코더 이용훈

1

CODER
LEE YONGHO

BOOK 02

Sokin

Coder Lee YongHo
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by
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Synopsis

One day, poor college computer science undergraduate Lee Yong-Ho goes to Mt.Jiri to have a fresh start for his last semester in college.

But he gets struck by lightning on his way down.

He then wakes up in a hospital but realizes that something's different.

He could see words floating in front of his phone.

He realizes later that it is program bugs.

Follow Yong Ho as he uses his debug window to solve his problems.

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Chapter 101: Black Friday (1)

All gazes were gathered on one person. From the clusters of white hair beneath the ears, this person looked at least 40 years old, if not more.

"I don't think we'll be able to pass Black Friday easily as it is now......"

The man was tilting his head while looking at the system structure on the screen.

Black Friday.

For the biggest shopping discount event of America, the company was also preparing for many things.

He didn't want to experience another mass-refund that occurred five years ago due to the site going down.

"Shouldn't the scaling up take longer than the scaling out?"

Scaling up meant upgrading the hardware specs, while scaling out meant increasing the number of hardwares.

Scaling up involved switching to higher-spec hardwares, while scaling out involved gathering many low-spec hardwares.

And scaling out was what this man was suggesting to do.

"Why don't you leave the company if you're going to be like this?"

"……"

At Steve's words, the man kept quiet. From his black hair, he looked Asian.

It was difficult to say whether he was from China, Japan, or Korea, but he was definitely an east Asian.

When the man kept his silence, Steve looked more angry. Then, he didn't even hesitate to use racist words.

Gook! Go back to your country.

This was the slang word that Americans used to refer to southeast Asians, and eastern Asians. Since it was an old word, there weren't that many people who recognized its meaning.

No one within the meeting room couldn't object even though this person said to leave the company, and to go back to the man's original country. This man, was one of the people with the most technical ability within the company.

Steve Banks. (T/N: Google tells me he's a football player....)

He was the Chief Software Architect of the company.

Someone was waiting for Steve outside the meeting room.

It was Kenneth.

"Heeey, it's been a while."

"Yes."

"So what is it? Aren't you busy nowadays?"

"I heard you were busy preparing for Black Friday."

"It's making me crazy. I feel like walking on a tightrope."

"Isn't there that guy who entered with Dave's recommendation a while ago?"

"Oh, yeah, I know that."

Steve clicked his fingers as if he just remembered.

"Apparently, that guy made a method to revolutionarily increase server performance. I came here to talk about it to you to see if it can help."

"Really? Wasn't he an Asian?"

Steve's stiff face didn't loosen up. Even without that, he was having headaches due to preparing for Black Friday.

"He's Asian... but according to his words, he can increase the performance by five times the original. Although, I do worry if he's just all talk......."

Steve started walking, as if there was no need to ask anymore.

Technology was a field he was more confident in than anyone.

He could just check it immediately.

Steve's footsteps headed towards the office where YongHo was in.

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What YongHo mentioned in the meeting room after he had met with Jeff excited many people even within the company. And it made many people gossip about it as well.

It's true.

It's not.

There's no way that's true.

It's sufficiently possible.

Rumors spread around like a wildfire. Exaggeration, deprecation, magnification, wrapping, etc – there were many kinds of altered rumors.

"That's realistically not possible."

"I heard it was developed by Jeff Done, though?"

The man flinched when he heard the name Jeff Done. Jeff Done's fame was sufficient to put down any controversy.

However, this time, whether he really developed this or not became very controversial.

Rumors were endless, in a variety of ways.

Git(Global Information Tracker) is a type of data storage. As a storage that one can manage versions with, it was used a lot when saving a program's source.

YongHo also uploaded the source he wrote to a git.

http://git.jungle.com/application/yongho-compress.git

This was the address where YongHo uploaded his source.

The real thing had appeared.

A new project, made by YongHo, had appeared. Countless developers within the company tried to access the source, but they didn't have the permissions to.

In the first place, one could not access an intra-company git outside, and secondly, the one who created the project could set the access permissions for those within the company.

YongHo didn't give that permission to anyone.

"You really aren't giving me one either?"

Dave spoke in disappointment. His two eyes seemed like pseudo-tears would fall at any moment. However, YongHo wasn't deceived.

"Acting won't get you anywhere."

"Tch......"

"It's because it's a test source that's not completed. I'll show it to you if I complete it a little more."

"You can show it to me now and we can work on it together."

He seemed to have a passionate curiosity. Perhaps, as Dave had said, there might be better results if he worked together with him.

However, YongHo had another method other than Dave.

The Bug Window.

And to receive the guidance from the Bug Window, he needed a specification document.

The program that Jeff made and the one YongHo made were similar, but different. He needed a specification document for his own program and not Jeff.

He might get one if he asked Jeff, but the problem was that he felt that Jeff wouldn't hand it over so easily.

"Well, that's true......"

Dave's offer did tempt YongHo a lot.

On one hand, he wanted to do this without using the Bug

Window.

Every time he looked at the Bug Window, he thought about the past.

He remembered the time when he looked at the answer sheet whenever he got stuck in his school days.

That's how he ended up in a 3rd rate university in Seoul, Seon Min University. Due to that reason, he was trying his best to not look at the Bug Window.

Conflict was storming in his heart.

Na DaeBang also seemed to get wind of the news as he found his way to YongHo's seat.

"Hyung-nim!"

"Uh, what is it?"

"How can you do this to me?"

"Wh, what?"

"Are going to keep playing the fool?"

Regards to passion and intellectual curiosity towards programming, Na DaeBang wasn't inferior to Dave.

He switched departments for new skills to solve his curiosity, and now, he had even followed YongHo all the way to America.

Maybe, Na DaeBag could be said to be like this since he had predicted all this.

Here was someone who would bring a storm.

Since he had thought that YongHo would achieve something great, he had followed YongHo all the way here.

As such, Na DaeBang was a weight in YongHo's heart. He couldn't just ignore him, and he felt like he should take responsibility for him if it was within his capability.

"Phew, okay, okay. I get it."

"Should I gather the people in the meeting room?"

At Na DaeBang's words, all the ears of the people who were working near them twitched. All of them were listening to YongHo's words.

Would he be able to keep his position if the Bug Window disappeared?

YongHo asked himself this question every night before sleep.

However, as of yet, the answer was:

(T/N: One of the reason I like this series. MC doesn't rely on his cheat forever.)

He would be able to surpass his position in the past when he was at Mirae IT or when he commuted to Shinseki.

However, he wouldn't be able to stand in this position.

The Bug Window was like a double-edged sword to YongHo.

If he used it well, it would become a big help, but if he used it in the wrong manner, then it may become the sword to sever his own two arms.

To free himself from such worries, he wanted to solve this problem without using the Bug Window this time.

YongHo's steps stopped for a moment when he was about to go into the meeting room. Although too many people being within the room was one of the reasons, it was more so, because a person he had only heard the name of, had come.

'Steve Banks?'

He was a Chief Software Architect, and the company only had tens of people in this position.

Chief Software Architect was the highest position that one could climb on the ladder as a technician.

And it had a strong authority as well.

Any projects or technological developments would be stopped with just a word from them.

The company trusted and respected their opinions that much.

Like how they had enormous authority, their numbers were small, and the number was fixed at 20.

It was a system where one had to come down for another to go up.

A system where one could see the harsh side of American society.

Steve Banks was one of the few who was in such a position.

"Hello."

YongHo lightly greeted, but Steve didn't seem to care about that.

"I don't have the time, so shall I listen to the explanation first?"

Without even pretending to listen to YongHo's greeting, he spoke of his business here.

'It's not finished yet though……'

YongHo had a bad feeling, but he shook his head and erased that feeling from his head.

The purpose of this meeting was to gather everyone's opinions to fill the lacking parts anyway.

If a person like Steve Banks had a look at it, he may have a different viewpoint on the source.

'He's apparently on Jeff's level, so he might be of help.'

Meeting one of the best people were always delightful things. Those meetings may become his opportunity to develop himself.

When the atmosphere, which was full of whispers about Steve's appearance, calmed down, YongHo started his presentation.

"The basic structure is one that adds a concept of prediction on top of the Huffman algorithm."

Starting from that, YongHo's explanations continued for around 20 minutes. Having finished explaining, YongHo ran the program he wrote until now and showed them.

"As you see, it's not completely implemented yet, so the efficiency isn't that good."

The test environment that YongHo made was in the same format as Jeff's program.

However, compared to the result that Jeff's program produced, it was lacking.

!!!!!Pass fail!!!!!!(T/N: It literally says that, I don't think it makes sense… pass fail?)

Naturally, he also couldn't pass the passing line, and the result turned out to be a failure. YongHo set the passing line at 50%, the same as Jeff's program.

Currently, the efficiency that was produced by YongHo's program was 35%.

The compression rate didn't reach 50% yet.

"However, it'll become better in the future."

A 10mb file had changed to become 7.6mb. The people within the

meeting room seemed amazed with just that as they were urging him to show the source.

"When will you be able to finish it?"

At Steve's words, the noisy atmosphere in the meeting room quietened down instantly.

He was a famous man already within the company. YongHo also knew this from Dave.

"I think it'll be done in one month."

"Will it be difficult to do it in two weeks?"

"It's hard to give you an exact timetable."

Although he had his 'breakthrough', it had just blossomed. Even one month was considering that he could get help from Jeff.

"I understand."

Then, Steve stood up from his seat and left the meeting room.

Kenneth, who came out of the meeting room, was having a talk with Steve.

"He has the ability, he's worth raising."

"Sorry?"

"But I don't think it's as you said? He's not all talk, and seeing his source, his results are solid too."

"I, is that so?"

"Yes. The source was neatly organized as well."

Steve looked very satisfied. It seemed he had a lot of expectations, as if he had found a peculiar jewel.

On the other side, Kenneth looked like he had a lot of complaints. The plan to embarrass YongHo by dragging Steve in, had gone wrong in its initial stages.

"Well, if you say so……"

Seemingly thinking that only his voice within the company would decrease if he spoke ill of YongHo, Kenneth shut his mouth.

'It won't do like this.'

Steve was basically saying that YongHo's ability in winning against Mark were not lies.

The plan to chase him out of the company by embarrassing him had failed. However, planners always had a plan B. (T/N: 'Planner' here is the same word used a lot in God of Music)

Chapter 102: Black Friday (2)

Steve was one of the best technicians within the company.

Dave's position was 'Senior'.

Steve's position was 'Chief'.

He had a higher position than Dave. And the day after Steve heard YongHo's story, one strange rumor started circulating within the company.

"I heard YongHo said that he would do better than Steve if he felt like it?"

"From what I've heard, apparently he already claims he's better than Steve."

"Well, it might be like that seeing what he's developed now."

Most of the rumors were those that compared Steve with YongHo. YongHo, who was nearing one year at the company, versus Steve, who was one of the peak level existences in the company.

Although it was a nonsensical comparison, but slowly, but surely, that rumor started taking form.

<center>***</center>

As if suffering, YongHo couldn't say anything in front of Jeff. Due to the excitement of having solved the problem, he didn't explain the situation properly, and that created a misunderstanding between the two of them.

"What I meant is for you to refer when you're studying or testing alone, and NOT for you to use it for commercial use at your company."

"I, I thought that you allowed me to refer to it in the project I'm in charge of......"

"...You're not thinking that what I'm creating is an open-source, right?"

Jeff's words were as picky as ever, but his eyes looking at YongHo had become one level softer.

After YongHo solved the problem, the program that he was making in Vdec was smooth sailing.

The indefinite time of commercializing the program had started taking form, and the office was also becoming lively.

"......"

"If you're a programmer, you should know better than anyone else that the program source has a copyright."

Jeff's continuous words didn't allow YongHo to refute in any way.

Clearly, he was at fault.

Even GNU, GPA, MIT, and other open source licenses were differentiated from those to use commercially and those for private use.

Moreover, what Jeff was developing was a program for commercial use. YongHo had suddenly become a shameless fellow who copied another's source.

"You can't turn back now since you've even uploaded it on the company, so what are you going to do?"

"Sorry?"

"It was me who showed it to you, so it will be hard to make you take legal responsibility, but you should be feeling at least some guilt, right? What are you going to do?"

Jeff pressured YongHo. Like he had said, it was hard for him to ask YongHo for legal responsibility. It wasn't like YongHo hacked into the company to see the source, or that he had snuck into the company to see it.

Jeff himself showed YongHo the source, and YongHo had only written the source according to his memories.

Just that, his conscience was pricking right now, due to their relationship.

"…What should I do for…"

Due to feeling sorry, he couldn't find what to do. He had come here to ask for advice, but had somehow become the thief.

It was clearly his own fault, so he couldn't excuse himself either.

"Come to our company."

"……"

"Then everything will be solved."

"……"

He had come here to remove a bump only to get another bump called 'pressure'.

As the distance wasn't that far, he had gone to Jeff's company during lunchtime.

Perhaps because he now had an extra worry, YongHo's expression didn't seem that good. The one who came to YongHo, who had a worried face, as he came in, was Dave.

He looked as lively as ever.

"YongHo! How is it? Did you get through the problem? Looking at your face, you're still stuck?"

"Ah, yeah, well."

"That's why I prepared this! Here, have a look at this."

Dave showed him the laptop that he had hidden behind his back. On it was a familiar code.

"Wh, what is it?"

"I also pondered on the source. Just how could I increase performance? I looked for some ways."

"Ah, yeah."

He couldn't ignore the passionate Dave. While he was looking at the code that Dave had written, people started gathering one by one.

"What's up with you guys?"

It wasn't only Jessie, James, and Na DaeBang. Mark, Lucia, and other developers within the company were making a crowd.

"I also have something to talk about."

"Even so, this is too......"

It was no wonder YongHo was panicked.

They were politely waiting for their turn in a queue, which was very long.

They were inconveniencing the other employees in the office.

And that inconvenience was attracting even more people. In the end, only when the project manager, Brad, came, did the people go back to their places.

There was once a news broadcast that to have lunch with Warren Buffet, one would need a 100 million won (100 thousand USD).

Jeff Done was the Warren Buffet amongst programmers.

As if YongHo was his disciple, he was becoming a hot topic amongst the people.

That rumor made YongHo's name even bigger within the company.

Dave didn't stay away from YongHo all day. That was also true at home.

The thing he liked the most was programming, with the 2nd being figurines and action figures.

He didn't miss the opportunity to fulfill his intellectual curiosity.

"The performance is dropping in the place where it's predicting what data would come next to each byte in a file."

"I know that too."

"The efficiency isn't that good either."

"Probability, probability, eh......."

YongHo decided to be absorbed in work while forgetting everything else. Accepting or rejecting Jeff's offer was not something to consider right now.

It was more important to finish the things that he was in charge of within the company first.

"Well, then, let's start from the beginning."

Dave moved the cursor on the source to the beginning and started tracking again.

The principle was simple.

Let's say that there is a data that goes 'xxxaaaaabbccdddd'.

This can be represented as 'x3a5b2c2d4'.

15 data was reduced to 10 data.

Let's express this again as 'xabcd'. The data was reduced to 5. Through prediction and probability, the computer knows that there are 3 x's. It also knows that there are 5 a's and 2 b's.

File data was reduced in this way.

The problem was the method to extrapolate the fact that there are 3 x's exactly.

'I think I'm forgetting something......'

"YongHo, but you know... I think we need some kinda resource to find the adjacent data."

"U, uh?"

"Isn't that so? If I want to predict 'Ho' after 'Yong' then shouldn't I need a resource data? I think we need to visit the server once to find it."

At Dave's mutterings, YongHo felt like lightning flashed in his head.

'Actually, I might have seen something that said 'Koogle' something something......'

He did feel like there was an extra line.

And he felt that that line would be the key to solve this problem.

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Vdec.

Jonathan's expression was one of worry.

"Jeff, is it alright to show him all the source?"

"Of course it's alright."

Unlike Jonathan, Jeff didn't seem to worry that much. As if no problems would arise, he didn't seem to care.

"But even so, this is a project that Koogle is supporting... can we really show him all of it like this......?"

"In any case, it's no use without Koogle."

"R, really?"

Jonathan was worried, but he couldn't not believe Jeff's words either. Even Koogle acknowledged Jeff's technical prowess and daringly invested in him.

His past career was adding weight onto the work he was doing.

