



THE
HERO

히어로

양승훈 현대판타지 소설

1

 주|라온 E&M

The Hero

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Chapter 1

“Stupid.”

“I know.”

“The students are always going to show jealousy and envy. Furthermore, it just so happens that the newbie hero that appears in our school is the hero that the whole nation shows interest in.”

“I’m sure they wouldn’t like me then.”

“You knew yet you acted that way?”

“I got mad.”

“I guess you were always like that.”

Minah was sitting next to Haneul as she shrugged her shoulders.

“However, acting that way just because you got mad is a problem. They’re definitely going to be gossiping about it. I’m guessing you forgot that you won’t be able to finish school for awhile?”

“I’m sorry. It was my bad. I’m regretting it right now.”

Haneul normally doesn't have the personality to cause big incidents as he did in class. If compared to the light, he was dark; he wasn't a leader, he was a follower.

But once he came to World B, everything started to change.

'It's not a bad feeling but.....How should I say it. I feel like I'm overfilled with confidence.'

"You must be caught up in deep thought again? Tell it to me, your girlfriend. I'll listen to you."

"I told you. I'm not the Haneul that was your boyfriend. That's why we can't act the way we used to."

"You did say that."

"Then...."

"So what about it."

"What?"

"From the way I see it, the Haneul that I knew just got a little bit different compared to before. Besides that, everything is still the same. It means whatever it was before or now, I still like you."

Damn.

Haneul became flustered as his face became as red as an apple.

“You, how can you say things like.....”

“Are you embarrassed? How cute. That reaction is definitely the same as the Haneul from before. Actually, I might be liking this reaction better? It’s been 2 years since we’ve been together and we’ve slowly begun to fall apart. In that sense, we can act as if this is a new start for us.”

Minah smiled brightly and grabbed Haneul’s hand.

“Haneul, don’t worry! Even if you say you forgot everything about me, I don’t care. Even if you were to forget about me at this moment, I will still make you fall in love with me again.”

*

There was contact from the Organization.

It was the acceptance notification. I thought it was a spam message at first. The message from them was very simple.

<Congrats! Accepted. You have officially become a hero Haneul. – Hero Organization – >

That was it.

That was all they could write for a Hero Organization that was ran by the government?

Haneul thought a hero had a heavier meaning to it.

Heroes were an existence where one could become one, if they deserved it. An existence that protects justice and the people.

‘It seems like certain concepts are hard to get rid of. I keep thinking in regards to the standards of World A.’

It was to the point where a nameless hero would be at the same level as a common labor official.

Just in case, Haneul decided to message Minah.

– Yes, you’re right. They’re normally like that. It’s pretty crappy huh? But usually, that’s the normal response. For a hero that’s falling in ranks, they may get many messages throughout the day, so they decided to get rid of the empty formalities and instead be simple, and concise. Still, they should be sending out an appreciation plaque. You’re now officially a hero. Congrats.

(TN – The Organization seems to send messages to a hero if their ranking drops. For some heroes, they can drop many times within the same day. Hence the reason why they decide to cut out the BS formalities.)

Guess this is normal.

‘It feels like they’re being very sloppy.....Well, I guess it’s okay since I’m not going to blatantly talk about me being a hero like the celebrities do.’

– *When does the money come out?*

– Wow, Haneul from the new world is showing me a new side to him. Should I say that there’s been an upgrade to your ability in being able to survive? Any who, your salary comes in the day before the 11th.

(TN – So the 10th, lol.)

If it’s the 11th then.....It’s a little over 2 weeks from now.

If half the pay comes in, then about \$3,000 will be.....

Haneul laughed with a sweet smile on his face and thought of what to get for his first paycheck. First, get rid of the debt from everyday life..... and then eating out would be nice.

– Oh, by the way Haneul. What rank are you?

– *Where can I see that at?*

– It wasn't in your message? That's weird, they normally send a rank out on those messages as well.

Haneul didn't think much of it.

He'll roughly be at Rank B, because that's what people were gossiping about online.

'Is Rank B considered high?'

Thinking about it as an alphabet and what Haneul read online, the rank shouldn't be on the low side but he was still unsure.

– *By the way, what is your rank at?*

– I'm rank B, level 102.

Haneul's eyes went round in shock.

Minah is in the B ranking? Haneul was shocked to find that Minah was a hero, but it was even more shocking and unheard of for her level to be so high.

Because Haneul stopped talking, Minah continued to press forward with the conversation.

– Well, you were just placed in the ranking and there has yet to be an

announcement for your rank, so just wait a little while. Once your rank is decided, they'll be placing you in the level system as well. The information should come out in a few days.

– *Okay, understood.*

Haneul was unable to comprehend where Minah's strength would come from when her body looked so frail.

'Minah. The more I learn about her, the less I'm able to comprehend.'

As Haneul continued to think about Minah, he eventually fell asleep.

Downtown, completely filled with darkness.

The scenery looked very dismal with no people in sight. The neon lights were broken and the only thing lighting the way were street lights.

It looked like a place where a drunk would occasionally pop out in the middle of the night.

Right then, a drunk guy tipsily drinking away at alcohol appeared and walked clumsily towards a bench. He lay upon it, looking up at the sky. He was drunk to the point where he couldn't control his body, and it even felt like he was seeing hallucinations.

It was odd.

The clouds were in a peculiar shape.

“What the? Is the sky spinning around in circles?”

With those thoughts, the man rubbed his eyes.

Out of nowhere, as if the sky was splitting, the clouds split up into spider webs and shot out everywhere.

“Huh?”

The drunk’s eyes were wide with surprise.

The alcohol in his body vanished in an instant.

He looked back up towards the sky.

This wasn’t a hallucination.

“Earthquake, it’s an earthquake!”

The drunk was shocked and started to run away.

Soon, sirens were heard everywhere.

The briefing room was filled with the hustle and bustle of people.

It was the same as the last earthquake. Another situation occurred without any signs.

“Grab a hold of the director immediately!”

The person in charge of the briefing room quickly yelled.

Suddenly, JooHyuk Park flew out from the director’s office.

“What is it! What’s going on!”

“D, director...Why are you.....”

“Report! Why did it appear again without any signs? When did the signs start to occur!”

“A, about 10 minutes ago.”

“What have you been doing for the past 10 minutes?”

“I didn’t know the d, director was there!”

“Get the Special Ops ready immediately and send a draft call out to the heroes! Measure the density of the earthquake as well as the level!”

Because of the incident from Central South not too long ago, Ops Director JooHyuk Park was burdened with a lot of work and was pulling an all-nighter. A little while after he fell asleep, he woke up to the noise being made outside of his office.

Unbeknownst to him, another situation had arisen.

It was another earthquake.

“The numbers keep increasing. It has exceeded a Level B earthquake!”

“Mother fucker! This is bullshit. It hasn’t even been that long since the last incident.....”

JooHyuk Park gritted his teeth.

Chapter 2

“HmMMM.....”

Haneul was tossing and turning in the middle of the night.

He was having a troublesome dream.

Suddenly, his eyes opened wide.

He saw something exploding in front of his eyes.

“Gasp, gasp!”

Cold sweat was dripping down all over his body.

It wasn't a simple nightmare.

Haneul's body felt like it was on fire. Was it a flu or a body ache? He frowned as he thought of these ideas and raised his arm to bring it toward his head.

The ring on his finger was shining brightly.

“Huh?”

