

With The Gods 251

Chapter 251

"Here?"

"It'll be much easier that way."

Tap~

Odin, who had descended from his throne, took a step towards YuWon.

"The difficulty is not a problem anyway, right?"

"The castle is the problem."

"Even if it collapses, it's not difficult to rebuild. Besides, it's not such a dangerous trial."

[Do you accept the trial?]

Regarding the golden castle, Odin agreed.

So there was no need to think any further.

"I accept."

[Odin's trial begins.]

The corner of Odin's mouth lifted.

"This is supposed to be the power of an Administrator."

A hand stretched out in front of him.

Tuk-du-du-duduk-.

Small seeds fell to the ground from Odin's palm.

Tiny seeds the size of sunflower seeds.

"This is the first time I'm using it too..."

The moment they fell.

Kaaaaaaah-!

Shurrrr, shurrrr-.

The seeds swelled instantly, forming sharp teeth.

Screams were heard all around.

Green leafy plants filled the grand hall. The green leaves soon turned black, and dark energy consumed the air.

[Survive the "Devouring Darkness Root."]

The Devouring Darkness Root.

It was a creature whose name he had never heard of. It was probably a seed that the Administrator had given Odin for a trial.

"Maybe the difficulty level is a bit high..."

Kak-.

The Devouring Darkness Root lowered its head.

Even at their first appearance, those types who used to immediately seek food became meek sheep before YuWon.

There was nothing hostile about them.

It was Odin, more than YuWon, who was perplexed at the sight.

"Are the Devouring Darkness Roots bowing their heads?"

While serving as the acting Administrator, Odin had heard an explanation about the seeds he had received from the Administrator.

"Regardless of their ability, it's normal to be attacked. After all, this trial is part of the system."

The Devouring Darkness Roots were creatures created by the Administrators.

They had been given a system and were expected to behave according to it, regardless of how strong their opponents were.

And only Odin, the acting Administrator, could summon such a Devouring Darkness Root.

Yuwon reached out and caressed the Devouring Darkness Root.

'No.'

Seeing that, Odin thought of another being that could handle the Devouring Darkness Root.

'There are more.'

[The 'Devouring Darkness Root' cannot attack the 'Mana Master.']

The Mana Master.

It was an unfamiliar name, but Odin knew of beings whose powers fit the description.

"Administrator."

He thought to himself, but couldn't help but believe what he was seeing.

Shortly after, Odin burst into a small laugh and muttered.

"Well, future me, you've chosen a really good one to bring to the past."

Swish~

Yuwon, who was stroking the head of the Devouring Darkness Root, turned his head.

They were cute, but he had no intention of continuing to pet them.

"Is the trial over?"

Floor 65.

The closest and most hostile world to Asgard.

Known as the hottest world, it was called Muspelheim, the Land of Fire.

YuWon immediately traveled to Muspelheim and tried to contact OhGong again.

Ding~.

There was still no response.

Hours had already passed.

Woo-!

YuWon looked towards the flames rising in the sky.

A world of harsh rocky mountains surrounded him.

It was a place where even players who had reached floor 65 would collapse from the heat.

"I need to find this guy first."

Initially, after persuading Odin and securing Asgard's incorporation, he was planning to join forces with Son OhGong. However, since he couldn't contact him, there was no way to join forces.

"Until I can contact him, I have to search for him from here."

Ting-.

[The 'Golden Cinder Eyes' are activated.]

Fortunately, it wasn't that there was no way.

Although he hadn't received any contact through the Kit, it would be possible to know the approximate location using the resonance of the Golden Cinder Eyes.

With the Golden Cinder Eyes activated, he looked around.

"What?"

YuWon's vision encompassed a mountain of rocks and a pile of giant corpses.

"This is a mess."

"Avaat-."

Burrrr-.

He felt a tremor in his chest.

Danpung raised his head. His gaze shifted to the side.

"What's wrong?"

"Baaw, baw-."

It was difficult to distinguish the words, but he had a vague idea of why Danpung was reacting like that.

'He's here.'

Foolish Chaos.

He had the feeling that he was here, somewhere.

'I might encounter him.'

A shiver ran down his spine.

The battle of that day passed through his mind hazily.

Just thinking about it made him break out in a sweat.

No matter how strong he had become, it was still too much for him.

No.

Foolish Chaos was still a formidable opponent.

A drop of sweat trickled down his forehead. Then, a small hand like a cotton hammer struck YuWon's chin, bringing him back to consciousness.

"Baat-."

"Ah, yes."

Bam-.

Yuwon slapped himself in the face with his hand.

"Get a hold of yourself."

Foolish Chaos was someone to deal with later.

For now, it was Ragnarok.

It was time to focus on the Giants of Muspelheim in front of him.

"Where could he be..."

There were no villages or cities in Muspelheim.

Wherever they stepped was their home. The sky was their roof, and the earth was their bed.

The constant hot and scorching weather was just a cool spring day for them.

That's why the giants born and raised in Muspelheim were uniquely resistant to fire.

Yuwon was surrounded by them.

A brazen human who arrived in Muspelheim.

That's how the giants of Muspelheim saw him.

"Let me ask you something."

The giants advanced towards him.

Each giant was the size of a house, and each exuded an immense sense of power. Even though they were of the same rank, on average, the ranking of the giants was superior to that of humans.

Basically, they were far superior to humans in terms of physical prowess emanating from their size.

Yuwon looked at them and asked.

"I'm looking for a monkey."

"A monkey?"

"Why are you looking for a monkey here?"

A puzzled look.

YuWon shook his head, thinking he had failed again.

"If you don't know, it's okay."

"Wait a moment."

The largest giant tilted his head towards YuWon.

"You don't seem like a normal player."

His eyes burned.

They were a mix of killer intent and hostility.

Normally, the giants would have trampled YuWon, but instead, they surrounded him.

There was a rule for the giants of Muspelheim who hated humans.

Do not touch the players who climb the tower.

It was a promise made by their Administrator, and a law for themselves.

"Are you a Ranker?"

YuWon nodded in response to the giant's question.

"He's a Ranker."

"I see."

"A human Ranker has arrived in Muspelheim!"

"It's war!"

Voices drilled into his ears.

As the voices of the giants resonated loudly in his head, YuWon narrowed one eye and spoke.

"And the monkey... these things never listen until the end of what you tell them."

He wondered if he had said too much.

YuWon looked at the giants surrounding him.

There were few giants that seemed like Rankers.

It didn't make sense to waste time.

"Normally, I wouldn't have to fight them, but..."

After all, they couldn't attack him until he attacked them first.

That was the promise the giants of Muspelheim had made to their Administrator.

But...

Fazizik-.

"It's pointless to stay stuck here."

A Lightning Bolt shot out of YuWon's hand.

At that moment, YuWon's fist struck the ground.

Kwalung-!

And as if everything had vanished...

The sound and vision disappeared, and a moment later, YuWon could see the giants lying face down all around him.

"I'm in a hurry."

Now that OhGong caused an accident.

In any case, the giants of Muspelheim must be in an emergency.

Pouring a glass of water into the sea wouldn't make any difference. YuWon hurriedly moved among the giants.

He wondered how far he would have gotten.

Ung-.

Then, his player's kit rang.

It was Son OhGong.

-Hey, hey! I got into trouble.

Apparently, it wasn't just an accident.

"What did I ask you to find? Did you find it?"

-I found it.

He found it.

It was worth trusting him with the job. Despite his usual mishaps here and there, OhGong always did what he was asked.

He only worried that he would stop at nothing to achieve his goal, but this time he had nothing to worry about.

"Then hurry up and join me."

-Where are you?

"Muspelheim. I climbed up to the 65th floor and walked a short distance."

-I'm close.

YuWon stopped walking and waited for OhGong.

He didn't know how far he had gotten, but he had given him a general idea of where he was, so it shouldn't take him long to arrive.

He counted to ten in his mind.

And then...

"Hey!"

He heard OhGong's voice in the distance.

Hook-.

But Son OhGong was already in front of him.

He had arrived before the sound.

OhGong, riding the Flying Nimbus, dismounted with a satisfied smile on his face.

"You came earlier than promised."

"So did you."

YuWon looked at Son OhGong's tattered attire.

He was wearing the Attire of the Four Great Spirits. He had given it to him for temporary use since all his items had been stolen by the Celestial Realm, except for the Ru Yi Bang.

The clothes were in such a sorry state.

"You've been fighting a lot lately."

"Yeah, I guess."

"The accident you mentioned..."

YuWon, who was about to ask what the accident was, shook his head.

"No, thanks. We can talk about it later."

He extended his hand.

"Give me the things first."

"Just wait a second."

Searching his inventory, OhGong took out a small red orb and handed it over.

"Here you go."

YuWon took the orb and looked at OhGong and the orb.

How much OhGong must have fought to get it, and with whom.

YuWon put the orb back in his inventory.

"That bastard Surt is going to get what he deserves."

The words were spoken with exasperation.

And then...

"Uh, yeah."

"...?"

OhGong's reaction was strange.

"Is something wrong? Did you encounter Surt?"

"I haven't encountered him..."

For a moment, he felt relieved.

"But as you know, I'm now being hunted by the giants."

Thump-.

The ground trembled.

In the distance, just barely out of his sight, on a pile of rocks, he saw the head of a giant peering out.

No, it wasn't just one.

"And they're already here."

In Muspelheim, there were giants everywhere.

It was the same here.

"They're after OhGong."

Just because they were giants didn't mean they were slow.

They had their own means of transportation, even if not as fast.

Having stolen something they shouldn't have, the giants had been chasing OhGong all this time.

"You've brought some trouble with you."

The giants of Muspelheim.

In particular, Surtra, the tutorial boss, and Surt's son.

"Sons of Muspell."

Thud!

The giants' footsteps shook the earth and sky.

In the line of sight of YuWon and OhGong, countless giants came from beyond the rocky mountain.

Chapter 252

Son OhGong muttered to himself as the giants approached.

"They never give me a break."

Even as he muttered that, he pulled out his Ru Yi Bang.

Yuwon did the same and drew his sword.

And then...

"Hey."

Son OhGong blocked YuWon's path.

"You're too busy to fight here, aren't you?"

OhGong had a rough idea of what YuWon was about to do next.

Even if he didn't know the order or the details, he was sure that YuWon had to be quite occupied with that 'more or less.'

And that wasn't all.

"Stay still."

"...?"

"I'll handle the fighting."

Thump-.

The giants' footsteps drew nearer.

The footsteps of the gathered giants from all sides impatiently pressed on YuWon...

And then...

YuWon realized why OhGong had said this.

"You really don't need my help."

He was the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

One of the top ten High Ranks in this Tower.

His power was beyond imagination. No matter how much YuWon's rank increased, he still wasn't someone who could fight side by side with OhGong.

'...I'm still far away.'

Suddenly, YuWon could feel the distance between them.

The distance between him and OhGong.

YuWon measured the distance.

'There's a long way to go.'

When would he catch up?

He had to admit that he was far behind, and if he couldn't admit it, he would remain stuck in place.

So YuWon turned around.

"Then we'll leave out the useless ones."

YuWon shook his head.

"I'll go ahead."

The giants rushed forward.

OhGong smiled satisfactorily as he blocked their path.

"Grow-."

Kak-.

He pointed his Ru Yi Bang at the giants.

"Ru Yi."

Boom!

Tung, tung, tung.

The giants fell like bowling pins, and some bounced into the sky.

YuWon walked in their direction and asked.

"Will you be able to keep up with me soon?"

"Sure (당근이지)."

(Note: "당근이지" is a Korean expression that translates to "Of course" or "It's obvious" in English. It is used to indicate that something is evident or a logical and natural conclusion. For example, if someone asks, "Do you want to go to the movies?" the other person might respond "당근이지," which means "Of course" or "It's obvious that yes." It's a colloquial expression and quite common in everyday language in South Korea.)

"I told you not to use that word."

YuWon smiled satisfactorily.

It was funny every time he heard that word.

"It's too old-fashioned."

It was a word that YuWon had once spat out, a long time ago, and OhGong laughed at it and imitated him.

Every time that happened, YuWon hated it and said it was too old-fashioned, but Son OhGong didn't care.