"The project I'm doing now at Vdec requires the data Koogle provides as the basis. Although there is a core algorithm, to increase the accuracy of the compression algorithm, the structure has to refer to Koogle's server, so even if he looked at the source, it will be useless without the library that Koogle provides to access its server."

Jeff spoke while checking over the source.

The base data to increase the probability during compression was provided by Koogle.

As the world's best, and the world's largest search engine, hundreds of millions of data would pile up in Koogle every single day.

Such data was piled up for several years. Countless patterns of data would be stored in its server.

There wouldn't be many cases where it would be off.

That, was what was increasing the performance of Jeff's compression algorithm.

"You must be right……"

Even Jonathan seemed to find it difficult as he didn't ask any more.

'Even if YongHo applies it to his company, would he get 10%? Or 20% at best?'

Jeff, who was checking the source, cut the link with Koogle and ran the program.

!!!!!Pass fail!!!!!

Compressibility : 25.2%

This was the limit of the program without Koogle. As there were such limits, he could treat YongHo's words in applying it to a commercial service as nothing.

20% at best, it would be hard to do more.

Rather, poaching YongHo to Vdec that way would be the best scenario.

'There are a lot of things in my head that aren't implemented. If I can do it with YongHo......'

Jeff didn't plan to stop here.

Vdec was only the starting point.

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YongHo was still fixing the source without looking at the Bug Window. As he edited more, he kept thinking that something was missing and he couldn't concentrate.

"I think Dave's words are correct......"

There needed to be a server for prediction.

He needed data to base the predicted results from.

He didn't ask Jeff, but he was sure that his thoughts were right.

"That means… there is a clear limit to this library?"

YongHo ran the program again.

!!!!!Pass fail!!!!!

Compressibility : 36.5%

There were no increase in performance after 36.5%.

"Is it impossible to go above 50%......?'

He felt that this was the limit without looking at the Bug Window. Time was ticking.

He did say one month to Steve, but if he said that he didn't want to show it to him within two weeks with a 'tada!', that would be a lie.

Chief Software Architect.

He would be acknowledged by a person who was in a position where there were only 20 in the company.

"According to Dave's words, he looked down on Asian people, didn't he?"

Moreover, borrowing Dave's words, he 'acknowledged people with the skills, but didn't treat those without as humans.'

He was meritocratic.

He had high pride in his own skills, and was accordingly not so humble. If he considered a person as less than him, he didn't put that person in his eyes.

He didn't have a good reputation within the company, but his skills were acknowledged by everyone to the point that no one would object to him.

Many people could be seen leaving the company because they were looked down upon by him.

YongHo heard that Koreans were amongst those people.

As YongHo was in a different department, he didn't see the scene himself.

"This is my ability now. From now......."

He did feel that something was coming up on the Bug Window every time he ran it.

However, he was consciously avoiding it. He had already created the program design as well.

The aim was 50%.

If it didn't work even with the Bug Window, then there was no choice for him but to switch workplaces to Jeff's company and look into it.