Haneul snapped out from his sleep. He was able to feel some form of heat forming on his finger. It was the same feeling as when he first wore the Silver Armor.

“What’s this? What’s going on right now?”

That’s when the light from the ring subsided.

Haneul rubbed his eyes and tried touching his ring again, but the light was gone as if it was never there. He was wondering if the light from the ring was connected to the nightmare he was having earlier.

Haneul turned his smart phone on. It was 3:30am, about an hour since he fell asleep.

‘Is it just a weird feeling?’

The ring was very strange. As Haneul tossed and turned, he kept on staring at the ring.

Chwarararak.

Haneul put his armor on, but there wasn’t anything different about it. It must’ve just been a weird feeling he was getting, and as he was trying to fall back asleep, something happened.

The phone suddenly started to ring.

It was a phone call from the Hero Organization.

‘At this time?’

With an absurd expression, Haneul picked up the phone.

<Is this the Silver Knight?>

“Yes?”

Silver Knight.....Right as Haneul was going to ask him who Silver Knight was, he recalled that it was the name he chose when he became a hero.

“Ah, you’re right. Yes, I am the Silver Knight.”

<Please head over to the earthquake location immediately. It’s the First city in the East area side.>

“No, wait, wait! Are you saying that an earthquake just hit?”

<You don’t have much time. I hope you can make it to the location as soon as possible.>

The phone was disconnected and a text message was sent right after. It contained the location of the First city in the East area.

“Fuck. Where the hell is the East area? If you’re Korean, you should tell me in a Korean way.”

English was hopeless to him.

Haneul turned the computer on to check for the location on the map.

After some research, Haneul found that the East area was the place on the east side of Seoul. The First city that they spoke of was Goori city. (TN – Goori city is the name of city in Korea.)

“There’s an earthquake in Goori?”

Haneul walked out to the veranda. It was late at night and the streets were empty and quiet.

Was there really an earthquake just as the Organization said earlier?

As Haneul was deep in thought, he walked closer towards the window and looked out far into the horizon. As his eyes came across the skies, south of Goori, he frowned because Haneul was able to see a huge cut in the sky.

It was the same sky he saw that day, when he looked out from the terminal.

Earthquake. An earthquake has happened again.

Haneul immediately checked the news. He was frustrated to know that it took him this long to notice when there were so many discussions going on.

Suddenly, there was something that caught his eye.

– The Special Ops has confirmed that the Earthquake this time in East area is at Level A. In order to correct this problem as soon as possible, any information will.....

“What? Level A? Then this is going to be super dangerous. What does this mean though? Aren’t I a Rank B hero? Why do I have to go to a high level earthquake when it’s so dangerous?”

In case Haneul might have missed something, he went back to the message to reread it. He was able to notice another message that he received 40 minutes prior to his last.

<You a Rank A hero. Congratulations.>

Haneul’s eyes grew wide with surprise. He was completely sure that he was only at the Rank B level, but it seemed that he was wrong and was actually Rank A.

‘What do they mean Rank A, did they send this message to the right person?’

Not only that, but there was a hot topic going around about Haneul on the internet.

A grand debut for the new Rank B hero?

There were several topics with titles similar to this.

It was the same explosion as when people gossiped about a top star and their lover.

It's not too peculiar if you think of heroes as a famous top star, but it was hard to get used to when the conversation was about yourself.

A hero who had a grand debut while being the interest of the whole world. Honestly, it was because of the fact that Haneul was a Rank B hero, but there would be even more chaos if they found out that he was actually Rank A.

The Hero in Silver was going around like hot potato because of his popularity as well as charisma.

“Shit, I don't know. Let's move for now. I'm sure this order came down to me because I have the power to help them.”

If Haneul went and had a hard time with the fight, it wouldn't be bad if a stronger hero helped him.

He packed away his phone, his wallet.....

“Am I even going to need this stuff when I’m going to go fight? Meh, Oh wells.”

Haneul left his house. If he used his magic, his physical rose up by high margins. If it was him in the past, this wouldn’t have been possible, but now he was running towards Goori.

“Geez, so unfriendly. If they were going to make me do something special, they could’ve at least sent me a car or something.”

Haneul was running hard. As he was picking up on speed in a deserted street, he noticed that his ring was displaying a light glow.

As the Silver Armor covered his Haneul’s body, he put strength into his legs and disappeared into the darkness.

Chapter 3

One can only differentiate a Level A earthquake when the magic seeps out from the ground. The difference can't be seen from other levels until that happens. To begin with, strong magic combusts in the center of it all, where the atmospheric pressure is so strong, normal people wouldn't be able to breathe in it. Not long after, earthquake, heavy rain, heat waves, and storms will hit, changing consistently.

Only one word can be described for such a place, hell.

And within this hell like place, the most weakest monster is at the C level. In order to fight off and block these dangerous creatures, a specialist way above that level is needed.

That means, the hero must at least be of A rank.

For Level A earthquakes and up, any existing laws are void. Whether the heroes are A rank or S rank, every one of them who's useful is mobilized.

“How many heroes are on scene so far?”

“Currently there are only 10 Rank A heroes on scene.”

A small headquarter has been created at the location of the Level A earthquake by the Hero Organization. There are a minimum of 200

officials mobilized here, and each floor has more than a hundred computers being utilized.

“Turn the screen on! Do whatever you can to try and get a transmission through.”

“There is a disturbance because of the incredible amount of magic being released. Until the wired equipment is set up, we won’t be able to see anything.”

“When are you planning to set the equipment up?! It’s already been 32 minutes since the incident, and you guys dare to still say that. Do you want to see everybody die?!”

Director JooHyuk Park yelled furiously.

“Director! Special Ops team 2201 has reached the destination!”

“Special Ops team 2205 has already reached their destination!”

“Tell them to hurry and move about! Their top priority is to save the citizens. I’m positive there are citizens that haven’t been able to make it out yet. Also, send some other troops out to set up the wiring equipment. How can the Organization relay directions if they can’t even see the circumstances?!”

Director JooHyuk is very competent.

In only 15 minutes since the incident happened, the Director rushed out to the scene, set up a mini headquarter, and relayed his commands.

His men knew of the Director's capabilities, so they continued to work without a retort. There were a considerable amount of people's lives in their hands.

Ever since the earthquakes first started happening, a new law was placed where it was very hard to get permission for 15+ floor building. The reason was simple. When an earthquake hits, all the building would get destroyed.

Especially when the magic starts pouring out, the things that happen within it can be devastating.

Even if one was to follow the new law and construct a building within its standards, it's hard to say that the building would come out safe.

“That building should be collapsing soon.”

Rank A, level 45 hero, Psychic President.

A man wearing a purple suit flipped his slick hair back.

“Any who, how much longer until the reporter gets here? I'm not able to use my strength well if there isn't a camera rolling.”

Right then, a soldier geared with equipment came running out.

“Psychic President, this is an order that I got from the Director not too long ago. There seems to be about 100 or so people below the collapsing Han Young University Hospital. You must intervene immediately.....”

“Okay, of course!” (TN – the ‘of course’ part was said in English haha.)

Even before the soldier completed his sentence, Psychic President release his magic like a hurricane.

He flew up several hundred meters to impress those in front of him.

This wonderful scene made the first time soldiers chat with liveliness.

“That’s amazing. He looks so all-mighty. I’m guessing that is Psychic President’s, psychic energy?”