Puf, puff, puff, puff-!

OhGong's alter egos appeared.

More than ten alter egos.

They stood next to YuWon, looking at the path he had made.

"Make sure to take care of this person. He's still an inexperienced friend, so we have to protect him."

He gestured for them to leave.

YuWon looked at him for a moment and then turned around to leave.

And with that, along with nearly a dozen more clones, YuWon left the place.

Then...

"Well, let's have some fun."

Son OhGong spun his shrunken staff and revealed his Golden Cinder Eyes to the giants.

"The Ragnarok will begin with me."

The seas of Muspelheim were made of lava.

Unstable, eternally burning, it was the symbol of Muspelheim.

And in the midst of that sea of lava was an island.

In the center of the island, there was a giant bathing in lava.

"Great Sage, Heaven's Equal..."

He looked towards the red sky upon hearing the news brought by the little giant.

"It seems the troublesome guy has started to move."

At the murmur of the giant, the giant who brought the news bowed his head.

"I don't think Surt-nim should worry too much about him."

Surt.

The pinnacle of giants and demons.

It was only recently that he heard a name that was offensive to his ears, someone known for controlling all the flames in the world.

"How foolish you are to talk about a matter you have yet to understand."

"Well... Surman has made his move, so they'll catch him soon."

"If they can't catch him, find out what he wants first. I can't stand to see their incompetence anymore."

"I will keep that in mind."

"Leave."

With his body submerged in lava, Surt closed his eyes, and the giant who brought the news left the place.

And right at that moment...

The footprints of a much smaller man appeared, even smaller than the giant who had just disappeared.

"I see you're not happy about this."

The familiar voice made Surt open his closed eyes again.

An invisible face.

The man, whose face and head were hidden by a hood, had come to him many times before.

"Is it because the opponent is the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal?"

"Have you ever seen him?"

"I haven't seen him, but I've seen the old Jade Emperor a few times."

Surt's lava-soaked eyes gleamed.

"I never thought I would die by such a brat."

Jade Emperor.

A top 10-ranked player, he had lived in the same era as Odin and Surt.

He knew the power of the Jade Emperor, but he also held a high opinion of OhGong's strength to defeat him.

"If that's the case, why don't you make the move yourself?"

"I can't."

Boom-.

Flames erupted from the lava.

For who knows how long.

The hooded figure asked when Surt hadn't come out for a long time.

"What are you doing?"

"I'm making a fire."

"A fire?"

The hooded figure scratched his head as if he didn't know what that meant.

But then...

He quickly gave up on the incomprehensible and spoke again.

"Anyway, if we don't catch that monkey quickly, the Ragnarok will be ruined."

Tak-.

Surt's gaze turned towards the hooded figure.

A tiny ant compared to his size.

A palm, large enough to cover the sky, reached out towards the hooded figure.

"Are you trying to scare me?"

He felt like he could crush him to death if he wanted to.

In fact, he thought so at their first meeting.

But the hooded figure didn't die.

And that was natural.

"It's not his real body."

It was just an alter ego (clone), not the real one.

"I'll tell you a fact."

"What fact?"

"The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, he..."

"Is he immortal?"

Boggle, boggle-

As Surt's mood changed, the lava began to boil.

The already hot weather became even hotter. The corners of Surt's lips twitched at the thought of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"Anyway, I'm curious. Even if he burns in this fire, will that guy really not die?"

The lava from Muspelheim wrapped around his body.

Enveloped in flames and lava, Surt ignited his long-suppressed fighting spirit.

"We'll have to wait and see. It's probably just a warm-up before the fight with Odin."

Ten days had passed since news of OhGong had been heard.

Could he have lost his player's kit in battle?

YuWon was worried, but he tried to push that thought out of his mind.

"He won't die."

There was no way OhGong would die, unless Foolish Chaos moved directly.

Son OhGong was immortal.

There was no need to worry about Foolish Chaos just yet.

It wasn't in the Ragnarok when Foolish Chaos began to move. It was when that wall collapsed and the Outer Gods started entering the tower that Foolish Chaos revealed himself.

It was also the reason why YuWon had left OhGong there alone.

"I'm sorry, but Son OhGong will never die."

Ten days.

Perhaps the past ten days had been the busiest for YuWon since he returned to the past.

And so, ten days later, YuWon was back in Asgard.

"Do you... want to meet that guy?"

YuWon nodded in response to Odin's question while watering Yggdrasil.

"I need your permission to do so."

"It's not that difficult to give you permission. Just..."

Odin turned his head to look at YuWon.

"Could it be dangerous if I release him?"

"I know."

"And yet you still want to meet him?"

"For now."

After hesitating for a moment at YuWon's answer, Odin raised his hand in the air.

Kik-.

A golden light emanated from Odin's hand. The coalescing light soon turned into a small key.

"The key is here. With this, it won't be difficult for you to let him out."

However, Odin did not immediately hand over the key.

"Still, I would like to know your reasoning, why do you want to see him?"

"Because I believe he can help us."

"You think he can help us?"

"I'm still not sure."

"What are the chances?"

"At first, I thought less than 10%, but..."

YuWon nodded.

"I changed my mind a while ago. Now it's 50%."

Only half the chances.

After thinking for a moment, Odin handed the key to YuWon.

"Take it."

YuWon took the key and left the room.

As he walked through the golden castle, he observed the eyes of the Rankers. Their eyes, which not long ago seemed so peaceful and busy playing and eating, had changed.

"Asgard is preparing for battle."

Tap~.

YuWon headed to the basement of the golden castle.

After presenting the pass to Odin, the soldiers blocking the entrance stepped aside.

A damp and dark staircase appeared, unlike the dazzling golden castle.

"We must turn the tide."

Over the past ten days...

YuWon had been moving to reverse the tide.

And this step was an extension of that.

Originally, he hadn't thought of it. Just like Odin hesitated to give him the key, YuWon had hesitated to make this choice.

And the same went for his other companions.

"No matter how urgent it is, this is a bit..."

"Even if Ragnarok is an uphill battle, dragging him into it might be a handshake."

"It's not impossible, but it's unlikely..."

"We could end up making Ragnarok harder than necessary."

Negative thoughts.

But only one.

There was one person who voted in favor, not against.

"Maybe he'll help."

It was the most unexpected person.

"No. I'm sure he'll help."

Hercules.

With everyone against it, he offered a different opinion.

But his idea was quickly dismissed.

It wasn't well-founded.

When asked why everyone thought that way, Hercules responded,

"It's a hunch, since we share the same blood..."

Tap.

A long staircase.

The staircase was as deep as the Celestial Realm's Prison. In reality, the basement of the Golden Castle was used as a prison to hold and monitor Asgard's criminals.

With Odin, the Valkyries, and countless Rankers residing in the basement of the Golden Castle, it was the most secure prison in the world.

Tap-.

The sound of footsteps descending the stairs echoed in their ears.

The few prisons were empty.

Only a few cells were occupied.

The prisoners in those few cells were Rankers, men of such notoriety that the Tower trembled when they emerged.

And one of them...

"An unwanted guest has arrived."

The familiar voice came from where YuWon had come to a halt.

Inside a dark cell.

Yuwon extended a golden, shiny key and opened his mouth.

"I have brought the key."

Tak-.

Two pairs of golden eyes emerged from the black cage.

Their eyes couldn't be more beautiful, and those eyes fixed their gaze on the key that YuWon held in his hand.

"What do you want?"

The person with the beautiful eyes asked.

His eyes, accustomed to darkness, reflected a man in prison with his back against the wall.

In the face of the direct question, YuWon responded with equal clarity.

"Join our side."

The color of his eyes and hair was as beautiful as his gaze.

The Sinner of Asgard, the only man everyone was against, but only one was in favor of him.

"Zeus."

Yuwon extended his hand.

Chapter 253

"Join our side..."

Zeus was still there.

An unreadable expression and voice.

As expected, he was a difficult person to talk to.

"What do you mean?"

Something was going on.

Zeus recognized it immediately.

It must be Zeus who was imprisoned and couldn't get out, but rather, his expression and tone seemed more relaxed.

"There will be a war."

"Do you mean Ragnarok?"

"...Did you know?"

Zeus knew about Ragnarok.

'How the hell'.

Question marks floated above YuWon's head, but he didn't show them.

It was Zeus.

Although it was the first time he had a proper conversation with him, he turned out to be a difficult person to handle even verbally.

But he couldn't be deterred.

"It'll be easier to talk to you if you know."

Sensing that this was going to be a long conversation, YuWon sat up straight.

"That's right. It's Ragnarok."

"And when you say 'us,' you mean Asgard, right?"

"Yes, that's right. That's where we'll imprison you."

"You have the audacity to suggest that."

"I don't care."

It was also strange for YuWon to make such a suggestion.

If it weren't for Hercules's approval, he wouldn't have made the offer.

No.

"If it weren't for OhGong, I wouldn't even dream of it."

This choice was a combination of OhGong and Hercules.

Hercules agreed to join Zeus. Furthermore, in the future where Son OhGong existed, Zeus finally fought against Hercules and other colleagues.

He couldn't be sure that Zeus in the present would lend a hand in Ragnarok just because the outcome in the distant future worked out that way.

So it's 50%.

Half and half.

"So I ask you. Will you?"

"Outside of here, don't you think I'll betray you?"

"If you were, you wouldn't be saying this."

"And what if I'm saying this because I hope you think that way?"

The words went round and round in circles.

YuWon sighed in frustration.

"Don't play with me."

"I haven't had a conversation with people in a long time, so forgive me."

Zeus raised his hand.

That gesture...

It made all the conversations they had had so far nonexistent.

He really had skills in dealing with many people. Zeus grasped the essence of the previous conversation as a 'flow.'

The time Zeus lived was much longer than YuWon's, who returned using the Clock Movement.

Of course...

YuWon's time was not so watery and blind as to be caught by such words.

"Let's not say anything insincere from now on."

Pak.

YuWon's eyes burned.

One golden eye and one red eye.

[The 'Golden Cinder Eyes' capture the truth]

The Golden Cinder Eyes met Zeus's eyes.

"Neither you nor me."

"...Are those the Golden Cinder Eyes?"

Indeed, Zeus also knew about the Golden Cinder Eyes.

The Golden Cinder Eyes might not fully comprehend the true intentions of a high-ranking being like Zeus, but they could get a clue about whether his words were sincere or not.

From this moment on, it was a matter of YuWon's abilities.

And the YuWon that Zeus knew was a being with the ability to see one step ahead of himself.

"You're not fun."

"Is it fun to see a human playing with your tongue?"

"Is that so?"

It was difficult to lie to someone who has the Golden Cinder Eyes. Zeus had no choice but to accept that.

"What do I get?"

A direct question.

Now there was a bit of dialogue.

"I will let you go."

"Then I'll have to ask you the same question again."

As if already knowing the answer, Zeus asked again.

"Outside of here, don't you think I'll betray you?"

"I think it's very possible."

"And?"

"Then I'll have to capture you."

"You? Me?"

"Three years."

YuWon raised three fingers.

"That's the time you will have to use your power to help us, after that, you are free."

"Just..."

"I think it's worth making a bet of that level. If you can turn the King of Olympus into our ally, don't you think?"

Zeus frowned.

Three years.

Only three years.

YuWon was saying that within three years, Zeus would be released and could undo his debt with his enemies.

It seemed like a joke, perhaps.

But Zeus simply didn't see it that way.

YuWon told Zeus not to tell lies.

-"Neither you nor me."

Were those empty words or a trick?

It didn't seem so.

But then...

"I'm serious."

YuWon's words now meant that they were sincere.

Two people had the same conversation. But the three years were not the same for both.

'Three years is a long time.'

YuWon was in no way underestimating or belittling Zeus.

'He has experience in the game.'

Time flows the same for everyone, but the value of time is not the same for everyone.

If he lost three years for this, YuWon's plans would be seriously compromised.

"I'm not going to propose this multiple times. The fact that you consider it too much means it will be difficult to become allies."

Absolutely true.

"Decide here."

YuWon crossed his arms where he was sitting, waiting for Zeus's response.

