

CALLING

OF

THE FUTURE



니플로 잠핀 소셜

REGIONAL FACTORY STORY

미왕의 게임

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# WARRIORS OF NOCTURNA



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DESIGN FANTASTIC STORY

## 미왕의 게임

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# The Demon King's Game - Chapter 00-24

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# Calling

Prologue-Calling

The youth looked around with a stunned expression.

A woman wearing a strange outfit was in front of him. The lady seemed to be from the medieval western era. She was a surprising young and beautiful woman wearing an antique dress with a crown on her head.

The woman spoke.

“Kaiser, I’ve called you here.”

The youth gazed at the woman with an embarrassed expression.

The woman said in a gentle and calm voice.

“Invincible Commander Kaiser. You achieved numerous victories in combat at a young age and gained a reputation as an invincible strategist. Am I correct?”

“Y-you are but....”

“Please lend me your strength. I need you to win a future war.”

“War? I.....”

“I am one of the 72 Demon Lords, Gremory. I might be in decline but I can still grant you one wish. Please fight for me?”

“No, that.....”

“Please.”

He was speechless as Gremory earnestly stared at him with her beautiful face. He couldn’t refuse her absolute beauty.

But he also couldn’t accept. Because....

‘Excuse me, doesn’t there seem to be seem type of mistake?!’

The youth shouted in his mind.

His name was Lee Shin.

Kaiser was his nickname.

He was a pro gamer belonging to the Air Force professional team.

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# Gremory's Calling (1)

Episode 1-Gremory's Calling (1)

The god of E-sports.

God of games.

Lee Shin was someone with that title accompanying him.

He made his professional debut at 20-years-old and shocked the world of E-sports by being undefeated. Since then, he had an unbeatable winning streak in the pro league and personal league!

With his tall and handsome appearance, he became a national star. But he didn't know this would end at 24-years-old.

He had enlisted in the army and joined the Air Force professional team. He was in the semi-finals and guaranteed to move onto the finals.

Then he was attacked in the bathroom by gunmen wearing hats and masks. He was washing his hands and the gunmen accurately broke Lee Shin's wrist with an iron pipe.

The terrible pain of his wrist bones shattering! Lee Shin screamed in suffering and the gunmen ran away. Their task was accomplished. The police couldn't catch the gunmen.

His wrist wasn't healed. He felt pain every time he tried to finely manipulate his mouse. Lee Shin's pro-gamer life lasted up to there.

All the professional teams that sent love calls to Lee Shin turned their backs.

Lee Shin was discharged from the army and spent each day lethargically. He would check his wrist every time he woke up from sleep. And he felt sick and frustrated from the internal pain in his bone.

He spent years lost in the pain. His family members gradually became annoyed by Lee Shin.

“Until when will you live like this!”

“This is why Mother didn’t want you to play the game!”

Lee Shin closed the door to his head and stayed in his locked room.

The internet news about E-sports showed photos of his rival Hwang Byeong-cheol holding a trophy.

**[Sadness of the 2nd place Hwang Byeong-cheol over ‘Lee Shin’s plight.’]**

**[Hwang Byeong-cheol’s “this isn’t a true victory” shows he hasn’t lost his humility.]**

**[Hwang Byeong-cheol is the champion, absence of Lee Shin to blame?]**

**[The joy and sorrow of two rivals.]**

Lee Shin looked at the photos bleakly.

He had enjoyed that glory for the last 4 years. Excellent strategy, sensitivity control and a monster-like multitasking. He had made that world his own.

He was born in the house of history teachers and selected the world of games over studying despite the fierce opposition of his parents.

He had no choice. He was having crazy fun. His wish had been to die in a game.

‘Yes, that is my wish.’

Lee Shin laughed bitterly. He lay soullessly on the bed and stared at the ceiling.

‘Then I’m going to die now.’

It was around that time that he saw it.

A black dot suddenly appeared on the ceiling. The small, round dot swelled up.

‘Eh?!’

Soon light was emitted from the black hole and swallowed Lee Shin up. And....

\*

“Are you saying there is a war going on right now?”

Gremory nodded at Lee Shin’s question.

One of the 72 Demon Lords, Gremory.

Red hair with a crown on top of her head. The black velvet and white lace dress

that emphasized her slender waist and shapely legs. She was originally a demon lord ranked 56th but circumstances ensured that she fell to the lowest position.

“I can’t lie and I am one of the few demons merciful to humans. Apparently it wasn’t becoming for someone of my rank to be helpful.”

Gremory made a sad expression as she recalled the memory.

“Now if I’m defeated one more time then I will even lose my lord status. So I summoned someone to help me win the war. That person is you.”

“But I....”

“I understand. You don’t want to get involved in the quarrel between demon lords. But I will grant your wish if you do this favour for me.”

“No, but....”

Gremory gave Lee Shin no chance to continue.

“I’m the ruler of medicine and love. I can cure any disease or give you the love of a woman. I can grant you many things.”

Lee Shin was mute like he had eaten honey.

‘Cure any disease?’

Lee Shin’s gaze naturally turned to his right hand. Gremory followed his gaze and she showed interest in Lee Shin’s wrist.

“Oh, did you hurt your wrist?”

“T-that’s right.”

“Using a little strength will make it painful?”

“Correct.”

Lee Shin’s voice trembled.

“I can treat it. It is very easy for me.”

“.....!”

Lee Shin’s eyes shone.

Gremory’s eyes also shone in response. This was an opportunity to convince

him.

“If you form an agreement with me then I can heal your wrist instantly. In addition, you can gain many things every time you win.”

“What happens if I don’t?”

“I will lose my status as demon lord.”

“What about me?”

“Only demon lords have the ability to open gates between dimensions. I can’t return you once I’m no longer a lord.”

“Then I’ll be stuck here forever?”

“Until I can reclaim the position of lord.”

“Is this place hell?”

“The Demon World. A world where the demon king and demons live. A hell that we manage.”

“Could you return me to my original world if you win?”

“You can return to your original world until the next war.”

“It isn’t just one or two wars?”

“Yes, there is no end to determining the ranks of the 72 Demon Lords.

“I’ll be called every time?”

“No, you just need to win. Maintaining my status as a demon lord is the most important thing.”

Gremory smiled.

Many questions started to move through his mind.

“Do I have to fight on the battlefield?”

“Huheh, I won’t place you in danger. All you need to do is conduct from safety.”

“.....”

Lee Shin’s eyes shook. Many thoughts flashed through his head.

If he made a contract with her then his wrist would be healed.

A victory could recover everything he lost.

If he was defeated then he couldn't return to his original world.

'I was going to die anyway.'

Lee Shin wanted to escape from his awful reality so this wasn't a significant risk for him. He thought about it calmly before asking.

"What do you specifically want from me? Do you want to continue to win? Make it to the highest rank?"

"I will be satisfied if I can hold my status as demon lord."

Lee Shin confirmed something in his head.

'She gave me a chance but doesn't have high expectations. This is worth a try.'

Lee Shin spoke.

"I will do it."

He became contracted to the once ranked 56th, now 72nd Demon Lord Gremory.

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## Gremory's Calling (2)

Episode 2-Gremory's Calling (2)

“Then shall we write the contract?”

Gremory pulled out a sheet of parchment. The parchment was rolled out and they started writing on it.

1. Kaiser will become the 72nd ranked Demon Lord Gremory's contractor.
2. The agreement is effective until the end of the competition among the 72 Demon Lords.
3. Kaiser will live in his original world until the next summoning.
4. After the establishment of this contract, all the wounds on Kaiser's body including his wrists will be healed.
5. Gremory will protect her contractor Kaiser when he is in the Demon World.
6. This agreement can be abolished with mutual agreement.
7. Gremory will immediately return Kaiser to his original world upon completion or abolishment of the contract.
8. Gremory will lose her status as a lord if she violates this agreement.
9. Kaiser will lose his soul if he breaches this contract.

“How is it?”

“Let's see. I will examine it a little more.”

He read through it but he had already made a decision. There were no penalties even if he was defeated. But when he looked again, he noticed 2nd provision.

‘This contract will be maintained until the end of the ranking competition?’

Gremory had said that there was no end to the competition between the 72 Demon Lords.

This time he saw the 6th provision.

‘This agreement can be abolished with mutual agreement.’

In other words, it couldn't be broken without the consent of both sides.

"I'd like to ask you one thing."

"What is it?"

"This contract will last forever?"

"It can be abolished by mutual agreement or until the ranking competition ends."

"If that doesn't happen?"

Gregory laughed.

"Of course, it will be forever."

"Does that mean forever until my death?"

"Forever even after death."

"Huh?"

Lee Shin was shocked by Gregory's words.

"It is natural for a demon's contract to last even after death."

Lee Shin felt this was creepy. She spoke about a horrible end in a kind and friendly tone.

Gregory gave him a beautiful smile.

"It isn't bad for you. You will receive a generous hospitality during your stay. Nobody can hurt you and you can enjoy anything you want. The contractor of a Demon Lord has a high position."

"But I am a bit reluctant since it will last after death."

"Why? You can live a decent life."

"I am also a human. I would like to add one clause to the contract."

"How?"

"I hope we can decide on the termination of the contract whenever I win."

The clause would be added to the end of the document. Lee Shin needed to add a condition.

“I can’t do that!”

Gremory exclaimed emphatically. Her white face was tinged red with shame.

“It is very shameful for a demon lord to terminate their contract with the contractor. I’ll become a laughingstock!”

“I didn’t know that.”

Lee Shin was baffled. It felt like he had insulted a girl who confessed to him.

“Even if you are freed from the contract, it still needs to occur with my permission. That clause is absolutely unacceptable.”

“Then I can’t sign the contract.”

Lee Shin said strongly.

He desperately wanted to heal his wrist but he needed to start this on a strong note.

“It really is too much.”

Gremory grumbled while Lee Shin became giddy. The other person was a demon. That alone was enough to make him not feel guilty.

“I’m sorry but I can’t help it. I am human and we are afraid to make eternal contracts.”

“Hyu, I guess it can’t be helped.”

Gremory finally opened her mouth.

“Then I will add two more clauses.”

“What is it?”

“Take a look at the contract again.”

Lee Shin looked at the piece of paper where the terms and conditions had been changed.

10. Kaiser can terminate the contract upon achieving 10 wins. However, there should be more victories than defeats.

11. If Kaiser is defeated then he can’t return to his original world until the

next victory.

‘Achieve 10 wins?’

Lee Shin asked her outright.

“How much time will the fight take until the ranking is determined?”

“It normally doesn’t exceed 2 hours before the outcome is reached.”

‘Is that it? Then I’m glad.’

Lee Shin had been afraid that each fight would last a few years so he could feel reassured. Then the condition of 10 wins was acceptable.

‘The winning percentage should be 50%.’

But the 11th provision was significant.

“I would like to hear more about the condition of not being able to return.”

“Right now your soul has travelled to the Demon World. Your physical body is asleep in your original world.”

“Then I will continue to sleep?”

“Right now I’ve stopped time. But if you are defeated then I won’t be able to stop time until you’ve won again.”

Gremory said with a smile.

“The shortest time is 10 days and the longest is 3 months. If you lose consecutive battles then it might be longer than that. Isn’t it fair to have a penalty for that?”

“.....”

Lee Shin was worried for a brief moment.

But his conflict didn’t last long.

“Is it only 10 days to 3 months based on my world’s time?”

“The passage of time is the same.”

“Okay. Then I accept the contract.”

“If you are afraid of the penalty then we can return to the original conditions.”

“No it’s fine.”

Lee Shin said.

“It only affects me if I lose.”

“Your words are cool. So please place your blood here.”

Gremory pointed to the lower part of the contract.

“Blood?”

Lee Shin was taken aback and Gremory laughed.

“A demon and human contract needs to be signed with blood.”

“I understand. Then blood...”

Lee Shin bit down on his finger but couldn’t draw blood. Gremory laughed and pulled out a small needle.

Kuk, and she lightly poked Lee Shin’s thumb. Lee Shin felt a small sting and there was a drop of blood on his thumb.

“Thank you.”

“You’re welcome.”

Lee Shin placed the blood on the contract. Gremory also took her own blood.

At the same time, the writing on the contract started squirming and changing.

1. Lee Shin will become the 72nd ranked Demon Lord Gremory’s contractor.
2. The agreement is effective until the end of the competition among the 72 Demon Lords.
3. Lee Shin will live in his original world until the next summoning.
4. After the establishment of this contract, all the wounds on Lee Shin’s body including his wrists will be healed.
5. Gremory will protect her contractor Lee Shin when he is in the Demon World.
6. This agreement can be abolished with mutual agreement.
7. Gremory will immediately return Lee Shin to his original world upon completion or abolishment of the contract.

8. Gremory will lose her status as lord if she violates this agreement.
9. Lee Shin will lose his soul if he breaches this contract.
10. Lee Shin can terminate this contract upon achieving 10 wins. However, there should be more victories than defeats.
11. If Lee Shin is defeated then he can't return to his original world until the next victory.

'Kaiser' had been modified to 'Lee Shin.'

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# Gremory's Calling (3)

Episode 3-Gremory's Calling (3)

"Lee Shin? Your name is Lee Shin?"

"Yes."

"Aren't you called Kaiser?"

"That is my nickname."

"I see."

Gremory thought it wasn't important and skipped over it.

"Then it is time for me to fulfil the contract?"

She probably meant to treat the wrist.

"Come here."

Lee Shin went over to Gremory.

The distance had decreased so he could see her beautiful face in more detail. She had a clear skin with not even one blemish.

Lee Shin's face unknowingly turned red. Gremory gave a smile that indicated she thought he was cute and raised her hand.

She placed her hand on Lee Shin's head.

Gremory said soon afterwards.

"You have dry eyes and a loss of vision. Early symptoms of a hernia disk and your wrist has carpal tunnel syndrome."

".....Yes?"

"How did your health get this bad? You must've sat down and stared at something while moving your fingers vigorously."

'Those words are literally what happened....'

Lee Shin already realized that his body was a wreck. All the occupational

diseases of a pro gamer was brought together like a comprehensive gift set.

“But you don’t need to worry because I will heal you now. And the contract will prevent these symptoms from occurring again.”

“T-thank you!”

Lee Shin was thankful that such occupational hazards won’t happen again.

Pa-hat!

A black light flowed from her hand into Lee Shin’s body.

Lee Shin naturally closed his eyes. A warm and foreign energy entered his body and gave him a comfortable feeling.

After a while, she withdrew her hand and said.

“Check now.”

Lee Shin opened his eyes.

‘Eh?’

Lee Shin was surprised. The sight in front of him was much clearer than before.

‘Were my eyes originally so good?’

The world felt different.

It felt like a cloudy fog had cleared up.

‘Wrist?!’

Lee Shin carefully turned his right wrist. His wrist moved surprisingly smoothly. There was no pain.

‘Unbelievable!’

It was difficult to believe.

In the meantime, his wrist had given him much despair. He knew how hard it was. He had frantically wished for God to heal his wrist.

‘This woman so easily....!’

Lee Shin finally realized what a great existence Gremory was. As promised, she had treated his wrist and other issues in his body.

'I can't let my guard down but I will at least keep my promise to her.'

Anyway, after the healing his body felt so light it was like he could fly. The refreshing feeling of being born again. The physical problems that was like an elephant in the room had disappeared.

His condition was very good.

"Now it is my turn to fulfil the contract."

Lee Shin said.

"I need to know about the ranks. Who is the next opponent and what is the extent of their power?"

Gremory liked his active attitude and said with a warm look.

"Now I need to explain the background of the rankings."

Her explanation began.

The origin of the ranking dated back to a long time ago during the Great Angel-Demon War where they faced the angels of heaven.

The confident demons were shocked as they lost the Great Angel-Demon War.

The demons were clearly stronger than the angels. But the angels had a well thought out strategy and the demons were badly defeated. Unlike their original estimates, the angels were the ones who won the war.

The demon king Lucifer exclaimed angrily.

"The order of the 72 Demon Lords will be reconstructed through war!"

That's when the strife between the 72 Demons Lords started. The demons weak in war naturally fell in rank. But the fight to redefine the ranking made matters worse.

In the end, Lucifer devised a special way to end the struggle.

"Thus the current system was born. I've been through many wars and fell to this rank."

Then Gremory taught him the rules of the ranking war.

Lee Shin's face was confused after listening to the explanation.

‘Aren’t I very familiar with this method of war?’

The ranking war between the 72 Demon Lords.

It closely resembled a real time strategy (RTS) game. Gremory had misunderstood but she had brought in a perfect contractor.

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The ranking war between the 72 Demon Lords closely resembled a real time strategy (RTS) game.

In order to prevent damage to the Demon World, those taking place in the ranking battle would be sent to another dimension of space. There was a total of 12 such dimensional spaces.

‘This is like a Map.’

The ranking war was enacted as a challenge.

The appropriate qualifications and magic was required to challenge an opponent ranked above them. Those who received a challenge couldn’t avoid it.

