kill YuWon with his own hands.

Hades' eyes flashed with rage.

But then...

"...No."

"What?"

Hades studied Poseidon's expression.

Poseidon's eyes wavered.

The man who had been on top of the world a moment ago muttered helplessly to himself.

"I failed."

"You failed?"

Hades turned his head.

To the place where Yuwon had been.

A line had risen where the giant waters had fallen.

It was a familiar scene.

'No way...'

Zeus blocking Poseidon's currents with one hand and parting the sea.

His figure was superimposed on that of a single human.

Bang-.

In the rippling water.

YuWon walked out. Hades felt a shiver run down his spine when he saw the figure walk out.

-I see it and I don't believe it.

His first meeting with Kim YuWon.

That first encounter was something to behold now.

-Wow, this guy really stopped Zeus's lightning.

I had high hopes for him, but he fell far short of his expectations.

But that was only for a moment.

Then he captured Ares, persuaded Hercules, won Pandora to his side, and now he had survived Poseidon.

One amazing thing after another.

That wasn't the only thing.

This whole battle unfolded like a painting he had drawn.

He himself was no exception.

So he thought he was just a guy with a brain.

But that wasn't all.

'It's not like he has talent...'

Her Manna's concentration was nowhere near what it had been when she first met him.

In that brief moment, he had changed completely.

'Decided.'

Hades had made up his mind.

He would never be Kim YuWon's enemy.

It was then that the ground shook once again.

Quang-!

Woosh!

Zeus' body fell like a meteorite. Hades saw Hercules staggering in the distance.

'Looks like he's finished too.'

Hercules looked relatively unharmed, although he had burns all over his body from the lightning.

Zeus, on the other hand, was already shattered. He was no longer moving, perhaps unconscious.

'Hercules.'

After the 1st Gigantomachy, Hercules was inactive.

As such, his ranking was on par, if not above, that of the Three Gods.

But hey.

A thousand years was enough to completely change Hercules, which Hades knew.

'That kind of power without having a proper object in his hands. He's a monster.'

Even without Zeus or Poseidon, the future of Olympus was still not so bleak.

Now that everything was upside down, it was time to start over.

It was then.

Boom!

The sky opened wide.

The dark clouds lifted, and a bright light shone down from above.

"I see they've arrived."

YuWon looked up.

The guild that was most interested in this fight.

Moreover, the guild that had the deepest motives to get involved in this fight.

Kik-!

Led by dozens of white horses, several huge ships descended to the ground.

'Asgard'.

They knew about the destruction of Olympus. Moreover, Asgard was aware of the existence of the Second Gigantomachy and was on guard.

'That's it?'

YuWon studied Poseidon's face.

His face was white.

His appearance meant only one thing to him.

'Locked up again.'

It was a little later than expected, and Poseidon was furious for a moment.

Asgard never released a prisoner once they were captured. Now that the fight was considered over, it was only a matter of time before the Asgardians got Poseidon back.

Bam-.

Poseidon's teeth gnashed.

Not the Thunderbolt, not the Sea Stone, not nothing.

It was Hercules who had captured Zeus.

He had failed to seize this golden opportunity to escape from prison.

'I can't go on like this.'

I had to buy time.

Poseidon carefully swung his trident.

It would take a mighty blow to get him out of here.

Woof-.

Power gathered at the tip of the spear.

At the flow of Arcane Power and the hostility contained within it, the horses descending to the ground began to scramble.

Kkikk-!

Dozens of white horses.

Towards the Valkyries, the tip of Poseidon's spear moved.

Fuhuaak-!

Hundreds of thousands of tons of water surged upward along the spearhead.

A chance.

This chance bought him time, if only for a moment.

And Poseidon knew it, that this was all he needed to escape.

He quickly jumped into the current.

Poseidon's body glided over the current.

And distanced himself at an astonishing speed.

And so Poseidon tried to escape the Asgardians' grasp.

"Where are you going-!"

Flash-!

Over Poseidon's head, a bolt of blue lightning exploded.

BANG!

"Ugh!"

Poseidon's body reeled from the impact he felt on his head. The water that had been moving with his Mana dispersed, and his body slumped forward.

Watching from afar, YuWon sighed.

'There's no way he can escape.'

Asgard was no fool.

Poseidon might be a sinner, but he was one of the Three Gods.

To catch such a Poseidon, there was no way they would just send the Valkyries.

Of course, they should have sent a Ranker that matched their level.

Yuwon looked at the man who had just brought down Poseidon's head.

'Still, I can't believe it's Thor.'

Gold-colored hair. A chiseled jaw and a trimmed beard that connected with his sideburns.

A High Rank of Asgard with Mjolnir in one hand.

Thor, son of Odin, was here with the Valkyries.

'Certainly, Thor is on the same level as Poseidon. They are equal in the ranking...'

The only difference is that unlike Poseidon, who was tired from the great battle, Thor was fresh.

Thor subdued Poseidon immediately and looked around.

"The battlefield is a mess."

It was a battlefield that had already changed as it could not find its original appearance. It was as if Gigantomaquia had occurred.

Asgard's role here was to clean up the chaotic battlefield.

To catch the sinner, Poseidon.

And secure the greater sinner, Zeus.

Thor was to play both roles.

"Take care of him, you never know when he'll try to escape again."

"Yes!"

"Also capture Zeus' surviving Ranker allies. If they resist, call on Hercules and Hades for help."

"All right!"

"Y..."

Thor and YuWon's eyes met as they scanned the battlefield.

"Are you Kim YuWon?"

Chapter 185

"So it all came down to this."

A self-deprecating voice came out of Zeus' mouth on the ground.

Asgard.

Zeus had given up fighting them. Asgard was beyond his control, even for Olympus.

So he thought of Ragnarok.

The power of the Giants, to defeat Asgard.

But in the end, he found himself lying on the ground, and Asgard came here to take him away.

In the end, this is what he got.

"Really bad..."

Zeus' gaze looked up at the sky.

Not so long ago, he was up there.

And from there, countless spears rained down.

Pow, pow, pow-.

Dozens of pure white spears pierced Zeus' body.

He felt all the energy escaping from his body. There were dozens of objects that restricted the energy of a High Rank, so even Zeus had no way to escape.

Hercules paused in his struggle to watch the Valkyrie descend to the ground.

"Are you Hercules?"

A copper-skinned warrior approached.

Turning to look at the silver-armored leader of the Valkyries, Hercules responded by raising his voice.

"This does not seem to be Asgard's business."

"If you wish to get rid of Zeus, you may take matters into your own hands, for this is an internal affair of Olympus."

This fight belonged to Olympus.

The Valkyries, and Asgard, were very clear about that fact.

So it was inevitable that Zeus would be dealt with first by Hercules.

But.

"But if you're not going to slit his throat, I'd like you to hand them over to us."

"For what reason?"

"Because we, Asgard, are the only ones who can control a living Zeus."

Hercules' eyebrows twitched.

He was not wrong.

Unless he was dead, a living Zeus could always be a major source of trouble for the Tower.

He had the power and the knowledge to do it.

"It is your choice, Hercules, to kill him or not."

The Valkyrie's words drew Hercules' gaze to Zeus, who had dozens of spears stuck in his body.

"What would you like to do?"

* * *

The battlefield was gradually clearing.

Poseidon was taken back to Asgard by the Valkyries.

Zeus' forces, incapacitated by Hercules, returned to their original positions.

The war was over.

"You have done a great job."

Thor approached YuWon and smiled with the Mjolnir slung over his shoulder.

His eyes were full of curiosity.

Apparently, he had heard enough about YuWon.

'There's no good in getting involved.'

Thor was the son of Odin.

A familiar face. YuWon had also seen quite a few battlefields with him.

But not the face he was about to see.

"I did it because it was necessary. I don't need praise."

"Necessary? For what?"

Thor's gaze turned to YuWon's hand.

"Would that be it?"

The Thunderbolt.

An object that was the symbol of Zeus.

YuWon didn't deny it. Nodding and meeting his eyes, Thor smiled in satisfaction.

"Don't be too cautious. Asgard is not shameless enough to covet the spoils justly taken."

He knew.

He didn't know if it would be the same elsewhere, but at least in Asgard, they wouldn't covet the Thunderbolt.

