



RS MANAGEMENT



담화공 장편소설

철혈의 오버로드

THE OVERLORD OF BLOOD AND IRON

- 철혈의 오버로드 -

- VOLUME 2 -

**-AUTHOR-
Dam Hwa Gong**

[Asian Hobbyist]

Chapter 26

Sovereign Lee Chae-Lin

“Yes, please speak.”

Kang Chul-In answered Lee Chae-Lin’s phone call.

If Lee Chae-Lin was not a Sovereign, he would not have answered, but if she was someone who had become a Sovereign, he could answer a phone call any time. A Sovereign’s enemy was a Sovereign, and a Sovereign’s ally was also a Sovereign.

[Chul-In...]

“Yes, Senior a.s.sistant Lee. No, I will call you Lee Chae-Lin now.”

[It doesn’t matter what you call me. I got fired from the company.]

“Did you return now?”

[Yes...]

It was understandable why she was fired.

For any company, they do not fire accountants very well. There are situations where they mostly quit on their own. The cause would have 100% been, because she did not go to work for a long time, due to the Grand Summoning.

[Chul-In.]

“Yes, please speak.”

[Chul-In, you know something, right? That’s why you can be that calm? Right?]

Lee Chae-Lin blurted out a series of questions. It seemed like she did not really understand the reality of things.

“I have nothing to say regarding that.”

Kang Chul-In drew the line.

If he were to advise Lee Chae-Lin, he did not know how he would change the future. He had to try and eliminate any external variables, so he could not give her any advice even if he wanted to.

[Chul-In...]

It was obvious that she was hurt by the cold response.

[I... I am so scared...] [I have never seen such things before... there are dwarves, and crows... I can't understand or accept it... so... Chul-In... can you please just hear me out? Please?]

Lee Chae-Lin's quivering voice was moist with fear.

'She is half sane.'

Kang Chul-In could see the psychological state of Lee Chae-Lin right away.

Fear of the unknown, the gap between reality, and the responsibility that came from the suddenly given position of Sovereign, the monster quests, and more... honestly, if you were any normal person, it would be difficult to escape from the shock of the Grand Summoning for a while.

Especially if you were not a crazy wench like Hecate and just a plain woman like Lee Chae-Lin, she would be even more confused. It would not be strange for her to die at any time with that sort of mental state, whether that was by suicide or murder.

'Hm... should I exchange some information just in case?'

Kang Chul-In's mind began to spin.

'If Lee Chae-Lin's land is near that of Rothschild, then I would be able to get some intel.'

He then thought that he might gain something just by helping her just enough to not affect the future.

“Chae-Lin.”

Kang Chul-In, who had made up his mind, spoke.

[Yes, Chul-In.]

“I might not be of much help... but lets talk face to face. There might be some things we can help each other with. Where are you right now?”

[You can... meet right now?]

“Yes.”

[Then I will send you the location right now, so please contact me when you arrive. Ah, also...] [Thank you... for meeting me...]

“I’m hanging up.”

Kang Chul-In did not know how to respond to those words, so he just hung up. He was not used to someone depending on him.

“Are you here?”

He could meet Lee Chae-Lin at a café near the train station located in front of Seoul University.

“What is the name of your land?”

Kang Chul-In asked the question right away.

“That, its... Dorado.”

Lee Chae-Lin answered, taken aback.

‘Dorado... does not sound familiar.’

He did not know the name of every land, but he did know any land that had any influence on the big picture. If it was a land that he did not know... that meant that it was an insignificant one that did not have any influence on the future.

“Hm... what is your specialty?”

“Uh... Specialty... I can't remember.”

“Repeat after me. My information open.”

“My information open.”

Lee Chae-Lin repeated the words and a semi-opaque window popped up, showing her the information.

“This, this is possible.”

Lee Chae-Lin was surprised. Pangaea was understandable because it was a different world, but she did not think she could order in real life.

“Because it is reality.”

Kang Chul-In answered bluntly.

“Anyways... a Sovereign's information is made so that other people cannot look at it. I can see the window, but I can't see the contents. So, you need to read it out to me.”

“Did you ask about the specialty?”

“Yes.”

“It is... called wealth.”

In that moment, Kang Chul-In's eyes widened.

‘Oh c.r.a.p! Wealth?’

It was really something surprising.

Wealth.

It was a specialty that amplified the land's economy.

The cost of building facilities decreases, and when you develop a gold mine and extract

resources, the yield increases exponentially. It is also the same for diamonds and rubies.

In purchasing units using the Sovereign Store and in collecting booty when hunting monsters, this specialty is useful. Small output, large input. That is the key to this wealth specialty.

“Why are you so surprised all of a sudden?”

Lee Chae-Lin asked, but Kang Chul-In did not answer.

‘She has the wealth specialty but her name is not known? This does not make sense. What did she do in the past? Lee Chae-Lin? I have never seen you before.’

Wealth was almost a cheat specialty that makes the economy of your land boom even with one not doing anything. A woman with such specialty and she is not known? It did not make logical sense.

‘Let’s think back. It is fair to say that it was not fate for me to meet her at Akan’s hall in the past. It is very possible for me to not recognize even a familiar face.’

It was not strange for him to not have ran into Lee Chae-Lin in the past. It was very possible.

‘But not the first Sovereign Meeting. Whether I wanted to or not, I would have seen her at least once. The first Sovereign Meeting... Lee Chae-Lin was definitely not there.’

He was sure.

No matter how much he dug through his memory, he had no recollection of seeing her during the first Sovereign Meeting. Then, there could only be two logical explanations.

‘The future changed? No, no that can’t be. There is nothing that I have interfered or changed for that to have happened. It is either G.o.d or Akan that chose Lee Chae-Lin, not me. There was no external factor before the Great Summoning. Then... ’

Kang Chul-In thought hard.

‘Before the first Sovereign meeting... it must mean that she was stripped of her status or had died. Or she gave up going to Pangaea completely.’

The solution came.

“Chae-Lin.”

“Yes?”

“Can you tell me by chance where your land is located?”

“Ah, that’s not difficult. My land’s location...”

Lee Chae-Lin looked at the information window briefly and then spoke.

“It is in the South.”

“Pandemonium?”

Lee Chae-Lin’s words answered all of Kang Chul-In’s questions at once.

‘I get it now.’

He understood why Lee Chae-Lin could not appear in the first Sovereign Meeting even with a specialty like wealth.

Pandemonium.

A land of h.e.l.l that is filled with the war-crazed.

It was too cruel of a place for someone like Lee Chae-Lin, who was so delicate. It would not be strange for her to have left early from the ranking competition.

‘Wealth... she could be quite the useful partner.’

Kang Chul-In was overcome with thought as he looked towards Lee Chae-Lin.