The two sides would have identical magic power and their forces would start a war in a fair state.

Of course, it wasn’t entirely fair. The challenge was unavoidable so the challenger had two rights.

1. Can select the battlefield.
2. An amount of magic power between 10,000~5,000 can be decided.

Choosing a battlefield could give a geographical advantage and they could decide to bet less magic power.

The magic of both sides would be spread through the battlefield.

The Demon Lords could come out but it was generally their contractor who took part in the ranking war.

The contractors would collect magic power distributed throughout the map in order to summon warriors. Of course, those who gathered more magic power would have larger forces.

‘This is like finding resources for the unit?’

The war would continue until the opponents were completely wiped out or surrendered.

In summary, it was as followed.

1. The game will be established when a Demon Lord challenges someone qualified and ranked above them.
2. The map and amount of magic power being bet will be decided by the challenged person.
3. The game will be played by the Demon Lord or their contractor.
4. The magic power placed in the bet will be distributed through the map and the contractors of both sides will gather the magic power to summon their units.
5. The winner will then obtain all the magic power that had been bet.

Lee Shin asked after hearing the rules.

“Gremory is the lowest ranked demon so doesn’t that mean no one has the right to challenge you?”

“That’s not true. Advanced demons who want to become a demon lord can challenge me.”

Gremory said with a sigh.

“There are a few advanced demons who are qualified to challenge me. They are eagerly aiming for the position of Demon Lord.”

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# Mock Battle (1)

4) Mock Battle (1)

“How much magic power do you have?”

“Approximately 65,000.”

Lee Shin started thinking.

‘The minimum bet is 10,000 and it goes up to 50,000.’

Fortunately, the side that was challenged could decide the bets.

“If I bet 10,000 then I can fight a total of 6 times.”

“That will only happen if I received 6 challenges. But in the future, I will be in a position to freely challenge anyone.”

“Then if you are defeated and lose the Demon Lord position, you can still recover your status if you have magic power.”

Gremory gave a bitter laugh. She motioned towards Lee Shin.

“Come.”

Lee Shin followed her to a window.

The large, glass windows looked out over a vast territory. The place where demons lived had an unbelievably beautiful nature.

“I am the Demon Lord that rules over 26 legions of demons and this territory.”

“.....”

“That number has gone down but there are still 13 demon legions loyal to me.”

Gremory looked at Lee Shin with sad eyes.

“Losing the status of Lord means I no longer have the right to this land and their loyalty. Wouldn't it be shameful and humiliating if I lost?”

Lee Shin realized he spoke too early.

He was like that as well. He felt a sense of loss when he no longer had a career

as a professional player. He was still young so money wasn't a problem.

They were silly words that didn't take into account the feelings of the person concerned. Her pride was very precious in these games.

Lee Shin said.

"Of course I'm not going to lose. We can choose the battlefield and hopefully prepare."

Lee Shin was a pro gamer so he knew very well how to fight in the desired map.

"Do you know that magic power of the lord that is ranked 71?"

"The 71st ranked Demon Lord, Amdusias has 91,000 magic power."

"91,000 is 9 times...It means you are only eligible to challenge if you have 81,900 magic power."

"That's right."

"So if you beat one opponent and win 10,000 magic power then you don't have the right to challenge straight away?"

"The bet depends on how prepared you are."

"That's correct. I have to consider my physical condition and the nature of the opponent."

"Okay. I will believe in you."

\*

The 72nd ranked Demon Lord, Gremory.

At one time, she was ranked 56th and her palace was just as beautiful as its owner. This palace wasn't as splendid as the Palace of Versailles.

Lee Shin was served his meal in bed and was treated very cordially. There were beautiful maids that followed him and took care of any details.

He would have been happy to stay here forever while working for Gremory. But there was no time to enjoy a comfortable life. He had work to do and didn't know when a challenge would arrive.

He went straight to practice.

“In order to gain an idea of it, I need to practice. Are practical exercises possible?”

“it certainly is.”

Gremory laid her hands on Lee Shin’s shoulders. At that moment, the space around Lee Shin distorted.

Pahat!

-The Demon Lord Gremory and her contractor Lee Shin have arrived at the 1st full length Asteia battlefield.

An unknown voice rang out.

“I’m going to have a mock battle with my contractor Lee Shin.”

Gremory said.

-The Demon Lord Gremory-nim and her contractor Lee Shin will have a mock battle.

The outcome of the war will not affect the rank or magic power. Only 50,000 magic power will be randomly bet.

50,000 magic power will be spread through the battlefield.

Please select a species.

Gremory told him.

“You need to select a species.”

“Species?”

“Demons can’t be mobilized in the Ranking War. The power of the demon weakens as it travels further from the Demon World.”

“.....?”

“So instead, we mobilize troops from the humans, orcs, elves, beasts and dwarves that occupy the Demon World.”

“They can be summoned using the collected magic power?”

“Yes, but first you have to choose between a human, orc, elves, beasts or dwarves.”

Choosing a species.

‘Isn’t this completely a game?’

This was very similar to the Space Craft (pun on StarCraft) game that he played.

However, Space Craft involved humans, gods and monsters while the Ranking War could choose between 5 species. There were many points to consider.

Lee Shin said.

“I will pick humans.”

“You are most familiar with humans.”

“Yes, that’s right.”

Lee Shin mainly played with the human race during his years as a gamer.

It meant he would be most familiar with humans.

“But the human race is so weak that it is almost never used.

“I will try it out once.”

“Okay. I will chose beasts.”

Thus the game, no, war began.

Lee Shin’s very first opponent was Gremory.

\*

Lee Shin explored the surrounding terrain.

The cliffs protected the region like a fence. The only entrance was a small passage that acted like the gateway to the outside world.

Lee Shin was surrounded by 4 naked humans. There was a large building in front of him. A message was imprinted on his mind as Lee Shin stared at the building.

-Headquarters: A building to use the magic power to summon slaves and keep

them.

‘Slaves?’

Then Lee Shin looked at the 4 naked humans. They winced as they noticed Lee Shin watching. One of them said carefully.

“E-excuse me, Contractor-nim.”

“Huh?”

‘They talk?’

Lee Shin was surprised.

That’s right.

This was similar to a game but it was also reality. They were alive units that spoke and had their own thoughts.

“Should we collect magic power? The first thing we need....”

“Ah, it is like that.”

At that moment, a description popped into his mind.

-Slave: Can collect magic power and iron ores as well as construct buildings.

All human slaves and buildings will be connected to Lee Shin through telepathy. You can issue commands with your mind.

‘A good explanation.’

He was like a god instructing the slaves.

‘Gather the magic power.’

Then the slaves ran towards 8 black rocks near headquarters. It was hard to look at the slaves but regardless, they transported the rocks to the headquarters.

‘Those stones contain magic power.’

Anyway, it felt good seeing people work hard at his command.

The magic power at headquarters started to climb as the slaves gathered rocks.

‘Yes, this is a game. A game.’

Lee Shin emptied his mind and concentrated on playing again.

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## Mock Battle (2)

### 5) Mock Battle (2)

A message appeared again while he was staring at the headquarters.

-You have over 50 magic power.

You can summon slaves from headquarters. Do you want to summon?

“Summon.”

-Summoning slaves. The summoning will take some time.

A slave will be summoned in exactly 13 seconds.

The older man that was summoned to the battlefield looked around with a disbelieving expression.

“You should also gather magic power.”

“Eh?”

The older man was shocked as his body suddenly moved. The slaves spoke to him while collecting magic stones.

“This must be your first time being summoned.”

“Don’t panic and work hard. Don’t disturb Contractor-nim.”

Now the older man understood the situation and silently collected the magic power with them.

‘They will move according to my thoughts, regardless of what they want.’

It certainly seemed like a game.

Lee Shin summoned slaves every time he gathered the required magic power. The number of slaves increased to 13 people.

‘Is now the time to make something else?’

-Slaves can construct buildings.

The first building, the barracks require 150 magic power.

Lee Shin's used 150 magic power to have the slaves assemble the barracks. The slaves started to move as quick as lightning.

'What?'

Lee Shin was surprised. They moved so fast that they were barely visible. It was amazing as the building went up little by little.

'Is it really the same as a game?'

It was worrisome as the game was being played with humans but apart from a guilty conscience, Lee Shin became increasingly interested.

But once the barracks finished their construction.

-The enemy has appeared!

'What?'

Lee Shin looked around with surprise. A black dog appeared near the entrance.

-Hellhound: A monster used in combat.

The weakest combat type beast but the speed is very fast. Two of them can be summoned with 50 magic power.

The black dog studied Lee Shin's camp.

'A scout.'

The hellhound went back through the entrance. Lee Shin cheered.

'Fortunately none of my units needed to fight.'

He confirmed that Gremory was scouting using the hellhound.

Is so, what next?

Lee Shin pointed towards one of the slaves collecting magic power.

“Chase the dog!”

Coincidentally, it happened to be the older man he summoned a while ago. The man panicked once again but his body moved. But soon he shouted with a stiff face.

“I-I will do it! I’m leaving!”

And he ran through the gateway after the hellhound. It was strange seeing his subordinates faithfully following his orders despite going to their deaths.

No, all the people summoned here were slaves. They were faithful and dedicated to Lee Shin.

‘The humans summoned here were those in hell?’

Lee Shin could easily infer this. They followed him because they didn’t want to go back to hell.

‘I have the authority to sacrifice them.’

He made up his mind. Anyway, Lee Shin needed to hastily deal with the opponent’s attack.

‘Construct the barracks! An additional one over there!’

“Yes!”

Another slave ran up to the entrance. If he built a barracks there then the entrance would become even narrower. It was necessary to narrow the path to make it easier to defend.

Meanwhile, Lee Shin was being informed of the situation regarding the slave running after the hellhound.

Curiously, Lee Shin would hear and see through telepathy despite it being so far away. There seemed to be 5 hellhounds running from a distance. Including the fleeing scout, it was a total of 6 hellhounds.

‘They’re coming!’

The 6 hellhounds mercilessly jumped on the scouting slave.

“Ack!”

The older slave was miserably ripped apart by bites and died.

“.....!!”

Lee Shin’s heart almost stopped at the sight. A person really died. This was a real war, not a game.

At that moment, the first barrack being built was completed.

-Barrack: Archers, spearmen and shield troopers can be summoned by this building.

Archers, spearmen and shield troops can’t be summoned without the necessary building.

You can summon an archer. 50 magic power is required if you want to summon an archer.

“Summon archer.”

-An archer is being summoned. 50 magic power has been consumed.

“I also want to summon another slave.”

-A slave is being summoned in headquarters. 50 magic power has been consumed.

Lee Shin instructed 4 of the slaves collecting magic power.

“Link your arms and block the entrance.”

4 slaves ran towards the entrance. The entrance was narrowed due to the barrack being constructed so the 4 slaves could completed block it.

At that moment, he heard one welcome sound after another.

-An archer has been summoned.

-The barrack has been completed.

“Oh, the battlefield!”

The scream was heard as the archer was summoned. The archer was an older man with an impressive beard.

“This is Asteia. Eh? A contractor?”

“That’s right.”

“Please give a command!”

The cheerful looking older man was immediately polite.

“The enemy is coming. Stop them. Stay behind the slaves and shoot.”

“Understood!”

Finally the 6 hellhounds appeared.

“Grrrrung!”

“Grrrr!”

“Fight. Defend the entrance!”

The 4 slaves immediately started fighting the 6 hellhounds. Of course, the slaves were unarmed and couldn’t resist the hellhounds’ teeth.

“Keuak! These scum!”

“Dog scum!”

“Die, dammit!”

Meanwhile, the archers at the back started shooting his bow.

Swiik-Papak!

“Keng!”

The arrow fired by the archer lodged in the body of a hellhound. But it wasn’t dead and one of the hellhounds bit a slave’s neck. The archer’s next arrow hit the neck and eyes of a hellhound biting a slave’s hand.

“Kaeng!”

One hellhound died. But one of the slaves were sacrificed and became bloody.

Lee Shin had hurried the construction of the barracks and continued summoning 2 archers.

It was a fierce fight.

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## Mock Battle (3)

### 6) Mock Battle (3)

Two slaves threw their bodies at the hellhounds and died. Additional slaves collecting magic power were then committed to the fight.

“Ack!”

4 slaves were sacrificed before they could stop the 6 hellhounds. It was thanks to the additional 2 archers summoned. Additionally, they barely managed to survive two more attacks from hellhounds.

‘It is so hard to prevent this.’

Lee Shin was rather disappointed with the weak attack of the archers. The coarse bow couldn’t penetrate the thick leather of the hellhounds.

“We won!”

“Ah!”

The 4 archers and 2 slaves that survived gave a loud shout. The 2 slaves that survived returned to collecting magic power.

Lee Shin started thinking.

‘In the end, the damage was four slaves. Gremory had 8 hellhounds die.’

Two hellhounds could be summoned with 50 magic power so that was a total of 200 magic power consumed on both sides.

But technically speaking, Lee Shin’s damage was much greater. The slaves were production units. He committed the slaves to the fight so the gathering of magic power was delayed.

‘However, 8 hellhounds have already appeared.’

As a professional gamer, he felt a strange sensation. Two more archers were summoned from the two finished barracks.

“6 archers and 4 slaves, come out and fight!”

The 6 archers and 4 slaves automatically moved at his command. The troops

moved out the entrance.

Lee Shin hadn't confirmed where Gremory's camp was but he could guess.

-The 1st battlefield Asteia has four starting points in the 11 o'clock, 1 o'clock, 5 o'clock and 7 o'clock direction.

Lee Shin's camp is at 11 o'clock.

'7 o'clock.'

He found it with the help of the first scouting slave killed by the hellhounds. At that time, the 5 hellhounds had come running from the 7 o'clock direction.

\*

Gremory who was conducting the beasts was surprised.

-The enemy has appeared!

'What?'

In fact, Gremory was surprised that she received a counterattack. She focused more on attack than defense due to her previous experience in the Ranking War.

But then a counterattack out of nowhere?

'I doesn't matter. They are weak human archers.'

Right now she had the hellhounds collecting magic power. Even if the summoned hellhounds had been defeated, she judged that the ones helping her were enough to defend.

But there were 4 people and 6 archers.

'Slaves?'

The four slaves formed a line and blocked the front while the archers shot bows from behind.

Lee Shin's sophisticated tactic caused a stir inside Gremory's camp.

Some of the slaves even started to build a tower on the spot.

-Arrow Tower: A human defense building. 4 archers can go inside to shoot

arrows.

An arrow tower in the heart of the enemy's camp! This experience was new to her. By the time the tower was completed, there were only 2 archers and 1 slave remaining.

The two archers tried to enter the tower.

"No! Stop them!"

6 summoned hellhounds rushed in unison.

"Wahh! These scum!"

The one surviving slave blocked the way.

"Ignore him!"

Gremory cried out. But the slave blocked the hellhounds' path.

"Grrrrung!"

Wooduk!

"Kkeok!"

The slave died as his neck was torn out. But the fighting spirit of the slave bought some time.

It was only a small amount of time. But it was enough for the 2 archers to get inside the tower.

The archers shot arrows from the top of the tower. The arrow tower was built at the place near the magic stones. It became impossible to gather magic power due to the arrows flying from the tower. This was too large to be a coincidence.

'It was a calculated manoeuvre!'

It was only a mock battle but...

Gremory felt an eerie feeling. But at the same time, excitement rose inside her. She was convinced that she had picked a very good contractor.

\*

-The Demon Lord Gremory has declared her defeat. This is Lee Shin's victory.

This is a mock battle so there is no change in the rank and magic power.

'I won.'

Lee Shin clenched his fists.

Pahat!

Soon his body was summoned elsewhere again. Gremory was waiting with a smile in place.

"Absolutely brilliant."

"I was lucky."

"Doesn't that mean I have extremely bad luck? It was amazing for your first time."

"Thank you."

Lee Shin felt good at the continuous praise.

"By the way, why did you decide to counterattack?"

"I had just completed the construction of a barrack while Gremory-nim had summoned 6 hellhounds."

"That's right."

"In other words, you invested your magic power into a surprise attack. Is this correct?"

"That's right."

"But after that, the attacks were discontinued. If you had more hellhounds then they would continue attacking."

"So you counterattacked knowing I had no beasts?"

"Yes, if the game continued longer then you would focus on collecting magic power. Perhaps you were thinking that I am a beginner in the Ranking War so you didn't have to worry as much?"

"Omo, you even thought that? That's terrible!"

“I will take that as praise.”

Lee Shin was busy thinking while Gremory praised him.

‘Really terrible.’

However, he was still a beginner....

“Omo, are you being rude again?”

Gremory pointed towards him.

“I’m not.”

Lee Shin immediately lied. Gremory’s narrowed eyes were filled with doubt but her attractive appearance was enough to make his heart pound.

“Hum hum, I want to ask you one more thing.”

“Hohoho, ask.”

“How are the people summoned to the battlefield just now?”

“Those people?”

“.....Yes.”

