

ARK THE LEGEND

유성 게임 판타지 장편소설
ROK GAME FANTASY STORY

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ROK
MECHA

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Sudden Attack (Part: 1)

“Dammit!”

Curses emerged from Ark’s mouth. Four days ago Ark, Hawk and Ferguson were sucked into the black hole. They travelled back thousands of years to the planet Muratio Star and became tangled in a Murat quest, overcoming many crises before solving it! They were able to safely return to their original universe.

Around the same time, Ark heard that Irina was near the vicinity of the black hole. The 3 investigation teams were searching around the black hole. It wasn’t that strange when thinking about it but the Rama fleet had appeared straight after Ark, Hawk and Ferguson disappeared into the black hole. Irina’s fleet was in deadlock near the black hole when the Aschulat fleet appeared. The investigation teams from the 3 powers were gathered in one spot.

So he guessed there was no room to relax when he returned to the original universe.

‘But even so.....’

“Hyung-nim, I’m picking up spaceship signals from nearby. It is coming from the 3 o’clock, 12 o’clock and 9 o’clock direction from Silver Star’s current location. Of those, the 9 o’clock signal is from our fleet. The 12 o’clock readings is coming from the Aschulat fleet! And 3 o’clock...the Rama fleet! The distance with each fleet is 3,000~ 4,000 kilometres!”

And Hegel’s voice penetrated his ear the moment they returned! There was no way to explain a black hole but it wasn’t a place that could be held in one hand. The enormous black hole was thousands of kilometres wide. Yet he had ended up in the middle of 3 fleets.

It was so absurd that he couldn’t feel any malice regarding it.

“Ha, I’m not even surprised anymore.”

“Damn! Another? Another? Does this makes sense? This is terrible! It is hard for something like this to occur on purpose. How are you possibly so unlucky? DNA? Ark, are the unlucky genes born in your body?”

“.....I also think this is a bit too much.”

“Me too! This time take responsibility!”

Slayer and Leon instantly blamed Ark the moment they heard Hegel’s report.

“The Rama, Aschulat and Galactic Federation fleets are simultaneously approaching us.”

“Dammit! Tori, move in the direction of our team’s fleet!”

“Yes! Silver Star engine operation!”

Kuwaaaaaaaah!

The Silver Star spouted flames as Tori moved towards the investigation team’s fleet. Almost at the same time, Hawk and Ferguson’s ships started to move in the same direction. Hegel who was busy moving his fingers around the dashboard shouted in a desperate voice.

“A high density energy reaction is being sensed from the Rama and Aschulat fleets! They seem to be charging the long range beam guns. Currently we are within the enemy’s range.”

Slayer and Kaya grasped their heads and screamed at Hegel’s words.

“What, what the? Then it is already too late?”

“No way! We barely managed to come back to this universe and now we’re going to die!”

“No, not yet!”

Ark shook his head and exclaimed.

The advancing Rama and Aschulat fleet still couldn't be seen with the naked eye. No matter the range of weapons in outer space, the distance wasn't something a cannon could reach. However, it didn't matter even if the guns could reach.

The further the distance was, the easier it was to avoid the attack. But the Rama and Aschulat were charging 50 beam guns. There was no way he could avoid so many gun attacks from the enemy.

“But this area is near the black hole's gravity field.”

When Ark, Hawk and Ferguson exited the black hole, they were barely straddling the edge of it. The engine of the spaceship was working but it was difficult to predict the gravitational field.

“It won't work if it is a short distance bombardment but beams from 1,000 kilometres away will be affected by the weak gravity. Even if the angle is only changed by 0.1 kilometres due to the influence of the gravity, that could be enough to avoid a damaging impact. I knew for several days that there would be a confrontation here. So they can't shoot the beams from that distance.”

Close combat would also be hard. If they battled blindly near the gravity field then they might be sucked in by the black hole. Once again, the 3 powers had been in deadlock for a few days.

‘So it won't be immediately dangerous. But.....’

-Ark-nim!

Then a window popped up with Irina's face on it.

-We are heading there now! We are moving towards Ark-nim!

His girlfriend had come to help. What man would feel good in his position? Ark shook his head before Irina's words ended.

“No, don't come!”

–Huh? Don't come? Why...?

“So far the Rama and Aschulat had been in a standoff but they seem to be mistaken after we appeared. We disappeared with the grey planet that contained Organization X's secret base so they misunderstood and think we have a clue related to the quest. That's why the Rama and Aschulat are rushing towards us.”

A clue related to Organization X was the target for the investigation teams of the 3 powers! That is why the Aschulat risked having an all-out war with the Rama. The Galactic Federation fleet came here first but there was no evidence they possessed a decisive clue related to the quest.

But it was different once Ark, Hawk and Ferguson appeared out of nowhere. They were the key to bringing wealth and honour to an investigation team! It was worth the risk.

“They're doing this because they believe we have a clue. In the worst case scenario, the Aschulat and Rama will join forces to attack us. If so, we won't be able to resist even if we join up with you. Irina-nim heading towards us has no meaning. So please change directions and retreat. We will follow soon after!”

However, there was a part Ark hadn't considered. The reason the Rama and Aschulat were so convinced that Ark, Hawk and Ferguson had a clue to this quest. Ark, Hawk and Ferguson had disappeared in the vicinity of the grey planet that contained Organization X's secret facilities.

Of course, that was one reason. But there was a larger reason why the Rama and Aschulat were convinced.

–It is a misunderstanding that Ark-nim found a clue?

“Yes, I've been on a planet called Muratio Star.....”

–Then what was the antimatter reaction we sensed just now?

“Antimatter reaction?”

Ark was confused by Irina’s words. Then Hegel surveyed the dashboard and said to Ark with a shocked expression.

“Eh? T-this is? Hyung-nim, antimatter. The energy wavelength matches the one received from the Galactic Federation by 99%! There is no doubt that it is antimatter. The source of the wavelength is the black hole behind the Silver Star!”

“Antimatter? Black hole? What does that mean....?”

–Then it is unrelated to Ark-nim?

“What?”

“Eek? What is that?”

Ark moved his gaze after hearing the confusion in Slayer’s voice. It wasn’t just Ark. Leon, Kaya, Sadain, Park and Rapid were all staring to one side with shock. The crew members of the Silver Star closed their mouths and looked at the screen.

The screen showed a video from the rear camera. It was the black hole behind the Silver Star. But it was the red light that caught their eyes first. A red light was whirling in the depths of the black hole. Ark gaped in dumb surprise at the scene.

“Irina-nim, what is that?”

–That’s what I want to ask. That phenomenon and antimatter reaction started just before Ark-nim and Ferguson appeared. So I believed it had something to do with Ark-nim....

“Just before we returned here?”

Ark frowned at Irina’s answer. Then it was when the dimensional gate Kuhwen prepared was opened just before Ark’s party returned. Then the phenomenon happening in the black hole had something to do with the

dimensional gate?

There were too many questions that didn't make sense. Ark's companions had gone through the black hole and exited on the edge of the black hole. However, the mysterious phenomenon was occurring in the centre of the black hole. The distance was far so it was too early to say it was due to the dimensional gate. But what was even more incomprehensible was the antimatter reaction detected from the red light.

The sentences Kuhwen left behind never mentioned that the dimensional gate had anything to do with antimatter. But Ark couldn't think about it for long.

“Hyung-nim, the antimatter energy wavelength detected in the black hole is amplifying at a tremendous speed!”

Hegel reported as the red light expanded at a huge rate. There was a roaring sound and red lightning started to occur inside the black hole. At the same time, sparks started rising from the dashboard and the screen was covered with static noise.

“Irina-nim! Irina-nim!”

“Hyung-nim, a magnetic storm! There are errors in various systems due to the influence of the magnetic storm!”

“Ark, this doesn't feel good!”

Rapid said to Ark as the ship shook. Ark also felt the same. It felt like the red lightning was ripping into his skin despite it being hundreds of kilometres away!

He didn't understand everything but it was dangerous!

“Dammit! Tori, leave our current location at top speed!”

“I'm already going at our maximum speed!”

Jjajjjajjang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

While Tori was crying out in a large voice. A roaring sound deafened his eardrums. It was possible to check the source of the noise with the rear camera. The amplified red light at the centre of the black hole had exploded. It seemed to spread waves of an intangible aura.

Ark gaped with dumb surprised before shouting.

“Shockwave! Everybody prepare for impact!”

Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

A tsunami seemed to be surging. The roaring sound continued as Ark and the Silver Star was covered with the intangible aura. At the same time, the Silver Star spun and was blown away.

The Silver Star’s gravity control system was no help in this context. No, various systems had errors because of the magnetic storm so the gravity control system wasn’t working at all.

The crew on the Silver Star fell all over the place as it kept on spinning recklessly. Shake! Shake!

Up! Down! Left! Right!

“Ack!”

“Ouch!”

“Kyak!”

“Heok!”

“Kyakyakyakya!”

They tumbled around and crashed into the walls and ceiling. That wasn’t all. Red lights were flashing from the system errors and sparks flew from the dashboard. It was a hectic situation as they flew hundreds of kilometres before stopping.

“Kuoh....”

Slayer, Kaya and Ark moaned before lifting their heads.

In the meantime they had struck their heads many times on the walls and dashboard. There wasn't a battle but their health had been decreased by 30%. Ellain had symptoms like carsickness and was already throwing up in a corner. But the status of the crew wasn't the important thing right now.

The worst thing in outer space was damage to the spaceship!

“H-Hegel, the Silver Star's status report!”

While Ark and Slayer had crashed into the walls, those sitting down with seatbelts on like Tori, Milan and Hegel was perfectly fine. They could gain control of the Silver Star in a matter of minutes thanks to that.

“I've reset the central control system and am checking if the engine is operating.”

Hegel's fingers moved busily as he replied. At the same time, there was the sound of engines turning on again. And windows flashed one after another showing images from the rear, front, right and left cameras attached to the Silver Star.

The first thing that caught his eye was Hawk and Ferguson's spaceships. The two spaceships were also involved in the shock wave and flew with the Silver Star. Next he confirmed the Rama, Aschulat and Galactic Federation fleets. They weren't involved in the shock wave but had stopped advancing due to the unexpected situation.

Then the final screen caught his attention.

“U-unbelievable.....”

A moan emerged from Ark's mouth. Slayer and Kaya's faces also became flustered after they raised their body. The place where their gazes were focused was the screen showing the black hole just before.

However the black hole was now nowhere to be seen. In the space where the

black hole used to exist, a huge pattern made of red light was formed. It was a pentagon connected at 5 points with a circle border. This was the same design as the magic circle that caused this quest.

“Why..... Why is this magic circle here?”

Pajijjik! Pajijjik! Pajijjik!

A high object started emerging from the pentagon as lightning flashed around it. The object was covered in sharp rocks like a blade. He reflexively remembered the huge meteorite. Sparks tirelessly flew from the object as cold light reflected between the rocks.

The huge object that surprisingly sprang out of the magic circle was a spaceship with the combined form of a meteorite and a machine. It was a carrier class spaceship several kilometres large!

“What on earth is that?”

“You fool, shouldn’t you know? A spaceship! A spaceship that is dreadfully large!”

“Damn! Who doesn’t know that? So why is a large spaceship showing up?”

“How should I know?”

“If you don’t know then why that attitude?”

Slayer and Kaya’s voice could be heard from a corner. It was a futile argument but a little useful. The black hole that antimatter had been sensed from suddenly disappeared. And a carrier class spaceship emerged from the magic circle that suddenly appeared there.

Big events had occurred one after another so Ark’s brain had been paralyzed. But he realized something while listening to Slayer and Kaya’s quarrel. It was stupid to be confused or try to understand the situation.

No matter how much he rolled his head, the answer wouldn’t come out now. There was only one important thing now. The biggest problem was whether

the carrier spaceship that appeared was an ally or enemy. And Ark only knew one thing.

-Space magic circle → Organization X → Enemy!

It was as simple as '1+1=2.'

When he thought up to there, the countless lights floating on the screen caught his eye. The rock covered ship was reflecting light between it. At that moment, Ark realized the identity of the metal covering and cried out.

“Spread the shield!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A roaring sound shook the space. At the same time, countless rays shot out from the carrier! 1 shot hit the Silver Star and a red flashing message showed on the monitor.

-You have received enemy fire!

<The durability of Silver Star's shield has decreased to 73%>

The shield fell by close to 30%! It wasn't only the Silver Star that received damage. A few kilometres away, there was an explosion as Hawk and Ferguson's shields were also hit.

It was the same for the investigation teams' spaceships gathered hundreds of kilometres away. And in the other direction, countless flashes were also hitting the Rama and Aschulat fleets as smoke poured from several spaceships. All spaceships in the area had damage inflicted to it.

“A monster like spaceship like that.....”

Noise spread over the screen and Irina's face showed up on it. The communication system that received errors due to the storm was now

restored.

-Ark-nim! Ark-nim! Are you okay?

“Irina-nim, it is Ark! I’m fine. Irina-nim?”

-I am fine. The shield was damaged but the engines are fine. What’s going on? Does Ark-nim see that carrier coming through the magic circle? The magic circle we investigated was a warp gate. And if this is the technology of Organization X.....

-Think of their identity later!

Another face floated on a screen before Irina could finish. Hawk.

Then the screen divided and the members of the investigation team popped up one after another. And they hurled questions with panicked expressions.

-Captain, what is that ship?

-Is this related to how Ark, Ferguson and you returned?

The unidentified carrier had showed up as soon as Ark, Hawk and Ferguson came back. Therefore the team members automatically thought it had something to do with them. However Ferguson spluttered on behalf of the people who entered the black hole.

-I don’t know! I don’t know! I never met such guys!

-Shut up you pig! You guys, do you still not grasp the situation? Like I said, knowing the enemy’s identity isn’t important right now. The important thing is that they are our enemy. Didn’t they just shoot at us? Wake up! We have to be prepared for battle before the bombardment resumes!

-Combat power? C-can we fight against that?

A member called Mirinae asked with fear. Hawk frowned and stared at Mirinae.

-Should we fight?

–Didn't you see it before? That ship only has a hundred guns attached. Our fleet exceeds their firepower. There is also the Rama and Aschulat fleets that aren't far away. The Rama might be different but aren't the Aschulat allies? – It is reckless to fight when we don't understand the situation. Shouldn't we run away before the damage becomes larger?

–Are your brains just decorative?

–Huh? What...

“I think we have no choice but to fight.”

“Hyung-nim, the second bombardment is coming!”

While Ark was interjecting between Hawk and Miranae.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Hegel yelled while at the same time there was a deafening roar. Hundreds of runs continuously shot out!

–A bombardment! Avoid it!

–Concentrate the shield around the engines!

The situation was different from when they were ambushed while in a confused state. The ships either focused their shield energy or used evasive manoeuvres and most of the rays were avoided.

In the first bombardment, eight out of ten rays hit but only three or four hit in the second bombardment. It was the same for the Rama and Aschulat fleets. But it was different for Ark who was relatively near the carrier.

-You have received enemy fire!

<The durability of Silver Star's shield has decreased to 49%>

The warning message popped up again! This time the shield decreased by

more than 20%. His spaceship wouldn't be able to stand three or four direct hits. This was the reason Ark agree with Hawk's insistence that they should fight.

Once again, not everyone had the same spaceships. There were multiple ships with different ratings depending on the size and output. The higher rated spaceships would be bigger and have stronger outputs. And the high output meant the weapon's destructive power and range was likely to be stronger.

It could be seen with the naked eye. The rays from the carrier had crossed the distance without shrinking at all. It had a range that was several times that of a general spaceship! It was like committing suicide to turn around and run from such guns. Many spaceships would probably be destroyed before managing to reach freedom.

“Even if I run away.....”

Ark looked at the Rama and Aschulat fleets before talking.

“We can't retreat before the Rama and Aschulat fleets.”

The carrier had attacked as soon as it arrived without any bargaining. Their behaviour was clearly sending a message. The carrier intended to wipe out the ships from the three powers. Then think about it. Who would the murderers kill first?

The answer was simple. The ones who ran away first.

“That means we have to attack at the same time as the Rama and Aschulat. If anyone tries to escape then the firepower would concentrate on that fleet. If the three fleets retreat at the same time then we can escape the carrier but any fleet that moves first will be 100% wiped out.”

This was the reason why the Rama and Aschulat didn't move yet despite being bombarded. But Ark had an ulterior motive for desperately resisting.

‘Dammit! Is Slayer right and I really have genetic bad luck genes lodged in

my body?’

Ark bit his lips and stared at the monitor.

-An error has been found in the central control system.

<ERROR CODE 0012 : The programs controlling the ether engine booster operation, engine balance in preparation for impact system has been corrupted.

<Please restore your systems quickly to resume a normal voyage.>

This had appeared shortly after the shockwave. It had shown up after Hegel reset and checked the programs. The error was due to the effect of the electromagnetic storms.

Of course, the engines weren't damaged so repairing it wasn't difficult. The problem was that the recovery program would take several minutes to repair it. Even with an expert like Tori, the recovery time would take 3~4 minutes. But this was a problem for 3~4 minutes.

‘It isn't impossible to sail but the ship won't be able to exert 50% of its maximum speed. If the other members run away then the Silver Star will have no choice but to fall behind. We will become the first target!’

This was the reason Ark decisively shouted against a retreat. Of course, it was difficult to assess the other members. He couldn't embarrass himself in front of his girlfriend.

Anyway, his words were said to look cool in front of her!

“We have no choice but to fight!”

Ark decisively said towards the other members. Ark might be thinking about himself but his words were true that the first to retreat would receive the carrier's intensive attacks. There was only one way remaining.

–But are the odds in our favour if we attack?

Miranae who was in favour of retreating spoke in a worried expression. Of course Ark was worried about that. And there was already an answer.

“If it is just our fleet then the odds aren’t in our favour but there is also the Rama and Aschulat fleets. And since they’re not moving yet, they also have no intention of running away. That antimatter wavelength is also what the 3 investigation teams have been looking for. If we escape then we won’t be able to get our hands on information about the antimatter. That might be a reason why the Rama and Aschulat fleets aren’t moving. If they both start to engage then we’ll have no choice but to enter the war.”

–Then who....

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Then they started to see the glow of a cannon. Hawk’s voice could be heard on the screen about the sound of it charging.

–Foolish bastards! Ark, you’re the same as well. How long are you going to chat? You already know the answer. What have we been doing for the last 20 days? Looking for a clue about antimatter. And now it is right in front of us. Then there is only one answer. Like Ark said, there is no reason for us not to fight. We have to get our hands on it. What other reason is necessary for a warrior? Harley, fire!

Hawk turned and shouted. The Death Knight rushed forward while firing.

Pepeng! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A deep blue flash flew over hundreds of kilometres and directly hit. But the main gun was unable to penetrate the shield. The flash scattered all over the place and disappeared before it could strike the body. However the situation had suddenly changed with this blow.

While Ark was sputtering over the Death Knight’s attack, the Rama and

Aschulat fleets had also changed to battle mode. They accepted the Death Knight's attacks as the opinion of the galactic federation.

–Ark's words are accepted!

–The Rama and Aschulat fleets have switched to battle mode!

-The 3 fleets will do a pincer movement!

–Let's go! Full acceleration! Attack the carrier!

The team members gained the courage to chase after Hawk. The fleets of the Galactic Federation, Rama and Aschulat advanced from three different directions.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

There were continuous flashes and resounding roars! The spaceship that approached the fastest was Hawk's Death Knight. Ark could feel the Death Knight's overwhelming presence but its rush.

'Damn, he is smug but he has a reason for it.'

Ark was grumpy but he couldn't complain.

Once he attacked ahead of everyone else, the remaining spaceships had no choice but to follow. Ark knew the Rama and Aschulat leaders were also aware of this. But even if they knew it, making the first move wasn't that easy.

'I hate to admit it.'

His move showed confidence in his judgement and determination. He saw it on Muratio Star but Hawk's decisiveness was his largest strength. Hawk was different from other users and that was how he could become one of the Seven Swords.

Hawk's presence had clearly been sharpened in the minds of the 3 investigation teams. On the other hand Ark.....

–Hey! Ark, what are you doing?

–We’re you lying when you said we should be fighting instead of running away.

–That lousy bastard was secretly planning this.

The eyes of the team members steamed with anger. While the 3 fleets had advanced with their offensive after Hawk, Ark was still in a similar location.

But Ark couldn’t help it. The Silver Star couldn’t increase its speed due to the central control system error. However he couldn’t say ‘my spaceship has broken down!’ to the members.

Ark had no choice but to silently bear the blame as the captain of the Silver Star. Fortunately that time didn’t last that long.

“Hyung-nim, the error correction is over!”

-The central control system error correction has been completed!

* Ether engine booster operation program check-OK!

* Engine balance systems that prepare for impact- OK!

The message popped up on the monitor along with Tori’s voice.

Ark jumped up and shouted.

“System operation! Full acceleration!”

Kuwaaaaaaaah!

Exhaust flames finally roared out. The Silver Star shot forward like a jet boat. Meanwhile Ark confirmed the spaceship arrangements of the members and gave orders.

“Now the real battle will begin!’ Tori, adjust the direction towards Irina. Proceed into battle with Irina. Milan, charge the battery for the main gun. Hegel, grasp the location of the enemy’s guns and register the data in the Silver Star’s evasion system. Kalliben and Leon, go to the gun turrets for close combat shooting.....”

Ark was giving orders when he suddenly closed his mouth. Rapid frowned and asked him.

“Why, what’s wrong?”

“Ah, no, that....I suddenly lost my breath.....”

Ark grabbed his neck and stuttered with a pale face. Rapid who was monitoring in front of Ark turned his head.

“Out of breath? What are you doing that would cause you to lose your breath? There is no problem with the air supply system.”

“No, that is....this....”

Ark couldn’t grasp what was going on. All of a sudden, it felt like an invisible hand was grasping his neck while giving orders. No, it wasn’t a feeling. Obviously something was choking him.

He clearly felt hands around his neck. But he couldn’t see anything. It was useless trying to pull it off because the hands were like steel.

“This is....”

Ark flopped down onto the ground.

Then the scene around him disappeared like the power had been switched off.

“Ha, this really....”

Gwon Hwa-rang lowered his cell phone and clicked his tongue. Park So-mi who was knitting tilted her neck to one side and asked.

“Why? Who was on the phone?”

“That guy Myung-ryong.”

“Myung-ryong ssi? Didn’t you say it had been a while since he contacted you?”

“I did. I heard that he had received orders from higher up for a secret mission when I asked the juniors in his department. He just called all of a sudden asking me for the password to Hyun-woo’s house.”

“Password for Hyun-woo’s house? Why?”

“I don’t know. He said he wanted to do a surprise.....”

“Surprise? That is a word used for a surprise birthday party or something. But isn’t Hyun-woo’s birthday still far away? Perhaps it is Myung-ryong ssi’s birthday?”

“No, his birthday has already passed.”

“Then I guess they are celebrating someone else’s birthday.”

“Sheesh, I feel slightly hurt for some reason. Shouldn’t he ask about his Hyung-nim first? It has been such a long time since he called yet he hung up after asking for Hyun-woo’s password? He is a young guy so shouldn’t he be polite to someone older than him? I’ll let Myung-ryong know the age difference between us.”

Gwon Hwa-rang snapped out childishly.

“Why do you seem sulky?”

“I’m not sulking. I just think it is rude.”

“Don’t say that. I don’t meet him often but I know that Myung-ryong ssi is something that Hyun-woo really regards as a hyung-nim. It is fortunately that he can take time out of his busy police work to go visit Hyun-woo. I haven’t had a chance to say it but I’m really thankful that person is at Hyun-woo’s

side.”

Park So-mi said with a smile. While she was thanking Lee Myung-ryong.....

“Huhuhu! Surprise!”

A person with a bloodthirsty smile was standing in front of her son.

Sudden Attack (Part: 2)

“....Heok!”

Ark’s eyes flashed.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

At the same time, a continuous roar rattled his ears. Red lights were flashing around him.

“The right side armour has been shot! Fire has occurred around the power control system due to the impact!”

“Damn! Kurakan, Ellain, engine room!”

“F-fire extinguisher?”

“There are no spares in the bridge! Take the fire extinguisher from the infirmary!”

“Rapid, the passage has caught on fire!”

“Then please go to the right gun turrets and support Cupa and Hedro. A lot of the armour is damaged and air is leaking. If we don’t stop it quickly then the right gun turrets won’t be able to rotate anymore. In such a situation, it is the end if our turrets don’t work. Take any necessary repair materials from the warehouse!”

“But we don’t have the skill to repair it.”

“It can’t be helped. Right now Tori and Hegel is needed in the cockpit. Milan and Park are at the left gun turrets. If you can’t repair it then just give first aid!”

Rapid was crying out in a loud voice near him. Kaya and Sadain were cursing while running away from the bridge and Berad and Melina were using emergency fire extinguishers on a corner of the bridge. Ark watched the

scene with dumbfounded eyes before grabbing Rapid's arm and saying.

“Rapid, what is the uproar?”

“Ark!”

Rapid flinched and turned his head. He frowned as he looked at Ark's face and exclaimed.

“Stupid bastard! What have you been doing in the meantime?”

“Me? I-I.....”

Ark stuttered.

As soon as the fleets from the 3 powers advanced, Ark had tried to fight when he felt short of breath and the scene disappeared around him. He didn't know then but the reason Ark disappeared from Galaxian wasn't due to a problem. Ark couldn't imagine that it was because of a person.

Ark became short of breath because 'he' had dragged Ark out of the capsule by the neck. And it took him 10 minutes to connect again. Ark had experienced many things in those 10 minutes.

Really a lot of experiences.....

And things weren't put in order yet. Ark desperately convinced 'him' before he was allowed to come back to Galaxian. He didn't know what was going on! He still didn't know why 'he' pulled Ark out of the capsule with a bloodthirsty expression. If he made a mistake then he would unconditionally have to pay it back 2 or 3 times. No, Ark begged that he would pay it pay 10 times before 'he' would agree. And he quickly logged into this mess.

Ark organized his thoughts and simply replied.

“There were circumstances! Rather.....”

Wiiing-! Pepepepeng!

At that moment the Silver Star started shaking. Ark turned and a passing

scene caught his eye. There was a flying spherical object with four light wings attached.

“.....What, this is?”

“That is a small fighter aircraft.”

Rapid growled as he looked out the flashing window.

“The battle with the 3 fleets was proceeding profitably. After you disappeared, the 3 fleets did a one sided bombardment. However we started to become overwhelmed form the offensive of the small fighters.”

Once again, spaceships for long distance travel weren't the only ones available in Galaxian. Smalls ships designed for battle that could only fit one person also existed. However, the duration of their flights was short and the weapon capacity was limited so they couldn't act independently.

In most cases, the small fighters were mounted on spaceships and used for mobile manoeuvres. The small fighter that Ark witness was called the Hornet.

And the situation changed 180 degrees with the Hornet's appearance.

“This is my first time seeing a Hornet. It has weak defense so the guns should shoot it down straight away. But the acceleration and turning power is faster than general spaceships. It is also small so it is difficult to catch. At least 100 of them poured out.....”

It was natural that the advance of the 3 fleets would be stopped. The Hornets aggressively rushed towards the 3 fleets and the situation turned out like this. Of course, the combat power of the Hornets couldn't compare to that of the 3 fleets.

One shot would only do 1~2% damage at most. But all clothes would get wet in the rain. The damage piled up and couldn't be ignored. Thus the Hornets were able to overwhelm the brute force of the 3 fleets!

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The 3 fleets started to receive deadly damage. Ark could check the result with his eyes.

The Hornets flew around the 3 fleets attacking, causing flames to rise and the wreckage of spaceships to float through space.

“I took over the role of Captain while you were knocked out and 4 spaceships from the investigation team has sunk. There are at least 10 spaceships on the Rama and Aschulat side. And the Silver Star is in this state.”

Rapid didn't have to say it. The information windows that surfaced on the monitors were all tinged in red. Many features had stopped working, the shield had disappeared and 40% of the ship's armour destroyed. But looking at the battle outside, it was fortunate that the ship hadn't sunk yet.

“You held up well.”

“It is thanks to the help of your crew.”

Rapid replied in a testy voice. Rapid tone might be sarcastic but Ark was forced to acknowledge him.

“A Hornet is approaching from the 3 o'clock direction! Shoot! The right deck is destroyed so it is dangerous!”

“Don't make me laugh! Damn, why am I in a place like this? Ohhhhhhh!”

Tori shrieked and tugged the joystick at Hegel's words. The Silver Star rose vertically and spun 360 degrees as the Hornet passed below them. Hegel then hit a button on the dashboard and shouted into the microphone.

“Hornet below you at X-36, Y-10! Control the right side gun turrets!”

-Confirmed!

Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The right side gun turrets of the Silver Star fired simultaneously with

Kalliben's answer. Then the Hornet passing below the Silver Star was engulfed in flames. Hegel's prediction ability combined with Kalliben's shooting skills had sunk the Hornet.