‘Pandemonium does not have an impact on the bigger picture anyways. I can intervene however I want. I can help Lee Chae-Lin’s survival, and if she supplies me with gold, then we both benefit.’

It was quite a good idea.

For Kang Chul-In who would be struggling financially, no, who would continue to struggle, Lee Chae-Lin would be a good source of money.

“Sigh, Chul-In...”

Lee Chae-Lin let out a heavy sigh as Kang Chul-In was thinking about the deal.

“I am so confused. I don’t know what is what, and I am scared. But... there is no one I can talk to... and it seems like the people of the land all look to me... so what can I do? I barely did the monster conquest... but I am not confident I can do it again...”

It seemed like Lee Chae-Lin was struggling quite a bit. It was obvious she wanted to depend on Kang Chul-In. But...

“There is nothing I can do.”

Kang Chul-In answered coldly.

“Chae-Lin, you are an adult. Do not ask others how to live your life. Aren’t you going to do whatever you want anyways regardless of what I am going to say?”

“That...”

“If I were to give you any advice... don’t you just need to decide whether you will never return to Pangaea again, or faithfully carry out your role as a Sovereign?”

No matter how hard she was thought about it, the answer would be black or white. Would she live as a Sovereign, or would she live a normal life? No matter what she chose, that was Lee Chae-Lin’s own life, and not his.

“But, if you are willing to live as one’s Sovereign with dignity, I will help you.”

“Chul-In, you?”

“I will not spoon feed you, but yes, to an extent.”

“Yes...”

“You need to remember only one thing. There is risk in living as a Sovereign, but there is also great rewards. With your specialty, you will have a building within the year

here.”

“I don’t even want that much. Money isn’t everything. But...”

Lee Chae-Lin said something quite impressive.

“I am so afraid...”

“But you aren’t alone?”

“Ah?”

“If you were not a Sovereign, I would have advised you not to ever return to Pangaea ever again. However, you are a Sovereign. You have a loyal advisor, and people of the land who trust you and are loyal to you. What is the problem? Even with the monster conquest, you probably just sat back and watched. Am I wrong?”

“I will end it here. If after a lot of thought, you decided to live as a Sovereign, then you can contact me then. Then, I will treat you like a Sovereign then.”

“Yes...”

Lee Chae-Lin lowered her eyes, as if she was confused.

“Let’s end it here, and talk next time.”

“Are... are you leaving?”

“There is nothing else I have left to say.”

“But...”

“...?”

“How can you be so nonchalant about everything? As if you have been going to Pangaea from the past... you are so level-headed and calm... it seems like you changed as well. How much do you know about Pangaea?”

“No comment. I don’t want, or need tell you anything regarding that. Well, then.”

Kang Chul-In, with those words, left the café. He had shown all the kindness he could muster.

‘No matter how much I babble on, it is no use. The choice is yours, Lee Chae-Lin. You can give up, you can... but if you decide you want to live as a Sovereign, we will be great partners.’

It would be a wonderful alliance if Kang Chul-In and Lee Chae-Lin were to join hands, because it would be a union of military and economic power. Of course, the current Lee Chae-Lin did not know that.

With Kang Chul-In’s void, Laputa’s governing body was busy with establishing the land’s internal affairs. Timothy, as intended by Kang Chul-In, was working into the night trying to establish the land’s administration system and was buried underneath paperwork...

And the Director General Podolski searched all over the land looking for Kimura...

And Commander James pushed the Royal Guard into intense training.

Lucia was busy training the four servants that she had chosen for Kang Chul-In’s comfort, as well as performing interim duties out in the fields.

But a problem arose.

The problem happened in the construction site that was working to dig the land’s moat deeper.

“Ah!!!”

A laborer who was working hard amongst the ants shot up into the air.

“Help me!”

Along with a scream...

Splurt!

...and blood squirted to the sky.

Ambush, it was an attack.

Chapter 27

Kang Chul-In's Anger

Kang Chul-In, the meeting with Lee Chae-Lin behind him, drove his Mustang towards the marketplace near Gyunggido, Buchun. His mother ran a fruit shop in the marketplace for 20 years.

Yes.

If Alex Rothschild was the typical privileged born-to-wealth scenario, Kang Chul-In was a commoner that was raised by a single mother after losing his father at a young age.

'Are you there?'

His mother Park Sun-Ja, who he noticed from far away, was staying warm in front of an antique heater, fighting the cold winter wind.

It was late.

All the other stores had closed its shutters one by one, and the grandmas who were selling different things on the ground were packing up, but Park Sun-Ja was not moving with her eyes locked on the TV.

"I need to work hard and earn money if I want to give you a nice home when you get married."

Kang Chul-In remembered what Park Sun-Ja always said to him.

A nice home.

Park Sun-Ja, who could not give him an apartment worth \$400-500, but still said she wanted to get him at least a nice home for rent, opened her store the earliest and closed the latest compared to anyone else. It was her determination to not send her son off with empty hands.

“Son?”

Park Sun-Ja noticed her son Kang Chul-In right away and smiled widely.

“What are you doing here? It is the weekday... you haven’t contacted me in a while!”

“I’m back, mother.”

Kang Chul-In smiled, and unlike his usual self, responded back to Park Sun-Ja. It’s been 7 years.

Kang Chul-In helped Park Sun-Ja close the store, and went home for a late dinner.

Kang Chul-In spoke, with the fruit in front of him after the meal.

“I changed my job.”

Kang Chul-In made up something.

“Changed your job? Why? You were doing well.”

With the surprising news, mother Park Sun-Ja seemed surprised.

It was expected.

2020’s South Korea was filled with the fight for jobs amongst the young like Kang Chul-In with the westernization and unemployment.

‘Employment Front, Unlimited Compet.i.tion!’ was a slogan and saying that was spreading amongst the young. In those sorts of times, Kang Chul-In had left his job, so it was understandable that Lee Sun-Ja was worried.

“Intern again? Then, it would be better if you worked at the store with me...”

“No.”

Kang Chul-In shook his head.

“I got to know the president of a trade company, and decided to move to that job. The company isn’t too large, but it is going to be listed soon, and there is a big possibility

that it will become about medium sized. Also... I am an official employee.”

“Employee?”

“Yes. There are a lot of business trips, but the pay is good and there are good benefits, so it is much better than the company I was at before.”

In that moment, Park Sun-Ja’s eyes opened wide.

“Is... is that true?”

“Yes.”

“Oh... who is that president? Taking my Chul-In in... he will be blessed, he will!”

“President Kwon Hyung Woo... he is known in the trade business. He is almost eighty, but he is well enough to still work in the field.”

Kang Chul-In sold out old man Kwon.

He felt a little guilty lying to his mother, but the world still thought of Pangaea as a dangerous, foreign planet. What sort of parent would be glad if her son was going back and forth to such a place. It would be better to tell a little white lie right now, even if he was to tell her in the future.