“Huhut. You are a good person.”

“I don’t think I am nice but they are weighing on my mind a little bit.”

“Hoho, originally they are people suffering in hell. Compared to hell, they are much happier being summoned to the battlefield. Furthermore, they are given some time to rest according to their achievements.”

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# Ranking War (1)

## 7) Ranking War (1)

“You fought with dedication.”

“Of course. I have to survive until the end of the Ranking War or return to hell again. So I need to somehow build some achievements.”

This was why the humans actively cooperated with Lee Shin. But they only got a short break.

“Can they ever escape from hell?”

“There is a chance.”

Gremory explained.

“When Lee Shin-nim uses summoning on the battlefield, you can appoint specific humans. So everybody will use a chance to appeal to Lee Shin. If they catch your eye then they can be continuously summoned in the future.”

That’s right. Everybody was trying to show their value and loyalty.

“Those who are often summoned to the battlefield and gain achievements will be freed from hell and promoted to a Demon World resident.”

“Indeed.”

“But remember, those in hell are the ones who sinned.”

“I’m aware of that. I am experienced at seeing tricks and will remember the people who are good to me.”

“That is a good idea. But are you going to continue using humans in the future?”

“Yes.”

“Didn’t you see how weak humans are compared to the hellhounds?”

“Many archers were used to kill one hellhound.”

“Yes. You might have sympathy for humans but you should pick a stronger race.”

“It isn’t because I’m a human. I just know the strength of the human race.”

“The strength of humans?”

“Yes.”

“I’d like you to prove that you’re not just bragging. Do you want to continue with the mock battles?”

“Okay. I’ll let you experience the strength of humans.”

Thus the two people continued with the mock battles.

Lee Shin continued to experience victory and defeats in the mock battles. But as he learned the units and buildings of the humans, he was no longer defeated.

Gremory’s face became puzzled as she experienced a succession of defeats.

Lee Shin studied humans, orcs, elves and dwarves at various different angles. Lee Shin was satisfied after 30 mock battles.

“Now I know a little bit about the Ranking War.”

“I-Is that so?”

Gremory looked very tired after experiencing 30 mock battles. Out of 30 battles, she had only won 7. Those victories had occurred only on when he hadn’t adapted yet. Once Lee Shin became sufficiently aware of the Ranking War, she didn’t win anymore.

“I have to practice in a different dimensional space....”

Gremory’s tired face looked at Lee Shin with horror.

“I’ve gone far enough for now. Once a challenge arrives, we will use the 1st battlefield Asteia.

“Y-yes.”

The Ranking War had 12 different dimensional spaces with different geographic characteristics. But he was satisfied with completely figuring out one dimensional space.

Once back at the palace, Lee Shin few a full length map of Asteia. He peered at the map while studying strategy and tactics.

‘Are creatures the most preferred species?’

In terms of preference, creatures were chosen more often than the other 4. In order of popularity, the rest was the orcs, elves, dwarves and humans.

‘Creatures over the other 4 species. It is likely that the advanced demons will

challenge me with creatures.’

Anyway,

Lee Shin developed for a variety of hypothetical strategies for different situations.

\*

A few days flew by. But it finally came at last.

“72nd Demon Lord, I greet Gremory-nim.”

A young man with pale white skin visited the palace. He acted polite but his face was filled with self-confidence.

Gremory who was sitting on the throne looked at the man and asked.

“The senior demon Eltima.”

“Yes,

Gremory-nim. Now the time has come. The senior demon Eltima hereby challenges the 72nd ranked Demon Lord Gremory-nim.”

Lee Shin heard a prince like tone from the man.

‘An attitude like he has already won.’

72 Demon

Lords. Just like Gremory said, it seemed like it had special meaning in this place.

‘Hwang Byeong-cheol was like that.’

Lee Shin suddenly had a thought.

The number 2, Hwang Byeong-cheol.

In fact, he was Lee Shin’s only rival among the pro-gamers. In a friendly match between professional practice teams, Hwang Byeong-cheol’s odds of winning was 60%. This meant Lee Shin only had a 40% chance of defeating Hwang Byeong-cheol.

Once they ran into each other at the final of the League Cup, Hwang Byeong-cheol had a toxic type of excitement. His eyes were laid on the flashing prize and trophy! He was intoxicated with the thought of being the new star of e-sports.

The result was 3 losses out of 5 matches, with 3 consecutive losses. The supposedly more memorable game of the century was a great disappointment to fans.

‘I threw out the bait and he snapped it.’

He patiently waited and thoroughly caught Hwang Byeong-cheol.

Afterwards, Hwang Byeong-cheol experienced a psychological warfare every time he encountered Lee Shin. The birth of the number 2.

Lee Shin sensed the same smell coming from the senior demon Eltima who was challenging the current ruler of this throne.

‘It won’t be as easy as you think.’

An atmosphere like this. It was Lee Shin’s favourite prey.

Gremory said.

“Okay. According to the law, it is impossible to reject a challenge from someone qualified.”

“How much magic power do you want to use?”

Eltima’s eyes seemed to be filled with thirst.

At that moment, Lee Shin boldly flicked two fingers. Gremory saw him and immediately replied.

“I will choose 20,000 magic power.”

“20,000?”

Eltima’s eyes widened. It was greater than expected.

“Are you serious?”

“Do you doubt my

words?”

“No, such a thing isn’t possible. Okay. 20,000 is good.”

There was a smile on Eltima’s lips. Gremory frowned at Eltima’s attitude but ignored it. In the meantime, Lee Shin continued to do a psychological analysis of Eltima.

‘He expected us to bet the lowest amount, 10,000.’

He hadn’t expected them to bet more. Gremory’s losing streak made people disparage her.

“The showdown will be at the 1st battlefield Asteia.”

This was the only battlefield Lee Shin had analyzed and practiced on. There

was no other options.

“Okay.”

“Then let’s start right away.”

Gremory laid her hands on Lee Shin’s shoulders who was standing next to the throne.

Pahat!

The two of them disappeared.

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## Ranking War (2)

### 8) Ranking War (2)

-The Demon Lord Gremory and her contractor Lee Shin have arrived at the 1st full length Asteia battlefield.

100 people arrived at Asteia first.

“Are you confident?”

Gremory asked.

She had planned on 10,000 but ended up pledging 20,000 magic power. Lee Shin had chosen 20,000 as the bet for Gremory.

But if they lost then it would be huge damage.

“I will defeat an enemy like that.”

“It is reassuring. But you definitely have to win. My territory and the future of my army is up to you.”

Gremory had fallen up the way from the 56th rank. If she was deprived of the status of Demon Lord then she would lose everything.

‘I will also suffer.’

If she was defeated and lost the status of Lord then he couldn’t return to his original world.

It wasn’t just that.

Under the agreement, the stopped time in the original world would flow again. Lee Shin’s body would continue to sleep in the bed until he returned.

‘There would be quite an uproar.’

Lee Shin not waking up. The tragic character wounded by gunmen and forced to retire would make the press. He didn’t want to look that pitiable.

There was a risk but Lee Shin wasn’t concerned.

Lee Shin inherently had a lot of courage when it came to victory.

-The senior demon Eltima has arrive at the 1st full length Asteia battlefield.

Eltima appeared.

Then Eltima saw Lee Shin and laughed.

“You are Gremory-nim’s new contractor?”

“That’s right.”

That’s right?

Eltima frowned. A mere human was rude to a demon. But then he had a thought and approached Lee Shin.

“Your attitude is quite amazing for someone not of this world. There must be a reason a Demon Lord selected you as a contractor.”

“I won’t tolerate useless gossip.”

Gremory decisively cut off the conversation.

“Yes, excuse me.”

Eltima retreated.

Gremory warned Lee Shin.

“Eltima has the ability to detect ‘lies.’ He can see through the lies of his opponents so don’t answer any questions.”

“See through lies?”

Gremory healed his body and the senior demon Eltima had a special talent as well. Eltima approached again while Lee Shin was busy thinking. Gremory had no time to stop him.

“You have the talent to detect lies?”

“Yes, you insolent human.”

“So check if this is false or not.”

Lee Shin looked into Eltima’s eyes. Lee Shin wasn’t afraid at all when confronting a senior demon.

fight.”

“I will win this

“What?”

Eltima looked confused for the first time.

“I’m telling you this. I am very confident.”

“.....!”

Lee Shin smiled coldly.

“Tell me. Am I lying?”

“L-lie....!”

Eltima fell into a panic.

He doubted his ability to detect lies. Since the opponent wasn’t lying.

‘Well, I lied thousands of times during the practice games back in my days as a player.’

Anyway, this punch was good enough.

A demon that craved the status of 72nd Demon Lord. And he had just felt threatened. These two things combined would cause impatience.

Lee Shin returned to Gremory.

“I’d like to start.”

“I understand.”

-The Ranking War between the Demon Lord Gremory-nim and the senior demon Eltima-nim.

The outcome of the war will affect the rank or magic power. 40,000 magic power has been bet.

40,000 magic power will be spread through the battlefield.

Please select a species.

“Human.”

Lee Shin said first.

A somewhat relieved expression appeared on Eltima’s face. It was fortunate that the opponent had picked weak humans.

“Creature.”

Lee Shin also laughed at Eltima’s choice. As expected, the most preferred

option were the creatures.

Eltima's play style was drawn in his head.

'Creatures are the most aggressive species.'

It was a species more specialized in attack than defense. The biggest reason behind the opponent picking that species was impatience.

'It is coming.'

Lee Shin never lost when he felt like this.

-The Ranking War has started.

The Demon Lord Gremory-nim's contractor will fight against the senior demon Eltima-nim.

Lee Shin and Eltima's bodies were teleported. Lee Shin started at the 11 o'clock position in Asteia.

"Oh, is it Contractor-nim."

"Please give a command."

"I will work harder!"

The 4 slaves greeted him when he appeared.

"Gather magic power."

The 4 slaves started gathering magic power according to Lee Shin's instructions.

The game had begun.

\*

'Is what he said true?'

Eltima felt confused.

A demon and human fighting. It was ridiculous to think that he wouldn't win. But his opponent wasn't lying.

'Maybe

Gremory picked someone great as the contractor. I can't fail.'

Eltima was a bold demon.

He had gone through numerous struggles in the Demon World before being able to challenge the throne of a Demon Lord.

Eltima had been fairly cautious and waited until today to challenge. He challenged as soon as he heard the news that the weakest Demon Lord had a new contractor.

A new contractor was still inexperienced in the Ranking War!

Eltima had been sure of his victory until a little while ago. But the earlier conversation with Lee Shin had caused some anxiety.

‘A Demon Lord would probably take a human hero as the contractor. Such an amazing human was in front of me.’  
Fortunately,  
Eltima’s plan hadn’t collapsed yet.

The human had become a contractor just days before. No matter how great they are in the human world, the Demon World is completely different.

He recognized the ambition and talent but the human was still immature in regards to the Ranking War.

‘Choosing the weak humans is evidence that he is still immature.’

The human probably conducted humans because he was familiar with them.

‘This war will be quite different. I will show it.’

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## Ranking War (3)

### 9) Ranking War (3)

Lee Shin was very aware of the shortcomings of humans.

Early on they were too weak.

The archers were weak. The bows and arrows were coarse and there wasn't the proper defense structure.

Two hellhounds were summoned with 50 magic power so it would be difficult to win in a one on one fight.

The creatures were good because they could produce troops quickly early on. This was why the demons preferred creatures and found humans to be weak.

If he invested in defense facilities such as an arrow tower then what if the opponent came attacking? It was wasting money in vain. He would be at a disadvantage over time.

But this Ranking War was like a game made by developers. There wouldn't be any unfairness between races. Lee Shin confirmed the strengths of humans through numerous simulations.

'Scouting.'

He needed to scout in order to verify the opponent.

'You and you. Go scout. In the 7 and 11 o'clock directions respectively.'

"Yes!"

"I'm leaving!"

Two slaves who were collecting magic power moved immediately. Coincidentally, one of them was the older man who had died first the other day.

The Ranking War was the only way to escape from eternal pain in hell. The older man was willing to put his life on the line. Even if he died on the battlefield, he would only return to hell so there was no need for regrets.

After the scouts left, Lee Shin immediately built a barrack across the entrance. About 70% of the entrance had been blocked by the barrack. The archers were placed at the first boundary that would allow them to aim at enemies that entered.

“Leave it to us.”

The adults who were summoned cheerfully answered. Lee Shin continued to build barracks and summoned archers.

This was done near the entrance. The result of two barracks at the entrance cause the passage to warp into a zigzag shape.

‘This should stop the rush of too many hellhounds.’

Lee Shin knew that the hellhounds were fast but dumb. The S shaped entrance path would allow them to be baptized with arrows from the archers.

It was at that moment.

*[I've found the enemy!]*

One of the two slaves sent to scout behind enemy lines cried out.

The older man was the lucky one. He was looking at an entrance where magic circles were placed.

-Magic Circle: Circle to summon creatures.

The collected magic power can summon basic creatures.

Three creatures can be summoned at one time, with 300 magic power required to build the circle.

Palm shaped monsters with claws were being produced inside.

-Claw: Summoned using a magic circle. The sharp claws can scratch but the damage is small.

‘He is expanding the base.’

The senior demon Eltima was focused on securing magic power. From the

start, magic power could be collected at headquarters and places outside.

So there wasn't a lot of hellhounds at the moment.

'I didn't think he would be focusing on defense.'

While Lee Shin invested in his own defense, he thought the other side would secure magic power for an overwhelming attack.

One more thing needed to be verified.

"Enter enemy headquarters."

The older man passed through the doorway and entered Eltima's headquarters. Despite being forced to follow the order, the older man was an active participant.

It was like Lee Shin expected. There were only two hellhounds at most. The claws were going around collecting magic power. The two hellhounds chased after the older man that entered.

"Run! Continue looking around headquarters."

"Wah!"

The older man ran around and toured Eltima's headquarters. In the meantime, Lee Shin constructed a 3rd barrack and summoned more archers. Another slave was sent to scout near Eltima's camp just in case there was an attack.

'This style of fighting at the headquarters is very classic.'

The older man was giving him a very good view of Eltima's headquarters. Lee Shin was able to catch the timing thanks to him.

Humanity was stronger in the second half of the game. He intended a major attack before Eltima reached the second half. But Lee Shin was going to change the tempo of the first attacks.

'I can't just focus on the archers.'

Lee Shin constructed a smithy.

-Smithy: A facility that provides weapons and armour to summoned troops.

Shield and spear troopers can be summoned from the smithy.

While the smithy was being completed, Lee Shin started to summon shield troopers from the barracks.

At the same time, he issued another instruction to the smithy.

‘Develop weapons!’

-Weapons have started to be developed in the smithy.

Archers, spearmen and shield troopers will be provided better weapons in battle.

The older man scouting Eltima’s headquarters finally died. But the scout had bought him quite some time but the older man had distinguished himself in the Ranking War.

The older man had shown a new building that Eltima was constructing.

-Dragon Altar: An altar to sacrifice creatures.

Once enough creatures are sacrificed, a young dragon can be summoned.

‘I have to finish this game before the dragon is summoned.’

Two shield troopers and two spearmen had been summoned by the 4 barracks. Once added to the 16 archers, there was a total of 20 soldiers.

‘Attack!’

Lee Shin also had the 3 slaves collecting magic power accompany them. And the slaves were placed near Eltima’s camp. The slaves jumped into Eltima’s camp and showed the situation.

There was a bright light as two magic circles were summoning something. Perhaps it was a dragon.

‘Run!’

Lee Shin's 23 man army ran desperately.

\*

-The enemy has appeared!

'Did that slave come to die again?'

But this time they weren't scouts. 23 troops!

The normally calm Eltima was surprised.

'Hahat! Only?'

The majority of the troops were weak archers. The spearmen and shield troopers also had meager weapons. The dragon could easily wipe them out when summoned.

But at that moment.

'No?'

Suddenly the weapons of the archers, spearmen and shield troopers changed.

The archers held crossbows and the spearmen had long spears. The round shield had been upgraded to a large rectangular shield.

This was a result of the smithy's weapons development. He had attacked as soon as the weapons finished their development.

Lee Shin's troops struck the magic circles outside the headquarters. The claws gathering magic power were killed. The 3 creatures just summoned were struck by 16 crossbow bolts.

"Kkieek!"

"Kkieek!"

Two creatures died quickly.

Eltima felt like he was having a nightmare.

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## Ranking War (4)

### 10) Ranking War (4)

Lee Shin had steadily checked the timing of Eltima's camp. Precisely calculating when the enemy was weakest and strongest.

'Right now.'

Eltima was using 2 magic circles to summon 6 dragons. If it was a bit late then 10 hellhounds would be summoned afterwards and the attack wouldn't succeed.

He calculated the timing of the enemy troops and immediately attacked with upgraded weapons. Of the 3 dragons that appeared in the outer circle, 2 instantly died from the crossbow bolts. The remaining one also died straight away.