“For someone from the Special Ops to be saying something like that. How disappointing. What psychic energy? That’s just magic he’s using.”

“I’m, I’m sorry.”

Psychic President is a hero with superb strength. He is always splendid and attracts the attention of everyone. He also states that his powers are psychic energy. However, this is just his way of appealing and stating that his powers are different from other heroes. Psychic President uses his powers as if they were Telekinesis, but it isn’t too different from other

heroes. It is a huge and overwhelming magic.

dididi.

At that moment, a building from across the way started collapsing but was suddenly caught in midair. The sick refugees who were late on taking refuge, sighed in relief.

In that situation, the Special Ops representatives were busy trying to get the people to safety.

“Hmm, what a sad turn of events. I’m using my magnificent telekinesis to save these people here, yet no one knows what I just did.”

Psychic President made a sad face like his heart was hurting.

Surprisingly, although he had to use his magic in order to stop the huge building from falling, he didn’t seem to be tired.

This was the true colors of a Rank A hero.

A human being with superior abilities.

And within this location, there were more than 10 odd number of people with that same amount of ability.

“The situation will quickly be controlled, because of these heroes.”

Mumbled superior San Hyuk Ha.

There has only been one other time where such a huge earthquake had occurred. And during that time, an uncountable number of soldiers died, resulting in the reorganization of the forces. Because of that incident, there are currently no veterans on the field that has experienced a Level A earthquake, which is why there were many soldiers in fear. However, after seeing the strength of a Rank A hero, their uneasiness completely disappeared.

Chi jijijiik!

The wired equipment was still unable to connect correctly.

“Are you still not able to get on the correct channel?”

“That, that is, there is too much interference coming from the magic being released. Even after I connected it to cable, all I get is static.”

“We don’t have time for this! Murray’s wave is about to start. It’s already been 45 minutes since the earthquake hit. If you look at it typically, the wave should start in the next 10 minutes. We need to communicate with headquarters! Hurry it up.”

The Special Ops team was the bridge of communication for the Heroes and the Organization. Especially with the wired equipment. Not too long ago, they were briefly able to connect with the Organization, but it seems to be dead again.

Suddenly, the commander heard from another Special Ops team, that they were able to get connection.

“Shit, what are you guys doing! Are you guys going to roll around like this until you throw up? Hurry up and connect with the cable!”

As Lt. Colonel Kyu Hyun Kim went on a rant, the staff sgt. and sgts. were busy running around with frustrated expressions.

The situation continued without any connection between the heroes and the Organization. Because of it, nobody from the city was able to know what was going on.....

That this earthquake was quite a bit different from the previous ones.

Chapter 4

Creeaaakkk

Within the wreckage of the building, something the size of a little kid popped out. With a quick glance it seemed to look like a dog. However, once the dog like figure came out towards the light, anyone who could see the dog like figure would say that it wasn't as simple as it being a dog.

There were 3 blinking eyes.

It also had antennae, like blades protruding out of its body.

It was definitely a monster.

A Type D monster that was nicknamed as 'hound'. It was a type of species that existed in level D earthquakes.

Suddenly, another one came out from the other side. It was the same type as the first, a Type D Hound. Their numbers were continuing to expand as time went by.

They opened the gate to this world through the earthquake.

“Ki KiKik.”

Their red eyes were looking around left and right, then quickly turned their heads. At first they had a puzzled face, then as if they confirmed something, they started to move forward.

Du DuDu .

As these hounds continued to pick up speed, their numbers also continued to grow exponentially. What started out as a mere 10, continued to grow to a couple dozen, then to a couple hundred.

They were running in concert towards the direction of the shelter.

As always, monsters were able to feel where the humans were, and moved in order to kill off humanity.

Currently, there were about 60,000 civilians in this shelter. About half of the civilians from downtown were able to make it out to the outer shelter, but the other half weren't and could only rush to the shelter not too far from the center of downtown.

This shelter has been here and ready since the early 90's. It was structured so that even if the place was bombed, it wouldn't move even the slightest. However, it's already been 20 years since its creation and the facilities seemed to be underdeveloped.

Even electricity wasn't working correctly so the shelter was covered with thousands of candle lights.

The people within were struck with fear.

“It hasn’t been long since the last one.....So weird, why are there so many all of sudden.....”

Everyone was anxious.

The topic was already discussed several times on the news. The frequency of the earthquakes were rising sharply. Within just this year, there has already been several big and small earthquakes. Not only that, each one of them had significant amount of casualties.

“It’s ok, it’s ok. The heroes will come and save us.....”

Said a mother trying to calm her crying baby. With those words, it seemed like the people around this lady also toughened up and calmed down.

That’s right.

This dark night felt like an endless eternity to these people, but they knew that they had hope. No matter how dark the situation was, the civilians were sure that the heroes would save them.

As they always have.

However, compared to the civilians who thought of such ideas, there were some who knew the dangerous situation this earthquake could bring. These people were the heroes that were mixed in with the regular

people in the shelter.

‘It doesn’t seem like this situation is that simple.’

Thought Ironman, a Rank D level 342 hero.

The earthquake this time around was on a completely different level from the previous ones. There has never been a time where they felt such thickness of magic in the air as they did this time.

The only ones who were able to feel this were the heroes.

‘I’m not the only one that has been feeling this way.’

Ironman looked around to look at the other heroes around him, and every single one of them had a serious expression on their face.

These heroes evacuated to the shelter with the civilians when the earthquake hit. They also didn’t have enough time to make it to the outer part of downtown. There were cars filling up the streets, and there was no control over the situation.

There was just too little time to avoid the entirety of the earthquake. Previously, once the warning sirens went off, people had 3 – 4 hours of time to reach a safe haven, but this time it was different.

Not even an hour since the beginning of the incident, and they were already in a hazardous state.

‘There’s a 1 in a 10,000th chance of us having to fight.’

Thought the hero who fights with a metal pipe. He was a popular fellow. No, most Rank D heroes were like that. They were different from higher ranked heroes and had to rely on the assistance of other people therefore, most of their tactics involved group formations. Also, they had the job of going out and cleaning out the ruins of the city once the earthquakes were over.

The refugee hero Joong Hyun Kim, aka Ironman, felt that this earthquake was different from the others.

‘At the least, it should be a level B earthquake.’

The level 3 earthquake alert was still ongoing, which meant that the disaster in the Special Territory hasn’t been completed yet. Even if they were able to stop the earthquake this time, there was no proof that they’d be able to stop the next one.

Currently, the Special Territory was the center of South Korea. If the economy flow ended in the Special Territory then there would be devastating results to everyone. If the Organization doesn’t hurry and stop the population from rushing towards the outer part of the city, then there was a high possibility that this region would become a ghost town. Of course, the economy flow wasn’t the only reason that was important, there was a bigger reason than that.

Which was to block any chain earthquakes.

Currently, there were no scientific studies to prove this, but the level of earthquakes in each region was already fixed. However, if the whole population was to leave that region without a single person being left, the earthquake wouldn't happen. Instead, it would be pushed off to another region which still had people in it. When that happens, the earthquake will transcend your imagination.

The big wave that hit in the 80's caused a casualty count of over several 10,000s.

Anyways, with those reasons, the affected territory was closed off.

Even if this earthquake was to end, this hell like situation would not be over.

Joong Hyun, aka Ironman, was very prideful with the fact that he was a hero. However, he knew what level his powers were at.

“I hope my house is at least okay.”

Prayed Ironman.