They say that when the water above is clear, the water below is clear.

In that sense, Asgard was the clearest of waters, as far as YuWon was concerned.

However, he had other concerns.

'The Clockwork was created by Cronus and Odin together.'

Although Cronos had the power over time, but the Clockwork Mechanism was not something he could create alone.

Because the difficulty of the object was too high for that.

'There's nothing wrong with them knowing, but...'

His encounter with Odin was clearly planned.

Moreover, it was impossible to proceed without meeting him. His influence in this Tower was too great for that to be the case.

Alone.

'It's best to have as few variables as possible.'

Now was not the time.

Contact with Asgard would come many years later.

For now, it was best to let it go.

"I'm tired of fighting. I hope you can make it simple."

"I'm just curious what kind of player my father is interested in."

"My father.....?"

YuWon's eyes narrowed.

"Odin?"

"It would be best not to use that name too carelessly."

Kwak-.

Clak-.

The force of his hand on YuWon's shoulder grew stronger.

He had forgotten it.

It was only later that he called it too carelessly, but in Asgard, Odin's name was like a shrine.

"Do you understand?"

"I will remember."

"Well, with that said..."

Thud, thud-.

The corner of Thor's mouth twitched again as he patted YuWon's tight shoulder.

Immediately after, he reached into his chest and pulled out a badge.

"This is from my Father. Accept it."

YuWon looked at the badge/plaque as Thor handed it to him.

The symbols were familiar to him.

It was golden, gleaming, and was in the shape of a large compressed palace.

'This...'

I had only heard the name, but had never seen it in person.

The Golden Castle Plaque.

A ticket of sorts to Valhalla, the sanctuary.

"Why are you giving me this?"

"It's an invitation."

"An invitation?"

"If you survived this war, my Father said he wanted to see you."

It was a remarkable event, no doubt.

Olympus, one of the largest guilds like Asgard, had been overthrown.

Moreover, surviving a major war with a top 10 player, Zeus, was enough to completely change the perception of YuWon as they knew him.

"You're going to be here soon anyway, so come and stop by. I'll make sure you don't mind the hospitality."

"If you're offering me a job, I'm not sure I like it."

"We just want to have you as a guest. No cheating."

It was also not polite to keep saying no repeatedly.

Especially this way, at least he could at least decide when to meet.

"I will."

YuWon received the badge/plaque and kept it.

They still had a long way to go to reach Valhalla. At times like this, he was grateful for Odin's heavy ass.

'Is this the second one?'

He remembered getting a similar item.

The Devil Horns.

It was an item obtained after passing the test on the 41st floor. YuWon had passed the test on the 41st floor and had promised Diablo's alter ego that he would see him again.

'How can I use this again...'

The Golden Castle/Sanctuary Plaque was a sort of reward obtained from Asgard after resolving the affairs of Olympus.

Since it was not a simple item, it was up to YuWon to decide how to use it.

"Well, I'll see you around..."

Having finished his business, Thor turned away.

In the distance, the Valkyries were carrying Poseidon away.

"Friend."

Kak-.

Thor, who was in charge of clearing the battlefield, walked towards the Valkyries.

YuWon looked at Thor's spacious back and then looked at the Golden Castle Plate in his hand.

'Friend....'

The words were spoken as a gesture of friendship, but YuWon couldn't help but feel awkward.

'Now I've heard all about the son of Odin.'

Going back, he really had been through all sorts of extraordinary things.

YuWon thought to himself and put the Badge/Insignia/ Token into his inventory.

* * *

News of the fall of Olympus spread through the tower faster than any other means of transportation.

The main story was the rebellion of Hades, Poseidon and Hercules.

The division of the Three Gods.

Hercules, the blood of the King, who succeeded him on the throne.

Flesh and blood joined the bones of the rumor, and another form was created, a mixture of fact and fiction.

The rumor that the division of the three Gods was an Asgardian plan.

That Hercules wasn't really the son of Zeus.

Or that it was all just another plan of Zeus.

Yet despite such rumors, Olympus quickly found stability.

"So, in the end, you let him go alive?"

YuWon put aside his cup of tea and sat across from Hercules.

They were in a small house on the 32nd floor of the city where the war had been fought. It was a long way from the battlefield, untouched by the aftermath of the fighting.

A place as small and ramshackle as Hercules' original hut.

That's why Hercules chose it as a place to stay for a while.

"Well, that's the way it happened."

"I guess you couldn't kill him."

"I don't know, maybe I didn't have time to decide. Or maybe because he gave birth to me. I didn't have a choice, so I let him live."

It would have been a difficult choice to make in an instant.

A father who ordered his mother's death.

Clearly, Hercules, who was deeply attached to his mother Alcmene, was an irreplaceable enemy.

But at least Zeus had been a father to Hercules for thousands of years.

It couldn't be easy to make a choice in such a short time.

"He's like you."

"Like what?"

"Undecided."

Hercules burst out laughing at YuWon's words.

"I am the Giant Killer. I have killed millions of Giants. Indecisive, how improper...."

"So, are you okay?"

Hercules' eyes widened.

Was he all right?

When Hercules didn't answer for a moment, YuWon took the floor.

"I'm asking you if you enjoyed killing Giants."

"...Enjoy it?"

"Probably not. The first time I saw you, you didn't look like that."

"What did I look like?"

"You looked like you just wanted to get it over with and get the hell out of here."

Alcmene's revenge.

It was a task for Hercules to accomplish.

But in the process, Hercules continued to break down.

"The Gigantomachy was not just a war. It was also the stage for the realization of the Giant Killer."

"What do you mean?"

"If it wasn't for the war, would you have moved?"

In response to YuWon's question, Hercules remembered himself when he was called the Giant Killer.

At that moment, he had his eyes closed.

Vengeance against Alcmene. Hostility against the Giants.

As a result, he had thrown his fists at any Giant he encountered, perhaps because he thought this battlefield had been marked out for him.

'Even then, he was just being molded.'

War.

Hercules could see the logic in it.

This fight was not just about revenge.

The Giants were the enemies of Olympus, and would one day bring even greater disaster to the Tower.

That was why Hercules was able to brandish his fists against them.

He could have his revenge.

Zeus had used the Gigantomachy to wield the tool called Hercules.

"Do you regret not being able to kill Zeus?"

"A little."

"Then go find him now. Maybe even now, Asgard will deliver Zeus' head to you."

"Forget it. That guy has already lost his powers, his dreams and his future."

Hercules no longer called Zeus his father.

It was the last of the remaining father-son attachment.

Hercules finally cut him off from the inside.

"I want to stop here, that's all."

Zeus had lost everything.

Unless death was the only way to complete his revenge, he had already achieved it.

"I'm not going to think about it anymore. I'm too tired for that."

"Is that so?"

YuWon looked at Hercules' expression.

He was not as expressive as Son OhGong.

But still, after watching him for a long time, he could understand to some extent what he was thinking.

A complicated face.

But at least there was a hint of relief mixed in there.

"That's it, then.

Whether Zeus was alive or dead.

YuWon didn't care about that.

What mattered was Hercules' heart. YuWon hoped to get rid of the burden he carried if he could.

Because he was his friend.

"What about you, what are you going to do now?"

Hercules asked, remembering that YuWon had been fighting against Olympus for quite some time since he entered the Tower.

And now that fighting was over.

Perhaps the Tower would be shaken again by YuWon's actions in the future.

"I'm going to meet with Uncle (Ahjussi) first."

"Uncle? My brother Hephaestus?"

"Yes."

YuWon thought for a moment about the Thunderbolt in his inventory.

He gathered the three pieces.

Towards the end of their discussion about smashing Olympus....

Suddenly, Hephaestus said something.

"When you have gathered all the pieces, be sure to bring them to me."

YuWon still couldn't forget Hephaestus' eyes at that moment.

The greed and desire of a Blacksmith.

He had never seen such burning eyes before.

"It's a promise.

Not the Hephaestus of this time though.

"I'll make you the best item.

"Uncle and I."

At least in this era, it was time to fulfill that promise.

Chapter 186

The bottom of the tower.

The first floor.

It was a familiar place to descend to from time to time, but today it felt very different.

"Quiet."

The bustling streets were deserted. No one was doing business, no one was going out for drinks.