After completely destroying the outer circles, Lee Shin's troops immediately rushed into Eltima's headquarters.

His slaves had started to construct 2 arrow towers near Eltima's headquarters.

Eltima also summoned 6 hellhounds from the circles at the headquarters. It was possible to summon 2 hellhounds at a time so they were useful. The 6 hellhounds and remaining claws were mobilized to counterattack.

However, Lee Shin had calculated this situation.

'The 2 shield troopers will buy some time.'

'Fire the crossbow bolts at the enemy.'

'The spearmen will pass them and only concentrate on attacking the claws.'

Precise tactics.

The 16 archers hid behind the shields blocking and fired the crossbow bolts. The key point of this tactic was the spearmen. The spearmen were mobilized to intensively fight the claws. One long spear could penetrate through a few claws at once.

"Kkieek!"

The dragons spat out some poison that the crossbow troops withdrew to avoid.

“Ugh!”

“Ack! Poison...!”

“Continue shooting!”  
The crossbow troops continued to fire their crossbows.

And finally.

-The arrow tower has been completed.

-The arrow tower has been completed.

‘Retreat! All crossbow troops enter the tower!’

The surviving 7 crossbow troops entered the two towers. The two arrow towers built in front of headquarters! Eltima’s creatures didn’t know what to do and hesitated.

‘They have already died in large quantities so there is no production in the future.’

The 2 spearmen had killed a large number of claws.

Lee Shin leisurely issued instructions.

‘Time for the final part of the battle.’

As expected, Eltima poured his remaining troops towards the 2 arrow towers. He was stuck between a rock and a hard place.

Crossbow bolts were fired from the towers and the dragons died first. The hellhounds and claws were also wiped out. Additional 6 hellhounds had been summoned for help but Lee Shin also had the aid of 2 newly summoned shield troopers and 2 spearmen.

‘It is finished.’

Lee Shin’s all-out attack. Detailed tactics weren’t necessary.

-The senior demon Eltima-nim has been defeated. The Demon Lord Gremory-nim has won.

The Demon Lord Gremory-nim has acquired 20,000 magic power.

“I lost.”

The senior demon Eltima’s face darkened.

“Today I won. I will be waiting for your next challenge.”

“Yes....”

Eltima stared at Lee Shin.

“Human.”

“.....?”

“Tell me what you want.”

“What?”

Lee Shin was confused by Eltima’s ambiguous words. Gremory explained the situation.

“There is a special meaning when humans beat demons.”

“What does that mean?”

“A human can ask for something from the demon. Even if it occurred in the Ranking War.”

“I can ask for something every time I win?”

“The demon will grant one wish. Of course, that is on the premise that you win.”

It was the first time he heard about this.

‘Then if I continue to climb up, I can get 71 wishes.’

Lee Shin looked back at Eltima.

“What can you give me?”

In fact, he didn’t have any apparent wishes so he asked the question.

“I am Eltima who can detect lies. I can give you the ability to detect lies. And....”

Eltima hesitated a little bit before saying.

“I can give you some of my magic power.”

“Magic power?”

“A human that has magic power can be promoted to a demon. It is a good wish.”

Eltima was obviously very reluctant to give away some of his magic power. Magic power was very precious to a demon. But Lee Shin didn't want to become a demon.

“Give me the ability to detect lies.”

It isn't necessary but it would be good to have sooner or later.

“I understand.”

Eltima laid his hands on Lee Shin's head.

Pahat!

Something black flowed his hands into Lee Shin's head.

Eltima soon released his hands and said.

“If you make contact with the enemy then you can discover if they are telling the truth or lies.”

“I need to make contact?”

“That's right. That is the only way that humans can use my ability.”

He heard the words but couldn't firmly believe it. Lee Shin seized Gremory's hand.

“Do you want me to tell you a lie?”

Gremory said with a smile.  
you.”

“I won't keep my contract with

-[Lie]

That message flashed in my head.

“Really.”

Lee Shin was amazed.

“Then I’ll be going. Goodbye.....”

The senior demon Eltima disappeared.

Gremory openly laughed this time.

“We won!”

“Yes, I told you that.”

“I didn’t know winning would be like this!”

“You’ll have to get used to it now.”

Lee Shin had fought countless e-sport matches so he wasn’t that excited.

“You are really dependable.”

Rather, he was more embarrassed by Gremory’s praise. Her beauty was really evil.

“Please look after me in the future.”

“Let’s leave.”

They returned to the Demon World from Asteia. Upon their return to the palace, Gremory decided to return Lee Shin like she promised.

“Remember one thing.”

“What is it?”

Gremory suddenly grabbed Lee Shin’s hand.

“I won’t keep my contract with you.”

Then a message appeared in Lee Shin’s mind.

-[???

This time he couldn’t differentiate whether it was the truth or a lie.

Gremory laughed at Lee Shin’s surprise.

“A Demon Lord is tougher than Eltima. Be prepared in the Ranking Wars ahead.”

“...I will keep that in mind.”

“Then I look forward to the day we meet again.”

She smiled and opened the door to Lee Shin’s dimension.

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[About these ads](#)

## Scout (1)

11) Scout (1)

“Heok!”

Lee Shin was sucked into his body and woke up. He looked around.

Despite it being daylight, the closed curtains made the room dark. The clothes on the floor around the bed and the PC.....

‘I’m back.’

Lee Shin was skeptical for a brief moment. Perhaps it was a dream?

He looked at his right wrist and turned it. It moved smoothly without any pain.

Lee Shin shuddered lightly. It didn’t hurt. His wrist had returned to normal. Furthermore, every part of his body felt refreshed. It was thanks to the Demon Lord Gremory’s healing.

It was at that moment. Knock knock  
knock.

“Shin, are you awake?”

It was his mother’s voice.

“Yes.”

“I’ve brought you a meal.”

Lee Shin’s mother placed the meal down in front of his door.

‘What is this loser like reclusive attitude?’

Lee Shin had woken up from his pathetically long and deep despair. Lee Shin opened his door.

“S-Shin?”

His mother looked surprised. A reunion after a long time.

Lee Shin picked up the tray and said to his mother.

“Let’s eat together.”

“Y-yes. It is good to eat together.”

His mother’s face was thrilled.

‘Was I that caught up in the game?’

Lee Shin’s mind was decisive. He felt like a sinner towards his mother. His mother was delighted and took him towards the kitchen.

His father was sitting at the table reading a newspaper. His father stopped reading the newspaper in surprise as he saw Lee Shin.

“Y-you came out.”

“Yes.”

Lee Shin set the tray on the table. The three family members were sitting at the table after a long time.

Lee Shin’s father started to eat.

“Now, eat more.”

His mother topped the rice with a lot of meat.

“Thank you.”

Lee Shin ate silently.

He looked at his father. It seemed like his father wanted to say many things.

Lee Shin knew what he wanted to say.

‘What are you going to do now?’

‘Until when will you act like this?’

‘Going back to university and studying.....’

Lee Shin said.

“I will return.”

“Huh?”

“What?”

His father and mother were surprised at the same time.

“H-how are you going to return if you are injured?”

His mother asked.

Lee Shin suddenly looked at his right hand holding a fork. They gave Lee Shin this instead of chopsticks for his injured hand.

He had been using a fork for nearly half a year but chopsticks still came naturally to him. He put down the fork. And pulled out a pair of chopsticks from the library. Everyone in South Korea could skillfully use chopsticks.

“Y-your hands are healed?”

His mother asked with surprise.

“I haven’t been doing nothing while stuck in my room.”

Lee shamelessly said.

It would be impossible for Lee Shin to completely cure his hand without help.

“Isn’t it better to rest for a while before returning?”

His father still opposed it.

“And you are 25 years old so it is time that you quit the game.....”

“Are you a child or something?”

“.....”

“H-honey!”

A chilly silence.

Lee Shin said with a cold face.

“So you don’t want to cheer me on. Are you ashamed that your son is playing a game?”

His parents were history teachers so the Lee Shin’s gaming was a long source of family discord. No matter how much fame and wealth Lee Shin built up, his parents wouldn’t recognize it. “Shin, that’s not what I mean. Your father, yes, there are many old values but.....”

“Then mother will support me if I play the game?”

Lee Shin quickly grabbed his mother's hand.

"That's right. If you want....."

-[Lie]

Lee Shin's face became as cold as ice.

"I see."

Lee Shin said.

"It doesn't matter if mother and father ignore me. I already have fans around the world."

His father's face turned red. His mother fidgeted and didn't know what to do.

"Sooner or later, I will be independent. It is fine if you don't accept the game."

Lee Shin finished eating and washed the plate before going back to his room.

Kwang!

The door was closed roughly. He knew that he was rude to his parents but it was difficult to ignore it any longer.

'I still have a long way to go.'

The older generation didn't care about gaming but I was determined to overcome it. A child still wanted to be praised by their parents.

However, he still felt good. It was a fact that he could play the game again.

'Now what?'

Should I proclaim to the e-sport reporters that I am returning and look for my team?

'No.'

Lee Shin shook his head.

He suddenly broke off communications suddenly so it was impossible to return as a player. He didn't have any contact with my enlisted team for the past 6 months.

'A scandalous guy.'

No coach would make an offer to him.

Right now the e-sports market had grown thanks to the help of Lee Shin. The harsh environment meant that only young players with passion could join Korea's e-sports.

Then Lee Shin won the country's first gold medal in the SC World Grand Prix and drew the attention of the public. Thanks to that, the market had grown to the advanced infrastructure today.

All officials in e-sports had to thank Lee Shin.

'Yet they've been ignoring me.'

The conservative mindset of his parents and the family traditions were frustrating.

Lee Shin made a decision.

'Let's wait 1 month.'

He would see if a professional team came to him before looking for one.

\*

There was no need to wait that long.

The first half of the professional league season was almost over and the transfer season was approaching.

Approximately 2 weeks after making a decision, a team came to find Lee Shin.

"Welcome."

"Good morning. I am Director Bang Jin-ho of the MBS Team. I was wondering if player Lee Shin....."

"He is in his room."

He heard the conversation between his mother and the middle aged man.

'Director Bang Jin-ho?'

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## Scout (2)

12) Scout (2)

It was surprising.

Lee Shin had been Director Bang Jin-ho's rival. After Lee Shin entered the professional league, his team had a zero winning streak.

In Lee Shin's debut year, he alone had defeated 5 vanguards in the MBS team. And Director Bang Jin-ho was angry at him when giving an interview.

'New player Lee Shin should learn some courtesies for the opponent.'

'I'm sorry. I was too honest.'

Since then, Lee Shin became famous as the river of the MBS Team. Every time the two sides met, 'will the MBS Team be able to get revenge?' was a major concern.

'It is true that we bickered with each other but it was all showmanship for the entertainment.'

It was unexpected that Bang Jin-ho would come visit him personally.

Knock knock knock.

Director Bang Jin-ho knocked as he arrived. Lee Shin opened his door.

They met face to face.

Director Bang Jin-ho was a man in his 30s with a mustache and a solid build that matched the black suit.

Lee Shin was tall, had balanced traits, white skin with no blemishes and an innate handsomeness.

A handsome man that caused many females to become fans of e-sports. Any photo taken with him would be frantically downloaded to the desktop.

"In contrast to what I heard, your appearance looks quite good."

"I didn't get any sunlight on my skin."

Bang Jin-ho frowned as he looked around the room. He opened the drawn curtains.

Lee Shin frowned slightly as sunlight streamed in.

“You should get some sun while living. Aren’t you a human?”

“I can’t afford it.”

“If you don’t live seeing the light then your spirit will become increasingly depressed.”

“Indeed.”

“.....”

Lee Shin pointed towards a chair at the desk. Director Bang Jin-ho sat on the chair while Lee Shin sat on the bed.

“What brings you here?”  
staying in your home for the last 6 months?”

“Have you been

“Yes.”

“I was waiting until you came out of the house.”

“If you are concerned then you should at least come for one or two visits.”

“Who is to blame? You should blame your indifference. You didn’t even try. Your friends were chased away.”

Lee Shin couldn’t say otherwise. Lee Shin was too straightforward.

“Friend, are you eating?”

“Stupid.”

Lee Shin quickly laughed.

“Look at my hands. How about it?”

Lee Shin held up his thumb towards Director Bang Jin-ho. Then he turned the thumb downwards. It was usually a provocative gesture.

“You really.....”

Director Bang Jin-ho was impressed.

“I have overcome my impairment.”

“Is everyday life possible?”

“Yes.”

“The game?”

“As long as I don’t violently move the controls.”

“You can live as a player?”

“We’ll see.”

Of course he could do it but Lee Shin stayed on the fence.

Right now he had no thoughts about returning as a player. His hands hadn’t played the game in a while so an adjustment period was required. If he hastily returned then it could deal a damaging blow to his reputation.

However, Lee Shin suddenly grabbed Bang Jin-ho’s hand. Bang Jin-ho frowned with confusion.

“What is it?”

“Are you concerned?”

“Fuck, I’m not worried about a guy like you.”

-[Lie]

Lee Shin let out a chuckle. Bang Jin-ho looked at the laughing Lee Shin. Director Bang Jin-ho seemed to be in a bad mood as Lee Shin asked.

“Did you have a plan when coming here?”

“There is.”

“What is it?”

“MBS team coach.”

He stared at Director Bang Jin-ho with slight surprise.

Then Lee Shin laughed.

\*

Lee Shin came out of the house for the first time in 6 months with Bang Jin-ho.

It was to visit the office of the MBS Team.

“Wow, player Lee Shin!”

A middle aged man came out to welcome Lee Shin. It was the MBS Team’s captain Park Sang-hyuk.

“Nice to meet you.”

“I’ve heard a lot about you. Ah, it really is you.”

“Thank you.”

“The reason player Lee Shin is here is because of Director Bang Jin-ho’s strong recommendation. Did you know?”

“I didn’t know that.”

Lee Shin stared at Bang Jin-ho. Director Bang Jin-ho said.

“Player Lee Shin is brilliant at control and multi-tasking but is also superior strategically. If he is hired as head coach then there will be a good synergy with the players.”

“Yes, yes. By the way, your hands?”

“It is healed. I can moderately move the mouse.”

“Moderation is good.”

“Yes, in moderation.”

Park Sang-hyuk met Lee Shin’s eyes.

“Excuse me, are you really perhaps planning to return as a player?”

“I don’t know. I need to wait and see.”

“Hrmm.....”

Park Sang-hyuk started to contemplate what would happen. Lee Shin who was sitting on the couch made his own calculations.

‘I need to think about this. I can’t dismiss the possibility of him returning as a player simply because it is complicated.’

These were Park Sang-hyuk’s thoughts.

Lee Shin was calculating his annual salary. And he said honestly.

“Salary is 100 million.”

“Huh?”

Park Sang-hyuk stared at Lee Shin with surprise.

“A 100 million 1 year contract. Instead the contract between player and coach, the contract renewal will depend on the results.”

“But a coach receiving a salary of 100 million is a little much.....”

“I won three gold medals for South Korea in the SC World Grand Prix. Who else has done that?”

“.....Only player Lee Shin.”

“Are you saying I don’t deserve a salary of 100 million?”

Park Sang-hyuk shed some sweat at Lee Shin’s words.

“Not really. But there is no precedent for this as the coach’s capabilities to teach the players hasn’t been tested yet.....”

“What about Shin Ji-ho lately?”

Lee Shin interrupted.

“Huh? Oh, player Shin Ji-ho will renew his contract soon.”

Shin Ji-ho was the ace of the MBS Team.

“Shin Ji-ho is well known for his dirty nature. He must be worse since becoming the runner up in the second half of the league last year.”

“.....”

Park Sang-hyuk and Director Bang Jin-ho couldn’t say anything.

It was all true. Shin Ji-ho was the owner of a negative personality and he often complained. Since becoming runner up in the league last year, he hadn’t stopped his abusive nature.

He gossiped about the other players on the team and was taken from the position of ace.

Lee Shin smiled coldly.

“Don’t you need someone to hold back Shin Ji-ho among the players? Even Shin Ji-ho won’t dare to say something in front of me.”

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## Scout (3)

### 13) Scout (3)

After criticizing the team's sensitive situation, Lee Shin's shameless salary was accepted.

Park Sang-hyuk had been reluctant. Similarly, Director Bang Jin-ho had a troubled expression.

But they didn't know. Lee Shin had been acting favourably towards MBS.

'My annual salary of 100 million is at a community service level.'

The two people couldn't block Lee Shin's goal.

"Player Lee Shin, can we have a little more time to think?"

Park Sang-hyuk asked. Lee Shin nodded.

"I understand."

Once the negotiations were over. Lee Shin got up with confusion.

'It is only an annual salary of 100 million so why are they hesitating?'

Lee Shin thought about it.

\*

"No matter who he is, a coach having an annual salary of 100 million....."

Park Sang-hyuk sighed. Director Bang Jin-ho looked at him and said.

"The problem is that the child is rich."

"Why is that a problem?"