"Will you be released and fight with us? Or will you remain imprisoned here until your punishment is complete?"

Floor 55.

The world of the night, with its very short days and very long nights.

Also known as the Demon Realm.

"Is Asgard preparing for battle?"

"Already in Muspelheim, OhGong challenged Surt to a fight."

"He gets into trouble as soon as he goes out."

"You don't understand. No matter how high that guy's rank is, the opponent is Surt."

"But really, is this the beginning of a battle between Muspelheim and Asgard? This is going to get big."

The race that ruled the Demon Realm was the Demons.

At this moment, when the Tower was in an unfavorable position.

They were excited for the upcoming battle.

"So, which side are we on?"

"What are you talking about? Muspelheim."

"That's right. Are Asgard and we on good terms?"

"Well, the final decision is still..."

"Forget it, have a drink."

Dum-.

The tall glasses clinked. The strong yellow liquor swirled, and the demons began to drink.

And there was a person watching that scene. No, a demon was present.

"These pitiful things..."

Mamos.

After descending to floor 58, he came to have a drink alone and was annoyed by the conversation he heard behind him.

The war.

That terrifying and immense word they spoke so easily.

The demons should view it with more seriousness than anyone else, but they spoke of it as if it were a party.

That was how it was.

The reason the 'Demon King' Guild couldn't simply watch the fight between Muspelheim and Asgard.

"It's because of idiots like them that we're always at war."

To maintain the guild, there was no choice but to pay attention to the guild members.

No matter how big and powerful a guild may be, members will leave the guild if it doesn't fit their personality and preferences.

This is especially true in the case of demons.

They loved to fight, they loved blood.

That's why they chose the Demon King Guild, not other guilds.

Such a Demon King would not be able to avoid this great war.

"Hah-."

Mamos put down his glass with a sigh and clenched his jaw.

"I'm bored."

He had stopped and descended from the Tower at the behest of his father, Belial, but there was nothing else to do here.

A boring day.

There was nothing to do here.

"Hyung-nim (older brother) seems to be having fun lately."

Mamos muttered as he placed his Player Kit on the table.

"I have nothing to do..."

Ding-.

Then, his Player Kit buzzed.

'A message from father?'

But Mamos' eyes widened as he read the text.

"Eh?"

[My dear brother Kim YuWon: Where are you?]

A message from the saved number of YuWon.

Mamos, who was drinking alone, quickly replied.

[At a bar on floor 58]

[My dear brother Kim YuWon: Where is the bar?]

[This is the XXXX bar, and it's in the city center]

There was no response.

Mamos bit his nails and stared at the Player Kit.

'Why did he ask for my location, maybe...?'

His hands trembled with excitement.

His heart swelled at the thought that perhaps, just perhaps, he would be reunited with YuWon.

At that moment...

Clack-.

The tavern door opened, and a new customer entered.

Mamos' eyes remained fixed on his Player Kit.

Naturally, his eyes did not turn to his surroundings.

But then...

"You were close."

A familiar voice came from behind him.

Mamos turned his head upon hearing the voice, and his eyes caught sight of YuWon's face.

"H-Hyung?"

"How have you been?"

Druk-.

YuWon immediately sat down in front of Mamos.

A cold greeting.

Mamos smiled widely and nodded, as if nothing had changed.

"I've been good, and what about you, hyung?"

He was about to ask, "How have you been?" but Mamos nodded.

"Even if I didn't have to ask how you've been, I could hear it all."

Rumors about YuWon were heard even if one didn't want to hear them. Even Mamos was interested in YuWon.

"I heard that you rescued the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal from the Celestial Realm, and even gained a ranking because of it."

"That's what everyone says."

It was because of that ranking that the Golden Castle and the Valkyries were interested in YuWon.

He knew that rankings were important for Rankers, but it seemed to be the same for players.

"It's unusual... No, it's unprecedented, so it makes sense for them to say something."

"I know."

"But why are you here? I heard that you've already climbed more than 60 floors."

Once YuWon climbed up, he rarely came back down.

That was something Mamos knew well, as he had climbed the tower with YuWon once, albeit for a short time.

But then YuWon came back down.

Right here.

In the Demon Realm.

Mamos's eyes sparkled.

He suddenly remembered the conversation from the table behind him.

Mamos asked incredulously, "Could it be... that the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal has something to do with the fight against Muspelheim?"

YuWon saved the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal on the 50th floor.

He knew YuWon was more calculated and foresighted than anyone.

He had saved the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and the fact that the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal was moving so conspicuously now...

Mamos thought it had something to do with YuWon.

Or maybe not.

"It's not entirely unrelated."

YuWon didn't deny Mamos's words.

"Even with Asgard?"

"Yes."

Mamos felt his head warming up at YuWon's response.

The boredom and freedom he had felt moments ago had disappeared.

Like a child in an amusement park for the first time in his life, Mamos laughed and asked, "What are you going to do now?"

"I see the word has already spread around here."

"Well, if it's going to be a war, it's more fun to do it with you."

Mamos laughed heartily.

As expected, the demons of the Demon Realm would never engage in a fight like this.

"I have to ask you a favor."

Upon descending to the Demon Realm, the first thing YuWon thought of was Mamos.

For two reasons.

The first reason was that he was the friendliest to him among the demons he knew.

And the second reason was...

"Where is your father?"

It was because of his origin and affiliation.

"I need to meet the Demon King."

Chapter 254

Demon King.

It was a title bestowed only upon a very small number of Rankers among the demons.

Among the demons with noble titles, a small number began to call themselves kings and rule the Demon World.

Belial was one of those Demon Kings.

'The Lord of Lies'.

His palace was of the dreariest colors.

A palace of sticky gray.

'A peculiar taste'.

The place seemed even more monotonous to YuWon, who had just stayed at the golden castle.

"Your father's tastes are a bit eccentric, aren't they?"

"He's like a Demon King."

The atmosphere was perfect.

Just as he had imagined.

YuWon had only heard about it, but it was his first time personally visiting a Demon King's castle.

"Not all demons are odd. Some of them like the color pink."

"There are all kinds of weird people."

"Yeah, well, I don't understand them either."

They chatted and moved, and soon found themselves in the center of the castle.

Belial's castle was even more deserted than the Golden Castle.

There wasn't even the feeling of a single ant walking, apart from the absence of any sign of life.

He wondered if he had the whole place to himself.

As they walked...

"Greetings to you."

"Yes?"

When YuWon stopped and murmured, Mamos looked back in surprise.

At that moment...

"Ah!"

Mamos's body floated up and large eyes appeared.

Thump.

-Mamos.

Belial's eyes.

His crimson eyes and black bloodline looked at Mamos.

-Where are you wandering around?

Rumbling with a furious voice. The anger of the Demon King was enough to frighten anyone, but Mamos remained impassive.

"Stop pretending to be angry, I'm not falling into the trap anymore."

Mamos sighed heavily, as if it wasn't the first time this happened.

The Lord of Lies.

YuWon had heard of him in rumors.

An eccentric who sprinkled lies in everything he said.

The first time he had heard of him, he had wondered if that was the Lord of Lies.

And that impression hadn't changed even now that he was face to face with Belial's eyes.

Ew-.

Belial looked at him again.

His eyes scanned YuWon.

-Who is this guy by your side...

"Stop pretending you don't know."

Mamos cut off Belial.

He did know.

Guk-.

A single pupil opened, and from it emerged a demon with long arms and legs.

A demon with a face resembling Mamos', wearing a half-mask.

He recognized the face.

"Belial."

The Lord of Lies appeared.

YuWon bowed before him.

"I, Player Kim YuWon, offer you my greetings."

"...?"

Belial seemed perplexed.

When YuWon lifted his head in a greeting, Belial opened his mouth with a strange expression.

"Is it different from what I heard from that Diablo guy?"

Diablo.

A High Ranker with the same title of Demon King, and the most powerful demon in the Demon Kings' Guild.

Among the Demon Kings, he was the only being who had any contact with YuWon.

But Belial felt that the image of YuWon that Diablo had given him was different from what he saw in front of him.

"You are Mamos' father."

That's why YuWon was so polite to Belial.

"As an older brother, I cannot act recklessly, can I?"

"Are you being polite not because I am Belial, but because I am Mamos' father?"

He had never heard anything like this in his life.

After becoming one of the Demon Kings, everyone who bowed before him did so because of his power.

But YuWon's head did not bow before such things.

"If it wasn't for that guy Diablo, I would have thought it was nonsense."

Although it went against his alter ego, YuWon was a brave person who was not afraid to confront even Diablo.

There was no reason not to believe him.

"Then I should also treat you as a guest of my son."

Belial turned around.

Immediately, he entered the pupil.

"Go ahead."

Jab-.

Belial's figure disappeared.

Belial had spoken unilaterally and disappeared unilaterally.

Mamos looked at YuWon again with a worried expression.

"I will tell you in advance, my father is a man of lies."

"I know."

"And when he says he will treat you as a guest of his son, it's probably a lie too."

YuWon nodded.

From the moment Belial appeared, YuWon had been using the Golden Cinder Eyes.

"I must be on guard."

This was the Lord of Lies.

He might lack the cunning and skill of Zeus, but he was far superior to him in deceit.

Even with the Golden Cinder Eyes, YuWon would still not be able to see through all his lies.

Pak.

YuWon walked behind Belial.

And at that moment...

[You have entered the 'Chamber of Lies']

A black darkness enveloped YuWon.

The immense darkness made it difficult to see even an inch ahead.

Mamos was nowhere to be seen either. He had already entered Belial's territory.

-I like questions and answers.

Belial's voice.

Hospitality was a lie. Although he knew it, the mere fact that the other man had tried to deceive him made him unnecessarily uncomfortable.

-From now on, when I ask you a question, you ask me one too, and we can mix lies and truths in our answers.

A voice full of excitement.

This was Belial's entertainment.

And it had already begun.

Belial's method of questions and answers.

It was a well-known game among higher-ranking demons. Belial, as the Lord of Lies, liked to mix truths and lies in his stories.

That's why YuWon sought Belial.

To have a question and answer session with him.

-There are more rules. Once you have told a lie, you must tell the truth next unless, of course, the other person sees through the lie.

"What if what you thought was a lie turns out to be the truth?"

-Then you will have to accept the penalty for answering incorrectly. You must compulsorily tell the truth in your opponent's next question. How about that? Does it sound fun?

[Do you accept Belial's interrogation method?]

A conversation mixing lies and truths.

But in the process, you don't know which is the lie. Once you identify the lie, you will be able to see that the next answer is the truth, but to do that, you must first identify the lie.

It's a game where everything seems like a lie until you discover which one is false.

"That sounds fun."

Belial's lies.

And his Golden Cinder Eyes.

It was a battle of skills and a battle of which brain can work faster.

This was more advantageous for YuWon than going head-to-head with the Demon King Belial.

-I will ask you first. What is your purpose here?

It was a question for which there was no reason to lie.

YuWon responded.

"I want to fight alongside the Demon Kings."

Although he spoke the truth, he concealed the truth in his answer.

To fight together, but not which side.

Whether it meant uniting Muspelheim with the Demon Kings or wanting to bring the Demon Kings to Asgard, he couldn't say with just this answer.

This means he forced the person to discard one question from their opponent with just one answer.

A fight where swords and shields are thrown back and forth through words.

"Now it's my turn."

-You caught onto the game pretty quickly.

As if having fun, the voice mixed with a chuckle.

YuWon slowly opened his mouth.

"Do the Demon Kings intend to intervene in the war?"

-Wherever there is blood, the Demon Kings go. It's my turn now. Which side are you going to join, Asgard or Muspelheim?

"Asgard. Now it's my turn. The Demon Kings are currently in Muspelheim..."

A series of nonsensical questions and answers.

YuWon and Belial closely watched each other's questions and answers. If they were caught lying even once, they couldn't escape the next question.

You must also be careful with lies.

You must also mix your lies to confuse your opponent.

Only then will you find the meaning of this question and answer game.

"This will never end."

YuWon realized that they were covering their tracks with each other himself.

He must shake things up.

To do that, he must ask a different question.

So...

"What kind of son is Mamos to you?"

-...