YuWon asked the few passersby the reason.

"Don't you know the administration is paralyzed?"

"Since Olympus, which administered public order, has become a mess, we are on our own."

"Although Asgard is stepping up, but for the time being... we have to be careful."

"We can only wait until all this calms down."

After asking a few people, the answers were similar.

The absence of administration.

Since the city was under the control of Olympus, various criminals in the Tower had heard the rumors and descended to the ground floor.

"This is screwed."

The absence of Olympus affected the entire Tower.

Like a fox being king on a mountain without a tiger, several criminals descended to the ground floor to rob the empty house.

This chaos may not last long.

A tigerless mountain is destined to have a new owner.

But for now, this place would be quiet.

YuWon walked through the deserted streets to the blacksmith shop.

The forge remained quiet for a long time.

Normally, the sound of a hammer would be heard.

Kki-Ik-.

The door was not locked.

Yu-Won entered the forge.

Stairs led to the basement.

The forge was not as hot as before, though the heat persisted.

"Is anyone there?"

He could feel a presence.

Still, Yu-won asked in case Hephaestus was surprised.

Tak~

"First knock and then come in, you bastard."

An answer came from below the stairs.

He wondered why.

He could take a break from hammering, but he hated it when the forge cooled down.

After descending the stairs, YuWon knocked on the wall with the back of his hand and said:

"I did it, I knocked on the door."

"You... bastard."

Hephaestus sat in his chair.

It was the chair he sometimes rested in from hammering, but for some reason there were two liquor bottles rolling by his side instead of a hammer.

Alcohol.

Something he normally didn't even touch.

"Why are you drinking that when you know it won't get you drunk?"

Rankers drank a special type of alcohol.

It was like poison. For a Ranker whose physical abilities were enhanced by stats, only the highest level of alcohol could make them slightly drunk.

But the alcohol Hephaestus was drinking was low-grade, easily available to lower-level players.

"If I wanted to get drunk, I could buy the best alcohol in the Tower."

"Then why are you drinking that?"

"My house has been destroyed and I couldn't help feeling a little sad."

His house.

YuWon couldn't help but pause for a moment.

As much as they chased him, Olympus was Hephaestus's home.

But Olympus had fallen.

This allowed Hefesto to stop being chased, but he couldn't help feeling a little delighted.

Hefesto left the empty wine bottle on the ground.

Then, he waved his hand at YuWon, who was standing in front of him.

"I'm not blaming you, so don't look at me like that. On the contrary, you did well."

Hefesto stood up from his seat.

His back, which had seemed hunched over for a moment, straightened again.

"Useless metal must be melted down and forged anew. Only then can the work be done."

It was a metaphor befitting a blacksmith.

The outward sadness didn't last long. Inside, he probably needed to fix things for quite some time, but he would overcome it.

YuWon had already seen him do it once.

"What's wrong? You probably didn't come to console me."

"I have a gift for you."

"A gift?"

YuWon searched his inventory.

Hefesto looked puzzled.

Suddenly, the darkness of the extinguished forge was illuminated.

Fazizit-.

"What, what..."

As if he couldn't believe what he was seeing, Hefesto's eyes widened.

"Could this be the Lightning Bolt?"

A round, circular orb.

It was a simple shape, but Hefesto recognized it as the Lightning Bolt as soon as he saw it.

No wonder, since it was Hefesto who created the Lightning Bolt in the first place. At first, the shape was a little different, but Hefesto wasn't a simple enough blacksmith to not recognize the item he had made.

"I knew you'd recognize it."

"Why do you have that?"

"I also participated in the war."

"Yes, you did, but..."

He knew YuWon had fought in the war.

After all, he had been at war with Olympus for a long time, so of course he would be in the center of it.

But one thing was that he was at the center of the war and quite another that he got the Lightning Bolt.

The Lightning Bolt was the symbol of Zeus. Naturally, it was also one of the most valuable spoils of war.

But did YuWon have it?

Unless the Lightning Bolt was lying on the ground somewhere, it meant that YuWon had acquired it himself.

"Although they are up now, when I rise, I will drop them and send them to the bottom."

That was YuWon's answer when asked what he would do with Olympus someday.

They were the same words, but the more he thought about them, the more they seemed to sound true.

'So, was all of that true?'

At the time, he only thought of it as the clever words of a young talent who still didn't know the world.

But this time, he couldn't let his words pass.

"So, is this my gift?"

"It's not the only one."

Jiik-.

YuWon took off the black gloves he was wearing.

Next, he took off his armor and placed it on the ground.

Tuduk-.

Three objects were placed on the ground.

The Lightning Bolt.

Triaina.

And Kyneē.

All of them were items that Hefesto himself had created.

And, at this moment, all three were in the same place.

"This...."

"Does this remind you of anything?"

"Did you know everything and put it together?"

Hephaestus made these three objects.

And the material at the heart of them were the three divine stones, similar yet different.

Hephaestus had secretly been waiting for a day when they would all come together.

"Who the hell are you? What are you planning to do?"

"That's a new question. Unfortunately, I have no words to answer."

"Does this still make sense?"

"Why not, and it's not like it matters now."

Shrugging, Hephaestus hypnotically looked at the three objects that were on the floor and at YuWon.

It didn't matter.

It was true.

He wasn't wrong.

Normally, he would have pried and poked to know more, but he wasn't interested now.

"Can you do it?"

A question that lacked a "do what?"

But Hephaestus immediately knew what YuWon wanted from the question.

"Are you sure...it doesn't matter?"

A treasure exposed before him.

It was impossible for YuWon not to know its value.

If he used them, something big would come out of it.

It wouldn't be enough to think of what item to make for three days and three nights.

No.

"I might fail. Maybe I'll scrap it all."

The object itself might be ruined.

So even if he was greedy as a blacksmith, it was the last thing he wanted to do for someone who already had the object in their hands.

Still...

"It doesn't matter."

Yuwon responded without hesitation.

"Please enjoy it to your heart's content, uncle."

Hephaestus's pupils dilated.

It was a familiar situation.

"That way, the item will come out authentic."

The man had come to him with the Divine Crystal of Darkness for him to melt.

Just like the first time he trusted a stranger, YuWon trusted three equally precious objects to Hephaestus again.

There were no traps, schemes, or requirements.

Just to have it in his hands and enjoy it to his heart's content was all he asked for.

"In exchange, do it for free."

"Hehehe..."

Hephaestus laughed.

An absurd and amusing laughter.

His head was still spinning, but more than that, his hands were sweating.

The desire that had always been in his mind, like a dream, appeared before his eyes.

The Lightning Bolt in Zeus's hand, and the two stones that looked like it, now lay before him.

"Oh, yeah, it's fine. As for the points, there's no need, it's all on me."

His tone of voice gradually rose.

The man who, a few moments ago, had been shaken by the fall of Olympus, had found his world again.

"This will take some time. In the meantime, do other things. Go up the tower, rest for a while, whatever you want."

Swish-.

Hephaestus rolled up his sleeves.

"I can't say for certain how long it will take. But I can promise you this..."

Meeting Hephaestus's eyes, YuWon felt as if the cold workshop was warming up.

"I will make you the best object I can, even if it means burning my soul."

Hwareuk-!

The fire in the workshop was reignited.

Yuwon quickly became an invisible person.

Hephaestus could no longer see anything but his work. Using his Mana to dissipate any possible intoxication, he went straight to work.

Yuwon silently left the workshop.

Making three objects in one.

It's probably not an easy task.

'He will probably fail'.

If that happens, it would be very sad.

The Lightning Bolt, Kyneē and Triaina.

All were recognizable objects in this Tower.

Thinking in that way also churned his stomach.

But after all, Hephaestus was the only one he could trust.

"Well... so be it."

There are countless items in the world. There are few objects that can compare to the Lightning Bolt, but they are not impossible to find.

Although it was a gamble, it was a gamble worth taking.

"How long will it take?"

A month, perhaps.

Maybe it will take years.

The three objects represented an important part of the power that YuWon currently possessed.

Without them, his plans had to be postponed for the time being.

"For now, I have no choice but to climb the Tower again."

A momentary pause.

Now that Olympus had been destroyed, the only thing left to do was to take a break and slowly climb the Tower for the time being.