It wasn't just them. Slayer, Melina, Kaya and Sadain were carrying fire extinguishers while the others were involved in repairs or shooting. And the one leading them on Ark's behalf was Rapid. If it wasn't for them then the Silver Star would be like the wreckage floating outside the window.

"But....."

Rapid paused while speaking. Hegel who was looking at the monitor then shouted.

"Rapid-nim, Ensign Irina is being attacked from behind by Hornets!"

"What? Irina-nim?"

Ark and Rapid shouted at the same time. Ark looked startled at Rapid's reaction. Irina was his girlfriend so naturally Ark was concerned. But Rapid's reaction made no sense to Ark.

However Rapid had his own reasons.

"The Silver Star has been able to hold out so far thanks to Irina. That woman's skill at handling a spaceship is different from the other members. Her spaceship alone shot down 7 Hornets. In addition, she would protect the Silver Star despite receiving damage. I didn't understand the reason but now I can guess from your reaction."

"Y-you can guess?"

"It doesn't matter. I'm not interested. Anyway, I can't pretend not to see after receiving her help. Tori, turn towards Irina's ship!"

"I am the captain!"

"So? You don't want to help?"

“Who doesn’t want to help? Tori, listen to Rapid and turn in that direction!”

The Silver Star circled while Hegel who had been manipulating the keyboard shouted.

“Target confirmation! 2 Hornets are approaching Irina from the 6 and 7 o’clock direction at 0.1 space speed. Trajectory speed and Hornet speed has been calculated and strike location has been inputted!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Shells were fired from the Silver Star’s left and right turrets at the same time! The shells rushed towards the 2 Hornets on either side of Irina’s ship. They zigzagged to avoid the shells and flew towards the Silver Star.

In the ensuing bombardment, Kalliben and Leon shot down 1 Hornet. And the remaining one exploded between the Silver Star and Irina’s bombardment. However the enemy’s offensive continued without a break.

“2 Hornets are approaching from the 4 o’clock direction!”

“Damn! Turn!”

“It is shooting! 2 shots are coming from the Hornet!”

“Avoid it! Descend before it can penetrate!”

Pepepepeng! Pepepepeng!

Sparks flew on the Silver Star’s armour. The Hornet’s shots had hit. However it was possible to avoid the concentrated shooting from the 2 Hornets. And the return fire shot down 1 Hornet. The target moved to the remaining Hornet.

Wiiiiing!

Another Hornet soared from behind the wreckage of a spaceship floating nearby.

“A Hornet has emerged from the rear! It is rushing at full speed towards the

Silver Star!”

“W-what? Then the Hornet before was just bait? Dammit! Tori, full speed ahead!”

“No! The Silver Star’s engine hasn’t been fully repaired so our acceleration booster isn’t working properly. It is too late to avoid the Hornet!”

“Dammit! Everybody prepare for impact!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

There was a roaring sound and the Silver Star vibrated violently. The Hornet hiding behind the wreckage crashed into the rear of the Silver Star and self-destructed. At the same time, a hopeless message floated on the monitor in front of the captain’s seat.

-The Silver Star’s engine has collided with the enemy and has been destroyed!

Engine destruction! That message was no different to a death penalty! No, it actually was a death penalty. Smoke poured out of the Silver Star and it stopped moving. Irina rushed towards the Silver Star and Irina’s voice could be heard on the screen.

–*Ark-nim, danger!*

“Hyung-nim, a light ray from the carrier is going to hit us directly!”

Hegel screamed at the same time. When Ark turned around, the sight of a ray from the carrier heading straight towards the Silver Star caught his eye. But right now the Silver Star couldn’t move!

“Son of a bitch!”

Ark cursed.

A flash that covered thousands of kilometres enveloped the Silver Star.

“N-no!

Irina shouted with a panicked expression. The scene of the smoking Silver Star being wrapped in light was unfolding in front of her. And.....

“....The Silver Star has been destroyed, the signal is lost.”

Hajin sighed and shook his head. Irina flopped on the captain’s seat like a broken doll. She had spent four days in the vicinity of the black hole in a deadlock with the Rama and Aschulat fleets.

Four days again the grey planet collapsed and she waited for Ark. Of course, she had to think about her subordinates. But if she was by herself then her heart wouldn’t be able to abandon Ark.

So she wanted to help Ark this time. She had focused on covering the Silver Star when it was attacked by the enemy. But the result was a total failure. Ark had disappeared in front of her.

Irina felt like her pulse had stopped. But she shook her head forcefully and calmed her heart.

‘No, the ship’s signal has disappeared but there is no evidence that Ark-nim is killed. Ark-nim might still be alive. I can’t admit it before seeing it with my own eyes!’

“Hajin, the Silver Star’s location.....”

Irina raised her head and shouted.

–Ensign Irina.

Hawk floated on the screen.

–Ark’s ship signal is gone. Do you understand?

“.....Yes.”

Hawk frowned at Irina’s answer. And he shook his head before starting to talk again.

-Then Ensign-nim, please join the main forces. As you know, the military situation is becoming increasingly disadvantageous. Including Ark, there have been 5 ally ships that have sunk. We've lost a third of our power. It was the same for the Rama and Aschulat. Yet the 3 fleets haven't managed to deal a special blow to the carrier. The Hornets were unexpected but now we need to regroup. The Rama and Aschulat probably have the same idea. I'm going to reorganize the fleet and propose a combined action to them.

"Combined action?"

-That is the best for now. So please hurry and join us.

"But Ark-nim....."

-Ark, why do you talk about him so much?

Hawk hesitated as he looked at Irina before speaking.

-I can guess what you're going to say. I know that Ensign-nim has a special consideration towards Ark. But this is a battlefield. Moreover, our allies are currently being put in a corner. If one individual acts separately then the whole team will be placed in danger. Do you understand what I'm saying?

"Iunderstand."

Irina bit her lip and replied. She looked at the area where the Silver Star disappeared before saying in a spiritless voice.

"Hajin, join up with the main forces."

"That stupid bastard!"

While Irina was moving towards the main fleet. A person 100 kilometres away was cursing. It was a Rama warrior wearing red armour, the Red Slaughterer.

The Rama fleet's visit to the grey planet was a result of their own

investigating. Just like the Galactic Federation and the Aschulat, the Rama fleet was also looking for information about antimatter.

However the Red Slaughterer had another purpose. It was to kill Ark. The situation was complicated due to the carrier's appearance but the Red Slaughterer had every intention of seeing it through to the end.

“But now you're dead!”

The Red Slaughterer muttered with annoyance. But the Red Slaughterer wasn't in a position to do anything. Right now the Rama fleet he commanded, the Aschulat and the Galactic Federation were suffering considerable damage from the Hornets and the carrier. In this situation he couldn't go look for Ark.

“Dammit! Is that the only way after all?”

The Red Slaughterer murmured as he looked at the carrier. Keiko turned around and reported.

“Captain-nim, a communication is coming from the public channel. It is the leader of the Galactic Federation fleet, Hawk.”

Wiiiiing!

There was a flying sound in the darkness. And it spun around for a while.

“.....Gone?”

A low voice spoke in the darkness.

“Yes, the acoustic amplifier couldn't find anything for dozens of kilometres so it moved away.”

“Phew, somehow we managed to fool them.”

A heavy sigh flowed out. Then the eyes looked around.

“I really thought we would die this time.”

“Me too. Damn, my heart is still shaking. Isn’t this similar to a heart disease?”

“At any rate, they passed by so we can relax.”

“See I told you. You are someone embedded with unlucky genes.”

“It is scary that those words don’t sound like a joke anymore.”

The eyes were making a lot of noise. They were Melina, Kaya, Slayer and the crew of the Silver Star. And the person with the unlucky genes....

“Anyway we’re alive. What are you complaining about?”

Ark snapped at his team mates. But Ark’s heart was still thumping quickly from the last few minutes.

A few minutes ago, the Silver Star’s engine had been completely smashed by the Hornet’s self-destruct. And the carrier’s light ray aimed towards the ship. At the time Ark really thought it was the end.

However Ark didn’t give up. It was impossible for him to give up. He suddenly fell onto Muratio Star and returned after four days. Ark wasn’t idle in the meantime and gained many skills and experience. But 90% of the reason for not wanting to die was due to the Silver Star. He had reclaimed the Silver Star.

Yet it was going to explode not 1 hour after he reclaimed it? He couldn’t accept such an empty ending.

‘I barely slept for the last four days so I can’t die here! No! I won’t die!’

Then Ark saw the wreckage of the spaceship that the Hornet had been hiding in.

Ark was able to avoid the carrier’s bombardment due to that wreckage. Just before the light ray had hit him, Ark launched the anchor and pulled the wreckage in front of the Silver Star to act as a shield. It was a movement that was more instinctual than base on his judgement.

Pepeng! Chwajijijijik!

The light ray was stopped thanks to that. The shockwave pushed the ship back several kilometres but they were able to receive no damage from the bombardment. However, he still couldn't breathe a sigh of relief. A 3rd Hornet flying towards them had witnessed the scene.

'The Silver Star lost an engine. The main gun and turrets are good but it is useless if the ship can't move. In this state we can't even deal with 1 Hornet.'

So Ark decided to try a gamble. He shut off the Silver Star's power. This was why Irina, Hawk and the Red Slaughterer thought he was dead. If the ship's power was turned off then the identification signal to distinguish between enemy and friends as well as communication and energy reactions were shut off. The energy reaction was gone so everyone thought the Silver Star had sunk.

This was what Ark had aimed for. The Hornet thought the same as Irina, Hawk and the Red Slaughterer. It was a gamble that saved Ark's life. Once the power supply was turned off, the Hornet who caught up to the Silver Star wandered around the area for a while before going back.

An engine had been destroyed. A few minutes would mean the difference between life or death. And it was 100% due to Ark that they could survive.

Yet Slayer kept on talking about his unlucky genes. No, Ark also started to become suspicious that he had the unlucky genes. The Silver Star and team members were able to survive thanks to Ark's concentration. But these circumstances weren't excellent.

'Our lives were saved for the moment but.....'

"What are we going to do?"

Rapid looked at Ark and asked.

.....That was the problem.

-Ship-related information:

According to the classification of the ship's damage....

<Depending on the damage received during battle, the hull can either be damaged, ruptured or destroyed.

If the damage is low and there is only a functional problem then it can self-recover depending on the level of the ship.

The rupture of the hull means that the function is seriously compromised and it needs to be repaired directly.

If the part is completely destroyed then it is best to go to the nearest repair shop. An engineer in the crew with expertise in repair can fix it but spare parts are required>

There were different types of damage. And the current Silver Star had dozens of areas damaged. But as described in the information window, the damage could be recovered. If the crew repaired it then it could be restored or over time it would return to its original state.

The problem was the damage received by the Hornet's self-destruction.

Destruction! That part was impossible to restore. Furthermore, the engine destroyed could be called the life of the spaceship! They pretended to be dead to avoid the Hornet's attack but being devoid of the engine in outer space was just like death.

"Perhaps a spare engine in the warehouse....."

Rapid sighed as he confirmed Ark's expression.

".....I knew it."

"Damn, what the? That look? Do you think spare parts are easy? They cost money! Furthermore, an engine is worth thousands of gold. I don't have the

money for something unnecessary like a spare engine!”

“What did you say just now?”

“You heard what I said!”

Ark and Rapid snapped at each other. Then Kaya interjected before Ark and Rapid could launch at each other.

“Hey, you! Why are you talking about something unrelated Rapid? Rapid what is wrong with you? Does it make sense to argue about something like a spare tire? And a captain should be prepared for such a situation with a spare engine! Does it make sense not to buy one because it is expensive?”

“Kaya unni, your words are a bit intense.”

At this time Melina stood up and showed partiality towards Ark.

“You’re making it sound like everything is Ark’s mistake. It isn’t Ark’s fault that the engine broke. Rather, it was thanks to Ark that the hornet didn’t kill us after the light ray attack. Yes there is no spare engine. Poverty isn’t a sin.”

“I agree.”

Rapid nodded. He looked towards Ark and smiled.

“Poverty is not a sin. Ark, don’t get me wrong. I understand now.”

What? Why did Ark feel something unpleasant deep in his chest?

But Ark didn’t question it closely. He didn’t want to get into an argument with Kaya or Rapid.

In fact, the person most frustrated right now was Ark. Like Melina said, they weren’t destroyed by the Hornet despite losing the engine was due to Ark. But it was only a temporary measure.

They were camouflaged for now but there was no guarantee how long it would fool the enemy. And if the battle continued like this then there was a 9 in 10 chance that the carrier would win.

He couldn't be relieved even if the 3 fleets excelled. There was a huge enemy so they were cooperate now but there was no telling what would happen when the carrier disappeared. And if the Silver Star sunk then the crew would die!

There would be no point in the members escaping alive from Muratio Star. But Ark couldn't die. Not only would Ark lost his skills and experience, he would also lost his property the Silver Star.

'I have to find another way.....'

Ark racked his brain.

"Hrmm! Any person would know a way."

Slayer who was staring out the window muttered. Ark raised his head and exclaimed at the unexpected words.

"You know a way?"

"Yes, I know. I know a way."

Slayer folded his arm and replied with a conceited expression. He was angry at Slayer but right now he would grasp at anything. Slayer was stupid but sometimes even stupid people could have genius thoughts.

And.....

"I was thinking alone while you guys were quarrelling futilely. How can I escape this crisis and rescue my colleagues?"

"Stop talking nonsense and tell us!"

"This brat, be patient. Okay. I'll explain it. Now, look there. What do you see? Yes, dozens of ships fighting against the carrier. Already the wreckage of 10 ships are floating around. Some are shattered to pieces but others are in a decent state. If we look then we can find one with a perfect engine."

Ark smiled and nodded.

“Aha! So you’re saying we should search the wreckage for an engine for the Silver Star.”

“Huhuhu! How about it? Isn’t it clever?”

“Yes, very clever. So? How are we going to get there if we find a perfect engine?”

“.....”

Slayer closed his mouth. He scratched his head and asked.

“I mean.....how will we get there?”

“Do you want to die?”

Ark said.

“I knew it was stupid.....”

Kaya and Sadain sighed. It was stupid to have hope for even a little bit.

Taking an engine from a sunken spaceship and mount it onto the Silver Star. Ark had thought of that as soon as the engine was destroyed. However their engine was destroyed so they couldn’t even move 1 metre.

That was the reason why Ark and Rapid were worried. Then Rapid sighed before speaking.

“There is only one way left.”

“One way left? What?”

Ark turned and asked. All of a sudden Rapid pulled out his gun and placed the muzzle against Ark’s forehead.

“W-w-what are you doing?”

“I’m helping.”

“Help? What? Commit suicide? Is this a joke? I still haven’t given up!”

“So I’m helping you. I’ve been observing you in the meantime and I’ve

realized something. You're not a smart person. There isn't a large difference between you and Slayer. So why do you keep surpassing me? According to my judgement, it is due to the difference in timing. You managed to quickly think of something just before the light ray hit us. So you're smart in a crisis and are just about to die."

"Dammit! How is that going to help? It is a threat!"

"You think this is a threat?"

Cheolkeok.

Rapid smiled and prepared to pull back the trigger.

"You will feel better with a hole in your head."

"Who would feel better? I will die! A hole in my head will kill me you fool!"

What type of nonsense was he talking? They were in a crisis and Rapid wanted to drive a bullet into his head? Was that guy crazy? However Ark's head was thinking furiously. Something had popped into his head.

"Yes! That! The air holes! Air!"

"10 seconds. Explain it to me."

"You don't know? It's air, air. The air on board the Silver Star. He's going to use the air as a propellant. This is space. There is no gravity and air resistance so air could be used to move. It is possible to move even without an engine!"

".....Your life is saved."

Rapid put down his gun. His expression seemed like he really would've shot Ark. It really was daring considering Rapid was his employee. But now wasn't the time to admire his bravery (?). They solved the problem of how to move but an issue still remained.

"Now we have to find an engine."

They couldn't blindly search through the wreckage. The driving force

obtained from the air injection was difficult to control. It wouldn't be enough to search through the wreckage one by one. Even if they got close, it was impossible to check the status of the engine with their eyes alone.

“We need to use the optical scanners.”

“Doesn't that mean we have to start the power?”

“The air on board isn't unlimited. We also have no choice but to turn on the power if we want to use the air as a propellant. Fortunately the 3 fleets and the Hornets are concentrating on fighting around the carrier. If we use the lowest possible power to utilize the optical scanner and air generator then we will go unnoticed.”

“Is that a risk we have to take?”

“We have no choice.”

Ark glanced towards Tori. And Tori swallowed his saliva before touching the switch to the Silver Star's power supply. There was a small vibration as the machine turned on. The emergency red lights turned on. Ark stared out the window with a tense look.

The spaceships and carrier were congregated hundreds of kilometres away. The power was working but he couldn't see any special reaction from the Hornets flying around. The first checkpoint had been passed.

“Optical scanners.”

Ark started to carefully take action. The doors at the bottom of the Silver Star opened and 15 sphere dropped into outer space.

“I know we're in a rush but we shouldn't hurry. If they move too fast then there is a risk that the Hornets will notice. Move slowly and with the minimal amount of power.”

“I know.”

Hegel replied as he operated the dashboard. He directed the optical scanners

towards the wreckage floating around. The information from the optical scanners started appearing on the monitor.

-Optical Scanner Results

- 1.3- No engine in the rubble.
- 2.4- Engine in the rubble has been 80% destroyed.
- 3.8- Engine in the rubble has different specifications to the Silver Star.....

‘Damn, is my idea not going to work?’

There was a tight knot in Ark’s stomach. Right now the optical scanners were inspecting the wrecked of ships sunk by the Hornets. It would be hard to find a working engine in the wreckage. Furthermore, not every engine would be suitable to be mounted.

The engine depended on the type of spaceship, the engine output and other factors. Well, the engine could be reconstructed to fit the Silver Star but he didn’t have the equipment or time. He needed to find an engine that could be mounted on the Silver Star immediately.

‘Approximately 1....just 1 will be okay!’

After a while.

-NO. 13- An engine has been discovered in the wreckage.

Condition is good. More than 80% is working.

It was the message he hoped for!

“Hyung-nim, I’ve found it!” Scanner no. 13!”

“Where?”

“78 kilometres away in the 2 o’clock direction!”

“Okay. Tori, move in that direction!”

The situation developed rapidly.

Chiik! Chiik! Chiiiik!

A gas like water vapour emerged from the external jets and the Silver Star turned slowly. The moment Hegel aligned the Silver Star in the right direction, a huge amount of gas came gushing out. It was the air from inside the Silver Star! Once air was blown from the read, the Silver Star immediately flew forward. And it reached the wreckage that the NO. 13 scanner had found.

“What the, that is?”

“Isn’t that a Rama spaceship?”

“The engine from this ship fits the Silver Star’s specifications?”

Rapid and Slayer murmured with confusion. The bridge part was destroyed but almost everything else was intact. The problem was that the spaceship didn’t belong to either the Galactic Federation or the Aschulat. The Rama spaceship had biological tissue that was wriggling like it was still alive!

Ark was also puzzled by the situation.....

‘.....Such a thing?’

Now Ark was able to understand the situation. Once again, but the Silver Star was a ship that belonged to the Murat. And according to the information he obtained so far, the Rama was a species originally ruled by the Murat. The Rama could grow quickly thanks to the technology the Murat gave them.

In other words, the Rama civilization was based on the Murat. The present spaceship had changed from the Murat standards after many years passed but the base specifications were still the same. It was the main reason why the Rama’s engine was more appropriate for the Silver Star then one belonging

to the Aschulat or Galactic Federation.

Anyway!

“Can we separate the engine from that spaceship?”

“No, not yet.”

Ark shook his head at Slayer’s words.

“The armour of that spaceship is still intact. It will be difficult to take out the engine from outside. We should enter the interior to save time. Furthermore, the only part of that ship destroyed is the bridge. The crew were wiped out but the ship’s control system might still be functioning. If we can control the management system of the engine then this might be easily settled.”

“How can we take over the other ship’s control system?”

Ark didn’t answer. He just looked back at Tori. Tori waved his fingers and laughed.

“Huhuhu, this is the chance to show my abilities. I’ve been waiting to be brought into this conversation. This is my first time with a Rama spaceship but luckily there is no crew members. Just believe in me and wait. I will separate the engine from the spaceship in 1 minute. Launch anchor!”

Pepeng! Pepeng!

The Silver Star’s anchor was launched at the Rama’s ship. Once again, the anchor wasn’t just to catch an enemy ship. It also connected to the system and a poison could be spread to paralyze the enemy’s system. The anchor served as a type of communication cable. And once online....

“Now shall I get started?”

Tadak! Tadak! Tadak! Tatatata!

Tori’s fingers began to move at a tremendous speed over a keyboard device.

```
-##$!  
##$##$UIDO)OFODO#!  
  
IKER(! ELLR)!  
EIKEKRK##$#! ##$!  
  
%ILKERO%$LL.....
```

Mysterious characters flashed on the screen.

“Sheesh, there is still a firewall remaining in such a state?”

Tori clicked his tongue and muttered. The characters disappeared and the screen changed. The top part of the screen was filled with small blocks. And there was a panel moving from side to side on the bottom. A small ball appeared on the centre of the screen and started breaking the blocks.

The screen was.....

“Eh? What the?”

“Brick Breaker? Isn’t that the game Brick Breaker?”

“Is this hamster crazy? Now he is playing a game?”

Slayer, Kaya and Rapid exclaimed with dumbfounded eyes. But Ark knew that this wasn’t a simple game.

Right now Tori was hacking. He needed to hack the Rama’s system to take control of the ship’s system. The brick screen floating was a hack to overcome the Rama’s firewall! It was the firewall protecting the ship’s control system so the degree of difficulty was significant. The ball flying between the bricks and panel was at a tough level. But Tori wasn’t an ordinary hamster. He might be indebted to Ark now but he was the teacher who taught Ark hacking!

“Be quiet and don’t disturb him!”

Ark shouted while looking at the screen.

Ping pong! Ping pong! Ping pong! Ping pong!

The ball got rid of the bricks at a tremendous pace!

Some people- Slayer- watched the scene with an absurd expression, others -Ark- were watching tensely and Tori was fiercely concentrating as he got rid of the bricks one by one. And finally there was the desperate moment when only one brick was left!

.....Pong!

“That’s it! Hyung-nim, I did it!”

Tori raised his fist and shouted as he got rid of all the bricks.

“Well done! Amazing! Okay, Tori! Now connect the system engine module....”

An unexpected problem had occurred at that moment.

-! DJQUDK#\$UI!
KEJRI.....

The characters came back!

“Eh? W-what is this?”

“Tori, what’s going on? Why are more characters floating?”

“I-I’m not sure. The firewall is broken but data is flowing back to us!”

“The data is flowing backwards? Then is it reverse hacking?”

“The Silver Star’s firewall wasn’t activated so it doesn’t seem to be hacking. Wait a minute! Wait a minute! Huh? T-this is? No way! Hyung-nim, the Silver Star is absorbing the data!”

“What does that mean? We’re not doing anything.”

“There is no doubt! The Silver Star’s system is absorbing that spaceship’s

data! The place the data is entering....10! It is the Silver Star's 10th room!"

"10th room?"

Ark burst out with confusion.

If he had to explain, the Silver Star had 10 rooms. However Ark could only access 7 of them. The cabin, infirmary, warehouse and four available rooms. There were 3 more rooms but their doors wouldn't open. All data associated with them was blocked in the control system so he was unaware of what was inside.

'If I upgrade the ship then I can use those rooms.'

So he had only vaguely thought about the 8th, 9th and 10th rooms. But a strange phenomenon was suddenly occurring around the 10th room.

"What is happening....?"

Just as Ark was wondering about it.....

-The sealed facilities in the Silver Star are starting up.

<Unlike some general spaceship, this one is equipped with special facilities for adventures.

These facilities are usually sealed in the early stages and certain conditions need to be met before they start up.

The conditions depend on the function of the spaceship and the facilities but it can be used as a general facility once the seal is released>

-A new facility has been added to the Silver Star.

Shape Decomposition Fusion Management Office: The home planet of the Murat, Muratio Star had a harsh environment.

There was a lack of resources so the Murat developed the shape

decomposition fusion technology.

Shape decomposition fusion technology is a self-growth system that will destroyed something at the end of its life and fuse it with the spaceship to upgrade it.

The Murat use this technology to absorb destroyed spaceships in combat and build a stronger fleet. However, control of the spaceship must be seized in order to use the shape decomposition fusion technology.

<Feature: Shape Decomposition Fusion Management Office>

The information window suddenly appeared.

Pepeng!

The biological tissue attached to the wreckage was then cut up. And it changed into skeletal mechanical components. This process created a huge oval shaped metal body.

Pajijjik! Pajijjik!

The upper doors of the Silver Star opened and the oval metal started to be drawn forward like a magnet was pulling it. And the moment it was directly above the Silver Star!

Hwaaaaack!

It split apart and covered the Silver Star.

Sudden Attack (Part: 3)

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

The continuous bursts of flashes! Roaring sounds occurred and the spaceship shook.

“Ugh, that monster!”

Hawk cursed from the bridge of a battleship that was shaking violently. A huge spaceship filled the screen in front of him. This was the unidentified carrier that had shockingly emerged from a black hole.

Right now the Rama, Aschulat and Galactic Federation fleets were gathered on the right side of the carrier. The person who proposed this was Hawk.

Right after Ark had been hit by the light ray.

‘There are 60 spaceships from the 3 powers presently gathered here. And we have a chance against the carrier with those type of numbers. But that’s only if the spaceships of the 3 powers becomes one fleet. If we each move separately then we’re going to be defeated.’

This was the conclusion that Hawk came to. And he opened up communication with the commanders of the Rama and Aschulat fleets.

“I am the Galactic Federation’s investigation team leader, Hawk.”

-Yes, you are Hawk one of the famous Seven Swords?

The first person to reply was the Rama warrior, the Red Slaughterer. And after that was the Aschulat commander.

–But you spoke so confidently about the investigation team. Is it okay to say such things? The investigation teams dispatched by the Galactic Federation and Rama are supposed to be a secret.

The leader of the Aschulat fleet Anbis, who resembled ET, looked at Hawk

and said.

“Stop the futile psychological war. Everyone knows that the fleets gathered here are the investigation teams from the 3 powers. There is no reason to hide this. No, we shouldn’t hide it. So I’ll preside over our talk.”

–What do you want to say?

“Haven’t you guessed? The reason why we’re having his communication.”

–.....To become allies?

The Red Slaughterer who had been listening quietly said coldly. Hawk nodded.

“We have the same purpose and the same enemy. And you must be aware that each of us acting separately can’t take care of that carrier. Now we have to join hands to deal with that carrier. That is my answer.”

–Join hands?

“We have to get through that bombardment.”

–Yes, it is impossible. We can’t overpower that carrier’s shield, armour and gun. It is disadvantageous because there are still dozens of Hornets. The only way we can overcome such a situation is in hand to hand combat.

It was like the Red Slaughterer said. They had inferior forces so they only way that could win was to bring the commander down. No matter how strong the enemy was, if the commander was killed then they would collapse like a castle of sand.

The only way was to plunge through the enemy’s defences to defeat the commander in hand to hand combat. The problem was that the enemy worship wasn’t a conventional battleship.

They couldn’t damage the armour even when using their main guns. They had to infiltrate the enemy ship but it would take a lot of firepower to just scratch the hard armour. However, the concentrated attacks from the 3 fleets

would be enough to penetrate even the thickest armour.

–You haven't spoken about the most important thing.

“What?”

–Compensation. Now that the investigation team isn't a secret, I'll speak too. The antimatter energy wavelength comes from that carrier. That means the existence of antimatter is somewhere on that carrier. It seems unlikely that it can be split among all of us. So what will be done?

“Then the alliance will just last until we reach the carrier. Is anymore explanation necessary?”

–No, it's enough.

The Red Slaughterer laughed and replied. In other words, they would join together until they reached the carrier and after that it was up to their own discretion. Whoever took control of the antimatter first would have it belong to them!

–I'll cooperate. Only until the carrier.

But the combat power of the carrier was beyond imagination. 20 minutes passed since the 3 fleets joined together but they still failed to break through the carrier's armour. The shield stopped the attacks and the interception defense was incomparable to the GEM of a regular spaceship.

A truly impregnable fortress! Whenever the 3 powers fleet approached, dozens of Hornets would come shooting like bees. Thus the fleet of the 3 powers failed to approach closer than dozens of kilometres.

‘But.....’

Even if it was a high performance GEM, it wouldn't be able to stop all attacks. The 3 powers fleet didn't stop and continue firing their main guns for 30 minutes. Thanks to the overwhelming attacks, the carrier's armour turned tattered.

“We’re close! Concentrate your strength! It will be our victory if we penetrate the armour! Don’t stop attacking!”

Flash! Flash! Flash!