Unlike before, the response didn't come immediately.

It was because it was a completely different question than what he expected.

That's all.

YuWon infused mana into his Golden Cinder Eyes and looked at Belial in the darkness.

"Where is the demon I was talking to earlier?"

-He's just a useless... and worthless son.

[The 'Golden Cinder Eyes' see through lies]

Hwareuk-.

YuWon's eyes burned as he stared into the dark abyss.

A very brief hesitation.

But that gap was enough. In those eyes, seeking truth and falsehood, Belial's lie was revealed.

'This answer is surprising.'

He knew Mamos was Belial's sore spot.

Otherwise, Belial probably would have sired multiple children and created a bloodline like the other Demon Kings.

Despite that, Mamos grew up without receiving much love from Belial. YuWon thought there must be a reason for that.

But even here, Belial seized the opportunity to lie.

"You're lying."

[You saw through the lie]

[The next response from Belial will surely be the truth]

He could feel Belial's agitation.

To ruin the possibility of a lie like this...

When it came to Mamos, it seemed the lies would spill out without conditions.

'This makes the question easier.'

To identify a secure lie.

That was the task YuWon had to accomplish in this conversation.

The initiative, which hadn't moved anywhere, tilted towards YuWon.

"Ask a question."

Just like the response, the question wasn't immediately followed.

The next response had to be the truth.

Whether it was the pressure or the fact that he, the Lord of Lies, had lost the initiative, Belial trembled.

-How did you get here?

It was quite a broad question.

This was evidence of his surprise and bewilderment.

If YuWon gave a vague answer like "I did what I could," he might get away with it.

But no.

YuWon had been waiting for this question.

"I know everything that will happen. Even the outcome of this war."

-You're lying.

Naturally, Belial denied YuWon's response.

An omniscient being.

He didn't believe such a being could exist, not even one who knew the outcome of the war between Asgard and Muspelheim.

But...

[Kim YuWon's response is 'true'].

[Belial must tell the truth about two questions].

-...what?

The question-and-answer system told them that what YuWon said was the truth.

It was a question-and-answer system.

Even if you were an Administrator, you couldn't deceive the system. No matter what rank you had, you were not exempt from the power of the system.

The system revealed that YuWon's words were true.

Belial's right to question had ended. It was YuWon's turn.

However, YuWon's response didn't end there.

"I know the outcome of this war."

He knew everything.

Even the outcome of the war.

So far, it was the truth.

And then he added.

"The war will end with the defeat of Muspelheim."

The lie added by YuWon, even if it was just a hint, shook the Demon King's resolve.

Chapter 255

It wasn't entirely a lie.

This war would end with the defeat of Muspelheim.

Even if it wasn't originally, it would definitely be so.

'Because I will make it so.'

There was confidence.

Ragnarok would end with the victory of Asgard.

That was the reason YuWon had returned.

Now that he knew Ragnarok was unstoppable, he was determined to turn the tide.

With that purpose, he sent OhGong to Muspelheim and met with Zeus.

That was the reason for his encounter with the Demon King.

If they, who fought on the side of Muspelheim in Ragnarok, joined Asgard instead...

Nothing could be more beneficial than having an enemy on your side.

"Now it's my turn, isn't it?"

-...Yes.

"Which side are the Demon Kings on, Asgard or Muspelheim?"

Directly asking about the sides.

It was the first time in the entire round of questions and answers that a question was not vague.

After a moment, Belial responded.

-The Demon Kings have sided with Muspelheim.

An uneasy voice.

Just moments ago, YuWon had predicted the defeat of Muspelheim.

And yet, the Demon Kings were on the side of Muspelheim. This was a question in which one could never lie.

Unable to decide if the answer was true or not, YuWon still had one more chance to ask a question.

YuWon asked.

"Do you still hold the same thought?"

-Haha...

A harsh laugh escaped.

In that voice, YuWon could feel Belial's emotions.

Belial was amused.

Furthermore...

He was astonished, bewildered, and cautious.

-It seems you are only focused on stripping me of everything without gaining anything in return.

This question and answer method imbued with the power of the system was Belial's authority.

It was Belial's power to draw out sincerity from his opponents and, conversely, distract them with lies.

This power earned Belial the title of Lord of Lies.

However, Belial had gained nothing from the questionnaire but revealed his true nature.

-I certainly think differently. What you said did shake me a bit.

The second truth was revealed.

At this point, it could be said that half of the objective was achieved.

YuWon's purpose in the first place was to meet Belial and shake up a pillar of the Demon King.

The corner of YuWon's mouth lifted.

That was enough.

"Do you want to continue?"

"...Curse."

Hua-ak-.

The darkness enveloping YuWon lifted.

He hadn't even been devoured by it in the first place, but he felt his vision was brighter now.

"Let's stop, let's stop. If we continue like this, we'll end up completely exposed."

Shaking his head, Belial pulled off the mask covering his face.

Mamos looked perplexed at the suddenly illuminated background.

What the hell had just happened?

Soon, the two reacted, and Mamos asked incredulously.

"Elder brother, perhaps...?"

"Yes, we already played that game of questions."

He couldn't believe it.

But their reactions were too different.

Belial with a ruined expression and YuWon with a satisfied expression.

The winner was clear.

"You won?"

YuWon shrugged.

There were no punches, no fighting, no injuries, no deaths.

How could there be a victory or defeat in such a fight?

At least, for him, it was a fight without victory or defeat.

But.

"What the hell is this guy doing?"

It was different for Belial.

He had been playing this game countless times.

Belial was a master of lies, and he was equally skilled at seeing through his opponent's lies.

However...

Belial had been defeated by YuWon in a game of trivialities.

"I have learned a lot from you, thank you."

YuWon bowed respectfully to Belial once again.

It was he who bowed, but Belial sighed.

YuWon raised his head again and looked at his mask with a smile on his face.

It was a fight he was destined to win.

YuWon had information.

Information about Belial.

And information about the future, all of it.

The question and answer system only indicated whether YuWon's words were true or false, but it did not reveal all the information YuWon knew.

YuWon knew information that Belial had no choice but to lie about.

On the other hand, he also had information that Belial would never believe.

That's why this was a battle that could only be won in the first place.

"What did you learn?"

"Anyway, with this, I think we have something to talk about."

"...Just as Diablo said."

A furrow formed between Belial's half-glassy brows hidden by the mask.

"You're a strange guy. And elusive."

"I'll take that as a compliment."

"I need time. It's not a decision I can make alone."

"Then?"

"I will summon the Demon Kings."

Mamos' eyes widened.

YuWon, on the other hand, nodded in approval.

"Please."

"You speak so easily."

It was an invocation to the Demon Kings.

One of the most influential race-level Guilds within this Tower.

It was an event that would shake the Tower if the leaders of such a guild, the Demon Kings, gathered.

Whether he knew the weight of that or not, YuWon spoke as if it were natural.

"Wait."

Tsk-tsk-.

Belial's eyes closed again.

"It won't take long."

At the same time, Belial's figure disappeared again, like a mirage.

Mamos, still looking bewildered.

Pak-.

YuWon placed his hand on Mamos' shoulder and looked around.

"I guess I'll have to stay here for a while."

A palace with dozens of rooms.

"Give me a room."

Mamos sighed, his liver trembling, but casually looked for a room.

Mamos let out a heavy sigh and turned around.

"Follow me."

YuWon unpacked his belongings from the inventory.

The room was spacious.

Hwaluk-.

He lit a fire, simply adding warmth to the room.

Sometimes the skills obtained as a Player came in handy.

He could use his skills to create fire at any time and place.

"No news yet."

YuWon checked his Player Kit again.

There was still no news from OhGong.

More than ten days had already passed.

Could he still be fighting?

"It's not impossible."

As far as he remembered, OhGong's longest battle lasted over fifty days. With his immortal body and tireless endurance, he could fight without stopping.

So, even though ten days had passed, YuWon couldn't be sure if OhGong had been defeated.

Of course, that didn't make him any more comfortable.

"I don't know how long he will be able to buy me time."

OhGong's support was one of the key points in this fight.

The commotion in Muspelheim was already causing a stir in the Tower, and once that battle was over, Ragnarok would truly begin.

Until then, YuWon could only be as prepared as possible.

"It seems like a lot is happening here."

Mamos, who had accompanied him to his room, patted his chest and looked out the window.

Outside was dark. The Demon Realm was dark most of the time.

But the demons were there, running about eagerly.

Everyone was anxious about the impending war.

"I guess we're in for a big fight, right?"

"Probably."

"As far as I know, this is only the second time the Demon Kings have been summoned."

Mamos was the son of Belial, one of the Demon Kings.

From a young age, he had studied many things, including the history of the Demon Realm.

"The Great War of the Heavenly Demons (천마대전), the battle between the 'Heavens (하늘)' and the 'Demon Kings (마왕)'. That great war was the first."

(Note: As you know, the Celestial Realm (仙境) (also known as Heaven) is part of Chinese Religion, but the 'Heavens (하늘)' from now on, seems to be part of Jewish Religion, so keep that in mind...)

(P.S: The Demons here also seem to allude to Jewish Religion, Heaven, Hell, cough, cough)

A battle between two feuding guilds.

In that battle, which has been compared to the Gigantomachy War, the Demon Kings gathered for the first time.

It was a rare occurrence for the highly individualistic Demon Kings to come together.

And now...

YuWon had gathered them through a question and answer session with Belial.

"The Demon Kings will probably side with Muspelheim, as there are many Demon Race giants in Muspelheim, and their personalities align well with those of the Demon Kings."

Mamos was right.

Indeed, in the future that YuWon remembered, the Demon Kings sided with Muspelheim in Ragnarok.

Meanwhile, the Great Guild of 'Heaven,' led by Metatron, sided with Asgard.

The Heavens fell, and the Demons crushed them.

Ragnarok soaked the Tower in blood and darkness.

"You're on Asgard's side, aren't you?"

"Yes."

"And do you think you can change the Demon Kings' decision?"

"I don't know."

He wasn't convinced yet.

Above all, it was a matter of whether the Demon Kings would side with Heaven.

The Demon Kings and Heaven had been rival guilds for a long time. It would be difficult for the pride of the Demon Kings to join forces with their enemies.

"I guess we'll find out sooner or later."

YuWon laid his head on the bed in his room.

Soon...

The summoning of the Demon Kings would take place, turning the tide of Ragnarok.

The summoning didn't take long.

One by one, in Belial's palace...

High-ranking Demons began to gather.

"Astaroth, rumored to be the wealthiest man in the Demon Realm..."

"Baal. Said to be the mightiest in terms of power in the Demon Realm."

"Pluton, who is said to have gone into hiding after being defeated by Michael..."

Each time a Demon King entered the palace, Mamos explained to YuWon about them.

Astaroth, Baal, Pluto, and Behemoth...

One high-ranking Demon King after another gathered.

Demon Kings, indeed.

In the presence of them, YuWon could only click his tongue.

Demons were a race that sought only blood and battle. They were also the race with the highest number of Rankers and High Ranks in relation to the population.

Such was the case now...

When the Demon Kings gathered, their aura was overwhelming.

"The Demon Kings have enough power to face both Heaven and the Celestial Realm at the same time."

Although they lost the first war, the outcome could have been different if the power of the Demon Kings had joined forces.

Knowing this, the Demon Kings prepared for the upcoming Great Celestial War.

And if YuWon's memory didn't fail him, the battle eventually ended with the Demon Kings' victory.

Even if it was due to the side effects of Ragnarok.

Tap-.

At that moment, a step with an extraordinary presence entered Belial's palace.

Yuwon's gaze naturally turned to the owner of the steps.

"And he is..."

Mamos also fixed his gaze on him.

Gulp-.

Unable to speak immediately, Mamos captured the figure of the man in his black eyes.

A tall man with red hair and two black horns.

Even if it was only a back view, he would never forget it once he saw it.

"Diablo, the pinnacle of the Demon Kings."

Diablo.

The unofficial but recognized leader of the Demon Kings, the highest rank among the Demon Kings.

Although Belial was the master of the palace, he could feel the air of this room flowing around him.

And as he walked towards the center of the palace, he turned his head.

And then...