For now, it was time to rely on the strength of others and not his own.

"That guy..."

As he walked towards the Tower, YuWon thought of Son OhGong, whom he had separated from in the Temple of Ares on the 40th floor.

"I'm sure he's doing well."

This time, Son OhGong had nothing to do with the destruction of Olympus.

By helping in the fight against Athena, Son OhGong's role had ended.

His twelfth alter ego would not be of much help in the fight against Zeus, and he had more important things to do than to help fight.

So YuWon separated from Son OhGong on the 40th floor.

Without access to the upper part of the Tower, YuWon could only climb up to a limited level, so Son OhGong's alter ego had no choice but to ask him for what he needed.

"See you soon."

Kak-.

Floor 51.

The world where the body of Son Oh-gong, the Great Sage Equal to Heaven, was sealed.

Towards that world, YuWon began to climb the Tower again.

"Time to visit my old rival."

Chapter 187

50th floor.

A rich and beautiful world where heaven and earth were connected.

In the mountains, the sun had just risen.

Son OhGong, lying on a flat rock and yawning in his sleep, raised his head and looked up at the clouds.

"There's one coming, huh."

The clouds in Son OhGong's eyes quickly grew in size.

The clouds were slowly approaching.

In his Ash Golden Eyes, he saw a reflection of himself in that cloud.

"That must be the fourteenth."

He had a hard time finding it.

Since he was moving in the dark, and he was staying on the fiftieth floor, not anywhere else.

"Anyway, that selfish bastard... ah, that's me."

The words that came out of his mouth made Son OhGong slap himself.

He overcame the annoyance and stood up.

"You called me?"

There was another Son OhGong, standing high above the clouds.

"It's been a while since I called you."

"Isn't it dangerous to call like that, what if they find out?"

Each alter ego has a slightly different personality.

Despite the same situation, the alter ego in front of him thought differently from the twelfth alter ego, which was him.

"It's not like me to worry about things like that. If there's a problem, I fight."

At the twelfth Son OhGong's words, the newly arrived fourteenth Son OhGong rolled his eyes.

"Without the main body, do you think that's possible?"

"It would be impossible."

"Man, there's a limit to how ignorant we can become. What kind of nonsense..."

"That's why I called you guys."

"...You guys?"

It was plural, not one.

It was then that a question mark appeared on the face of the fourteenth Son OhGong.

Hwareuk-

The Golden Ash Eyes of the two people reacted.

"This is the fourth one."

Grrrr-

Among the rocks scattered around, two rocks changed their appearance.

Two people, each with Golden Eyes of Ash.

Two other alter egos appeared in their place.

"Sixth and Eleventh."

The twelfth Son OhGong pointed to the newly arrived Son OhGong, "This is the fourteenth."

The four alter egos were seated.

It was a sight to behold in the Heavenly Realm. Those who distrusted the Great Sage, Equal to Heaven would not be too happy to see those alter egos gathered in one place.

Even knowing this, the twelfth Son OhGong gathered them together.

-He said, "Gather all your alter egos until I come up. It will be easier for you who have the strength and ability to climb up and down the Tower.

YuWon had only made it to the 42nd floor.

The role of gathering the alter egos belonged to him as an alter ego instead of YuWon.

'It's going to cost to reunite them all...'

However, there was a part of him that believed.

'When I go up...'

-When I get to the fiftieth floor....

The four Son OhGong. They all shared their memories with each other through the Golden Eyes of Ash, and at this moment, they all remembered one person in common.

- At that moment, I will save Son OhGong.

'At that time, he will rescue our main body.'

* * *

After the 40th floor, the trials really started to get difficult.

The level of the players had increased considerably, and as the difficulty increased, so did the time it took to complete the test.

YuWon took two tests.

On the 42nd and 43rd floors.

As expected, both were passed.

"There is no point in taking any more tests."

Even the Examiner/Administrator who did the test was ironic.

YuWon didn't take the Administrator's tests.

It wasn't as if his schedule was that tight, there was simply no immediate need to climb the Tower.

'Even if you get to the 50th floor, there's no point unless all the clones/alter egos are gathered.'

At this point, I didn't know exactly how many alter egos there were.

But considering that the Son OhGong he had met was the 'twelfth', that meant there were at least twelve of them.

Besides, since he had to wait for the production of that object, there was no reason to move in a hurry.

So Yu-Won calmly climbed the Tower.

Some people would have to risk their lives and do their best, but for YuWon, the time itself was a kind of rest.

A path he had walked once before.

It was not difficult to walk it again, and the trials were not difficult.

[Welcome to the 44th floor].

The air was desolate.

The air was thick with dust, and the sky had a glow that made it hard to tell if it was night or day.

A pungent smell.

'The 44th floor'.

Climbing up to the 44th floor, YuWon frowned.

It was the second time he had come.

Even before the Regression, he had not returned to this floor since he ascended.

There was only one reason.

This place is worse than hell.

Hell, the world of the 42nd floor, was not a pleasant place to live, but it was not the most dangerous.

But this 44th floor, always compared to Hell, was far worse than the 42nd in terms of safety.

A world ruled by the Three Precious Children.

The Three Precious Children, given dominion by the Administrator, neglected this world in the name of 'freedom'.

Freedom.

A nice, romantic word.

But it didn't work out so well.

Lawless freedom brought the worst results to the world of the 44th floor.

'Freedom is the same as lawlessness.'

A very small world compared to other worlds.

This world had no governing body. Here, power was the law, the rule.

"Aagh!"

A shout was heard in the distance.

It started as soon as it came.

"This guy is unbelievable."

"Hey, don't kill him yet, take his points first!"

"I know, man, but let me torture him first..."

An unpleasant conversation ensued.

Yu-Won ignored the conversation. Elsewhere, it was impossible to intervene in all these things in this world.

Murder, extortion, violence.

Sharp, nasty words, but in this world they were part of life.

'Here we go.

Jeobuck, Jeobuck-.

YuWon walked down the quiet street.

Old, dilapidated buildings.

There were no people on the street, but he could feel their stares.

-Hey, I think that bastard's new....

-At least his clothes are clean.

-Look at the way he's strutting around.

- Look closer. Maybe he's a Young Master...

-Yes, maybe, but if he's not...

Between the buildings, lurking, there were prying eyes.

It was like when he first entered the second floor.

A pack of wolves preying on the new Players.

His behavior was not much different from theirs.

The only difference was that they were much bigger than the ones on the second floor.

'The criminal group on the 44th floor is the size of a medium-sized guild.'

Of course, they did not all belong to the same group.

First of all, it is almost impossible for unruly and violent criminals to unite as a group.

However, even though they were scattered like ants, they would come back together out of necessity.

That's what was scary.

That cohesion in the name of freedom and anarchy?

And the larger, invisible force that created that cohesion.

-Should we let it go? I have a bad feeling.

-Should we.

-I'd hate to have to deal with someone connected to a major guild. -I'd hate to have to deal with someone connected to a major guild. We've been a mess lately.

YuWon's eyebrows narrowed as they talked about himself.

Let him go?

This was unexpected.

'I thought I got it right...'

YuWon had expected that there would be someone who would spontaneously attack him like this.

But again, unlike the thieves on the second floor, they had a good sense of smell. It was amazing how a man who had robbed before could be so good at it.

YuWon sighed inwardly.

There was nothing he could do about it.

'Even if it's a sham, but I guess it won't matter.'

YuWon's body turned sideways as he walked down the deserted street.

The conversation of the boys whispering towards him stopped.

Yuwon looked at them pointedly.

Kak-.

His footsteps changed direction.

From building to building.

As YuWon entered their lair, in a corner alley, they were confused to see their chosen prey coming towards them.

-W-what? It's coming this way?

-What should we do?

-Do we kill it or run away?

-What the hell? Run away? Why?

As they hesitated, the distance narrowed rapidly.

YuWon turned into an alley.

A street with no one on it.

YuWon stepped into the middle and opened his mouth.

"Let me ask you something."

There was no answer.

Instead, they crouched down even further, mouths closed.

Some guys slowly raised their lives. These guys chose to fight rather than hide.

Swoosh-.

"Let's talk."

YuWon turned his head and their eyes met.

At that moment...

Kak-.