Also, for him who would be gone often to Pangaea, a trade company job would be a good excuse to avoid Park Sun-Ja’s worries and doubts.

“Oh, I see! Oh... seems like your father is looking out for you in heaven!”

Park Sun-Ja mentioned Kang Chul-In’s father who had pa.s.sed away and teared up.

‘I will be good to you.’

Kang Chul-In watched Park Sun-Ja and pledged that he would be a different son from before, different from the stoic, detached son from the past.

“No, this can’t do.”

Park Sun-Ja thought of something and made a serious face.

“Son, go to an academy starting tomorrow. I will give you money.”

Kang Chul-In’s face hardened at the words.

It was as if he got hit on the back of the head.

“You said there are a lot of foreign business trips. Aren’t you not good with foreign language?”

Park Sun-Ja was right.

The Kang Chul-In who Park Sun-Ja knew was not someone who had the ability to go on a business trip. It was also true that he did not have the background or the specs either.

‘She is smart in these ways.’

Kang Chul-In was taken aback for the moment, but it was just that – a moment.

j.a.pANESE FROM THE ORIGINAL BOOK

(Didn’t know how to type these words out)

Park Sun-Ja looked confused as he spoke j.a.panese unexpectedly.

“Meanwhile, I have learned conversation in whatever I can (in English).”

Kang Chul-In had begun to speak foreign languages.

CHINESE FROM ORIGINAL BOOK

(Didn’t know how to type these words out)

That was not all.

For a while after, Kang Chul-In showcased more foreign languages, and Park Sun-Ja, who did not know any other languages, was close to fainting at her son’s skills.

“Although I am not fluent in j.a.panese, English, and Chinese, it is enough for me to work. It may be awkward, but I can slowly learn while I work. There isn’t time for me

to go to an academy because I am working, as well.”

“Did you study separately until now?”

“Yes.”

What studying.

He had drunk a potion from a special tree in Pangaea and had mastered the languages on a whim, not studied formally.

What time did he have amidst all the battles and attacking dungeons to study?

“Aigoo... my son, I’m so proud of you. The academies cost so much, so I could not pay for a good education... but... I’m so proud...”

Mother Park Sun-Ja’s eyes turned red, and finally released tears.

‘c.r.a.p.’

Kang Chul-In who did not expect his mother to cry, was put in an awkward position. He had conned his mother, but she was crying.

“Son... I’m sorry... I should have supported your education more... my son is this smart...”

Kang Chul-In was going to say something, but he was a stoic and emotionless man by nature, so he answered by solemnly holding his crying mother.

After Park Sun-Ja cried up a storm, Kang Chul-In took out a thick envelope from his inside pocket.

“What is this, son?”

“The president must have taken a liking to me, and he gave me bit of a bonus. It is for you.”

“No, you need to use that when you get married. I don’t need anything like that. Speaking of which...”

“I want grandkids. A granddaughter might be better. I have had a son, but I have never had a daughter. Now my son is an official employee, so you need to get married soon. Right?”

As the feared marriage talk came up, fear appeared for the first time on Kang Chul-In’s face.

‘c.r.a.p!’

For the last 10 years, he was too busy fighting battle after battle and had no time to date, much less to get married.

He had spent brief fiery moments with charming women, but those were only single nights. And, for Kang Chul-In to hear his mother talk about grandchildren, it was quite burdensome.

“It is before I have settled down... it is not too late to talk about that after I have settled in more.”

“I know that. But... you can bring a nice lady within this year, right?”

“I’m going to say it again, but I want a granddaughter.”

Park Sun-Ja emphasized ‘granddaughter’ and Kang Chul-In broke out in cold sweat every time she mentioned it. Even the great Kang Chul-In was just a powerless son in the face of the marriage weapon.

But, he did not know then.

Kang Chul-In, nor his mother Park Sun-Ja. What would happen in just a couple of months.

Second day.

After he had breakfast with his mother, he got on his Mustang and headed towards Seoul.

He first payed off the loan in the bank and others that he borrowed, and chose to purchase the Mustang. It did not seem like he would be able to buy a good car anytime soon, because the economy of the land was still unstable.

And that night.

Kang Chul-In headed to the 63 building in order to return to Pangaea.

A couple of soldiers and a couple researchers from the government was around the building, but there wasn't anyone stopping him.

Although the 63 Building acted like a sort of dimension door, it was limited to the outside of the building. The inside was still used by people. Also, one did not have to go inside the building to go to Pangaea anyways. 2km within the building and you could go to Pangaea.

Pzzt!

Kang Chul-In opened the dimension door, not caring if anyone looked or not.

“Return.”

When he said the command, the golden light that came from the 63 Building fell on Kang Chul-In, and he could return to Pangaea, disappearing without a trace.

“Sovereign, welcome back.”

The one that greeted Kang Chul-In the moment he was back was Lucia.

But...

Lucia did not look happy.

Lucia, who had the aura of a headstrong, passionate career woman had a rather cold and picky look to her, but she was always widely smiling towards Kang Chul-In.

But how was Lucia's face now?

Serious, and more serious.

No, actually, her face was hardened beyond seriousness.

‘Something is up.’

Kang Chul-In saw Lucia's face and realized something bothersome had happened.

"Is there something wrong?"

"It's..."

"Speak."

"Yes, Sovereign. Please do not be surprised."

Lucia seemed to think for a brief moment, and spoke.

"Four workers and five Ants died."

Kang Chul-In's face hardened.

"The cause of death... no, who did it? Is it a Sovereign?"

If it was a simple accident on the building site or a fall, then there was no way Lucia would have this sort of response. This meant that it was another Sovereign, or...

"or is it a monster?"

There was rage on Kang Chul-In's face.

He had returned to Earth, made deals, searched for Kwak Jung, and even gone to see his mother. He had come back with a light heart, but his precious people had died.

For Kang Chul-In who was extremely possessive and valued 'his things', his anger was understandable.

"It is a monster."

Lucia answered.

"What kind?"

"A peac.o.c.k dragon."

Kang Chul-In's eyes glistened sharply upon hearing the attack was by a peac.o.c.k

dragon.

Peac.o.c.k dragon.

It was a monster that was a dragon, but was also not.

In Pangaea, dragons existed, but usually dragons were red, gold, blue, or the like, and were pure bloods. But, there were so few in existence, and were so rare that it was difficult to even see one in one's lifetime. Kang Chul-In, too, in his 10 years at Pangaea saw only one blue dragon.

But, a subspecies like a peac.o.c.k dragon was not too difficult to find. Roughly about ten different species... but it did have dragon blood and was not a monster to take lightly.

Kang Chul-In in his prime called the dragon subspecies 'fake dragons' and poked fun, but for the current Kang Chul-In, peac.o.c.k dragons came as a definite threat.

"Peac.o.c.k dragons... is it from the Drogonia mountains?"