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$./run_cmopress_prgm.sh
```

YongHo ran the program and turned his gaze to the Bug Window which had a new notification.

Discrimination and comparison.

Criticisms and rebukes gave Steve a type of catharsis. However, this didn't mean that he did this to anyone.

If so, then he may have been gotten fired already.

Steve had a clear standard.

And that was ability.

If someone was not up to his standard, then he would break that person with logic.

"I said design it with scaling out as the basis. You did something and you're approaching it from a DevOps point of view?"

DevOps.

It was a type of methodology to see development and management in one view. There were many practical methods within it as well. The techniques used in DevOps included Docker or cloud.

"We're preparing to apply the Docker to make scaling out possible as soon as possible……"

"So, the test script? What about the results of the test you used scaling out on?"

"We have the test script ready, but as for the scaling out results......"

"What are you going to do if the speed isn't up to par on the day itself when you're using scaling out?"

"To implement an environment for commercial use as well, the equipments are lacking and......"

"You could have made the equipments as close to the real one as possible on the cloud system and test it!"

Steve's voice increased. Silicon Valley was made of people from many different races.

An accordingly open-minded culture was taking place as well.

However, that just meant that there was an open-minded culture, not that everyone had that line of thought.

Steve's reactions were more violent towards Asian technicians than white ones.

"Yellow monkeys, really......."

The end was always like this.

He always finished with malice and a personal attack.

He made those capable his own, and those incapable leave the company.

There was no need for the company to fire them too.

Surprisingly, the people who the company was about to fire were already gone as they left on their own.

This was all thanks to Steve.

This was another one of the reasons why the company gave him an important position despite his rude language.

One of the people who participated in the meeting with Steve was standing with a box in his arms. Various furniture he used in the room was inside the box.

"What are you going to do by leaving now?"

"I can't hold it anymore."

"But it's Black Friday soon, if you aren't here......"

"He will do well by finding a capable person or something. Spit!."

Pretending to spit on the floor as if he didn't want to see this place again, the man kicked the door to the office and left.

The man left and Dave approached YongHo.

"See?"

"Y, yeah."

"I saw that Steve was at the meeting last time as well. He might have the skills but be careful."

Rather, YongHo find Dave interesting since he was the one to tell him all this.

He found it surprising that Dave had an interest in the situations within the company.

"You were that interested in the people of the company?"

YongHo's words made Dave's face become colored in panic. Then, Jessie, who was on the side, spoke up.

"I will tell you that. It's because Dave @!#$%^."

Dave quickly blocked Jessie's mouth with his own hand.

"Ouch!"

Dave's scream could be heard. Jessie didn't stay still either. She had bitten Dave's finger which was blocking her mouth.

"It's nothing great, so why are you preventing me?!"

"Nuu......"

Dave groaned like a wet dog, but that didn't stop Jessie.

"Dave was originally in Steve's team, but he tried to go against him when he was knocked down in technical ability as well. Like how you won against Mark last time. Then, he came over to the current team."

YongHo was smiling since he found their quarrel very interesting. They must be able to produce such a scene due to being close to each other.

However, it seemed like Dave took his smile in a different way.

"Y, you're smiling?"

Dave headlocked YongHo.

"Kehk, so, sorry. Le, let go."

"YongHo!"

Dave didn't let YongHo go for a while. Fortunately, since James, who was nearby, helped him out, YongHo could leave Dave's clutches.

Optimization.

The Bug Window was dependent on the specification document so there was a limit to optimization.

It did not enable him to go beyond the specification and change the structure itself.

What he changed was just a part.

He changed part by part to optimize the source.

He changed the parts where he declared a variable that used 100 units of memory when he only needed 10 units.

He also changed parts where he had to investigate 1 to 100, each by each, so that he could go to the next step immediately after a

result came out.

He was doing this since investigating up to 100 when the result came out at 50, was inefficient.

The Bug Window guided him in editing those parts.

Having edited all the elements that the Bug Window showed him, he ran the program.

'Any more will be difficult.'

!!!!!Pass fail!!!!!

Compressibility : 41.5%

The result was a fail with 41.5%.

This was the final result that YongHo got with the help of the Bug Window.

'Is any more impossible?'

Even this was a great achievement.

Although YongHo didn't know it, Jeff's result showed a performance of 25%.

Compared to that, his was better by 1.7 times.

'Hm……Should I apply this for now?'

If he could not increase the performance anyway, then it didn't sound so bad to test using this.

He didn't bother uploading the source to the storage.

Currently, many sources were coming up in the branch.

If there was anything suitable, YongHo combined it with the master.

YongHo had become the committer like Son SeokHo, and the company people became like An ByungHoon, a contributor.

Even now, many people edited bits of YongHo's source and were uploading their source onto branch.

He did not want to block their passion by uploading the answer that the Bug Window told him.

While YongHo was busy developing the module to increase server performance, each of the fields were taking shape.

Lucia, who was developing the front-end app, and Mark, who was developing the web, uploaded their prototype builds onto the server.

The back-end work, the database, was already completed, and the development of the module to increase server performance were all going to their respective places like in a puzzle.

For the image processing, the last piece of the puzzle, YongHo looked for Na DaeBang.

"DaeBang, how is the library going?"

"I think I will finish it if you give me a few more days."

Na DaeBang wasn't only playing around. Here, there were many technicians that he couldn't find in Shinseki.

If one had the interest and the effort, then the opportunity to learn was everywhere. Freedom was guaranteed during work hours, and due to being given a salary that was on a different plane to Korea, many had leisure time.

Leisure took shape as consideration to other people.

The people in the company didn't find the questions that Na DaeBang were asking them as annoying and calmly replied to each one.

Those considerations lead to Na DaeBang's growth.

"Ooh?"

"Hyung-nim. I wasn't only playing around!"

"I know. I'm very well aware."

Na DaeBang's passion was hotter than anyone's. YongHo also worked late into the night at the company, but Na DaeBang took his laptop home and worked, and studied under Dave's teachings.

One week, he was studying by following Dave, and another week, he studied under James.

His hard work was about to take fruit.

"You should rest too for a few days, Hyung-nim."

He seemed worried about YongHo, who was forcing himself every day.

Due to the forced march, the prototype was finished faster than expected. Moreover, YongHo had also developed a module to increase the server's performance in a revolutionarily fashion.

Going beyond diligence, he worked with tenacity.

Na DaeBang could come here too only because he had worked tenaciously as well.

"Yes, I should doze off for a little."

Perhaps due to being in front of a computer screen all day, his eyes were hurting.

And his eyelids closed on their own.

Like what Na DaeBang said, he felt like he should rest a little.

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The atmosphere in the meeting room was very heavy. The day when the system would be overloaded was coming, but the preparation state wasn't up to what Steve wanted.

"You guys do know that Black Friday is one week from now, right?"

"......"

"How many users can we handle every day?"

"About 80 million……"

"I thought you knew that overseas customers are increasing rapidly nowadays……"

Steve paused for a moment.

This meant that he was not in a good mood. The developers all became nervous when they saw that.

They couldn't think about anything else either.

"If it wasn't for me, would we be able to keep those 80 million users?"

This was the reason why no programmers participating in this meeting could say anything. If it wasn't for Steve, there was no was no way they could handle 80 million users a day.

Steve himself participated in developing and proceeded the server performance increase progress from the code level. Only like that did the current results come out.

"We're doing a scale out test using the Docker, so we're expecting that 100 million people would come inside the coverage."

One of the developers said with courage.

However, he could only shrink back.

"I want 200 million, not 100."

"……"

"Are you limiting our company?"

Steve criticized as if he didn't like it. He treated limiting the users per day the same as limiting the scale of the company.

In Steve's thoughts, if the population of the world was six billion, then he should be able to cover six billion users.

Because his company was the best in the world.

"There's one week left. If you don't develop a server that could handle 200 million requests at the same time, then you should be prepared.

Steve gave out his ultimatum.

It was obvious that the faces of the programmers in that meeting turned pitch black.

Black Friday wasn't only Steve's interest.

The creation of the internet connected the world into one.

People all over the world took interest in Black Friday, and they all wanted to access Jungle, the most famous internet shopping mall in the world.

This day was the only day of the year where the number of users accessing Jungle became the most, and at the same time, the day where they could make the most profit out of.

Obviously, the management people became interested, and the executive members of the company as well.

"Well, overseas sales are increasing so that's reasonable."

YongHo woke up due to the mutterings on his side.

"A server to cover 200 million users a day... Is it possible?"

Having just woken up, YongHo could only hear the last part."

Is it possible?

Of course it is.

"...It, it's possible."

"Huh?"

"It, it's possible."

Rubbing his sleepy eyes, YongHo muttered, half-asleep. Jessie, who was talking on the side, looked at YongHo as if he was absurd.

"Sleep some more."

Jessie knew the situation since she was watching right next to him, but the other people didn't.

Even without this, YongHo's name was becoming increasingly famous within the company.

The talent to replace Steve.

A genius with endless potential.

The hidden disciple of the genius, Jeff Done.

Etc. Rumors about YongHo were as large as they could get. His insignificant words just now also added onto that bloating balloon of rumors.

If YongHo stepped in, handling 200 million users a day is nothing.

The length of the rumor was only one line, but the weight of it wasn't light at all.

Chapter 104: Black Friday (4)

The situation monitor was installed and the number of users were being counted in real-time. The sales of Black Friday wasn't only on the day itself.

Traditionally, the sales would be on the entire week of the week that Black Friday is on.

Some companies did their sales from the 1st of November. They would increase their discounts as they neared Black Friday.

The strategy this year was to explode their discounts with a 'boom!' on Black Friday itself after raising the consumers' expectant psychology gradually by increasing the discounts gradually.

"How many now?"

"50 million."

"Don't let your guard down just because there's some room."

"Yes."

The people who were monitoring the server had worry written all over their faces.

In truth, no one had to monitor anything since they would all be automatically monitored.

Also, the system where it would send a message or an e-mail when their was an overload, was implemented as well.

Not only that, there was even a system ready where the overloaded server would expand and contract.

Despite all these, they couldn't take their eyes off the screen.

Meaning, it was that important.

YongHo was also looking at the monitor.

He had only heard about Black Fridays and now that he had checked himself, the prices really made him flip his eyes.

"Oooh, it's definitely cheap alright."

YongHo also couldn't help but be surprised after seeing the prices.

There was even a laptop that would usually be a million won, sold at 300 thousand won. However, what YongHo was looking for wasn't electronic devices like those.

"What are you planning to buy?"

While he was in the middle of looking at the screen, Na DaeBang popped out from behind him.

He seemed bored while working.

"Well, I'm looking to see if there's anything to send home."

"Hyung-nim, you're looking to buy your parents clothes, right?"

Na DaeBang's predictions were on the mark. Just by seeing YongHo flinching, he knew.

"Well, yeah. It will be winter soon so I may as well present them a set of warm clothes."

"You earn so much money, you should go to a department store to buy those things."

Na DaeBang's words provoked YongHo.

"I will buy one there too and on here!"

"And you're not prepared despite having said that you're buying one here. Do you see this?"

Na DaeBang flapped a piece of A4 paper in front of YongHo's eyes.

"What's that?"

"The rate of discount on clothing and on which time they discount on!"

"H, how did you get your hands on that?"

YongHo seemed honestly surprised. This was so-called insider information. A list that a normal consumer would never know, was in Na DaeBang's hands.

"Who am I? You know me. Well, then, shall we start shopping?"

"Y, yeah."

Thanks to Na DaeBang, YongHo could buy good quality products at a cheap price.

From clothes to robot vacuum cleaners, and even massaging tools. He sent them all to his house in Korea.

'This will do, right?'

He felt that he had never fulfilled his filial duty and that always

weighed on his mind.

He felt that those weights had been lifted a little.

An ordinary salaryman of Korea had no choice but to go to the website at least once.

Since the time when foreign delivery had become the norm, the road to buying good quality products at a reasonable price had opened.

They could go on the website itself to buy, and there was a thing called substitute purchasing. If one had a slight interest, then they would be able to spend their money wisely with a little bit of effort.

Choi HyeJin was no exception.

"Should I buy a laptop?"

Choi HyeJin also found out that there was something called the Black Friday while looking up various things on the internet to replace her old laptop.

"Whoa? Isn't this where oppa works?"

The oppa she was talking about was Na DaeBang, who was helping out YongHo's shopping right now.

"Seems like they're busy since it's those sales and all."

There was no other choice, as some foreign sales-related community had complaint posts coming up little by little.

It's too slow.

Clicking on some products gives me an error.

The connection suddenly got cut off.

And such complaints of the people who made their accounts and accessed the website just for Black Friday, were spreading out through the community.

"Well, it's his punishment for leaving me."

As the number of Korean users increased, the number of complaint posts were increasing as well.

However, this wasn't only happening in Korea. Many places around the world were now proceeding onto America, where there was a massive sale, through the internet.

Accordingly, the number of users only increased. Now it was about to go over the 10 millions into the 100 millions.

"We're past 90 million."

"Server status?"

"No problems yet."

"Scale out status?"

"Progressing."

"Good."

Steve seemed satisfied by the monitoring employee's words as he drank.

This was the most nervous moment in the year.

If there was an infinite amount of hardware equipment, then they could just pour in all the resources to accept users.

However, each of those nipped away from the budget.

Technology was developing by the day, and the company wanted to replace hardware with software technology.

That, was achievement.

If something required 100 servers last year, this year, they had to decrease it to 90.

The cost of 10 servers would be saved, and that would be an achievement.

Higher achievements were better.

That was how the incentives would increase, and the position within the company would be solidified.

"95 million... We will be past 100 million soon."

As the years went by, the number of users on the website increased. That would lead to more sales.

If the sales increased and the budget decreased, then the profit would naturally increase.

That would fill Steve's stomach in the form of an incentive.

"Scaling out in progress."

Before the number of users increased, there was a need to prepare beforehand.

They would increase the number of servers before the number of users went past 100 million. They brought in all their equipment.

Even those used for testing were brought in to divert traffic this week.

Scale out success.

Another ten servers were added.

And the number of users increased as well.

The traffic(The amount of data sent to the server) would increase exponentially according to the number of increased users.

All activities done by a user on the website was considered traffic.

One click to see the product, reloading the page because one thought it was slow, all increased traffic.

"Scaling out was completed."

Until now, there weren't any problems.

The peak time where the number of users would be highest was the day of Black Friday itself.

All of the people here were waiting for that day to pass.

However, that was only a wish for those related.

"Yes. Of course I'm doing well. I sent you some clothes and a massage tool so receive it well when it gets there."

"You musn't be earning that much, why are you sending me such things?"

"It's alright. My salary increased a lot nowadays."

"So, when are you coming back to Korea?'

"A little longer."

"……"

A little bit of silence flowed after YongHo's words. YongHo read his mother's disappointment in those moments.

"I will go back after I do a little more. The company wants me to stay."

"A while ago, someone who called herself your former team leader came to our house."

"Huh?"

"Her name was Jeong DanBi."

"Ah, aaah……"

"When are you planning to marry?"

"Ah, mom, I think I need to go back, something urgent came up."

"Yes, son. Go back."

He wanted to talk more, but the moment marriage talk came out, YongHo hurriedly finished the call.

'Team Leader Jeong DanBi, eh…'