A sharp line appeared in front of YuWon's neck.

Ka-ak-!

C-Clang.

Revealing his hidden body, the guy who had wielded the short sword took a step back with a panicked face.

"W-what, when?"

Did he use any skills?

YuWon stroked his neck with his hand and thought to himself.

'Is this someone who just went up to the 44th floor? It's very weak....'

He didn't use any special skills. The reason the sword didn't go in was just the difference in stats.

Physical stats above 100.

These stats were too high for a player on the 44th floor. Unless he was using a powerful skill with a lot of Arcane Power, there was no way a clumsy sword strike would work.

The reason he didn't dodge the sword wasn't that important.

He simply didn't have to.

Shi, shi, shi-.

Apparently judging that there was nothing they could do to avoid this person, the others appeared around him.

They blocked both sides of the alley and surrounded the top of the building. The man who had first brandished the knife at YuWon spoke as they surrounded him.

"Everyone be careful. That bastard uses strange abilities."

That's what he said, but he didn't seem very careful.

Is it because he trusted the numbers?

His face was full of smugness and his voice was full of confidence.

Maybe there were players in the group who were not from the 44th floor, but from higher up.

"Who cares. He just got here."

"He's not a Ranker Player, what can he do?"

"Well, from the looks of it, he's got some stuff we can chew on."

These guys were talking about YuWon in the middle.

And YuWon just stared at the number of them in the alley.

'A little over thirty. It looks like a small guild.'

Although this was small, it was the size of a guild. There seemed to be no established hierarchy, but it was quite large for a group that was on the 44th floor.

I guess it wasn't a coincidence that they just wanted to let YuWon go when they first saw him.

If they were that big, they had to have equally thick skin, and there was no way they wouldn't want to steal YuWon because of his appearance.

'Right.'

The bigger the scale, the better.

What he was about to do, he needed as many people as possible to know.

Yuwon raised both hands and said.

"I'm not here to fight, I'm here to ask a question."

There was no need to draw his weapon.

No fighting, no killing.

From now on, it would be his faithful feet to carry his words.

"It is said that one of the Trinities is here..."

Trinities.

The three items sought by Susanoo and the two High Ranks, the "Three Precious Children".

When such an item was mentioned in YuWon's mouth, the atmosphere that had been brutal until now hardened.

"By any chance, does anyone know anything about that?"

The bait was cast.

The bait to catch the big fish.

Chapter 188

"U-Ughh..."

"Kughhh!"

A crowd spilled out into the alley.

Some were clutching their broken legs, and others were vomiting blood.

Some of them were completely beside themselves, their eyes turned white.

"Was that asshole a Ranker?"

"What a disgrace, without just...."

Those who were still relatively unharmed quickly pulled bandages and herbs from their inventories to heal their wounds.

Fortunately, there appeared to be no fatalities.

Although it was obviously an overwhelming difference, they only received external damage and not much internal damage.

At that moment, one of the group, who had his wounds bandaged, opened his mouth with a white face.

"I... I remember that asshole's face."

"Face? Is he a famous Ranker?"

"No. He's not a Ranker."

"Then?"

After hesitating for a moment, he answered, recalling a memory that had passed quite some time ago.

"It's Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon? The winner of the last Murim War?"

The winner of the Murim War.

The strongest player.

And the Vice Lord of the Heavenly Demon Sect.

All three were labels that were attached to Kim YuWon.

And as such, even though he was a player of the lower floors, the players above him recognized his abilities.

Of course.

"No matter how you slice it, how is it.. this good?"

Maybe Kim YuWon already had the skills to be a Ranker.

It was a rumor that was spreading openly.

The Great Sage, Equal to Heaven had already defeated a Ranker who was a Test Examiner on the 50th floor, and similar stories were common among the higher ranked Players.

But Kim YuWon even beat all the records of those High Ranked Players, so it was a fair assumption.

But assumptions are assumptions.

They couldn't help but feel a little impressed by the skills they saw with their own eyes.

"If he's got the Celestial Demon behind him, he's not going to be easy to touch, but..."

Another colleague asked, his eyes glittering as he tied his bandages.

"You're greedy, aren't you?"

The slurred-spoken, bright-eyed man nodded.

Of course he was greedy.

Trinity (Samsingi).

A treasure that even High Rankers would light up at the sight of, a treasure from the heavens.

Once you had it in your hands, becoming a Ranker with the power of the item behind you was a given, and once you became a Ranker, the power of the Trinity would give you even greater wings.

"That bastard definitely said he was looking for the Trinity."

"Kim YuWon must know something that no one else knows."

"If so, obtaining the Trinity wouldn't be just a fantasy..."

The conversation soon turned to the Trinity.

Someone was already talking dreamily about it, as if it was theirs.

But only for a moment.

"What about us, how will we get it?"

Someone's words chilled the conversation like cold water.

Colleagues lying on the floor.

This was the result of one person, Kim YuWon.

After a moment of silence...

"Even if it's hard for us..."

One of them spoke softly.

"If it's Trinity, I'm sure many others will also join this."

* * *

"Twelve points. Not including breakfast."

The innkeeper handed him a change of pajamas and a key with the number of a room. After choosing a room, YuWon looked around.

"This must be the most expensive room in town.

The most expensive room cost 12 points.

I knew the prices on the 44th floor were cheap, but this was a surprise.

It was about 30 square meters and quite clean. For this price, this type of accommodation was like a bargain.

The low cost of living in places with poor security and location was no different from the world of YuWon.

Yak-.

YuWon sat down on the sofa. He didn't feel very comfortable.

There was no immediate danger, but this neighborhood was a place where you never knew when or where a knife might fall.

'There's only one Trinity (The Magatama) loose at the moment. Two are being chased by the Three Precise Children...'

Tik-.

YuWon reached into his inventory.

A cheap looking sword fell into his hand. As he pulled out the sword with its rough red scabbard, he felt the air in the room turn cold.

'And one is here.

Kusanagi's sword.

A type of demonic sword, it was an heirloom of Susanoo, who was being chased by the Three Precious Children.

'It will be a sight to behold, if the Three Precious Children find out.'

Another of the Trinity was the Yasakani no Magatama (八尺瓊曲玉), qu was owned by Amaterasu.

Knowing the power of the Trinity, Amaterasu searched the Tower for the relic of Susanoo and the other Trinity.

The other member of the trio, Tsukuyomi, did the same.

If they knew that YuWon was in possession of Kusanagi's sword, the two would stop at nothing to find YuWon.

"Baat, ba-!"

At that moment, Danpung, who had been sleeping in YuWon's arms, poked his head out.

The boy showed interest in Kusanagi's sword.

"No."

Chik-.

YuWon quickly pushed Kusanagi's sword away from Danpung.

"Hey, you can't eat that."

"Abba, abba!"

"Even if you beg me, I won't give it to you."

Kusanagi's sword was an important item.

Since it was a demonic sword, it wasn't an item that had good compatibility with Yuwon, but there was a place to use it even if it wasn't necessary.

"Bah-."

Danpung's cheeks puffed out.

He pouted.

However...

There was no way a child being deprived of a delicious snack in front of him was going to take it lying down.

Naturally, he was disappointed.

YuWon chuckled to himself as he looked at Danpung's puffy cheeks.

He looked like he had to be comforted.

"Where I used to live, there was a thing called the Marshmallow Experiment*." (*: This experiment consists of taking a child to a room where there is a candy and they would tell him that if he was able to resist the temptation and not eat it for 15 minutes, then he could have more than one)

"Baah?"

As if asking what that was, Danpung tilted his head.

YuWon continued.

"It's something like, I'll leave you one delicious candy, and if you don't eat it until I get back from work, I'll give you two."

It was quite a famous experiment.

Two sweets as a reward for waiting.

And as a result, the story goes that the person who waits the longest is the one who succeeds the most later.

Since it was just an experiment, YuWon did not necessarily believe in the theory.

However, the experiment and the current situation were a perfect fit.

"So wait."

YuWon said , returning Kusanagi's sword that he had taken out a moment to his inventory.

"Then I'll give you a much bigger gift than this."

* * *

YuWon spent some time on the 44th floor.

Since he had already set the bait thrown out, it was time to wait for the bite.