10 flashes were shot out at Hawk’s call! A couple were intercepted with the GEM but three or four rays directly hit the carrier. At the same time, parts of the armour turned red. But the carrier wasn’t just passively being attacked.

“The carrier has launched an attack! Neutron bullets!”

“Damn! Have the lead ships intercept it with the GEM system! The spaceships to the rear will evade!”

Tu tu tu tung! Tu tu tu tung! Tu tu tu tung!

There was a chain of explosions. A nuclear storm occurred in the area where the fleet was gathered and the spaceships shook violently. Some battleships had smoke pouring from it while others were involved in the storm and exploded.

“A number of ally ships have been damaged! Kaien has been sunk! Two Rama and Aschulat ships have been sunk as well!”

“But those guys have been hit as well! Fleet, fire your main guns!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

And the counterattack of the fleet continued! The flashes hit the carrier in the same area and a ringing sound spread out.

‘This sound? There is a crack somewhere in the armour! It has finally reached its limit!’

“Harley, now! Charge the Dark Knight’s main gun and advance!”

“But there is too much enemy gunfire!”

“Ignore the Hornets’ bullets! It will be decided with this! If we rush the carrier then the Hornets won’t be a problem!”

“Understood! Death Knight, full acceleration! Charge!”

The Dark Knight rushed forward while spewing flames. Suddenly one of the ships in the rear rushed forward at a tremendous speed. The ship glided across the battlefield that was full of lasers, light rays and battleships!

“What? That battleship?”

Hawk burst out with confusion at the appearance of the battlefield. Harley watched a message appear on the dashboard before turning and shouting.

“The identification code is R-02788. Eh? T-that is the battle ship Silver Star! Ark’s spaceship!”

-What? That is Ark’s ship?

The Red Slaughterer on the screen stood up and shouted.

“How wonderful!”

Ark whistled.

He looked out the window at the lasers passing by. The battlefield spread out in front of the Silver Star. The reason the Silver Star could cross the battlefield was due to the Shape Decomposition Fusion.

Approximately 10 minutes ago.

It occurred when he hacked the Rama’s battleship to separate the engine. The seal for the 10th room containing the Shape Decomposition Fusion facility was released and the Rama spaceship turned into a piece of metal. And once the metal touched the upper part of the ship!

-Docking is completed! System connection complete!

The Silver Star’s operating system is adjusted according

to the new engine!

The power turned off and when it turned back on, that message appeared. The Silver Star transformed after combining with the Rama spaceship. The Silver Star's streamlined body had something like a big luggage on top of it.

However the outward appearance didn't matter.

-Silver Star

Hull: Medium- 4th Grade

Classification: Battleship

Firepower: 35,000

Speed: B

Turning: A+30%

Shield: C +30%

Energy Efficiency: B+30%

*Defense: Shield Gauge 16%

Hull Armour Durability: 70%

*Attack: Gun (Thunderbolt) Charge Rate: 100% (4 shots available)

4 Guns: Bullets for Manual Shooting- 70%, Condensation Energy Particle Cannon Charge Rate- 100%

* Special: <Optical Scanners x 15>, <Chaff x 5>, <Auxiliary Engine>

* Skill: <Photon Movement>, <Warp Sail>

At the same time, the Silver Star's information window changed!

The rating increased and all features rose by 30% once the Rama spaceship was incorporated. Two additional guns were added and the firepower

increased by 1,000. But Ark was happiest about the auxiliary engine! The engine of the Rama spaceship was registered as the Silver Star's auxiliary engine.

It was a prize that Ark couldn't imagine! Jackpot! Lotto!

“Kuahahaha! Who has the unlucky genes?”

Endorphins overflowed in Ark's brain like a waterfall. The back of his head tightened.

‘Right now the 3 powers are cooperating in order to attack the carrier. Their plan is to concentrate attacks on one spot and penetrate the armour. Looking at the situation, it seems like they might actually succeed. Then there is no reason to hesitate. Once the 3 powers enter the interior, it will become a speed competition. The one who occupies it first will become the winner. Then it will be beneficial to enter first!’

If the 3 powers fleet was going to win then he didn't need to hesitate. Ark activated the auxiliary engine and caught up to the rear of the ship. Then the Dark Knight rushed forward once there was a crack in the carrier's armour.

At that moment Ark instinctively shouted.

“Now! Tori, accelerate the Silver Star!”

And he breached through the nuclear storm caused by the neutron bullets! He pushed through the fleet's formation. Once he reached within dozens of kilometres of the carrier, there was a shower of intense gun fire from the ship. It was the Hornets who caught up to the Silver Star!

However the 3 powers fleet had immediately rushed after the Silver Star. As well as.....

“The enemy's bullet trajectory prediction data has been uploaded!”

Hegel shouted while fiddling with the dashboard. Dozens of dots appeared on the screen with numbers next to them.

Once again, the Silver Star didn't have a defense system like the GEM to intercept an enemy attack. Despite that, the reason why Ark didn't mount a GEM system on the ship was due to Hegel.

Hegel's special racial skill was 'trajectory prediction.' However there were limits to this ability. Hegel's ability wasn't lacking. When using the skill, the limitation was due to the computer that was a required equipment.

If Hegel used a Nymphe then he could only calculate 2~3 trajectories at a time. It was only possible to predict the trajectory. If the Silver Star's computer was used, that ability was boosted 10 times but there was still a limit.

But that changed after the Rama spaceship was integrated. The Rama spaceship had the same main computer as the Silver Star. And that computer was absorbed by the Silver Star during the Shape Decomposition Fusion. Therefore the Silver Star's computer changed into a dual core CPU!

The operation speed was vastly amplified. And Hegel's trajectory predictions were also amplified.

-Route 1: Hit probability
92%

-Route 2: Hit probability
21%

-Route 3: Hit probability
47%....

Dots with numbers next to them floated on the screen. It was the estimated probability that he would be hit if he continued with his present speed and course. He was able to grasp the situation thanks to those probable routes. He instantly responded the moment the words left Hegel's mouth.

“Maintain our present speed and break through the bombardment using route

5!”

Pepepeng! Pepepeng! Pepepeng!

The Silver Star flew in a complicated orbit.

Ark had selected the route where the hit probability was 5%. They wouldn't be hit by the carrier's guns unless a large mistake was made. It was difficult to predict the Hornet's shooting and a fair number of bullets hit the Silver Star but he couldn't ignore that level.

“.....We penetrated!”

They pierced through the bombardment and approached the front of the carrier. Ark looked at the tattered armour and yelled.

“Drop 5 optical scanners! Spread them in 100 metre intervals and make them collide with the armour!”

Tong! Tong! Tick! Tong! Tong!

The optical scanners collided with the armour and an echo was heard. This was the reason he made the scanners collide. Once again, Ark had looked for mechanical parts in a swamp while on Nephelim. At that time he learnt the Metallurgy skill. He could figure out the status of the metal from the sound.

‘There is a different sound coming from the part that the third scanner bumped. There must be a crack in that area. This is the weak spot!’

“Silver Star main gun, Thunderbolt launch!”

Kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

At the same time, a pillar of blue light shot out! The moment the blue pillar touched it, the armour shone with a red light. And the smoke dissipated to reveal a huge crack hundreds of metres large! The Silver Star then disappeared into the crack.

Bang!

There was a resounding clap. The area turned red and the crack became increasingly larger. Smoke quickly spread as the black battleship entered inside.

“We have entered the interior!”

“Turning the battleship! Prepare the ship’s guns!”

The battleship caused a large gust as it turned. Once it turned 180 degrees, it saw dozens of small flying objects approach the gaping crack. They were the small fighters, the Hornets.

Once again, the small size of the Hornets meant it had the advantage in speed and mobility. They couldn’t deal fatal blows but the damage would pile up and couldn’t be ignored. The combat difference was like the sky and earth but they were a formidable opponent. But that was only when the Hornets were flying around the battleships in a wide space. The Hornets coming to the crack were exposed....

“Fire!”

Tung! Tung! Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

A shower of ammunition was fired towards the crack. The Hornets headed towards the battleship continuously exploded.

“The Hornets have been shot down! I don’t detect any other risk factors in the area.”

“Have the crew convert the battleship to defense mode and stay alert!”

The person giving the order was Hawk. And the battleship that entered the interior was the Death Knight. They were in the Hornet’s hangar.

He finally managed to penetrate the armour after 1 hour and entered the interior. Even the Hornets chasing him was shot down! But Hawk’s face couldn’t hide how unpleasant he was feeling.

He had no choice.

“Ark....!”

Hawk growled as he looked at another battleship. It was Ark's battleship that came ahead of the Death Knight, the Silver Star. He didn't know how Ark survived but the Silver Star had managed to beat him here. Now that wasn't Hawk's concern.

“.....Making a fool of me!”

Once again, he convinced the Rama and Aschulat to work together and the armour being destroyed was 99% due to Hawk. Yet the person who entered inside first was Ark. After the signal was given, he sneaked in unseen and dealt the remaining 0.01% before entering.

Of course, there wasn't a large meaning to that. There was an achievement for entering first but there was no guarantee Ark would become the final winner. But there was a feud between them so Hawk felt like his anger was exploding

“That cheeky bastard, I won't let you go!”

Hawk led his subordinates outside the ship. However there was no one in the vicinity of the Silver Star.

‘What? These guys surely.....’

“Hawk-nim, I can see Ark's subordinates.”

Harley pointed towards the opposite end of the hanger where two people could be seen. Hawk recognized them from Muratio Star. The hamster called Tori and the Kusan called Ellain.

“Where is Ark?!”

Hawk exclaimed as he reached them. Tori who was sitting down fiddling with something stood up with a surprised expression. He then looked at Hawk and hid something behind his back.

“H-Hawk-nim! Hyung-nim isn’t here.”

“Where are you hiding?”

“Huh? Hiding? What? I have nothing.....”

“Harley.

Harley came forward as Hawk glanced at him. And placed his pistol on Tori’s forehead without hesitation.

“Hawk-nim, what are you doing now?”

Cheolkeok! Cheolkeok! Cheolkeok! Cheolkeok!

Ellain came forward with his sword but the 40 troops behind Hawk simultaneously lifted their guns. Hawk looked at Ellain and smirked.

“Don’t provoke me. I’m not feeling good right now. Hey hamster, answer me. What are you hiding?”

“Nothing is being hidden!”

Ellain exclaimed towards Hawk.

“If you’re not hiding anything then there is no reason you can’t show it.”

“No, I’m not going to show anything to a person suddenly threatening us with a gun. I am a Kusan warrior and Ark’s honourable subordinate! Do you think I fear death? Tori, it isn’t necessary for you to say anything!”

Ellain shouted even with dozens of guns pointed at him. Tori clenched his fists firmly before showing it towards Hawk.

“This! This is it! Save me!”

“Tori, you!”

“Damn! I’m different from a Kusan warrior! I’m just a hamster! I’m a hamster scared of death!”

“This guy is my favourite among Ark’s subordinates.”

Hawk smiled at Tori.

The thing Tori was hiding was a Nymphe. No, to be exact it was a 3D image rising above the Nymphe. The device was connected to a terminal in the hanger and showed the internal structure of the carrier. There was a red dot on the upper part of the structure in a section that looked like the bridge.

“Ark has left already.”

“Yes! Yes! He went with the rest of the team as soon as he entered the structure!”

“You bastard, what are you babbling on about?”

“So what? Should I go to the toilet in this situation? And he is Hawk, the head of the investigation team! Hyung-nim is a member. We’re on the same side so what’s wrong with talking about it?”

“Same side?”

Hawk frowned and muttered.

“Hawk-nim, what are you doing now?”

A sharp voice was suddenly heard from behind him. When he turned around, Irina was approaching with 20 soldiers. It wasn’t just Irina.

This hanger contained 100 Hornets, the Silver Star and the Death Knight battleships but there were two other empty hangars. A considerable number of Hornets still remained outside. The Hornets had gathered around the crack in the armour to defend it against the 3 powers. Therefore it was easy for them to defeat the Hornets and enter the hangar. Hawk surveyed them before shaking his head.

“Nothing. Just an exchange of information.”

“You say that while aiming a gun at your ally?”

“You are misconstruing it. It is different from my viewpoint.”

–Ark left first?

At that moment 150 soldiers approached from the right side. The soldiers holding swords, guns and RPGs were from the Rama clan. And leading them was the Rama warrior, the Red Slaughterer. Hawk nodded as the Red Slaughterer approached.

“That’s right.”

–Yes, as expected from Ark.

A faint smile was on the Red Slaughterer’s face.

–Hawk, it isn’t okay. Perhaps the alliance is already broken?

“Why, do you want to try it here?”

–It is possible.

Wiiing! Wiiing!

The Red Slaughterer’s eyes narrowed as he replied.

Then there was a mechanical sound as 20 flying objects entered the hangar. The aliens resembling ET were riding flying objects that look like bikes but had a section where the passenger could fly in a standing position. These flying objects were called Valkyrie.

It was the Aschulat’s representative strike weapon. 150 armoured Aschulats moved away from the Valkyries. And they looked at the Rama and Galactic Federation troops on the other side of the passage.

–This isn’t the time to be playing around.

“I agree. Should we move together?”

–There isn’t only one path to the destination so there is no need to take that risk.

The Red Slaughterer said as he turned away. And he led his men into a nearby passage.

“Harley, we’re going as well. Check the necessary equipment and gather the troops.”

Hawk commanded his subordinates with narrowed eyes.

‘There is a reason Ark didn’t wait for the other team members. He intends to obtain the antimatter information and get the reward himself. His intention is to monopolize the antimatter information. But it is impossible. What is he going to do with just 10 people? Furthermore, his independent actions will make him look greedy in the eyes of the other team members. I assure you. You won’t be able to get it. I won’t tolerate it.’

“Let’s go!”

Hawk led his soldiers through the central passage. And just as they turned a corner in the wide passage.

Tu tu tu tu! Tu tu tu tu! Pepeng!

A shower of bullets was waiting! They were the defense line waiting for any enemies. Gunfire could also be heard from other passages. The Rama and Aschulat had also encountered the enemy.

Now the situation was simpler. The person who penetrated through the enemy first would obtain the antimatter.

Weeeeeeng!

A siren rang out.

*-Emergency! Emergency! Information all crew members of the Uranus!
There are a number of enemies invading through the right hangar! They are currently going along passages 2, 5, 8! All combatants within the ship should arm themselves and move to the relevant passage to annihilate the enemy!
I’ll say it again! Emergency! Emergency! Currently a number of enemies are invading the Uranus! Quickly arm yourselves.....*

An urgent voice could be heard through the loudspeaker. The interior was as

noisy as a bee hive. The crew poured out of their cabins and accessed the bulletproof armour, machine guns and RPGs from the armouries scattered all over the place. The war between the soldiers of 'X' and the 3 powers' had started.

And at that moment Ark....

'As expected.'

He had a sullen smile.

Let's take a moment and revert to when Ark entered the hangar.

The enemy protecting the hangar were quickly killed by the Silver Star's weapons. There was just one problem. He had no idea where everything was.

'Naturally the quest will require me to go to the bridge.'

However the carrier that Ark entered was hundreds of kilometres large. He couldn't imagine how many combatants there would be. There was a hole in the armour so naturally the inside would be in a state of emergency. Taking a few people through that many troops to the bridge would be suicide.

Then there was only one method.

"We have to attack with the investigation team members."

"Yes, but...."

Rapid made an uncomfortable expression at Ark's words. Attack along with the investigation team. If Ark fought with them then it would be a comfortable battle. However, the problem was that Hawk was the leader.

Hawk had disliked Ark since the first time they met. And he declared that Ark was his enemy on Muratio Star. If he joined the investigation team then he would need to take orders from Hawk. He was Ark's enemy. In such a situation, it wouldn't be strange for Ark to be shot in the back and lose any

more achievements.

“Then there would be no meaning in overcoming danger to come in first. And there is no guarantee we can get information about antimatter even if we join the team. The Rama and Aschulat are also aiming for it. There is a 1/3rd probability that the Galactic Federation will acquire the antimatter information. The odds are low even if Hawk is the leader.”

“So? What now?”

“We need to collect something to increase our chances.”

“Collect something?”

“Yes, that is....”

‘.....Here!’

Ark laughed as he placed his eye against a small hole. It was a hole in a large circular square that revealed the other side. Before there was only 20 soldiers but now many were rushing in like bees.

There was an obvious reason why. Ark was overlooking an armoury. It was a place where the crew turned themselves into soldiers. Ark came here for one reason!

‘There are a large number of combatants on the carrier. In other words, there will be many weapons stockpiled. And a fair number of the crew are operating the Hornets or have been shot down. So there should be spare weapons!’

Ark’s purpose was those weapons!

The 3 powers came in → advance to the bridge → encounter the enemy en route → swarm to the battlefield → armoury will become vacant → gulp everything up!

This was Ark's plan. The probability of acquiring 1,000 won would increase to 10,000 won. It wasn't difficult to find the armoury. Ark hid in the vents with his team members while the crew swarmed out due to the emergency situation. They followed some soldiers and easily reached the armoury.

Ark bragged to the team with a conceited expression.

“How about it? Didn't I tell you?”

“You really are.....”

Rapid shook his head with disgust.

“Your brain is thinking about such cheap tricks in a situation like this?”

“Cheap tricks? This is strategy, strategy.”

“Strategy? Aren't you just stealing?”

“Isn't it just seizing weapons from the enemy Why do you have to call me a thief?”

Ark murmured while pouting.

“Damn, if you're going to seize weapons then shouldn't you do it quickly? Right now all the enemies guarding it has gone away. We should start.”

“No, right now I'm dying from choking on dust!”

Slayer and Kaya complained from behind him. Ark and his team had come here via the ventilation. Ark was used to it from his days on R-14 but his team members felt like they were dying. Of course, Ark had no intention of lying in the pipes forever.

Ark smiled and nodded.

“Okay, let's get started!”

Sudden Attack (Part: 4)

Tong!

The armouries were gathered in a circular plaza. There was a dull sound as a vent fell from the ceiling. A soldier inside the plaza reflexively turned around as the vent fell.

“W-who are you?”

“Ark!”

The one who shot the soldier was Ark! Ark rushed towards 3 soldiers that were nearby. The soldiers were dressed similarly. They wore helmets, bulletproof armour and a large shield made of reinforced plastic. The only thing different was that some were holding machine guns and others rods. An intruder was identified so they immediately formed a barrier and lifted their machine guns.

And the moment the muzzle aimed at Ark!

“Bao!”

Ark raised his left arm and shouted. The crystal wrapped around his wrist turned to liquid and flew forward. It rose into the form of the Baius Golem. Shortened to Bao!

–Uh! Master, did you need my power?

Bao folded its arm in a proud stance after appearing.

Its appearance reminded him of the atmosphere whenever he looked at the magic lamp. However it didn't have the invincibility of the magic lamp. Bao was just a walking and talking piece of crystal. It wasn't polite and had the habit of complaining to its owner.

‘Is it really necessary to raise a guy like this?’

It wasn't the only time he felt sceptical as he looked at Bao. But Bao's growth wasn't a choice to Ark. Bao was the Baius Shield and also a growth type item. And the Baius Shield would level up as Bao did. Therefore he tearfully raised it.

'This.....'

It felt different from before. The Casain warrior Basak who adventured with Ark on Muratio Star! Bao started to become softer after Basak's sacrifice. It wasn't only the emotions that changed. Ark checked his equipment once he used the Fairy to return from Muratio Star but he never summoned Bao.

–Master, it is slightly strange.

Bao felt like the atmosphere was different from usual and looked at Ark.

–I made it clear already that I don't like Master. It is clear even now! You are just like my least favourite drink!

But now something is different. All of a sudden I have a good impression of you? No, it is like I remembered something I forgot. I don't know why but it feels like I met Master a long time ago and have been waiting for you. Why? Huh? Why is this? Do you know?

The events that Ark experienced on Muratio Star had an impact on Bao's spirit. No, it wasn't just the spirit.

–Ah! Am I thinking too much? Why is my head so itchy? Something....

Bao scratched its crystal head. Then the moment Bao scratched its head!

Pak!

Bao threw its body in front of Ark. And it jumped over the barrier towards the soldiers. The soldiers who were shooting at Ark changed to a shield. No, just before they were about to change!

“Bao, now! Blast!”

Bao hit both arms on the ground at Ark's cry. Projectiles shot from Bao's head towards the soldiers. This change occurred shortly after Bao scratched its head. Something fang like had popped out from its head. At the same time a message appeared!

-The crystal golem as acquired a new special ability!

<The original Baius Shield was a species called the Casain. When a Casain with the position of Guardian reached the end of their lives, their spirit will join with the Baius Shield to make it stronger. The will of these Casain are gathered and forms the ego of the crystal golem. Therefore the Baius Golem reflects the experience of the Casain. Unfortunately, most of the memories have been forgotten by the Baius Golem but they aren't lost. Instruments are required. When the Baius Golem gains experience, it will remember something from the late Casain>

Blast (Users, Active): The head will turn soft like tofu and blast awls towards the enemy. The awls contain double the Baius Golem's attack power. However, the golem becomes lighter and can be easily pushed back.

Force consumption: 100

A technique that could be used when Basak transformed into a golem! That technique was registered with Bao.

Syu syu syu syu! Pepeng!

The crystal projectiles hit the shields, making them shake. Bao became half its size but was still made of crystal and stone. One soldier whose shield was hit by the awls was pushed back towards Ark.

A light ray was thrust from Ark's hand into the soldier. The crisp, white light showed even under the bright lighting. It was the sword Equalizer that he received on Muratio Star.

“One guy down!”

Wiing! Wiing! Buuuuong! Wiing!

The white light moved in a complicated pattern. The following soldiers were pushed towards Ark by Bao. The soldiers were completely exposed to Ark. The white sword hit the back of the soldier heading towards him and a message popped up.

-Backstab!

<The enemy will receive x2 the damage>

-Backstab!

<The enemy will receive x2 the damage>.....

The backstab effect that occurred when attacked from behind! If he used Stealth and stabbed the enemy when he was undetected then x4 the damage would be applied. However, continuous attacks couldn't be dealt with Stealth. He had to be satisfied with that much.

But that changed once the enemy's back was exposed due to Bao. The sword accelerated and continuously hit their backs. The soldiers can barely turn before their bodies were torn to pieces.

“W-what? That piece of stone?”

-No! Crystal! Blast!

The panicked soldiers hurriedly rushed towards Bao. And Bao delivered the soldiers over and over to Ark. Although the soldiers had already died, their colleagues nearby witnessed the situation and came rushing over. But the resistance was insignificant.

Their movements were slow and attacks weak but the shield could cover their

colleagues. If one person opposed the soldiers then they would fail. But the opponent was Ark.

Wiing! Wiing! Buuuuoung! Pajijiji!

Ark hurled a shower of attacks towards the shields. And subsequently killed a soldier with backstab once they were exposed.

“T-that guy?”

“Dammit! “What are you staring blankly at? Attack!”

The soldiers who were making confused faces lifted their guns. But Ark’s hand that formed a rune was faster.

“Come out, Shire! Rune Carving, Hwairam!”

In the next moment, the rune formed the shape of a giant foot and touched the ground. The ground shook and the soldiers stumbled.

Tong! Tong! Tong!

Then a continuous echo rang out from the top. Once again, Ark wasn’t the only one hiding in the vents. This was the interior of the enemy’s carrier. It was more high risk than an ordinary dungeon. Ellain, Tori and Hegel were left behind to protect the Silver Star while Rapid, Slayer, Kaya, Berad and the others were brought with him for a total of 12 team members.

However the vents were narrow so the 13 of them, including Ark couldn’t come out at once. The 13 people would just be a target for the soldiers. That’s why Ark was fighting against the enemy alone. Meanwhile the rest of the team members dispersed to the vents around the plaza. Once the gazes of the enemy was on Ark, he broke the cover and jumped down.

“Huk! What, what the?”

“Take care of him quickly! Other intruders are lurking here as well!”

12 warriors appeared at the same time! The soldiers who were distracted by

Ark instantly became confused. And it was too late once they grasped the situation.

“It is too late!”

“Ohhhhhh! Destruction Hammer! Take this! Aesthetics of Destruction!”

Berad swung a hammer towards a nearby soldier holding a shield as soon as he landed. And flames emerged from the hammer, causing it to accelerate!

When it collided with the shield, 3 soldiers were pushed back at once. It was the rare Destruction Hammer with Aesthetics of Destruction attached to it that Ark found after destroying the kraken on E-2036.

In fact, there had been a conversation about who should take ownership of the Destruction Hammer. Ark had already collected the unique Belpheghor’s Pants. It was Ark’s opinion that Berad should obtain the hammer. Ark wanted to somehow make Berad equip the Destruction Hammer.

Ark had killed some just now but he felt like a shield trooper was one of the most annoying enemies to face. A shield was made of a special alloy that could stop melee weapons as well as energy from guns. The most effective weapon against a shield was a blunt weapon like a hammer or mace. And in Dark Eden, Berad was the only one who could wield a hammer. If Berad’s attack power rose then it would cause Dark Eden’s power to increase.

It was lucky that there wasn’t anyone else on the team who could use a hammer. Slayer used blunt weapons but he couldn’t use a two handed hammer because of his shield. Thanks to that, the other team members decided to give the Destruction Hammer to Berad. And like he could see, the result was satisfying.

The solid barrier was smashed by the hammer! The shield troopers crumpled like paper dolls and went flying. Once that happened, the gun troopers were easier to attack!

“Continuous Fire! Quick Fire! Chain Fire!”

Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang!

Rapid continuously shot the shield troopers. Ammunition was useless against bulletproof armour. The pistol revolved in his hand and shot critical wounds in gaps in the armour. Due to the occupation change to Saint Gunner in Muratio Star, the effects of all pistol skills went UP!

Blood pooled around Rapid in an instant.

“W-we can’t stop them!”

“Dammit! RPG! Blow them up with a RPG!”

A soldier in the back immediately lifted a launcher. However the soldier with the launcher had already been targeted by Kaya.

“Ha! I knew it! DNA transformation!”

“Huk! What, what the? My hair and body, why.....Bark! Bark! Bark! Woof woof!”

He still found Kaya’s DNA conversion skill strange whenever he saw it. The soldier was suddenly turned into a puppy and run away from a hail of bullets with his tail between his legs.

Kung! Snap!

And it ran between the legs of the soldiers until he was stomped on by a giant robot. Park’s autobot was wielding a greatsword in the middle of the enemy.

It was a one-sided battle.

“Iron Wall!”

A solid shield formed in front of Slayer.

“Wuhahaha! “Come as much as you want! I’ll turn everyone into a beehive!”

Kurakan recklessly fired his gun once the battle started.

“Invincible Spear! Cry, my spear!”

Sadain's spear shot out lightning every time it hit the enemy. They were silent but Melina and the others were supported their team members from behind. The 20 soldiers were no match against Ark's team. Ark and his team members had gained a lot of experience in Muratio Star and even received equipment! Once Ark's team executed a surprise attack, the soldiers could only last 10 minutes at best.

“U-unbelievable.....”

One soldier winced and retreated as others died around him. And he immediately started to run up a spiral staircase. Then 2 muzzles moved above him.

Tutung! Tutung!

2 shots rang out. The soldier's head shook and he fell down the stairs as he died. The snipers who shot the soldier were Kalliben and Leon.

That was the last one. Once the soldier who was sniped fell down, the battle was already finished. The damage dealt by 20 people was only a 10% loss in health. Even that was restored straight away with Melina's recovery skills.

“They weren't difficult opponents.....”

But they weren't so weak that they could be ignored. If the troops organized themselves into a formation then they could become difficult. That's why Ark was used as bait for their surprise attack. It was possible to win but he thought it wouldn't be easy. But the result was different from his worry and they achieved an overwhelming victory!

Ark who had been watching the battle understood the reason why. There was a profession change and equipment from Muratio Star. But the major reason was their teamwork. When the team was first created, they only fought with their own skills. Naturally Ark commanded them but they were slow to respond when issued instructions. However he didn't give any instructions in this battle. There was no need to. The team used the necessary skills to aid

their colleagues even without any direction.

Their teamwork had matured after Impeltus and Muratio Star.

‘Well anyway!’

“Bao, come back.”

Ark converted Bao back to a shield and turned his body. Loot was on the floor after taking care of 20 people. However Ark was only interested in one spoils of war. And he was able to find it on the body of the soldier Kalliben and Leon sniped.

-You have acquired the
<Armory Key>.

The armoury key! The reason Ark came here wasn't to get several loot that fell to the ground. Ark's real desire was for the supplies piled up in the Armory.

The Armory room would shortly become Ark's treasure!

“But before that.....”

Four doors were lining the circular plaza. Three of them were together while one door was isolated. He could guess the reason even if he didn't open the door. Unlike the other three rooms with drawings of guns or armour on it, this one had a drawing of a bomb.