This was a name he hadn't heard for a long time. Now, the time he left that place was nearing one year.

Korea was just about to go into winter. This place wasn't that cold, but perhaps due to habit, YongHo pulled in his clothes.

"We're going past 150 million users."

To be exact, they were counting the number of users who logged in at least once.

That number of users was increasing gradually.

There were also many people who used the website without logging in.

"How many more can we use?"

"50 is possible but 30 of those aren't tested......"

Steve's question made the employee blur the end of his words. The scale of the company was quite big, so the equipment was sufficient.

However, they weren't tested yet.

"...What were you doing until now?"

"Thanks to one of us leaving the company a few days ago, we didn't have enough people."

"Really... there's time now so go test it."

Steve said it simply, but testing wasn't an easy process either.

Even if the specs of the servers were the same, it was unknown which issue may occur during an overload.

As such, the actual commercialized program must be installed, and test had to be done in various environments and various loads.

Sometimes, they also needed to monitor the server after they put a large amount of bad traffic using something called DDoS.

A minimum amount of time was needed to to go through those processes.

And to do that, time was absolutely insufficient.

***

Like how he got his hands on some information that others would have a hard time looking for, Na DaeBang's footprints were always very wide.

"The Black Friday TF team's atmosphere isn't good."

"Really?"

"Yes. Tomorrow's the day, but it seems like they ran out of equipment too. So, they were using untested ones... what are they planning to do when there's a problem..."

"The almighty Chief is there, so would anything happen at all?"

"Well, that's true."

"But you, did you finish developing the image processing library?"

"Hyung-nim, you do know that all employees have to be on standby on D-Day."

Na DaeBang spoke while jumping in fright. As he had said, on D-Day, Black Friday, all employees had to monitor the situation."

That one error when the number of users increased explosively was very fatal, so the schedule was naturally pushed one day back."

"Well, you can talk well."

YongHo spoke while clicking his tongue. However, he didn't say anything more either.

Snap.

A few overloaded servers sparked and stopped working.

Even if there was a 1% chance of a server breakdown, that meant one would break when operating 100 of them.

Operating a data center that operated not 100 but 500 or more, hardware breakdowns were everyday life.

However, the day that happened just happened to be on the day that was different from normal.

"Sigh... So the untested equipment will be put in from now, you mean?"

"Yes......"

Steve's prediction came true. The number of users kept increasing without end.

After the internet spread throughout the world, people could access the web using not just PCs but mobile phones.

This meant that the load the server had to endure had became bigger. This sucked in equipment like a black hole.

Moreover, the original hardware was snapping out one by one.

The employee thought that this wasn't something that only they could cover.

"Shouldn't we ask for help?"

"Help? From who?"

"From the rumors, Mr.YongHo seemed so capable……"

"You're saying we should let an unconfirmed rumor take over the system?"

"At this rate, we might have to limit the number of users……"

They couldn't paralyze the entire server.

Their method was to keep a fixed amount of users.

If it became like that, some users would fundamentally be unable to access the web automatically.

"……"

"Let's at least ask if there's any methods."

However, there was no need for that.

YongHo was coincidentally walking towards Steve and the employees.

"Am I late?"

"How did you get......"

YongHo spoke while putting down the laptop on his side.

"Let's first fix the problem."

Crrrack, crrack.

Stretching his fingers about twice, YongHo started typing.

Chapter 105: Treatment Befitting Of Capability (1)

Rumors about YongHo were already spread throughout the company.

The interest in Black Friday was also all the executives' interests.

The two were inevitably linked.

The management, who learned that Steve was experiencing difficulty, had requested for support from YongHo.

He had no reason to refuse, so he accepted.

As a result, YongHo had appeared in the office where Steve was.

'It does look like the situation is at its worst.'

The server monitoring situation from the laptop screen didn't look that good.

Most servers were in the red.

Most of the bars which represented server usage were emitting red lights.

Overall server load 96.3

According to the manual, they had to limit the number of users the moment it reached 98.

The moment it reached 100, it wouldn't be strange for the so-called system down to occur;.

Server down.

For an IT company, this was the worst possible scenario.

It was hard to predict the amount of money lost in taking care of the VoC(Voice of Customer) when the server were down.

From what he knew from his experience, it was at least 100 billion or more. (T/N: This is probably talking about KRW, not USD, so about 85 million USD)

He could understand why they called for him.

He had already looked over the parts that looked like there would be an overload.

And had already found the parts where he could improve on.

'The best I can do now is to reduce traffic by applying the module

I developed on the image server side's communication.'

The size of data was bigger for an image than texts, and videos were bigger than images.

Most of the information on a product sold by the company were provided as images.

Such images were going back and forth between the user and the server to cause loads.

As such, normally, the system would be designed such that images would be stored in a separate server in order to manage traffic.

Image-specific server jargon called this CDN(Contents Delivery Network).

YongHo saw an improvable point in the server where images were stored.

'Currently, the proportion that images have in the overall traffic is over 30%, so let's apply the compression algorithm here to decrease the amount of data sent through the network.'

The compression rate of the module that YongHo had was 40%.

He was trying to reduce the image data sent through the network

by applying it to the server.

He had already tested this before he came here.

He only needed to apply it.

Never!

He was met with opposition before he had even started.

The reason was that he could not allow an untested library on a commercial server immediately.

"I will take responsibility."

"I don't think you have the authority nor the position to take responsibility, though?"

Steve didn't listen to YongHo's words.

"Then are you saying that you're going to limit the number of users?"

"It's better than using your unconfirmed source."

It wasn't that YongHo had volunteered to solve the problem.

Since Steve had disagreed, YongHo called somewhere immediately.

Steve, who received the phone that YongHo handed to him, had his face turn quite ugly.

"Yes...Yes."

Other than yeses, no other words could be heard.

The company had a free atmosphere, but in the end, it was still an organization.

There was someone who had the authority, and he had to follow that.

Steve also could not escape that 'authority'.

In the end, the compromise was 'applying gradually'.

Rather than applying to the overall server at once, they had decided to port(install the program) one by one and look at the situation.

If there were only one or two servers, then this process wasn't necessary, but the number of servers numbered 100. Sequential porting was an absolute necessity.

"Applying complete on server 50."

Starting from the server that it was applied on, it was gradually nearing stability.

The red bar gradually decreased in height and eventually became yellow, then green.

"Then please apply it to the next server."

Then, the next server that was waiting, had YongHo's module applied to it.

It was as if seeing a virus dying after a vaccine.

Like how people, who suffered from high temperature, found homeostasis, the computers also found stability.

When the load decreased, the number of equipment breaking down also decreased rapidly.

"Phew……"

And eventually, all the lights went out, and they could sigh in relief.

Overall server load 72.1

The bar that represented the overall server's status had also turned green.

The one to sigh in relief wasn't only YongHo.

The majority of the programmers who were monitoring the server were resting with their backs on their chairs.

Perhaps thanks to the suddenly dissolved tension, there were some who couldn't move a finger.

"Then I'll go back."

Now, there was no more work he needed to do here. YongHo was about to take his laptop and stand up.

Steve grabbed him as he was about to.

"Shall we talk for a little?'

After the talks started from recent issues, in the end, Steve meant for him to come to his team.

I am in charge of developing and managing the core system of the company.

So, you can be treated like a core programmer if you come under me.

Come to me.

'Recently, there are a lot of love calls.'

Following Jeff Done, even Steve wanted him.

'I'm not such a cheap guy.'

Compensation didn't always follow effort.

However, most of the time, some kind of compensation, whether big or small, was given.

Compensation for YongHo's hard efforts until now were about to be given to him.

***

The gazes following YongHo had changed.

Even before, there existed Asians who were above the rest in Silicon Valley.

Existed.

Just that.

They didn't attract much attention nor did they receive the gazes of the people.

Software companies were in the end, an organization.

They were assimilated into those organizations and lived the life of a cogwheel.

YongHo was getting out of that cogwheel.

He didn't live as a part of an organization, but was making an area for himself.

That, was attracting the people.

"I heard you did something good?"

People he didn't know approached him first and talked to him.

With friendly tones and attitudes; it could be clearly seen that they wanted to become amiable with him.

He was just coming to work and he had already lost count of how

many had greeted him.

Rumors were becoming reality with the facts as evidence.

Na DaeBang, who was worked up for a last spurt developing, also came to him with a strange rumor.

"Hyung-nim, you really became a famous guy, eh?"

"What?"

"You're planned to be promoted to Chief Software Architect next year… Didn't you hear it?"

YongHo looked at Na DaeBang, confused. What he was doing now was a type of AA(T/N: Raws says that, dunno what it is) (E/N: I think he's saying he's a application architect, someone who monitors a system and works with the source code of the system), and he was in charge of developing the application.

However, his position was 'staff engineer'.

Dave was a 'senior', so in truth, he was lower than Dave.

Chief was the highest he could go, so YongHo of course treated it as a joke.

"If you are going to joke like that then go code one more line."

"It's real. It's not me saying it, but there are such rumors within the company."

Na DaeBang said so while smacking his chest repeatedly as if unjustified. It wasn't a bad rumor and and this meant that YongHo was being acknowledged for his skills, so he had come here to talk about it to YongHo.

"Okay, I got it. So let's finish what we've started. There aren't that many days left, you know?"

"Really, Hyung-nim... you keep going: work and work and work... did some work ghost possess you?"

"Should I let it possess you?"

"I respectfully decline."

After a bout, Na DaeBang went back to his seat.

'Rumors, rumors eh... well, it'll calm down soon.'

There were times when it was worse than this in Shinseki. However, it soon calmed down and the rumors disappeared from the people's memory.

He already knew that reading one more page in the time to mind such things was better.

However, that was YongHo's mistake.

"Oh, if it isn't our dear Mr. Chief Software Architect!"

Dave said playfully in salute. It seemed he had heard such rumors from somewhere.

"Wh, what nonsense are you saying?"

"Nothing, didn't the Chief hear anything?"

"Huh?"

For a moment, YongHo also became expectant.

No way, am I going to rise to Chief level in one go?

Starting from salary to the treatment in the company, everything would change.

"They said to gather right now. There seems to be a technology sharing seminar related to Black Friday. Shouldn't our dear Chief participate?"

"Y, you wanna die?"

"Did you see that? He looked so expectant. Wow, he's ambitious. As expected of our dear Chief."

Jessie and James, who were on the side, were looking at Dave as if he was pathetic.

Ignoring Dave, who was looking for approval, Jessie opened his mouth.

"Let's go, they said there would be a technology seminar relating to Black Friday preparations. You're a part of it."

"Ok, let's go. Of course we should."

Seeing that YongHo was standing up, Jessie made a playful expression.

"Why don't you lead the way, Sir Chief?"

"Hey!"

Chasing the group that was running away, they had arrived at the venue of the seminar in no time.

All programmers within the company had gathered. Those who

were away on business trips or were telecommuting participated via video calls.

The reason was for the sharing of the problems that occurred on Black Friday.

Now that they found the problem, they gathered here to not make it happen again by improving on it.

"In this year's Black Friday, we were focusing on scaling out(bearing load by increasing the number of servers) fast in the DevOps perspective."

There were presentation materials on the huge screen, and many related programmers were looking at it while focusing.

YongHo was amongst them.

"There's quite a lot of useful info."

Whether it was Dave or James, they were all concentrating on the presentation.

Docker.

Netty.

Mybatis.

And et cetera, many software stacks were introduced.

Information on operating a server on a level like this was not acquirable anywhere else.

He could only listen to it here.

Precious gem-like things, which could only be learnt via practical experience, could be felt.

YongHo was in charge of the second session.

The company had requested to take charge of the session due to the charm that the compression module had.

This library was not a prototype but one that proved to have no problems even if it was used commercially.

This was a technology that the company had no choice but to focus on.

Perhaps due to that, many whispers could be heard at the back of the hall.

"P, please sit."

From the chairman, all Chief-level personnel who had anything to do with technology were coming inside the hall one by one.

The fact that they didn't participate in the first session made the whispers grow louder.

"YongHo, do your best!"

A loud voice resounded across the hall.

To cheer for YongHo, who was doing the session, Dave had even prepared a banner.

It seemed he had received help from Na DaeBang, as there were huge Korean characters on it as well.

이용호 짱!!(Lee YongHo's awesome!!)(T/N: Left it as Korean cuz... it says Korean above)

Pff.

YongHo leaked a laugh unintentionally.

At the same time his nervous body loosened up a little.

During that time, the Chief-level personnel and the chairman

who had come into the hall had all seated themselves.

YongHo's presentation started soon.

Chapter 106: Treatment Befitting Of Capability (2)

"I keep wanting him more and more the more I see him."

"……"

"To think that the server overload was actually fixed... Actually I didn't believe it, but now that the results are out, I can't not believe it. What do you think?"

"I think he's a little over evaluated. There are also rumors that the current program is a stolen copy of Jeff Done's too."

"Stolen, eh……"

Despite Kenneth's negative opinion, Steve couldn't take his eyes off of YongHo.

He felt like he would lose him if he couldn't grab him now.

YongHo shined like a rocket just before launch. (T/N: Since when did rocket's shine?)

As he was a person with chief-level skills, Steve looked through YongHo's skills right away.

Even if he copied Jeff Done's program, he wanted YongHo on his team.

"Isn't he famous for not showing his source to anyone at all? But if he referred to that Jeff Done's source, then doesn't that mean that he stole it?"

"Hmm... Then how about you......"

The conversation between Kenneth and Steve was eventually buried under the crowd's whispers.

YongHo's session had started.

It was as if looking at a lecture hall of a university. A rostrum was placed at the very front, and with that in the middle, fan-shaped stairs spread out.

Those stairs were full without a single space available.

More people had gathered than what he had thought.

"I applied the module I developed onto the image server that acted as the CDN."

And YongHo changed the screen.

On the screen was a comparison of before the application and after the application.

Red.

Green.

Two opposite colors.

Anyone seeing the screen would know.

The difference between before and after YongHo's module was applied.

"As you see here, we could reduce the load on the image server by 30%. And by directing that saved resource another way, we could safely pass through this Black Friday."

YongHo's session seemed like it would end safely like this.

"Thank you, I'll receive any questions."

After YongHo's words, many hands flashed up.

The supporting person walked here and there with the microphone.

Some people finished asking questions and the microphone came over to Kenneth.

"Hmhm…… For me, I don't want to ask any technological question, but a fundamental one. Is the technology that Mr. YongHo introduced to us truly developed by you?"

"Yes, it is."

"From what I've heard, you've taken Jeff Done's source. Please forgive me, since I'm only asking since it might become a problem when it is actually applied to the company."

"Of course, it is true that I've taken a portion of his source. However……"

Before YongHo even finished speaking, people started whispering here and there.

A person who earns money by developing programs copied a program?

There was no room for excuses.

Sources also had copyrights.

Copying was illegal, and was a crime.

"Please wait for a moment. I definitely received his permission. And I only referred to his source."

"Jeff Done permitted it? Jeff Done, the Jeff Done that we know?"

Kenneth asked, emphasizing Jeff Done. It seemed that he knew Jeff Done quite well.

The more he did, the stranger the atmosphere of the venue flowed.

"Yes. Is there any problem?"

"Jeff Done, the person that anyone would choose when talking about who the best programmer is. However, he is also a proper noun of pickiness, and is also basically a representative of the closed-source faction. Such a person allowed you to see the source? Do you really want us to believe in your words?"

Kenneth, with the microphone, let out some fiery speech. And the more he continued, the more suspicious the eyes of the people became of YongHo.