"Did you hear? Kim YuWon is looking for the Trinity."

"The Trinity? Why here?"

"He must have heard something. What kind of person is he?"

"Is there such a thing in this rotten place?"

"Is this the beginning of a treasure hunt?"

Once outside, YuWon listened to the rumors with his ears wide open.

A group of gamblers were drinking in a tavern. As he soothed his boredom with a beer and ham, YuWon felt them watching him.

'Here we go again.'

It was his tenth day on the 44th floor.

Rumors were spreading like wildfire, and in the meantime, YuWon had continued his search for the Trinity.

A treasure hunt.

The story from the other table hit the nail on the head.

"Let me ask you a question."

Thud-.

YuWon put the beer he was drinking on the table.

Before he knew it, Arcane Power filled the tavern.

Of the six tables, he could feel the stares and hostility from four of them.

"I hear the Trinity are here, does anyone know anything about them?"

"That's for us to ask."

Drat-.

One person got up from his seat.

That was the beginning...

Chanang, Chang-!

The players took out their weapons and prepared their skills.

Among them was also a Ranker.

"Where did you hear that he's here?"

"You mean you don't know."

"Oh?"

"Then there's nothing to say."

YuWon picked up the drink he had put down for a moment.

"I'll drink my glass first."

It wasn't a very pleasant place.

YuWon drank alone in this place, with a spear knife right in front of him.

The situation seemed so relaxed that the frantic activity around him stopped.

But only for a moment.

"Get him, damn it!"

A scuffle broke out in the tavern.

Boom!

Kwazik-!

A hole opened up in the ceiling.

Starting with the player whose head had slammed into the ceiling, YuWon began to dance.

Kwajik-, Pereouk-!

Boom-.

YuWon grabbed his opponent's body and brandished it like a weapon. In the narrow confines of the tavern, a human body had become a rather menacing weapon.

Boom!

In an instant, the players fell one after another.

In the midst of it all, a sharp spear flew toward YuWon.

Kwajik-!

Thud-!

The floor of the tavern collapsed, along with the tables. Stepping out of the way of the spear, YuWon looked at its owner.

Bright yellow hair with his hair neatly pinned back with wax.

He looked like a thug, but the Mana around him was real.

"A Ranker."

After tossing it around for a while, he thought he'd finally found a decent one.

The fish got bigger as it took the bait.

It was a slower reaction than he expected, but still not bad.

Retrieving his spear, the Ranker took a moment to look at what YuWon had done.

"You're not as bad as I've heard."

"You're being cheeky."

His brow furrowed at those words.

"A kid who doesn't even know what's up here yet...."

His face contorted in anger.

Not a very patient man, he thought.

Power entered the hand that held the spear.

Now that he was face to face with a Ranker, YuWon had other thoughts.

'If I let it live, more fish will probably come.'

So the right thing to do was to let it live.

Even though he really didn't want to.

'It doesn't look like much.'

With a face that looks like an idiot, he looked intimidating, but that was about it.

It had been a long time since he'd seen one he didn't like so much, he thought.

Booung-!

Quadd deuk-!

The tip of the spear he swung split the wall of the tavern. The building swayed and the others backed up to get out of range

"What are you doing sitting still!"

"Thinking."

The furrows in the Ranker's forehead deepened at YuWon's reply.

"Thinking?"

"What to do with you...."

He didn't think much.

The spear pierced the air several times. The corner of YuWon's mouth turned up as he turned his head slightly.

"I've decided."

"What?"

Kukk-

Arcane Power flowed through YuWon's arms.

[The power of a Giant dwells in your arm.]

Partial Gigantization.

It was a method he rarely used since he had mastered full gigantization.

But for now, this was enough.

Boom-

The spear stopped in midair.

The Ranker's eyes widened at the sight of the motionless spear.

'What, what kind of power'

Boom-

His vision went black.

Something came closer, filling his vision.

That was it.

Jjaeok-!

His vision spun, his consciousness faded. At the last moment, he knew that was the end of him.

Chak-

The room fell silent as he saw the Ranker lying on the floor.

For a moment, too...

Thud-

One by one, the players gathered in the tavern began to back away.

"Hey, hey!"

"R-Retreat!"

"Agh, I'd better not have come!"

The players who were still alive opted to flee. With their Ranker down, they decided they had no chance of winning.

YuWon didn't chase after them.

In an instant, YuWon was left alone and looked at the shattered remains of the table.

"This place is so messy....."

Turning his head, YuWon's eyes landed on the man who had just entered the bar.

"Shall we move and talk?"

"No need."

The man shook his head.

He was a middle-aged man with short, sporty black hair and deep wrinkles.

He had entered the bar in the middle of the fight and had been watching for a while.

'I finally got this guy.'

The biggest fish on the 44th floor, who took the bait cast by YuWon.

'Amaterasu'.

A large fish, not unlike a whale, shook YuWon's fishing rod.

Chapter 189

YuWon picked up a half-broken chair that was rolling on the floor and sat down.

Amaterasu did the same.

The two sat on uncomfortable chairs, facing each other, with no table.

The floor was littered with corpses.

'Amaterasu. Post 52. Owner of Yasakani no Magatama.'

Amaterasu was the center of the Three Precious Children. As they were not a formal guild, they did not have the title of guild leader, but everyone who knew them considered Amaterasu their leader.

Rumors abounded about Amaterasu.

Some said he was a young beauty, others that he was a very old man.

None of these rumors were true.

He never showed his true face.

"I think I need not tell you why I sought you out."

"Because of the Three Sacred Treasures*?"

(Note*: Trinity will be changed to Three Sacred Treasures).

"Yes."

Amaterasu asked without turning the question around.

"Where is Yata's mirror?"

It sounded almost urgent.

He had one of the Three Sacred Treasures, the Yasakani no Magatama*, and Susanoo had the other, the Sword of Kusanagi. (*: Literally meaning: Jewel of the Eight Curved Shaku.

So there was only one left.

Amaterasu held back the surge of Mana and tried to engage in conversation first.

But.

"I don't know."

At YuWon's response, Amaterasu's Mana began to surge out.

Chak, chak, chak -.

Saaaah-.

The tavern building shook to its foundations, and the air grew hot.

Amaterasu was one of the highest ranks in this Tower in terms of Fire Attribute Arcane Power.

Naturally, when his power was released, YuWon felt suffocated.

'It's suffocating.

So far, Amaterasu had not threatened YuWon in particular.

For now, it was simply a change in his mood.

But it felt like staring into hot lava.

His breath was cut off as he knew its depth and danger.

"You don't know?"

"I don't know, that's why I'm looking for it, and if I did, I wouldn't be doing this."

Amaterasu thought a moment and then nodded.

"I see."

"Is that all?"

"No. There's more. How do you know there's a Sacred Treasure here, and on what basis?"

"It was a test reward from the 43rd floor. The source is from the Administrator. The information is reliable."

"The Administrator?"

His black eyebrows twitched. He was trying to determine the authenticity or accuracy of the information, but this was making it difficult.

An Administrator.

If that was true, there was no need to question the accuracy of the information.

"I'm sorry, I didn't think you were going to say that."

"You're the one who knows the most about the Three Sacred Treasures."

"You know who I am?"

"I do. You are Amaterasu. High-ranking member of the Three Precious Children, bearer of one of the Sacred Treasures."

"You have a good eye."

"I thought you said you never show your face. That face, it's not yours."

Amaterasu was a Ranker wrapped in a veil. But if you look at it another way, that veil was Amaterasu's face.

"You said you won the fight with Ares, so it must be true."

The fight between YuWon and Ares was also hidden information in Olympus. Olympus did not need to tell the Players that a higher ranked Player of their guild was defeated, so they tried to hide it as much as possible.

However, there were not a few who had been there, so it was no secret to the better-informed Guilds.

"Well, well enough. The better you are, the easier it will be to find the Three Sacred Treasures."

"If I find it, are you going to take it away from me?"

"Take it from you? It's ours."

"You've never had it in your hands, and you're already claiming it as your own?"

"If you have a grievance, use your power, isn't that the rule of this world?"

The methods of the Three Precious Children were always the same.

Freedom.

To them, freedom was the logic of power, and more power was needed to overcome it.

"But it is strange."

Amaterasu cocked her head.