The Drogonia mountains were the mountains located in the Eastern side of Laputa. Like the name, it was well known to be home to dragons and its subspecies for a long time.

"It seemed so."

"Hah... a peac.o.c.k dragon invasion at this time... I'm mad."

This was a time to focus on internal affairs and build the governing system of the land. And, for the peac.o.c.k dragon to invade at such a time, Kang Chul-In felt like his ankles were grabbed from behind as he was trying to move forward.

"Lucia."

"Yes, Sovereign."

"From this moment, announce to the entire land that we are at war, and to stay inside their homes."

"I will fulfill the order, my Lord."

“Also, I will use the land’s hiding specialty to prepare for future attacks.”

Based on the diet of the peac.o.c.k dragons that liked human meat, a second attack was inevitable if the first had already come. If he was to avoid additional casualties, it would be a wise decision to hide the land, even if it would cost him gold.

“Instruct Administrator Timothy to take care of the compensations for the families of the deceased. Ah also...”

When Kang Chul-In tapered off as if he was thinking about something, Lucia spoke quickly.

“The Royal Guard is already waiting on orders, and are fully armed. If you give an order...”

“No, not that.”

Kang Chul-In shook his head.

“If you say no...”

“Peac.o.c.k dragons are strong monsters. With our military strength right now, we will suffer immense casualties. It is time for us to grow our land, not shed blood.”

“But if you just leave the peac.o.c.k dragon like this, there will be continuous casualties.”

“I did not say that I will leave the peac.o.c.k dragon be. I will take care of it as quickly as possible.”

“But how... Sovereign, a battle cannot be won without bloodshed.”

“I know. But in this battle, our blood will not be shed.”

“Then...”

“Explorers.”

“I will use them to hunt him.”

Kang Chul-In's eyes glistened.

Explorers.

Kang Chul-In was going to get in touch with the dimension travelers from Earth and hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon.

Chapter 28

Gathering the Punitive Force (1)

“That is a wise plan!”

Lucia was amazed.

It was, to simply put it, to use another to claim a victory, so if they were to recruit explorers, Laputa would not need to have additional casualties.

“Sovereign.”

Lucia said after realizing something.

“Speak.”

“You said that you will recruit explorers and hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon. Then, does that mean that although you will not take the troops, you will be partic.i.p.ating yourself?”

“Yes.”

“I want to go as well.”

“You? You are my advisor. If my deputy is also gone, who will run the land?”

“There is someone!”

“Someone?”

“After seeing him work for a couple of days, Administrator Timothy’s abilities are amazing. Even if I am gone for a bit, Timothy would be able to fulfill the deputy duties. He too was an advisor. Even if we leave it to him for a couple of days, it will not be a problem.”

“Hm...”

Lucia had a point too. Honestly, even if Timothy took over the deputy duties, there would not be a problem. However, if there was something that bothered him, it was the question of how useful Lucia would be in the battle against the peac.o.c.k dragon.

“Lucia.”

Kang Chul-In thought for a moment and spoke.

“Yes, speak, my Sovereign.”

“Strangely, I cannot see your specialty. For me who cannot know what abilities you have, I am hesitant. Therefore, I ask you. Lucia, can you tell me what your specialty is?”

If you cannot see, you just need to ask. Lucia, who was his advisor, would not lie to him.

“Yes, Sovereign!”

Lucia smiled widely and answered.

“Servant Lucia, reporting to my Sovereign. I do not have a specialty. If I said I had any special abilities, I have one skill. It is called ‘War Machine’”

“War machine? No specialty?”

“Yes, my Sovereign. Do you remember the day that we first met?”

“Yes, I remember.”

It was only three weeks ago. He couldn't not remember.

“Then, I thought that I may be abandoned by you. I am not that smart, nor do I have a specialty that is helpful in ruling the land. I was worried that you might have considered me useless.”

“I know.”

“As expected... did you know everything?”

“Not exactly. I just know the reason why advisors exist, so I was able to determine your

internal state.”

Kang Chul-In had no intentions of talking big.

No matter what anyone said, Lucia was his advisor. Even when everyone betrayed him, Lucia would not. What was the use of talking big to the one you could trust most in this world?

“Anyways, I will never abandon you. I don’t want you to think that ever again.”

“Of course! I know, my lord!”

Lucia smiled innocently like a child, nodding her head.

“Even if I do not possess any specialties in helping with state affairs, I can fight better than any advisor if I use the War Machine skill.”

“Can fight well?”

“This Lucia, is not a human. I am an artificial human made for battle, specially in defense. There is nothing that I can offer you except this skill. Faithful servant, Lucia, if you leave it to me, I will not disappoint you as the s.h.i.+eld protecting you!”

Lucia exclaimed.

‘Oh... she is fired up.’

Kang Chul-In recognized why Lucia was so motivated and smiled a satisfied smile.

Lucia’s current emotion was a compet.i.tive one, a feeling of danger driving her.

The point was this.

Timothy who was competent in the books and administration had joined the land and begun to slowly establish the internal and governing body so it was understandable that Lucia would feel threatened. Also, her competitiveness in wanting to prove her competence over Timothy was also pus.h.i.+ng her to the battlefield.

“Fine.”

Kang Chul-In who saw Lucia's determination nodded.

"In this peaceful dragon conquest, I will take you Lucia."

"Really?!"

"Of course. But!"

Kang Chul-In said, requesting.

"You need to surely show me, Lucia. Your abilities."

"Of course! I will show you well!"

As soon as the permission fell from Kang Chul-In, Lucia was overjoyed and fired up.

'Alfred, if you met Lucia, I am so curious of how you will act.'

Kang Chul-In saw Lucia who was so pure and innocent around him, and thought of his once faithful advisor, Alfred.

It would not happen, but it was funny to just imagine what kind of scene would play out if the two advisors met. Alfred also had a side to him that was just as jealous and petty like Lucia, so it was obvious that the two would bicker and argue. However, it was all useless thinking, for the two will never meet. The advisor Kang Chul-In chose in this life was Lucia, not Alfred.

Dungeon captures, exploring ruins, and monster conquests were all quite important for Sovereigns as well as the regular dimension travelers. The reason was extremely simple, and it was for the Sovereign's personal growth and acquiring items.

In dungeons and ruins that were located all around Pangaea, there were monsters along with ancient treasure and artifacts.

Occasionally, the treasures and artifacts that turned up were extremely valuable, with the prime examples being Unique, Legendary, or Epic items. Gold piled up like mountains, and magic books that contained magical powers, or ancient books on martial arts were abundant.

For these reasons, there were some Sovereigns who left the management of their

lands to their advisors and focused solely on dungeon searching. Kang Chul-In also, was a Sovereign that had his own opinion on dungeon searching and quest for artifacts as well as having a particular fondness for monster quests.