As Kenneth had said, Jeff Done didn't share any of his sources on the internet.

Even so, he was a person that was always talked about when talking about the best programmers in the world.

It wasn't that he hated open-source, but he never shared his own source.

It was unbelievable that such a person had showed his source to YongHo.

Moreover, he even gave permission to use the source?

Anyone in the audience who knew of Jeff Done wouldn't believe such things.

Just as when YongHo was about to sort his thoughts out, Steve stepped in.

"It's simple that the two of you are against each other. Can't we just ask Jeff Done in person?"

This line was from a chief-level personnel of the company. And the method he talked about could receive approval from anyone.

This was the method that would solve this situation the fastest.

Without even asking YongHo for his opinion, Steve continued speaking.

"I have his phone number so I'll call him right away."

Steve called, and the phone ringing sounds came out through the connected speaker.

Ring ring.

Ring ring.

Clack.

(T/N: I think a "Hello?" is missing)

"Jeff, it's been a while."

It seemed the number had been correct as Jeff's voice came out.

Most people here had not met Jeff Done in person. If YongHo was the one to call him, then it might have been a little suspicious.

However, it was Steve that was calling him.

There was no room for suspicion.

Unlike the normally soft Steve (T/N: Wut?) Jeff's voice was picky, just like the rumors.

"I'm busy, so bye."

Jeff didn't even talk a lot. He wanted to end the call as soon as he received it. Since Steve knew that Jeff would definitely do so, he hurriedly continued speaking.

"Wait a minute. I'm with a person who says he's close to you."

Steve suddenly made YongHo a friend of Jeff. Never did YongHo say that he was close to Jeff.

It was an intentional choice of words.

"I have no such person. Done?"

The difference in age between Steve and Jeff numbered in two digits.

Even so, Jeff didn't hesitate whatsoever.

Beyond pickiness, he was audacious.

It was fortunate that English had no 'polite' form of speech.

"W, wait! Y, YongHo. Do you know him?"

Since he felt like the call would end at any moment, Steve

hurriedly called out to Jeff again.

After a moment of silence, Jeff's voice could be heard through the phone.

"Get him on the phone."

Jeff's one phrase made the audience go into whispers again. With this, it was proved that they weren't complete strangers.

With the phone, Steve himself went to YongHo at the front.

And he handed the phone over to YongHo.

YongHo curtly said on the phone.

"Jay, it's been a while."

Jay, it was Jeff's nickname.

He was calling Jeff with the name that he only allowed his close friends to call him.

YongHo didn't use that name much normally, but now, he felt like he must do so.

"I'm really busy so don't talk nonsense. You even have my phone

number so why did you call with Steve's?"

Jeff's words resounded across the hall.

The game was over the moment the Jeff's nickname came out.

He sounded as picky as ever, but YongHo was more delighted than anything right now.

The situation was over very quickly.

YongHo explained the situation to Jeff, without leaving any facts out.

"His words aren't wrong."

Jeff's last phrase nailed it.

The phone call ended, and the seminar did as well.

Numerous programmers gathered towards YongHo.

However, they soon had no choice but to make way.

The CEO had come.

The CEO of the company had come, so there was no way anyone would block the path.

"Thank you for your presentation today. It was very interesting."

"Oh, thank you very much."

YongHo had only heard of this person and this was the first time they had met in person.

He was younger and more handsome than he had expected.

He looked like he had quite the leisurely life.

Chief Executive Officer, a.k.a. CEO of the company.

Unlike the strict figures in Korea, he didn't give out an aura of power that stifled other people.

"Mr. YongHo's achievements were so strong, to the point that we are now thinking a lot about you."

"Sorry? Think? About me?"

"Capability is followed by the treatment befitting it."

All of the other people were watching the two's conversation

without breathing.

America was somewhere where one could get fired the very next day without any signs.

Like that, one could become a staff executive if one had the capability.

Sometimes in Silicon Valley, there were cases where someone who entered as an intern would become a CEO the next day after being invested in.

There was no limit.

There was no set 'cast' either.

There was only treatment befitting of capability.

"......"

"For now, we've raised you into a senior level personnel, and changed your salary as well. If you come to work tomorrow, then you will hear about your new salary. Also, we promise you to raise you into a chief level personnel if you make the program you've just presented to us in this session, usable in a wider range."

YongHo swallowed dry saliva.

This was the CEO speaking, so there was no doubt about it.

Not only had he been promoted into a senior level personnel in less than a year, if this project went well, he was 'promised' not 'considered' to be promoted to the chief level.

Due to the sudden good treatment, he didn't know what to do.

His friends, who were listening from behind from the beginning, all stepped up.

"Hyung-nim, congratulations."

"YongHo, congratz. I knew it would become like this. Don't move houses just because you got promoted, okay?"

"Congratulations."

"Should I treat you like my superiors now?"

Each of them threw a congratulating line each.

Even until then, YongHo was not prepared to receive their greetings properly.

Only after he received the document for his raise in salary the next morning did he start to feel that it was all real.

Two hundred and seventy thousand US dollars.

This was his new salary.

70,000 dollars of this was Na DaeBang's share, so his actual salary was about 200,000 dollars.

In Korean won, it was about 200 million won.

It was a completely different treatment from Korea where the maximum increase would be about five million won, and would usually be around two million to three million won.

Of course, stuff like annual salary was private, so people couldn't speak about it to others.

However, he thought he should at least thank that person.

YongHo's two hands were full of snacks.

It could be said that the one who contributed the most in him being promoted was Jeff.

Only because there was his source could he solve the server overload and receive such treatment.

He was planning to treat him to dinner since he had a lot of things to thank him from the algorithm tutoring to compression module library.

"I'm here."

Shouted YongHo while entering Vdec's office.

Perhaps because he had been here too often, no one found YongHo being here a strange thing.

"Why do you keep coming to another person's office?"

Jeff was as picky as ever.

Perhaps because the project he was doing was going well after YongHo had solved the problem, he looked very busy.

Today, it seemed that he didn't even have the time to shave, as a prickly beard could be seen on his chin.

"Today, I came here to treat you all to dinner, since you're working so hard."

"You're not even one of us, and what treat?"

Jonathan was different from the picky Jeff. He treated YongHo

very amiably. Jonathan knew that Jeff speaking at all, even though his tone was like that, was because he had a good impression of YongHo.

If he didn't like someone, then he wouldn't even talk to that person.

"Dinner sounds good. So Mr. YongHo's buying. Let's eat something expensive today."

Yu SoHyun also tried to get close to YongHo, but he was already surrounded by many people.

She couldn't see any gaps to get closer to him. (T/N: Poor SoHyun T^T)

Chapter 107: Becoming A New Person Every Day (1)

Pffft!

Jeff spat out the yellow liquid in his mouth as he was drinking a glass of beer.

His face said 'that's absurd.'

However, YongHo, in front of him, was only baffled.

The 'secretion' from Jeff's mouth had covered his clothes.

"Spit Spit, Hey, what was that for?!"

YongHo hurriedly wiped the alcohol on his body using the napkins he could see around him.

Yu SoHyun, on his side, also helped him hurriedly.

However, Jeff wasn't interested in any of that.

"What did you just say? Say it again."

"Say what again."

YongHo brushed away the beer on his clothes. Thankfully, since it was alcohol, he didn't get any bad smell on him.

"What was the performance of the compression library?"

"A little over 40%. Jeff's has over 50% though, no?"

YongHo said like it was nothing, but Jeff, as the receiving side, wasn't quite like that.

Jeff spoke hurriedly as if he had gotten excited.

"40%? You got over 40%? Aren't you lying to me?"

"Why would I lie? Thanks to that, I got promoted and even got a raise in salary. Isn't that why I'm treating you all to dinner today like this?"

"No way. That's not possible. There's no way that's possible......."

The excited Jeff was now muttering to himself.

He looked like an insane guy.

YongHo thought that Jeff was drunk since they had all grandly

drunk a glass.

"If you're drunk, then let's go home."
(T/N: How to treat people to less food, get them drunk)

"Let's go."

"Okay, let's stand up. Where was your house again?"

"House? What are you talking about. I'm saying let's go see that program you spoke of."

"Come again?"

"Stand up already. Let's go."

YongHo helplessly stood up due to Jeff's urging.

Jeff hurried as if possessed by a ghost.

Like a madman, Jeff grabbed YongHo's wrist.

"We don't have to go anywhere. I always carry my laptop with me."

Since there were cases where he might have to work at home, his

bag always carried the laptop.

"Then let's go to my company."

Jeff hurriedly left the venue while grabbing YongHo's hand.

Thanks to that, the payer had disappeared.

Thanks to that, Jonathan's face cringed hard.

And one more, Yu SoHyun's expression didn't look that well either.

Having come to the company, Jeff kept urging YongHo.

"Let's see it quickly."

"Hey, at least let me get the laptop on."

YongHo was annoyed in the end after seeing Jeff act like a child.

However, his vexation didn't enter Jeff's ears at all.

Jeff's mind was only on YongHo's source.

"Quickly."

"Almost done."

YongHo put on the source on the booted laptop.

Jeff sat down and didn't move a muscle.

Like that, an hour had passed.

No conversation went past.

The office, late at night.

Only silence filled the area.

YongHo had fallen asleep due to the fatigue that the dawn and the alcohol had gave him.

"Just what is your identity?"

He felt like he had heard Jeff's voice along with a stuffy smell of cigarettes.

YongHo, who was dozing off, woke up from his sleep. He was still half-asleep.

"...You've finished going through it?"

"Are you making fun of me?"

"Sorry?"

"Why did you ask me to teach you until now?"

"What are you talking about?"

"Can't you tell what you just did?"

His chaotic mind had become clear in an instant.

He felt like the alcohol in his body had all evaporated.

Illegal use of source code.

He only thought of that.

He thought that Jeff had become angry since he had copied a lot of the source.

Moreover, he had even applied it on the company's commercial server.

There was no room for excuses.

"Th, that's because Jeff gave me permission to refer to the source, and I slightly edited the source as well but......"

Jeff stared holes at YongHo, who was stuttering his excuses.

It was as if his eyes were shooting fire.

He kept staring at YongHo without saying anything.

YongHo had put out excuses that he had thought of.

"Not just slightly... I edited quite a lot, so I can't say that this is Jeff's source alone."

At that point, Jeff glared at him even stronger.

Flinching at those eyes, YongHo spoke in a mosquito like voice.

"Ah, o, of course, the original author is Jeff."

"No, this isn't mine anymore. What I wanted to hear isn't about that."

"Sorry?"

"How can you optimize to that point? How can you see everything in tens of thousands of lines of code without missing a 'dot'? Just how do you see the code as to… perfect the source without a single dot of unnecessity?"

"……"

Since he had received the help of the Bug Window, YongHo couldn't say anything.

His conscience pricked him too much to say that he had finished this alone by himself.

Jeff also couldn't believe it, but he now had no choice but to.

It was always like this.

Meeting this guy always ended in unexpected happenings.

He produced results unimaginable to Jeff like magic.

He knew since he had constructed this architecture himself.

25% efficiency.

It could not go above 25% without Koogle's data.

However, the results in front of him were speaking otherwise.

'With my hands, it's not possible.'

However, if it goes into YongHo's hands, it becomes reality.

"Just what are you?"

Jeff asked again.

YongHo couldn't say anything again.

However, Jeff inwardly knew.

The person that was better than himself.

He just hadn't acknowledged that fact.

***

Na DaeBang, who came to work, was expressing exaggerated disappointment.

He seemed to have heard of yesterday's matters, more like, he knew exactly what happened there.

"Traitor."

When Na DaeBang muttered that behind YongHo, Dave copied him.

"Traitor."

"Go away already."

"Traitor."

This had been going on for 30 minutes already.

YongHo couldn't handle it anymore and stood up from his seat.

"Did you finish your work?"

"I uploaded it already, sir traitor."

"I treated to everything you want normally without even receiving room rent. Just what is your problem?"

"You treated people of another company to a meal, but you never

did that with us."

"Haaa......"

"Traitor."

Dave seemed to be infected by it as he kept muttering that on the side.

His face full of pranks was conveying the current situation well.

YongHo seemed fed up wit hthis joke as he spoke in surrender.

"I will treat you all to a meal if the service stabilizes, okay? We'll have it at the place you want, so stop this and go work."

"Hyung-nim, you promised, okay?"

"Okay, I get it already."

YongHo spoke in surrender. Dave and Na DaeBang seemed delighted after YongHo said that he would treat them to a meal, as they were deciding on where to go.

"He really learns the wrong things off people......."

YongHo clicked his tongue while looking at them.

Dave was the fastest to absorb the alcohol culture of Korea that Na DaeBang had spread around.

Dave, who quickly gets absorbed once he was into anything, was absorbed in the alcohol culture.

"They should work like that."

Jessie, on the side, also clicked her tongue. However, it seemed like the two hadn't heard her at all.

"Should we go with liquor+beer this time?"(Dave)

"That's good!"(Na DaeBang)

It was like becoming a new person everyday.

Dave had now learned the taste of the mixture of liquor and beer.

While Dave and Na DaeBang were thinking about what to eat out, the service they were preparing for several months was only awaiting release.

There was a gate that all programs had to go through.

Testing.

Otherwise known as QA(Quality assurance).

The service YongHo produced was also the same.

'It's better than I had expected......'

Such was YongHo's opinion after receiving the test report.

When he did a project in Korea, numerous bugs would pop up.

Not only the amount of bugs occurring numbered quite a lot, the bugs that appeared while editing the source weren't small either.

3 pages of A4.

This amount could be said to be very good.

Moreover, most of the bugs were occurring in the app that Lucia had developed.

Considering that she was a rookie, and had to cover a lot of devices, she had become much better than before.

'I had to call her everyday too at first.'

During the initial stages of the development, he had just sat her next to him while developing.

Such things were changing by the day.

'Even so, there are a lot of bugs......'

That wasn't enough.

Lucia was the one who produced the most bugs in the team.

Of course, it was also because the team had a lot of capable people.

But even so, he couldn't help but be disappointed.

'Should I try teaching her like how I was taught?'

The time when he was not even able to use a mouse after being half forced, half of his own will.

The experience of not being able to use an IDE which compiled real time and told him where he errors were.

He felt like Lucia's skills would increase if he taught her that.

"Did you see the report that came out?"

"Yes……"

The dejected Lucia's voice became like a mosquito.

She knew better than anyone that the majority of the report was covered with her own name.

"So, you know what? Do you have any intention in doing as I say?"

"Sorry?"

"I think your skills might increase if you do as I say. How about it?"

"I, I will do it. I will definitely do it."

Lucia ardently nodded her head.

YongHo was someone who might become a chief level personnel in the future.

If it wasn't now, she would lose the chance to speak to him forever.

"Then in the future, don't use the mouse, much less the IDE

when coding.”

“...Sorry?”

“Don’t use the internet if possible too, okay?”

“Yes......”

(T/N: You can make android apps without using android studio? How?)

Lucia found it difficult to accept, but she barely replied.

YongHo also read the complaint in Lucia’s expression.

However, she would only know when she tried it.

Like how it worked on him, this would make Lucia step further.

“...What the hell’s happening right now?”

No mouses could be seen within the office.

It was the same with Dave and Na DaeBang.

The bigger problem was that there was no IDE window anywhere.

All of them were coding in a Linux CLI(Command Line Interface) environment.

"Na DaeBang, what are you doing right now?"

"Yes?"

"I asked you what you're doing right now."

From behind Na DaeBang, who was tackling against the black console window, YongHo made a devil-like expression.

Perhaps having read the violent aura in his expression, Na DaeBang flinched.

"Di, didn't you say that my skills would increase if I do this, hyung-nim?"

"...Are you trying to mock me?"

"Wh, what do you mean?"

"If not for that, do you think it makes sense to build on the console without using the IDE and debug? When would we release the service then? I can only think of this as your riot since I'm being promoted to chief.

"N, no. I only heard Lucia saying that you said to do it like this......"

Na DaeBang moved back while flinching.

The wheeled chair seemed to have difficulties in bearing Na DaeBang's weight as it kept screaming.

"Is Lucia the same as you?"

YongHo's voice was loud as if meaning for everyone to hear it.

"Lucia's a newbie. And I've got her covered to a certain point, but you doing this only means for me to wipe you ass."

His loud voice became calm again.

Although it did, it gave out an even more eerie feeling.

Na DaeBang's chair also seemed to have run into a wall as it didn't move back anymore.

"Plug the mouse and open the IDE, and plug the LAN line too, okay?"

Na DaeBang could only nod like crazy.

The other people within the office all hurriedly ran the IDE, and plugged the mouses into the computer.