"Ah-."

The corner of Diablo's mouth curved, and his eyes met YuWon's, who was looking at him from the second floor.

"Do you have it?"

Tak-ak-.

Diablo pointed to the horns on his head.

On the tip of one of Diablo's horns...

There was a faint sign of fracture.

"My horn."

Chapter 256

In response to Diablo's whisper, Mamos looked towards YuWon.

It was a look that said, "What is he talking about?"

Yuwon ignored the look and answered Diablo's question.

"I have it."

Ssik-.

The corners of Diablo's mouth twisted.

Turning around again, Diablo approached a long table in the center of the palace.

"Whoah-."

Pap-.

Mamos slumped in his seat.

His heart was pounding in his chest, about to burst.

"Big brother, do you know Diablo?"

"To be honest, I don't."

"If that's the case, what the hell does the horn mean?"

"Oh..."

Yuwon reached into his inventory.

Suddenly, a horn emerged from the tip of his fingers.

"This."

"It can't be, this is..."

Mamos turned his head to look at Diablo, who was sitting with his feet propped up on one side of the table.

The tips of the horns on his head were hollow.

It was obvious that they had been cut off, even if it was just a tiny and imperceptible piece.

"Are these Diablo's horns?"

"Maybe."

"What if you boil it and eat it..."

Boiling it and eating it.

He knew that some people sometimes ate the horns of stronger Demons to enhance their abilities, but YuWon had never considered using them in that way.

"You won't get much from such a small horn."

Despite its apparent size, horns of this size were just the tip of the iceberg compared to Diablo's main body.

Instead of feeding on them to increase his strength, it would be better to use Diablo's horns for his other abilities.

[Diablo's Horn]

#A fragment of the horn of the Demon King Diablo. A symbol that Diablo gives to those he acknowledges.

#You can gain favor from Diablo and the Demons.

Demon King Diablo.

Being recognized by him and receiving his horn was enough to win the favor of other Demons.

And not just any Demon, but also the Demon Kings.

Diablo enjoyed such high regard among Demons that it was said that if there really were a 'King', it would be Diablo. **(Note: I know that all demon kings have the title of king in their name, but here King refers to a king of kings, as in religion)**

Indeed, Diablo's ranking was overwhelming.

"It seems we're all here."

Finally, Belial, the master of the palace, sat down, and all the seats prepared for the Demon Kings were filled.

Ten seats.

Yuwon looked at the seats and opened his mouth.

"For now, let's just observe."

"I smell a human."

When all the seats were filled, Behemoth spoke.

Behemoth lifted his head and looked at YuWon.

"Is that human the one who gathered us all?"

Behemoth.

A high-ranking individual with the largest size among the Demon Kings.

His body was the size of an island. It was said to be the largest creature in the Tower, and the power radiating from him was enough to destroy a city with a mere step.

"All because of that creature?"

"Kim YuWon. I've heard that name."

"Still, isn't it too much? For all of us to come because of him."

The reactions were stunned.

Diablo remained silent, still reclining in his chair with his feet on the table.

But...

Belial, looking at the Demon Kings, had a different reaction.

"As always, you have no filter when you speak."

Belial's eyes pierced through the Demon Kings.

"If you truly thought that, you wouldn't have come here. Isn't that right?"

"That bastard's tongue again."

"I feel dirty just talking to him."

"And ironically, he is the best at lying."

Growl after growl erupted.

As the complaints continued, tendons bulged from Belial's forehead.

"Yes, yes, yes. I don't want to waste time here either. So let's finish this and go home."

The Demon Kings didn't get along well with each other.

That was also the reason why they didn't unite and join forces.

But they still had to gather for something like this.

This meeting was about the future of their Demon Kings Guild.

"You said you were going to join Muspelheim? Are you really going to backtrack on your decision because of that brat?"

"If it was confirmed through the question and answer method, you can't simply see it as a lie."

"Based on what?"

"It hasn't been confirmed yet."

"Then let's start by investigating that. If we dissect it piece by piece..."

"If that information turns out to be true, he could become an ally soon. Are you in your right mind?"

There was a brief exchange.

And in the end, as always, the eyes focused on Diablo.

Diablo, who hadn't said a word all this time.

He still had a crooked corner of his mouth, a bewildered expression on his face.

"What are you thinking, Diablo?"

The Demon Kings appeared horizontal on the outside, but it wasn't actually the case.

All eyes turned towards Diablo.

Because he hadn't spoken a word in the first place, and the direction of the meeting hadn't been decided.

The group was destined to stumble greatly according to the leader's will.

Then, Diablo, with a wide grin, spoke.

"I..."

Swish-.

Diablo's head tilted back, and his eyes locked with YuWon's on the second floor.

"I want to fight that guy."

Upon hearing those words, the gazes of the Demon Kings turned towards YuWon.

Fight against him...

The words were spoken by Diablo, no one else.

Diablo was willing to fight.

For what reason?

While everyone was astonished, Belial asked with an ambiguous face.

"When you say you want to fight that guy, do you mean literally fight him alone, or do you want to fight alongside him?"

Belial's eyes fixed on Diablo's expression, his tone, his shift in emotion, more than the words he spoke.

There was so much in his expression.

Curiosity, delight, speculation, and anger.

He was exactly the antithesis of YuWon.

YuWon was like someone with a thick mask that he never took off. It was hard to tell if he was sincere or not.

Diablo, on the other hand, showed a lot.

He could see all kinds of emotions in him, so it was also hard to know what he was really thinking.

Diablo looked back at Belial.

Then, slowly, he opened his mouth.

"Both."

"Both?"

"I want to fight against him, and I want to fight alongside him."

The corners of his lips moved downward.

"However, the only downside is that we'll have to be on the same battlefield as that repugnant guy, Metatron..." **(Note: That is, fighting together as a team)**

A name that made him sick just thinking about it.

Metatron.

Diablo brushed his fingers against the armrest of the chair.

"Well, we'll punch him in the face when we meet him. If not, we can always have a Great Celestial Demon War later."

Anyway, even if it wasn't Ragnarok, the Great Celestial Demon War was inevitable.

Diablo raised his hand in anticipation.

"Let's vote. I vote for Asgard."

At those words, one by one, the Demon Kings looked at each other.

And then...

One by one, the Demon Kings began to raise their hands.

"I vote..."

"I do too..."

YuWon observed the meeting of the Demon Kings from above.

One vote.

In a way, it may seem the fairest and simplest.

Whoever has more votes wins, that's the rule.

However, when it's publicly revealed who voted for or against, the rules are never that simple.

After all, the flow was created by the strongest.

And in this case, the flow centered around Diablo.

"It's not that I didn't expect it, but this is quite good."

As expected...

"Asgard."

"Asgard."

"I also vote for Asgard."

"I vote for Muspelheim. Fighting on the same side as Heaven, how ridiculous."

"I vote for Asgard. We should fight on the side of probability."

The vote was unanimous.

Eight to two.

All the Demon Kings except Behemoth and Pluton followed Diablo and raised their hands for Asgard.

"A complete change from last time."

The Demon Kings have decided to side with Asgard.

YuWon, who didn't expect the decision to be so easy, was left speechless.

Thud-.

"Are we done talking already?"

Diablo quickly stood up from his seat.

And before he could hear an answer.

"Hey."

Diablo tilted his head to look at YuWon.

"Follow me."

A fishy smell mixed with the wind blowing through Muspelheim.

A fishy smell different from that of the sea.

It was the smell of blood.

Zurück-.

Thick blood flowed like a river and a sea.

Above the sticky blood, the footprints of giants were stamped.

Kujik-.

"For such a small subject like an ant, you're quite tough."

A glimmer of light shone in the eyes of the giant, who was stomping hard on the ground.

He was determined to crush him like an ant.

But what came to his mind was what happened next.

"I am not small..."

The little hand that held the giant's foot surrounded it.

"You are the great ones."

Boom-.

Boom-.

The giant's body was lifted and sent flying. The giant's body that OhGong swung became a giant weapon and attacked the other giants.

Boom!

The giants collapsed.

Son OhGong laughed as he watched them.

Kuk~

Then, OhGong's body trembled.

His vision became blurry, and as if his body was failing, his vision began to fail him.

"Oh, no..."

Thud.

Slapping his wobbly legs with the palm of his hand, OhGong straightened up.

Exhaling heavily, he looked up and saw the sun setting.

It was the eleventh day.

"I'm still weakened. Even with this body..."

Only the eleventh day.

And he was already getting tired.

He didn't have much strength left to fight. He wasn't sure how much longer he could go on like this.

Tap-.

OhGong began walking again.

The giants kept coming, no matter how many he killed. The big guys were like a swarm of ants.

For the first time, OhGong realized the power of Muspelheim.

The strength of hundreds of millions of giants.

Furthermore, the giants of Muspelheim were endowed with demonic powers from birth and beyond.

This explained why Odin lost in Ragnarok.

The power of Muspelheim had already surpassed Asgard.

Kak~.

These countless giant demons...

Unlike Asgard, which fought for peace, Muspelheim had been preparing for war for a long time.

'I can't win this.'

He didn't even know if he would survive, let alone win.

A feeling of defeat engulfed him.

That's why Son OhGong had to make a joke like this.

"Maybe I'll take the title of Giant Slayer after all."

And so, once again, OhGong lifted his Ru Yi Bang heavier than usual.

-You still have a long way to go.

A voice cut through the air from far away.

Guu-.

A heavy and authoritative voice.

OhGong turned his head, and right there he could see the bodies of the giants flying into the sky.

Tak, tak, tak!

A path appeared amidst the dense forest of giants.

Duk-!

On that path, a person walked.

A man who could have been a small giant.

Eerily developed muscles and an overwhelming sense of power that made even the giants seem small.

"Oh..."

Ssik-.

"An old friend has come, huh."

Seeing him, OhGong relaxed and almost collapsed in his place.

"I came as a favor."

A comrade who, despite being opposites, had his back when they fought together.

The man who made his way through the giants approached OhGong.

"My name is Hercules."

Chapter 257

Thud-.

Heavy footsteps shook the ground.

The giants didn't move. They were also players of a fairly high level, ranked players.

Instinctively, they knew that their opponent was not an ordinary player. Moreover, there was no giant in this Tower who didn't know his name.

Hercules, the Giant Slayer.

His name was even more feared by the Giants than the name of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"Hercules..."

"Why is Hercules here?"

Among them, there were also Giants who had participated in the Gigantomachy in the past.

A high-ranker who acquired the ability to turn into a giant by killing numerous giants in a long and protracted war.

The sworn enemy of the giants.

His presence was a disaster for the giants.

"Are you alright?"

Hercules reached out his hand to Son OhGong, who was staggering as if he could collapse at any moment.

His legs wavered as if he would collapse at any moment.

OhGong stared at the hand and frowned.

"It's nothing."

"I don't think it's the time for pride."

Hercules looked around.

Although his presence intimidated them for the moment, it was unknown when they might regain their senses and pounce on him.

Since his sole purpose was to help OhGong get out of here, it would be problematic if OhGong rejected his help.

"You said you came here because you were asked to, right?"

OhGong asked, and Hercules nodded.

OhGong asked convinced.

"Is that guy, Kim YuWon?"

"Yes."

"Well, that bastard. Persistent to the end..."

With the thought of "Well, whatever," his legs strengthened again.

It must have been because he had time to take a break from the constant fighting.

['Breathing Technique' activated]

[Breathing stabilizes]

[Health is restored]

[Arcane Power and Mana are restored]

A surge of Arcane Power.

It was only a little, but he began to feel his body revitalizing again.

It was enough to prepare for battle.

"So, once again..."

"Stay on the sidelines for a moment."

Thud-

Hercules's steps turned towards the giants.

"These guys are my specialty."

"..Ah, I see."

Normally, OhGong would have caused an unnecessary scene by saying that he didn't need help.

But this was a different case.

"I hate to admit it, but I'm exhausted."

OhGong glanced and saw Hercules's back.

'When it comes to fighting giants, there's no one like him.'

Sending Hercules here was an excellent choice.

In the fight against giants, Hercules would currently be better than him.

"Although I still have my pride and can't just sit back and enjoy watching someone fight for me."