It wasn't surprising that a huge amount of shells and missiles appeared once he opened the door. The Armory that Ark opened contained the artillery shells for the carrier. There were huge shells and missiles for the carrier.

Of course they couldn't be stored in a backpack.

“This should be enough.”

But there was a satisfied smile on Ark's face. If it was a carrier of this size, then there would be a separate Armory. The moment he had that idea, Ark

expected the shells and missiles to be kept here. And he already thought of a purpose for these shells. No, the core of Ark's plan depended on them.

“Milan, I'll leave this place to you.”

Ark said as he left the room. And he opened the rest of the armouries with his team members who had anticipation sparkling in their eyes. Cheers burst from Slayer and Kaya's mouths.

“Gun! Sword! There is also a real laser gun!”

“Armour! There is each type up to heavy armour!”

“Here there is ammunition! Ooh! Armour Piercing Bullets! Ceramic Bullets! Fire Bullets!”

A room filled with weapons like guns and swords! Armour in the room with the drawing of armour on the door! A room filled with all sorts of ammunition! Shelves were already empty thanks to the crew of the carrier but there were still huge amounts remaining.

Ark spread out his arms and exclaimed.

“Collect!”

“Waaaaahhhh!”

The team rushed forward like hyenas. And....there was a frenzy of items being looted.

-<Gun: K-110 Compound Rifle> has been acquired.

-<Firearm: R-4600W Anti-tank Launcher> has been acquired.

-<Long Sword: Standard Trooper Long Sword> has been acquired.....

The messages that continuously popped up! There was no time to check the name of every item. They were common equipment that the crew of the carrier used. But their levels were high for NPCs. And it was natural for higher levelled items to be sold for a more expensive price. One item could get dozens of gold.

‘If just one item is worth dozens of gold.....’

He couldn’t even calculate how much it would be if he added all the items. He came to the Armory to plunder it. Of course, Ark had moved everything in his backpack to the Silver Star’s warehouse beforehand. Despite that, the space in his backpack instantly became full!

It was the same for his other team members.

“Ohh! I don’t have any more spaces!”

“Ooh! I really regret not expanding my bag space!”

Slayer and the others who stuffed their backpacks were filled with regret.

“Don’t be so anxious.

Anyway, these items here.....”

Ark was speaking with a smirk.

Tu tu tu tu! Pepeng! Pepeng!

The sound of gunfire could be heard from outside.

“Ark!”

“Damn! Did other crew members notice it? We’ll have to stop and take care of those guys!”

Ark rushed outside the Armory at Rapid’s cry. And the moment he jumped out!

Wiing! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A red flash suddenly headed towards his upper side. Ark reflexively took out Equalizer. The white light collided with the red flash and sparks flew all over the place. The red flash then moved in a complicated pattern! Ark also rotated his sword and there was a constant explosion of sparks.

Pajijjik! Pepeng!

‘What? This red lightsaber? Perhaps.....?’

Ark raised his head with a puzzled expression. He then saw the man located between the red and white sparks flying.

“Why are you here?”

–This was the correct answer.

The Rama warrior smiling was the Red Slaughterer! He wasn’t the only one. Sadain, Leon and Kurakan were already fighting against other Rama warriors. Needless to say, they were the Red Slaughterer’s subordinates. The Red Squad members. The sound of gunfire rang out in the Armory.

–I was thinking while entering the carrier. If I was you, where would I go? No, what action would I take if I was Ark? An answer naturally came out when I thought about it. It took some time to determine the exact location but luckily I wasn’t too late.

“Dammit! What the hell? If you’re here then you should help the Rama investigation team! Then shouldn’t you head to the bridge like other people?”

–Are you in the position to say that?

The Red Slaughterer smiled and continued.

–Like you said, I am a member of the Rama investigation team. But the reason I’m part of the team is different from others. You were my goal from the beginning.

“Are you a stalker?”

–I have something left to settle with you.

The Red Slaughterer replied while adjusting the position of his lightsaber.

‘What is this bastard’s secret intention? Why is he going so far?’

Ark didn’t understand why the Red Slaughterer was following him so persistently. Of course, the Red Slaughterer had an appropriate reason. Lucifer was beaten by Ark in New World and trapped in the government’s computer. Naturally he would have a grudge against Ark.

However, the challenge he presented was to reach the ultimate goal in Galaxian first. It wasn’t to kill Ark. He couldn’t understand the behaviour of putting aside the ultimate goal in order to chase after Ark. But now was the time and he wouldn’t receive an answer even if he asked.

‘Damn! His timing is horrible every time....’

Just as Ark was grasping his lightsaber and preparing to move, someone passed by him. The person gliding towards the Red Slaughterer was Rapid!

“Quick Fire! Continuous Fire! Chain Fire!”

Tang! Tang! Tang! Tang!

The bullets aimed precisely at the vital spots! The Red Slaughterer blocked the bullets with Sword Defense. But Rapid started a chain fire of short range shooting. Furthermore, the attacks weren’t wild but accurately aimed towards the vital spots.

This was why Rapid’s marksmanship was difficult to deal with. But the Red Slaughterer wasn’t an easy opponent. The Red Slaughterer grasped Rapid’s tactics and moved his body. The distance was zero. 1 person firing a gun and the other person avoiding it seemed like a type of dance.

The two people were tangled together until Rapid withdrew for a reload.

–Where did you come from? Don’t disturb me!

“No, I have to interrupt!”

Rapid growled like a raging beast.

“You have a lot of people you owe debts to?”

–A debt to repay?

“Yes, Red Slaughterer. No, Lucifer!”

–Lucifer? That name....you are one of them?

“I’m Alan!”

Rapid shouted as he threw his body towards the Red Slaughterer again. The pistol revolved continuously and fired a hail of bullets. Then there was a gunshot and dozens of sparks occurred in front of Rapid. When Rapid retreated, a Rama warrior narrowed the distance and blocked his way.

–You were here. I was looking for you.

The Rama warrior was grasping a dagger in one hand and a machine gun in the other. His name was Keiko and he was the leader of the Red Squad.

“Don’t interrupt!”

–Didn’t you hear Captain-nim? Why are you interfering? Captain-nim gave up the information about antimatter for this fight. It will be annoying if someone unexpected interrupts. And didn’t you and I fight on Impeltus?

“If it can’t be avoided then I’ll kill you!”

Tang! Tang! Tang!

–Come! Let’s see how much you can do.

Keiko boldly smiled towards Rapid. The exchange of gunfire between Rapid and Keiko increased as they moved away. There was no room for Ark’s team members or the Rama soldiers to interrupt. Bullets flew across a distance and even changed directions so there was no way of approaching.

While Rapid and Keiko were in ‘their own league.’

–The annoying person has gone away.....

Kwa kwang!

A white flash headed towards the Red Slaughterer. The Red Slaughterer blocked it but his knees shook and he became wobbly.

–.....This bastard!

“Why, aren’t there no fouls in a fight?”

The person who laughed was Ark. The reason why Ark had been pushed back several metres when he exited the Armory was because the Red Slaughterer was wearing a battle suit. So Ark also wore his battle suit the Hyper Drone!

When the battle was stopped for a while by Rapid’s intrusion, Ark took out the battle suit and did his specialty surprise attack.

“I’m sorry but I don’t have any time.”

–I agree.

Pajijiji! Pajijiji!

Fierce lightsaber sparks flew all over the place. The moment the red sparks reached a critical point, it revolved around the Red Slaughterer like a pinwheel. And the ensuing swirl of red light.

“Armed Mind Shield!”

Ark shouted and a clear, hexagonal shape floated above him. The battle suit skills changed once his synchronization rate changed to 100% in the Impeltus’ research centre. It was a skill that moved 2 shields according to his will. The shield blocked the red lightsaber swirling at a high speed.

But that only lasted for a brief moment.

–Carnage Sword!

The red flashes increased and dozens poured out like an evening shower.

Armed Mind Shield was less efficient than Mind Shield that wrapped around the whole body. If dozens of swords were flying at him then the shield would be unable to stop all of them. The shield was also vulnerable to melee attacks.

Jjang! Jjang!

When the sword hit the shield, it instantly turned to powder. He had already demonstrated the skill when they fought on Impeltus. Therefore the Red Slaughterer already knew its weakness.

–Is that all? Dragon Fury!

Red lasers continuously stretched out! But Ark still had one shield remaining. Baius Shield. It was a shield that was the Elim's Divine Artefact. He had only raised it to level 2 so it wasn't a great shield but it was different against energy weapons. The crystal aspect of the Baius Shield increased resistance to energy weapons by 50%.

“Hyper Booster!”

Ark advanced with the Baius Shield. When the red lasers arrived at the shield, the light scattered all over the place. One laser hit his shoulder but only dealt 70 damage. Ark rushed through the lasers towards the Red Slaughterer.

“Khafra Fencing 3rd style! Galaxy Sword!”

Dozens of white lightsaber swirled out like a fan. The Red Slaughterer didn't expect Ark to push through Dragon Fury so he was covered with numerous wounds from the storm of swords.

“Ha! How about it? Do you regret coming to see me now?”

–You're welcome.

The Red Slaughterer took a deep breath and lifted his sword.

–It seems I have to fight seriously now.

“You seem to be bluffing. I don’t recommend it.”

–Let’s directly confirm if I’m bluffing or not.

Wiing! Buuuuong! Wiing!

The Red Slaughterer slowly spun his red lightsaber. But the sword sped up until it became difficult to see with his eyes. When it accelerated one more time, the afterimage of light produced a bright, red dragon in the air.

–Let’s see if you can receive this.

And he took one step towards Ark. Then Ark saw Milan run out of the Armory with the bomb drawn on it. Milan surveyed the battlefield with puzzled eyes until he saw Ark.

“Hyung-nim, it will explode soon!”

“It is time! Everybody down!”

Ark fell facedown to the ground and simultaneously shouted. Then Slayer, Kaya and the other team members facing the Red Squad lay down with their arms protecting their heads. The Red Slaughterer and Rama warriors looked befuddled for a moment.

Syu syu syu syu! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

An immense storm of heat came from inside the Armory. The Red Slaughterer and Rama soldiers were hit by the heat storm and forced into the wall. A satisfied smile spread over Ark’s face as he raised his head and looked through the smoke.

“.....That’s it!”

An explosion occurred inside the Armory. On the floor there as a huge hole that had been melted by the high temperatures. The bomb that created the hole wasn’t made spontaneously. It was an order Ark gave to Milan. A small

fire bomb like a napalm had blown up a shell in the Armory.

Of course, he didn't do this because he was bored. It was due to Ark's hidden plan....

“Hyung-nim, there's no time! The rest will explode in 1 minute!”

“Okay, everyone escape the area!”

Ark got up and shouted while running. At that time, the form of the Red Slaughterer blocked him.

–Ark, are you trying to escape again?

“Get out of the way! Didn't you hear me? There is no time!”

Ark shouted and threw his Equalizer angrily. It spun like a spin top and flew towards the Red Slaughterer.

The sword was controlled with Psychokinesis. But the Red Slaughterer struck it and it fell to the ground without any power. This was a shortcoming of the sword technique.

He could steer it with his mind so it couldn't knock out the power if there wasn't an element of surprise. The Red Slaughterer stepped on the Equalizer that fell and yelled out.

–Do you think that technique will work after I've seen it once already?

“Eat this! Break Kinesis!”

Pepeng!

There was an explosion underneath the Red Slaughterer's nose. And the moment the Red Slaughterer flinched and moved back.

“Hyper Booster! Ink Jet!”

Ark used Hyper Booster and the octopus attached to his head spouted ink. The moment the ink covered the Red Slaughterer, Ark grabbed the Red Slaughterer. He pulled the Red Slaughterer and plunged down the hole.

“If you want to follow me until the end then follow!”

–T-this bastard! What are you doing?

Teteng!

There was a heavy sound as they touched the floor. The place where Ark and the Red Slaughterer fell was a huge passage dozens of metres wide.

Tori had connected to a terminal and downloaded the internal structure blueprints so Ark already knew what this structure was. It was the passage that connected two Hornet hangars. Ark’s flame shell penetrated a hole through the Armory to this place!

–Hyung-nim, are you okay?

“Ark!”

Ark and the Red Slaughterer rolled around the ground due to the impact. Then his team members and the Rama warriors jumped down the hole. They sent cautious looks to each other. The Red Squad looked around with wary glances and started to talk.

–You...what are you intending?

“You fools.”

Ark grinned and replied.

Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku!

The passage started vibrated and light flashed from the side passages.

Sudden Attack (Part: 5)

Wuuong! Wuuong! Wuuong!

Red lights flashed in every direction. Sparks spread through cracks in the walls and the automatic extinguishing devices sprayed gas over the flames, causing steam to rise. Dozens of people were busily moving in the midst of it all.

“Maintain your ranks!”

“Get ready to fire! Launch!”

Tu tu tu tu! Tu tu tu tu! Kukwang! Kukwang!

There was a pouring of ammunition from the Gatling guns. Various bullets scattered all over the place as they flew through the smoke and water vapour. It hit a black shadow visible in the water vapour. The soldiers firing retreated and stuttered.

“I-it is coming!”

Syu syu syu syu! Syu syu syu syu! Syu syu syu syu!

In the next moment, dozens of tentacles flew from the water vapour. Soldiers turned their muzzles towards the tentacles in vain. The tentacles exploded, scattering yellow liquid before disappearing. But that was only a part of them.

Most of the tentacles penetrated through and hit the soldiers like a whip. Shields and armour didn't help. It was to the extent that a soldier carrying a super alloy shield flew back 10 metres when hit by the tentacles!

Dozens of tentacles violently struck and it became a sea of confusion as soldiers were thrown all over the place. Several soldiers were in a critical condition and coughed up blood. The tentacles approached the wounded soldiers like a beast smelling blood.

“Heok! S-save me!”

A soldier raised both arms with a pale face and shouted. But there was no time to receive help. Before anyone could even move, the tentacles wrapped the soldier and drew him into the water vapour.

“N-no! Aaaaaaack!”

Then screams came from a distance! At the same time, a part of the water vapour was dyed an eerie red. The soldiers watching turned pale with fear and bolted back.

“D-damn! Hold fire! Pull back and regroup!”

But it wasn't that easy to leave. The tentacles kept on attacking as the gunshots decreased. Every time the soldiers' health would fall like they were autumn leaves. And those in a critical condition would disappear into the water vapour.

“No! We're screwed!”

Pusung! Pusung! Pusung! Pepepepeng!

The man who seemed to be the leader hesitated as he grasped his head. Then 10 shells flew from the back towards the water vapour. There was an intense rush of flames and the tentacles flinched back. But that only lasted a brief moment before attacking again.

“Retreat!”

Someone shouted as they jumped from behind. He intersected his two swords and shouted.

“One thousand. Flash! One thousand net!”

The sword moved in a complicated pattern as the light seemed to form a net! The tentacles hit became ragged and fell as they broke. The swordsman turned around with the wreckage of the tentacles around him.

His cloak with a blue skull on it fluttered! A soldier stuttered with a spellbound expression.

“L-Leader Hawk-nim!”

“You are one of Cayenne’s crew. Cayenne?”

“L-leader-nim....”

The soldier bit his lip and replied.

“He died in battle a little while ago.”

“Cayenne was hit?”

Hawk sighed and shook his head. He thought for a moment before speaking.

“Okay. Cayenne was killed in battle so all his soldiers will be under my command. I will give cover while you guys retreat. Don’t lose courage. It might be strong but it has already suffered a lot of damage. Trust me. Only a bit more to go.”

Hawk spoke with a resolute expression before turning around again. And he muttered in a low voice.

“.....Yes, only a bit more to go.”

2 hours had already passed since Hawk entered the carrier. Meanwhile there had been no time for Hawk to rest. The Rama and Aschulat soldiers had also entered. And their goal was the bridge where the antimatter reaction came from.

It was the start of a 3 power race to reach the bridge. The winner of that race was Hawk. He had arrived at the bridge before the Rama and Aschulat.

It was slightly unexpected but the reason this was possible was due to Ark. Ark was the first one to enter the carrier. However Hawk had entered just behind Ark. Tori had connected to a terminal and downloaded a map of the internal structure.

Hawk had downloaded the map from Tori's Nympe at the same time. In fact, the structure of the carrier wasn't that complicated. The bridge was the core of the ship so it was common sense that all passages led to it. That's why the Rama and Aschulat headed into the carrier without hesitation.

But even with a simple structure, knowing the path and not knowing was like the difference between the earth and sky. Especially if they needed to fight against the enemy while advancing. Thanks to that, he arrived at the bridge first but....

‘....It was a mistake.’

Quite a few elite enemies were gathered at the bridge. Thus far it was what he expected. And the troops were finally wiped out after a tough battle. It was what happened afterwards that was a surprise.

The captain of the ship was a Tunba with a disgusting appearance and a size a few times larger than humans. He had been fiddling with a black box while the battle was proceeding. And finally when all his subordinates were killed.

-Dammit! I'll send all of you to hell!

The guy shouted before swallowing the box. The Tunba's body then started to change. There were many unusual aliens in the galaxy and even species that transformed into huge monkeys at the sight of a full moon existed.

However the Tunba's transformation wasn't like that. The huge body swelled like a balloon and dozens of tentacles started springing out.

-The unknown life form '????' has appeared!

The message surfaced in front of the Hawk. The battle situation suddenly changed. The Tunba's combat power became reckless after he transformed.

There were no signs of his health decreasing despite the shower of bullets and swords. On the other hand, the tentacles hit the level 100 infantry and

they lost 20~30% health with one blow! The medics injected syringes without a break but they couldn't keep up with the damage.

But there was even more. The soldiers who fell into a critical condition would be captured by the tentacles.

'Impossible! It isn't possible to defeat that guy with our current power!'

One of the most important ability of a commander was to grasp the power of the enemy. Hawk reached this conclusion after only a few minutes. So Hawk thought about it.

'It won't end even if we knock down that monster. If I'm too late then the Rama and Aschulat will also arrive at the bridge. And those guys want the same thing as us. So far we are in a hostile situation but that will change with a common enemy. In that case, there is a high probability a scramble will start. In that case, the side that loses the most troops will be at a disadvantage. Then.....'

At this point, Hawk had 80 subordinates remaining. Hawk made 60 people retreat during this time and hide in another place. And the remaining 20 people switched to a defensive stance while facing the monster. It wasn't too long before the Rama and Aschulat arrived from different passages.

-T-that monster?

-They are the soldiers from the Galactic Federation. They arrived earlier than us?

-But there are only 10 people remaining. Huhuhu, that stupid Hawk. He became blind thanks to the antimatter information. And that monster?

-It isn't necessary to worry about the Galactic Federation anymore.

-Go! Smash the monster!

-If this is the final boss then that monster will obvious contain information about antimatter! The person who defeats the monster first will be the last

winner!

–We have to get it first!

And the Rama and Aschulat. A total of 200 soldiers thrust towards ‘????.’

Tu tu tu tu! Pepeng! Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Crack! Ddok ddok! Puck puck puck!

And the confused fighting started! Scuffle! Scuffle!

The firepower of the Rama and Aschulat was no joke. They weren’t regular troops but the private agents of each power. They even had government support so their equipment wasn’t ordinary. But the opponent was a weird creature full of question marks so it wasn’t an easy opponent.

An immense battle!

.....Hawk was hoping for it.

‘The Rama and Aschulat are already not worrying about the Galactic Federation. They are only thinking about defeating each monster first. So they have no choice but to fight until the end. But it wasn’t easy for two troops who weren’t perfectly coordinated to defeat the monster. They will win but the troops will be close to being wiped out.’

His prediction was correct. The two troops had a fierce battle until the monster was in a critical condition. But each troop received enormous damage and only had 20~30 people left. Hawk had been waiting for this time.

“Harley, start!”

Hwaaaaack! Hwaaaaack!

Hawk smiled and raised his head.

10 columns of flames spouted up. They were soldiers using flamethrower attacks! The water vapour gradually decreased and a huge object was

revealed as columns of flames gushed out. The huge body with dozens of tentacles turned red. The battle that lasted dozens of minutes was winding down.

“Now, it is time to bring this to an end. Attack!”

Tu tu tu tu! Tu tu tu tu! Pepeng! Pepeng! Pepeng!

A shower of bullets and shells poured out! Dozens of soldiers had appeared behind Hawk. They were the 60 soldiers Hawk had hidden early on. The other 2 powers were confused once the soldiers appeared.

–G-galactic Federation soldiers?

–That many soldiers all of a sudden...

–We were tricked! That Hawk bastard, he didn't lose troops when he came here. He hid them elsewhere before we came. He left that monster to us.

–Hawk! You sneaky bastard!

–I won't let this go!

The Rama and Aschulat soldiers cursed. However Hawk didn't pay attention to them. There was no need to. It was too late for them to reverse the situation. The Rama and Aschulat were weakened by the monster so they were no match for Hawk's troops. Now the only thing left was to stop the creature's breathing.

“Victory is right in front of us! Charge!”

Hawk's cloak fluttered as he headed towards the monster. The 60 soldiers yelled and followed behind him. They had been comfortably restoring their health while the Rama and Aschulat were fighting. They even checked their equipment and ate food. The soldiers fired bullets and cut the monster with their swords, making the already low health dribble to the ground.

-Kuwaaaah!

Of course, the opponent wouldn't die that easily. The remaining power was squeezed towards the tentacles that headed towards the Galactic Federation soldiers. It was the final struggle but the tentacles couldn't be ignored! But shortly before the tentacles reached the Galactic Federation troops!

“Get lost! Awakening skill! Open Eye!”

Hawk shouted while lifting his eye patch. The moment a red eye was revealed, an intense light exploded from it.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Hawk's eye caused the tentacles to become engulfed in flames. Hawk crossed his two swords and light flashed from it in the form of a cross.

“Light Wave!”

An explosion blasted from the sword! A tremendous amount of black blood poured from the creature. There was no need to worry about it anymore. The final blow! One more blow would stop its breath! Hawk's eyes brightened as he grasped his sword.

“.....My win!”

Ku ku ku kung! Kukung! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Then there was an abrupt ringing sound from underneath. At first the noise was heard from far below. But it started climbing up towards the bridge at a tremendous pace. And the bridge started violently shaking! Hawk lost his balance and stumbled before attacking.

“Ugh! What is this?”

–Now! Attack!

The Aschulat took this chance to attack. The bridge where Hawk and the Aschulat were standing was shaking wildly. But that had no effect on the Aschulat who were on their Valkyries. And they rushed towards the creature while the Galactic Federation troops were in disorder.

“Damn! Harley, stop them!”

“RPG! Intercept the Valkyries!”

The Galactic Federation soldiers lifted a launcher.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

There was a roaring sound and the ground turned deep red. A huge amount of heat was welling up from the bottom. And the creature in a critical condition was in the centre. The floor that the creature was touching glowed red.

And the next moment!

Kwa kwang! Pepepepeng!

A thick wire shot through the ground and was driven into the ceiling. Surprisingly, that wire.....

A few minutes ago.

–Unbelievable.....

A moan emerged from the Red Slaughterer’s mouth. They had tangled together and fell down into a huge passage in the carrier. A light appeared behind Ark that belonged to a ship. Its form was different from before but the Red Slaughterer recognized it as Ark’s ship.

–Why is the ship in a place like this?

“It is going to pass through the hole.”

Ark grinned as he stood in front of the Silver Star. This was the reason Ark used napalm to penetrate a hole in the armoury floor. When connected to the terminal and looking at the structural drawing, Ark saw that a passage of a considerable size existed just below the armoury. That passage was connected to a hangar.

‘It is possible to use this aisle.’

Ark's mind started overflowing with endorphins as he thought up a plan. The map of the internal structure floated in his head. That's why Ark headed to the armoury without any regrets!

'I didn't expect that the Red Slaughterer would find me....'

Ark laughed as he sneaked a peek at the Red Slaughterer.

'...Well, it doesn't really matter now.'

-Hyung-nim, are you okay?

At the same time he heard Tori's voice from the Nymphe.

"Yes, open the door."

Ark replied as he turned around. The Red Slaughterer shouted angrily.

-You bastard! Stand there! This time too! You're going to run away this time as well!

"Run away? You...."

Ark started to talk with a bored expression. Rapid who was covered with gunshot wounds shouted angrily.

"Run away? Who is going to run away? Don't make me laugh, Lucifer! Let's end this! Bring it on, you bastard!"

"...Hey, someone drag that guy here."

Rapid was caught by Slayer and pulled to the Silver Star. Ark coughed and started talking.

"Well, don't start again. Did you saying I was going to run away just now? You, haven't you grasped the situation yet? I'll warn you seriously. It will be good for you to run away quickly. Or you'll end up in hell."

Ark smiled as he raised a finger.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang! Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

At the same time, the Silver Star made a roaring sound and started firing shells. The gun turrets and 4 main guns of the Silver Star fired at the Rama warriors.

–Ugh! You bastard! Ark!

–No, Leader-nim! You will die for nothing if you go there now!

–Let’s go! You bastard! You bastard!

–What are you doing? Help Leader-nim!

Keiko dragged the Red Slaughterer and hid behind obstacles. Meanwhile Ark and the others boarded the Silver Star and looked at the Red Squad.

‘I’m not interested in exterminating them....’

The reason Ark boarded the Silver Star wasn’t to get rid of the Red Squad. Of course, this rare chance to kill them wasn’t bad. But Ark didn’t have a lot of time right now. There was no need to use his hand directly.

“It’s time.”

Ku ku ku kung! Kukung! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A roaring sound occurred at the same time as Milan’s words.

Once again, Milan had placed napalm in the bomb armoury while Ark was collecting weapons. The remaining napalm on the shells was set to explode with a time difference. Thus the rumble was the bombs exploding.

A huge amount of shells had been used for this explosion. The destructive power was beyond imagination! The ceiling of the passage collapsed and rained down like hail. It also fell on the heads of the Red Slaughterer and Red Squad hiding behind obstacles.

–You have died.

Naturally that message appeared. But he had nothing to do with the Red Slaughterer anymore.

‘The real fight starts now!’

“Tori, secure the space. Move the Silver Star to a vertical position.”

The Silver Star moved under the collapsed ceiling at Ark’s command. A large hole that had been opened up caught his eye. This was due to the huge explosion from the shells in the armoury. Cracks spread through the walls as mechanical parts fell down. According to the structural plans, the iron wall on the top right....

“Tori, confirm the location.”

“There is no doubt. That iron wall will lead to the bridge.”

This was why Ark moved the Silver Star here! The bridge that was the final destination for the 3 powers was in vertical alignment with the armoury. Of course, there was a considerable distance between them. Various machine parts, passageways and cabins blocked the way. There were nearly a dozen layers between them.

‘But a huge amount of shells is piled up in the armoury. I can use them to blow up in the direction of the bridge. Then there is no reason to go the hard way. I can go up to the bridge through the armoury!’

Ark had headed towards the armoury. But that didn’t mean he had given up on the antimatter information. This idea was the best chance for him to obtain it.

Of course, there was no guarantee that his idea would work. The explosion might not reach all the way to the bridge. But it was all or nothing. It was better than the Rama or Aschulat getting their hands on the antimatter information.

The only thing that weighed on his mind was Irina’s safety on the bridge.

“Irina-nim, please retreat from the bridge.”

Ark sent a communication to Irina just before the explosion occurred. Hawk

was playing an active role on the bridge so there was no reason for Irina to be near him.

“Irina-nim, are you okay?”

-I’m fine. What is going on? Perhaps that explosion just now was due to Ark-nim?

“Yes, it is like you said.”

-How did you.....?

“Wait a minute. I’ll be there soon.”

-Huh? You’ll be here soon? Where are you now?

“Underneath.”

Ark turned his head while grinning.

“Milan, prepare the main gun. Launch it to the front!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwa! Kwa kwa kwa kwa!

Lightning gushed from the Silver Star.

Sparks flew from the ship and the pillar of light headed towards the wall where the bridge was. When it collided, cracks spread on the iron plate and it turned deep red. Ark jumped on the deck and held on to the anchor before yelling.

“Now! Launch anchor!”

And the anchor was fired vertically! The anchor flew over 100 metres and hit the dissolving iron. And.....

Kwa kwang! Pepepepeng!

There was a ringing sound and the melted iron scattered all over the place. And in the next moment, the sight of troops gathered in the area caught his eyes. They were the soldiers in the bridge....

“Hey Hawk!”

“You...how are you here.....?”

Hawk who was 10 metres away stuttered with a puzzled expression. But Ark was the same. In fact, Ark had heard the situation in the ship through Irina. The soldiers of the 3 powers were fighting with a weird creature. And the creature was on the verge of dying when the shells in the armoury exploded.

Ark had used the anchor to break through for that reason. The creature was probably the final boss. When taking the fact that this was a game into consideration, the weird creature probably had information on antimatter.

‘There is no meaning if I make my way to the bridge only for the boss to have already died. Even if there is no antimatter information, killing the boss should still give achievements.’