Even though he hadn't been promoted to chief yet, YongHo was influencing the entire office.

Chapter 108: Becoming A New Person Every Day (2)

Once the service was released, then that service would be monitored specially.

It was to prevent the trust in the service from going down by catching the errors at the start.

"How many until now?"

"None, sir."

"What?"

"I, I don't understand how this is happening either but there isn't a single complaint yet."

Even the employee in charge of monitoring shook his head as if he didn't understand what was happening.

He looked very confused.

However, the computer wouldn't be lying.

0 cases.

In the last week, not a single bug had occurred in the service that YongHo had released.

"Does that even make sense? There's nothing from the web either?"

"Yes……"

No matter how well an Indroid app was debugged, or how optimized it was, errors should still occur.

This was natural since one piece of software had to cover for a variety of devices.

Such a natural thing hadn't happened.

"Didn't you see wrong? Here, let me see."

The person in charge went out of the way, and the man who looked like the superior took his seat.

By clicking the refresh button several times, he reloaded the monitoring screen.

However, the results didn't change.

Bugs 0.

Not a single bug had occurred.

The employees' trust in YongHo had only become firmer.

Error makes users [very annoyed](#).

(T/N: I experienced this just yesterday... the logcat in Android Studio just won't work)

A single error would make the users turn away and the app would be deleted from the users' smartphones.

Numerous apps had been deleted that way.

The developers worked through errors day and night to induce the users into using the app for a long time.
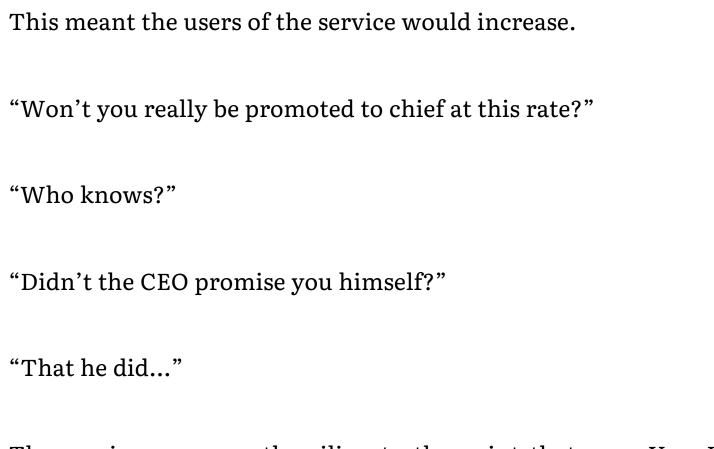
The web was slightly better.

Most people didn't mind a few reloading sessions.

The service that was produced with YongHo as the center didn't annoy the consumers even once.

Was it due to that?

As time passed, positive feedbacks came from those users.

This meant the users of the service would increase.

"Won't you really be promoted to chief at this rate?"

"Who knows?"

"Didn't the CEO promise you himself?"

"That he did..."

The service was smooth sailing to the point that even YongHo had a slight expectation towards it.
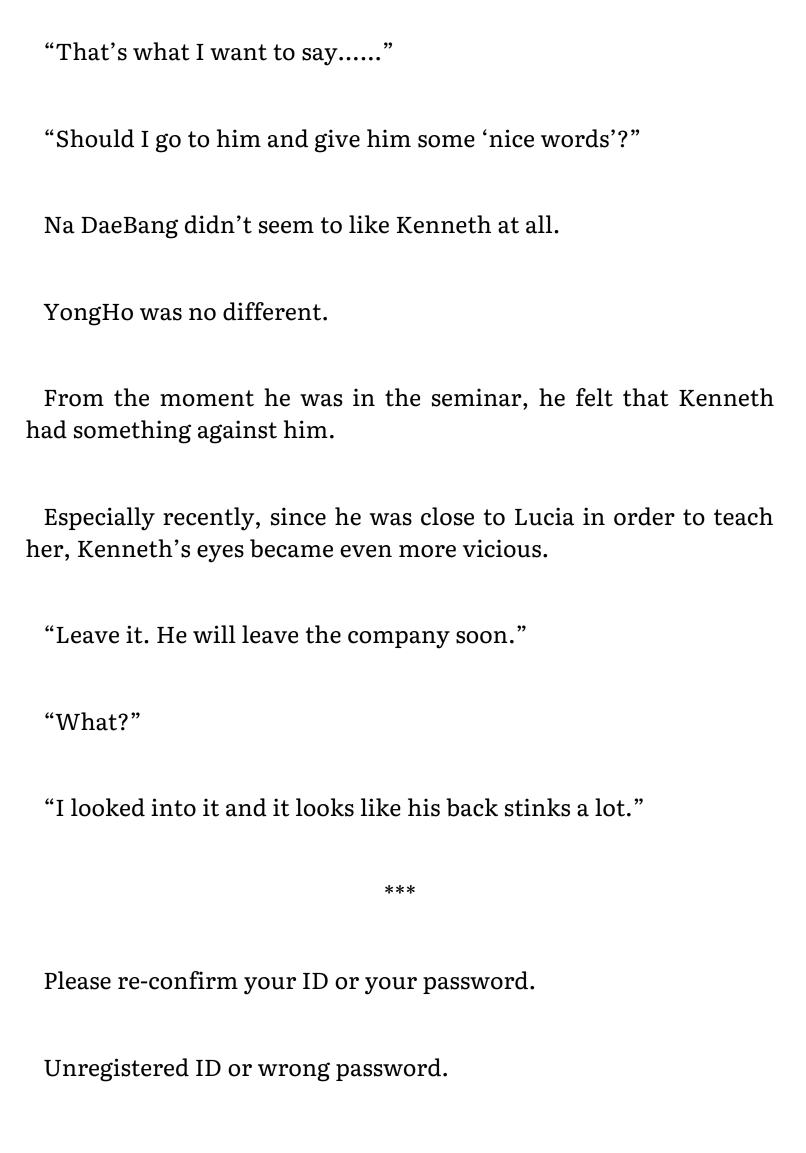
There were no bugs either so the office was very peaceful.

"But why does that guy keep annoying you?"

Na DaeBang tilted his head slightly and looked towards a corner of the office.

This was where Kenneth sat.

He pretended to look at the monitor while sneaking glances towards where YongHo was at. He looked very suspicious.

"That's what I want to say......"

"Should I go to him and give him some 'nice words'?"

Na DaeBang didn't seem to like Kenneth at all.

YongHo was no different.

From the moment he was in the seminar, he felt that Kenneth had something against him.

Especially recently, since he was close to Lucia in order to teach her, Kenneth's eyes became even more vicious.

"Leave it. He will leave the company soon."

"What?"

"I looked into it and it looks like his back stinks a lot."

***

Please re-confirm your ID or your password.

Unregistered ID or wrong password.

Kenneth's expression was full of panic.

No matter how many times he tried, he couldn't log in with his company account.

He definitely used the same ID and password to log in before he had lunch, but perhaps due to the system, it suddenly didn't work.

Kenneth called the computational management employee.

"Currently, I cannot log in with my account."

"There was a request to freeze your account. Please talk to them."

There was no need for Kenneth to go to them.

He knew better than anyone about what it meant for his mail account to freeze.

Just as he ended the call with an absent-minded expression, someone called for him.

It was the HR Manager that Kenneth knew very well.

It was also someone who YongHo met while negotiating for his annual salary.

At Will.

Do what you want.

The phrase that conveyed the flexible employment culture of America very well.

Kenneth thought that he was unjustifiably fired.

The service was safely launched, and not once did he slack in his job.

There was no way the HR Manager's words would enter his ears.

"If you really want to hear it, then I can say it to you, but I'm not saying it since I think it's better for you to not listen to it."

"I need to listen to it."

The HR Manager pressed the enter key in the laptop in front of him.

Pzzzt, pzt.

-Not long after I entered, he was suddenly standing behind me. I wondered what was happening and looked back to see that he was sniffing. I was so shocked and asked him what he was doing, but he

just turned away and went about his business.

A woman's voice flowed out through the laptop speaker. Then, another woman's voice could be heard.

-Someone suddenly placed his hand on my waist. I was so shocked and screamed unintentionally.

The last was Lucia's voice.

-I said I didn't like it.

A familiar man's voice was recorded as well.

-Will you keep coming out like this?

-I will take my leave.

-Where do you think you're going!

"I don't think I need to hear anymore of that. Just find it fortunate that the company hadn't sued you. Well, I don't know whether the women here might sue you or not."

Kenneth couldn't hold his head up in embarrassment.

And he had no choice but to pack his stuff on that day.

Nobody had greeted him out while he was leaving the office.

Rumors about him had already spread around the company.

Instead, he only received cold gazes.

***

"Thank you."

Lucia's eyes looking at YongHo were full of admiration. YongHo likely knew this because he once had the same eyes.

"It was nothing."

"Commuting to the company has become a lot easier."

It was painful to come to the company every morning.

Kenneth's gaze that seemed to scan every part of her body turned blatant by the day.

He didn't give up after being rejected once.

If it wasn't for YongHo, the one to leave the company would be

her.

"Well, good for you. Work hard from now on."

After going through many incidents, he had become considerably closer to Lucia.

Now, they weren't so awkward even when they were alone together.

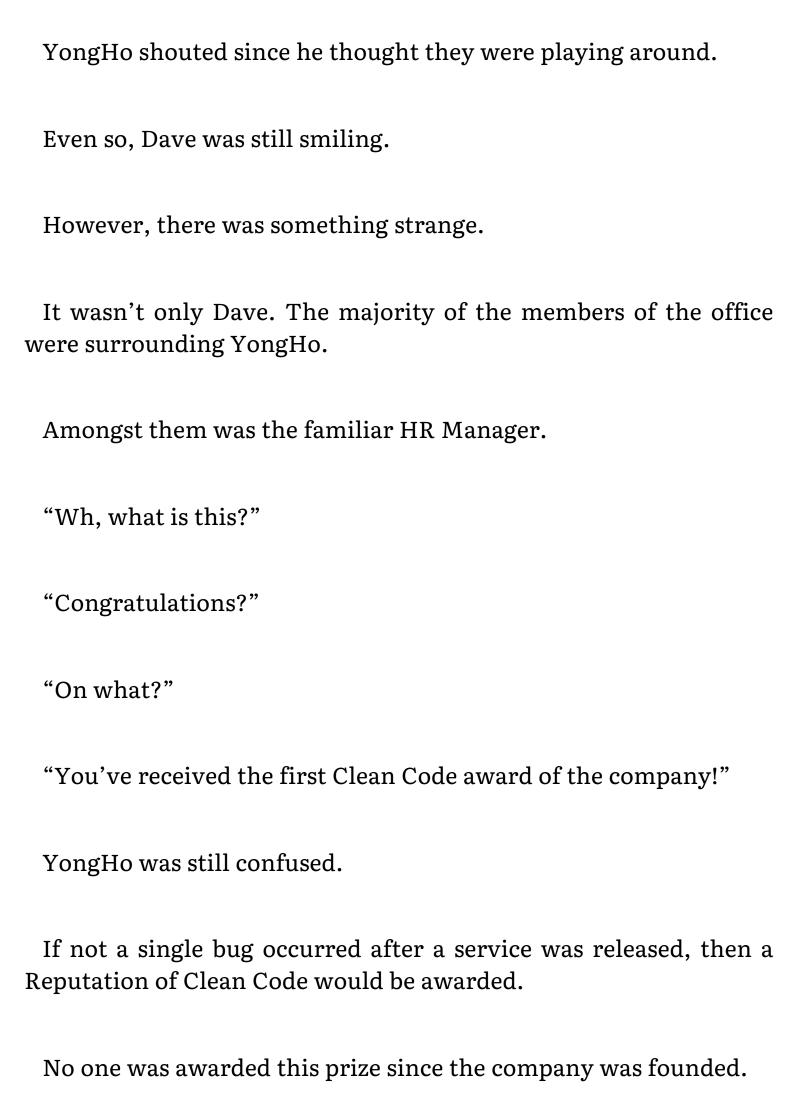"Yes."

YongHo stood up first and walked in the front.

Lucia, who was looking at him with a gaze of admiration, looked at him for a moment.

Now, it seemed like her gaze of admiration had a tinge of longing in it.

Pop!!

Just as he entered the office with Lucia, firecrackers popped around his head and flakes fell down onto his head.

"Wh, what the hell? You guys again! Is the office a playground?!"

YongHo shouted since he thought they were playing around.

Even so, Dave was still smiling.

However, there was something strange.

It wasn't only Dave. The majority of the members of the office were surrounding YongHo.

Amongst them was the familiar HR Manager.

"Wh, what is this?"

"Congratulations?"

"On what?"

"You've received the first Clean Code award of the company!"

YongHo was still confused.

If not a single bug occurred after a service was released, then a Reputation of Clean Code would be awarded.

No one was awarded this prize since the company was founded.

Not only reputation, he would be given a medal made of pure gold as well.

Clean Code if a bug didn't occur after two weeks.

Perfect Code if a bug didn't occur after a month.

This was one of the company's policies that placed importance in stability other than technology.

Currently, the code YongHo had written had no bugs for two weeks so he was awarded the Clean Code Award.

"There's something like that?"

"Yes. Even we didn't know such a thing existed, but the CEO himself had told us."

Said the HR Manager with the pure gold medal in his hands.

This was definitely a policy within the company.

However, not once was it awarded within 10 years.

As such, this policy was as good as not being there.

"Th, there are all sorts of things..."

"Please accept this."

A medal made of pure gold was hung on YongHo's neck.

On the medal, o's and 1's were carved alternately. The HR Manager, who had hung the medal on Yongho, whispered in a secretive voice.

(T/N: That's SO SAD)

"It would become a Perfect Code if no bugs occur for two more weeks. Do you know what the award for a Perfect Code is?"

"I, I don't."

"100 thousand dollars in cash."

(T/N: That must be heavy)

"......"

"Then we'll look forward to it!"

He just found this unreal.

He thought whether this was okay or not.

Matters that made him happy came at him endlessly.

"Hyung-nim. Five days left."

It looked like Na DaeBang was looking forward to it more than him.

His strong will to get a meal out of YongHo once the Perfect Code was awarded could be felt.

"Somehow, it looks like you're looking forward to this more than me?"

"Isn't Hyung-nim's matter my matter?"
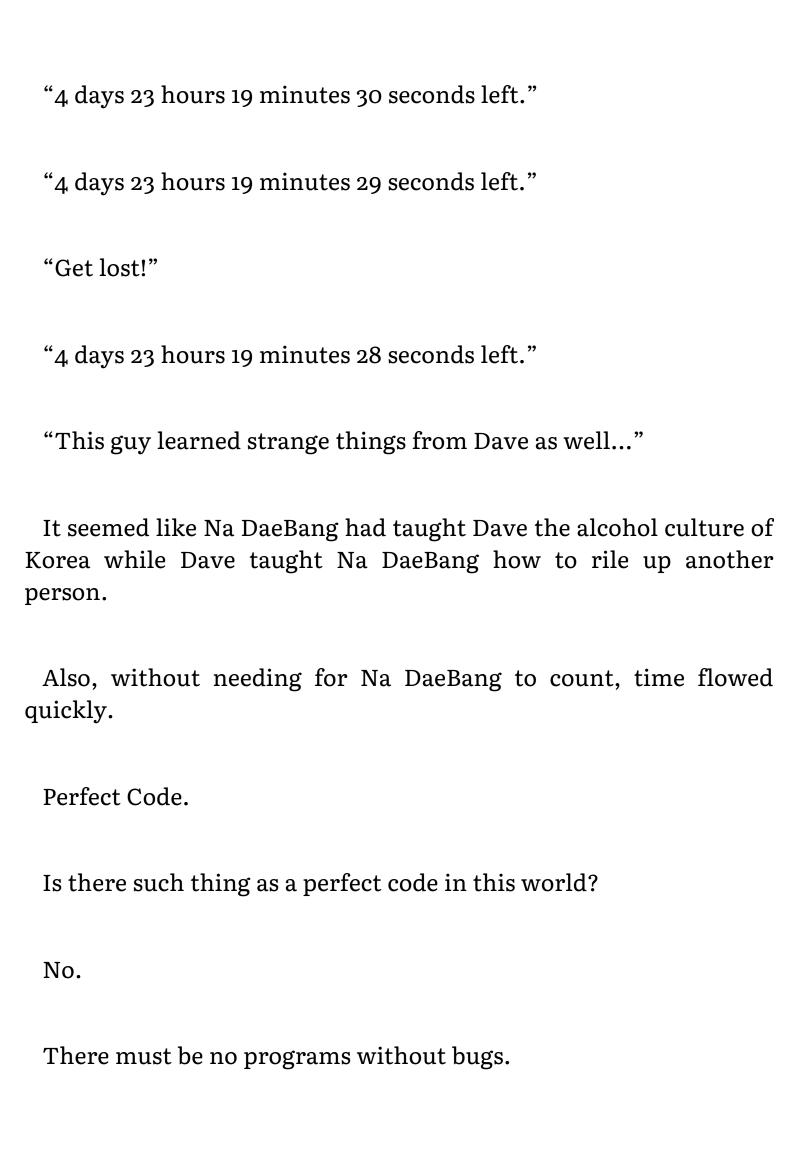
"...I wish that your intentions were pure."

"Heeey, there are no guys more pure than me."

"You look like a bandit though."

"4 days 23 hours 19 minutes 31 seconds left."

Na DaeBang covered his ears without even listening to YongHo.

Then he started counting by the second.

"4 days 23 hours 19 minutes 30 seconds left."

"4 days 23 hours 19 minutes 29 seconds left."

"Get lost!"

"4 days 23 hours 19 minutes 28 seconds left."

"This guy learned strange things from Dave as well…"

It seemed like Na DaeBang had taught Dave the alcohol culture of Korea while Dave taught Na DaeBang how to rile up another person.

Also, without needing for Na DaeBang to count, time flowed quickly.

Perfect Code.

Is there such thing as a perfect code in this world?

No.

There must be no programs without bugs.

Since, once such a program was born, numerous programmers would despair.

Now there was only 20 minutes left.

Until a perfect code was born.

"Didn't the matter become too big?"

"The value of a technology may not be apparent in the sales immediately. We already know this from experience. However, great technology will see light after being carved by a master. So you don't have to be so tense."
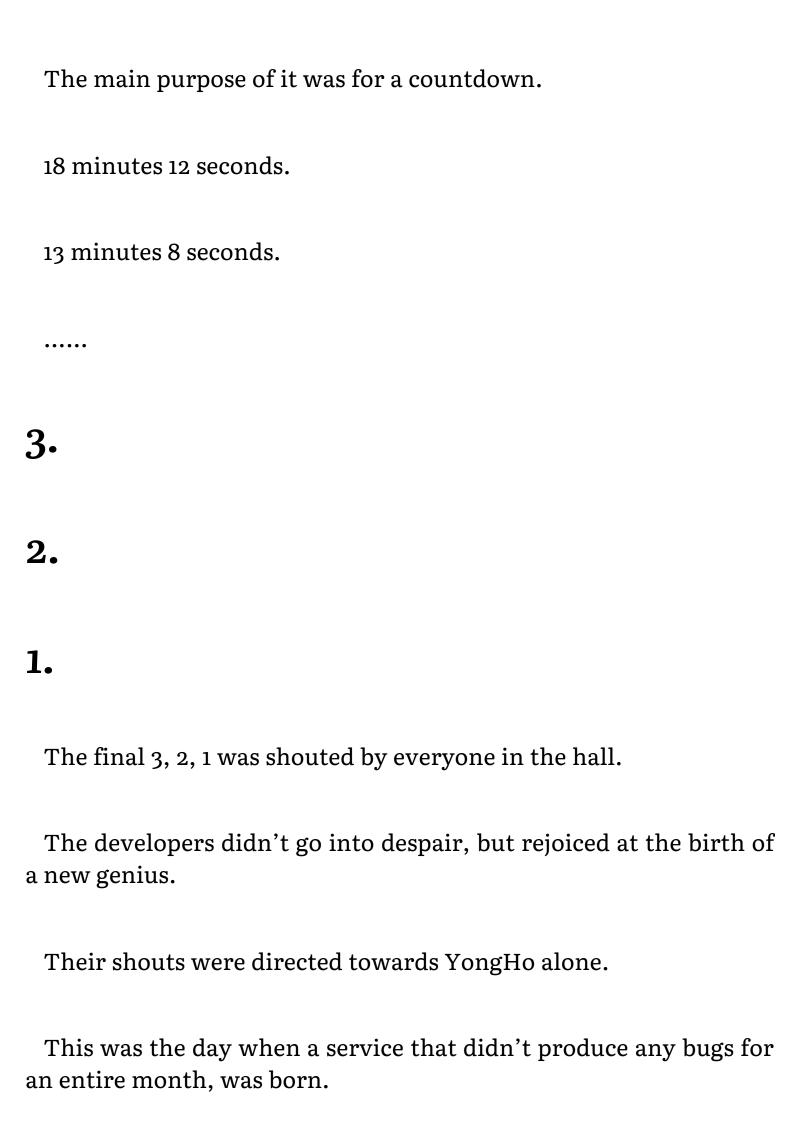
The CEO's words from next to him was instead what made him tense.

The service was stabilizing, but it wasn't like it was producing amazing results.

It wasn't like the users were increasing explosively, nor were the sales rapidly increasing.

Despite that, the people related to technology within the company were all gathering.

A monitor was installed on the screen where YongHo did the seminar before.

The main purpose of it was for a countdown.

18 minutes 12 seconds.

13 minutes 8 seconds.

......

3.

2.

1.

The final 3, 2, 1 was shouted by everyone in the hall.

The developers didn't go into despair, but rejoiced at the birth of a new genius.

Their shouts were directed towards YongHo alone.

This was the day when a service that didn't produce any bugs for an entire month, was born.

Sales due to the service [didn't matter](#).

(T/N: Why not just release a 'Hello World' app then…)

"I don't think I need to think through this anymore. You will be promoted to Chief starting tomorrow so please do your best for us in the future as well."

The CEO's hand that grabbed YongHo's two hands were very solid.

To the point that he wouldn't be able to let go easily.

Chapter 109: Becoming A New Person Every Day (3)

The youngest and the quickest to become a 'Chief Software Architect'.

Those vague rumors had come true.

Not a single bug was reported for a month.

The service YongHo had released was suggested for the Perfect Code of the company, and regardless of the achievements of the service, regardless of the compression module he had made, his promotion was decided.
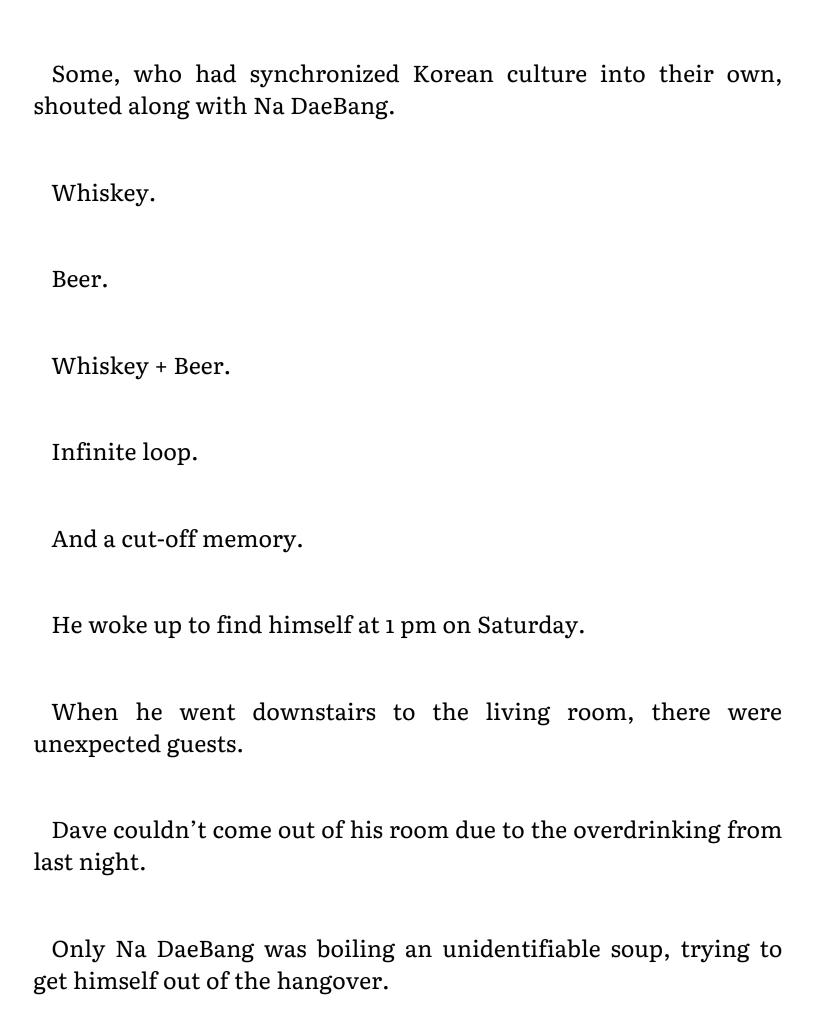
Two promotions within one year.

Moreover, the first Asian Chief-ranked engineer.

Even though this was the Silicon Valley, this was considerably shocking.

Shocking news came with a shocking increase in salary.

It was different from Korea, where salary increased only once a year.

The moment he was promoted, his salary went with it.

"That's nice."

Seeing the offered yearly salary, YongHo found it hard to hide his joyous expression.

He was pretending to be calm by using the word 'nice', but one of his cheeks was twitching.

"This will be applied starting next month."

"Yes."

After the yearly salary re-negotiation, what YongHo had met was a group of people that liked to tease him.

"Is it finally today?"

"Okay, let's go dammit!"

"He says let's go!"

Shouted Na DaeBang, and the others cheered as a result.

Was it due to him preaching Korean culture?

Some, who had synchronized Korean culture into their own, shouted along with Na DaeBang.

Whiskey.

Beer.

Whiskey + Beer.

Infinite loop.

And a cut-off memory.

He woke up to find himself at 1 pm on Saturday.

When he went downstairs to the living room, there were unexpected guests.

Dave couldn't come out of his room due to the overdrinking from last night.

Only Na DaeBang was boiling an unidentifiable soup, trying to get himself out of the hangover.

"Oh, he's here."

YongHo lightly nodded to Jeff, as their eyes met each other. Next to Jeff was a man he had never seen before.

Coming down, YongHo asked Jeff.

"What are you doing here at this hour?"

YongHo couldn't help but wonder. This person didn't even call him normally.

Although that was starting to change recently, coming to his home like this was a very rare thing for him to do.

"Of course, I came here to talk about something. Let's go outside for a moment."

"Sorry?"

"We have something to talk about with this sir here, so let's go outside for a moment."

As if to force him outside, Jeff urged YongHo.

"Do you know that you're kinda impatient nowadays?"

"...It's all because of you."

"...Sorry?"

YongHo doubted his ears. But he hadn't heard wrong.

Jeff's next words were the proof.

"I said it's all because of you, so get dressed and come out."

Drinking in the fresh air outside, his burning head cooled down a little.

To YongHo, who was shaking his head several times to clear his head, the man he had never seen before, greeted him.

"I'm the investment manager at Koogle."

"Ah, yes……"

He accepted the hand, since he couldn't reject it. While he was shaking hands, YongHo looked towards Jeff.

He required an explanation.

"He's the man who's managing the investment to our company. I said that I'll meet him along with you. Didn't I say it before? Join my company."

"……"

"State you conditions. I want to catch you no matter whatever the costs."

A strong will could be felt from Jeff's words. He remembered the handshake that he had with the CEO.

That hand was also very solid.

"Please wait a moment."

The one who introduced himself as the Investment Manager stopped Jeff's words.

"W, we never gave our permission yet. We want to proceed after a simple talk."

"Ah, really… I said there's no doubt about his abilities and yet…… "

Jeff didn't seem to like it, but took a step back anyway.

Whatever the case, this man held the finances of his company.

"Can we first see the library that Mr. YongHo had created?"

"That's in the house…"

Since he came out in a rush, he took nothing with him.

And also, he instantly felt a little rejection thinking that his opponent was testing him. His current company, although as big as Koogle, was fighting for the first place in the Internet Shopping industry.

Moreover, he was a Chief-ranked developer.

If it was before, he would have begged for the test, but it wasn't like that now.

He didn't want to think of himself as being in the inferior position.

"Ah, I have with me, a simple problem, can you solve it?"

The Investment Manager intended to test YongHo by whatever the means.

It seems like he hadn't done his homework, despite being called the 'Investment Manager'.

YongHo realized after looking at Jeff's creased face.

'So it was Jeff who urged this guy……'

The Investment Manager seemed to have thought that YongHo had come over to Jeff's side already. That was probably why he was talking about tests.

However, YongHo's opinion was different.

"[Why should I?](#)"
(T/N: Savage)

"Sorry?"

Ignoring the flabbergasted Investment Manager, YongHo looked towards Jeff.

"Jeff. I feel really grateful that you've taught me until now. Although you probably won't do this, if you have anything to ask me in the future, I will gladly answer with whatever I have. However, this doesn't seem so nice, does it? You suddenly came to me on a weekend, and came to test me? And also, I've been promoted to Chief-ranked engineer as of yesterday. It's wouldn't so nice if rumors about chief-ranked engineers going around and taking tests, spread out."

"……"

Although he talked to Jeff, the Investment Manager's expression

turned sour. Jeff quickly asked for YongHo's understanding.

"I said it before, but I don't want to test you. As I said many times, I will give you the conditions you want, as long as it's within my capabilities, so let's work together. That's the reason I came here."

"Then shouldn't you give me those 'conditions' first?"

YongHo came out strong while he was at it.

"Here."

Jeff took out a sheet of paper.

From the conversation, the Investment Manager had long since been excluded.

It seemed like Jeff, who anyone would say is one of the best programmers in the world, was the one requesting.

YongHo looked at the paper on the table.

Only one condition came into his eyes.

3% stock options.

As of yet, this was worth about [30 million won](#).

(T/N: Around 27K USD)

This kind of stock used the method of issuing new stocks, and he would be able to sell it after two years.

"Although it's only 30 million won now, it's only a matter of time before it becomes 300 million or even 3 billion. You should know my ability, and I also acknowledge you now."

There wasn't that much of a difference in salary compared to his [PREVIOUS](#) salary.

(T/N: So, his salary before he became chief)

The important thing was the options.

The stock option attracted him.

LIke what Jeff said, YongHo knew of Jeff's ability more than anyone else.

His technical ability could never be called ordinary.

"Please give me time to think."

"One week. Please decide by then."

"Okay."

Taking the contract paper, YongHo stood up first.

Behind him, he could hear Jeff's picky attitude.

"If you're going to be like this, we will not receive investments from you. We have plenty of other investors."

Jeff's voice was louder than his ordinary voice this time.

As if he was willing for YongHo to be able to hear it.

When he went back into the house, Dave and Na DaeBang were eating an unidentifiable red soup.

As their spoons were moving too fast, it would be more correct to say that they were drinking rather than eating it.

"Hyung-nim, I made this using the hangover-specialized recipe. Please take a spoon."

Na DaeBang waved while calling to YongHo.

Traitor.

Or such words he used to call him with before.

If he talked about Jeff's offer, then he might really become one.

For Na DaeBang, it wasn't a problem since he could take him, but Dave was the problem.