Hercules, who was about to extend his fist, turned his head at OhGong's words.

"You're not much help in that condition..."

Bum-

Something flew in front of Hercules's eyes.

Hercules's arm, which reflexively caught it, trembled.

A great weight.

It was enough for Hercules to lose his grip for a moment.

Kujik-!

The ground beneath Hercules's feet slightly bent under the weight.

When he realized what he had in his hand, Hercules looked at OhGong.

"What is this?"

"It's the Ru Yi Bang."

The Ru Yi Bang.

It was the symbol of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and an Item said to be wielded only by the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal.

"You may not be accustomed to handling its weight yet, but you should be able to wield it."

With a strange expression on his face, OhGong rested his head on intertwined hands.

"I'll lend it to you. Make good use of it."

The original Hercules used a club made from the root of Yggdrasil.

Hercules, who had reached the top 20 using only his bare fists and no items, skyrocketed in the rankings the moment he had the right item in his hands.

Thud-.

Hercules swung the staff he held in his hand.

It was heavy.

But not so much that he couldn't wield it.

"Not bad."

A casual comment.

But the corners of his mouth curved into a smile.

It was a confident smile.

Thump, thump.

Tendons bulged from Hercules's arms.

"Grow, Ru Yi."

Creak, creak.

Creak-!

Hercules instinctively realized how to use the Ru Yi.

The Ru Yi extended towards the sky.

Gripping it with both hands, Hercules swung it with all his might against the giants.

Boom, boom, boom.

Crack-!

The bodies of the giants were shattered by the blow.

Having cleared the path in an instant, Hercules lifted the enormous staff over his shoulder and said,

"This is really good."

Ung-.

The player kit made a sound.

YuWon glanced at the text on the kit.

[Hercules: Found him]

He felt relieved to receive the message he had been waiting for.

"Thank goodness."

Hercules, the enemy of the giants, had been sent by YuWon to work with Son OhGong.

If OhGong couldn't escape and got stuck in the midst of Muspelheim, it would be a big problem. As much as they reduced the number of giants in Muspelheim, losing Son OhGong in Ragnarok would be a loss.

"With Hercules, there won't be any problems."

Unless Surt makes a move, they won't be able to capture Son OhGong and Hercules.

But that would be unlikely, as Surt would be busy gathering the 'fire.'

At least for now, YuWon could be at ease.

"What's so amusing to watch?"

Someone asked.

Diablo, who approached, glanced at YuWon's player kit.

When Diablo was already a step away from YuWon, he quickly closed the player kit.

"What, is it something funny?"

"It's private."

"Well, I've helped you, so why don't you tell me the secret?"

"I'm aware of that."

If it weren't for Diablo, it would probably have been difficult for YuWon to attract the Demon Kings.

Even if he could draw the Demon Kings' attention through a question-and-answer session, YuWon had a 50% chance of them siding with Asgard.

In the end, it was Diablo's influence that led to this outcome.

"I like strong men. And you are one of the strongest I know."

YuWon looked at Diablo with a perplexed expression.

Diablo was generating a lot of speculation about YuWon.

However, as far as YuWon knew, there were many people around Diablo who were stronger than YuWon.

"I don't think I'm that good."

Only Baal was one of the top 100 players, just like Metatron, Diablo's nemesis, or Miguel de los Cielos.

In addition, Diablo had previously faced the God of War and the Jade Emperor.

"An adult hound may be able to fight and defeat a tiger cub, but they are not the same, they are different."

"Are you saying I'm a tiger?"

"Something like that. The others are nothing more than hounds in my eyes."

If someone else had said this, it would have seemed arrogant, but this was Diablo.

"I want to see how you develop, I want to see how far you go and how impressive you are."

Buzz-.

Diablo turned around.

Where he turned, a huge demonic beast lay on its back.

"I heard that you defeated Li Jing."

Diablo jumped onto the beast's body.

He gestured for YuWon to hurry up and get on board.

"Astaroth lost to him in the past. Since then, I've been interested in the Pagoda-Bearing Heavenly King."

Diablo had been interested in YuWon for a long time.

Ever since Diablo's alter ego in the administrator's trial was easily defeated by YuWon.

Then the news of Li Jing's defeat reached his ears.

That's why Diablo raised his hand in favor of YuWon.

"Where are you going?"

"Where in the world is anything free?"

Purrrr-.

The monster carrying YuWon and Diablo stood up.

Diablo spoke up.

"The decision can be reversed. Gathering the Demon Kings and persuading those selfish bastards is not a difficult task for me."

"Is that a threat?"

"I am the one wielding the sword, take it as you will."

YuWon seemed to know what he wanted.

Diablo offered to fight YuWon as a condition for joining Asgard.

The reason this outcome could come now is because of Diablo's expectations for YuWon.

"If you disappoint me, I can always reverse my decision. On the other hand, if it's the opposite, I will do you a favor. Whatever it may be."

Doo-doo, doo-.

The monster carrying Diablo and YuWon left the palace. Diablo crossed his arms and looked into the distance, where the monster was headed, and then smiled satisfied.

"Are you sure you won't disappoint me?"

This is not a fight that can be won.

The opponent was Diablo.

A high-ranker player, ranked 14th.

He was no match for him.

Diablo also compared YuWon to a tiger that had not yet grown.

In this fight, he didn't have to win, he had to prove himself.

"It's a battle where I have to meet his expectations..."

It's not a bad proposal.

He would be doing him a favor if he lived up to his expectations.

Upon hearing those words, he immediately thought of a favor to ask.

Woosh~

Arriving at a deserted area far from the city where Belial's palace was located, YuWon and Diablo stood face to face.

"Well, don't put too much pressure on yourself, let's just have some fun."

"I actually don't like fighting."

Skak-.

The sword was unsheathed, and YuWon's Arcane Power began to slowly emanate.

"No pressure."

Wok-.

Ssh, shh-.

Arturo... Ares...

And Susanoo.

All of YuWon's undead appeared.

-If you're calling me, you must be in a lot of trouble.

Susanoo wasn't much help to YuWon.

He refused to acknowledge him as his master until he defeated him.

As a result, YuWon didn't feel comfortable dealing with him. A rebellious spirit often required more mana than usual to control.

Therefore, YuWon needed a different bait to lure Susanoo.

"Look at the guy in front of you and tell me who he is."

-...Diablo?

He could feel Susanoo's spirit stirring.

The only bait that could provoke him.

It was the presence of a strong enough "enemy" to fascinate Susanoo.

"If you don't want to fight, come in."

-Is that how you're going to settle it?

YuWon's intentions were obvious.

So even though it felt unpleasant, he couldn't help but ask.

Diablo's bait was too good to pass up.

Susanoo.

He was a well-known fighter among the High-Rankers.

-Just this once.

"That's enough."

Anyway, he soon intended to subdue Susanoo, as he had said. This was the last time he would receive help from him in this dishonest manner.

"Susanoo."

Chik, chik.

The color of the ground began to change beneath Diablo's feet.

The ground turned bright red.

Diablo walked on the hot ground.

"You've called upon an interesting guy."

Being fond of the strong, Diablo had been interested in Susanoo for a while.

He was said to be the strongest of the Three Precious Children, with demonic sword skills like that of a ghost.

At his appearance, Diablo became even more rigid than before and opened his mouth.

"You're a tiger after all."

Kak.

Diablo's skin, which had taken on a human form, tore to reveal the demon skin underneath.

"Kim YuWon."

It felt like his body would be crushed just by getting closer.

YuWon started to move his heavy feet toward Diablo.

Chapter 258

"He did it after all."

"I knew he would."

"He must have liked him in some way."

The Demon Kings following Diablo and YuWon chattered as they watched the ground slowly turn red.

When the ground turned red, it meant that Diablo's Arcane Power had started to move.

And it also meant that Diablo was taking this fight very seriously.

"But why is Diablo so interested in him?"

"Isn't it because of Li Jing?"

Li Jing, a High-Ranker who had stood out in the ancient Great Celestial War, was that why Diablo was interested in him? Or perhaps...

"Does he really believe in that absurd rumor?"

Astaroth, who had been defeated by Li Jing in that battle, took those words with the utmost sensitivity.

Li Jing, of all people, had been defeated by a brat like him.

It made no sense, he thought.

"From what I've heard, they had some kind of connection during a Trial."

"During a Trial?"

"Yeah, was it when he gave him those horns?"

The reason why Diablo was interested in YuWon. At least, the reason could be confirmed now.

The attention of the Demon Kings focused in the distance, where the fight between Diablo and YuWon was beginning to unfold.

As the Demon Kings watched the battle with their arms crossed, their mouths slowly opened.

"...What the hell is that guy doing?"

[The power of a giant fills your body.]

[The power of a giant fills your arm.]

Hwaaak-.

YuWon's hand extended forward.

It reached towards Diablo's head but was blocked halfway.

Kwaaak-.

The hand was intercepted.

The muscles in Diablo's arm tensed as he gripped YuWon's arm tightly.

"Look at this guy."

His eyebrows furrowed.

He tried to move it, but it wasn't easy.

His arms were very strong.

Probably due to the unique flow of energy running through his arm.

"Gigantification."

Gigantification.

A unique ability of Hercules, who was said to have the highest level of strength in this Tower.

Thanks to that ability, YuWon's arm was comparable to Diablo's strength.

And so, as YuWon waited for his moment...

Shukat-.

A sharp sense of anticipation was felt at his nape.

A red line was drawn in the air. At the same time, Diablo's remaining hand extended towards the line.

Twack-!

Arm and sword collided.

Susanoo's Kusanagi made a small mark on Diablo's arm.

Susanoo's eyes glowed.

-What an incredibly tough body.

Sssht, sssht-.

No matter how much Susanoo swung his Kusanagi, it was the same.

Not very fast.

No.

It was too slow for a man with the name Diablo.

Still, Susanoo's sword was unable to leave any real marks on Diablo's body.

"What a waste of a demonic weapon."

Kuuuk-.

Diablo's fist clenched.

"Just because you're fast doesn't mean you're good."

Feeling threatened, Susanoo hurriedly flew upward.

And at that moment...

-...!

Diablo's fist stretched toward Susanoo's head.

Jjaeoeoeong!

Pyeo-eong!

With a single punch, Susanoo's upper body was annihilated.

Diablo smiled satisfied as he watched Susanoo fade into the shadows.

"Being precise and strong is more important than being fast."

Kuduk, kududuk-.

Diablo looked back at YuWon, who was still holding his hand.

"Don't you think so?"

"Think whatever you want."

Thud!

They punched each other in the face simultaneously.

A blue light emanated from the Uranus Heart, enveloping YuWon's hand.

['Blessing of the Sea' enters your body]

['Blessing of the Sea' protects your body]

Arcane Power enveloped his body.

But even that was nothing more than a thin layer of fabric against Diablo's fist.

"What a useless ability."

Kak-.

His grip tightened.

Kwak-!

Kii-ii-ing-.

The protection of the Blessing of the Sea shattered. Without his armor, it felt like being naked on a battlefield.

But he didn't think he could last long with this anyway.

Faji-Jijik-Jijik-!

A burst of electricity surged from their clasped hands.

A black lightning bolt erupted, and at the same time, YuWon's fist struck Diablo's face.

Kwaang!

Diablo's head turned to the side.

Diablo, who was slightly taken aback, smiled satisfied.

"You're tougher than you look."

Boom, boom, boom-!

A distance that made it impossible to even wield a sword.

Bruises and wounds appeared on YuWon's face one after another. The black lightning burst, and his fist struck Diablo's face, and his fist returned to him repeatedly.

"As tough as steel."

"His endurance is impressive too."

"I like it."

"Yes, this is how a fight should be."

The Demon Kings seemed satisfied.

Even Pluto, who had voted against, began to sympathize with YuWon.

"...He's a fiery guy."

Thud!

YuWon's fist struck Diablo's forehead once again.

Bam...

Diablo's body began to tremble.

As they exchanged punches in front of each other, YuWon's physical strength was gradually depleting.

At that moment, Diablo, who was about to extend his fist once again, stopped moving.

"Why don't you surrender?"