"He earned a lot of money. Therefore he isn't greedy for money but sincerely thinks that he is worth 100 million."

"Phew, well 100 million would be nothing if he was signed as a player."

If Lee Shin returned as a player then let alone 100 million, people would be willing to pay 300 million. But 100 million for someone who wasn't a player

seemed impossible.

“But the player coach said it with his own mouth. Maybe he can return in the first half of next year. In fact, his wrist condition is better than what is shown in the media.”

“Uhum.”

“And he has brilliant hand control and multi-tasking but his strategic judgement is superior. Such a sharp strategies will have a temperament suitable for a coach.”

Park Sang-hyuk nodded.

“Director Bang highly recommends it so I will try and think positively. But that isn’t the problem now.”

“Yes, Shin Ji-ho is the priority right now.”

Lee Shin’s guess was accurate. Shin Ji-ho was a big headache.

But Lee Shin didn’t know the truth. Shin Ji-ho was a troublemaker but he had turned into a huge headache thanks to Lee Shin.

The second half of the league last year. Shin Ji-ho had reached the top 4 before suffering 0 wins and 3 losses to Lee Shin. He was mentally wounded and took a 7 day 6 nights vacation from the team.

But Lee Shin was suddenly injured and Shin Ji-ho pulled into the finals without any warning. The forever number 2, Hwang Byeong-cheol defeated Shin Ji-ho in the finals after Lee Shin’s forfeit.

Hwang Byeong-cheol won the finals to the booing of the netizens.

The loss of a national hero shocked the entire country and the internet mocked Hwang Byeong-cheol and Shin Ji-ho. Conspiracy theories swirled about the two people cooperating to injure Lee Shin.

Shin Ji-ho had become twisted since then. He offered a complaint every time he opened his mouth and created a sense of discomfort.

But there was nothing they could do. He was the team’s ace that Director Bang Jin-ho had raised directly like his own child.

“Although he is demanding an annual salary of 300 million..... Can Shin Ji-ho really play at is prime with Lee Shin?”

Park Sang-hyuk had to complain.

Before enlisting in the Air Force team, Lee Shin’s annual salary was 470 million won. His pro league’s winning percentage was 90% so his annual salary was worth it.

But Shin Ji-ho was the pro league’s runner up with a 67% winning percentage. Of course, the contribution to the team was high but it wasn’t enough to demand 300 million.

“Well, we just have to convince him well.”

“I will leave that to Director Bang.”

\*

After finishing the 1st round of negotiations at MBS, Lee Shin stopped at a nearby real estate agency.

“I would like to get a studio.”

“Eh? Are you perhaps the pro gamer Lee Shin ssi?”

The middle aged real estate agent recognized him with one glance. Lee Shin nodded and said.

“It would be good if the house was large but I want to get it as soon as possible.”

He was unsure about the MBS Team but regardless, Lee Shin needed a new neighbourhood to live.

“Uh, aigoo, are you in a hurry?”

“I don’t want to waste time. The amount of money doesn’t matter. A deposit is good.”

“Yes, I understand. I have a few good places that have been put up for sale.”

In the middle of Mokdong.

Lee Shin checked out several studios before deciding.

A 28 pyong area. 3 rooms and 2 bathrooms. It was a wide space for someone to live alone.

“Good.”

“Is that so? The deposit is 550 million won but you can move in at any time.”

“I’ll take it. Is it possible now?”

“Ah, yes yes.”

The real estate agent immediately called the landlord. Lee Shin signed the contract.

The next day, his mother and father watched with dismay as employees started moving Lee Shin’s belongings out.

“Shin, what is going on?”

Lee Shin shrugged at his mother’s urgent inquiry.

“I told you. I am now independent.”

“No, you didn’t even tell me where you are going in advance.....”

“I am going to Mokdong. I will contact you again.”

Thus Lee Shin left his home. He had no regrets about leaving his family home. The three rooms were decided as a bedroom, game room and dressing room.

‘Good.’

In addition, he didn’t need anything so there was no clutter. The spacious home was his own space where no one could interfere.

As soon as the internet was running, he immediately opened the game.

Space Craft.

It was the game he wanted to play. His right hand trembled slightly on the mouse. He created a new ID because his existing identity of Kaiser was too well-known.

-Player\_SIN-nim, welcome to the world of Space Craft.

A new ID was created and he could begin to play with the other players in online mode. The anonymous ID meant it wasn’t easy to face users with a rating

higher than B.

But Lee Shin stumbled upon a class A user by accident and he was able to start the game he wanted so much.

It was a really long time.

Curiously, his hand seemed to remember everything. The shortcuts, control strategies and head and hand coordination all came naturally to him.

He was on the verge of tears. The game was too good. It seemed crazy.

-Aprilist: You are really good. Would you like a another game?

The A rated user admitted defeat and asked. Lee Shin readily accepted.

Naturally Lee Shin won the following game. After suffering from a 10 game losing streak, Aprilist tearfully went away.

Lee Shin smiled.

There was the sense of coming back.

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# God of the Stadium (1)

## 14) God of the Stadium (1)

South Korea's SC pro league proceeded from January to November and a total of 8 teams would participate.

The competition was divided into the regular season and post season as followed.

1. Regular season: Consists of 4 rounds. Each round was divided into Pool League and Round Playoffs.

- Pool League: The 8 teams were ranked according to their points.

- Round Playoffs: The top 4 teams would compete in a tournament, with the winner receiving 40 points and the runner up 10 points.

2. Post season: The 4 teams with the highest points would compete in 4 rounds to decide the final victor.

And the 3R playoffs finals took place today, May 20th 2020.

It was a match between MBS and CT.

This would be the last game while the pro league rested for a while. It was because it was the season for the SC World Grand Prix and transfers.

MBS had to win this game. The total amount of points up to the 3R meant that MBS was ranked 7th out of the 8 teams. In order to escape from that, they needed to secure the 40 points from winning the 3R.

'MBS has been in a slump the entire year. It is due to the bad atmosphere in the team.'

There were 2,000 seats for fans. Lee Shin was seated in one of the seats in the stadium and closely watched the big screen. Lee Shin had come to spectate while hiding his face with a face mask and hat.

He wanted to check out the statue of MBS for himself. He could watch it online

on the internet but Lee Shin wanted to enjoy the heat of the stadium.

‘They are in a slump due to Shin Ji-ho but things have improved in the 3rd round due to Shin Ji-ho’s aggressive playing. I can see why Director Bang Jin-ho has a headache.’

At that time, players could be seen on the big screen.

“Wahhhhh!”

“Waahhh!”

“MBS fighting!”

“CT fighting!”

The fans shouted and cheered. It was a lovely sight to see fans cheering while wearing the uniform of their teams and waving signs.

Lee Shin smiled.

‘The stadium really is good.’

He was envious of the players on the big screen.

He was a greedy person. He wanted all the cheers and enthusiasm to be for him. Lee Shin had shone for 4 years but he was still thirsty.

‘Someday I will be in that place again.....’

Lee Shin made the decision yet again.

*-Hello everyone! Welcome to the 3R playoff finals of the 2020 SC Korea League! I am the newscaster Lee Byung-cheol!*

**-I am commentator Jeong Sung-tae.**

*-The one who needs the points from this match the most is MBS?*

**-That’s right. The MBS Team were sluggish during the 1st and 2nd rounds. They barely survived and their resurrection was due to the ace Shin Ji-ho.**

*-Player Shin Ji-ho acted as the team’s ace!*

**-Yes, soon it will be the summer transfer season and since Shin Ji-ho’s contract with MBS is ending, he is a player that people are trying to catch.**

*-Are multiple teams aiming for player Shin Ji-ho?*

**-Yes, they are keenly paying attention to Shin Ji-ho to bolster their teams. MBS will have to try and hold him.**

Lee Shin focused on the big screen while listening to the newscaster and commentator. It was a list of matches. But the girls sitting next to Lee Shin were gawking at him.

“Isn’t that Lee Shin oppa?”  
well because of the mask.”

“I can’t see

“There are no blemishes and the eyes and nose looks just like Lee Shin oppa.”

The females weren’t ordinary e-sports fans. They were members of Lee Shin’s fan cafe! Their member ratings on the fan cafe was ‘God’ and ‘zealot.’

“But isn’t he wearing the black jeans and V-neck top that we gifted him?”

A few years ago, there was a famous about Lee Shin.

*-Is there any particular reason why you wear the same clothes so often?*

‘It is a waste of time to go and buy clothes.’

*-You can purchase it from an online shopping mall.*

‘It is a waste of time to install ActiveX.’

Lee Shin eventually became known as a fashion terrorist which horrified the majority of his female fans. As soon as the interview was over, Lee Shin was sent gifts of clothes and shoes.

Lee Shin often wore clothes that the fans gifted him, making them pleased. It was rewarding every time they saw him wear the gifts.

“Let me ask.”

One of the females pretended to take a selfie while capturing Lee Shin in the hat and mask. And she posted the photo on Lee Shin’s cafe with a question.

[Title: I was wondering if this person is Lee Shin oppa?

Contents: Right now I am in the e-sports arena in Gangnam. I am dubious about whether this is Lee Shin oppa.]

Then there was a spree of comments in real time.

[Heol, jackpot! It really is Lee Shin oppa!]

[That slouch while crossing his legs is just like Lee Shin oppa.]

[I've been following Lee Shin oppa since he became popular. At that time, I was really annoyed with all men until I was sucked into the cafe! Anyway, that natural look makes me sure that he is Lee Shin oppa.]

[That superior way of leisurely crossing his legs. He must be Lee Shin oppa!]

[Look at your right hand. Your index finger is so close to Lee Shin oppa.]

[Aren't those pants Dolce & Gabbana? That is definitely the clothing we sent.]

[○ ○ Dolce & Gabbana fits.]

[Aren't those the Valentino shoes we sent? I am glad to report it as well. π π]

[There is a list of clothes sent to Lee Shin on the bulletin board announcements.]

[Oppa π π!! He is in Gangnam Stadium right now?!]

[Hull, complete jackpot!]

[I'm going there right now! It is 30 minutes from my house!]

[I'm envious. π π I am now in Jeonju. π π]

I'm in Busan. π π Will I make it in time if I take the KTX?

[Should I skip school to see Lee Shin? Heh heh.]

Lee Shin's cafe was in an uproar. It was understandable for the fans living near Gangnam to immediately clamour. The girls sitting next to Lee Shin felt lightheaded as it was confirmed.

"Ah, it really is Oppa. What do we do....."

"His injured wrist seems okay."

"It might be annoying but should I ask for a signature?"

"Would he wear a mask if he wanted to be bothered? Wait until the end of the game."

“Okay okay.”

Lee Shin was focused on the start of the match.

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## God of the Stadium (2)

### 15) God of the Stadium (2)

An incident occurred in the first match between MBS and CT.

*-Oh, this matter! Player Shin Ji-ho who is responsible for MBS's victory has lost his vanguard!*

**-Player Park Jin-su of CT has properly used the zealots to eat the vanguard early on.**

Ace Shin Ji-ho was defeated with 3 consecutive kills. This would clearly cause a headache for MBS.

'A stupid move.'

Lee Shin thought while watching the game.

Shin Ji-ho preferred the 1st set map 'Fighting Spirit.' Maybe Bang Jin-ho wanted to use Shin Ji-ho's favourite map to gain the momentum. But CT had expected Shin Ji-ho's preferred map and defeated his vanguard so it was likely to cause a problem for MBS.

'Shin Ji-ho is a moron.'

Despite his recent sluggishness, why did he allow the veteran player Park Jin-su to take his vanguard? Didn't they take out the field card because they were expecting Shin Ji-ho to win in a confrontation with Park Jin-su?

Of course, it was a gamble to use the strategy so early. Shin Ji-ho should have guarded the perimeter against the enemy.

'I don't know why he didn't stop it.'

But Park Jin-su was a veteran and his controls and multi-tasking were excellent. He brought precious units early in the game.

*-The CT players knew that Shin Ji-ho would come to the forefront. Player Park Jin-su used that opportunity to remove the vanguard.*

**-Yes, he really is a cunning veteran. He put away Shin Ji-ho with no losses!**

*-Ah, the expression of Director Bang Jin-ho really isn't good.*

**-The 40 points that MBS is really thirsty for is moving away from them.**

*-Now, the 2nd set is being prepared. MBS player Park Shin is preparing to confront player Park Jin-su in the 2nd set map, 'Andromeda.'*

**-MBS really has to regain their ground in Andromeda.**

While many fans of MBS were disappointed with Shin Ji-ho, the 2nd set of the match began.

Park Shin was 20 years old and in the 3rd year of his professional career.

His name was also 'Shin' like Lee Shin. Like Lee Shin, his preferred species was human. Lee Shin was also taller than him at 183 cm. In respect to Lee Shin, MBS chose Park Shin to start off with humans!

He had the unfortunate nickname of 'Inferior Shin' but the players had their own awareness of the e-sports fans.

"Inferior Shin! Inferior Shin!"

"Inferior Shin! Inferior Shin! Inferior Shin!"

The audience in the stadium shouted together. The giggles and laughter showed that CT fans were cheering as a joke.

*-Shin Ji-ho is the player responsible for MBS's lineup with Park Shin up next.*

**-Even a god won't be able to save MBS.**

The audience burst into laughter at the caster's joke.

But today wasn't a relaxing day for MBS.

Park Jin-su had ruined their strategy in the 1st set. They had built a gamble around the map. The quick production of zealots in order to reach the other camp was a strategy occasionally used.

Today, Park Jin-su's control of the zealots was outstanding. Park Shin's camp was stormed by zealots and his human production units broken.

Park Jin-su constructed additional buildings to send the fanatics in a steady stream of attacks. Park Shin was sweating trying to block it but eventually surrendered with a GG in the chat window.

*-Ah, player Park Shin GG!*

**-Park Jin-su is the player of the day! The control of the zealots was fantastic!**

*-He used a strategy and stabbed through the loophole.*

**-Park Jin-su has already killed 2 players today! I don't know if he can kill 3 or maybe 4 players. MBS's bench seems depressed in the 3rd set.**

While they were preparing for the 3rd set, the large screen reflecting the audience seats.

The people in the audience would laugh and wave or cover their shy faces when the camera moved to them.

Quite a significant number of audience shook the prepared signs with words written on them. Signs and pens were handed out at the stadium entrance so it was easy for anyone to cheer.

It was at that moment.

Lee Shin appeared on the big screen. He was wearing a hat and a mask but the e-sport officials were familiar with his form.

*-Eh? Is that person being projected on the screen player Lee Shin?*

Lee Byung-cheol had been a caster for 10 years and could recognize Lee Shin with one glance. The commentator Jeong Sung-tae also agreed.

**-I really think so. Excuse me, person in the audience. Can you show your face to prove whether you are Lee Shin or not?**

*-Hahaha.*

The entire audience started to murmur.

"Lee Shin?"

"Really?"

"Amazing!"

"Where?"

The entire audience was buzzing.

The Lee Shin on the big screen frowned. Then he waved towards the camera

like he was motioning it away.

*-Eh? Don't take the camera away. That is Lee Shin! Player Lee Shin!*

**-The only player with that personality, that person is definitely Lee Shin.**

The caster and commentator excitedly shouted as the audience laughed. Lee Shin's personality was also famous.

*-Ah, player Lee Shin is embarrassed. How do I know? I'm guessing from his expression.*

**-I don't know why you think you are the only one who noticed. Anyone can know.**

There was even more laughter. And.....

"Kyaaaaak!"

"Oppa!"

"Wah, Lee Shin!"

The stadium was filled with wild excitement as Lee Shin took off his mask and hat.

Lee Shin stared straight at the camera. He placed his index finger to his lips. The cheers from the audience disappeared.

Then he gently motioned the camera aside. Now the camera turned back to the players in the game booth. They calmed down as the 3rd set started but Lee Shin was already receiving requests for autographs or to take a picture.

*-Ah, Lee Shin came here to properly watch the game.*

**-That's right. We know this is in vain. It would be appreciated if the audience sits in their seats for a seamless viewing experience.**

However, Lee Shin was now struggling against the questions from reporters.

There was no choice. Lee Shin had disappeared after what was called the worst incident in South Korea's e-sports. It was natural that there would be a n uproar once he appeared again.

The staff of the stadium finally stepped in to try and calm the situation.

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## God of the Stadium (3)

16) God of the Stadium (3)

Suddenly caster Lee Byung-cheol came up with a different proposal.

*-We are responsible so shouldn't we call player Lee Shin here?*

**-Eh? That seems good. If everyone quietly watches then Lee Shin will give a commentary.**

“Wahhhhh!”

“Good!”

“Commentary!”

The audience response was ecstatic. After a while, one of the staff came up the steps towards Lee Shin.

“Player Lee Shin, suddenly asking you to do a commentary.....”

“Is it okay?”

“Yes, I know you would rather sit and watch the game but I hope you accept this burden.”

“Then it is a good idea.”

Lee Shin readily accepted and stood up. He was guided up to the commentator's booth.