He had thrust the anchor towards the bridge with that idea. But he couldn’t see the creature when he looked around. The only thing he saw was the soldiers of the 3 powers staring at Ark in dumb surprise.

‘Damn, am I too late?’

Ark was sighing with disappointment. All of a sudden, a black liquid fell on his head.

-Your level has risen!

-Your level has risen.....

And the messages suddenly popped up!

“Eh? What is this? Ugh, this black liquid? Heok! T-this is?”

Ark’s mouth gaped open as he looked up with a confused expression. The anchor had penetrated through the ground and lodged in the ceiling. A huge

body was embedded in the ceiling by the anchor.

Ark looked stupidly at the scene he couldn't imagine. Something fell from the broken lump of flesh. Ark reflexively picked it up and the information window popped up.

-Unknown Gun Form (???)

Item Type: Pistol

Wearer Restriction: Level 100

Attack: ???

Durability: 55/100

Number of Ammunition: 0/15

A gun was a peculiar form.

It is clearly a pistol but the unusual form means that it has a special use. The gun is also covered in strange glyphs that can't be understood. Outstanding pioneers can sense the unusual power in it but it is unclear. Item Analysis will need to be used to determine what power is hidden in this equipment. It is best to experience everything!

※ Item effect is still undisclosed.

<Item Analysis Lv. 5 required>

An unconfirmed item fell first. And the next thing his hand grasped....

-Sealed Box

Item Type: Quest item

A sealed box with several layers of locks.

Nevertheless, there are powerful forces pouring from the box. But the identity of the power is unknown. You have to ask for help from the Galactic Federation for a more precise investigation.

‘Quest item?’

Ark finally understood everything. The 3 powers had fought against the creature. That was the huge chunk embedded by the anchor in the ceiling! And now the quest item had fallen into Ark’s hands!

So....Ark had killed the creature that soldiers from the 3 powers had sacrificed themselves for and received the quest item. Hawk and the other soldiers had fought the creature for 30 minutes only to receive nothing.

However Ark was also upset. So he said.

“....Eh? I’m sorry.”

“You....you bastard! Give it to me!”

“No, why should I?”

Ark packed the box into his backpack. And he spoke with a hateful expression.

“Didn’t you say it before entering the carrier? The person who picks up the quest item first is the owner. And I got my hands on it. So just celebrate coolly.”

“Ark! You! I’m going to kill you!”

Hawk rushed forward and tried to attack him. It wasn’t just Hawk. The Rama warriors and Aschulat on the Valkyries woke up at Hawk’s voice and rushed towards Ark.

“Armed Stealth!”

Ark cried out at the same time! At that moment, the armour at his shoulders and waist opened. Small beads flew from inside and exploded, causing a huge burst of light. Instead of the normal stealth that hid his body, Armed Stealth caused an amplified bit of light that blinded the enemy!

Hawk and the soldiers hurriedly hid their eyes from the explosion of light.

“Hey, cool your heads and think again. The quest item has already entered my backpack. What do you think the probability of the quest item dropping if I die is? And I’m going to give you a warning. This carrier will explode soon. So isn’t it better to run away quickly? If you stay here you will die.”

It was true. Ark had caused an explosion in the centre of the carrier. No matter how powerful the carrier, it wouldn’t be able to withstand such a thing. And the explosion before Ark launched the anchor had created a chain explosion.

In addition, the crew of the carrier knew that the 3 powers had invaded it. It was only a matter of time before the explosion reached the power reactor. And once it reached the power reactor, bang!

Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku!

The vibrating of the carrier indicated that time wasn’t far off.

“I hope everyone can escape unharmed. Then I’m busy so I’ll go now. Oh, before that.....Armed Chain!”

Ark’s Armed Chain skill wound around Irina. Irina quickly flew towards Ark.

“Omo!”

“I will take Irina-nim.”

“Huh? B-but my subordinates.....”

Irina stuttered and blushed. Camel just smiled and saluted.

“Captain-nim, I’ll meet you outside! Ark-nim, take care of her!”

“Leave it to me. I’ll keep her safe.”

“Let’s go! Hurry!”

Camel rushed off the bridge at Ark’s reply. Irina’s subordinates also left towards the hangar. Hawk, the Rama and the Aschulat were still on the hangar but they understood not a lot of time was left. After Camel’s party left

the bridge, Ark descended down the anchor wire towards the bottom. He landed safely on the deck of the Silver Star!

He entered the bridge and Rapid ran over.

“Ark, what happened?”

“That’s it. It went well.”

Ark sat in the captain’s chair and commanded.

“Tori, sneak out of the carrier.”

The vertical Silver Star moved back to a horizontal position. It rotated 180 degrees before accelerating in the direction it came from. Meanwhile intense fires occurred all around it. And mechanical parts spilled out!

However Tori, Hegel and Milan controlled the Silver Star without a hitch. The Silver Star used its main gun to destroy broken bulkheads hanging down before reaching the hangar. The universe stretched out on the other side of the carrier’s armour!

Pepeng!

“We came out!”

The Silver Star exited the carrier. Once they came outside, the situation inside the carrier looked more serious. There were multiple explosions and the carrier was wrapped in smoke. Irina gave the carrier an uneasy look and asked.

“Can the members escape safely?”

“The carrier will endure for dozens of minutes. It shouldn’t be a problem for them to escape the carrier in time.”

In fact, the person who had more to worry about than Camel was Ark. It wasn’t his intention but Ark stealing the prize under Hawk and the others noses was a problem. Hawk might turn a blind eye if the Rama and Aschulat

tried to kill him.

It would be a headache once they emerged.

‘Let’s fly away for the moment!’

“Tori, prepare to set sail!”

Ark immediately made preparations to escape.

“Hyung-nim, an energy reaction has been detected! Spatial waves! According to the form of the sensed energy, it is spatial movement! Someone is warping here! It is 1 giga! There are a lot of them!”

Hegel shouted towards Ark.

A bunch of ring shaped lights then appeared. An amazingly 500 metres large cruiser from the Galactic Federation emerged from the ring. And after that came the Rama and Aschulat.

But that wasn’t the end.

Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku! Ku ku ku ku!

A staggering 100 spaceships arrived. Combat ships used by the Council to manage the space frontier had arrived.

And.....

“Excuse me.....”

Hyun-woo studied a face in front of him and began to talk. The man with wild eyes in front of him was Lee Myung-ryong.

Once again, the reason Hyun-woo left the Silver Star for 10 minutes when the battle started was due to Lee Myung-ryong. He suddenly felt his breath cut off and then disappeared.

“I got you! You bastard! Kim Hyun-woo!”

The person in front of him was Lee Myung-ryong. Naturally Hyun-woo was completely puzzled. The fearful Lee Myung-ryong had appeared with an expression overflowing with a thirst for blood.

“W-why is Myung-ryong hyung here?”

“Do you have to ask?”

“I don’t understand which is why I’m asking! Why else would I ask?”

“This bastard keeps on speaking nonsense! Aha, didn’t you become the director of a large corporation? So you think it is okay to ignore the police? Yes, that is a good attitude. Now you’ve succeeded at long last. But what are you going to do? I’m a guy who can’t understand things like that.”

“What are you talking about? What did I do?”

“Let’s start your beating!”

And the scene of an assault began. Hyun-woo couldn’t understand what on earth Lee Myung-ryong was talking about. This matter? Lee Myung-ryong suddenly started talking about being a director.

Yes, it was confusing! However, the opponent was Lee Myung-ryong. Lee Myung-ryong was the type to educate through violence. It was impossible for

Hyun-woo to stand up to him.

There was clearly some misunderstanding. He didn't know what the people was but he needed to speak gradually to clear up the misunderstanding. But it wasn't a situation where Hyun-woo could talk.

He was in the middle of a space battle.

“Yes, Hyung-nim! I was wrong! I don't know what I did but I was unconditionally wrong! I'll be right back! If I did something wrong then I'll receive whatever punishment! Instead just wait for a bit! Right now I'm in an incredibly desperate situation! So I will handle it and then come back!”

Hyun-woo cried out desperately despite not knowing his mistake. Thankfully Hyun-woo was able to log in to Galaxian again after 10 minutes. And he gained many achievements and caught the 'Sealed Box' that was the quest item! He held his girlfriend like he was the main character in a movie as they escaped from the carrier.

'Heok! 3 hours have passed already! I don't know what was going on but I've left the angry Myung-ryong hyung waiting for 3 hours! I'm dead!'

Hyun-woo exited to face death.

'.....I'm lucky.'

When he went outside the capsule, Lee Myung-ryong was lying down asleep. Perhaps that was the reason there wasn't any interference during his fight. But that didn't mean the threat had vanished. Hyun-woo knew that Lee Myung-ryong wasn't the type to forget about something just because he went to sleep. His temperament wasn't the type.

'I'd rather get it over with quickly.'

Hyun-woo woke up Lee Myung-ryong while feeling like he was unsealing a devil. And he instantly fell to his knees and started to talk.

“What did I do wrong?”

“You don’t know what you did wrong?”

If he knew he wouldn’t have asked! He didn’t know! The words bubbled up in his throat but Hyun-woo pushed it down. He was scared!

“I’m not rebellious. I really don’t know. ”

“You ignored your teacher.”

“M-me?”

What was he talking about?

“It is impossible that I would do such a thing.”

“Yes, there is no such possibility. Nevertheless, you did do it. You must be crazy. That’s why I’m here. My heart really regrets having a student like you. You should be thankful towards me. Now, I’ll ask again.”

Lee Myung-ryong fist filled with ‘tremendous attack’ headed towards him.

“No! No! Wait a minute! I really can’t remember doing that!”

“Are you making excuses? I never taught you to do that!”

“Who is making excuses? I really don’t understand anything! If I did something wrong then I’ll receive whatever punishment! But it is terrible to beat me up when I don’t know the reason!”

“Then I will tell you.”

Lee Myung-ryong sighed before nodding.

“From Monday of last week to yesterday. Do you know how many times I called you? It was at least 3 times a day. Yet you didn’t pick up even once. Isn’t that ignoring me?”

“Call? When did Hyung-nim call?”

“Ha! This bastard.....”

“Really. I never received your calls. I’m not a person filled with debts that would avoid phone calls. Even if I had circumstances that didn’t allow me to pick up, I would’ve called Hyung-nim back. But I didn’t receive any calls from Hyung-nim’s number.”

“Of course there wouldn’t be my number. I called with another phone.”

“Eh? Another phone? Why would you use another phone when your old one is fine? No, if you use another number then how would I know that Hyung-nim called?”

“I knew you would say that.”

Lee Myung-ryong said with a strange expression.

In fact, Lee Myung-ryong had also thought the same thing in the beginning. After Hyun-woo didn’t pick up for 2 days, he thought it might’ve been due to unknown phone number. Lee Myung-ryong wasn’t stupid. But he couldn’t use his own phone in the NIS. Therefore Lee Myung-ryong sent a text using the same number.

I am Lee Myung-ryong.

There are circumstances and I am unable to use my phone for the moment.

And I won’t receive it if you contact this number. So you have to save this number and pick up the next time I call. It is important that I talk to you.

This was the message. But! He made dozens of calls within a few days that didn’t connect. Thus Lee Myung-ryong was forced to think that Hyun-woo was avoiding his calls on purpose. However.....

“You sent a text?”

“Yes, I sent it 3 times. Now are you going to say you didn’t receive it?”

“No, I really didn’t see your text....”

Hyun-woo said as he looked at his phone with a confused expression. But he

didn't see such a message in his inbox. The telephone number that Lee Myung-ryong called from also wasn't seen in his call logs. He checked Lee Myung-ryong's phone in case there was a mistake but Hyun-woo's phone number was correct.

'What is this? Why....?'

It was like a lightning bolt struck him.

"Wait? You said you called several times a day?"

"Yes, that's right!"

"Do you remember when you made the first phone call?"

"I just told you. Monday last week. Do you want me to tell you the time? Monday 5 p.m.!"

"5 o'clock, last Monday at 5 o'clock...."

Hyun-woo traced up his caller list with an astounded expression.

Hyun-woo remembered last Monday. And he had a phone call from a number he couldn't confirm.

Hyun-woo remembered it because it was shortly after the Red Slaughterer attacked him on Impeltus and he landed on E-3026. It was also the day he went to visit Alan who was known as Rapid at his home. And he had arrived at Rapid's house at 5 p.m.

Of course Hyun-woo didn't pick up. There was no reason to after he checked the caller ID. But the problem was the same person with caller ID disabled phoned him many times. So the irritated Hyun-woo....

-This number has been classified as spam.

That's why Hyun-woo didn't receive the message! The 3 text messages had been sent to the spam folder. So Lee Myung-ryong wasn't able to get in contact with him using that phone number.

The mystery was solved!

“So.....”

Hyun-woo peeked at Lee Myung-ryong who asked him.

“Why are you blaming me?”

“Eh? T-that is.....”

“You don’t have an idea? You don’t? Didn’t Hyung-nim see the news? Do you know how many news about telephone scams is being broadcasted on television these days? You should’ve sent a text before calling the first time instead of spamming my phone! It that my fault? Huh? Is that my fault?”

“Why is this brat shouting?”

“I’m not yelling, just talking loudly. Okay. Yes, I didn’t pick up your calls so you’re upset. But does that allow you to run in excessively to beat me up?”

“No, that....I’m sorry.”

Lee Myung-ryong replied while looking out into the distance.

He randomly started beating someone and now he was saying sorry? While looking at a far off place? Of course Hyun-woo was angry. But what could he do? The person was Lee Myung-ryong.

‘Hah, this is the grief of the weak. It makes sense when I think back.

Ferguson was like this on Muratio Star. It was Ferguson’s fault but I should refrain from violence from now on.’

He understood such grief. Anyway, the mystery of the missing message was solved and Hyun-woo escaped from the crisis.

“By the way, why were you calling with a different phone? These days phones can be repaired when they’re broken. There is also the phone at the police station. So why isn’t the caller ID displayed? No, why were you calling so much?”

“Ah! That’s right!”

Lee Myung-ryong suddenly raised his head at Hyun-woo’s question.

Bakak!

And Hyun-woo’s head was slapped.

“Ack! W-What is that? I explained everything! So why are you hitting me?”

“I forgot because of the phone! You brat, you should say something to me!”

“Something? What do you mean?”

“Lucifer!”

“Eh? Lucifer?”

Hyun-woo asked with surprise. Lee Myung-ryong’s face contorted and he started talking.

“Yes, that’s right! I heard it all. Lucifer is still alive? Furthermore, he escaped the government’s computers to occupy a nuclear power plant. Then he used that to threaten the government unless they defeated him in the game called Galaxian. That’s why the government rallied gamers like you to catch Lucifer.”

“H-how does Hyung-nim know that?”

“Of course I know. Because I am the advisor for the Lucifer Countermeasures Team.”

“Lucifer Countermeasures Team?”

“The government can’t leave something like this to gamers. Naturally they created a team to take measures against Lucifer. That is the Lucifer hunting team. They are a team created of special agents designed to beat Lucifer in Galaxian. And not long ago, I became a consultant for the team. That’s why I can’t use my phone. I’m residing in the NIS with the other team members so I can’t bring my own phone in.”

Hyun-woo was puzzled.

The government wouldn't rely on just on the gamers. Hyun-woo had already guessed that. But he never imagined Lee Myung-ryong would be involved.

Hyun-woo had a dumb expression on his face so Lee Myung-ryong spoke with irritation.

“Don't make such an expression. I'm not in charge. Aren't I a public servant? Anyway, I didn't come to talk about hat. It doesn't matter. I came here for a specific reason.”

“Lucifer?”

“Lucifer is Lucifer but...”

Lee Myung-ryong bit his lip before explaining.

Lucifer was threatening South Korea's safety by holding the nuclear power plant hostage. Naturally the government should unite together to deal with it. Yet the Prime Minister's office and the Department of Defence were fighting like children with each other. That also affected the team members that were from both departments as they interfered with each other.....

“The different teams have no interest in Lucifer hunting. I want to break the idea of different teams. But they won't listen to me above their superiors. If I try to do such a thing, they will just make me quit.”

Lee Myung-ryong sighed and continued.

“I don't know what to do. I don't want to give up. But I can't do nothing. The same thing will just happen again.”

Hyun-woo felt some compassion for the Lucifer hunting members being beaten by Lee Myung-ryong. And he felt admiration that they didn't yield and kept repeating the same behaviour.

But Hyun-woo also knew. That courage wasn't caused by willpower.

“Yes, it is like that. But those guys are innocent. They are soldiers so they have no choice when giving an order but a superior officer. However they are the Prime Minister’s Office and Department of Defence so I can’t do anything. So something needs to be done in the game. That’s why I contacted you. I don’t know a lot but I know that you’re playing the game. And now you are in Galaxian. How about it? Isn’t there a way to stop that team of children?”

“Saying that all of a sudden.....”

Hyun-woo couldn’t think of a good idea. Hyun-woo made an uneasy expression and Lee Myung-ryong started urging him.

“Damn, think of something. You’re the only person I can believe in now.”

“But how will I prevent all the team members from acting independently? In Galaxian, there are video cameras that records a person’s actions. But there isn’t just one or two members. Hyung-nim alone can’t check all the videos to determine what happened. Even if you do notice, something similar would just happen again. If Hyung-nim doesn’t connect to the game and watch them directly then there is no way to stop it.”

“.....What?”

Lee Myung-ryong’s eyes widened.

“There is no way for Hyung-nim to monitor them directly.”

“.....Ah!”

And after Hyun-woo spoke once again. Lee Myung-ryong made a stupid expression before exclaiming.

“There is that method! I should enter the game and watch them directly!”

“Eh eh? What? Then Hyung-nim can connect to the game? I thought there were circumstances that meant Hyung-nim couldn’t play the game so I was looking for other methods. But you hadn’t thought about it at all?”

It was ridiculous if they hadn't played a virtual reality game. But Lee Myung-ryong had once used a virtual reality game to catch criminals playing New World. He gained considerable achievements and was promoted to leader of the cyber team. It was strange that he never thought about entering the game himself.

"I, I....I told you. I was only thinking about stopping this! So I didn't think about playing the game directly. But....."

Lee Myung-ryong blushed before laughing.

"This changes things. Yes, there is that method. I should watch them directly. Huhuhu! The game, why didn't I think about that before? My predecessor unexpectedly made a merchant in New World so I couldn't play the game directly. But this time I can create my own character. Furthermore, isn't Galaxian a game where you can use guns and grenades? A bloody battle! That is my specialty. Huhuhu! My gamer's blood is boiling."

Hyun-woo wanted to cry. The system was many times more complicated than New World. It would be hard for stupid people.

However, he didn't speak that idea out loud. Hyun-woo wasn't so stupid that he didn't know what would happen afterwards. And realistically there was no other way.

"Then the problem is solved now?"

"No, not yet."

"What else is left?"

"When I think about it, I alone am insufficient. As I said, the Lucifer hunting team is divided into two factions. Therefore they had split into two groups from the beginning. And several months had passed since starting the game so they have their own areas. It will be hard to join them together."

"You need someone you can trust."

“That is true however....”

Lee Myung-ryong said with an ambiguous expression.

The first person he thought of was Kang Ho-cheol. However Kang Ho-cheol belonged to the NIS. He couldn't disobey orders. He wouldn't be prepared to be fired for something like this.

Lee Myung-ryong worried about this for a while before looking at Hyun-woo and speaking quickly.

“How about you? You are already playing Galaxian and know about Lucifer.”

“It is difficult.”

“What? You shouldn't decline so quickly! This is for the country! It isn't something between you and I! I'm not asking you to become my guarantor!”

“You expect me to suddenly watch the team? I don't belong to the NIS but am fighting Lucifer directly in Galaxian. I've obtained my own achievements. Does it make sense that I have to supervise the NIS agents? Hyung-nim will understand if you play the game. I have my own base. I can't spend my time watching over all those people.”

“You really can't?”

“It won't work.”

Hyun-woo bluntly replied.

“Damn, where are all the decent people?”

Lee Myung-ryong sighed. Then someone suddenly ran in.

“Surprise!”

The man who jumped in out of the blue and yelled was Hyun-woo's father, Gwon Hwa-rang. Hyun-woo was puzzled by his father's sudden visit and asked.

“What? No contact? What surprise?”

“I came as well.”

The person who answered was his mother who came in later. When his mother entered, Lee Myung-ryong quickly lowered his head.

“Ah, Sister-in-law, it has been a while.”

“Yes, it has been a long time.”

His mother smiled before walking to Hyun-woo.

“There was no contact for a while before your father suddenly received a telephone call from Myung-ryong ssi. He wanted the password of your house to surprise you. It seemed like something worthy of celebration happened. Your father also had something to discuss with Myung-ryong ssi. So? What’s the surprise?”

“Surprise?”

Hyun-woo gazed at Lee Myung-ryong with amazement at his mother’s words. Lee Myung-ryong blushed as he scratched his head before bursting into laughter.

“Hat hat hat! It’s not a big deal. In fact, I’ve been really busy these days so I couldn’t contact Hyun-woo. After a long time, I asked for the password to surprise him.”

“Ah, is that so? Hohoho, it is nice that you’re so friendly.”

“Are you okay?”

Hyun-woo looked at Lee Myung-ryong once again. But Lee Myung-ryong placed his arm around Hyun-woo’s shoulder and laughed.

“Hat hat hat! Of course. Isn’t he like a nephew to me? If I don’t take care of him then who will? Today I bought rice and decided to drop in.”

-Nephew? Take care? I almost died because of you!

Hyun-woo sent that message with his eyes towards the shameless Lee

Myung-ryong. Then Lee Myung-ryong poked him in the side and replied.

–Shut up! I’ll buy you meat, meat! So that’s it!

Hyun-woo and Lee Myung-ryong communicated with their eyes. The two of them were on good terms. Then Gwon Hwa-rang asked Lee Myung-ryong.

“What? That is the surprise?”

“Hey, I am his Hyung-nim. What surprise at this age?”

“You’re the one who told me it was a surprise first!”

“I....”

Lee Myung-ryong flinched and closed his mouth. And he looked at Gwon Hwa-rang absentmindedly before exclaiming.

“Yes! Why didn’t I think of it before?”

“What? Why are you looking at my face like that?”

“Hyung-nim, I want to talk to you for a moment. Hyun-woo, you come as well.”

“Omo? What? Taking all the boys, perhaps this is bullying?”

“I’m sorry Sister-in-law. It will just take a moment.”

“Hohoho, it is just a joke. Take your time speaking. I’ll be in Hyun-woo’s room.”

“Thank you!”

Lee Myung-ryong pulled Gwon Hwa-rang and Hyun-woo out of the room. And Gwon Hwa-rang spoke in a low voice once they entered the next room.

“Why are you making a fuss? Is it the real estate problem I asked you to investigate previously?”

Shortly after he was ambushed in the hospital’s parking lot, Gwon Hwa-rang asked Lee Myung-ryong to investigate the real estate problem. Gwon Hwa-

rang remembered about it after Lee Myung-ryong's actions.

Lee Myung-ryong had expected this and shook his head.

"I'm sorry but that's not it."

"Why? Did you receive a case?"

"I did but it isn't an ordinary case. Hyung-nim has heard the name Lucifer. He is the artificial intelligence created by the ones who made New World. This talk is related to the artificial intelligence. It might be hard to believe....."

"Myung-ryong hyung, t-this....."

Hyun-woo interrupted frantically.

He could guess what Lee Myung-ryong was about to say. It was related to Lucifer. But that was still a state secret. Hyun-woo hadn't even mentioned it to his father Gwon Hwa-rang. However Lee Myung-ryong just laughed and continued.

"It doesn't matter. It is fine if he knows. Hwa-rang hyung-nim was once a police officer so he knows to keep his mouth shut. There is no reason to hide the reasons from Hyung-nim. I will take responsibility for this."

"But....."

"There seems to be something serious."

Gwon Hwa-rang grasped the serious atmosphere.

"I don't know what is going on. You can trust me."

Hyun-woo couldn't keep it from Gwon Hwa-rang any longer. Hyun-woo sighed and Lee Myung-ryong started to confess all the events related to Lucifer.

Lucifer occupied a nuclear power plant and threatened to blow it up unless they beat him in the game called Galaxian. Thus the government mobilized

gamers and a Lucifer hunting team that Lee Myung-ryong and Hyun-woo were related to.

“It is hard to believe....”

Gwon Hwa-rang glanced between Lee Myung-ryong and Hyun-woo before sighing.

“But it seems to be true.”

“I didn’t want to believe it either. The government allowing themselves to be threatened by an artificial intelligence? This is why I hate machines.”

“I’m sorry that I didn’t tell in advance.”

“No. You were worried about your own decisions. It also isn’t easy to reveal state secrets. Myung-ryong knows this as well. Nevertheless, what is the reason you’re telling me? Is there a problem?”

“I need your help.”

“Of course I will help you. But how can I help?”

“I have the right work for you Hyung-nim.”

Lee Myung-ryong smiled and began to talk.

“The Lucifer hunting team that I spoke about is divided into two factions and they are hindering each other. So now I’m going to enter the game to watch them directly. But how am I supposed to watch two teams at the same time? So it would be nice if Hyung-nim could keep an eye on one group.”

“But I’m not a member of the Lucifer hunting team. Will the team listen to me?”

“I’ll take care of it. Sister-in-law is pregnant so doesn’t that mean Hyung-nim can’t go to Africa for a minimum of 1~2 years?”

“That is true.”

Gwon Hwa-rang nodded his head.

“Okay. I don’t know what will happen but I will do it for the moment. The nuclear power plant might explode in the country that my daughter will live in so I can’t do nothing.”

Hyun-woo sighed at Gwon Hwa-rang’s agreement. He had expected this from the moment Lee Myung-ryong started talking. This was Gwon Hwa-rang. He wasn’t a person who could stay still after hearing such words. And when he thought about it, Gwon Hwa-rang was the most qualified person.

He was a person silly about his unborn child but he was also a legendary detective. He had various combat techniques and was an expert at leading people in battle. Gwon Hwa-rang showed a considerable ability in New World under the name JusticeMan.

‘Yes, this might work out well.’

In fact, Hyun-woo had also been frustrated about the matter. There were many times he wanted to tell everything to his mother and Gwon Hwa-rang but couldn’t.

But Lee Myung-ryong was the advisor to the Lucifer hunting team so he didn’t need to worry about such things. He was the type to throw his heart into everything. Lee Myung-ryong was such a man. He had no doubt about that part.

“Well, let’s talk specifics.”

Lee Myung-ryong smiled and spoke. The plan to move JusticeMan from New World to Galaxian began to proceed steadily.

–Did it work?

A voice came from a 3D image. A black form with red eyes asked the image in a low voice. A man in a hood bowed and replied.

“It proceeded with no problems.”

–It is good that I entrusted it to you.

The black shape nodded with satisfaction.

–I heard that Uranus was destroyed by the investigation teams from the 3 powers. We’ve been preparing for a long time so this loss isn’t small. But we also obtained something. The 3 powers won’t have any more concerns about antimatter. Because the antimatter they are chasing is just an illusion.

“It is what Grand Duke hoped for.”

–Yes, the valuable Uranus was lost but we’ve obtained something better. There is still lots of work to be done. Our tasks will start now. –Do you understand?

“Yes, I will put everything in order and return.”

The hooded man bowed again and the 3D image disappeared.

The black form turned and a wide plains area stretched before him. However, there wasn’t any grass on the plains. The plains was filled with endless bodies and blood!

“It is starting from now on.....”

And he looked around before a huge obelisk caught his eye. A large number of complex patterns were etched on the obelisk. The man looked at the obelisk for a while before muttering.

“Yes, the point of a game is to enjoy a prolonged war.”

The galaxy changed with the emergence of the magic circle.

Investigation teams from the 3 powers were formed to study this. An extremely hazardous material called antimatter was detected from the magic circle. While the investigation teams were searching for the organization behind it, the governments of the 3 powers were also seeking solutions. They

immediately dispatched special envoys to the Council. These special envoys had two major purposes.

The first was to support the activities of the investigation team. The area they were investigating was the space frontier. Moreover, the identity of the organization was still unknown. Large or small problems could occur on the frontier once they started investigating. In some cases, the Council could be involved. The 3 powers knew this and dispatched special envoys beforehand.

And the second goal was to get permission for their regular troops to enter the frontier. The 3 powers planned to throw their regular troops at the frontier in order to solve this situation as quickly as possible.

But it was extremely difficult for the Council to allow regular troops to enter the frontier. The Council feared that they would lose the autonomy of the region. Therefore, the special envoys were in negotiation with the Council for 3 days.

Then shocking news was revealed to the Council.

-Antimatter reaction detected!

The antimatter reaction was detected once again. It was the antimatter reaction the investigation teams sensed from the black hole. That's why the spaceships from the 3 powers and the Council showed up on the battlefield.

If the antimatter problem was settled then the 3 powers would have no more justification to enter the frontier. The Council had rallied its fleet and flew there as soon as the antimatter reaction was detected.