“Peac.o.c.k dragon... the monster level was about 40 I think?”

Kang Chul-In spent the night thinking about this and that on his throne.

‘c.r.a.p, feeling threatened by a fake dragon...’

Although he did not show it, Kang Chul-In was extremely upset. His current level was 14, and the peac.o.c.k dragon’s level was 40. He would face a horrible death if he were to go hunting for it alone. For prideful Kang Chul-In, it was understandable that he was upset because he had to strategize against a mere dragon subspecies.

But what could he do?

He was currently a level 14 Sovereign, and the peac.o.c.k dragon was flaunting a level 40, respectable to its status as a subspecies of dragon, threatening his villagers. If he did not want to suffer any more losses, he needed to hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon as soon as possible.

However, there was one upside...

‘I will gain the dragon heart.’

It was the peac.o.c.k dragon’s heart.

The peac.o.c.k dragon was the weakest and lowest level subspecies of the dragon, but still having the blood of dragon in its veins, still had the dragon heart.

Dragon heart.

Like its name, the dragon’s heart was a concentrated source of mana, and when consumed, the user became stronger in an instant. Of course, if one considered the level of the peac.o.c.k dragon you could not expect a drastic power up, but for the current Kang Chul-In, he needed the dragon heart badly.

If he had that, then it was obvious that the time that it would take for him to go back to his glory days as a Grand Sovereign would be drastically shortened.

'I will hide my land using the Conceal skill. I will hide it... and then I will return to Earth, round up the dimension travelers, and will hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon.'

It was perfect up to that point.

But, if there was one thing that bothered him, it was that the dimension travelers were all too inexperienced to hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon.

'The one with the highest level would be no more than 20. I myself am only 14... I must find a way.'

And that way would be the key to the peac.o.c.k dragon quest.

If the land's finances were more stable, he would not have needed to use such ways to hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon and could have just used the land's military, but what other choice did he have? Even one soldier was precious at this time. He had to save every penny and find a way to rule Pandemonium.

'Let's start by hiding the land first.'

Because he thought he would not have a clear answer by contemplating further, Kang Chul-In chose to hide the land and comfort the families of the dead.

"Go tell Lucia to bring the Soul Core."

"Yes, my Majesty."

The newly hired servant answered.

"Here it is, my Lord."

Lucia appeared in less than 10 minutes, handing the Soul Core that controlled Laputa over to Kang Chul-In.

"Land Control Manual."

As soon as he gave the order, the status bar appeared in front of Kang Chul-In, showing the menu regarding the control of Laputa.

-[Laputa Control Manual]

- Hide

-Self Heal

-Wealth

-Cosmic Force

When Kang Chul-In pressed the 'Hide' item, information on the skill unfolded.

-[Hide]

Will use gold to hide the castle.

Skill Level: Level 1 (Grow up to Level 3)

Cost: Gold (Amount decrease or increase depending on level and cost of castle)

Skill Time: Up to 720hrs from activation

Gold Cost: 0.5 Gold per hour

Will you activate the Hide skill? (Yes/ No)

'That is disgustingly expensive.'

The price of the Hide skill was expensive. If it was 0.5 gold per hour, it meant that 12 Gold would be spent in 24 hours, which meant in order to use the Hide skill for a day, it costed \$4,800.

12 Gold spent every day.

3 weeks until the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest.

3 weeks was 21 days.

12 X 21 would be 252.

252 gold would be about \$100,800. It was truly gasp worthy.

“Sigh... I am going to go bankrupt before I can even start a business.”

Kang Chul-In covered his face, as if he was tired.

This wretched land had the best skills compared to any land, but it made up for it with the high price. If the hide skill was this much, it was obvious that the other skills, especially Cosmic Force, would be extremely expensive.

A ‘money eating machine’ would be the perfect description.

‘Yes.’

But he couldn’t not use it, so with tears in his eyes, Kang Chul-In turned on the hide function.

[Notice: Level 1 Hide function has been activated on the land! Please be cautious to not lose your way after traveling outside Laputa boundaries.]

Conveniently, as soon as the hide function was activated, the speakers that were all over the land automatically announced the updated status. Kang Chul-In thought this made the cost a little better, because it was so expensive.

“Lucia.”

“Yes, my Sovereign.”

“I will go back to my homeland to gather the explorers. I did turn on the hide function, but you do know that you cannot let your guard down, right?”

“Of course.”

“If there is any additional attacks, make sure there are no casualties, and if there is, the least possible.”

“Please leave it to me!”

With Lucia’s confident answer, Kang Chul-In nodded his head, and headed towards Earth. In order to gather the explorers, one needed the benefits of modern technology, and there was nothing else more effective than the internet to gather those befitting.

But, there was a problem that needed to be solved before that.

How would he hunt for the peac.o.c.k dragon with explorers who were much weaker in comparison? It was almost impossible for Level 10 or 20 Explorers to hunt a level 40 monster.

Chapter 29

Gathering the Punitive Force (2)

‘What to do...’

Kang Chul-In even on Earth, and as he got on his Mustang and headed towards his home, was preoccupied in trying to come up with a solution to that problem.

‘Nothing is impossible. There must be a way...’

If it doesn’t work, make it work, even by force, under any circumstances. It was like Kang Chul-In’s motto.

‘If it doesn’t work, I need to make it work... I must... make it work... wait!’

In that moment, Kang Chul-In opened his eyes wide at the sudden thought that crossed his head.

Low level?

Then he could grow the explorer’s levels enough to hunt the peacock dragon. Different from the humans in Pangaea, the dimension traveler’s growth is incomparably fast!

“I found a way.”

Kang Chul-In smiled.

Why did Kang Chul-In decide to use the help of the explorers?

In order to solve this mystery, it was necessary to think of the relationship between a Sovereign and the explorer.

There were 300,000 dimension travelers that responded to the Great Summoning,

Among them 300 Sovereigns,

And the 299,700 left over were called explorers.

The relationships between the Sovereigns and Explorers were much like symbiosis, one needed the other to survive. It could be called a ruler and subject relationships as well, and sometimes, a client as well.

However, the dimension travelers were special (enough to be summoned from Earth) and therefore had faster rates of growth, which made it possible to expect tremendous growth.

Sovereigns often joined hands with explorers to target dungeons or ruins as well as monster conquests, and sometimes invited explorers they connected well with to their land as subjects.

There were even Sovereigns with an exceptional business mindset that created businesses such as motels, restaurants, and even prostitution bars and opened them up to Explorers, gaining immense profit.

For various reasons, Sovereigns associated with Explorers from Earth and exchanged items they needed, and the relationships with the Explorers were crucial for growth into a strong Sovereign.

Therefore, even Kang Chul-In who was extremely independent, was about to establish a strong relationship with the Explorers in this lifetime and gain some useful individuals.