“Welcome, player Lee Shin.”

“You suffered because of us.”

The caster Lee Byung-cheol and commentator Jeong Sung-tae welcomed him. Lee Shin sat down in between them. A microphone was placed on his V-neck shirt.

*-Player Lee Shin, welcome. I've been looking forward to seeing you for a long time.*

The caster Lee Byung-cheol said cheerfully.

-Yes, thank you.

Lee Shin replied.

Even so, the audience enthusiastically welcomed his voice.

*-In the meantime, may I ask some questions about your personal history?*

-That's enough.

*-Ah yes, I won't do it.*

"Hahaha!"

"Kilkil!"

The audience burst out laughing.

**-Yes, that is cleared up so let's focus on the beginning of the 3rd set.**

The commentator Jeong Sung-tae settled the atmosphere.

The caster Lee Byung-cheol said.

*-Yes! Now Park Jin-su from CT has killed two players and MBS is sending player Choi Chan-young. The map is 'Bloody Ridge.'*

**-It is a 4 person map where the monster tribe dominates 8:5. Choi Chan-young is a monster player so he must be laughing at the map.**

*-Yes, but Park Jin-su has now built up the momentum! Don't you know the game?*

**-Of course. What does player Lee Shin think of this?**

Commentator Jeong Sung-tae slipped the question to Lee Shin.

Lee Shin answered without hesitation.

-MBS should be worried about 3 losses.

*-Ah, is that so?*

-In the 1st and 2nd set, the players were all hit in the back of the head by Park Jin-su's gamble. 2 losses in a row means that MBS is now involved in a psychological warfare.

*-Psychological warfare, does that mean Choi Chan-young will be too nervous*

*to deal with Park Jin-su?*

-Yes, it is easy to guess the opponent's move when they are caught in a psychological warfare. I would use a trick.

**-Ahh, you are very confident.**

-In the end, Park Jin-su won't win because of a physical fight. There is no other choice.

A sudden fastball.

The caster and commentator was silent for a moment.

As they got older, they couldn't do physical things for a long time. Therefore, the life of a pro gamer was very short.

While they were talking, the 3rd set had begun.

This time, Park Jin-su chose a common operation instead of a repentance room.

Choi Chan-young was unexpectedly showing a confident operation. He probably didn't focus on defense due to Director Bang Jin-ho's instructions.

At that time, a monster that was a sky lord flew into Park Jin-su's headquarters. The monster was a species that ruled the sky. It led the monsters and disappeared. In the game, human population could increase and there were also invisible units.

Park Jin-su was building a chapel in order to capture the sky rulers.

*-Ah! He was too busy building the chapel to notice player Choi Chan-young!  
Player Park Jin-su, stop the sky ruler from entering!*

**-Player Choi Chan-young has identified player Park Jin-su's strategy. Oh, he is using the strategy of personalized dark priests and high priests. Now, it is like this. The charge will be hard to stop.**

The two people pointed out Park Jin-su's mistakes.

Lee Shin was silent until he spoke quietly.

-He deliberately allowed it.

-Yes?

Caster Lee Byung-cheol was startled.

Lee Shin said.

**-He told the dark priests to beware of an attack. Now he will upgrade the range of the machines.**

Once the laser was completed, it would end horribly for the sky rulers. And the range of the machines started to be upgraded.

*-Ah, really! He really is upgrading the range!*

The caster Lee Byung-cheol was impressed.

Lee Shin continued. “Now he is all in with the machines. He won’t unplug the zealots.”

5 repentance rooms were produced. Once there was a total of 7, the zealots started to head to Choi Chan-young’s camp.

The dark priests constructed buildings to block the paths and helped Park Jin-su. A long ranged, fully weaponized camp was created.

*-That’s right. The chapel sensed any sky rulers that entered the headquarters! Park Jin-su had really prepared a lot for today.*

In the end, Park Jin-su’s plan worked perfectly.

The 7 groups of zealots started battering Choi Chan-young’s headquarters. Any enemies that tried to intrude were melted by the lasers.

Step by step, he took control with the laser guns. The map was covered with the bodies of Stingers.

-The chapel will produce dark priests.

It was like Lee Shin said.

2 dark priests were produced like they had received instructions from Lee Shin. While the Stingers were attracting attention, the 2 dark priests attacked the empty expansion base in the 7 o’clock direction.

The invisible assassins slaughtered the workers collecting food resources.

Seokeok-Seokeok—

The Stingers withstood any frustrated attacks Choi Chan-young threw at them. The deaths of his workers at the expansion base also cut off his resources. Choi Chang-young made an expression like he was dying.

*-Ahh! Choi Chan-young GG!*

The audience members shouted.

*-MBS has been torn apart today! Park Jin-su killed 3 players! CT's prominent players are still waiting but he is a mountain beyond mountains!*

**-By the way player Lee Shin, I am so surprised. Everything went like you said. Is there a trick?**

-It is just my eyes.

He spoke with a bit of humility.

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## God of the Stadium (4)

### 17) God of the Stadium (4)

It was certain to be CT's victory thanks to Park Jin-su's 3 kills.

Many fans were attracted by the loss of Shin Ji-ho, MBS's ace in the 1st set. But the audience was still delighted. They were all concerned with an area not part of the game.

-That is a fight. Fight. Look. Why is that a fight?

-2 units entered the hills. That tower will switch to artillery mode and the range will barely reach.

-Just a threat. He is pretending to attack while taking additional expansion bases.

The commentary of Lee Shin! His precise details entertained the caster, commentator and fans.

Finally.

*-Player Lee Shin, I just had this thought. Are you doing prophetic commentary? It kind of feels like a spoiler.*

The audience burst out laughing at caster Lee Byung-cheol's words.

Thus, the 3R playoffs was entertaining thanks to a surprise guest.

Moreover, even Lee Shin's method of leaving was peculiar. Less than 3 minutes after the medium sized match between CT and MBS started.

-That build is mixed. CT will win. So I'll be going.

Build was 'Build Order,' which meant the order of buildings in tactics.

A variety of builds existed for each pro team so each build was like rock, paper, scissors. In the end, Space Craft was about hiding their build while fighting to figure out the opponent's build.

Anyway, the caster and commentator were shocked at the sudden end to Lee Shin's commentary.

**-Y-you are going?**

-I should leave now before the rush. So please watch until the end.

Then Lee Shin left the broadcast booth.

The remaining two were embarrassed but they returned to their professional commentary.

*-Ah, Lee Shin gave another spoiler before leaving.*

Laughter again.

**-But hasn't it been an exciting game thanks to him?**

*-Yes, the external parts were very interesting. Anyway, I'm glad to see Lee Shin after a long time but let's return to the commentary.*

**-Yes, there are variables with the build can reverse the situation. We can't tell until the end of the game.**

\*

Lee Shin exited through a back door of the stadium and took a taxi.

And the next day, Lee Shin's name was plastered all over the internet news portals and e-sports corner.

[The disappeared Lee Shin, he revealed himself at the e-sports stadium in Gangnam.]

[The 'Game God' Lee Shin's surprise commentary]

[Lee Shin's 'prophetic commentary.']

[Lee Shin's appearance that jolted Gangnam Stadium.]

[MBS vs. CT, what happened in the 3R PO?]

The internet media clamoured about Lee Shin's appearance after his tragedy.

Doubts were raised. Whether Lee Shin behind invited to commentate wasn't a planned script. In other words, Lee Shin was planning a career as a commentator.

Lee Shin's reappearance at the stadium caused a deep impression. But he didn't really care about the debate between the netizens.

Lee Shin was so concentrated on the game that he didn't pay attention to SNS.

'It reminds me of the old online days.'

Lee Shin's sense of being an amateur player in Space Craft was restored. The newly created ID Player-SIN started from an F rating and ended up at an A rating.

Normally a new ID would take 1 year to reach that rank but Lee Shin wasn't satisfied.

'A little boring. I want to play with the pro kids.'

Most of the players on a professional team had a S rating. Lee Shin started the application to become a S class user.

\*

"2 years 500 million."

Park Sang-hyuk said to the frowning player sitting opposite him.

It was Shin Ji-ho who was MBS's ace. Shin Ji-ho objected to Park Sang-hyuk's words.

"Shin Ji-ho is an important player so this is the maximum pay that can be offered. I am not allowed to offer you beyond that."

"Don't you think that I have more value than that?"

"That's impossible. There is a limit."

"It is a little unpleasant. Who do people come to MBS matches to watch?"

Shin Ji-ho's words hit home and Park Sang-hyuk scratched his head as he replied.

"Of course I acknowledge Shin Ji-ho's worthiness. That's why I offered 500 million for 2 years. By the way Shin Ji-ho, do you know how much salary Lee Shin received before enlisting in the Air Force?"

"470 million. Do you think I don't know?"

"Lee Shin had a 90% chance of winning in pro leagues and that was his salary."

“Are you saying you can’t give more than that? Do you think it is still the past? Online ticket sales have grown as a result of a bigger market. It isn’t a stretch to get an annual salary of 1 billion.”

“Even Lee Shin could only mobilize 4~5000 spectators. Anyway, the important thing is to use Lee Shin as the upper limit.”

“.....”

“Shin Ji-ho is a player with only a 60% chance of winning in the pro league. Therefore I hope that you will accept the 500 million for 2 years. Compare it to the salaries of the other team aces. Is this a low amount?”

Shin Ji-ho wasn’t dumb.

The mention of the winning percentage wasn’t to praise him. Lee Shin had a 90% winning rate for 4 consecutive years! He was asking to be compared to that level.

At that time, Director Bang Jin-ho who had been listening said.

“Ji-ho.”

“.....Yes Coach-nim.”

“You know that our team is in an urgent situation this year. If our market share becomes bigger in the future then we can improve the treatment of the star players. But don’t look at another team.”

“In the future?”

Shin Ji-ho’s eyes lit up.

Don’t you know the future of promising pro gamers? Won’t I be obsolete after my early twenties?!”

Shin Ji-ho was only 21 years old.

But a pro gamer’s prime was in their late teens and early twenties. It was the harsh reality of e-sports.

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# Player\_SIN (1)

18) Player\_SIN (1)

**[TL Note]** Hey, thanks for everyone offering to help with Starcraft terms. Unfortunately, the author tends to use different words that are similar to the original Starcraft term *e.g.* Starcraft= Spacecraft. Therefore, a lot of it is still guessing.

\*

“So? Are you thinking that now is the time to receive the best treatment?”

Director Bang Jin-ho asked.

“Yes.”

“I think I will be able to do better than now.”

“.....”

“Here is the deal. If your winning percentage in the pro league reaches 70% then I will give you an incentive. It is nonsense if you just state that you can do better without proving it. How about it? Isn't this fair? Is it okay with Captain-nim?”

“Yes, that is reasonable enough.”

“Shin Ji-ho, how about you?”

Shin Ji-ho was silent for a moment. It seemed like he was thinking of something before opening his mouth.

“Speaking of Lee Shin.”

“Huh?”

“I heard something strange. Our team will be bringing in Lee Shin as a coach. Didn't Director-nim say not long ago that you were planning to see a coach?? Is this true?”

“.....”

Director Bang Jin-ho frowned. He had wanted to hide this face from Shin Ji-ho.

Shin Ji-ho's smile became rotten.

"Didn't you see how much damage I received because of Lee Shin?"

"We are pros. Don't dwell on such things."

"I'm still young so I am lacking the professionalism of a pro. I can't help it."

Shin Ji-ho stood up.

"Forget about the earlier conditions. Instead, I have one condition."

Shin Ji-ho said before leaving the office.

"No Lee Shin."

The two people were left looking at each other with difficult expressions.

"What do we do? Can you talk to him?"

"I'm not going to. The damage Lee Shin caused to his consciousness is too strong."

Shin Ji-ho had been twisted by Lee Shin.

If Lee Shin came here then he was likely to run out.

"Should we give up on Lee Shin?"

".....Lee Shin is required."

Director Bang Jin-ho had become sure of it after Lee Shin's commentary at the 3R PO.

-Isn't he using a custom shortcut on the monitor? I'm not sure he can deal with a distraction like that.

Director Bang Jin-ho was shocked at his words. Because it was completely accurate.

It was amazing that he could tell just from the screen.

'A genius!'

An innate talent to intuitively sense things ordinary people couldn't see.

Lee Shin needed to be their coach! Director Bang Jin-ho was sure of it.

But Shin Ji-ho was the team's ace so this was another matter.

“It is really difficult.”

Park Sang-hyuk and Director Bang Jin-ho both sighed.

\*

Shin Ji-ho returned to the training room in an unpleasant mood when he felt a weird vibe from the players practicing.

Group 1 and Group 2 trainees were gathered in one place watching a replay.

And a player from Group 2, Jeong Da-ul had a depressed expression on his face.

“What? What is wrong?”

Shin Ji-ho questioned Jeong Da-ul about the long faces.

“Hyung, I was broken.”

“Broken once or twice? There is a reason for it.”

“I’m not like that.”

“What? Weren’t you broken by another trainee?”

“That would be much better.”

Jeong Da-ul said in a voice that sounded like he was dying.

“I was broken online.”

“What? By who? The rating?”

“I don’t know. These days, an A rated amateur is becoming quite popular.”

“Who is that?”

“Hyung, do you know? A player called Sin.”

“Ah.....”

He seemed to have heard it before.

Player\_SIN.

A user with an undefeated streak that gained huge popularity among gamers. The ID wasn’t that of a pro player so he ignored it.

“I see.”

He became interested in the user.

Jeong Da-ul and Player\_SIN had played a total of 3 games.

Jeong Da-ul’s main species was the God Clan. The map was Omnipotent Throne.

Despite Jeong Da-ul choosing a map favourable to the God Clan, he had lost 3 times.

Group 2 trainees were capable of entering professional competitions. Jeong Da-ul wasn’t an amateur that would be fooled by the opponent.

In the 1st set, Player\_SIN completed 2 armour stations and plugged in 2 high speed vehicles.

The high speed vehicles could be used to make the units faster.

Once the mine development was completed, the 2 high speed tanks with armour attached sped off quickly.

Jeong Da-ul wasn’t lax enough to allow it to enter the camp. He blocked the entrance with 4 weaponized Colossus.

The high speed vehicles changed directions away from Jeong Da-ul’s base. They headed for the expansion base instead.

The production units collected resources were destroyed before they were completed. The buildings were vulnerable to a blow from the high speed vehicles.

Player\_SIN just organized some income from the high speed vehicle.

“The defense is well done.”

Shin Ji-ho muttered.

The high speed vehicles were sent quickly to check for the different plays. Then the opponent’s production units were immediately attacked in order to disrupt supplies. But it wasn’t easy to prepare for even if the opponent knew it in advance.

“It is beneficial to them right? I couldn’t expand early on due to the high speed

vehicles.”

“I can see.”

Shin Ji-ho said to the players that gathered around him.

Somehow Jeong Da-ul’s face became even more depressed.

After 30 seconds, the video transitioned into another scene.

It coincided with the timing that Jeong Da-ul completed production units and sent them to the expansion base.

The new production units were escorted by 10 Faithful and 4 Weaponized Colossus.

But at this moment, Player\_SIN simultaneously released 8 armoured tanks. They started attacking the Faithful that were moving.

The Weaponized Colossus tried to stop them but the high speed armoured tanks persistently killed the Faithful.

The 10 Faithful were wiped out.

The high speed vehicles then retreated like an ebbing tide.

“Wow, excellent control.”

“It was cleared out in one moment.”

“His hands are fast.”

The players were shocked.

2 high speed tanks could kill a Faithful. Player\_SIN had 8 high speed vehicles so if they divided into 2:1 then 4 Faithful would be killed in one rush.

They were controlled as quick as lightning and the 10 Faithful were wiped out. The Weaponized Colossus counterattacked but only 1 high speed vehicle was destroyed.

Shin Ji-ho was amazed by the other side.

‘He figured out when the buildings would be completed.’

Once it was completed, he precisely calculated the timing in seconds to send them on an ambush.

It was a first-class play.

'Who on earth is he?!'

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## Player\_SIN (2)

19) Player\_SIN(2)

It was clear from the back.

Jeong Da-ul tried to reverse the situation but the opponent skillfully claimed the victory.

-Player\_SIN: Let's try it once more on the same map.

-daul02: Huh?

-Player\_SIN: You stopped one group well in District 1.

-daul02: Do you know me?

-Player\_SIN: Jeong Da-ul from MBS Group 2. I saw you face Byeong-cheol in the preliminaries. Good defense.

-daul02: Thank you. But who are you? Pro?

-Player\_SIN: At one time.

“What the, this is?”

Shin Ji-ho's face changed as he watched the two of them chatting.

“He was a retired person?”

“Yes.....”

“The armoured build hasn't been used skillfully these days. Man, I was wiped out by a retired person?”

Jeong Da-ul complained as Shin Ji-ho watched the next replay.

The 2nd set, the map was still Omnipotent Throne.