However it was too late. Ark had already eaten the quest item. But the Council had been most worried about the pressure from the 3 powers.

-Ark, I pay respect to your achievements!

The special envoy for the Galactic Federation heard the situation from the

fleet and saluted before speaking.

Hawk, the Rama and the Aschulat who emerged later couldn't do anything with the situation like this. No matter how mad they were, they couldn't attack Ark in front of the Council's fleet. They had no choice but to push down their anger.

Clean-up after that was very simple. Now Ark was an incredibly important person!

–Ark-nim, we will guard you until we reach the territory of the Galactic Federation.

Ark was escorted to the boundary of the frontier by the Council Fleet. A Galactic Federation fleet was notified in advance and they met him in order to escort him to Istana. The trip was enjoyable.

“This is the first time we're flying together.”

Irina boarded the Silver Star with him. And it took a few hours to reach the boundary of the frontier and then Istana so he had plenty of time to talk to her (minus the time spent with Lee Myung-ryong).

When he thought about it, this was his first space travel with Irina. People dating in reality met in Galaxian but didn't spend a lot of time together because of the game.

Nothing special happened. Ark was just satisfied that he could spend a relaxing amount of time with Irina.

But there was one person who wasn't comfortable. He wasn't sure why but Melina couldn't hide her uncomfortable expression since Irina boarded the Silver Star.

Kaya studied Melina's face before giving Irina a sharp glance.

“When are you returning to your spaceship? Your spaceship isn't that far away so why are you on this ship flirting with the Captain?”

“Unni, stop it.”

“What do you mean? Did I say something wrong? If you have something to say then you should say it clearly....”

“It’s okay. It’s not like that.”

Melina entered a cabin with a grumpy expression. Kaya pouted and also left.

“What the, those people? Why are they like that when we’re finally returning after working hard? Irina-nim, don’t worry about it. Kaya is sometimes like that.”

“I don’t think Kaya-nim is the problem.....”

“Huh?”

“Don’t worry about it.”

Irina smiled and shook her head. There was an uncomfortable feeling but he didn’t question it closely. There were numerous competitors like Hawk but he had obtained the item for the <Dark Omen> quest. Besides, he could also spend the journey back with Irina. It was a satisfactory situation so he couldn’t pay attention to minor issues.

And after 20 hours.

Chwajijijijik! Chwajijijijik!

Particles of light spread around the Silver Star.

It was the phenomenon caused by warp travel. There was a small vibration before the Silver Star exited near a planet that shone like jewels. And the centre of the Galactic Federation, Istana could be seen!

A smile formed on Ark’s mouth.

“I’m back!”

Details of the Magic Event

Tatutine the capital of Istana.

The two most important buildings belonging to the Galactic Federation were there. One of them was the Galactic Federation Central Headquarters that Ark had entered a few times. And the other was the Royal Palace. It was the place where the Emperor who reigned over the Galactic Federation lived.

And now!

Dozens of nobles were gathered in the central hall of the Royal Palace. Nobles wearing a uniform were lined up on one side with Marquis Martin while on the other side, Marquis Jyubel and other nobles were wearing court clothes. The military and political factions of the Galactic Federation were gathered in one place. And the person in the centre....

‘I feel awkward.’

Ark scratched his head and looked at the nobles.

Once again, Ark and the investigation team had returned to Istana a few hours ago. 6 spaceships in the fleet had sunk due to the Hornets and carrier. Before the carrier exploded, it had shaved away nearly half their power. And 3 members were killed in the battle inside the carrier.

9 out of 14 team members had been killed. Apart from Ark and Irina, only 3 other members had survived until the end. But the identity of these 3 members were unexpected. Taking out Hawk, the remaining 2 were Mario and Neidu.

Mario was a merchant that belonged to the military faction while Neidu was a merchant from the political faction. It was ridiculous that all the warriors died in battle while the merchants survived.

Of course, there was a reason for it.

It could be understood when looking at Mario's spaceship. A merchant's spaceship had much higher defence than that of a warrior's. In a space fleet battle, their survival rate had no choice but to rise. The problem was the battle inside the carrier's interior....

-I was with Ryu, Mirinae and Cayenne when entering the interior. Yet Ryu and Cayenne joined forces to turn on Mirinae. There were negotiations between members of the same faction. They didn't help Mirinae in battle so he ended up being killed first. And the remaining two also died after that. However, Hawk left even when he knew Ryu and Cayenne was locking out Mirinae. Ryu and Cayenne weren't helpful in a crisis. On the contrary, in a crisis Ryu and Cayenne would make their subordinates retreat. It was clear that Ryu, Cayenne and Hawk's subordinates were deliberately moving secretly to the rear.

He had asked Irina about it while they were heading to Istana.

Hawk's reason was obvious. The target of the investigation team was right in front of him. In that situation, it wasn't necessary to worry about the other members of the team. The members would take care of each other and he would absorb their subordinates.

Irina, Mario and Neidu could survive due to that. The quest item that was the target of the investigation team was located on the bridge. And the warrior type unit led by Hawk had the best chance to obtain the quest item.

The moment he entered the carrier, everyone else was just a competitor to Hawk. But Irina was an inspector from the Galactic Federation and Mario and Neidu were in charge of resources. Therefore they weren't Hawk's targets. He didn't feel the need to bother with them. No, they were people that he could take advantage of. There would be unnecessary suspicion if he was the only one who survived.

'Hah, I figured he would do that.'

Ark was expecting that. This was why Ark moved independently from Hawk. Well, it wasn't his only reason....

'That's the biggest mistake you made. Hawk!'

Ark laughed as he saw Hawk frowning. Hawk had absorbed the subordinates of the other members. However, a subordinate's power could fluctuate by up to 30% of the president of their Agent died. In addition, morale would fall and the special effects of the Agent skills couldn't be used.

'If you had utilized Cayenne and Mirinae then the boss could have been handled much faster. But you were anxious about getting the quest item first. That allowed me to catch your ankle.'

As a result, Ark managed to get his hands on the quest item before Hawk. It was 90% due to luck. The remaining 10% was due to Hawk's results.

No matter how he thought about it, Ark hadn't expected such results. But Ark was composed.

'The only thing that matters is the result! I got one over Hawk!'

The result was good so he decided to generously (?) forget about it. But not everyone was as generous as Ark.

Right now Ark, Hawk, Mario and Neidu were gathered at the Royal Palace to receive compensation. The surviving team members' hard work was recognized and they were brought to the Royal Palace. Naturally it was to celebrate.

But not everyone was pleased like Ark.

There was Hawk. Hawk had the quest item stolen from right in front of him so he was glaring at Ark. The nobles standing on the left side who belonged to the political faction were doing the same thing. They were bitter that all the achievements were taken away by a member of the military faction.

Those weren't the only expressions. Mario was laughing because he didn't

expect to receive the best achievements yet he had someone managed to enter the TOP 4.

‘Look Hawk! The simplicity of an innocent merchant who is satisfied with what he has! Aren’t you embarrassed about killing your fellow colleagues for your greed? You can learn from him!’

These were words he wanted to say to Hawk. But Ark wasn’t in a position to tell someone that.

Mario and Neidu weren’t the only ones with a happy expression. The nobles of the military faction that Ark belonged to were making satisfied expressions. Marquis Martin who recommended Ark was able to gain a superior position to the nobles in the political faction. In addition, the military could now monopolize the information on antimatter. However.....

‘It doesn’t matter as long as I receive the compensation but.....’

In fact, there was a story hidden here.

“Huh?”

Ark was puzzled. The Marquis Martin clicked his tongue and started to talk.

“I heard it just now. The box you brought was sent to the research centre but the contents had nothing to do with antimatter.”

What was he talking about? Ark’s expression said he didn’t understand.

“But wasn’t the antimatter reaction detected from that box?”

“Yes, there was an antimatter reaction.”

“If there was an antimatter reaction then why did you say there is no relation to antimatter?”

“It makes sense. The box contained Mist Uranium.”

“Mist Uranium?”

“It will take too long if I tell you the details so I’ll say it simply. Mist Uranium is a by-product made from the process of forming antimatter. In other words, it is natural to contain an antimatter residue. It is why the wavelength of antimatter was sensed. Mist Uranium is failed scraps but it possesses 90% of the same structure as antimatter. Even the energy wavelength emitted is the same. The research centre could notice the difference immediately but the energy measuring instrument of a spaceship would think it was antimatter.”

Ark felt drained.

He entered the investigation team, went through all that trouble and finally obtained the box. And he openly entered Istana while being escorted by the Council and Galactic Federation. He thought the whole thing was over. Yet now it was fake? He went through all that in vain?

“But there is something! That Mist something! Wouldn’t it be useful somewhere?”

“Mist Uranium. Yes, it isn’t useless but the value is small. I previously told you that the 3 powers researched antimatter a long time ago. There wasn’t any success but they managed to reach the stage just prior to it. The Galactic Federation, Rama and Aschulat were able to produce the Mist Uranium. However, making Mist Uranium with 90% of the structure of antimatter requires materials such as lead and gold. Mist Uranium as a purpose but it can’t be compared to the large number of resources wasted. But.....”

“But?”

“It is different if we’re talking about a different value.”

Martin smiled and continued.

“The box with the Mist Uranium also contains a memory chip with information about the carrier called Uranus. Thanks to this, we learnt the whole story behind this event.”

“Details behind this event?”

“Like I said before, Mist Uranium has its own uses. It is used to form a warp portal. Currently the 3 powers uses a warp portal that travels an average of 1,000~1,500 light years in 1 hour. Even we take advantage of the flow of the universe, the limit of our present warp voyage is 2,500 light years in 1 hours.”

Once again, a warp movement wouldn't always have the same speed. When a spaceship entered a portal, a huge flow existed in this dimension like an ocean current. This was called a Universe Stream. The speed of a warp journey was influenced by this Universe Stream.

If they took advantage of this flow, the speed when moving would increase by 2~4 times. This was the reason why warp journeys took different amounts of time despite the distance being similar.

Martin's explanation continued.

“But Mist Uranium can be used to greatly reduce the time of a warp voyage. It is possible to sail 10,000 light years in 1 hour.”

“Wah! That's amazing!”

Ark had an exaggerated reaction. But he had no interest in warping.

Ark just wanted to know the value of Mist Uranium. The value of his compensation would depend on the Mist Uranium. So Ark needed the Mist Uranium to be amazing. Martin clearly knew his feelings.

Martin laughed and shook his head.

“It is amazing. But the problem is the resources required to make Mist Uranium. Currently the spaceships use ether as fuel for warp travel. However, travelling 30,000 light years will consume 1 kilogram of Mist Uranium. And 1 kilogram of Mist Uranium costs approximately 120,000 gold.”

Ark's mouth dropped open at Martin's explanation. Fuel that required 120,000 gold to move 30,000 light years! It was a material that couldn't be called energy.

"It is natural since Mist Uranium is a by-product of the difficult antimatter creation. It is also dangerous. Even if Mist Uranium is a by-product, it still possesses 90% of the same structure as antimatter. It has an influence on the Universe Stream so there is no telling how the space will be distorted. You have confirmed its power. It is enough to destroy a small black hole. That alone is a sufficient threat to the galaxy."

"But why is Mist Uranium used?"

In the end, Mist Uranium was an unnecessarily expensive and dangerous material. But why? What use would they have for it other than warp travel?

"It is a show."

"A show?"

"Before you brought the box, the 3 countries believed that Organization X possessed antimatter. And Mist Uranium is a by-product that doesn't have the power of real antimatter. We're going to use the Mist Uranium you obtained from Organization X to make it seem like we possess antimatter."

"What will that gain?"

"A state."

Martin briefly replied.

"According to the memory chip obtained from Uranus, Organization X is related to the terrorist organization called Tree of Life. Tree of Life was an organization that opposed the spread of androids throughout the galaxy and committed acts of terrorism. However, the secret organization was investigated and destroyed. This incident was a scam by the Tree of Life."

"A scam?"

“This is the statement contained in the memory chip.”

Martin manipulated the Nymphe and 3D images appeared.

-We are Tree of Life, the guardians of true life.

The life the Great God granted is precious. It is the same for life and death.

Life and death is under the providence of the Great God and all creatures are obligated to abide by this. But is that actually reality? The ignorant races of the galaxy forgot the Great God and created mechanical life forms for their convenience. The devil’s machine called a Fairy was even made to defy death.

This act is a blasphemy against the Great God!

The Tree of Life has denounced such behaviour and is declaring the establishment of an independent state. We have already obtained the power of antimatter due to the will of the Great God.

I don’t need to explain what that means.

This is the last warning we will send to you.

Any races that interfere with our independence will be punished by the Great God. But if you abandon your wasteful desire and destroy the machines and Fairy then you will be accepted at any time.

This was the story behind the magic event. Organization X was the terrorist organization called Tree of Life. Tree of Life intended to build a new state on the space frontier. To accomplish this, they came up with antimatter.

The 3 powers already knew the danger of antimatter. If the Tree of Life already developed antimatter then the 3 powers couldn’t mess with them. A terrorist organization possessing nuclear weapons couldn’t be easily touched. But the 3 powers couldn’t believe it.

It was due to the existence of antimatter that the 3 powers assembled the investigation teams and destroyed Uranus. If they really had antimatter then

they would've destroyed the investigation teams to threaten the 3 powers. They used the Mist Uranium that cost 120,000 gold to move 30,000 light years.

Even if they possessed antimatter, the 3 powers thought that they could wipe out the Tree of Life if they wanted to. However, currently the 3 powers were in a rivalry. There was no power that wanted to come forward first to receive massive damage from the Tree of Life. No, there could also be a situation where one of the powers could join forces with the Tree of Life. The Tree of Life was against machines but they could use antimatter to build a strong, independent state.

But those were just big words. Mist Uranium was just a by produce of antimatter. Uranus had been smashed by the investigation teams of the 3 powers.

“The Tree of Life would be totally destroyed with this.”

Martin said with a joyous expression. Ark also nodded with a pleased expression.

“Then I did you a service.”

“Yes you did. A very big service. Thanks to you, the Galactic Federation managed to obtain the Bellin Constellation.”

“Eh? Bellin Constellation?”

Why did the subject suddenly jump to that? Martin laughed at Ark's confused expression and continued.

“The only ones who know that you brought Mist Uranium is His Majesty and us. The Rama, Aschulat and even Marquis Jyubel doesn't know about it. How could I let such a good chance run away?”

Ark heard some shocking words. When Ark picked up the quest item, Hawk wasn't the only one watching the situation. The Rama and Aschulat

investigation teams were also there.

Of course, no one knew that the box contained Mist Uranium. The Rama and Aschulat naturally thought that antimatter was in the box. And that fact was delivered to the Rama and Aschulat special envoys who showed up when the carrier sunk.

“Ambassadors flew to both nations and threatened them.”

“Threatened?”

“Antimatter is something that can throw off the balance of the galaxy. So a special treaty was signed that no one would develop it. If anyone intended to research antimatter then it would be war....and so on, they all made a lot of noise but no one was sincere. No matter what, the Galactic Federation ended up in possession of antimatter. So they wanted to hear an answer. That the Galactic Federation has no intention of using the antimatter. The ambassadors from the 2 states want to watch the antimatter box be permanently sealed.”

Of course it wasn't for free.

“The Rama decided to hand over the planets they occupied in the Bellin Constellation. And the Aschulat promised some profit from trading. The price was a little expensive but the ambassadors for both states were willing to pay it.”

Of course they would pay it. The Rama and Aschulat thought that antimatter was in the box. They would pay anything to stop the Galactic Federation from studying the antimatter and weaponizing it.

‘But even so.....’

This wasn't a small matter. As expected from Marquis Martin. He was on a different standard from the average NPC. In addition, obtaining the planets in the Bellin Constellation and trade profit wasn't the only benefits.

The antimatter was sealed up but it still belonged to the Galactic Federation.

This fact would become a considerable burden to the Rama and Aschulat from now on. It was the same for Martin's rival, Marquis Jyubel.

The military managing the antimatter would have a great influence on future diplomacy with the Rama and Aschulat. In a sense, it meant that Marquis Martin controlled the political power of the Galactic Federation.

Due to Ark bringing the box, Marquis Martin took advantage of it to gain a huge advantage over the Aschulat and Rama and secured the helm of the Galactic Federation. Therefore, Marquis Martin was the one who gained the most benefits.

But Ark had no interest in what Marquis Martin received. Marquis Martin received what he could get. That world was unrelated to Ark.

There was one part Ark didn't understand. Ark didn't need to know these facts. He didn't understand why Marquis Martin explained secrets that only the Emperor should know.

“I don't know why you're telling me this.”

Marquis Martin laughed and answered.

“It is necessary for you to know this because of what you'll receive.”

‘In other words.....’

Ark looked at Marquis Martin standing away from him.

In the end, he was going to receive compensation from the Emperor worth the false antimatter. So he wanted to run around and bark like a dog. He wanted to say something.

Ark went through all the trouble but Marquis Martin was the one who received the most. But Martin was a NPC. In particular, he was a generous NPC who treated Ark well. And he could receive compensation thanks to Marquis Martin. Their relationship was one of mutual profit.

Just as Ark was thinking this.

“His Majesty is here!”

The guards shouted in loud voices. A red curtain parted and a chair in the form of a capsule floated in the air. The person sitting down in the chair was a wealthy elderly man. The elderly man was covered in wrinkles but it was hard to tell how old he was.

Needless to say, he was the Emperor of the Galactic Federation! He was the Emperor of 270 planets and approximately 12 billion people.

The nobles simultaneously bowed to the Emperor once he appeared. The Emperor surveyed the nobles before nodding and beginning to talk.

“Raise your heads.”

The microphone attached to the floating chair amplified his voice through the hall.

“My heart is very satisfied seeing the nobles who support the Galactic Federation gathered in one place. In addition, I’m very pleased to hear about the Galactic Federation’s achievements in the space frontier. You probably already know the reason we’re gathered here today. The people who have devoted themselves to the Galactic Federation deserve to receive gratitude. They have proven their qualifications. I’m representing the 12 billion subjects of the Galactic Federation to praise their achievements and give them fitting rewards.”

“Waaaaahhhh!”

Overflowing applause came from the nobles.

Of course, the ones who clapped more sincerely were the nobles belonging to Marquis Martin’s military faction. The rest of the nobles in the political faction clapped with depressed expressions. But the Emperor didn’t bear a grudge.

No, the Emperor was also looking at Hawk with a gloomy expression. The Emperor recommended Hawk as leader of the investigation team in order to gain an advantage over the political and military factions. But contrary to the Emperor's expectations, Ark was the one who brought it. Marquis Martin's position rose so he was forced to become depressed.

However Ark didn't pay attention to it. The event was already settled, no matter the result. And Ark was the one who gained the most merit. Whether he liked it or not, the Emperor promised to give a reward to Ark.

"The most accomplished person Ark, step forward."

And Ark was called. Ark approached the Emperor and kneeled down.

"Ark, you deserve respect for your courage and resourcefulness to solve numerous difficulties that threatened the safety of the Galactic Federation. Your achievements are worthy of praise. I bestow upon you the title of Viscount."

The Emperor's voice resounded through the hall.

-You have been awarded the title of a noble from the Emperor of the Galactic Federation.

Ark-nim has risen to a 1st class citizen by becoming a noble (Viscount).

By default, the Galactic Federation is a republic. However, the nobles of the Galactic Federation are a class system to efficiently manage a large area. Nobles belong to the top ranking group of citizens and will be given more preferential treatment. You can own territory in the Galactic Federation and will have priority when trading, investments and economic activities etc.

Only nobles can build a sector into a city.

However, this privilege comes with responsibilities. Nobles need to

submit to the Emperor's commands and serve the Galactic Federation.

+Your rise in social status means that you have acquired the right to enter areas 1~2.

+ Your status rise means a 15% discount is applied to all dealings.

+ Your status rise gives you the right to own real estate in the city.

+ Your status rise means you can use the luxury Star Gate at a discounted rate.

+ You have gained an additional 5,000 Fame. 8,000 Galactic Federation contribution has been acquired.

The compensation given to Ark was a noble's title! In the beginning, he was a prisoner and shovelling snow on the -50 degrees Beltana and now he gained the status of a noble.

A rapid rise! He could now gain benefits from that rise.

His access to areas 3~4 increased to areas 1~2. It meant he could come and go from a wider area without any restrictions.

In fact, he hadn't felt the effect of this yet. But that feeling changed when he went to the library. When browsing the materials, there were tons of places he couldn't access on other planets. It was common sense for users in Galaxian to use their privilege to monopolize specific hunting grounds.

The right to the luxury Star meant he could gain access to a wider area. It was possible to gain an extra 10% discount for all commercial transactions. Well his sector was still far from growing into a city....

“This is a small gift from the Emperor of the Galactic Federation.”

A guard approached with a small box. The box opened and 5 jewels caught

the eye.

-Diamond

A gemstone with the value of 1,000 gold.

Diamonds could be changed for 1,000 gold at the shop at any time! There was 5 of them. 5,000 gold. It was 5 times the compensation received for the <Rescue the Pursuers> quest. However, <Dark Omen> was a dozen times more difficult than the previous quest so it was natural.

He received a 3,000 gold deposit but he had already used that on the Silver Star. And there were repairs scheduled for the damage dealt by the carrier. But was that all? Slayer, Leon, Melina, Kaya, Sadain and Park were mercenaries. If he subtracted that then there was nothing remaining. But it wasn't necessary to worry.

In addition, the diamonds weren't the only compensation. A golden memory card was near the diamond! Ark inserted the memory card into his Nymph and the information window popped up.

-The Emperor of the Galactic Federation has granted you a territory!

Planet Name: Ikyullos Planet Rating: Lv. 3

Territory Range: The entire planet of Ikyullos.

Territory Administrator: Ark (The Agent: Dark Eden)

* You have been registered as the permanent lord of the planet Ikyullos and have the power over all judicial matters as an agent of the Galactic Federation. In addition, all resources on the planet will be given to the lord. The type of planet that will develop depends on the judgement of the lord. However, a certain amount of the income obtained from the territory

will be paid to the Galactic Federation as tax. In return, the territory will be protected from all threats.

The final reward was the right to a planet.

‘The pledge received from Marquis Martin....’

Before coming to the castle, he thought he would receive a sector like S-20. Yet he ended up receiving one whole planet. Furthermore, the planet had a rating of lv.3!

The rating of a planet was decided by the amount of resources, not the size. A lv.3 rating meant that a huge amount of resources were buried underground! He had secured a tremendous profit.

‘Now, how do you like that?’

Ark gloated as he glanced at Hawk. Ark remembered when he first went to Hawk’s hive, Turan. Hawk who declared Ark as an enemy already had such power. But now things had changed.

Ark was the lord of a planet! There was a long way to go but he was steadily extending his power.

‘Won’t I be busy for a while?’

Of course, he would welcome reasons like this at any time. The person with the highest achievements after Hawk was Ark. He was the leader of a successful mission and played a large role in the final battle.

The reward given to Hawk was 5 diamonds and the development rights for an asteroid. Of course, the asteroid was small in comparison to the planet Ikyullos that Ark received. Mario and Neidu gained 3 diamonds each an exclusive trading rights for several mines.

“Ark.”

At the end of the happy reward time. After exiting the castle, Marquis Martin approached with the nobles of the military faction.

“No, I should call you Sir Ark now. You are a noble of the Galactic Federation after all.”

“It is all thanks to Marquis-nim.”

“I’m also thankful to you.”

Marquis Martin laughed and answered.

“Yes, what type of planet did you receive?”

“Ikyullos.”

“Ikyullos?”

“Have you ever seen it?”

“No but I’ve heard of the name. It was relatively recent. Well, it doesn’t matter. Then are you planning to connect a Star Gate between Ikyullos and S-20?”

“Yes please.”

Ark smiled and replied. When Ark was presented with the <Dark Omen> quest, Marquis Martin promised him compensation + α for the antimatter. He hadn’t thought of the compensation when returning to Istana. But Marquis Martin popped into his head when he discovered he would be receiving a territory.

The rights to link S-20 and the new territory! That was the most important thing if he wanted to earnestly develop the territory. It was natural for the development of the territory to accelerate if he tied it together with S-20!

He could develop S-20 at the same time. The problem was the funds needed for the construction of the Star Gate. Building a viable Star Gate for interstellar travel required a huge amount of funds.

But Marquis Martin agreed without hesitation.

“The Galactic Federation is currently considering a plan to expand the Star Gates between planets to help with space pioneering. A territory belonging to a noble wasn’t part of the original plan but considering the resources of the planet, I can fit it into the budget. It won’t be possible for Marquis Jyubel to object.”

It wasn’t money coming from his pockets!

“But if you use that method then it will take a little time.”

It didn’t matter. Ark had no intention of thinking about Ikyullos right away. His mind was in a hurry but he lacked the funds to develop a planet so he put it on hold. And there could be an accident if he rushed things. Anyway, it completely belonged to him so Ark had plenty of leeway to develop the planet.

“You have grown a little bit.”

Marquis Martin nodded after hearing Ark’s explanation.

“So just comfortably proceed with your work. The Star Gate will proceed so don’t worry. And there will be a meeting involving the nobles of the military faction in the near future. You will learn that it isn’t bad to become a noble of the military faction. No, it will be necessary to manage your territories. I’ll contact you with the date so please attend if possible. And.....”

Marquis Martin laughed and shook his head.

“There is more I want to say but it isn’t urgent so I’ll postpone it until next time. I don’t want to be criticized by a beautiful officer. Let’s meet later.”

Marquis Martin left with the other nobles.

“Ark-nim.”

And the beautiful officer approached.

“I heard that you became a Viscount.”

The person with a happy expression was Irina. Ark scratched his head with an embarrassed expression.

“Yes, it just happened by chance. By the way, what did Irina-nim receive?”

“I’ve been promoted to captain. A double promotion!”

“Ah! Yes....”

Ark inwardly sighed as he heard about Irina’s rank. He didn’t hate that Irina was promoted.

This was sudden but Ark didn’t like warp movement. Warp movement was crossing thousands of light years but in the meantime there was nothing to do. 1~2 hours was okay but the time it took to reach the frontier from Istana was 20 hours! The only thing he could do was sleep or spend time in reality so warp movement wasn’t his favourite thing. But the 20 hours when he returned from this mission was different.

Irina rode in the Silver Star. So he started thinking.

‘If Irina was with me in the future....’

20 hours! 30 hours!

He would happily go anywhere in the galaxy. Furthermore, Irina had quite a high level. She wouldn’t just be Ark’s girlfriend but also add to Dark Eden’s power. Ark had intended to seriously scout Irina.

But that wasn’t possible now that she received a double promotion. A good boyfriend wouldn’t make a scouting offer in such a situation. Irina didn’t know Ark’s heart and just spoke happily.

“It’s all thanks to Ark-nim.”

“Hey, no it’s not. There was Hawk as well. Maybe 10%?”

“Anyway, I’ve received my long awaited promotion so I can treat you. How

about this Sunday?”

“I’ll be free.”

“I have a meeting so I’ll leave first.”

“Oh, at Central Headquarters? I’m also going there.”

Ark quickly left with Irina.

If they were to be separated then he wanted to spend as much time with her as possible. Well they decided to meet this Sunday. Yet they were separating so every minute and second was valuable. And he crossed Tatuine as slowly as possible towards Central Headquarters. After saying goodbye to her, he headed towards the Silver Star.

“Oh! Ark!”

“You came! Hey, how did it go?”

“So? What did you get from the Emperor?”

Slayer and Kaya swarmed Ark and bombarded him with questions. They were very interested in the compensation Ark had received. Ark ignored Slayer and sat in the captain’s seat.

“We’ll talk about it later. Tori, the engine’s status?”

“Anytime! We can go anywhere! Just give the command!”

“Okay. The destination is S-20. Set sail!”

“Silver Star start!”

Ku ku ku ku! Hwaaaaack!

The Silver Star flew away with a flash.

“.....Ark!”

The Silver Star flying in the blue sky.

Someone was watching the scene from Central Headquarters. Wearing black armour and a black cloak, it was Hawk.

Hawk watched the Silver Star with hostility.

–Hey Hawk!

A voice rang out from the Nymphe. Hawk narrowed his eyes and began to talk.

“Carly? How are you?”

–I heard you’re visiting the Galactic Federation. And that you came to Tatuine. I have something to discuss so I got in contact with you.

“What do you want to say?”

–Some time ago, I stumbled upon a crest with the 5 elements on it. I heard you were looking for relics of the Oritious. Perhaps this is what you’re looking for?

“It won’t be for free. Didn’t you contact me because you wanted something?”

–Huhuhu, you are indeed Hawk. You understand me real intentions. How about it? Do you want to trade?

“I will decide once I hear the condition.”

–Okay. But it is difficult to meet here. Safety can’t be guaranteed. Understood? So I’ll give you coordinates. I’ll see you there tomorrow.

Then the communication was cut off.

“5 elements....”