With a gentle movement, Diablo touched his own face with his finger.

"I think this is enough."

The wounds tore and burst open.

Not only YuWon suffered damage. Diablo's lips and skin, which hadn't even been injured by Susanoo's sword, were torn and bleeding.

"Is... that so?"

YuWon's grip loosened as he staggered.

Covering his face with one hand, he struggled not to faint.

How on earth was his head trembling?

Thud-.

The ground they stood on seemed like it could collapse at any moment, with a sudden crack appearing.

Looking at YuWon as he sat on the ground to rest, Diablo asked perplexed, "Why did you do that?"

"I don't understand."

"It doesn't seem like you enjoy this kind of fight."

First of all, YuWon's fighting style was nothing like Diablo's.

Unlike Diablo, who ignorantly relied on his tough and strong body for close-quarters combat, YuWon favored medium and long distances.

You didn't have to be a low-level player to realize how important distance is in a fight.

However, YuWon put himself at Diablo's distance and exchanged fist blows.

"Anyway, it's not about winning this fight..."

Thud~

YuWon slapped himself in the face.

"Just to be sure, I thought this would be the fastest way."

Swoosh-.

Diablo wiped his face with the back of his hand.

There was blood on it. That meant YuWon had fulfilled his initial condition.

But it didn't seem to be the only reason.

Diablo turned his head to look at the other Demon Kings in the distance.

His eyes were different from before.

Now he understood why YuWon had engaged in such an ignorant battle.

"Just for the show."

YuWon knew he wouldn't win anyway.

No matter what he did, it was an inevitable conclusion.

For him, the process was important, not the outcome.

Diablo was convinced by the satisfied expression on YuWon's face.

That in this fight, he had achieved what he wanted.

Indeed, what YuWon wanted was the favor of the other Demon Kings.

"If you attract Diablo, you've attracted half of the Demon Kings. Or to put it another way..."

YuWon's gaze turned towards the gathered Demon Kings.

"That means we're halfway there."

After all, YuWon's core job was to preserve the Tower's power.

And as a guild based on a race, the Demon Kings were one of the strongest among the Great Guilds.

The Demons.

After experiencing Ragnarok and winning the Great Celestial War, their power had been halved.

Although they were far better off than the completely extinct Angels, it was clear that their power had plummeted.

"In the process of this fight, I turned the Demon Kings into an ally. Furthermore, I also gained the opportunity to make a request to Diablo..."

Not bad for the time invested.

Just one thing.

'It's a shame.'

Zas-.

YuWon's gaze landed on Diablo's hand, which was extended towards him.

'If I had done well, I wonder how far I could have gone.'

Diablo had physical resilience comparable to that of Hercules.

Even though it wasn't a physical manifestation, the fact that he was engaging in a physical battle with such a Diablo in a confined space was a disadvantage for YuWon.

However, if he directed the combat to medium or long range, as he usually did...

Kwak-.

Getting up and holding his hand, YuWon stared fixedly at Diablo's face.

'Then I would have been able to see the main body.'

YuWon remembered Diablo's body, with its two enormous horns and massive flames.

Anyway, he still couldn't reach it.

The High-Rankers within the top 20 rankings were formidable opponents for YuWon.

'I'm still greedy.'

For now, he would have to settle for just injuring him.

Ragnarok was just around the corner.

There was still time to grow.

'Anyway, with that, I'm ready to go.'

Ding~

Just then, the player kit beeped.

YuWon checked the message and nodded.

'Ragnarok, here we come.'

[Hercules: Successful Escape]

Boggle-.

The lava boiled.

And amidst the reddened Surt, Foolish Chaos peeked out.

"Did you hear that?"

"Yes."

Nodding, Surt's eyelids opened.

It was after tearing apart the subordinate who had brought the news.

"The Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, has escaped."

"The Giant Slayer was with him."

"You mean Hercules."

Hercules, the Giant Slayer.

He had recently led the destruction of Olympus and ousted Zeus, and his rank had risen several positions, reaching the 18th spot.

But the giants feared Hercules more than his rank.

"I've heard the rumors, and I dare say he's the sworn enemy of us giants."

The giants of the Gigantomachy were a different race from the giants of Muspelheim.

Unlike regular giants, the giants of Muspelheim were a race that inherited the blood of demons.

They could be called demons within the giant race.

"It's strange," he said, "that these two, who have nothing to do with what you've said, are now interested in Ragnarok..."

Boggle-.

Surt's words trembled, and the boiling lava slowly gathered around Foolish Chaos.

With that, Surt's jet-black eyes reflected Foolish Chaos.

"I trusted you for that little thing. And now that trust is slowly breaking."

"Don't worry too much. A few dead giants won't make much of a difference."

"That's how it should be."

"Well, then, I'll tell you what you need to do."

Foolish Chaos rearranged the scenario based on the flow that would be disrupted by the convergence of OhGong and Hercules.

But...

'This makes it clear.'

Despite that, he couldn't shake off the uneasy feeling.

The pieces were starting to crumble.

Just the appearance of the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and Hercules was enough to feel it.

'Someone there is looking one step ahead of me.'

Chapter 259

YuWon returned to the Golden Castle.

He was greeted by two uninvited guests.

And because of them, the Golden Castle and Asgard were louder than ever.

"It's a mess."

"It's because of you."

Wak-.

OhGong growled as he bit into a ripe and unfamiliar fruit.

He lay on the bed and had just woken up.

"I only brought him to the Golden Castle at your request."

Hercules was not happy either.

Both of them knew clearly how the Rankers of the Golden Castle looked at them.

Suspicious and distrustful.

No one was sure what Hercules and OhGong would do in the upcoming war.

"If they were the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, and the Giant Slayer, they were like walking nuclear bombs."

Especially the Great Sage, Heaven's Equal, a High-Ranker Player in the top 10.

Hercules, another High-Ranker Player in the top 20. With Zeus out of the picture, he could confidently say he was the strongest man in Olympus.

The two visited the heart of Asgard, the Golden Castle. The Rankers of the Golden Castle, who did not know what was going on, were naturally suspicious.

"In time, everything will naturally work itself out. There are also merits for having fought many giants in Muspelheim."

The good news was that OhGong had fought quite a few giants in Muspelheim.

That would go a long way in establishing his credibility in Asgard.

"How long do you think it will take for you to recover?"

"I'll sleep a little, and I'll be better."

OhGong yawned, mouth open as he ate what was left of the fruit.

"I'll feel better when I wake up."

"Don't sleep too much."

"Why?"

"You'll know when you wake up."

"...Really?"

Swii.

OhGong waved his hand before closing his eyes and snuggling into bed. He stretched out and then settled down.

"I'll take a nap then."

"Alright."

OhGong gestured for Hercules to leave already.

Click-.

The door closed, and the two of them walked out.

In the hallways of the Golden Castle, YuWon and Hercules could feel the gazes upon them. Even the Valkyries who had challenged YuWon were mixed among them.

"They are on guard."

"Because of you."

"Don't they see me as an ally yet?"

"Olympus has not yet joined the Ragnarok. Asgard has requested cooperation, but Hades has refused."

"Olympus has just come out of a great war. They cannot afford to throw their weight behind another struggle like this."

Long ago, Olympus stayed out of the Ragnarok and remained neutral.

So, as in the past, Olympus maintained its neutrality in the Ragnarok. They needed more time after the Second Gigantomachy.

"I know. That's why I asked for your help alone."

And that was the reason YuWon contacted Hercules privately.

Olympus couldn't afford to join this battle.

Instead, they were asking it of Hercules, the greatest power of Olympus and the one who could exert the most influence in Ragnarok.

"Thank you for doing this for me."

"I owe you a debt."

"Are you going to pay it with this?"

"It's too big a debt to be repaid by helping you once or twice..."

Hercules stared at YuWon.

"I'm not sure if that alone is enough after what has been done."

You didn't always have to show your anger exploding like a flame.

YuWon knew that Hercules was angry and lowered his head.

"I'm sorry."

"Forget it. It doesn't matter."

Sighing, Hercules shook his head.

"Anyway, sooner or later, we would have to face this. It's just come earlier than expected."

"Thank you for thinking that way."

YuWon began to walk away when he felt the gaze watching him.

"Where are you going?"

"I'm going to see Odin."

"...Odin?"

Hercules froze.

The person YuWon had mentioned that he was going to see was someone who had absolute influence in this Tower. The ruler of Asgard, Odin. He was considered a greater king than Zeus, whom Hercules had felt like a wall and the sky his whole life.

And now he was going to meet him.

"It won't take long. Are you coming with me?"

"It doesn't matter. I have nothing else in mind than moving my body."

"You should also rest a little."

"Why? Is something else going to happen?"

"It might."

It was a vague answer, but once again, Hercules worried.

He had never heard YuWon say something like that and get away with it.

"Whenever I'm with you, something happens."

With that, Hercules began to walk to the side.

"Although I trust you."

"Where are you going?"

"To prepare for battle."

Boom-.

Hercules rolled his shoulders as hard as he could and began to warm up.

"No rest, of course."

He could see where he was going.

Probably to stretch his body after resting for a while after destroying Olympus.

Hercules always had the habit of warming up for a long time before an important fight.

"He's about to move seriously."

After the Gigantomachy ended, the guy who had been hiding for a while cutting trees began to stretch.

It wasn't the same as when he destroyed Olympus.

Back then, Hercules had moved to avenge his mother, Alcmene.

But now...

He was beginning to move of his own volition.

To prevent an even greater catastrophe: Ragnarok.

"A bit more like the man I knew."

The Giant Slayer.

Hercules, who was once called by that dreadful name, would later overthrow Zeus and be called by a different name.

Hercules, the Hero.

This was the true Hercules, who rose from the shell of Alcmene's vengeance and spread his wings.

YuWon admired this aspect of Hercules.

That's why, at the time of voting to see who should return to the past, YuWon voted for Hercules.

It was because he thought he was the most suitable Hero to lead the Tower.

Odin was in his office.

He no longer entered the room where Yggdrasil was. He was wearing armor and had a long spear ready on his back.

Armed to the teeth, he seemed out of place. But a fight could break out at any moment.

Seeing his appearance, YuWon asked Odin about his resolution.

"It seems you have already made up your mind."

"As I thought, it seems you can read my mind when we're together."

Odin sighed and pointed to a chair on the side.

When YuWon sat in the chair, Odin put down his pen and stood up.

"Well, I guess that means you know me well."

"Now you have the cooperation of the Demon Kings."

"I heard about it. We'll have to meet to discuss the details."

Odin let out a heavy sigh.

"In that case, the Heavens will decide to stay out of it."

"Metatron has quite an ego."

"Are you sure you have the cooperation of the Demon Kings?"

"First of all, those guys are the ones who fight only for their love of fighting. If it weren't for the presence of the Angel faction here, they wouldn't be so bothersome."

"So, in summary, we have reduced their military strength."

"And the Demon Kings are stronger to begin with."

"How do you know that?"

"Because I know the outcome of the Great Heaven Demon War."

Great Heaven Demon War

A battle between the Demons and the Heavens.

Despite the influence of Ragnarok, the battle ended with a rather one-sided outcome.

One reason.

Diablo's power was much greater than what the Tower had known.

'Since then, Diablo's rank has risen several steps.'

Knowing his history, YuWon couldn't give up on the Demon Kings, even if the Heavens let go of Asgard.

Giving up an inch to gain a mile wouldn't lead to any good outcome, regardless of the promises made.

"...Certainly, it's a great arsenal."

Knowing the future.

And based on that future, being able to make predictions about what will happen.

It was a weapon that could be more powerful than any of the great items in this Tower.

"So, what do you think will happen next?"

"The preparation is done, now it's time to fight."

"So soon?"

"It's not exactly soon. Ragnarok has already begun to open its doors."

"I see."

Odin sank into his chair and considered the situation he had been informed of.

"If you only see it as a fight, then there will be more damage on the other side."

It had been over ten days of battle.

A single world. Even so, it was a fight against Muspelheim, a giant world highly regarded in this Tower.

It was a fight without Surt, but it was still hard to believe.

"This will be a long battle."

Swallowing hard, Odin closed his eyes for a moment.