Jeong Da-ul thought he meticulously defended against the high speed vehicles. And in order to take the expansion base, he sent 1 Faithful there first.

The high speed armoured vehicle appeared and sniped the Faithful.

-Ack!

After the death of the Faithful, the high speed vehicle quietly disappeared.

‘Huh, now he is using the map instead of constructing buildings.’

Perfect timing.

He wondered how a retired person could calculate like that.

Jeong Da-ul sent a Faithful again. This time 4 Weaponized Colossus were sent as well. 4 Weaponized Colossus moved with 1 Faithful.

Kkirik!

A land mine protruded from the ground.

Jeong Da-ul reflexively cried out just before the 4 Weaponized Colossus stepped on the land mine.

Peng!

The mine was removed without being triggered.

“Oh, good reflexes.”

“The reaction is fast.”

“It was actually pretty close.”

But it was too early to admire the work.

As soon as the Weaponized Colossus removed the landmine, a high speed vehicle appeared and attacked.

Peng!

One.

The Weaponized Colossus had just removed the mine so they couldn't attack immediately.

Peng!

-Ack!

Two.

The Faithful was killed.

The high speed vehicle wasn't destroyed by the Weaponized Colossus's first

attack and immediately fled.

“Wah.....”

“What bad luck.”

“Too bad, too bad.”

Jeong Da-ul became desperate at this time. He was intercepted twice from reaching the expansion base.

If the expansion base slowed down then the resources would lag behind the opponent. 1 second was lethal in the world of the pros.

This time, 2 Faithful moved with 8 Weaponized Colossus.

And.....

“Ohh!”

“Wow!”

While the Weaponized Colossus had left, 4 high speed vehicles appeared at the headquarters.

There were still 2 Weaponized Colossus and 8 Faithful remaining at headquarters but they couldn't stop the high speed vehicles.

Instead, the Faithful working at headquarters were massacred.

Land mines were laid out to stop any Weaponized Colossus and Faithful coming back. The spectacular finish ended up with the Faithful being wiped out.

-Player\_SIN: It will remain the same even after a few times.

-Player\_SIN: Your defense is good but your ideas are wrong. How could you individually prevent so many holes?

-Player\_SIN: Use the Weaponized Colossus to hold the centre.

-daul02: Yes.....

-Player\_SIN: One more time?

-daul02: Yes, one more time.

-Player\_SIN: I understand. The same map.

The 3rd set ensued.

Jeong Da-ul sent 4 Weaponized Colossus to the central area like he was taught.

2 high speed vehicles were sent but retreated after being blocked by the Weaponized Colossus.

However, before long Player\_SIN dragged over 2 high speed armoured vehicles again.

This time the production units had created 4 Construction Robots. The 4 Construction Robots simultaneously rushed past the Weaponized Colossus and high speed vehicles in order to lay landmines in the rear.

Jeong Da-ul cried out as his Weaponized Colossus were destroyed by the landmines exploding.

It was a dazzling control.

-Player\_SIN: Practice your controls a little more. You should have moved the Weaponized Colossus away from the mines.

-daul02: You really won't tell me who you are?

-Player\_SIN: Why does that matter to you? Then I'm going.

Nothing more was necessary so Player\_SIN left the game.

"John and I were looking at the people who used to be active.'

"Who is he?"

"Is it Emperor Choi Hwan-yeol?"

"Hwan-yeol hyung? It is plausible."

The players seriously discussed the pro gamers.

Shin Ji-ho also wondered about it.

'It sounds like Hwan-yeol hyung. But that level of multi-tasking isn't possible for the age of a retired person.'

Shin Ji-ho looked back at the replay.

In the midst of controlling the high speed vehicles, the headquarters kept putting out workers and troops.

'I wonder.'

Shin Ji-ho returned to his seat and logged into Space Craft.

He connected to online mode and looked for Player\_SIN.

He finally found him.

-GOD\_JiHo: Would you like a game?

Fortunately there was a reply.

-Player\_SIN: Shin Ji-ho?

-GOD\_JiHo: Yes.

-Player\_SIN: Pick a map.

Shin Ji-ho could be considered one of the best players in South Korea.

Even so, the opponent gave the advantage to him.

-GOD\_JiHo: Pick a place. ^^

'It doesn't matter what map is chosen.'

Shin Ji-ho wasn't satisfied with the attitude of the opponent. Shin Ji-ho couldn't ignore any active player.

-Player\_SIN: Celestial Crossroads.

'This bitch!'

Shin Ji-ho felt blood rushing downwards.

Celestial Crossroads.

It was the map Shin Ji-ho was the best at. Korean e-sports fans called it 'Ji-ho's Crossroads.' Shin Ji-ho's odds on this map was comparable to Lee Shin.

In a nutshell, the opponent wanted to look at his skills in the best place for free.

'This bastard. Instill some humility into your brain.'

As his mood start boiling, Shin Ji-ho started to play the game.

The human species against the human species. The map was Celestial Crossroads.

“Eh?”

“The player is Sin.”

“Ji-ho is playing.”

“With Ji-ho hyung?”

The players and trainees gathered.

The ace Shin Ji-ho against Player\_SIN. They wondered who would win.

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## Player\_SIN (3)

20) Player\_SIN(3)

**[TL Note]:** I've changed construction robot to SCV after some searching. Also, the Faithful aren't the same as zealots since I used zealots in an earlier chapter and it is a different Korean word.

\*

Unlike what Shin Ji-ho thought, Lee Shin didn't choose the Celestial Crossroads because of arrogance.

'A collision with a powerful opponent is needed.'

He relaxed himself in order to drive back the opponent. A pro-gamer had the most growth when working towards the end to win.

This was Lee Shin's philosophy when practicing.

The game had begun.

Lee Shin rapidly used Tech Tree (Tech tree: technology schematics).

Army depot, barrack, mine and armour station.

A high speed armoured tank left as soon as it was completed at the station and another one started being constructed.

The early high speed vehicle took the initiative to expand the containment. An aggressive style was built.

The armour stations continued producing high speed vehicles. The armour station also built an additional mobile turret.

The 4 high speed turrets and mobile turret immediately ventured out to attack. 2 SCV were sent with the full scale offensive.

\*

'I knew it.'

Shin Ji-ho laughed while looking at Player\_SIN's troops.

This time the configuration was 2 armoured troops. The 2 armoured station offensive was popular in the days that Lee Shin reigned.

Nobody could catch up with the speed of Lee Shin's high speed trains in the beginning.

But.....

'The era of the 2 armoured build was over.'

The 2 armoured build was retired with Lee Shin. The 2 armoured build couldn't win against Shin Ji-ho.

Shin Ji-ho had already completed trench construction and posted 1 mobile turret.

Additionally, the SCV already finished expanding the base and were eagerly collecting food and mineral resources.

If he overcame this one attack then he could overwhelm the opponent with resources.

After taking the extended base, a double build barracks was formed at the core.

Despite that, there was no attempt from Player\_SIN to attack. Shin Ji-ho laid down mines in front of the camp and didn't stress.

Shin Ji-ho started the mass production of high speed vehicles and mobile turrets from the resources.

The troops immediately began the march. There was nothing waiting in front of the opponent's camp.

"Ohh, go."

"The build is crucial."

"Why is such an old build used with the human species?"

"He really is a retired person. That build was popular until last year."

The players watching from behind discussed it with each other.

It was at that moment.

“Why are you gathered together?”

Director Bang Jin-ho appeared in the practice room and asked.

“Director-nim, player Shin Ji-ho is versing the player Sin.”

“Who is that?”

“An online player. He is a retired player in real life.”

“Retired?”

Director Bang Jin-ho looked at the screen where Shin Ji-ho was playing.

The game was overwhelmingly in Shin Ji-ho’s favour.

Shin Ji-ho led the troops to seize the centre and narrowed the range of the opponent’s activities.

This was a victory as Shin Ji-Ho of the mediocre.

“Isn’t this just a mediocre win?”

Director Bang Jin-ho said.

“The build isn’t good. The opponent is using the 2 armoured build.”

“Why is someone using the 2 armoured build these days?”

“The person said he was retired.”

“That is true but who would use the 2 armoured build other than Lee Shin these days.....”

Director Bang Jin-ho murmured before he suddenly jumped.

He looked at the opponent’s ID. There was a retired player.

‘Lee Shin?!’

Director Bang Jin-ho knew that Lee Shin’s wrist had recovered not long ago.

‘Perhaps.....’

The attitude of Bang Jin-ho towards the game changed.

Shin Ji-ho continued to take 3 expansion bases and put pressure on the opponent.

The headquarters wasn't lacking resources but he didn't attack. If this continued then even Lee Shin would lose.

'This is a tough situation for Lee Shin.'

He should have gone forward from the beginning.

It was at that moment.

A few units from the opponent appeared in front of Shin Ji-ho.

There were 2 tactical satellites and 2 high speed vehicles.

'Eh?'

The tactical satellites were defensive shields for the high speed vehicles.

The two high speed armoured vehicles were wrapped in a blue shield and rushed towards Shin Ji-ho's troops. The 2 tactical satellites followed.

Pepepepeng!

Shin Ji-ho's mobile turrets fired in unison but the protective shields meant that high speed vehicles could endure it.

The mobile turrets were unable to fire when the enemy was in close range.

However, Shin Ji-ho had predicted that the high speed vehicles would be protected.

The shield had suffered a blow from the ammunition and then the high speed trains would explode from the 2 landmines that he previously buried.

And.....

"Whoa!"

"What was that!"

"Eh?!"

The players were shocked.

A tremendous control was used.

The moment the landmines had been buried, Shin Ji-ho had agilely used them. But first, the tactical satellites stealthily shielded the landmines.

An enormous amount of control was unfolding at the moment. The protected shield around the landmines meant that Shin Ji-ho couldn't trigger them as the high speed vehicles passed.

Kwa ru ru rung!

Nearby, 4 mobile turrets and 5 high speed vehicles were involved as the 2 landmines finally exploded.

"How is that possible?"

"Sense Harpoon."

"In that brief moment he defended against the mines....."

The shocked players murmured.

Director Bang Jin-ho felt his body tremble. He envisioned the scene of huge amounts of fans screaming.

A player who produced that type of scene every time.

'Lee Shin!'

Bang Jin-ho was sure of it.

Once the lid opened, Lee Shin's troops poured out all over the place.

Of course, that wasn't enough to overturn the situation.

Shin Ji-ho held 3 expansion bases. Lee Shin only had 1 expansion base.

Different amount of resources could be extracted.

But Lee Shin's control launched an unbelievable feat.

Lee Shin's style was to counterattack the opponent's play.

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## Player\_SIN (4)

21) Player\_SIN(4)

Lee Shin grabbed the opportunity and moved.

Director Bang Jin-ho felt shivers as he watched Shin Ji-ho's game screen.

"Again!"

"It happened again!"

Once again, the landmines were shielded in order for the opponent to move forward.

Shin Ji-ho rebuilt his collapsed troops and moved them forward to stop Lee Shin.

But Shin Ji-ho still held the centre. Most of the map was Shin Ji-ho's territory after controlling the centre.

Shin Ji-ho strengthened the defenses and placed a radar in the 6 o'clock direction.

Lee Shin's expansion base was in the 6 o'clock direction.

If he isolated that area then the opponent's resources would be depleted and the amount of strategies possible would fall.

Shin Ji-ho sent some troops to bypass Lee Shin's defenses in the 6 o'clock area.

But at that moment.

**-You have received enemy fire.**

**-You have received enemy fire.**

The sound was heard in succession.

Shin Ji-ho's expansion base at the 3 o'clock position and headquarters at the 1 o'clock position were simultaneously raided.

Air transportation ships dropped down troops in a surprise ambush.

Shin Ji-ho needed to defend two areas.

**-You have received enemy fire.**

**-You have received enemy fire.**

The messages continued popping up.

“What, fuck.”

Shin Ji-ho cursed and moved on the defense.

The small handful of troops continued to use guerilla attacks.

Shin Ji-ho had to constantly keep them in check so the timing of his large scale attack was delayed.

During all of this, Lee Shin’s expansion base at the 6 o’clock direction was active. Sufficient resources.

‘Low speed!’

High speed attacks that dragged the opponent along.

Meanwhile, multi-tasking was used to continue producing units and expanding the base.

The glory of Lee Shin. It was like he was before.

Shin Ji-ho sealed off the air transport by installing anti-aircraft guns.

The troops then seamlessly moved to Lee Shin’s expansion base at the 6 o’clock direction.

Lee Shin had buried a bunch of landmines.

Shin Ji-ho used radar to locate and remove the landmines.

The defense of the 6 o’clock base was well underway. His troops hadn’t recovered enough to push Lee Shin.

But despite the risks and sacrifices, Shin Ji-ho didn’t care and started the attack.

Shin Ji-ho had an overwhelming advantage in resources and troops.

He had enough troops to lose some so he made them fight.

Kwa kwa kwang!

Pepepeng!

The mobile turrets started their bombardment.

Light flashes started occurring at the 6 o'clock direction. However, the defense persisted and reinforcements kept showing up.

Some high speed vehicles were coming so Shin Ji-ho quickly buried some landmines.

The reinforcements were delayed by the landmines that Shin Ji-ho planted.

At the same time,

**-You have received enemy fire.**

The high speed vehicles passed by the land mines that Shin Ji-ho buried.

Shin Ji-ho moved his troops through a gap in the enemy.

Sweat flowed from Shin Ji-ho's forehead and neck.

In the end, he stopped the attack and stepped out of the range of Lee Shin's turrets.

His hit on the 6 o'clock expansion base failed.

Shin Ji-ho reorganized the his troops in order to attack the opponent's guerilla troops.

But while that was going on, Lee Shin had completed a new expansion base at the 7 o'clock direction.

"Wah!"

"What will he make this time?"

"Doing all these things in the midst of fighting."

"Crazy multi-tasking. Why is he retired?"

The players wagged their tongues.

'Absolutely not, this asshole!'

Shin Ji-ho clenched his teeth.

He is an active top class professional gamer. Shin Ji-ho was one of the best

players in South Korea that used the human species. Among the active players.

Shin Ji-ho decided to use the stealth fighters.

He had the air stations start producing stealth fighter jets.

He decided to focus on taking the initiative with the flying units.

The stealth fights simultaneously covered the camp of the opponent.

Seureureug—

The stealth fighters were in stealth mode. The invisible enemy started bombing the ground troops.

It was at that moment.

Seureureug—

It was the sound of something in stealth mode.

‘What?’

Shin Ji-ho was surprised.

The opponent made the same judgement and used stealth fighters!

The opening of an air war!

A breathtaking fight between the stealth fighters began.

The fighter jets were shot down after being detected by radar.

Quick hands and precise control was needed for the showdown.

And.....

Peeng! Pepeng! Peng!

Shin Ji-ho’s stealth fighters were shot down one by one.

‘No!’

Sweat dripped down as Shin Ji-ho pressed the controls.

However, the opponent’s fighter squadron was swift.

A series of controls were simultaneously pressed as missiles flew. The air around Shin Ji-ho became darker as he lost the aerial combat.

The opponent took control of the air and moved against the ground forces.

The support from the air!

2 of Shin Ji-ho's expansion bases were broken.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

'This isn't possible!'

Shin Ji-ho desperately tried to win but things were getting out of control. His expansion bases were destroyed. The opponent kept increasing his bases.....

In the end.

-GOD\_JiHo: GG

"J-Ji-ho....."

"Jin-ho hyung, he wasn't a match?"

"The air war was wrong. The opponent's control completely suppressed him."

"Oh my god....."

The players spoke in low voices.

Shin Ji-ho pulled the earphones from his ear with frustration and typed on the keyboard.

-GOD\_JiHo: Just one more game.

Shin Ji-ho had a strong fighting spirit. He couldn't just kneel down to this guy. He wasn't defeated just yet and wanted to reverse the situation!

-Player\_SIN: I don't want to, it is difficult.

-GOD\_JiHo: Should we rest for a little bit? ^^

Shin Ji-ho wanted to curse but he restrained himself. But it was one-sided.

-Player\_SIN: My arm is numb. Next time.

And the opponent disconnected.

"Kuaaah! Fuck-!!"

Shin Ji-ho punched the keyboard and yelled.

“Ya, stop!”

“Ji-ho hyung!”

The players stopped Shin Ji-ho. In the end, Shin Ji-ho followed Director Bang Jin-ho’s instructions and walked away.

Director Bang Ji-ho saved the replay of Shin Ji-ho’s game on the PC. Director Bang Jin-ho’s hands trembled with excitement as he moved the mouse.

‘Lee Shin!’

Shin Ji-Ho.

A turn of events.

The audience would burst into great enthusiasm!

‘It is enough for him to return!’

Right now, the players in Group 1 was the main force.

‘There’s no time!’

Director Bang Jin-ho hurried to the office where Park Sang-hyuk was.

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# Coach (1)

22) Coach (1)

'I feel good.'

Lee Shin thought while sipping water.

A thrilling come from behind victory!