Boooooommmmm.

The entire ground beneath the shelter was shaking.

People started to scream.

“What the, What is this sound?”

“Did, did someone just attack the shelter?”

Everyone quickly fell into a state of panic. This situation wasn't something that happened very often. Heroes should have made it to the center of the earthquake, yet they were still getting attacked at the shelter.

Ironman checked the time.

‘It's been about an hour and a half since all of this started. It should be enough time for the stronger heroes to have hit the monster waves. Could there be a problem?’

Boooooom!!

This time there was a loud noise above the shelter.

As people were running around left and right, the situation became hectic and hellish.

“Shit.”

As Ironman continued to cuss, he made his way towards the upper-front part of the shelter, closer to the ground. Although he wasn't sure as to what was happening on the outside, he knew he had to do something if

the shelter was being attacked.

“Get away from the front! We need to head down into the underground, as soon as possible.”

Chapter 5

The underdeveloped facilities of the shelter were too old and small to be able to contain all the refugees, which was why the top front part of the shelter should have been a people free zone. Unfortunately, because of the size of the shelter, there were a thousand plus people here.

Including Ironman, all the other heroes in the shelter were now helping lead the refugees take cover underground.

“I hope everyone can maintain their order. If you rush through right now, many people will be injured.”

As the refugees were trying to make it fully in to the shelter, there were several dozen people heading towards Ironman.

“I seem to have spotted a couple of familiar faces here.”

“Haha. This earthquake isn’t normal yet I seem to have found some pathetic people trying to get involved with it. You must be in a rush to die.”

The dozens of people heading towards Ironman were all heroes.

“Get back!! It’s dangerous.”

Yelled the soldiers in charge of controlling the crowd, with an

expression as white as paper. However, these heroes did not stop.

“We are heroes.”

All the Rank D and Rank C heroes were now gathered in the interior of the shelter.

Amongst them, the strongest hero was a Rank C hero named Grey-Haired King. He was a grandpa that would be turning 70 this year. This Grey-Haired King that was slightly bent at the waist and laughing, had a shocking power of making the enemy explode the moment battle started.

“I wonder if we can see some of your virtue Grey-Haired King.”

“Haha, don’t worry about the virtue of an old guy like me. You youngsters go and fight as you wish.”

In the midst of this conversation, another loud **Boomm!!!** was heard. There was a slight difference each time, but the sound was definitely growing.

It was noise that could be heard at the edge of the entrance in the ceiling.

“There’s no mistake about it. It’s in front of this.”

Ironman grasped his pipe tighter. His partner, the metal pipe, was very sturdy and although there wasn’t much to look at besides that fact, it

saved his life several times throughout his work as a hero.

“You both have been through much hardship. It doesn’t look like you can control this area, so you should leave this area to us and go inside to help the people.”

As the confused soldiers in the entrance way were debating on what to do, they made a decision and nodded their heads.

“Th, thank you! We wish you luck!”

“What luck.....”

“Ironman, heroes must always be strong.” (Justice Man)

Muttered Justice Man, the one next to Ironman. Justice Man wore a weird mask and trained his body to be extremely huge with muscles. He was a Rank C hero with a thick awareness of being a muscle maniac.

“I don’t feel like listening to your ridiculous beliefs.....”

As Ironman was going to rebuke Justice Man with an annoyed face, the second half of his sentence was cut off by a loud noise.

BOOOOOM!!

“Fuck, it’s finally here.”

Ironman continued to grasp his pipe tightly as he cussed.

The entryway to the shelter was bent because of the force and many blinking red eyes could be seen through the gap.

Pu Puk!!

There was an explosion of Type D Hound's bustling into the shelter.

Grey-Haired King's magic shot forth. The amount of monsters that he killed in that moment was already over 10.

“Fall back now Grandpa Grey-Haired King!”

A hero that was in the back, now moved forward.

Grey-Haired King's endurance was very weak. He's already at an age where he could be retired, so his strength was weakening by the day.

“Gasp gasp, I've gotten too old.....”

The Grey-Haired King fell back and with cold sweat running down, tried to catch his breath. Ironman decided to move to the front as well.

“AHHHHHHHHHHH! I am Ironman!!!!”

The pipe in his hand shined with light as he killed off a Hound and fell back.

All the heroes were struggling.

The normal civilians that were running away as the entrance broke open, turned back around and started to cheer with loud voices.

“You can do it! You can do it!”

All the heroes that were currently fighting, were heroes that were famous. They’ve come out on TV many times, and contributed to saving many lives without thinking about their own promotions.

These heroes were now fighting with their lives on the line.

“You can do it! You will never lose!”

From young to old, everyone’s minds seemed to become one as they continued to cheer.

And as the heroes received these cheers, they fought with even more fierceness. They were destroying the endless amount of monsters rushing into the small space. It was the first time for everyone, to be fighting this many monsters at once.

Each hero member has now killed off at least 10 monsters.

“Gasp gasp.”

Even without anyone saying anything, the heroes were tired.

With the little bit of magic that their body contained, they weren't used to fighting endless amounts of monsters.

“Keep pushing through a little while longer! There isn't much left!”

As Justice Man yelled, he continued to move forward. In the beginning, he was busy using as much magic as he could, but now that he was tired he could only fight with magic in his fists.

‘Shit, I really feel like dying. Do they think it's normal for Rank D heroes to be fighting this many monsters?’

Ironman was beginning to get dizzy. He's used up too much magic and even if someone lightly kicked him, he would probably still fall.

“AHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Smash.

Another monster was fiercely flown away as Ironman fell backwards to catch his breath.

‘This is the end.’

He didn’t have any energy left to move.

Suddenly, he could feel someone picking him up and carrying him.

“You did well Ironman! However, you are a hero. It’ll be troublesome for you to show a weak side when people are watching you fight.”

“Gasp Gasp. The monsters.....and the monsters gone now?”

“Not sure. We seem to have at least blocked off the monsters that made it into the shelter.”

Justice Man was the one to carry Ironman.

At first.....

As he was thinking ‘what a relief’, there was a sudden
“WAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!”

Chapter 6

“WAAAAAAHHHHHH!!”

The people were cheering.

They were watching the heroes risk their lives to save theirs. It wasn't often that they were able to see a hero in action, so this would be an experience that they would never forget for their entire life.

It was also the same for the heroes.

They were used to fighting desperately at the locations where the earthquakes hit.

However, it was different now.

No one knew who did it first, but eventually, all the heroes had their hands raised. They were responding to the cheers that the civilians were making.

The fight wasn't over yet, however, the heroes that continued to struggle to protect the people were giving them hope.

The hope of being able to survive.

Sadly, it only took 5 minutes to break this dream.

Squish.

“Uh,uhhkkkk.....”

The Grey-Haired King's body shook. A tentacle was sticking out through the center of his chest. As the hero turned around to see what it was, he was torn to pieces everywhere.

“KYAAAAAAKKKKKKK!”

People were screaming of fright and in the midst of blood being sprayed everywhere.

BOOOOOM!!

The entrance to the shelter fell apart.

The doors that could even survive severe bombings simply fell apart. Even before anyone could identify the owner of the tentacle that killed The Grey-Haired King, an overwhelming despair pushed its head through the entrance.

“Giant type.....”

A Giant humanoid, that was 6m in height, peered into the shelter with a drooling face.

“KWWWAAAHHHHH!!”

A robust fist flew through the air.