It was only thanks to Dave that he could start living an American life, far away from his homeland, and could adjust to the environment. Thinking cool-headedly from a social person's perspective, YongHo's success in America was largely due to Dave.

As such, the biggest regret he would have if he decided to leave the company was Dave.

"Come and sit here. I have something to talk about."

They both seemed to read YongHo's serious mood.

Both of them put down the spoon they had in their hand and sat on the sofa in the living room.

Tap!

A sheet of paper was placed on the table.

YongHo spoke after putting down the contract paper he had received from Jeff.

"I was given an offer."

"……"

"It was a person called Jeff Done, and he wanted me to work with him. This is the contract paper, and I haven't signed it yet."

"Oh! As expected of hyung-nim! That's good."

"Well, I have no complaints in the company I'm commuting to now, but I'm thinking about this since their conditions are quite good."

"Jeff?"

"Yes, Dave. It's that person you know."

The playful attitude that Dave usually had couldn't be seen anymore. Well, it didn't become that serious either.

"So, what do you think of it?"

"As you see, the conditions aren't that bad. What's most attractive is that I'll receive stock options and will be able to take as much as I work for it. Also, I received a lot of help from Jeff, and I think it will also be good if we work together in the future."

YongHo's thoughts were positive. It wasn't only one or two things he had received help with from Jeff.

Above all, there was Jeff's ability.

He was sure that he still had a lot of things to learn from Jeff.

YongHo had to go back to Korea some time in the future.

Although it was important to earn money, it was just as important to raise his skills.

Now, he had reached a certain level.

However, YongHo wanted to look at a wider sky.

"Jeff, Jeff. I'm very well aware of his skills."

YongHo carefully spoke after seeing Dave's reaction.

"In my opinion, it would be good if we went there together... How is it?"

"What about Jessie or James?"

Dave took out other people's names.

They were important people to him.

"Of course."

YongHo also agreed.
(T/N: Jungle's gonna hate him now)

Although he had to talk to Jeff to be sure, he didn't feel that Jeff would refuse.

There were many programmers in the world, but skillful ones were rare.

Jessie and James both had the skills to go anywhere.

"……"

"They wanted my answer within one week."

"Did you already set your mind on it?"

"Dave, I can't live in America forever. I have to go back to Korea where my parents are, some time in the future. And before that, I need to experience as many things as possible and have to succeed financially. Although the Chief position in the company is also

very attractive... I cannot stay there forever.”

"Yes, everyone has their own circumstances. Moving companies isn’t something wrong anyway.”

"Dave, I would be overjoyed if you come with me.”

"Yes, Dave hyung-nim. Come with us.”

Even Na DaeBang’s words didn’t enter Dave’s ears.

Dave only said ok before going back up into his room.

A photo on the desk.

Dave couldn’t take his eyes off of it.

‘It was fun then……’

The Dave in the photo didn’t look that different from his current figure. Only the background told that it was taken in his student days.

‘Jeff, Jeff-seonbae…..’

One woman and three men were smiling brightly within the photo.

The men were James and Jeff along with Dave, and the sole woman was Jessie.

'YongHo is......'

...Going forward endlessly.

However, he was repeating the same routine every day in his current company.

As he had the skills, he didn't worry about getting fired.

He only felt that he had stopped at some point.

Perhaps this was the reason why he liked YongHo so much.

Curiosity-wise, he wasn't inferior to anyone.

Interestingly, YongHo kept throwing things at him that he might be curious about.

Something had changed within his stable life.

'Well, James would come with me if I go.'

James and Dave were of one mind.

The most tragic city of America, Detroit.

The murder rate was 48.2 people per 100 thousand, which was 1.5 times higher than South Africa, which boasted the worst security in the world.

They had relied on each other in the city of crime hidden beneath the surface of the super country, America.

Although they didn't share blood, they shared their lives.

'Jessie would......'

It was hard for even Dave to predict what she would do.

However, he wanted to go there with her.

Dave stood up from his bed after looking at the photo for a while.

(T/N: I thought the photo was on the desk...?) (E/N: He's probably looking at the photo from a decent distance while sitting on the bed.)

'Yes, this isn't something I should drag on about. If I go to Jeff's company... I need to settle it before we go there.'

Dave went downstairs to the living room like a madman.

In the living room, YongHo was hurriedly drinking the hangover-soup that Na DaeBang had made.

Chapter 110: Becoming A New Person Every Day (4)

A long letter.

And the photos containing the memories up until now were displayed throughout the house.

100 roses were in Dave's hands, and the candles on the floor were organized in the shape of a heart.

All of this was possible because of YongHo's and Na DaeBang's assistence.

"Is it alright if you do this so suddenly?"

"... It's not so suddenly. I've been thinking about this for a long time. Moreover, if we're going to Jeff's company, then I need to finish this before going."

"Well, you'll do well yourself."

A relationship between a man and a woman was only known to those involved.

YongHo thought that this wasn't something for him to become involved in.

Ding dong (bell chimes)

Knock! Knock Knock!

Jessie seemed to be unable to endure any longer as she knocked on the door.

"Dave, open the door."

"I'm coming."

YongHo and Na DaeBang had already left. There was no one else in the house.

It was evening. What lit up the room was not electronic lights but hundreds of candles.

"Wh, what is this?"

Dave was in a suit, which he didn't even wear to his graduation, while he held out roses towards Jessie on one knee.

"Please accept it."

Jessie absentmindedly accepted the roses that Dave were holding. Dave lightly grabbed Jessie's hands after he stood up.

Jessie's cheeks became red in the reflection of the candle light.

Grabbing Jessie's hands, Dave walked on the path in the middle of the candles.

"Wh, what are you doing?"

Jessie was dumbfounded at Dave's unusual actions.

She just moved according to Dave's lead.

Normally, she would shake his hand off asking what he was doing along with a giant slap on the back.

But there was nothing she could do under the overwhelming atmosphere.

"……"

Dave only quietly walked forwards while he was holding on to Jessie's hand.

As the house wasn't very big, they quickly arrived at their destination.

A heart made of candles.

Around that were photos with the two of them until now.

"This is when we first took a photo in the first year of college."

Dave took each of the photos as his precious items.

Jessie only quietly listened to him.

"Everyone went to the theme park, but I was too scared to ride anything."

Dave looked at the photos and he felt like he was immersing himself in the memories.

He hadn't let go of Jessie's hand this whole time.

Rather, he put more strength into it as time went on.

"When my parents passed away......"

Dave's voice started trembling for the first time.

"I decided."

Jessie still couldn't say anything.

She didn't know what would come next.

She was only looking at Dave with a rose in one hand.

"That you're the only one for me. I'm too late, aren't I?"

Jessie swallow dry saliva while blinking her eyes several times over.

With each blink, transparent drops of liquid started welling up.

Dave took out a small black box from his pocket.

Then he opened it carefully.

Inside was a golden ring.

"When my mother passed away, she told me to hand it to you."

Jessie stood their absentmindedly in disbelief, when she heard Dave's confession. (T/N: That was a confession?) Her tears just flowed from her face..

Meanwhile.

Having left the house, the two had no good place to go so they headed towards a coffee shop inside a nearby hotel.

Na DaeBang said to drink alcohol on a day like this, but YongHo didn't want to get near any alcoholic drinks.

"Hyung-nim, when are you planning to get married?"

"I... will have to do it sometime."

"I see that you're quite popular nowadays. Don't you just need the intention?"

Said Na DaeBang with a smirk.

"Nonsense."

"You know what's going on. A man shouldn't be like that."

"... I don't know. I don't get it."

"You know and get everything. Stop running away."

"Just take out your laptop already."

"...I really like you, hyung nim. I... really do......"

Saying that while biting his lips meant the otherwise.

YongHo didn't mind his words and opened up the internet on his laptop.

"Didn't I say it? One needs to become the examiner, not the examinee."

"If it were as easy as you say……"

Complained Na DaeBang.

"If you're only going to do easy things, then why did you come to America?"

"……"

With that, Na DaeBang could only become quiet.

What YongHo was doing with Na DaeBang was raising his reputation in Top Code.

To become a person that didn't need checking, there were various methods.

Becoming famous through an open source, or through receiving prizes in competitions, or through websites such as Stack Overfly.

Or becoming the top coder in Top Code.

YongHo already had made an open source and even had experience winning a competition.

However, he hadn't raised his name in Top Code.

That, had provoked YongHo's challenging mindset.

"If I become a red coder, then no one would say something like that."

His final objective was to become a red coder.

Red, Yellow, Blue, Green, Grey.

5 tiers in total.

Rankings started with the grey tier, and on the website, there were around 5000 people who were ranked.

Amongst them only 6%, 300, were red coders.

'Korea is in 11th.'

Coder ranks would be factored into calculating country ranks.

On the website, Korea was ranked 11th.

1st was China, 2nd was Russia, 3rd was US, and 4th was Japan.

'Naturally, I will have to make it first.'

Since the points of the people of each country were averaged, it was better for there to be more people with higher ranks.

This was also why YongHo had brought Na DaeBang here.

'So people were right in saying that people become patriots when they were in another country.'

Although he hadn't lived outside Korea for a long time, he often thought of Korea.

He wanted to be acknowledged by people when he said he was Korean.

Like what people felt when a person said he/she was from

America, he wanted to be like that when someone found out he was Korean.

"You aren't going home until you reach blue today."

"Hey, hyung-nim!"

"Well, we can't go back anyhow."

Na DaeBang's face became red, it seemed that he was imagining something.

"H, hyung-nim. Wh, what are you saying?"

"So do your best. It's also good if you reach first."

"......"

"So start."

The method was like playing games – logging in and acquiring points for solving questions.

1st place would be awarded with the most points, and there would be bonus points when one found bugs in another person's code.

The points would be added and would be ranked.

The current first place had 3758 points, and was taken by a Chinese person.

Just the question had 50 lines.

As a simple example, the input and the output was given.

3 would be the result when inputting 1 and 2.

Or something like that.

What the user needed to do was to make the process for the result to be 3.

'This is also a probability problem.'

It was a question to find out the time it took for one to get home from the company. The precondition was that a crime had occurred. And one had to be checked at each checkpoint.

There was a P% chance of being delayed, and it would take much more time to get home.

The checkpoint would be continued until the person got home.

'Let x be the distance of each rodes, and let y be the checkpoints. Then, I need to add the time taken on the roads, and on the time taken on the checkpoints, and also, the delayed time.'

YongHo expressed the question into an equation.

Now, he didn't stop when he was writing mathematical expressions. He skilfully wrote mathematical expressions containing letters such as x, y and p.

He was solving the problem like that without a care in the world.

Dave's marriage.

The worry about moving work.

And the well-being of his parents in Korea all made YongHo's

thoughts become complex.

Only when solving questions like what he was doing right now could he forget about everything.

'So delay may be added indefinitely.'

Checkpoints would continue until the car passed, so delay time could be lengthened indefinitely.

YongHo concentrated while thinking about the meaning of the question.

20 minutes passed like that.

Thinking that he finished the question, YongHo clicked on the submit button.

1st place.

He solved the question the quickest, and submitted first.

'Is this enough for a Chief-tier?'

YongHo placed a lot of importance on the word 'Chief'.

The peak a programmer could climb to in a company was a Chief-tiered engineer.

Within a year, he took such a position.

He was proud of himself.

He was full, no, overflowing with confidence.

That was why he lightly ignored the Koogle person's 'check'.

YongHo, who was immersed in his emotions, turned his head.

Na DaeBang was still having a hard time solving a question.

"Hey, how long are you going to take?"

Na DaeBang didn't seem to hear him as he hadn't even turned his head around.

"You ignoring me?"

"You're the one who's strange. If you aren't going to help, then don't talk to me."

As he had no intentions on helping him, YongHo turned his gaze back towards his own laptop.

The results of the code was completed.

Success : true

Status : 0

Execution time(ms) : 0

Peak memory used(kb) : 5713 (T/N: WHAT? 0ms with 5713 kb used? How is dat possible...)

Total Score : 10

There were no bugs and the execution time was 0 second.

The memory used while the code was running was about 5 megabytes. Finally, the total score was...

'It's a full score.'

There was a maximum score for each question solved.

The question that YongHo had solved gave 10 points max.

The questions with the highest difficulty gave 50 points as the maximum.

'So, if I remember correctly, the rankings are reset every month.'

Points were calculated every month, and every year, and will be notified on the website.

The points YongHo checked was this month's statistics.

'Let's do it.'

It was weekend anyway.

And he couldn't go back home.

YongHo sat there throughout the entire night with Na DaeBang.

***

"What's up with your faces?"

When they came back the next day, Jessie was the one who greeted them.

Her bright expression told them of her current mood.

"S, save me. Hyung-nim, hyung-nim has…"

"What is it? What happened?"

YongHo, who entered after Na DaeBang, spoke.

"I made him code all night."

"Scary guy…"

Dave, who was eating soup on the table, also added. From the looks of it, it seemed to be made by Jessie.

With an apron, she was shaking the soup inside the pot.

"You guys have a taste too."

"Yeah, have a taste. It tastes… amazing."

Since YongHo also stayed up the whole night, he couldn't see through the meaning in Dave's words.

Na DaeBang didn't even listen and picked up his spoon from the table.

"Here."

A fine-looking corn soup was placed on the table.

Cough

Both YongHo and Na DaeBang spat the soup back out into the bowl without being able to swallow it.

Then, they looked at Dave with gazes mixed with admiration and pity.

'What will you do, man.'

'I'm also worried.'

Jessie didn't seem to have seen the gaze exchanged between the three men and brought another bowl of soup.

Then, she spoke with a nonchalant smile.

"Anybody want any more?"

YongHo and Na DaeBang had already disappeared with the excuse of lacking sleep.

"I, I will take it."

Only Dave, the only one who remained at the table, could answer.

Chapter 111: Becoming A New Person Every Day (5)

Now that he had decided, his actions were quick.

That was the best for the company and for himself.

The HR manager that received the report came to YongHo.

"Hey, we even promoted you to Chief. How can you just go like this?"

"This is for the best whether it's for the company or for myself. I have no intentions in getting an American citizenship anyway, so I'm not in a situation where I can commute to the company for a long time in the first place."

"Sigh......"

The HR manager heaved out a long sigh.

Software was something where one or two talented people could shake the entire system.

As such, the competition for talent between the companies was akin to war.

Moreover, due to the law known as Code 16600, no one in Silicon Valley could apply for the prohibition of competitive business to anyone.

Everyone's eyes turn bloodshot red for the talents of other companies.

"You aren't going to a competitor company, right?"

This place wasn't the only internet shopping mall company. The HR manager's worries were natural.

Rather than stealing and having talented people stolen, the rivaling companies even made a 'gentleman's agreement' between themselves.

It was a type of 'promise' between the rival companies and had no legal power.

"It's nothing like that. I'm going to a small startup company."

"Well, it seems that you've already decided on it. So we can't pull you back......"

The HR manager already looked as if he was in despair.

Silicon Valley was the haven of startups.

An intern may turn out to be a CEO the next day.

It was a very common thing for a startup to grow into a company of considerable scale.

"I'll make sure about the takeover."

"Okay."

The HR manager didn't drag it on and let him go. There was nothing like taking months of preparing for a [takeover like in Korea](#).

(T/N: Takeover in this sense is something Korean. In Korea the one that's leaving has a difficult time after giving notice it makes it easier for the replacement. It's like giving a 90 day notice of quitting, while having to inconvenience yourself because the companies try to squeeze more out of you before you leave.)

Like how being fired was very easy, moving jobs was just as easy.

YongHo's movement became the trigger.

Like beads on a thread, Dave, James, and Jessie voiced their opinions in leaving.

Na DaeBang was someone YongHo brought anyway, so it was natural that he left together.

However, Dave's group was something unexpected for the company.

An unexpected circumstance occurred, but there were no demerits.

Everything happened according to normal procedures.

The intra-company account was shut down, and access to the source was also denied.

However, they couldn't stop rumors from spreading within the company.

Lucia, who heard it from somewhere, came to YongHo.

"You're leaving?"

"Yeah, well."

"Where are you going?"

"A startup called Vdec."

"Can I go there as well?"

"Sorry?"

Lucia, who mumbled, spoke again with confidence.

"I also want to see whether I can go there or not."

Lucia saw the difficult expression on YongHo's face and bit her lips in understanding.