'It's not a bad plan. If I were to train them quickly, we could take on the peacock dragon.'

It would obviously be a struggle, but the result would not be horrible.

At the very least, Kang Chul-In himself was confident he would survive, so there was no big problem.

'Gather the Explorers and teach them in a short, fast paced course... If I were to set the time to about 2 weeks... the remaining week I can use to hunt the peacock dragon.'

When he came up with a plan, the rest followed.

With a plan, it was obvious that he would put it to action right away, so Kang Chul-In

went home right away, turned on his Macbook, and turned on 'World', the world's biggest online community.

World was a website that a young businessman from America created, much like Facebook, Twitter, and Google and it had various functions and accessibility that allowed it to grow almost immediately into the world's largest community.

Kang Chul-In's idea was to use the World's community to gather the Explorers that usually worked in the Pandemonium area.

It was because World was a site that English-speaking dimension travelers all around the world used to exchange information.

'Hm... what ID...'

He thought for a brief moment, remembered his ID, and pressed the log-in button.

-ID: Overlord

-Password: *****

As soon as the page appeared, he opened a category.

As soon as he clicked the large category named 'Great Summoning', he clicked on the subcategory called 'Location' and then 'Pandemonium'.

-[Information Exchange] Organization of Monsters in Pandemonium

-[Trade] Selling Level 15 Defense armor

-[Recruiting] Looking for teammates

-[Recruiting] Explorers with hunting experience click

Amidst the various types of posts, he could not find any similar posts. It probably was because it was Pandemonium which was far off from Pangaea's mainland, therefore not having many explorers in the first place.

'Okay.'

Kang Chul-In liked that there were little posts.

If it was the mainland category, it would be blowing up. Almost all of the 300,000 dimension travelers would be in the mainland category.

‘Should I bring some interest?’

In order to gather the Explorers, he needed to write a post and gather interest.

Kang Chul-In knew better than anyone how to grab the attention of the Explorers.

First, Kang Chul-In who took off the set of green bracelets that were on his wrists took a picture of them with his iPhone, and then uploaded them to the network, and wrote the post.

-[Item] Proof of Rare Item

Item obtained from Pandemonium.

It seems like it has great power, so I am sharing it to the users of World.

There are a couple more. I will reveal other items if the response is good.

Name: All Stat Armlet

Level: Rare

Item Type: Bracelet

Level Limit: None

Option: Every Stat +2%/ Attack Speed +3%

If there are any questions, ask in the comments. I am thinking to put together a team soon. If there are any explorers in need of a team, DM anytime.

‘Good.’

A faint smile formed on Kang Chul-In’s lips.

Information? Search?

You could not attract attention with such things.

The best would be item, especially proof of a rare item.

Kang Chul-In's prediction was spot on.

Not even five minutes after the post, there were comments.

-incino: Oh... one set means that for all Stat 4% and attack speed 6%? Its crazy!

-EnterLJ: Did you get it from a monster, or ruin?

TTSM: Not one but one set? Hey, buddy, where do you get such luck? :-0

-adchan: Look at this cla.s.s.;

-revan: Rare level item... wow!

In a short amount of time, there were five comments.

'Lets add some flavor.'

If this was all the response that he was getting, it was almost impossible to gather the explorers. He needed a sort of trick. Kang Chul-In copied the link to the post and pasted it into a messaging app, sent it to Park Du-Sik and called him.

[Yes, big boss! For what reason are you calling me after two days?]

"You don't need to know why, but I sent you a link so have your boys comment and click share."

[Ah! When will you send it, boss?]

"I sent it already."

[I will check right away... uh... um... big boss?]

Park Du-Sik's voice was weird.

Kang Chul-In was sure that Park Du-Sik was sweating on the other side of the phone. It was obvious that Park Du-Sik was in a difficult position.

[I am sorry... but... our boys... it's that... our boys... their backpack straps are a little short...]

“...”

He got it.

World was an English-based community with its headquarters in America. Even if translation was available, one would need to be able to communicate a bit in English to use it.

Although now even gangsters needed to go to college to survive, still most were high-school graduates.

And... someone who was a gangster was very unlikely to have studied hard in school anyways.

“...you uneducated idiots.”

Kang Chul-In said over the phone, and Park Du-Sik could not utter a word. His face would be red from the embarrassment by now.

“You should be ashamed.”

[...yes... Big boss.]

“Well, it is my fault for expecting so much from a bunch of idiots.”

“I will hang up before your idiocy transfers to me. Then, at least click share.”

[Yes...]

Kang Chul-In hung up quickly and called Old man Kwon.

“Old man, I have a favor.”

Luckily, things worked out well with Old Man Kwon.

[Ah, really? Alright. I will get my Hong Kong boys on it. They speak some English. Would about 100 comments be enough?]

“That’s enough.”

Old Man Kwon was eager to help after hearing Kang Chul-In revealed a new item—perhaps he smelled money. A person first needs to be smart.

[You are trying to get Explorers together. Is it a foundation beneficial for our partners.h.i.+p as well?]

“This and that. We will talk details later. Now is not the time.”

[Hm... I guess I will find out one by one. I will take care of what you asked within the hour, so do not worry.]

“I got it old man.”

After the conversation with old man Kwon, Kang Chul-In casually waited for the post to go viral.

After an hour or so... Kang Chul-In’s post became ranked as one of the top posts, and grabbed the attention of the World users.

‘I got it!’

The response was explosive.

The post that was already attention worthy combined with a bit of manipulation caused the viewings to skyrocket.

Before it became 2 hours since the post, there were over a thousand comments.

And that was not all.

Personal messages flowed in his mailbox.

One... two... suddenly 50... and when three hours pa.s.sed, around 500 messages were in his mailbox.

‘This is still not enough.’

Kang Chul-In did not stop there.

-[Notice] I will reveal new items every hour.

I will go on a conquest soon.

Explorers who wish to join my team send me a message of your profile, and I will respond after review.

And after that, Kang Chul-In revealed one item per hour for three hours.

The World community exploded.

Kang Chul-In’s post ranked 1,2,3, and 4 in the entire World Best Post creating a frenzy, and this news spread to Korea’s other sites, creating noise in Korea’s internet as well.

“Easy.”

Kang Chul-In, who had created a viral post in a simple way, sipped his coffee leisurely and smiled. Honestly, the items that Kang Chul-In had posted were not that great, nor was it attention-worthy. The reasons were as follows.

First, the items that were introduced on World were low-level items that would be used in the early stages of the Grand Summoning.

Second, any Sovereign with enough wealth in their land could introduce even better items than Kang Chul-In.

But the reason why Kang Chul-In had gotten such viral responses was that he acted quickly before anyone could think or have a chance to.

There is a saying, life is timing. Whatever it was, the one who did it first would have the most gain. And through this, Kang Chul-In gained something else other than just gathering Explorers.