BOOOOOMMM!!

“Ughhhhh....”

Ironman shook his head in order to focus his thoughts and hazy eyes. He could see the waning sky. The wreckage of a broken building, and the torn sky.

It was the strange appearance that the sky produced when an earthquake hit.

Ironman’s body felt light. What exactly happened?

At that moment, he recalled the fight that he had within the shelter and the sudden appearance of the Giant type monster. With just its size, it looked to be a Type B or Type C.

“F, fuck.....”

Even if a Rank C hero had 2 lives, he would never be able to kill a Giant type that was Type B or Type C.

The first appearance of the Giant type was found in North America.

At that time, there was a huge earthquake with no precedence to its level, so it was marked as an S level earthquake. 3 states were also completely swept through in the center of North America.

The ones to lead this plight were 5 Type C monsters as well as a Type B Giant, and now a Giant type has appeared on this land as well.

‘It’s completely impossible. There’s nothing that I can do now. The only strength that I have is to pour my magic into this pipe, and release it at the point of contact. With just this, there’s no way that I can even be challenged to these types of monsters!’

The name of ‘Ironman’ is worthless in front of the Giant. He was nothing but a regular civilian in the eyes of the monster.

“Mom, MOMMM!!!”

As Ironman was locked in despair, a loud scream was heard, which woke him up from his dreams. In the shelter that was now half destroyed, the civilians were madly screaming. There was also a kid crying his eye out, because he had lost his mother from right under his nose.

The child’s mother was dead. She was struck down by the wreckage of the broken shelter.

“Kid, Hurry and head into.....”

“Mom, MOM! MOMMMM...!!”

He was a kid that lost his mother. There were no words that could reach him. Ironman forcefully picked the child up and ran into the interior. The child continued to struggle as he called out for his mom, but Ironman didn't budge and rushed inside. As the people were in a state of panic, Ironman found the woman who seemed to be the calmest, and handed the child over to her. She already had 2 other children with her.

“I apologize, this child has just lost his mother. Is there any way you can hold onto him for now?”

“A, alright. I will take care of this child, so please.....”

“Yes, okay. Don't worry. I will protect you all. That's what a hero needs to do.”

It was an outrageous thing to say.

There was nothing that he could do.

A normal hero like himself could not fight off the preposterous monsters.

Truly a stupid thing to say.

Were his reasons paralyzed due to the country's brainwashing about

justice and self-sacrifices?

However, Ironman was able to see it, the slight relief on the woman's face.

At that moment, for an unknown reason, Ironman was about to cry.

[Heroes must be strong.

They should never be weak and should never give up.

Even at the last moment, they must continue to give hope because that is their existence.]

This was the hero commandment that he learned in college.

‘Why am I remembering this all of a suddenly.’

Once a person is verified with having an ability, they are placed in a ‘hero development’ agency, where they spend their childhood in, and is put into the Hero Department once they enter college. Which is why they always await the moment their powers awaken.

Ironman was the same.

The powers that finally awakened though, were worthless and of the lowest rank. Not only that, but there was no improvement even when

training hard.

‘That monster is not an enemy I can face, however.....’

Baboom!

The Giant hasn't been able to make it into the shelter yet, because with every movement it made, the building shook. It was fortunate for them, however, there were now Hounds gathering across the way.

“This is a fucking mess. For it to be a level where both Giants and Hounds are appearing. There's no doubt that this earthquake is at least a level A rank.”

Ironman gripped his pipe tightly.

All the other heroes were nowhere to be seen.

This was going to be a fight he had to go through by himself.

“GRAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHH!”

Chapter 7

“What a mess.”, muttered Haneul.

When he arrived to the battlefield, all he could see were wreckages of broken buildings and streets that were ripped open. It wasn't a busy street, but there were still a lot of change from when the neon lights were blinking with many cars bustling about.

Haneul looked around his vicinity.

It was in order to capture the monster aura's around him.

‘Am I too late?’

Haneul shockingly crossed over 30km in less than 10 minutes to reach his destination. His body level transcended his previous by leaps and bounds. However, Haneul was still unable to understand his true level of abilities.

He felt that there was a possibility that everything was already finished due to him being late, and continued to run around frantically.

Haneul could feel the aura of the monsters that came out from Murray's earthquake. He wasn't sure as to how long he's been running around for, but he could feel a familiar aura from a distance not too far from him. It was an aura that was much greater than the Reptile's that he fought

previously. However, the special patterns radiating from the aura wasn't much different from the Reptile's.

“Of course, that's to be expected.”

Haneul ran towards the huge aura and was soon able to see his adversary.

“Wow, that thing is huge.”

It was a being that was the size of an average building and it was obvious that it was a monster. However, when compared to his previous experience, it was a monster that was 3 times bigger.

Right when he was about to head towards the monster, he noticed that it was fighting with someone else already.

BOOOM!!

The Giant took a few steps back and fell. Suddenly, a huge boulder rose up to the sky and dropped heavily onto the Giant.

It was a shocking sight.

‘Amazing.’

Haneul was able to feel the thin layer of magic that was wrapped

around that huge boulder.

Psychic President was at that location.

“What a stubborn fellow. Only good thing about it is it’s life force.”

The Giant wasn’t prone to falling down easily. Even modern firearms did nothing to the monsters that came out from earthquakes, let alone indirect damage. When compared with the other monsters, the Giant was much more superior in ability and endurance.

“OOOOOOO WUHHHHHHHHH!”

A shocking vibrant shout.

‘Is it because it’s a Level A earthquake that things are definitely different. Just looking at the monster visually, it was much stronger and more dangerous than the Reptiles.’

Haneul swallowed a dry spit. Whether it was the scale of the fight or the method, it was too big of a gap from his experience.

‘Shit, the Organization must have gotten something wrong. There’s no way that I’m a Rank A hero. No, even if I was, isn’t it suicide to send me on a mission like this when I’m new?’

No matter how much Haneul thought about it, the way they handled people were too rough.

I'm still new, yet they didn't even tell me what I should be expecting.

'Shitty bastards, just cause it's not their own life they use us how ever they want to.'

Haneul received a manual for a Rank C fights, but none for any of the ranks above that.

Reason?

It was simple. There was no way for a newby to be fighting in anything above a Rank C fight.

Whatever the reason, Haneul showed outstanding skills at Central South recently, and officially registered with the Organization while rating his latent powers.

The result? He was established as a Rank A hero.

In that situation, an earthquake hit. As it turned out to be a Level A earthquake, the hectic Organization had no choice but to send out all of their reinforcements. Haneul was unlucky to be registered as a Rank A hero and was sent out to fight.

As Haneul didn't know the truth, his only choice was to blend in with the veteran heroes and survive through this ordeal.

‘Huh? Who are you?!’

As Haneul slightly peeked out from an alley way, someone was rushing towards him.

Haneul coughed and stated, “I am a hero.”

‘What’s wrong with my voice?’

Haneul just noticed how thick his voice came out. The thick voice seemed to be one of the functions of his armor.

‘I’m loving this thing more and more.’

The man tilted his head and reached Haneul’s location. Seeing him up close, this man was tall with a mountain like body. He looked like a true man.

“Hmm, you’re a hero I’ve never seen before. Any who, I’m glad you came. The fact that you’re hero proves that you’re also a Rank A hero. Now, hurry and move! Starting now, we’re going to move toward the shelter!”

“Huh? What are you talking about all of a sudden?”