He used strength and speed to turn around the situation so his mood was back better compared to a typical victory.

But Lee Shin still made a cool judgement even while enjoying the victory.

Shin Ji-ho didn't know who the opponent was.

Shin Ji-ho had tried a containment strategy to deprive him of resources. This gave Lee Shin time to gather resources for a come from behind strategy.

If Shin Ji-ho knew that his opponent was Lee Shin then he absolutely wouldn't give him that time.

In the end, he received victory due to Shin Ji-ho's absentmindedness.

'By the way, there is a new build.'

Lee Shin watched the replay and closely studied Shin Ji-ho's play.

Lee Shin was surprised to see a barrack built at the extension base. But a pre-emptive attack from the 2 armoured build could stop the building.

'The 2 armoured build isn't used. I had no idea this was the trend these days.'

Last time he went to the stadium, he didn't get a chance to see the new build because it wasn't humans vs humans.

He could check it now.

'I should try it.'

Lee Shin started a new game and used Shin Ji-ho's play.

He could certainly start with rich resources. Lee Shin's style was to be aggressive from the beginning.

'Humans vs humans would be boring for fans to watch.'

This was because humans specialized in defense.

If both of them started off rich then the attacks would become bigger and bigger until someone lost. A long war would build up and turn into a power struggle.

'I should look at the build a little more.'

He started studying the human vs human games that occurred after he retired.

But then his old 3G flip phone started vibrating. The person contacting him was Director Bang Jin-ho.

"Hello?"

*-Are you?*

"What?"

*-Earlier with Shin Ji-ho!*

"Why are you talking about Shin Ji-ho?"

*-Player Sin, you are that person.*

"Who is that?"

*-I won't blow up if you tell me honestly. Weren't you the one who defeated Shin Ji-ho?*

"There was such a player? Then you should recruit them.

*-You're right. He said he was a retired player and aren't you retired?*

"How do you know it isn't an active player lying? Anyway, don't bother me because it isn't me."

Then I closed my flip phone.

Moments later, Director Bang Ji-ho called back.

*-Why did you hang up?*

"I knew the conversation was finished."

*-That is nasty. Do you really want to coach?*

“I do. Do you have something for me to sign?”

*-There is but the contract is a little delayed.*

“Why?”

*-Shin Ji-ho has to re-sign with us first. Anyway, we don't need a coach for this season.*

“Then I will wait until the end of the summer transfer market.”

*-Yes, but...is it really not you?*

“No. Do you think my wrist is capable of playing a game against Shin Ji-ho?”

*-Oh, okay.*

Then he roughly ended the call.

Shortly after the call, he received a message while playing the game.

**-A message has arrived. Do you want to check it?**

Lee Shin pressed OK.

The contents of the message were as followed.

**[Hello. I am Director Bang Jin-ho of MBS. I admired Player\_SIN's skills and wanted to send you a message.**

**I would like to talk to you directly so please contact me.]**

Lee Shin laughed. He lightly wrote back.

**[Is this funny? Enjoy the scam ⊥ ⊥ ]**

\*

June 2020, the World SC Grand Prix began.

The world's e-sports festival.

Last year, the top 3 players from South Korea's professional league competed in the singles. The team that won in the pro league competed in the group matches.

And the rest of the teams that didn't participate were given a break.

But there was another event other than the SC Grand Prix that gathered the

attention of the e-sports fans.

June was the transfer season.

They took note of any players signing to the team they cheered for.

The biggest fish in this year's transfer market was MBS's ace, Shin Ji-ho. Last year, he won 4th place in the pro league. Apart from Lee Shin, there was no other who was the best at the human species.

They hadn't heard any news of a contract at the end of the season so the MBS fans were restless.

This year he was the target of several different teams. If this situation continued then there was a chance the team would be deprived of their ace.

The MBS team management was also worried.

Due to the nature of e-sport teams, the majority of people were fans of individuals. If Shin Ji-ho left then the fans would follow him to the other team.

Park Sang-hyuk suggested a higher salary to the MBS management but they didn't give permission.

Many e-sports management stations were conservative and considered it a waste to invest a lot in what was considered by many a child's game.

In the end.....

"I'm sorry, Director-nim."

Shin Ji-ho bowed.

"Yes, it can't be helped. You are a pro."

Director Bang Jin-ho said calmly. It was an inconvenience but in the professional world, he had no choice but to let them go calmly.

Even if it was a player he raised since the trainee day.

"I will not forget Director-nim's grace."

It was like that.

Shin Ji-ho was taken away by the team that won last year's pro league.

A salary of 800 million for 2 years!

It was a huge lineup for e-sports, similar to Real Madrid so Shin Ji-ho's sign up brought a lot of coverage.

Other teams coveted Shin Ji-ho so MBS's proposed 500 million for 2 years was considered low.

Thus Shin Ji-ho grabbed his luggage and abandoned the team. Now Shin Ji-ho's seat in the practice room was empty.

'I can bring in Lee Shin now.'

Shin Ji-ho who opposed MBS bringing on Lee Shin was gone.

Now that Shin Ji-ho was gone, they needed something to grab the attention of the fans. Even if that person was a coach, not a player.

Now that Shin Ji-ho's salary wasn't needed, they could afford Lee Shin's proposal of 100 million. Park Sang-hyuk agreed and Lee Shin finally signed the contract.

'Is he really not?'

Director Bang Ji-ho recalled Player\_SIN.

A player who obviously overwhelmed Shin Ji-ho.

Shin Ji-ho lost in power to that player.

But Player\_SIN didn't respond well to his message.

No matter how much Bang Ji-ho tried, he just received curse filled replies about a scammer.

"If he is an active pro player then I absolutely won't leave him alone."

Bang Ji-ho's fist trembled.

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## Coach (2)

23) Coach (2)

“Why are there so many journalists?”

Director Bang Ji-ho muttered with a stricken face. Park Sang-hyuk was also filled with tension.

It was the first time they saw so many reporters swarming the streets.

However, Lee Shin who was wearing glasses had a calm expression.

‘It must be because of me.’

The e-sports media and even entertainment reporters were gathered.

There were all types of rumours running rampant about Lee Shin’s fatal wrist injury. There was a lull until Lee Shin appeared again to commentate and ignited interest.

So the reporters swarmed like flies.

Lee Shin walked through the door. He showed no signs of tension.

“He looks completely composed.”

“Like a star.”

Park Sang-hyuk and Director Bang Jin-ho hurriedly followed.

Snap! Click.

There were lots of flashes.

Lee Shin was wearing sunglasses so his expression didn’t change at all.

“Yes...in order to bring new life to our MBS team, we have recruited player Lee Shin as head coach.....”

Park Sang-hyuk started giving his statement. The reporters waited in silence for the question time after the announcement.

Finally, the announcement ended.

The reporters swarmed and hurled questions. Lee Shin raised his hand and pointed to one.

“What do you think about the incident where the gunmen injured you in the attack?”

“It is unfortunate.”

The meeting room filled with laughter.

Another reporter asked a question.

“Do you think the attack might be related to a conspiracy?”

“Unless the people are caught, there is no way to know.”

“There are rumours about player Hwang Byeong-cheol.”

“I won’t repeat the same answer. Another one.”

Lee Shin turned away the inflammatory questions.

But the reporters were persistent.

“Hwang Byeong-cheol won the league last year due to Lee Shin’s incident, do you think it is likely that Hwang Byeong-cheol’s side is behind the incident?”

The one who asked the rude question was a third rate newspaper sports reporter.

Lee Shin opened his mouth without changing expressions.

“Hwang Byeong-cheol is a player who always goes crazy after meeting me on the big stage, so he wouldn’t have enough taste.”

The reporters laughed again.

Bang Ji-ho looked at Lee Shin with a stricken face.

‘He doesn’t hesitate to say something like that.’

“Have you now retired as a player?”

“My wrist is getting better but it is still premature to return as a player.”

After answering several questions, the three men finally posed for pictures.

And the next moment.

[The beginning of 'Coach Shin' at MBS.]

[The return of Lee Shin!]

[Lee Shin returns as MBS's head coach, 'considers returning as a player.']

[Lee Shin on the Hwang Byeong-cheol conspiracy 'he wouldn't have enough taste.']

[Lee Shin returns as head coach, receives the attention of the international media.]

[The bizarre reunion of Lee Shin and Director Bang who had a cat and dog relationship.]

[The enduring efforts of Director Bang Ji-ho? Successfully recruited Lee Shin!]

[Lee Shin's suit is the fashion topic.]

After losing the ace Shin Ji-ho, MBS Team drew attention.

The effect of Lee Shin!

They thought MBS Team was over after the ace Shin Ji-ho left.

In addition, MBS Team had no star players except for Shin Ji-ho. A star had signed onto MBS Team!

Of course it was as a coach, not a player.

The photo of Lee Shin, Bang Jin-ho and Park Sang-hyuk took over the internet community.

Especially Lee Shin's sleek navy blue suit drew a lot of attention.

-Shin oppa is clad in a suit ㅋㅋ and alive! ㅋㅋ

-Oppa is back!

-Now it is time to change to MBS Team.

-Shin oppa seems to be dressed in a new suit for the sake of MBS Team!

-I'm in Busan, it is too far. ㅋㅋ I'm buy tickets online instead. I'll become poor due to Lee Shin oppa. ㅋㅋ

-This is the return of Lee Shin!

-Lee Shin's resurrection! I can see Lee Shin again!

-Tickets to MBS Team matches are being sold.

-ㄹㄹ Watching Coach Shin at the stadium ㄹㄹㄹㄹ

-What is the brand of that suit?

-Lee Shin got a brand new suit.....

-I voted in a poll to gift Lee Shin with that suit. It looks good. ^^

-ㄹㄹㄹ But no one is commenting about MBS players ㄹㄹㄹ

-ㄹㄹㄹ MBS is a transparent team!

-The players of MBS has always been known as a group wearing a invisibility cloak, huhuhu.

-Originally they were Shin Ji-ho's dark priests but now they are serving the true dark priest!

Now that Lee Shin joined, the MBS Team gained more recognition In the second half of the pro league, the MBS Team received a favourable impression due to Lee Shin.

"I didn't know this topic would have so much popularity."

Park Sang-hyuk said after hearing the talk.

He had been troubled by Lee Shin's salary of 100 million but there was a synergy effect of raising the team's awareness.

'The team right now isn't bad.'

The ace Shin Ji-ho had left but Lee Shin's coaching skills can increase the abilities of the players.

Park Sang-hyuk dreamed of a bright future for the MBS Team.

\*

MBS Team's headquarters.

The team's practice room was located on the 5th floor of MBS station. At first

glance, it was reminiscent of a PC room.

The players practiced the game for a long time.

The door to the practice room opened and two people appeared.

“You’ve arrived!”

“Hello!”

The players greeted in unison. Director Bang Jin-ho nodded.

Normally they would go back to the game but today was different. Everyone paid attention to the man who came in with Bang Jin-ho.

“Now, everyone wait a minute!”

Bang Jin-ho clapped his hands and shouted. The players quit the game and stared.

“Do you know who he is?”

Director Bang Jin-ho pointed to the young, handsome man that he brought.

A 25 year old man wearing a navy blue suit who had caused a buzz on the internet. Any e-sports official would know his face.

“This is Lee Shin. He will be your coach starting from today.”

Lee Shin had been speechless after opening the door. Some players older than him had greeted him politely.

But he didn’t speak polite words.

“My first goal as a coach is to raise you up from being called dark priests.”

The concept of dark priests were invisible assassins. And that was also the nickname given to the MBS team players who were invisible.

Of course, the players expressions distorted at once.

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## Coach (3)

24) Coach (3)

“Stop hiding.”

Director Bang Jin-ho growled out. A single word was spoken to express the feelings of the players.

No player wanted to be branded as someone with no presence of fans. In other words, Lee Shin would never know that feeling. He never once experienced it.

“The greeting has finished so return to practice.”

The players returned to their places after Bang Jin-ho’s words.

Director Bang Jin-ho and Lee Shin entered a conference room.

Director Bang Jin-ho said to Lee Shin.

“In the first week, just get a sense of their practice.”

“Yes.”

“How about getting a sparring partner? Who does coach want to play with?”

“The players.”

“Well, it would be ridiculous if you break the players even in practice.”

“It doesn’t matter if it is a practice. You can even poke fun at me if you want.”

Director Bang Jin-ho stared at Lee Shin.

It wasn’t a shallow mindset. Perhaps Lee Shin’s biggest strength was that mental awareness.

“Yes, then go ahead. I’ll set aside a practice space for you to take the kids into.”

“Yes.”

“And.”

“.....?”

Director Bang Jin-ho spoke in a more prudent tone.

“You said that you would raise a star.

“That’s right. That’s why you called me.”

“Yes, it is the real reason that I signed you as a coach.”

“Shin’s disciples.”

Director Bang Jin-ho nodded at Lee Shin’s words.

“Yes.”

Lee Shin had identified exactly what the MBS Team wanted.

Lee Shin’s disciples.

The players who received Lee Shin’s coaching would have such titles attached!

Lee Shin said.

“I don’t want to sell me name so I will pick my disciples directly. Do you agree?”

“Are you going to pick one from Group 1?”

Currently MBS’s Group 1 had 7 people. Among them were 3 people who played humans like Lee Shin.

The remaining Group 2 were trainees.

“I will decide after seeing the play style.”

“Sure.”

\*

Lee Shin was soon assigned his place.

He loosened his tie and hung his jacket on the chair. He pulled out his own mouse and keyboard from his leather backpack.

The players and trainees in the practice room were gaping at Lee Shin.

God of the Game.

God of Space Craft.

God of e-sports.

A brilliant star was in their practice room!

They couldn't help staring.

"Look, he is connecting to the game."

"Practice."

"Is his hand fine?"

"I read on an internet article that it is a little better."

While the players were talking.

Lee Shin randomly pointed at one player.

"Inferior Shin."

"Huh?"

The person he pointed at was MBS's Park Shin.

He had the name Shin and used humans like Lee Shin so he was called that unfortunate nickname.

He was one of the dark priests of MBS with no recognition.

"Practice."

"Ah, yes."

Lee Shin had studied the new human vs human build from Shin Ji-ho.

The players were excited and stopped their practice game to watch. They wondered what Lee Shin's current skills were.

-Kaiser-nim has connected.

"Ohh!"

"Kaiser!"

The ID of the legend of e-sports appeared.

-Good\_jjab: GG.

-Kaiser: Yes.

They started the game by greeting lightly.

But Lee Shin didn't demonstrate his skills. He played lightly and only checked the build. Nothing special came from Lee Shin so the players lost interest.

"This brat, are you deliberately losing?"

Director Bang Jin-ho who was watching asked.

Lee Shin shrugged.

"What?"

"Why are your controls like that? Usually you can control your builds better."

"My wrist hurts so I can't do as well."

"This brat is really questionable. Are you really not player Sin?"

"Why did you keep saying that? Has he still not replied to your messages?"

"Yes, yesterday I sent an authentication photo and he told me I looked different from my photo 10 years ago.....ah, if only I can catch that guy!"

Director Bang Jin-ho formed a trembling fist.

Lee Shin shamelessly stayed expressionless.

"It really isn't you?"

"It isn't. Why would I become a coach if I had my skills as a player back?"

".....Yes."

"I am just going to raise the players."

"Tsk, it is questionable. It is that brat no matter how I look at it....."

Director Bang Jin-ho's face was filled with doubt as he walked away. It was a really sharp tip.

'I will recover and return to the top again.'

Lee Shin confirmed his determination again.

It was the year 2020 and there were no powerhouses in Korea's e-sports arena that had Lee Shin's status.

First of all, Lee Shin's only rival was Hwang Byeong-cheol's.

Hwang Byeong-cheol was the only person who won a trophy from Lee Shin before always getting 2nd place in the pro league.

But Hwang Byeong-cheol wouldn't last long.

There was also the 'Madness God Clan' Choi Young-joon.

A rookie who received attention in 2020's pro league who made it through the preliminaries undefeated before losing 3-0 to Hwang Byeong-cheol in the quarter-finals.

Lee Shin had high expectations for the rookie. Choi Young-joon's force was terrifying.

But.....

Third, there was the 'Iron Wall Monster' Park Young-ho.

The unbeaten Choi Young-joon and Park Young-ho had come head to head.

A tenacious defense. Any monster that were killed were just revived again and again.

Choi Young-joon poured out an intense offensive and Park Young-ho persisted.

5 rounds, 3 wins and 2 losses.

Win, lose, win, lose, win.

It was a tense match but eventually Park Young-ho won.

A rivalry between Park Young-ho and Choi Young-joon was formed on that day.

So in the Korean e-sports world, Hwang Byeong-cheol, Choi Young-joon and Park Young-ho were all competing for the top 3 spots.

Apart from those 3, some fans also considered Shin Ji-ho as the 4 place.

Either way, he needed to recapture his power to defeat them.

'Not yet.'

A sufficient warm up period was required. A job as a head coach was good preparation.

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