Hawk muttered before speaking to Harley.

“Harley, pick a subordinate to keep an eye on Ark’s movements. And.....”

Hawk stopped and thought. After a while, a corner of his mouth raised and he continued.

“Look for Valencia.”

Ark's Worry

Syu syu syu syu!

S-20 located in Fargo Volcano.

A spaceship landed at the airfield behind the management office. It was a silver spaceship with a streamlined body and an upper eclipse part attached like the 2nd floor of a bus. It was the Silver Star that had been upgraded to the 4th grade battleship.

“Eh? Hyung-nim!”

A familiar voice was heard as soon as he got off the Silver Star. The person looking at Ark with wide eyes was Asuran. An unfamiliar spaceship had landed so he came out to receive the parking fees, only to become confused once Ark got off it.

“What happened? The original spaceship?”

“This is the Silver Star.”

“Huh? This is the Silver Star? But.....”

“It just happened by chance. Well, just think of it as being remodelled.”

“Well, if you say so...although the previous shape...”

Asuran clicked his tongue with a regretful expression.

In fact, Ark agreed with him. Originally the Silver Star was a smooth and sleek looking spaceship. But after fusing with the Rama spaceship, the attached upper part gave it a dull appearance.

But the performance had definitely gone up. It looked dull but the speed and turning ability was faster. The machine guns had increased from 2 to 4 and the ability of the main gun, shield and armour had increased. However, the biggest outcome of this upgrade was information rather than the

performance.

Other spaceships needed to be brought to professional remodelling companies for upgrading. Of course, Ark also knew that. But this time he discovered a new method of growing his ship. It was absorbing an abandoned ship with Shape Decomposition Fusion!

Of course, the materials of the abandoned spaceship needed to match with the Silver Star. The abandoned spaceships could be considered free money. There was also the disadvantage that it couldn't be converted to his tastes like it could at the professional companies.

But he could save a significant amount of money by not needing to leave it to the professionals. Space Decomposition Fusion was a jackpot that could save him a huge amount of money!

'There is no reason to dwell on the outward form.'

Then Asuran suddenly remembered something and spoke.

"I need to tell Ralph."

"Have they cleared the dungeon yet?"

"Yes, they are still digging on the bottom floor. There are more collapsed areas compared to the upper and middle floors. Moreover, the Thanatos on this floor is more stronger than the ones on the upper floor. They look so terrible that I feel sorry for them. Your arrival will encourage them. If they hear that Hyung-nim is here then they'll come running barefoot."

It was to be expected.

Once again, Ark had rallied the members of the Royal Guards to clear out the dungeon in S-20. However, Ark took most of them with him when participating in the investigation team and the Charenjok was left in charge of the food factory.

Therefore the only personnel remaining in the dungeon was Ralph, Beleol,

Reben and Koned. The bottom floor was so wide that no users had finished exploring it before the dungeon collapsed. It was unreasonable to expect 4 people with shovels to clear it all.

“Of course I should see them.....”

Ark thought for a moment before nodding.

“Please call Hamad and your subordinates for the moment.”

“Hamad and my subordinates? I understand.”

Asuran was confused but didn't question him as he ran into the management office. And he soon returned with Hamad and his subordinates.

“Ark, you've returned!”

“Have you been well in the meantime?”

“I've just been sitting here counting money. What about you? Fortunately you seem to have returned healthy. Did your work go well?”

“Yes, I just came back after finishing it.”

“Then why didn't you come into the management office? I will report back to you.”

“There is something I'd like you to take care of before that.”

“Take care of?”

Hamad tilted his head and asked.

Ark set down a backpack overflowing with a huge amount of money. It wasn't just Ark. Slayer, Leon, Melina, Rapid, Kaya's group, Berad and the other members who participated in the investigation team also had full backpacks.

Swords, guns, RPGs, armour and various types of ammunition. Items poured out and formed a mountain of items on the ground! Hamad's mouth gaped open at the sight.

“W-what’s all this?”

“We picked it up.”

“P-picked it up? Does that make sense?”

Hamad asked like it was nonsense. But it was true. Ark and his team had really picked up the items from the armoury. The original owners had died when the carrier exploded. Something ownerless was being picked up.

That wasn’t the only thing Ark collected on this trip.

“There is more in the Silver Star’s warehouse.”

“M-More?”

“Yes, it is mainly mechanical parts in the warehouse.....”

The Silver Star’s warehouse was filled with so many mechanical parts that there was no room. He had obtained those mechanical parts from E-2036. After getting rid of the Kraken, Ark and his team disassembled mechanical parts from the abandoned spaceships while Tori was repairing the Silver Star.

That amount was 150 tons! However the room in the Silver Star’s warehouse had ran out. There was still wreckage remaining on E-2036 that he couldn’t pack. He also couldn’t finish searching all of the underground space.

‘There was no time then so I withdrew but....’

He would visit it again as soon as he had time. But now he still had things to put in order.

“Hamad-nim, please examine the metal parts in the Silver Star and give me a quote of the market price. Asuran, classify the type of items and machine parts with Hamad then transfer them to the management office’s warehouse.”

“Huh? Ah, yes! Let’s go!”

“I’ll be in the management office.”

“Huh? Ah, yes. I understand.”

Hamad nodded with a puzzled expression. Ark gave instructions to Tori, Milan and Hegel to inspect and repair the Silver Star and headed to the management office after parting from his team members. The time that he participated in the investigation team was 24 days!

However Ark had no time to take a break.

“Hyung-nim?”

People were running back and forth in the square. One man approached another sitting down at a fountain. The men examined each other before smiling.

“Myung-ryong.”

“When did you come in?”

“Just now. I deliberately timed it to coincide with you.”

“You did well. By the way, what name did you decide on?”

“Justiceman!”

The man folded his muscular arms and replied.

“Whether it is the future or middle ages, justice is a law necessary in the world! You?”

“I am Isyuram just like before. There is no reason to use a different name.”

Isyuram and Justiceman were Lee Myung-ryong and Gwon Hwa-rang. On the advice of Ark, Lee Myung-ryong and Gwon Hwa-rang decided to cooperate play the game in order to watch over the Lucifer Hunting team.

The two men were different from Ark and didn't have a lot of game experience. They played New World for several years but that had a medieval backdrop while Galaxian was science fiction. The universe outside the

window was strange and unfamiliar.

“Hyung-nim, did you see this? Everything is automatic! High-tech, high-tech!”

Lee Myung-ryong, no Isyuram spoke while fiddling with his Nymphe. Various information windows floated in front of him and the backpack opened and closed.

“This child. Is this the first time you’re playing? It might be high-tech but it is just like New World. They are all similar. But there is one thing that is different. Wearing this at my age. I am as good as naked. I’m really embarrassed.....”

“Ah, is that why you’ve been sitting down?”

“Aren’t you embarrassed?”

“Not at all! What do I have to be embarrassed about? My body isn’t something to be embarrassed about. A sleek waist, thick muscles and wide shoulders. Isn’t my muscular body in the top 1%? It is a completely different dimension from Hyung-nim.”

Isyuram moved around carelessly. Justiceman spoke in a testy voice after seeing Isyuram’s extreme ‘man power’ actions.

“Sit your muscular body down.”

And Justiceman turned away like he didn’t care.

“If you’re so proud then just dance here. I don’t have time to be embarrassed. I’m going to go to the hunting ground and pick up some clothes.”

“Eh? Let’s go together!”

“Why, didn’t you say showing off your body doesn’t matter?”

“But how much more wonderful would it look wearing clothes? This body

was originally built for fighting. In fact, can't you say that it is a battle optimized for combat? Huhuhu! In New World I unexpectedly became a merchant but now I can show my performance as a warrior! I will be a warrior from the beginning. I started several months after the team but I will quickly catch up! Ah, where are you going?"

"You should've known before you came."

Justiceman visited the centre of R-14 without any hesitation.

"These days, the space bugs are multiplying and making it difficult....."

"Leave it to me! Taking care of the space bugs won't be a problem!"

-<Space Bug Processing (Repeatable) quest has been received.

And they rushed off after receiving the space bug hunting quest!

"Wuhahaha! Come out monsters! This body will sweep you all up!"

They enthusiastically dived into the area containing the space bugs. And.....

"W-what is this?"

Two mouths gaped open. The space farm was swarming with people! And electric boards were floating above their heads!

-Looking for a party spot. Level 1.

-Unemployed person looking for a place. Level 2.

-Save me. My wife and children are starving. Level 1....

"W-what is this?"

"There are so many people! I thought there was a problem because there are too many space bugs!"

But they couldn't even see any space bugs? The only thing visible were parties waiting for space bugs to resurrect.

“Hey, you there. Can you move back?”

“You can’t cut in. I’ve been waiting for 30 minutes.”

“It is the order of first arrival so move to the back.”

Justiceman and Isyuram had no choice but to join those looking for a party.

“Damn, what is this? Service has started for a few months so why are there still so many people?”

In fact, this was natural.

When Ark started, he had waiting 1 hour before joining a party. But this was quite frustrating to the inexperienced Justiceman and Isyuram. Furthermore, they didn’t log into the game as a hobby like other users. They need to keep an eye on the Lucifer Hunting team for the safety of the country.

In order to do this, they had to quickly catch up to the team’s level. But they never expected to hit a deadlock at level 1. Just as they were sighing heavily.

–It is difficult.

An alien navigated through the players and approached them.

–It is often like this. There are many people like you. Although you are full of will, there are no space bugs to catch. Yes, it is painful. But I might be able to help you....are you willing to listen?

The octopus speaking was from the Charenjok. It was Burum who was the manager of the paid hunting ground on R-14.

“Phew....”

There was a smile on Ark’s face.

Right now he was in his office that had a balcony overlooking S-20. He noticed it when landing the Silver Star but S-20 had really changed when looking down at it from the balcony.

Ark had been away for 24 days. In the meantime, S-20 had really experienced an amazing change. The basic form was significantly different.

A high-rise management office was situated at the entrance to the sector, the food production factory was located at the artificial lake while Hamad's trailer truck was converted to a department store. When taking the central road that the department store was connected to, the Fairy, shopping district and the Mt. Fargo dungeon could be found.

This was the entire view of S-20. The place that had undergone the most changes while Ark was away was the shopping area. In the past, there were 15 large and small stores but now that had doubled. The type of items were diversified and there were specialty stores with medicines, special equipment or repairs.

There was no need to explain why the stores increased so much. It was due to supply and demand. The stores increased due to the growing population. The number of people had risen in the past 24 days.

Sector Management Information Window

Sector Code: S-20 Sector Rating: Lv. 2

Sector Range: 2 kilometres around the entrance of Mt. Fargo.

Sector Manager: Ark (The Agent: Dark Eden)

Number of Stores: 27 (7: Duty-free shops, 20: 5% tax of the income)

Population: 5,790

Now the population of S-20 had increased to 6,000. And the rise in population led to a rise in income! This then corresponded to a rise in taxes for the various stores. In addition, there was the income from the food

produced by the Charenjok!

-<Dark Eden's Finances>

The total funding for the current Agent: 7, 640 gold.

Regular income: Regular Income: Food production factory- daily average is 28 gold and 80 silver (net income of 8 gold 64 silver)

Regular income: Sector, taxes, and charges, Department store-1 average income approximately 620 gold (net income of about 150 gold)

* Regular expenditure: Energy Shield Fence – 5 gold per day. Employee Salary- Formulated

Occasional Expenditure: Silver Star maintenance, various supplies given to employees.

Businesses currently being promoted: Current Projects: Mt. Fargo restoration work- expenses haven't been settled yet.

Average monthly profit and loss.....

When he checked, the regular income had also doubled. The repairs and mounting the anchor on the Silver Star while on E-2036 cost 1,000 gold and extra supplies cost another 1,000 gold for a total of 2,000 gold spent. Since Ark had 50% of the shares, he only earned 1,000 gold!

It grew faster than Ark expected. But that meant a lot of work. Ark admired S-20 for another moment before turning around and asking.

“Is there anything else?”

“It isn't an urgent problem. There are plenty of people but sometimes they do strange things.”

Bain who was entrusted with managing the sector shrugged and replied.

“Strange?”

“It’s not a big deal. A bunch of guys gathered together at the top of Mt. Fargo with fires lit while chanting something....however, they never harmed anyone. They are just doing something strange.”

Odd people like that gathered when there was a lot of people. And if they didn’t cause problems then it didn’t have anything to do with him. No, meeting various users and NPCs was one of the charms of a sector.

“There are more urgent people.”

“People?”

“Yes, until now the sector had few facilities and a low population. With the facilities and population increasing, there is more to take care of. Asuran and his subordinates have been taking care of urgent problems but they are formal employees so their actions are limited. Furthermore, all employees were mobilized to clear the dungeon so the list of complaints hasn’t been touched.”

Bain sighed as he pointed to a pile of paperwork. Once again, managing a sector wasn’t that easy.

Operating and inspecting facilities needed to go through him. And one of the forms was for NPC complaints. If there was an urgent problem then the users needed to take care of it themselves. But they couldn’t handle NPCs personally. These issues were commissioned as quests for users to settle. And the administrator of the sector needed to approve such commissions.

But complaints were different from quests. A user could reject a quest but the manager couldn’t reject complaints from a sector resident. And any delay in the solution would cause the residents’ loyalty to fall and they would leave the sector. Resolving complaints was one of the major tasks of a sector manager.

Until now it hadn’t been a problem. Most of the population were users so they couldn’t make complaints. However, the increasing population meant more NPCs. Currently S-20 had a 40% ratio of NPCs.

Then the complaints started to pile up.

-<I Hate Rats!>

A complaint from a merchant managing a medicine store.

The number of rats has gone out of control and he suffered large damage over a few days. Rat poison was scattered but the rats just became larger! The merchant has requested extermination from the sector administrator. If the rats aren't killed then they will spread diseases. It is recommended to quickly take care of it for the hygiene of the sector.

Difficulty Level: ★ Reward: 3 gold

-<Oh my god! Where is my luggage?>

The plea of a merchant who carried baggage to the sector.

While travelling through a swamp, the truck was attacked by monsters. He came back later but the only thing remaining were traces of a monster pulling a truck. But the merchant doesn't have the money to hire mercenaries. The merchant has commissioned the administrator to collect the truck and baggage. Securing a safe trade route is necessary for a sector. Take care of it quickly before bad rumours spread.

Difficulty Level: ★ ★ ★ Reward: 5% of the baggage found.....

The complaints were general things like this. The quests were low paying and could be rejected. However, it wasn't good for the sector if the administrator ignored it.

Ark had taken most of the employees while the remaining ones were dealing with the dungeon so there wasn't anyone to handle complaints. Asuran had a lot of employees but they weren't employees so they couldn't handle the complaints.

Bain asked nervously as he noticed Ark's expression.

“So should we formally recruit Asuran's subordinates?”

“I'm considering that.”

Ark couldn't leave them alone forever. There were a few reasons why Asuran's subordinates hadn't formally become employees.

The first was level as Asuran was level 75. He hadn't confirmed it yet but his subordinates probably had a lower level than Asuran. The Royal Guards were NPCs who had already reached level 80~90 so he was reluctant to employ people less than level 70.

‘Comparing them to the Royal Guards is somewhat....’

The second crucial reason was money.

It was okay with users like Kurakan and Rapid. However, NPC employees needed to be given a regular pay. Ark was already paying a salary to the Royal Guards, Hamad, Asuran, Tori, Jay, Bain, Ellain and Milan. He hadn't seen a reason to recruit more employees and increase his expenses.

‘But I need people now. It hadn't been urgent when Asuran's subordinates arrived the first time but now things have changed. As the sector grows, there will be plenty of complaints. And complaints also give rewards. It isn't a large amount of money but it can contribute to the staff salaries.’

Now was the suitable time to hire people. This was one of the reasons why most Agents steadily increased their employees. The president of an Agent had dozens of employees. When managing an Agent like that, it wasn't possible to endure the monthly salary. It was normal to accept requests and have the employees move separately to gain income.

- Quest commission → consider the degree of difficulty and allocate the suitable employee → success → income → repeat and thrive!
- Quest commission → consider the degree of difficulty and allocate the

suitable employee → failure → deficit → repeat and close!

These were the two common operating mode of an Agent. Complaints was common quests for Agents managing a sector.

The president needed to be capable of distributing these tasks. He needed to have the ability to leave work for the employees who would complete the quests. The president of an Agent could gain money like this. Of course, if the employee failed, died and was restored by the Fairy then the president would suffer a deficit.

‘Anyway, if I employ Asuran’s men then the complaints will be completed and there won’t be a deficit. I gathered enough Adventure Points so raising the level of the Agent shouldn’t be a problem.’

Ark thought for a moment before nodding.

“I understand. I will soon take measures to solve these problems.”

“Thank you. Asuran is a kind man. He was inwardly worried that his subordinates wouldn’t be formally employed. It would be good if they could solve the complaints.”

Bain said with a happy expression.

“Then the problem of a manpower shortage has been resolved for the moment. The next problem is sector expansion. As you can see, S-20 has a population close to 6,000 people. If we build a few more facilities then it is possible to raise the sector rating and be promoted to a Town. And Galactic Federation offices can be attracted to a Town. Shouldn’t we gather a large amount of money in order to promote the sector to a Town?”

“No, that....”

Ark opened his mouth. Then Hamad came in and shouted with an excited expression.

“Ooh! Amazing! Amazing! Ark, I finished the market price confirmation of

the items and mechanical parts you brought. Do you know how much it is? 3,000 gold, yes 3,000 gold! If you sell it at retail price in a department store then you can get 2,500 gold at once!”

“The president brought back items and machine parts? What does that mean?”

“Didn’t you hear?”

Hamad laughed and explained, causing Bain’s mouth to drop open.

“You brought back that much loot from your trip? Oh, doesn’t that mean we don’t have to do any more waiting? The funds can be used to promote the sector to a Town....”

“There is something more urgent than a sector promotion right now.”

Ark said as he interrupted Bain. Hamad and Bain sent him a doubting look.

“What do you mean? Something urgent? Is there a problem?”

“It isn’t a problem but....”

Ark scratched his head and smiled before talking.

“In fact, I received a planet from the Emperor of the Galactic Federation.”

“.....Eh?”

“A planet, planet. It was something I received for accomplishing a large service for the Galactic Federation. The Emperor rewarded me with the title of a Viscount and the small planet Ikyullos.”

“V-Viscount? Oh my god, you became a noble?”

“Planet? A planet!”

Hamad and Bain ran around madly.

NPCs were more sensitive to status changes than users. It was natural since NPCs considered it reality and those with a low status couldn’t be promoted

even if they had 1 million gold. If they completed the same quest, they would receive less compensation. This was the reason why status was important to users.

On the other hand, if their status rose then other people's impression of them would change. It was the same for Hamad and Bain. Once they heard that Ark was a noble, the light of respect flashed in their eyes.

“It is wonderful!” It's really amazing! I knew President-nim would succeed!”

“Yes, now I have to talk in honorifics.”

“Of course, nobles are different from general citizens like us.”

“Hey! Sir Ark, so amazing!”

And they praised him while using honorifics. It was a situation where he once again realized the power of the aristocracy. Ark laughed as he felt good and said.

“You can talk to me comfortably like before. Anyway, that work is more urgent than a sector promotion. I have received a planet as a territory. The reward is beyond what I expected but there is no meaning in just having a planet. It needs to be developed properly. If it is developed properly then the profit will be incomparable to that of a sector. The problem is the necessary funds for the development. Marquis Martin promised to install a Star Gate that connects S-20 to Ikyullos but the funds for development is still required.”

“Yes, it will require an astronomical amount of money to develop a planet.”

“It definitely isn't the time to pay attention to a sector promotion.”

Ark couldn't be happy due to this.

He received a planet. It was a Lv. 3 planet with rich underground resources. If he developed it then Ark could secure an enormous profit that would give him more power to step forward in the galaxy. But he didn't have enough

money to proceed with developing the planet.

‘The quest reward was 5,000 gold. If I dispose of the loot then it would be 3,000 gold. Adding in the 7,500 sector assets then the total would be 15,500 gold. That definitely isn’t a small amount of money but....’

It was a colossal amount. But this time Ark needed to share the profit.

He promised Slayer, Kaya and the other mercenaries who participated 5% of the reward. 6 people was 30%. That was a loss of 1,500 gold. And 30~40% of the proceeds from the loot also needed to be shared with Slayer and the others. In the end, he would need to share 2,500 gold with Slayer and the others. And even if it was an investment, he couldn’t pour out all the funds for the sector.

Considering the present funds, he had 10,000 gold to pour into developing the planet. It was lacking since tens of thousands of gold was necessary for a planet development.

‘Well, if I collect it from the steadily growing sector....’

Ark’s mind thought furiously. Ark wasn’t the only one who received compensation in this quest.

It was only a small asteroid but Hawk could extract resources from it. Hawk already had several colonies where he extracted the resources and turned into Hives so he was ahead of Ark. It wasn’t easy to catch up with Hawk even if he developed the planet immediately. If he waited to gather the funds required then that difference would only grow.

‘I received a Galactic Federation planet but this was a special case. I need to plunge into the frontier if I want to continue to grow. It is the same with the Red Slaughterer. Another conflict with Hawk is inevitable. If I’m not prepared then I will be eaten by Hawk before I can take care of the Red Slaughterer.’

It was the reason why Ark’s heart was in a hurry.

“I understand. But the reality is that there is no way to obtain so much money.”

“What if you sell the investment shares?”

Ark looked up at Hamad’s question.

Ark had also thought about this on the way back to S-20. He had participated in the war in the Bellin Constellation and obtained 5% investment shares on Beltana. And he invested in Charem and received 3% shares. So far he hadn’t invested any extra money into those shares.

Therefore he could take this opportunity to sell them and convert them to cash.

“Is it okay? Isn’t that something you earned after experiencing a lot of difficulties?”

“Besides, right now Charem and Beltana had abundant resources. The war in the Bellin Constellation is over and real development will start so the investors start obtaining profit.”

Hamad and Bain expressed their concerns but Ark had already decided.

“It is valuable but I can do it. Right now it is the only way to obtain a large sum of money. And once development of the planet begins, there is no room to invest anywhere else. News that the Bellin Constellation war ending has spread so right now is the perfect time to sell the shares.”

“Yes but....”

“Won’t it still be insufficient to cover the planet development funds?”

He wasn’t selling the shares already invested but the right to invest. It was hard to obtain the right but a large sum of money was still required afterwards. Thousands of gold would be obtained at most. It was unfortunate but it was too difficult to prepare the planet development funds. How would he obtain that much money?

“Is there another way?”

But Hamad and Bain couldn't think of any good ideas. Just as they were sighing heavily.

“I didn't start a business with my own money but this is different....”

Hamad scratched his head and muttered.

He didn't start a business with his own money. Ark had heard those words somewhere before. No matter how realistic it was, this was still a game. He couldn't borrow money from the bank. And it wasn't possible to borrow money from a user and no users had that type of money yet. Well, Hawk might have it but he definitely wouldn't lend it to Ark.

Ark kept on thinking about it.

‘Eh? Wait? Borrow money? Then.....’

Then an ‘!’ popped into Ark's head.

He found a way to prepare funds for planet development in a short amount of time.

“Investment fund?”

Rapid frowned and asked.

“You, do you know what you're talking about?”

“I know. In simpler words, I'll receive an investment. And if the business goes well, part of the proceeds will be returned to the investors. What's wrong with that?”

Ark was reminded of this funding method.

Once again, Hawk had tens of thousands more gold than Ark. Of course, he was somewhere else. Hawk was the only one who accumulated such wealth. But if users believed in Ark and lent him money then couldn't tens of

thousands of gold be raised?

Ark changed his idea after thinking that.

‘Dozens of gold? Is there a user who will lend me that much?’

Naturally people would easily lend money to strangers. But it was different when talking about Ark.

Ark was the administrator of a growing sector so a written guarantee was attached. So it was easier for him to borrow dozens of gold. If he gathered 100 users then it would be thousands of gold! If 1,000 users were gathered then it would be tens of thousands of gold! And the money to develop a planet would be gathered.

However, it wasn’t possible to visit the users one by one to ask them. South Korea had an approximate population of 60 million people. If he received 10 won from everyone then it would be 600 million won. There was no way to visit 60 million people personally to receive 10 won.

So Ark thought about it.

‘I need to make them come to me.’

That was the reason Ark considered the investment fund. He was the administrator of S-20. And he had just received a planet. Ark was working to recruit investors for planet development. Thousands of users were already gathered in S-20 so if he received gold from them then it would be tens of thousands of gold! And his planet development problem would be settled quickly.

“How about it? Isn’t it clever? Huh?”

“I don’t care about that.”

Rapid looked at Ark with amazed eyes and said.

“Really, your ignorance is appalling. You seem to have heard about it on the news or something but do you think an investment fund is that easy? An

investment fund isn't as simple as you think. Do you know how difficult and demanding managing money is? If there is even an 0.1% error then a loss of thousands of gold would occur. You need to determine the terms and conditions of investing in the business and calculate the performance growth. In addition, you will be receiving dozens of gold of another's money. Therefore transparency needs to be maintained....you, are you listening to me?"

"No."

"What?"

"I don't know any of that."

Ark shook his head. And he looked at Rapid warmly before laughing.

"The one who will establish the investment fund and manage it will be you, not me."

"....What did you say?"

"It is just like you said. I'm a guy who doesn't know about any of that. I admit it. I don't know anything. So I decided to entrust it to you. I saw it when I went to your house the other day."

"You saw it? What?"

"Didn't you graduate from K University with a major in business administration?"

That's why Ark was convinced it would work.

Rapid's words were true. Ark had no knowledge of anything related to investment funds. He thought of gathering investors but he had no idea of a system to manage it. And Ark couldn't relax since the investment fund was attached to S-20.

So he started thinking. Someone who would know about it! And there was someone right next to him. A degree in business administration from K

University!

Rapid was surprised by Ark's words.

“How did you know?”

“Didn't you display it in your living room? A graduation certificate for business administration from K University. Hey! If you graduated from K University then you should promote it. I never dreamed of even going to a school like K University. If one of my subordinates went to K University then I should make use of it. Right? So since you graduated from K University for business administration.....”

“Shut up!”

Rapid yelled angrily.

“Who cares if I graduated from K University for business administration? I'll tell you in advance but you have the wrong idea! No, I can't! Why should I deal with this?”

“So I'll speak clearly as well.”

Ark said with a serious expression.

“Have you forgotten? I'm the boss. Shouldn't you listen to me?”

“Ha! I'm so afraid. Do you think such a threat will work on me?”

“No, aren't you forgetting something?”

Ark said with a smile.

“The Red Slaughterer. No, don't you want to fight Lucifer? You rushed out as soon as you saw him. The easiest way for you to fight Lucifer is to stick with me. You saw it. Lucifer gave up the antimatter to chase me. Even if I hold still, Lucifer is still the one chasing me. Do you think you'll have a chance to meet Lucifer again in this wide galaxy if you're not near me? And you don't have a spaceship. Won't you be in trouble if I don't let you stay near me?”

“You bastard....”

Rapid glared at Ark with anger.

But Ark didn't even blink and just laughed.

“Now now, calm down. Are you going to let me do that? Especially with the relationship between you and Lucifer? It is impossible. Are you okay with me doing that? And how are you going to beat Lucifer? Have you succeeded yet?”

“.....”

“No? No. How many times has Lucifer stepped on you? In order to defeat him, we have no choice but to raise our power. And the fastest way to increase our power is to develop a planet. In the end, developing a planet is the means to stopping Lucifer. Aren't you the most qualified to do that?”

“.....”

“But I won't just ask it of you. I'm not an impolite president. Giving something in return is my business philosophy. So I prepared something. Voila! How about it? Do you see? Do you see? It is no joke. Your magic pistol can't even compare to this. It is a rare, rare. How about it? Do you want it? This is suitable for your specialty.”

Ark revealed a pistol while talking.

It was the '????' pistol that the boss on the carrier had dropped. Originally it was an unidentified item but Hegel had confirmed it during the warp journey!

-Devil Sealed Gun (Rare)

Item Type: Pistol Wearer Restriction: Level 100

Attack: 45~50 Durability: 120/120

Number of Ammunition: 15/15

A pistol with the traditional revolver form.

However, stories go that this pistol isn't ordinary. The cylinder of the revolver is twice as large as a normal pistol and it has ancient characters inscribed on it. Allegedly, a devil is sealed in it with the ancient text. It is unknown if this legend is true but there is no denying the pistol has a special performance. This is the answer if a powerful pistol is desired. However, don't use if you are scared of the devil's curse.

<Agility +14, Firing Speed +10%>

<Special Option (Curse Bullet): All bullets have a 3% chance of activating a curse after hitting the enemy. The curse will cause a drastic decline in various resistances and defence>

It was a rare pistol. And among his team members, the only one who used a pistol was Rapid the Saint Gunner.