“There’s no time to explain everything! Time does not wait for the youth!”

Where is this 'youth' coming from.....

“Now listen. Not long ago, the shelter was attacked. Those stupid monsters, as cunning as they are were using diversion tactics on us. The monster’s main force are currently at this location, and because we were short staffed I was going to head to the shelter myself. But, I’m glad to have found a tardy hero. No point in going there when they have more manpower, so we should be able to end this a lot quicker since you’re also here.”

“Hold on a minute. Shelter? You’re saying there are people at the shelter right now?”

“Why are you asking such an obvious question? We don’t have time. You nameless hero! Hurry and start moving!”

At that moment, Haneul’s facial expression inside his armor, changed.

The thoughts of him wanting to just survive this situation completely vanished.

“Where is the shelter located?”

The middle-aged man laughed as he nodded.

“Those are good eyes. Let’s go together. Ah, I forgot to ask you. What is your name?”

“Han.....no, Silver Knight.”

“What an awesome name. You can call me Burning Soul.”

The two heroes rushed forth. Thinking of the people’s lives, they quickly disappeared from their location.

Chapter 8

Less than a minute after Burning Soul and Haneul disappeared, a new person appeared. They were fully equipped with gear.

“What the, where did Burning Soul run off to?”

“I’m, I’m not sure. Maybe he already left for the battlefield?”

These people were the Hero Reporter and cameraman. They quickly rushed over after hearing Haneul and Burning Soul’s dialogue, but they were already too late.

“Man, seriously! We have to get a shot of Burning Soul! There’s not much difference if we film Psychic President like the other Hero Reporter’s!”

However, because the Reporter had no other choice, they turned back around. They were now headed towards a Rank A hero’s fight.

Starting with the Psychic President, there were plenty of fierce battles going on. Either way, a Reporter’s job is to show the sacrifices a hero makes in order to protect the people, so there was no point in complaining.

“Let’s go. We can’t go back empty handed you know.”

They started to run. Just as the heroes were risking their lives, this occupation resulted in their lives getting risked as well.

“Director, it seems like the species of monsters on the battlefield has grown by one more.”

‘What do you mean? The Hound’s and Giant’s are already on the field, how can there be another type of monster?’

“We were able to confirm that they opened the gate and stepped through.”

“That’s so bullshit. So, what monster appeared?”

“That is..... not too long ago, we confirmed the appearance of the Wizard types.”

Suddenly, Director JooHyuk Park’s face distorted.

At the sound of hearing that it was the Wizard types, Director JooHyuk Park’s aides faces also hardened.

The reason why was because, if it was true, the whole circumstance changed.

Whether, it were the Giants, Hounds, or Reptiles, none of them can compare to the Wizards. They were on a different scale when compared

to normal monsters.

“For Wizards to appear.....This is the worst case scenario.”

The base of a Wizard’s firepower was completely different. Just as the name states, they do not depend on physical force like the other monsters, and just like heroes, they’re able to use their magic in order to bring about special powers. Just looking back at the results from different earthquakes, whenever a Wizard appeared, there was never a time where they fully contained the situation. Also because there are so many Wizard entities, the Organization has not been able to put them in a specific classification.

“So, how many Wizards are there?”

“Currently, we’re able to see two of them and they seem to be releasing a lot of energy near many Rank A heroes.”

“What are the unique types for these Wizards?”

“One of them seems to be in the Tentacle family, and the other one seems to be from the Flame family.”

“Chet. Everything is going down the shithole. Who the fuck is the one that’s been specifying the level for the earthquakes? We got so much shit from the last earthquake at Central South, yet you guys make the same mistake?! Everyone open your fucking ears and listen up! Starting now, we are not considering the East Area as a Level A Earthquake.”

“Yes sir! What level do you deem it to be then?”

“Isn’t that obvious? Obviously it’s Level S. Also, make sure you immediately let the heroes out there know the changes, and tell the Rank S heroes to fight in the front line.”

“Director, we only have one Rank S hero out on the battlefield currently!”

JooHyuk Park’s head felt like it was about to split. Usually, higher ranked heroes were never sent out when an earthquake was Level A or below. The reason was, because there was much more growth when fighting in a dangerous environment.

“So, which Rank S hero is at the location?”

“It’s the Level 19, Rank S hero Burning Soul.”

Level 19, Rank S hero Burning Soul. That hero that boasts his overwhelming firepower is on the battlefield right now?

“Our luck is good then. That person is on the field right now? Then inform the Rank A heroes to not push themselves, and instead support Burning Soul.”

“Yes sir!”

However, during JooHyuk Park’s orders, a message was relayed.

“Bu, Burning Soul is currently on an independent mission sir!”

“What was that? Are we not able to communicate with him?”

“N, no sir. We were told that he left on his own to the shelter for a rescue mission.”

“For fuck’s sake! He should’ve told headquarters if he was going to go on an independent mission. There’s nothing we can do, since it’s already happened. Hurry and organize some personnel’s and stick them with Burning Soul! With the appearance of the Wizard’s, we have no idea which monsters are going to be located by the shelter!!”

It’s only been 16 minutes since the main headquarters received the news that the shelter was in danger.

There was no use thinking about it. There is an overwhelming 60,000 people at the shelter, unable to move or do anything. If they weren’t able to save these 60,000 people, this whole mission was pointless.

Heroes fought in order to protect.

That is why the moment JooHyuk Park found out about the Wizards, he gave out orders to organize a hero team to go and protect the shelter. Even this was before the Wizards came out, and the earthquake was still Level A, JooHyuk Park wouldn’t have been too worried even if Burning Soul moved about independently.

However, with the appearance of the Wizards, there are no guarantees that the fight could be won even with a Rank S hero like Burning Soul. This was how fearsome the Wizard types were.

Suddenly, the visual showing on the screen shook and turned off.

“What the, what happened?!”

“It seems like moments ago, the Flame type wizard swept through and killed the reconnaissance team!!”

Every problem was being piled upon each other.

BANG!

“FUCK! WHY ISN’T ANYTHING WORKING OUT! THOSE DAMNED FUCKERS!”

Chapter 9

The first monsters that the Rank A heroes fought since the earthquake appeared were the Giants. These Giants were hard to kill because of their defense and ability to take blows.

Even the Psychic President, who liked to boast about his powerful 'ESP' and long distance prowess, could do nothing but complain. The Giants were natural enemies to his abilities.

“Chet, you dirty little friends. When do you guys plan on getting back up?”

Although, 'ESP' was limitless with the amount of ways it could be utilized, the amount of magic used each time was that much more exhausting. In the end, near the late half of the fights, the heroes on standby had to come in to finish the job.

The battles would be much easier if everyone joined in on the fights, but the heroes still felt confident in their skills because none of these monsters were life threatening yet.

“This monster is a hard opponent for you to fight Psychic President, why don't you leave it for someone else now?”

“That's right, stop trying to solo it.”

Mister Black and Wild Bolt were now trying to take the front. Both heroes were melee type heroes. Although, they weren't the most effective match against the Giants, they weren't a horrible match either.

“There's nothing I can do then. I'll leave it to you two misters.” (Psychic President)

As Psychic President moved back, the two heroes jumped forward in a hurry and attacked the Giant with all they had.

That's when it happened.

The first appearance of the Wizard, and the first one to identify it was the Green Eagle.

Because he was a hero that also excelled in long distance battles, he was able to see things several meters in advance compared to melee heroes.