How many people would die, how much blood would be shed in this protracted battle.

He had no idea.

But...

"It won't last long."

Odin's eyes opened again at YuWon's confident words.

'Is he being careless?'

Odin couldn't help but think that YuWon was taking this combat too lightly.

"Our opponents are Muspelheim and Surt."

"I know."

"Is there any way to do something about it?"

"There is a way, but..."

Ding-.

A message arrived at that moment.

"The fight will probably start sooner than you think."

It was Odin's player kit that vibrated.

Ding, ding, ding-.

It was the same vibration as always, but it felt strangely urgent.

Normally, he wouldn't have answered in the middle of an important conversation.

But this time, he had to.

"It may have started faster than expected."

"I'll take the call."

Odin took out his player kit and answered the phone.

Then he heard it.

-We're in trouble!

As if he had been expecting it, an urgent voice burst out.

Odin's expression hardened.

But despite his expression, he spoke with his usual voice.

"What's going on?"

-T-The giants from Muspelheim have descended!

"Muspelheim?"

An intense gleam emanated from Odin's eyes.

His eyes, which had long ruled Asgard as a king, were now those of a warrior.

"Which side are they on?"

-In Midgard.

"Hold on. I won't be long."

Ding-.

Odin hastily hung up the phone and looked towards YuWon. A world within Asgard's sphere of influence had been attacked. Midgard was the weakest of the worlds under Asgard's control.

When their gazes met, YuWon asked.

"Are you going to move yourself?"

"If Midgard is being attacked, I can't guarantee the safety of the others. I won't move until I know where Surt is."

"Then?"

"I need to ask you a favor."

Yuwon was more skilled than Brunnhilde, the leader of the Valkyries.

The worlds under Asgard, including Midgard, were already more or less ready to fight.

If YuWon joined them, they could probably hold off the attack to some extent.

"It shouldn't be difficult."

Yuwon nodded.

It wasn't a difficult request.

Instead, YuWon opened his mouth with the intention of addressing the purpose of his visit to Odin.

"Then do me a favor before I go."

"A favor? What is it?"

"The Yggdrasil in your room."

He remembered when he drank the sap from the Yggdrasil in Odin's chamber.

"Give Hercules a root of it."

There was the ingredient for the perfect weapon for Hercules.

Chapter 260

Hercules wielded a club.

That was in a distant future.

In the present, on the other hand, he used his bare fists or grabbed a nearby tree and swung it.

This was because he didn't have a decent weapon.

That's how Hercules fought in the beginning: with whatever he could get his hands on.

But one day, Hercules started wielding a wooden club made from the roots of the Yggdrasil plant.

And that's when...

Hercules began to be recognized as the man who would rise above Zeus.

"Yggdrasil?"

Odin's eyebrows twitched.

A very slight change in his expression.

It seemed like he wanted to say something but realized he was holding back due to the situation.

"We'll talk about it later."

"Sooner the better. I need it for this Ragnarok, if possible."

"You say it's urgent?"

"It will depend on the situation, but it's not a bad thing to have."

With that, YuWon stood up from his seat.

The words stung.

Then, Odin spoke to YuWon as he tried to leave the room.

"I don't need to explain to you what kind of tree Yggdrasil is, right?"

Yuwon stopped in his tracks upon hearing those words.

Odin seemed about to refuse to hand over a Yggdrasil root but changed his mind. At the same time, Odin covered his face in annoyance.

"You knew I would do this, didn't you?"

"I'm sorry."

"Are you playing with me?"

"Please understand. But at least I didn't lie to you."

"Even if you said something wrong, it wouldn't be so unfortunate."

A sigh escaped involuntarily.

After a moment of deliberation, Odin made his decision.

"I'll have Brunhilde deliver it. You go do what you need to do."

Approval was given. Odin loved Yggdrasil more than anyone, so this decision couldn't have been easy for him.

'Well, at least one of the tasks to be done has been accomplished without much effort.'

Obtaining the roots of Yggdrasil and enhancing Hercules' power had been on YuWon's to-do list in the immediate future.

"Thank you."

YuWon began to hasten his steps downstairs to prepare to go to the lower floors.

Thump-.

The giants' footsteps resounded on the ground.

Kwajik-!

The bodies of players were trampled, turning into a puddle of blood.

Midgard's Commander, Don Quixote, shouted as he watched players being trampled and crushed by the Giants. (Note: I understood that reference)

"Hold on!"

Chaaaaahhh!

Midgard's High-Ranker Commander, Don Quixote, shouted for all to hear.

"Reinforcements are coming!"

Giant swords pierced through the giants.

Don Quixote swung his sword relentlessly, surveying the battlefield.

"They're too many."

Five or six players clung to each giant.

It was fortunate that the players of Midgard were united, or they would have been overwhelmed in an instant.

Luckily, even though they were outnumbered, they didn't have many Ranker Players.

'We can hold out.'

With all this, they should at least be able to protect the path to the city.

But...

'We can't win.'

It's just a matter of time.

It was a fight that would eventually end in defeat.

'I wonder how much longer we can hold out.'

Hours had already passed since the attack from Muspelheim.

It's impossible to say exactly how much time has elapsed in the fierce battle, but it's estimated to be around three hours.

Just enough time for reinforcements from Valhalla to arrive with the Valkyries.

'If only a few Valkyries could make it here first...'

There was no other answer but to act as an elite minority to receive support in a short period of time. The question was whether they could draw enough power from the Golden Castle.

'The fact that Muspelheim is on the move means we also have to worry about defense in other places.'

The relationship between Asgard and Muspelheim has been strained for a long time.

This attack meant that the festering wounds had finally burst open.

Thud!

A loud sound resonated.

Don Quixote immediately attacked the giant blocking his view.

Clang!

And then it appeared before him.

"Holy sh*t....."

A giant as big as a mountain.

It was a giant that made the other giants feel small.

It was enormous.

There weren't many giants of that size even in Muspelheim.

It was probably a High-Ranker Giant.

'Can we deal with that?'

He himself was a High-Ranker, although he was already at his limit.

Right now, he was the only one who could stop it.

"Huh-!"

Don Quixote's sword was infused with Arcane Power.

At the same time, he ran as fast as he could toward the giant.

'I must stop it.'

Thud.

"Aaaahhh-!"

"R-Run-!"

In a single step from the giant, the subordinates were crushed and exploded like insects, screaming in fear.

'I'm the only one here.'

Kaaaak-.

The giant sword flashed upward, concentrating all the power into its hilt.

'I must finish it with a single strike.'

Teng-.

Don Quixote's sword jumped as high as it could and pointed downward.

Clang!

A brutal slash.

Still, the effect wasn't bad.

No.

Tsk-tsk-.

On the contrary, the giant's body was sliced much more easily than Don Quixote had thought.

"Eh?"

Was the opponent weaker than I thought?

No matter, it was strange to be cut so easily.

Furthermore...

'There was no sensation of cutting.'

At the next moment...

Chiiiiit-.

Beyond the fallen giant's corpse, a player dressed in an unfamiliar manner became visible.

"Don't be afraid just because it's big. The important thing is momentum."

The man stood up, with the tip of his sword dripping with the giant's blood.

Don Quixote instinctively realized that it wasn't him who had killed the giant, but this man in front of him.

'Do we have a Ranker like this on our side?'

As the commander of Midgard, he remembered all the allied Rankers.

Not only that, but he had memorized the faces of all the other prominent Asgardians, but the man in front of him seemed vaguely familiar, yet he couldn't place him.

"Who..."

"I am the support."

"The Support?"

Could it be that Asgard sent this one man as reinforcement?

'Were we abandoned? No, that doesn't make sense. So is their side also in an equally difficult situation?'

Apparently, Odin told me to wait a bit, that help was on the way.

True to his word, help arrived, but only one.

Don Quixote asked cautiously, just in case.

"Are you someone from Asgard?"

"I am Kim YuWon."

"Kim YuWon?"

Don Quixote's eyes widened.

That was a name not unknown to him.

A player who held the 400th position but had not yet become a Ranker.

Kim YuWon's name had been widely known among high-rank players lately.

"There are many rumors that he is just a braggart, but he is still a high-rank player."

Moreover, anyone above 400 was ranked higher than him.

The presence of a high-rank player was enough to turn the tide of a battle.

For now, he had to take advantage of YuWon's help.

Once decided, Don Quixote looked around the battlefield and spoke.

"First, we need to get into position..."

"Send the soldiers back."

"What?"

Don Quixote asked, confused.

"Are you serious right now?"

YuWon nodded.

He didn't seem to have said something wrong. YuWon spoke again as he looked at the Muspellheim giants rushing towards them.

"Can you do it?"

"Yes, I can. But if we do that, the line will collapse."

"If we take too long, the soldiers will also be caught in the crossfire."

Fajik, fajijijik-.

A lightning bolt shot out from YuWon's hand.

A black lightning coiled with Dark Mana.

The lightning not only emanated from YuWon's hand but also soared into the sky as a black bolt.

Don Quixote's gaze followed the bolt upwards.

Zzzt-.

Then, he noticed dense clouds floating in the sky.

".....!"

The flow of Mana from YuWon and the ominous omen brought Don Quixote to his senses.

And at that moment...

"Fall back from the front lines!"

[Lion's Roar has been used].

Ung-.

Don Quixote's voice, containing his ability, covered the battlefield.

"Hurry!"

"Withdraw from the front lines?"

"Are you telling us to retreat?"

"But if we do that, Midgard..."

"At my command! Quickly!"

The soldiers of Midgard began to move.

Leaving the giants behind. A hole that started to open up destroyed the front lines in an instant, and the giants drew closer and closer to the city walls.

Behind them was the city.

Once the giants set foot in it, the city of Midgard would be in ruins from then on.

"Please..."

But Don Quixote, who had given the order, looked anxiously at YuWon.

"What you're about to do, I hope it works."

Fazik, fazik, fazik-.

YuWon continuously fired through the Uranus Heart.

The soldiers of Midgard rushed past on both sides.

At this moment, the sound of the giants' footsteps was drawing closer.

"Thanks to the help of the Valkyries, I arrived here quickly, but..."

Thump, thump, thump, thump-.

Several giants approached.

One of them reached out his hand toward the still-standing YuWon.

In that moment...

Flash-!

Puaang-!

YuWon's extended fist sent the giant's body flying backward.

The chaotic battlefield paused for a moment. Attention focused, and YuWon unleashed a barrage of blows among them again.

"They are too many."

More numerous than expected.

But the good news was that the level of each of the Giants was not that high.

"The one I knocked down earlier was not high-rank, just foolishly large."

The size of the giants was known to be related to their strength.

However, once they reached a certain size, the giants no longer focused on increasing their size.

Unless they were overwhelmingly large, like the Bull Demon King Behemoth, they realized that relying on their size to fight was futile.

There were no true experts here.

So...

"I need a safe shot with a long range."

YuWon thought of Zeus's lightning.

The giant lightning that struck King Arthur's birthplace, Camelot, in Great Britain.

It had the power and range to level a city with a single strike.

"It's not possible with what I have."

Neither in terms of Arcane Power nor in terms of skill with lightning.

YuWon was still far behind Zeus in this regard.

Furthermore, since Zeus had the power to rain any amount of lightning, it made him realize how vast the gap was.

But...

Fazik, fazik-.

Kurrrr-.

YuWon's gaze shifted to the dark clouds in the sky.

"If I can follow his technique..."

It didn't matter if it wasn't a skill.

Although system-generated skills added convenience, it was still possible to imitate them if you knew the principles.

Son OhGong's technique, the Flying Nimbus.

OhGong's symbol, which, like Zeus's lightning, swept the skies with its bolt.

Kurr-.

YuWon's dark cloud filled with lightning began to gradually expand.

"Just a little more."

More Arcane Power was needed to maximize the power of a single strike.

More, more, and more.

Even if he had to create the same lightning that nearly destroyed Camelot, now was the time to wait.

Finally...

Thump, thump, thump-.

The giants moved again and approached YuWon to crush him.

And then...

"Strike them."

The waiting was over.

Flash-!

A black-as-jet light emerged from the thick clouds in the sky.

"Flying Nimbus