The team had rules for dividing up weapons beyond the magic rating. Ark shook it back and forth but it was obvious that the Devil Sealed Gun would belong to Rapid. Rapid had been on the Silver Star so he also knew that. Nevertheless, Ark was shamelessly saying those words.

“Yes, I'll give it! Look at my generosity!”

But Rapid still stared at Ark silently. Then Ark sent him a suspicious glance and said.

“.....You, perhaps you have no confidence?”

“What?”

That was when Rapid reacted.

“That's right. I don't even know that you can do it. Designing an investment fund might not be your major. Then there might be another reason. Perhaps

you entered K University through a different door? You have plenty of money. Did you also graduate due to money?”

“What?”

“Maybe the reason you’ve been refusing....”

“I’ll prove it, you bastard!”

Rapid grabbed the pistol. Then he shouted angrily at Ark.

“Okay. I’ve been tricked. I will design the investment fund for you. But that’s all I will do. I’ll give you the basic structure and you have to take care of the rest. Do you understand? If you go back on your word then I’ll turn your head into a bee’s nest with my gun!”

“Huhuhu! I believe in you! My brother!” (Note: ‘My Brother’ is said in fobby english)

“Shut up, you bastard!”

There was a string of curses.

Anyway, with that the ‘Ikyullos Development Investment Fund’ plan began.

Ghost Planet

S-20 was developing strongly.

There was one secret hidden in S-20. More than 1,000 people went through the dungeon in Mt. Fargo daily to find Gallstones. In fact, another space secretly existed inside it. The Elim's Sanctuary. It was the secret hiding place for Ark who was the Elim's Heir.

–Ark!

Ark entered the hideaway. Then the light sphere shouted in an excited voice.

–Now I remember! All of a sudden! Yes, all of a sudden I could remember!

“Remember? What do you mean?”

–Name! My real name.

“Name?”

–Yes, my name is Tot! Tot! That is my name! No, why have I forgotten my name until now?

“T-Tot? Your name is Tot?”

Ark was astonished by the light sphere's words. At the same time, a memory from a few days ago popped into his head.

A memory of something he experienced in Muratio Star. The first people Ark met there was Basak and Tot. Tot was known as the spiritual mentor of the Murat. However he died during the fight against the rebellion leader Set. Yet the light sphere had suddenly announced that it was Tot.

Ark was puzzled but soon connected the circumstances together.

‘Right before leaving Muratio Star, didn't Kuhwen say that Tot's spirit would be moved to another container? Was that the light sphere?’

In the end, the ‘Baius Shield,’ ‘Kuhwen's Chestpiece’ and the light sphere

were all related to his adventure on Muratio Star.

A secret was revealed out of nowhere! But it was a good thing that the light sphere recovered his memory of Ark in the past. The light sphere, no Tot who was the Elim's spiritual mentor was located in the Elim's Sanctuary. He slept for hundreds of years but now he had regained his memories of Ark. Then wouldn't he have some memories that would be helpful to Ark?

“Do you remember anything else? An amazing technique technique that you know! Or a huge treasure that the Elim fleet hid somewhere! Something like that!”

–No, just the name?

“Eh?”

–I only remember your name. I can't remember anything else at all.

“What? Then why did you make so much fuss about remembering one name?”

–Everything? Everything! Isn't my name everything?

“No, it's not.”

Ark sighed and shook his head.

Tot was the Elim's spiritual mentor but he hadn't been that helpful when alive. Anyway, Ark had come to the sanctuary for a reason. It was to report and check something.

He needed to report the <Investigate the Negative Energy> quest to Tot. This quest basically had the same content has the <Dark Omen> quest. Negative energy had suddenly spread throughout the galaxy. So it was a quest to find the identity of antimatter.

But the identity of antimatter was the Mist Uranium created by the organization Tree of Life. Once he was told this, Tot immediately talked in an uncomfortable tone.

-Uhh, it is somewhat unclear.

“What is unclear? What do you mean?”

-Let's see, I don't know exactly what it means. But there is a part I'm not convinced about. I don't know what it is but it doesn't seem over yet. Of course, this is just a feeling but negative energy isn't a problem to be lightly overlooked. It is a significant matter that can put the whole galaxy in danger. It is better not to come to a conclusion too early. I'm a little worried so please find out as much as possible.

‘.....What is this?’

Ark's eyes narrowed.

<Dark Omen> was put in order. He thought he would finish the <Investigate the Negative Energy> quest the same way. Yet the quest hadn't ended.

‘There is still something remaining?’

The power behind the antimatter had been revealed. Now he had to investigate even more? It was hard to understand but this was the NPC who gave him the quest. He still hadn't fulfilled the requirements for the <Investigate the Negative Energy> to be completed.

‘But telling me to investigate more....’

All the Tree of Life members in the carrier had been destroyed. There were still remnants remaining but they would be hiding in the dark after this failure. It would be impossible to collect information about the terrorist organization like this.

‘I have no choice but to shelve this quest for the moment.’

Ark had large expectations for the <Investigate the Negative Energy> quest.

Of course, the wealth and power of the NPCs was different between Marquis Martin and Tot who was just a sphere of light. The light sphere was stuck in the Elim's Sanctuary. What rewards would a light sphere give? It would

probably just be good experience.

Beyond that he had no hope. But it was still a quest related to his profession. But there was a vagueness to the quest that made him uncomfortable so he decided not to waste time on it at the moment. There were more important things right now. Ark visited the sanctuary for another reason other than reporting the quest.

“Summon Golem!”

Ark thrust out his arm and shouted. Tot said with interest as he looked at the summoned Bao.

-Hoh, it is a lot bigger than before.

Once again, Bao became bigger every time it levelled up. 1 level made it grow 0.5~1 cm? Tot had last seen Bao at level 1. In the meantime, Ark had been steadily raising it and it reached level 18!

-Baius Golem

Type: Defence

Level: 18

Health: 289
56

Defence:

Attack: 28
Ability: Blast

Special

This was the current Bao! It had grown 15 cm in that time. The problem was something other than the size.

-What? Are you giving me a meal? Why does it matter to you if I'm big or not?

Bao declared sharply as soon as it was summoned.

-.....This guy, why is his nature like this?

“I am seriously worried about that as well.”

Putting aside the size, he wanted to find a way to fix Bao’s bad manners. But right now he didn’t call Bao to do such a thing.

-By the way, why did you call this guy?

“Now that all my work is put in order, I was thinking about earnestly looking for the Divine Artefacts.”

-That is a good idea. Negative energy research is important but it is also important to become a true Elim. I understand what you’re talking about. You want me to show you the galaxy map again?

“Yes, I didn’t save it properly last time.”

-I understand. Bring that golem in front of me.

-Hey you. Where are you bringing me?

Ark caught the struggling Bao and pushed it towards Tot. Then Tot shot a blue light towards Bao. The moment it touched Bao, the light refracted off the crystal body and formed a pattern on the wall. The light on the wall produced a galaxy map.

The planets with the 3 other Divine Artefacts were indicated on the map. This was the map he had seen last time. However, at that time he just checked the approximate location and didn’t record the exact coordinates.

“Galaxy map!”

Ark went up to the map with his Nymphe. After Bao showed a map of planets in the galaxy, it focused on a planet situated in the northern space frontier.

-The coordinates of the relevant planet has been stored in the Nymphe.

He searched for the locations of the planets and saved their coordinates. His

preparations ended there.

Ark then returned to S-20.

He had returned after 24 days but there wasn't a lot of work in the sector for him to do. He had left the sector management to Bain and the funds to Hamad. Ark had left the work to them and was quite satisfied when he returned.

The recruitment of good subordinates could ease the work for a president. But the president's judgement was still needed for important problems. Upgrading the facilities or expanding the sector was all required business management. However, Ark decided to maintain the current status quo.

The reason was that he needed to secure funds to develop the planet Ikyullos. Right now, developing the planet was Ark's top priority. After the Star Gate was created, he needed to tighten his belt to pour money into his planet.

No, he needed a huge amount of funds. The first method....

-A bid has come in.

<5% Investment Share in Beltana: Currently 2 bidders-
last bid is 600 gold>

<5% Investment Share in Athamas: Currently 3 bidders-
last bid is 720 gold>

<3% Investment Share in Charem: Currently 8 bidders-
last bid is 945 gold>

"Sheesh, is that it?"

Ark clicked his tongue as he checked his Nymphe. In Galaxian, it wasn't

necessary to connect with a computer to access the internet auction site. Ark had registered the investment shares with the auction site.

He decided to secure funds to develop his planet so he had no room to pay attention to anywhere else. In addition, he was also borrowing money. It was better to reduce the debt. But there wasn't as many bidders as he first thought.

The bidding prices were 30~40% lower than he estimated. Even the commerce city Charem didn't exceed 1,000 gold. It was the early stages so the users were more focused on raising their level than making investments.

But Ark wasn't disappointed. There was still some time to secure the desired price and he had other ways to acquire funding. That was the investment fund!

'This is how I can use Rapid!'

And the person making the preparations was Rapid. In fact, Ark thought the investment fund would be easy. He thought it was just borrowing money from players. But according to Rapid, it wasn't that simple. Coordinating investments, profit sharing, various costs and an agreement with the investors wasn't that easy.

However! It wasn't necessary for Ark to have that knowledge. Rapid had a degree in business from K University!

"His personality doesn't fit well with me but looking at his business processing ability, there is no user more reliable than Rapid. And there is no one who knows Rapid better than me."

Ark smiled and muttered.

From what Ark had experienced so far, Rapid was a perfectionist. His personality was something that had to be seen through once he started. Ark could believe in Rapid due to that reason. He made annoyed noises but Rapid had no taken over. After taking the reference data for the investment

fund, Rapid had logged out and hadn't connected yet.

Rapid had a bad headache. But from Ark's point of view, the work was proceeding steadily. The investment fund hasn't been established yet but he had already secured some investments.

Slayer and Kaya had invested.

"You're collecting investment funds for Ikyullos?"

"Yes, development will begin as soon as Marquis Martin builds the Star Gate connection. Right now Rapid is securing the funds. He graduated with a business degree from K University so the funding is guaranteed to be successful. Investors will probably gather like clouds once the funding account is established. When that time comes, it won't be possible to invest even if you want to. But I decided to give you a chance to invest before the fund is established. This is a huge privilege."

"Rapid is from K University?"

Kaya showed interest after hearing that part. Slayer, Leon, Melina, Sadain also showed an interest in the investment fund like Ark expected. Once the planet was developed, they would start to receive profit. There was no reason for them not to be interested.

"If this is suggested by Ark-nim...."

Melina handed over the dividends from this quest first.

"I would be anxious if it was you, but I can believe in Rapid!"

Then Slayer, Leon, Sadain, and Park handed over their money. He had already secured an investment of 2,500 gold. But that was just a small drop compared to the large sum needed to develop a planet.

'I can leave the rest to Rapid.'

But Ark wasn't just playing. The first thing he did after getting the S-20 information from Bain was level up his Agent!

-The Agent Dark Eden has risen to Lv. 3.

* The maximum number of employees that can belong to Dark Eden has risen to 45 people.

* New specialized skill 'Joint Business- II' has been acquired by Dark Eden.

The registration fee was 1,000 gold and 1,000 Adventure points. Apart from 1,000 Adventure points, he also had to pay the expense of 1,000 gold. However, the complaints were stacking up in S-20 so it was needed.

He didn't want there to be any problems when he left. It was necessary to raise the Agent level to recruit Asuran's subordinates to deal with the complaints.

Ark also invested 500 Adventure points to gain the skill Joint Business-II. The effect of Joint Business-I rose by one step. Ark's Agent had more NPCs so Joint Business was the skill with the best effect.

Anyway!

-Asuran's 23 subordinates have joined Dark Eden as interns!

Name: 23 Belkin Clan (NPC ☆) Profession: Wastrel, Thieves etc.

Level: 67-75 Related Skills: Face that causes fear, Taunt, Extortion etc.

23 people were hired!

"H-Hyung-nim, thank you!"

Asuran shed tears of joy.

“Listen carefully! Hyung-nim was kind enough to employ lowly people like you. Hyung-nim is an important person who just became a noble of the Galactic Federation. If your actions besmirch Hyung-nim’s honour then you will die by my hands. Never forget Hyung-nim’s grace! Work with sincerity!”

“We will keep that in mind!”

“We will work as one body!”

The crowd of 23 Belkin burst out. Unlike Asuran, the Belkins weren’t pioneers. Furthermore, their rating was only 1 star. It meant their stats were low and they were easy subordinates to acquire.

Anyway, he hadn’t hired them for important work. They were personnel employed to deal with small complaints in S-20. In fact, so far Ark had been blessed in regards to NPCs. Most Agents had NPCs rated 1~2 stars. And there was an advantage to hiring the Belkin for sector management, regardless of their star rating.

The Belkin were an alien species that looked as ugly as orcs in fantasy worlds. Just their faces alone could secure peace in the sector. The Belkin also had loyal personalities. Once they called someone their Hyung-nim, they absolutely wouldn’t betray him. They had good characters despite their personalities.

Once Asuran and the 23 Belkin members took charge of the complaints, the situation was quickly resolved.

-The complaint <I Hate Rats!> has been settled.

< 3 gold reward has been paid. The sector merchants’ trust has risen by 30>

-The complaint <Oh my god! Where is my luggage?> has been settled.

<20 gold reward has been paid. The merchants from the outlands' trust has risen by 40>

-The complaint <Noise Dispute> has been settled.

<No reward. The satisfaction of the sector's inhabitants has risen by 20>....

Various numerical values involved in the sector started to rise. A big effect couldn't be felt yet but it would steadily increase once there was an influx of NPCs. And it was natural for that to be connected to sector development.

Meanwhile, Jay was proceeding with another research. It was the 'Kraken's Cell' that Ark obtained on E-2036. And he had also obtained 10 'Squid Cells' from the squids he killed underground. He had handed them to Jay who cultivated the cells using the equipment worth 2,000 gold.

He made a Mix-up solution. The solution was made with the 'Kraken's Cell' that Ark had obtained from the monster.

-Mix-up has been successful!

The Kraken's DNA has been successfully combined.

New physical changes have occurred thanks to the DNA fusion.

<The Kraken's DNA has decrease intelligence by 10. Strength has increased by 15>

-One of your skills has evolved to an advanced level thanks to the Kraken's DNA.

Spacewalk (☆) → Spaceflight(☆ ☆ ☆)

-A new skill (Common Occupation ☆☆☆) has been learnt.

Spaceflight (Users, Passive): A technique acquired from the space monster Kraken's DNA. The Kraken is a giant space monster that hides in places like asteroids to attack defenceless spaceships flying past. The reason the Kraken can attack the spaceships is its excellent spaceflight ability. You have accepted the DNA of the Kraken and gained the ability to fly in space.

<Space flight capabilities in zero gravity has risen. The penalties on your body in outer space has decreased by 50%>

The Spacewalk skill had evolved into Spaceflight. He hadn't had the chance to use it yet but he could imagine just from the name.

Unfortunately, the effect of the Squid's cells didn't give him a skill. There was no decrease in stats but his Agility had risen by 5. It might be due to Ark absorbing a high ranking monster of the same affiliation but a large effect wasn't applied.

He packed Slayer and Kaya's investments. The remaining 4 were kept separate.

"Now...."

From Mt. Fargo to the airfield.

Ark had walked that distance while thinking. The Dark Eden employees were already gathered in front of the Silver Star. Bain, Hamad, Kurakan, Mellin and the Charenjok. And the newly joined Asuran and his 23 Belkin subordinates. The Royal Guards, Tori, Milan and Hegel were at the Silver

Star as well.

40 staff members were gathered. He had gathered them before going to the sanctuary to look for the Divine Artefacts. Among them were Berad, Ralph, Kalliben and Carly.

They spoke as Ark went up to them.

“Hyung-nim, we’ve all gathered together!”

“Wuhahaha! Now we can go out to the universe with Hyung-nim!”

“I was so envious of Berad who got to go with Hyung-nim. I’m proud to be able to go with Hyung-nim....”

“I don’t know how long I’ve been waiting for this chance.”

Ralph, Beleol, Reben and Koned had been digging the whole time so they were particularly excited. However, they were just kimchi soup.

“No, you guys won’t be going with me.”

“Huh? T-that is.....”

“Didn’t Hyung-nim tell us to arm ourselves and gather?”

“The area you’re going is called Vesta.”

“Vesta? Where is that?”

“A dense jungle approximate 120 km to the west of Sidellin.”

“W-why do we have to go to a place like that?”

“A request that can’t be refused has come in.”

Ark replied with a smile.

Other than Tori, Milan and Hegel to pilot the Silver Star, Ark was going to find the Divine Artefacts alone. The planet that he needed to travel to didn’t seem that dangerous. There was no reason to bring the Royal Guards to that place when there was still work to do in S-20. He had travelled with the team

members for 1 month so he was tired of group battles.

This time there was no need to worry so he would go alone. Even so, the reason he gathered the Royal Guards....

Just when Ark was about to arrive in S-20.

-A request mail has arrived.

-Ark, it's been a while.

I've been in the Outlands for a while before sending this mail.

I'm sorry that I couldn't respond to your request for help. And I'm ashamed but this time I have to request your help.

Not long ago, I found a dungeon in a region of the Outlands called Vesta. But there are too many monsters and it is beyond the power of the Silver Hand. We've penetrated through the entrance before retreating but we need reinforcements. I'm asking for your subordinates to come save me.

We are currently in the vicinity of Sidellin. We are planning to leave for the dungeon in 12 days. I'm asking if you can send 10 soldiers to Sidellin before those 12 days are over. This is a formal commission of your Agent Dark Eden.

I expect to see you soon.

Caller- Silver Hand mercenary leader Clem.

Once the fame of an Agent or its CEO rose, commissions could come in from other areas. But this request mail was slightly different. The caller was Clem. He was the leader of the Silver Hand who had been kind to Ark.

Before participating in the investigation team, Ark had wanted to fill the lacking troops by hiring the Silver Hand as mercenaries. But no reply came so he had urgently hired Slayer and Kaya's teams. Yet Clem now asked for a

request from him.

Of course, he could deny this request. However, the Silver Hand had helped Ark several times since the beginning. If he thought back, it was thanks to the Silver Hand that he was able to form the Royal Guards. Furthermore, this was a formal request with a reward so there was no reason for him to reject it. And the ones qualified for this commission were the Royal Guards!

“Silver Hand hyung-nims?”

“Well then we can’t refuse.”

“Yes, let’s go! We’ll show the hyung-nims how strong we’ve become!”

“Ohh, good. I understand Hyung-nim!”

The Royal Guards raised their heads with bright expressions and an ‘!’ above them. Entrusting NPCs with work was a sign that he had faith in them. It was necessary to do a satisfactory job when raising a business.

If an ‘!’ appeared then the success rate was 80~100%! The success rate with a ‘?’ was 60~80%, ‘;;’ was 40~60% and ‘OTL’ meant it was likely to fail.

Anyway!

“But who will restore the dungeon if we all go?”

“I’ve already considered that so don’t worry.”

Ark replied with a smile. And the employees boarded the Silver Star in order to be dropped off.

“Tori, depart!”

The Silver Star rose with his words.

“Here?”

Several hours after the Silver Star left. Three men exited the transport ship that stopped at S-20. They surveyed the crowd infested sector with pouted

lips.

“Sheesh that Ark bastard, he already has such a sector?”

The person speaking was Ferguson. And the two depressed people following him were A and B.

“But isn’t this quite bad?”

“We started Galaxian to avoid Ark yet we still ended up under his feet....”

“Do you think we ended up like this because we wanted to?”

Ferguson snapped after hearing A and B’s words.

“Our real identity was revealed to Ark on Muratio Star. What can we do after our actions in New World? We know best what type of guy that bastard is. If Ark makes up his mind to ruin us....”

“Sob, Hyung-nim I’m scared! Please stop! Don’t say anymore!”

A and B covered their ears and shuddered.

“Dammit, it is also miserable because we were deprived of our spaceship.”

Ferguson, A and B sighed with depressed expressions.

While Ark, Hawk and the others were inside the carrier, Ferguson’s ship had barely lasted 10 minutes before it was shot down. They were troubled by Ark on Muratio Star and now they had lost their spaceship and experience.

But the problem was after that. Ferguson, A and B had already lost a spaceship. Luckily, the insurance paid back 80% of the ship’s price and they could buy another one. However, the insurance company wouldn’t provide a payment every time the ship was smashed.

If a spaceship became destroyed again within 1 and a half months then only 40% would be returned. Furthermore, Ferguson, A and B were full of ambition in the investigation team but they couldn’t render any particular special services.

The only reward they got after returning to Tatuine was 1,000 gold. The circumstances of the one-time 18th ranked player fell so that Ferguson couldn't even afford a new spaceship right now.

“But there is still a chance!”

Ferguson forcefully shook his head and said.

“We might not have a spaceship but it is too early to give up. Didn't we hold out against Ark's tyranny in New World? And we didn't come here without thinking. Now that we've lost our fortune, we have no choice but to listen to Ark. And that guy has a vicious nature that will make us suffer in the future. But we need to endure it. We will definitely make Ark regret it one day Do you understand? We are entering a tiger's lair to catch a tiger. We should come here with such a resolution. So live without losing your courage!”

“H-Hyung-nim!”

“Kuok, my siblings!”

Ferguson, A and B embraced each other while shedding tears. After Ferguson calmed A and B, they headed towards the management office. Following Ark was like putting their necks in a guillotine.

“Hyung-nim is out of town.”

“O-out of town? He's not here now?”

“Yes, he said it would take approximately 2 days.”

“I-I'm glad.”

Ferguson sighed in relief after hearing Asuran's answer. Then the Belkin looked Ferguson, A and B up and down before asking.

“Are you the ones called Ferguson, A and B?”

“Yes, what about it?”

“Oh, you're here. I heard about you from Hyung-nim. Follow me.”

The Belkin smiled before bringing Ferguson, A and B somewhere. After a while, Ferguson's party arrived at the dungeon in Mt. Fargo.

'What? Is he telling us to hunt here?'

Ferguson looked around in confusion. The Belkin threw three shovels at them.

"Hyung-nim said it. If some people called Ferguson, A and B arrived then they should dig out the dungeon. As you can see, there is a landslide in here so some areas are still clogged with dirt. You should dig and clear out the dungeon."

"W-what? You want us to clear out this dungeon with a shovel?"

Ferguson, A and B looked at the shovels with astounded expressions. However there was something even more amazing.

"Of course there will be a salary. There is a sensing machine attached to this shovel that will count every action taken. 1 shovelling will count as 1 action. And 11 copper will be paid for each action."

1 shovelling will count as 1 action!

And 100 copper was 1 silver. 100 Silver was 1 gold. In the end, they needed to shovel 10,000 times to make 1 gold.

"Don't make me laugh! We do we have to do this....?"

Ferguson frowned as he listened and was about to throw the shovel. Then the Belkin who was leaving quickly turned around and said.

"Ah, Hyung-nim said to tell you this."

The Belkin bared his fangs and smiled.

"I know your address."

Ferguson, A and B became frozen. Then the sound of metal against stone started being heard.

“Dammit! That Ark bastard!”

“.....Ha ha.”

Yoo Han-pil smiled. Over the past few months, Yoo Han-pil had been depressed. He only had one son. Any father would be proud to see his smart and cheerful son graduated from a prestigious university. He was a son that no one would be ashamed of.

Then while playing a virtual reality game, his son became disabled and lost everything. But Yoo Han-pil didn't collapse. Yoo Han-pil was still proud of his son despite being handicapped.

This was why he agreed when his son wanted to play a virtual reality game again. But that soon changed to worry. His son started to spend even more time playing the virtual reality game. Thanks to that, Yoo Han-pil spent every day worrying but the situation changed yesterday.

His son didn't connect to the game and started to study. And the books his son was studying....

They all involved taxes and business!

A way to easily start a business.

The secret to operating an investment fund.

Gathering investors.....

The titles of the books could be seen through a crack in the door. Yoo Han-pil could sense his son's changing state of mind.

‘This guy, he had decided to put aside the game and is determined to inherit my business. I was stupid. I should've trusted him. He was too proud and stubborn to tell me that he was studying. He would also become embarrassed if I talk to him about it. Yes, for now I'll just pretend that I don't know. Haha, what a wonderful son.’

His son was sitting down at a desk and searching through various professional books. The form of his son studying to take over his company was heart-warming. But there was something Yoo Han-pil hadn't noticed. It was a small booklet wedged between the professional books.

Galaxian economy system manual.

Yoo Han-pil peeked at the sight with warm eyes before disappearing.

“Damn! Did my head become blank while I was in hospital? No, did I really learn such things? I don't know what any of this means! And where did this come from? Why is the game's economic system so complicated? That Ark bastard, I'm playing the game to play a game but now I have to worry about investment funds!”

Alan frowned and spat out curses. This was the reason why Alan was searching through professional books. Alan had clearly studied business administration at K University.

However, his specialty was management since that was the only knowledge needed to take over his father's company. He had no interest in the field of investment funds. Furthermore, he had lain unconscious in a hospital for 1 year. Yet now he was expected to design an investment fund?

So he had refused. Yet Ark had scratched at his ego. That's because it was Ark talking, not other people. He had no choice but to do it!

“Dammit! That Ark bastard!”

And even today, Alan stayed up all night studying.

While Ferguson was cursing in-game and Alan in reality....

Character Information Window			
Name	Ark (R-02788)	Level	149

Species	Human	Occupation	Elim's Heir
Fame	24,730	Adventure	1,990
Health	3,600 (+525)	Mental Power	775 (+390)
Mana	0	Force	1,825
Strength	365 (+70)	Agility	405 (+88)
Stamina	605 (+105)	Wisdom	40 (+23)
Intelligence	385 (+78)	Luck	45 (+18)
Leadership	10		

* Title

Cleaning Foreman (Agility + 3)

Ignorant Destroyer (Wisdom -10, Strength +7, Stamina +7)

Spatial Breakthrough (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +10)

Beltana's Hero (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +3)

Athamas' Hero (Strength, Agility, Stamina, Wisdom, Intelligence, Luck +5)

Mediator (Wisdom, Intelligence +15)

* Contribution: Galactic Federation 27,520, Aschulat 500

* Affiliation: Dark Eden (CEO)

*Body Coating: Survivor

+ Environmental adaptation increases by 50% due to the

Survivor coating.

- + The Survivor coating reduces the drop rate of Satiety by 30%.
- + The Survivor coating will reduce fall damage by 50%.
- +The 'Clairvoyance' effect of the Survivor coating is applied.

Ark relaxed as he watched the information window. He had reached level 149 after the battles on Muratio Star and the carrier. After leaving Muratio Star, he had been level 143 but gained 3 levels fighting in the carrier. Then he gained another 3 by distinguishing himself in the carrier.

The Spatial Breakthrough title also added +10 to all stats.

'Unfortunately, there is a problem....'

Ark only discovered it after getting the Spatial Breakthrough title but in Galaxian, the effects of only 5 titles applied. If he got a 6th title then he would need to select the effects of a title to be deleted.

Of course, the title didn't disappear. He could exchange the titles at any time. But it took too much effort to gain a title so the thought of losing one was depressing.

'This time the Cleaning Supervisor title that gave Agility +3 was deleted.'

A title that he had no lingering need for was removed.

'Shouldn't it be that time now?'

"Tori, the time remaining?"

"We're arriving in 10 seconds! 9, 8, 7....we're here!"

Tori who was grasping the joystick shouted. The particles of light outside the window changed to the darkness of space. After leaving S-20 and dropping off the Royal Guards at Sidellin, he had warped to his destination and finally

arrived. Needless to say, the destination was the planet where the 3rd Divine Artefact was hidden!

“Over there?”

A planet not far from where they exited the warp caught his eyes.

“That planet gives off a somewhat worrisome feeling.”

The planet floating in front of the Silver Star wasn't ordinary. It was covered in black with mysterious rocks jutting out. If he had to express its form, it had a shape similar to a skull. Ark had already suffered on Rakunka so he used the optical scanners to check the planet.

“No dangerous factors have been found.”

“Okay, let's land for the moment.”

But then something unthinkable occurred afterwards. Ark made the Silver Star approach the skull planet to land. But the moment it tried to land, the Silver Star ended up on the other side of the planet?

‘What, what the? What's going on? Why is the Silver Star here?’

Ark looked at Tori with confusion.

“What? Why are we here? Tori, what happened?”

“Huh? Ah no, I don't know....”

However, Tori was panicking as well. This mysterious phenomenon kept occurring.

There was clearly a planet in front of him. Yet whenever the Silver Star approached to land, it would show up on the other side. Fear flashed on Tori, Hegel and Milan's faces as the situation kept on repeating.

Then Tori suddenly raised his head and said.

“That reminds me....I heard about it....a ghost planet existed somewhere on the frontier....”

It seemed like nonsense but nobody was laughing. The situation that occurred now couldn't be due to anything except a ghost planet.

TO BE CONTINUED