“Wizard type.....:”

The Wizard type was dangerous. They had a very unusual type of firepower and there wasn't much information regarding them. However, the number one rule after seeing them was to kill them as quickly as possible.

“For there to be a wizard. Is this really a simple Level A earthquake? For there to be three different type of monsters appearing..”

As Green Eagle was surprised and perplexed about the situation, he immediately told the reconnaissance team that was on standby next to him.

That's when the main headquarters found out about the first appearance of the Wizards.

‘Hopefully the heroes that are currently on the battlefield have noticed its existence, but that doesn't seem to be the case.....’

Green Eagle pulled his bowstring and filled it with magic.

He wanted to identify the Wizards exact family type.

The magic filled arrow shined brightly as it cut through the air. The magic arrow shot through from the alleyway moved at the speed of light towards the Wizard. The Wizard seemed to be the size of a little kid.

And, the moment the arrow was close to it.

BOOOOOOM!!

The magic filled arrow exploded forth, however, Green Eagle's face looked even more distorted.

“Fuck, it seems to be from the tentacle family.....”

Of the identified types of Wizards seen so far, the tentacle Wizards had absolute defense when it came to long rang and mid range attacks. Using the hundreds and thousands of tentacle like arms, they were able to render any of the attacks to nothingness.

This meant that, Green Eagle was absolutely not its opponent. Suddenly, in another battlefield to the right of the tentacle Wizard, a superbly red flame rose up into the sky.

Out of all the monsters identified so far, it's very uncommon for there to be one with such mighty flames.

“Did another Wizard show up over there as well? Shit, how many types of monsters are going to be showing up exactly?”

With the appearance of the Wizard types, none of the Rank A heroes were confident anymore. They now had to give it their all in order to kill them as quickly as possible.

As twenty of the heroes tried to move forward together, 2 Giants suddenly appeared from the back to block them from their advancement.

They were assigned their own roles.

“Does this mean these monsters are working together to fill their specific roles.....?” muttered the reconnaissance team superior, who barely survived the barrage from the flame Wizard.

Even in that dangerous situation, he tried his best to protect and recover his wired equipment. Thankfully, the one that was placed in reserve was unaffected by the attack. Headquarters had to see this situation as soon as possible. That was the only way they would be able to make it out of this alive.

On another note, Burning Soul and Haneul were currently running frantically towards the shelter, and they were unaware of the level change for the earthquake.

“Little shits. There’s definitely a lot of them.”

Burning Soul raised his hand in order to stop Haneul from moving forward.

“The Hounds aren’t much of an issue, but the Giants are a bit annoying to take care of. Seeing as how there’s so many of them here, it seems like they smelled the humans that were hiding within the shelter.”

“Are we going to be fighting here then?”

“Hahaha, that’s good. Your momentum hasn’t dropped even though we have to fight off all those monsters with just the two of us.”

Just looking from a glance, there were already 4 Giants to fight off.

Each step they took shook the Earth and crushed the grounds, yet they didn’t look too dangerous.

“Taking a quick look at them, they seem to be regular Type C Giants. Silver Knight, do you have any experience fighting the Giants?”

“No, I have none.”

“How resolute. Well, that’s what I thought in the first place. You look like you have very little experience. However, to have come here as a Rank A hero must mean you’re able to fight a little bit. I led you to this location as a fellow colleague, so let me ask you. Can you do it?”

“Burning Soul, if you’re a hero, don’t worry about my safety and just save the refugees. I will do what I need to do by myself.”

“What’d you say? BAHAAHAHAHAHA! What great ambition. I can feel the confidence of youth! I expect you to back that big talk you just made with some skills. I’m not the type to fight while getting help or support. What about you?”

How about me?

I don’t know.

The only battle experience that Haneul had so far was from Central South. He didn’t know what it felt like to work together as a team, so if he was to choose which side he was more comfortable with.....

“I’m also the type to fight solo.”

“BAHAHAHAHA! Great, I feel like you and I will become good friends. Then let’s hope that we can survive through this so that we can meet again.”

Burning Soul smiled and jumped away. The moment he unleashed his magic, his whole body was shining with a light as bright as the sun.

BOOOOM!!!

It was thrilling to see Burning Soul jump into the middle of enemy territory and rip everything to shreds.

‘Amazing. That’s what a Rank A hero is like? If it’s like that, it’s hard to even call him a human being. How am I on the same level as that beast?’

As Haneul was shocked with Burning Soul’s performance, he shook his head in order to awaken from his stupor. It wasn’t the time to be shocked. There could be civilians getting attacked at this moment by these evil monsters.

“Alright, let’s do this!!”

Chapter 10

“Alright, let’s do this!!”

Haneul clenched his fist tightly. A warm aura gushed out from his body, and his magic wriggled about as it was released. From that point on, his fighting spirit started to rise up.

The monsters that were around the shelter were moving differently now.

“Grrrrr.”

The Giants and Hounds stopped moving. They were able to feel an extremely strong magic welling up behind them.

It was Dangerous.

With the arrival of this overwhelming magic, their fellow companions were dying.

It was an enemy.

The monsters turned to look back.

They were now able to see who their newly arrived enemy was, and all of his strong fighting spirit and magic. His magic was overwhelming, just like the sun.

This new enemy was Burning Soul. The monsters were being drawn to his brilliant magic, just like the planets are drawn to the sun.

Burning Soul's fight was very domineering. With every punch and kick that flew, every monster that got hit was enveloped by flames and burnt to nothingness.

As the majority of the monsters headed towards Burning Soul, Haneul was thankful that he was only getting a small portion of them.

He did not want to fight the monsters in the middle of their huge swarm. Haneul felt that he was still a normal, newby hero unlike the beastly Burning Soul. Either way, Haneul's first target that he chose were the weaker looking Hounds, rather than the Giants.

“Ki KiKik!”

One of the Hounds that were getting ready to attack Burning Soul suddenly stopped moving, turned its head, and looked towards Haneul. It was very hostile.

However, before the monster could attack, Haneul jumped in first.

BOOOM!

As the Hound was hit with a fist that came out at lightning speed, its body was torn into pieces and fell onto the ground. The Hound wasn't able to contain the burst of magic that erupted at the point of contact.

Even Burning Soul, who was at the peak of his fighting, suddenly stopped fighting and felt the subsiding magic.

“BAHAHAHAHAHA! Good, good! You're a much stronger hero than I thought.”

Although Haneul and Burning Soul were now separated with a good amount of distance, Haneul was still able to hear Burning Soul's laughter very clearly.

“He's actually laughing in the midst of all those monsters. Are there no mentally sane heroes?”

Haneul was confused as to how Burning Soul was able to laugh in a hell like situation like this.

‘Either way, these Hounds don't just LOOK weak, but actually ARE weak.’

That's right.

These monsters were weak.

Haneul was already able to kill off ten of these monsters.

He never had to raise more than one fist in order to finish them off.

One hit kill.

Although Haneul's fighting style was completely different from Burning Soul's, he was very overwhelming to these weak little monsters.

And although he wasn't aware of it currently, Haneul's movements were also getting very concise. This meant that his physique was adapting at an amazingly fast pace.

“Now I know for sure, the exact amount of magic I need to use in order to kill you guys.”

At first, Haneul wasn't sure as to how many punches he needed to throw out in order to kill the Hounds, so he held back on his magic. However, now he was able to feel how much magic he needed to use.