"It will be hard for a rookie like me. It's not that I have good skills either......"

"I didn't mean that......"

"Please look for me later. I will polish my skills here."

YongHo silently nodded. He couldn't forcefully bring on a completely new person that wasn't skillful like Dave because he wasn't the president of the company.

Lucia seemed satisfied with just his nod and left with a smile.

An unexpected week of break arrived.

A gap had occurred between the time he left the company and the time he would go to his new one.

Dave, of course, chose to go travelling.

"I decided to go with Jessie."

"...Hyung-nim."

Na DaeBang looked at Dave with truly envious eyes.

Now, they were a true couple. They acted as if they would marry soon.

Jessie also didn't seem to dislike Dave acting that way.

"I'll leave the house for one week so have a nice time together."

Na DaeBang made a smile that seemed like he was on death's door after seeing Dave's lively figure.

It was already decided what he would do in that week since he was caught by YongHo.

Dave struck the final attack without hesitation.

"Although I'd like to stay behind, but Jessie likes me so much."

"......"

Na DaeBang could only watch as Dave left the house.

Tap.

Behind him, YongHo tapped Na DaeBang's shoulders.

"Well, then. We should raise our country's position, no?"

Perhaps it was YongHo's misconception, but Na DaeBang's shoulders were slightly trembling.

They say to aim for something grand.

YongHo first set his objective as the red coder for both of them.

He thought that they could get into being a yellow or blue coder that way.

Moreover, even if both of them became red coders, it would be very difficult for Korea to become first in the rankings.

Just one.

If both of them got 6,000 points or more, there was a possibility.

The current highest ranker had 3,500 points.

If both YongHo and Na DaeBang acquired 6,000 points each, then it was possible for them to become 1st this month.

"There will be less time once we start going to the company, so you have to become a red coder within this week. Or else..."
"......"

Na DaeBang kept his silence. It was as if he was a resistance force against the tyrant known as YongHo.

Na DaeBang also wanted to go travelling; he had worked the whole time that he was in America. He didn't want to spend the unexpected holiday coding 24/7.

"You can do anything if you become a red coder. But not before then."

YongHo was very well aware that Na DaeBang was very good.

However, that wasn't enough in his eyes.

Since this guy had followed him all the way to America, he had to make him one of the best programmers in the world.

"Tch."

Complaining, Na DaeBang turned on the laptop and sat down. His concentration wasn't inferior to YongHo in any way. He even had his innately talented mind.

Perhaps it was because Dave wasn't in the house, but the house was very quiet.

'Hmm......'

Biting off a piece of chocolate, YongHo scratched his head.

There were a variety of questions.

There were algorithm questions and questions where they had to optimize an already existing code.

There were also ones where an intentional bug was inserted and people had to solve it.

Such questions were given out at random.

'20 points!'

Checking the results after uploading the code, he acquired the full 20 points again.

The piled up codes went over 1,000 when his username turned grey.

k-Coder.

His username changed.

He finally became a grey coder.

'It's easier than I expected.'

This happened within just 2 days.

This was only possible since he found this fun. It was fun to see the points increase.

Moreover, the rankings according to the points.

When he saw that his rank was rising, the fun multiplied.

It was only possible for YongHo who was known as cotaku (coding otaku).

Sneaking a glance, Na DaeBang was also focusing on the monitor.

'He's doing well.'

Unlike what YongHo was thinking, Na DaeBang was thinking something completely different.

'To think that he'd actually code for an entire two days... He's insane.'

Na DaeBang himself never heard that he lacked passion when he was working.

He always heard:

You're good.

You're trying hard.

You have talent.

You're amazing.

And other such praises.

However, in front of YongHo, he was nothing.

'I really didn't know it would turn out like this......'

He thought that YongHo was joking.

Red coder? What a joke.

Only 300 existed in the world.

300.

Getting within the top 300 in just Korea was plenty difficult.

And here, they had to compete with masters from America, China, Europe, Russia, and other countries.

'Sheesh... He really is different.'

Na DaeBang also had a look at YongHo's monitor.

YongHo's points were just going over 1000. Since his own points amounted to 500, it was a difference of exactly two times.

'He really is persistent......'

They didn't even eat properly for the past two days and ate sandwiches, burgers, or pizzas while they were coding.

Picking up the sandwich on the side, YongHo made another room.

"Phewww......"

He rubbed his sleepy eyes. Looking at who just came in after he rubbed his eyes, the red text caught his eyes.

'Chen'

It was just four letters, but the red name left a deep impression on him.

This was the first red coder that he encountered.

'How good would this guy be?'

He once won against Mark while drinking alcohol and ever since then, he had never competed against Jeff in such a way. There was no standard that he could base himself on.

Only 300 red coders existed in the world.

If he won against this person then he would be able to numerically evaluate himself.

The question was to find bugs which YongHo had the most confidence in.

If he looked at the bug window, then he would finish it within five minutes.

However, he didn't do that.

This was an opportunity where he could measure his own ability.

The question was a common memory-related bug.

java.lang.OutOfMemoryError

Since the language he selected was java, a java bug was given.

This meant that the memory allocation went over the limit.

'So it's an optimization problem.'

The bug had something to do with the optimization of the program.

Although the questions were divided according to categories, some categories were fused as the allocated points became higher.

'Do I need to use the GC......'

Something called the JVM(Java Virtual Machine) managed the memory of a program written in Java

Even within JVM, something called the GC (Garbage Collection) allocated and freed up the memory.

GC must never be called by the programmer.

If one called the GC, then the memory may be freed, but all activities would stop there.

Normally, a program could multi-task like reading your phone while brushing your teeth.

However, the moment GC is called, it would only do the process of freeing up memory.

'Since he's a red coder... I need to do at least that much.'

A while ago, he had an opportunity to find out about optimization while editing the compression module library.

If he didn't have such an experience, he would have never thought about using the GC.

He would have tried to solve the bug by assigning 'null' in suitable places.

'Let's try it.'

YongHo started coding in a nonsensical way.

Submit.

He submitted the source code, but he was a step behind.

'...As expected of a red coder.'

There were four in the room altogether.

Chen.

k-Coder.

Peter.

Tita.

This was the order of submission.

The results of chen's source came up first.

Success : true

Status : 0

Execution time(ms) : 23

Peak memory used(kb) : 42345

Total Score : 7

There were no bugs, and the memory too, only 42 megabytes were used and overall, it showed a stable result.

However, something was strange.

The full amount of points were 20.

However, this person was only given 7.

YongHo calmed down his pounding heart and waited.

'Is it my turn now?'

Success : true

Status : 0

Execution time(ms) : 23

Peak memory used : 42121

Total Score : 13

An additional 224kb was saved.

Thanks to that, YongHo could take the remaining points.

Continuing on, some text appeared on the screen.

Congratulations in becoming a blue coder.

This happened on the 4th day.

Chapter 112: Becoming A New Person Every Day (6)

When four days had passed, Na DaeBang's complaints started becoming more apparent.

Never did he imagine that they would really be stuck coding for the entire week.

That imagination was about to become reality.

"....."
"Hey."
"....."

As if fed up, Na DaeBang kept his silence.

YongHo was also about to become fed up.

As he was coding on his laptop every single day, he didn't know who or what was the computer anymore.

It was the level of being one-with-the-computer.

It didn't seem so bad to get some fresh air.

"Where do you want to go?"

"......"

"Let us go too, travelling."

"...Just the two of us?"

"What?"

"You're saying that you just want us two men to go?"

"Whoa......."

"Wouldn't SoHyun-noona have a lot of friends? If not, let's take Lucia......"

"Hey!"

Shouted YongHo, but it was useless. Na DaeBang declared his innocence.

"Isn't it good? Rather than just going with us two men, let's go as five including James-Hyungnim. How is it? [Perfect](.)"

(TL/N: Both love interests are for YongHo. You've dug your own trap, DaeBang.)

As soon as he heard that YongHo said to go on travelling, he quickly proceeded with everything as if had already planned for this.

There was no need for YongHo's approval.

He picked a destination and booked a rental car and a hotel.

Then he contacted the ones that would go together.

An SUV for five people.

Due to their size, James and Na DaeBang took the front seats.

As such, YongHo was put in the back, while Lucia and Yu SoHyun were placed around him.

To the left, Yu SoHyun.

To the right, Lucia.

Gathering his knees, YongHo placed his hand neatly on top of them.

"How is it, hyungnim, Isn't it exciting?"

Said Na DaeBang excitedly while looking at the rear-view mirror.

'I'll see to you when we come back......'

YongHo gritted his teeth inwardly. This was an awkward situation. Even breathing was difficult.

Since everything happened in a flash, YongHo took his eyes off for a moment when he found himself seated in the rear seat of an SUV.

"How is it, James-hyungnim? Hasn't it been a while?"

"I'm also excited. It seems fun."

Nonchalantly laughing, Na DaeBang looked at YongHo.

"See? Even James-hyungnim says so. Relax."

"I'm also excited because it's a vacation after such a long time."

Said Yu SoHyun and Lucia added as if to not to lose to her.

"M, me too."

YongHo extended his hand and tapped Na DaeBang's shoulder.

Then, he pinched with all his might.

"Isn't it tiring to drive? Should I do it instead?"

He pressed on the shoulder as if to crush it.

"Ooh, your massage is so refreshing. I think I can last the whole day."

He found Na DaeBang insanely annoying, but decided to accept the situation.

Sure, the air was different from when there was just three men.

Scents of rose and lily from each side mixed with each other inside the car.

Perhaps because it was a famous tourist attraction, Korean people could be seen here and there. The group first went to the hotel to unpack.

They unpacked quickly and gathered in the lobby.

Men and women were separated into different rooms, and YongHo was curious about what the two women must have talked about, but he couldn't ask.

A spectacle was spread out outside the hotel.

As the land was vast, there were various natural environments that boasted their aura.

Unlike Korea where there were only mountains and rivers, there were giant cliffs, valleys, and huge trees that he had never seen before.

"We did well in coming here, right?"

"......"

YongHo was about to acknowledge that, but shook his head after seeing Lucia and Yu SoHyun.

"What are you thinking?"

"What are you thinking, hyungnim? If you aren't going to two-time, then you must be sure about your attitude."

"......"

YongHo flinched and couldn't say anything. Sometimes Na DaeBang hit the nail on the head.

"I'll drink some phytoncide with James-hyungnim."

Then he escaped the scene with James.

"Hey! Hey!"

YongHo called out urgently but he got no replies back. Perhaps due to shouting so suddenly, the surrounding gazes all fell on him.

Yu SoHyun and Lucia included.

'Th, this bastard.'

YongHo looked at the disappearing duo with resentful eyes.

It was an awkward silence.

Two girls, one cup. One man and two women. The appearances of the two women were considerably good.

Perhaps another male that was passing by would be jealous.

'Wh, what do I do.'

If there was only one, he would've been able to at least speak.

However, the increased number put YongHo at a loss.

"Haha, where did these guys go?"

YongHo picked up his phone with an awkward laugh.

Fortunately, the call did connect, but was disconnected soon after.

"Haha, th, they aren't receiving."

Thinking that Na DaeBang purposely rejected his call, YongHo wrote all sorts of insults he knew onto a text and sent it.

However, it failed to send.

Looking at YongHo who was holding onto his phone all this time, Yu SoHyun spoke.

"What are you doing? You're leaving us two beauties alone?"

"O, of course not."

"Then guide us."

"L, let's go!"

Even at that moment, YongHo couldn't let go of his phone. Now, he was surfing the internet to find any famous attractions around here.

The high sun started to recede. The shade from the giant trees gave off quite a mood.

"......"

"You are hopeless with directions, aren't you?"

"N, no. It does say here to go this way."

Even Lucia added.

"So there's something that even Mr. YongHo can't do......"

"Hey, just call them already."

Said Yu SoHyun as if she was fed up. Even though they had followed the map here, they had arrived at a completely different place.

YongHo tried calling, but this time too, the phone was disconnected as soon as it was connected.

"What's wrong with this thing......"

"Are you doing that on purpose?"

Said Yu SoHyun while looking at YongHo with suspicious eyes. Her eyes were akin to those that was looking at a pervert.

"Wh, what do you mean, on purpose!"

"You took us to such a dark place too. And your phone coincidentally is not working."

"I, it's not like that!"

YongHo claimed innocence and spoke to Lucia.

"I, it really isn't."

Lucia only stood still wish a blush.

YongHo called Na DaeBang in panic.

As if to confirm that the disconnecting call was of his own will, he put on the speakers.

"Look at it!"

Declaring innocence, YongHo pointed towards the phone. He seemed to hear Na DaeBang's voice after the connection but it got disconnected immediately afterwards.

'Huh?'

Connection fail!!!

[HandOver.class] failed to handover!! : 871

A familiar screen could be seen with YongHo's eyes.

The Bug Window.

Title : failed handover.

He finally checked what had appeared several hours ago.

'What the hell, it was a phone bug?'

YongHo had a look at the phone.

The current model he was using was O5. It was the latest phone by the global business company, Osung.

'Sheesh, make it properly......'

Thinking that his phone won't do, YongHo asked the girls.

"I don't think my phone will work, so would you try?"

While YongHo was speaking to the girls, a group neared them.

Some were looking at the graph that appeared on the laptop.

"So this is the area where the handover occurs?"

"Yes, manager."

"To think we'd have to cover a park like this too......"

"Well, we can't help it. According to the map sent by the telecommunication company, there's even a radio dead zone around here. There are a lot of tourists so they said we have to do this properly."

"Although I can't do anything about the radio dead zone, but there can't be bugs occurring within the phone itself at least. The company is expecting a lot from the phone that will be released later.

"Isn't that why we're checking it all the way out here?"

The employee-looking person answered with a tired face.

Handover was a type of function that a phone did in area where radio waves between base stations overlapped.

Such areas are called the radio dead zones.

(E/N: Sounds like co-channel interference lol. So basically I believe that the radio waves from the cell towers are overlapping and interfering with each other, making cell phones basically confused and causing dead zones.We'll see if that the case later on.)

Telecommunication companies provide information in areas where handovers are necessary.

A brand name phone manufacturer such as Osung was also testing the handover function after being provided information from an American telecommunication company.

"We're in the handover area."

"Really? Then you two, go around testing."

"Yes."

It was quite a strange scene.

Asian looking men were focusing on their laptops while circling around the same place.

They seemed to be Asian.

More specifically, they looked Korean. He had already heard what they were talking about, although not so clearly because he was far away.

So they're Korean.

YongHo approached the people who were circling around with laptops.

"Excuse me, I'm lost here. Where do I need to go to exit?"

"Oh, are you perhaps Korean?"

"Yes."

The man also realized at a glance that YongHo was Korean.

"The exit, huh. It's quite far so you'd have to take a car... How much testing do we have left?"

"This area is the last."

The superior who heard those words turned his gaze to YongHo.

"Will you please wait for a moment? We can take you out by car."

YongHo looked at Lucia and Yu SoHyun.

As both of them had walked for quite a long time, they looked

considerably tired.

He could only nod his head.

"Thank you."

YongHo, Lucia, and Yu SoHyun looked at the men working.

"Manager, the radio shadow zone is also overlapping in this area."

"Fuck those telecom guys. How the hell did they do their mapping?"

"We can only accept it."

"How's the handover test?"

"Only this area doesn't work."

"And there's not a lot of time until the phone is released..."

A few incomprehensible words could be heard. YongHo, who looked at them with eyes filled with curiosity, looked up the words on the internet.

'Oh, so this is what they're talking about.'

Turns out they were here to test for the bugs he found in the bug window.

"What's the problem? Can you check right now?"

"Please wait a moment."

Connecting a phone to the laptop, the man tilted his head several times.

"That's strange......"

"What's so strange?"

"I know the problem is in this part, but this area is especially bad."

There were no problems with the handover function when tested in other areas.

But only this area caused troubles.

The man looking at the laptop screen also creased his expression as if he was feeling stuffy.

Behind him, a long shadow appeared.

"Isn't that a problem with packet processing with the packets sent from the base stations?"

"I'm saying why is there a problem with the base stations here."

"I think the base stations have a single digit more on the uid. And I think that the phones are not processing them properly due to that......"

The man finally turned his head at the unfamiliar voice.

With a smile YongHo looked at the man.

"Have a look at line 871."

As if being pulled by an irresistible force, the man moved the cursor according to YongHo's words.