Because all his posts were 1st to 4th place in the best post category in World, it was not an overstatement to say that there was almost no user in World that did not know his username, ‘Overlord’.

He had become famous after just a couple posts.

From now on, Kang Chul-In's posts would automatically become one of the most viewed posts, and he had to a certain extent gained the trust of the World users. It was something that he did not expect from the start.

'Nice, now I will throw some incentives.'

The next step was easy.

He would throw gold and items as bait and recruit competent Explorers, meet at Pandemonium, and create a team.

Although he did have work cut out for him to look through all the thousands of messages in his inbox.

He went at the messages right away.

There were all sorts of messages, from those questioning where the items came from, or those wishing to buy the items, messages cursing him, and much more. However... of the bunch... there was one that stood out to him and grabbed his attention.

"Aha..."

Kang Chul-In's eyes sparkled after checking the sender of the message.

The account's name was 'Lumpen'.

It was a message from someone that had received the title of Grand Sovereign in the past, and had been a worthy opponent to Kang Chul-In himself, Dorian Explorer!

Chapter 30

Dorian needs to be Played With!

Dorian Explorer.

He had become, like Kang Chul-In, one of the Grand Sovereigns during the 2nd Sovereign Meeting but had never cared much on administration and his land.

It was to a point where even when the 10 Grand Sovereigns had been established and had stabilized their lands, Dorian's land was the size of a pea, and just a small city.

In reality, of the 10 Grand Sovereigns, Dorian's land was the smallest and had the weakest army, and also was not much of a threat. It was to a point where there were many regular Sovereigns with a much better army than his.

But how could he maintain his status as Grand Sovereign?

The answer was simple.

Dorian Explorer was the world's best explorer, dungeon explorer, and monster hunter.

And he had even succeeded in hunting the blue dragon and had gained the honorary title of 'Dragon Slayer'.

Dorian Explorer was someone who had risen to the position of Grand Sovereign whilst gathering points on a different category other than managing his land.

'Dorian, you remained loyal to me until the end.'

Kang Chul-In who had exchanged messages with an unexpected figure thought of his relationship with Dorian.

Grand Sovereign Dorian was Kang Chul-In's friend and equal, as well as enemy.

This meant that Kang Chul-In and Dorian searched for dungeons together or ruins, and also went on monster conquests together.

They fought for 1st and 2nd place amongst the Grand Sovereigns for power and strength as well.

But Kang Chul-In and Dorian's relations began to strain with the start of Ragnarok. Kang Chul-In's killings towards all and everyone that stood in his way and crude conquest activities were the heart of the strain.

And their delicate relations ended when Kang Chul-In crushed a Sovereign that Dorian had maintained a close relations with.

But Dorian remained loyal.

Even when the three-cornered battle of Ragnarok was going on, Dorian did not fight with the Ishtar Coalition. The reason was that he could not go to battle with an old friend. If he looked back at it now, Dorian might have tried to block Kang Chul-In's ravaging and set up the power struggle between the Grand Sovereigns.

And, that Dorian had sent a message to Kang Chul-In. He could not be more curious.

'This guy, should I see what nonsense he is saying?'

Kang Chul-In opened his messages without hesitation and checked the message from Dorian.

-Sender: Lumpen

-Message: Hey, you are a Sovereign, huh? Who are you trying to con? How can you get an item like that if you are not a Sovereign? You cheater!

It was simple, but right to the point. Dorian, as a Sovereign, knew that the items were from the Sovereign store.

Ha.

Kang Chul-In snorted.

It was not because he was poking fun, or because he was baffled. It was simply because he remembered the voice and facial expressions of an old friend.

-Overlord: Should we talk for a moment?

Kang Chul-In requested a 1:1 messaging to Lumpen, Dorian's account. It would be easier to chat than to exchange messages constantly.

-Lumpen: Oh, who is this! It's the cheater!

Dorian behind his monitor poked fun.

-Lumpen: What special item! You bought it with gold, isn't that right?

-Overlord: Bingo.

-Lumpen: I knew it! You con artist! I am going to put up a post right now and expose you! See the power of 100,000 hate comments! Ha ha! J

-Overlord: Before that, would you hear me out?

-Lumpen: Hear you out? Hear what? You telling me to listen to a con artist?

-Overlord: If you knew what my real goal was, you would be pretty interested.

And in that moment, Kang Chul-In made up his mind to bring Dorian into this peac.o.c.k dragon conquest.

There was no doubt that Dorian, who was the world's best Explorer and also one with the same level of mastery in the martial arts as himself, would be extremely beneficial for the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest.

Lumpen: You are funny. Shut up and eat the hate comments!

Overlord: Dragon conquest.

Lumpen:...?

At the word 'dragon', Dorian hesitated.

'I know you.'

Kang Chul-In smirked.

Dorian went crazy over unique monsters, dungeons, and ruins. He was sure that

Dorian would still be interested even if he could not believe the person for sure.

Lumpen: Dra... dragon?

Dorian grabbed the bait.

-Overlord: It is a subspecies of the dragon, to be more precise. It is called a peac.o.c.k dragon, and it is a level 40 monster.

Lumpen: a subspecies? What, there is something like that too?

Overlord: Of course. My goal is to gather explorers and hunt the peac.o.c.k dragon. I just needed a trick in order to gather people.

Lumpen: Hm... how can I trust you? There is something like a peac.o.c.k dragon?

Overlord: If you can't trust me, you can just ask your advisor.

Lumpen: That's... true?

Overlord: I have no reason to lie.

Lumpen: So? Are you going to catch it?

Overlord: The peac.o.c.k draong itself is strong, but there are also many items you can get. It is dangerous, but I think it is worth the risk. What are your thoughts?

Lumpen: Well... I agree.

Dorian showed signs of compliance, and Kang Chul-In decided to play his final card at this stage.

-Overlord: Maybe with this as the start, we might be able to make a Pangaea Monster Pictorial book. Don't know if there will be anyone to make something like this, but still.

-Lumpen: What? Pictorial book? Crazy!

-Overlord: What is that response?

Kang Chul-In knew everything, but pretended not to.

-Lumpen: Do you really think that?

-Overlord: What?

-Lumpen: About making the Pictorial Book!

-Overlord: Well, of course. For people like us from Earth, Pangaea is an alien planet. We can come and go from somewhere like that. Of course, we should make a book. I believe it is a very important task.

It was a lie.

Kang Chul-In did not have the slightest interest in making some book. He only wanted to rule Pangaea. However, Dorian, who was listening, had a different perspective.

-Lumpen: Oh my G.o.d.

-Overlord: Why?

-Lumpen: You, are pretty great.

-Overlord: What do you mean?

-Lumpen: I also was thinking I should make a Monsters Pictorial Book! I did not know we were thinking alike!

-Overlord: Really?