"Do you believe in the Celestial Demon Cult, or do you believe in the mere fact that you defeated Ares?"

Fire-.

The air in the tavern turned hot. Oddly enough, the tavern didn't burn. I could feel his gaze through the flames everywhere.

"Your attitude is a bit arrogant."

She wondered if he was trying to sort out the sequence.

Rising from her seat, Amaterasu approached YuWon and unlike before, in a threatening manner.

The breath that was already tight in his throat constricted even more.

The air rusted with the fire in the tavern, and the flames tightened around YuWon as if he were alive.

'It's been a fight from the beginning...'

Yoo Won didn't get up from his seat.

This wasn't a fight of swords and fists.

['Holy Fire' resists 'Sunshine.']

['Ash Eyes' resists 'Sunshine'.]

[The 'Four Great Spirits' Garment' resists 'Sunshine'].

Kak-!

YuWon's ability and Amaterasu's ability collided.

YuWon used the "Four Great Spirits' Clothing" ability that increased resistance to various attributes instead of Triaina, like a tiger using the abilities of a cat.

Of all the attributes, fire resistance was the one YuWon had the most confidence in.

Instead of dodging and ducking, YuWon counterattacked.

'Look at this guy.'

Amaterasu's eyebrows twisted.

He knew he was good, but he hadn't expected this level of endurance.

Would he hold out to the end?

Amaterasu's eyes flashed.

He was too proud to back down.

'I'll just subdue him.'

The moment he made a decision, Amaterasu's Arcane Power grew stronger.

Chii-ii-.

The heat in the tavern intensified and burns began to appear on YuWon's body.

['Fail resistance to 'Sunshine'].]

['Anomaly: Burn begins].]

Fire agony.

Amaterasu's fire was as hot as he had heard. She hadn't even unsheathed her Sacred Treasure yet, but it was enough to cut off YuWon's ability.

Wriggle-.

Danpung in YuWon's arms twisted to get out.

And then...

['The Predator' shows its teeth].]

Jjeouk-.

The predator started to open its mouth.

It seemed to have decided that YuWon was in danger and was slowly revealing itself.

'No.'

Kak-.

YuWon caught the Danpung Predator, which was trying to get out under its own power.

'Not now.'

There was no point in revealing himself completely, even if it meant fighting.

This was a fight that wasn't worth fighting.

'This fight must be lost.'

That was the reason why he had chosen an unwinnable fight in the first place.

Chii-.

[Status Anomaly: Burns rise to Stage 2].

The burns were getting worse and he was starting to feel his skin melting.

"As long as there is a clue about the Three Sacred Treasures, Amaterasu will never strike the final blow."

The guild that had fought the longest against the Three Precious Children was Asgard.

Odin had fought Amaterasu long enough to know how obsessed he was with the Three Sacred Treasures.

In fact, at one point, Amaterasu collected all three and achieved a High Rank in the top ten.

'Even if he kills me, it will be after he finds the Mirror of Yata.'

YuWon was the only one who obtained the clue to the Three Sacred Treasures from the Administrator.

To Amaterasu, who had been searching for the Mirror of Yata for a long time, YuWon was an existence that could never be killed.

"Tell me what you know and I will spare your life."

Phazik, Phazit-.

Penalization began to flow through Amaterasu's body.

But none of that mattered to him. In the first place, since YuWon had climbed up to the 44th floor, the gap between the floors wasn't that big, so the Penalty was quite weak.

For Amaterasu, a Top 50 player, the Penalty was not too heavy a burden.

"If we cooperate like this but I give you all the winnings, then I will be the one who loses here."

"It's mine anyway. If you get your hands on the mirror, I'll take it away from you, even if it means wiping out the entire Heavenly Demon Cult."

"Do you really think only the Heavenly Demon Cult is after me?"

"Other than the Cult, you're not in cahoots with other guilds, so stop bragging..."

But then, Amaterasu's eyes narrowed.

It was because of the badge YuWon pulled out.

Kwak-.

The mana that had seemed to explode a moment ago had calmed down.

The mana that had been boiling as if it was about to explode a moment ago had calmed down.

"Do you also trust Asgard?"

Golden Castle Plate.

It was a precious item that even Asgard players did not possess.

A gift given to special guests, recognized by Odin.

An invitation of sorts.

Now that it was in YuWon's hands, Amaterasu couldn't help but think about the relationship between YuWon and Asgard.

'It's troublesome when Asgard is after someone. I can't kill him now, and I can't force information out of him...'

There was only one way out of this.

"The Mirror of Yata is non-negotiable."

Negotiation.

Amaterasu no longer saw the YuWon in front of him as an opponent to take something from by force.

To get what he really wanted, he needed a little cooperation.

"Tell me what you want."

"Can you give me something comparable to the Three Sacred Treasures?"

"I'll kill the 100 people you want, and I'll be your sword in the meantime."

It was a tempting offer.

No amount of valuables or points could buy a High Rank like Amaterasu.

A condition that anyone who knew the value of a High Rank couldn't help but be tempted.

After a moment's thought, YuWon asked.

"Is it possible to save lives instead of killing them?"

"Let's call it saving ten lives. I don't like that."

"Never mind. I'll accept it then."

"Good thinking."

Amaterasu held out her hand to YuWon.

With different intentions, the two held hands.

* * *

Amaterasu shook YuWon's hand.

YuWon told Amaterasu a modicum of information. Beyond that, he kept his hand hidden.

Amaterasu left immediately afterwards.

When YuWon returned to the inn, the spirit that had been writhing until earlier spoke to him.

-Do you believe me?

Susanoo.

It had been a long time since he had spoken. Thanks to his title of King of the Dead, YuWon could hear spirits even when he wasn't using Kyneē.

"No. I don't believe you."

-You still held his hand.

"No reason not to, he wears a mask, I wear a mask."

They were shaking hands out of necessity, for different purposes.

That's why YuWon didn't hesitate to take your hand.

Through this encounter between YuWon and Amaterasu, Susanoo realized what he had been doing.

-You called him here for a reason. With the fictitious bait of the Three Sacred Treasures.

The Three Sacred Treasures was tasty bait to lure the Three Precious Children.

The Administrator's excuse, the ten days searching for him.

It was all for this meeting.

- What do you want? Are you drawing something bigger this time, like you did when you destroyed Olympus?

The Three Sacred Treasures were the wish of the Three Precious Children. It was no secret to any player with a modicum of knowledge of the world that they were seeking it.

Therefore, Susanoo thought that YuWon had placed the Three Sacred Treasures as bait to lure them.

What kind of picture is YuWon drawing?

Similar to the plan that destroyed Olympus, YuWon must have been thinking of something big again.

However...

"There's one thing wrong."

It was Susanoo who had been watching everything right next to him, but he didn't know everything.

-One thing wrong?

"Because fishing without bait is doomed to failure."

YuWon's reply shook Susanoo to the core.

-No way...

It's not fishing without bait....

Those words could only mean one thing.

-The Mirror of Yata, is it real?

Chapter 190

-The mirror of Yata (Yata Mirror), is it real?

He had not shown much interest even in the destruction of Olympus, but now he was curious for the first time in a long time.

He was the one who had obtained the sword from Kusanagi.

As such, he knew better than anyone else the value of the Three Sacred Treasures.

"Yes, the mirror is here."

-Wow, this is insane.....

Susanoo was momentarily speechless at the confident response.

He could feel her excitement through her soul. Like Amaterasu, he coveted the Three Sacred Treasures.

Even dead, he had not lost the greed he had in life.

"As long as the bait is there, even Amaterasu is bound to take it."

-Do you really think it's just 'bait'?

"Right now I don't have it in my hands, so I'm going to make do with what I have."

It didn't matter how great an object is, if you can't get your hands on it, you can't use it. Therefore, instead of using the Three Sacred Treasures, YuWon came up with a different way to use it.

"The mere existence of the Three Sacred Treasures can be used to our advantage. There's nothing better than that as bait."

This was a suggestion YuWon came up with.

After a few rounds of review, they saw its potential.

The meeting with A

aterasu was the start.

-Using things you don't even have on hand. The way you fight, your tongue. I don't like guys like you.

"What do you mean guys like me?"

-Perfectionists. Guys who don't fight a fight they can't win.