With the type of defense that the Hounds had, they weren't able to support the burst of magic coming out through Haneul's fists.

These hounds were super fast when it came to speed. However, their attack was very weak. Even if Haneul was to get hit with their attacks, his silver armor wouldn't even get a scratch.

‘I'm strong, I can do this.’

Haneul's confidence was gradually growing.

As his body was starting to get warmed up, Haneul was able to feel the same feelings he felt when he was fighting in Central South. It felt like his hands and feet were moving on its own.

Boom! Ba Boom!

The Hounds weren't able to bear the magic being released from Haneul's hands and feet. Their heads were either blown up or their bodies were torn to pieces, and rolled about on the ground.

With the corpses being built up, Haneul's existence was now grabbing the attention of all the other monsters.

They recognized Haneul to be a strong person, so the army of monsters immediately changed its movements.

If attacking Burning Soul was the goal before, for these monsters, it wasn't like that anymore. One of the Giants stepping about loudly, turned its head, and started heading towards Haneul.

Haneul also turned his head.

'I'm guessing this monster is the main type for the earthquake this time around?'

They were very different from Hounds. As Haneul was a bit nervous, he calculated the distance between himself and the Giant, and suddenly moved at lightning speed.

BOOOOOM!!

The Giant had smashed down at the location where Haneul was just at, and the ground was now shaking violently.

‘What a crazy amount of strength. One hit of that and it’ll definitely get dangerous. However, that’s it. Its attacking speed is way too slow, and way too easy to be dodged.’

As big as its body was, the Giant’s movements were sluggish.

If that’s the case, dealing with the Giant wasn’t going to be too hard.

Click.

Magic was quickly being gathered into the silver plate on Haneul’s wrist.

Haneul bent low to the ground as he was about to attack the Giant head on.

He waited until a critical moment, and brought down a fatal blow to the Giant’s body.

There was no fear in Haneul's heart, only certainty.

Chapter 11

As Haneul was about to make his move again, he felt a similar aura being disseminated behind him, as the Giant in front of him.

As Haneul was spellbound by that aura, he bounced back and broke the flow of his attack in one tempo.

He glanced at the location where he could feel the aura. There was a monster there that looked to be similar to the Giant that he was currently facing.

However, its appearance was slightly different.

It had its back towards Haneul, and it was scrunched up looking for something. Haneul wasn't able to see this monster before because it was being blocked out by a building.

'What is it doing?'

As Haneul was thinking that, his face distorted severely.

The Giant that Haneul was facing earlier knew Haneul had his attention elsewhere, and decided it was the perfect time to attack.

It quickly raised its fist, and struck down intensely.

“KUWWUH HHH!!”

BANG!!

The ground shook, then suddenly...

BA BANGG!!

The Giant's body shook as it dropped down onto its knees. There was red blood flowing out from its slightly opened lip.

“KU WUH WUK.....”

The Giant's neck was now rammed into the ground.

In the middle of its body, a sizzling heat could be seen.

Sizzle.

A combustive reaction was flowing out from the white magic.

Haneul roughly tossed the Giant's body to the side to look at its appearance.

The monster's appearance was smeared with blood, when suddenly, the blood vaporized and disappeared. Haneul's whole body was heating up, and nothing could be seen in his eyes except extreme anger.

Crack.

It was the shelter.

There was no doubt about it that the hidden Giant that was currently looking for something, was right in front of the shelter.

BANG!

Haneul kicked hard onto the ground and shot up into the air.

“Gasp gasp.”

Ironman was spitting as he tried to breathe. His heart was beating so hard that it felt like it was going to burst, and although he was already having a tough time breathing, he did not give up.

“GRAAAHHHHHH!!”

SMASH!

Another Hound was destroyed.

It was pointless to count how many Hounds were killed by Ironman. He was just desperately fighting. All of his veins were protruding out, as

he was completely depleted of magic.

“Ironman...”

Even the civilians couldn't bring themselves to cheer.

Anyone could clearly see that Ironman was way past his limit. He did everything he could in order to kill off the herd of Hounds, and because of that, was covered with blood.

He was in no condition to fight, yet he was still standing and blocking the path towards the civilians.

“Gooooooo.....”

A giant was pushing away some of the wreckage with its big hands.

Ironman was able to successfully block off the wave of Hounds, but this was the end. If the Giant was to attack earnestly, there was no way for them to survive it.

The civilians were shaking in fear.

In the end, the heroes were unable to save them, even though they fought their hardest from the beginning to the end.

At that time, one of the civilians overcame their fear, walked towards

Ironman, and placed their hand onto his shoulder.

Ironman turned around as he flinched.

A middle aged man was looking at him and smiling, nodding away as if to say “You’ve fought well, Thanks.....”

Although they were still scared, the people behind the middle aged man made the same face expressions while looking at Ironman.

With a blank expression, Ironman stared at the people and clenched his teeth. He was on the verge of crying and could feel the tears welling up.

“I’m, I’m sorr.....sorry.....I’m not a strong hero.....”

Ironman tried his best to keep himself from crying, but in the end, tears dropped like waterfalls down his eyes. He turned back around and looked forward.

“I, I will still not give up. Heroes do not give up. I will become your hope until the very last moment.”

Ironman refined his breathing.

He had the feeling that, if it was now, he could do anything.

Running forth frantically, he jumped over the shelter's wreckage, heading towards the Giant that was tilting his head behind an iron frame.

With this opportunity, Ironman's goal was to hit the Giant in the back of the neck, because that was its weakness. If done correctly, he would have time to rush out to the open where the other heroes might be located.

There was a loud noise that he heard earlier, so he believed there to be a hero fighting nearby.

If he was able to gain even a little bit of time while stalling the Giant, it was considered a miracle since he's only a Rank D hero.

“That's right, let's just do what I can do.”

Chapter 12

Somewhere deep inside Ironman, a miraculous event was happening and magic started to well up. It was like a message from the heavens telling him not to give up.

Protecting the civilians was the job of a hero, and was what made up a hero. Ironman instantly jumped high into the sky, as he poured all his magic into the metal pipe. The pipe was radiating with light.

BAAMMMM!

The sound of the metal pipe hitting the back of the Giant's neck could be heard.

“Grrrrr.....”

The Giant turned around as it flinched from the shock on the back of its neck.

Ironman could feel his magic disappearing at an alarming rate, so he strongly kicked off of the Giant in order to make it out towards the city.

“UUUWWUUUUUKKKKKK!!!!”

BANG BANGBANG!

In the midst of stone debris flying around everywhere, Ironman used all of his strength to run as fast as he could. As he felt a sweet tasting liquid in his mouth, Ironman saw a huge army of monsters moving about. However, they weren't rushing towards the shelter and were heading out towards the opposite direction.

'Is it another hero?'

As he was thinking such thoughts, Ironman suddenly got the chills. He jumped to the side without any hesitation, and his feelings were correct.

BOOOOOMMM!!

"Gasp gasp."

Ironman struggled to catch his breath. He was able to dodge the attack, however, he lost all of strength as he weakly fell to the ground.

He did not have any energy left to move on.

Just as he was thinking that, someone spoke out to him.

"You've done well."

As Ironman was starting to lose his vision, he lifted up his neck to see who it was.

And as he did, he was able to see a broad, wide back. A shiny silver armor was now standing in front of him and enveloping that wide back.

“You, You are.....”

“I am a hero just like yourself, you can call me the Silver Knight.”