He wasn't wrong.

He hadn't always been like that, but he had been since the moment YuWon used the Clockwork to go back in time.

-Fighting is something that must be done with death in mind. Only then is the sword sharper and stronger.

"It's not very convincing. Says the man who died."

-That's not what it's about...

Susanoo was furious.

As if he bitterly resented something, he let out a tirade of words.

-Amaterasu, if it weren't for his tricks....

"Tricks? Amaterasu?"

I'd never heard of that.

Clearly, the Three Precious Children were like brothers and he knew their friendship was extraordinary.

His curiosity was piqued.

Could it be a secret story from the past that no one knew about?

YuWon knew that Susanoo's death was due to a fight with Yamata no Orochi.

"What do you mean?"

-Yamata no Orochi. It was he who instigated the fight against him. And he clearly agreed to fight me, and he didn't help me.

Yamata no Orochi.

A monster of the worst kind, responsible for the destruction of several cities.

There was a certain secrecy to the fight between that monster and Susanoo that even countless Rankers couldn't stop.

-That guy set me up. To get Kusanagi's sword.

* * *

Amaterasu's number was stored in YuWon's player kit.

It was to keep in touch with each other when needed.

He waited ten days to obtain this number.

The preliminary task was solved.

Now all that remained was to find the real bait.

Early in the morning.

As he walked out of the dormitory, YuWon felt that he was being watched.

'This is getting annoying.

Outside YuWon's apartment.

There were eyes all over the alley.

They had heard he had a lead on the Sacred Treasures, and they were following him, hoping to catch him red-handed.

Apparently, they were trying to see how YuWon moves.

Because of this, he couldn't move comfortably.

'How far will they go?'

YuWon walked out of the city.

Perhaps they had realized that his fate had changed and were following him more closely.

He felt like a shepherd. The number of herds grew and grew to over a hundred.

So YuWon left the city. Outside the backward city was an undeveloped forest.

He went into the forest to a certain extent.

"How far do you plan to follow me?"

YuWon suddenly stopped walking and turned around.

There were over a hundred of them, more than that. Using his Ash Eyes, he could see the number more clearly.

'Around three hundred.'

This was too many, too much.

'Amaterasu sent them to follow me?'

The power wielded by the Three Precious Children on the 44th floor was considerable. They had the necessary influence to unite the various criminal gangs that were scattered like ants.

Perhaps they wanted to keep an eye on YuWon's behavior.

Or maybe they didn't.

"It's an order from the Three Precious Children."

One of them stepped forward with an imposing air.

It was nothing but a big pile of muscles.

He probably relied on two things.

The first would be his number, and the second would be the name of the Three Precious Children.

"I don't intend to use my hands, so don't be too scared. Just keep doing what you're doing."

YuWon shrugged at the man's words.

"Will you follow me? I don't need this kind of attention."

It was a relaxed look that didn't fit the situation. Even when YuWon knew that the Three Precious Children were watching him, YuWon wasn't too upset.

He knew it would be like this anyway.

No.

Rather, he expected this to happen.

'It's not Amaterasu.

Amaterasu was not a High Rank that was good at searching or stealth. On the other hand, Ash Eyes were the highest level skill among the search skills.

His Ash Eyes searched and searched, but there was no trace of Amaterasu.

He probably took the hint YuWon gave him and set out to find Yata's Mirror in his own way.

"Even if you don't want to, we can't help it. We will follow you. That is the will of the Three Precious Children."

In other words, don't resist.

To the criminals on the 44th floor, the Three Precious Children were like gods.

Branded as criminals, they had nowhere to go. No guild would accept them.

However, the Three Precious Children were different.

For them, crime was nothing more than an act of exercising power in freedom.

At the orders of their only hedge, they had no choice but to obey.

"...Really?"

YuWon looked at them with meaningful eyes.

The scene in front of them right now was the real reason why he had to fight the Three Precious Children.

- They were still this terrible.

Susanoo muttered in disgust.

'Wow.'

For the first time, he agreed with Susanoo.

The Three Precious Children had become corrupt.

From some point on, the freedom they spoke of had somehow become something only the guilty could enjoy. The Three Precious Children had become the leaders of the wicked, and they were united in one body.

Like a guild of criminals.

-Amaterasu, this guy was drunk with the power of the collective. He took his minions and made himself king, and his ideas became corrupted.

The power of a cohesive criminal group is terrifying.

Even the smallest of rats can become thousands and tens of thousands, and the ecosystem collapses.

Even more so if the criminal masterminds were powerful people with great power.

'The power of the Three Precious Children, with their respective Sacred Treasures, is even comparable to Olympus.'

Amaterasu already had a higher rank than the other two Gods, except Zeus.

However, Amaterasu, who gathered the Three Sacred Treasures, Amaterasu's rank would be incomparably higher.

"He has talent, I am sure, but his problem is greed."

That was Odin's assessment of Amaterasu.

Greed for power.

To satisfy that greed, Amaterasu crossed the line.

To unite the criminals on the 44th floor and become their king in the name of freedom.

That was the power Amaterasu chose.

"The power of a united criminal group is enough to create division from within. My inability to nip it in the bud is a problem I have not solved."

It was one of Odin's few regrets.

"I made an error in my judgment. I thought that as long as people exist, the dark side will inevitably exist. I thought it would be better to gather them together instead of scattering them all over the tower."

But it wasn't.

"Once they took guild form, the influence of the Three Precious Children grew rapidly. It's hard to stem the tide once you've ridden the wave.

When the crime rate in the tower peaked.

YuWon recalled that time. Players without rank were hesitant to go up to the Tower, and those who had no system and hadn't been chosen as players were afraid to even go out.

'We have to get rid of that.'

That was exactly what YuWon had to do here.

"I'm going to dispatch them now."

Arcane Power flowed out of Yuwon's body.

Skak-.

A jet black sword emerged from its sheath.

Yuwon pulled out his weapon for the first time since he climbed up to the 44th floor.

"I don't think any of you will feel remorse for dying, but if so, run away quickly."

The eyebrows of the man in front of him twitched at those words.

"You mean you're going to fight the Three Precious Children?"

"You're the ones who brought the fight."

"I'm just saying we'll see what you do. We weren't ordered to attack you..."

"I'm not working for the Three Precious Children. It's just cooperation. Surveillance? That's ridiculous."

"Do you think you'll be all right?"

"I don't think that's any of your business."

Hwareuk-!

The forest lit up. Flames spread like wildfire in an instant, changing the landscape of the battlefield.

"Boom!"

"F-Fire?"

"In an instant like this....."

"What are you doing, put it out, quick!"

Flames created with Mana can be extinguished with the same Mana .

The players who mastered Water Mana tried to use their skills to extinguish the fire created by YuWon, but to no avail .

Hwaaak-!

The flames were not extinguished.

Kak-.

"Now, make your choice."

YuWon spoke as he walked through the growing flames as if they had been poured with oil.

"Do you want to live or die?"

* * *

Tadak, tak, tak-

The remnants of the fire clung to the trees, losing strength.

Charred corpses lay scattered on the ground.

Once the fire was extinguished, the forest was not much different from before. Not a single tree had burned.

The Sacred Fire was a fire that burned only what YuWon wanted it to burn.

Chak-.

YuWon walked out among the corpses.

No one had fled.

A few Rankers and hundreds of Players.

They all joined together to fight YuWon, and in the end, they were defeated.

A perfect victory.

But the battle was far from satisfactory.

'It's inconvenient that I don't have any items.'

This was the first time he had been in a proper fight since he arrived on the 44th floor.

As such, he could feel the absence of his divine items in this fight, including the Lightning Bolt.

'I can see why they rely so much on objects.'

I used to think that the most important things for players were stats, skills, and lastly, items.

But lately that was changing.

Stats, skills and items.

None of them were unimportant. Depending on their value, skills and items could be more important than stats.

He never thought he would feel so light just because he lost some items.

YuWon thought about the person he was before the regression.

'If I had these objects and skills back then...'

Maybe the results would have been slightly different.

Katcha-.

YuWon's player kit rang.

A call, not a message.

After checking who was calling, YuWon answered the phone.

And then...

-What the hell are you doing?

Amaterasu's voice sounded exasperated.