Lumpen: Hey, Overlord.

-Overlord:...?

-Lumpen: Put me in your team.

And in that moment, Kang Chul-In smiled a crude smile.

Kang Chul-In knew Dorian's dream.

Dungeons and ruin hunting was important, but what triggered Dorian's curiosity the most was the different life forms of Pangaea.

In actuality, even during Ragnarok, Dorian took great efforts in the Pictorial book.

-Lumpen: I want to partic.i.p.ate in the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest too.

-Overlord: Well I don't know, the peac.o.c.k dragon is strong. I don't know if you have the courage.

-Lumpen: What are you saying!

Dorian was angry.

-Lumpen: You...! Are you calling me a coward? Huh? Are you?

Dorian, as more and more time pa.s.sed fell into Kang Chul-In's trap and was unable to come out of it.

-Overlord: Choose wisely. The peac.o.c.k dragon is a monster that you need to put your life on the line for. Our entire team might get wiped out if we are not careful. Do you have the courage to take on something like that?

-Lumpen: You underestimate me.

-Overlord: I'm not underestimating you, it's impossible to know the person with a couple lines of chat.

-Lumpen: Ha... then what can I do to get on the team?

-Overlord: Before the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest, I am thinking of leveling up and building some teamwork along with the other explorers. About two weeks?

-Lumpen: So, prove myself to you then?

-Overlord: Then I could trust you. If you don't have even that much dedication, I don't need you on my team.

-Lumpen: Fine, I will take you on that offer.

-Overlord: I will watch you then.

-Lumpen: and the details?

-Overlord: I will announce it separately.

-Lumpen: This is my email address. Email me here. Make sure you do! Okay?!

-Overlord: I will.

-Lumpen: You must. If you do not include me, then I will expose you online.

-Overlord: Your stupid threats.

-Lumpen: What? Threat...

-Overlord: This user is not available.

-Lumpen: hey!!!

-Overlord: This user is not available.

-Lumpen: Answer!!!

-Overlord: This user is not available.

(1:1 Conversation has ended.)

Kang Chul-In hurried and ended the conversation before Dorian could complain further. It was a trick to get Dorian to get more fired up.

“You stupid idiot, getting tricked again. That’s why you cannot escape my clutches.”

Kang Chul-In who had succeeded in getting Dorian smiled a huge smile unlike himself.

Tricking Dorian was always fun.

Dorian in the past and the Dorian now was such a simple human being that if one nudged him a little bit, Dorian did the rest on his own.

Kang Chul-In baited and fished for Dorian when he was bored, when he needed someone to search ruins with, or when he needed someone to go on monster conquests with. Dorian Explorer was Kang Chul-In’s true sidekick.

'I can give everyone up, but I cannot give this guy up to Rothschild.'

Kang Chul-In thought this, and swore that he would make Dorian completely on his side.

During Ragnarok, Dorian who had joined Rothschild's side had worked as a hitman in the Baldur Alliance side and had rescued Baldur from the Gulveigs.

Honestly, it would not be an exaggeration to say that the three-cornered battle of Ragnarok was made because of Dorian's choice.

If Dorian was on Kang Chul-In's side, then it would have been very possible for the tide of the war to have swayed on the side of the Ishtar Coalition.

'Who is more capable than you?'

He was simple and stupid, but his skills were undoubtable. He was sure. And he had loyalty. That was Kang Chul-In's honest thought on Dorian.

Next day.

Kang Chul-In looked at the messages that arrived and a.n.a.lyzed the profiles of the Explorers, and sent responses to 200 explorers with over 10 levels. The message was as follows.

-[Notice] Team 'Slayers' Recruitment

Location: Southwest Pandemonium, near the Devil's Forest

(The precise location is marked on the map and contract, so check)

Date: After 2 days, 9AM

Duration: About 3 weeks

Purpose: Level up through Monster conquest and item

Reward: After completion, gold worth 4,000 dollars per person will be given (and the items gathered from the Monster Conquest itself will be evenly divided), those who show exceptional abilities will be given rare items.

Notice: Life may be in danger. Remember that this is a monster conquest. In the case that you die, Overlord has no responsibility.

Notice: The boss' orders and instruction is absolute, and if one goes against any of these, remember that there will be dire consequences. Same goes for those who break up the team.

Attached: Contract (regarding the payment).pdf

The recruitment's details were like a double-edged sword.

The gold worth 4,000 dollars and the rare items would be the best compensation and pay compared to any recruitment that was currently outstanding. However, the second notice also had people hesitant on joining.

There would be those who would hesitate. Of the 200 that he had sent the replies to, about a hundred would not participate.

'I don't need scaredy-cats. I only want the best.'

That was Kang Chul-In's wish.

Those who wished to be stronger even if they risked death, those who wished to get rich, and those who wanted adventure was the ones he needed.

It was his belief that there was no human being more attractive and strong than someone who was honest with his desires.

Kang Chul-In himself was led by his desire to rule over Pangaea.

He would gather those individuals and have them train for two weeks, and then naturally get them to join in on the peaceful dragon conquest.

From the starting 200, a 120 people, including Dorian, responded.

120.

Kang Chul-In knew that not all would participate in the conquest.

There were many who talked big and pulled their feet out of the water in fear in the

key moment.

It would be fine if even $\frac{1}{4}$ showed up, which was 30 people.

'Lets see how many show up.'

Kang Chul-In uploaded the contract stating that he would pay 4,000 dollars, and left his home right away. There were a couple of things that he needed to take care of before meeting the Explorers.

Chapter 31

Kang Chul-In, at the front!

What is a bus driver.

The term “bus driver” originated from online games, where it described those who used their high levels, skills, and items to help low level players clear dungeons or lead a team into victory.

Simply said, the low-level players were the pa.s.sengers, and the high level players were the drivers. Therefore, in the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest this time, Kang Chul-In’s role would be to get the explorers to get on the bus like pa.s.sengers.

It was a difficult thing to do.

It was not easy to grow a low-level, newbie group of explorers and go against a Level 40 Monster. Bluntly said, it was as impossible as a camel pa.s.sing through a needle hole.

But...

Maybe it was impossible for someone else, but Kang Chul-In had a way.

Even if they could not take on other Level 40 monsters, it was very possible to make them able to handle one peac.o.c.k dragon.

He was sort of a professional peac.o.c.k dragon hunter.

Because he had full understanding of the monster, Kang Chul-In’s plan was not a delusion, but a possible goal.

Kang Chul-In opened the store as soon as he got back to Laputa.

-Item Store.

-Normal, Magic, rare item purchase available.

-Sovereign level rises, and the items available for purchase levels rises.

[Main Weapons] [Sub Weapons] [s.h.i.+eld] [Clothing] [Expendables] [Accessories]
[Utilities pertaining to Land Management]

*Gold or Jewels are needed in purchasing items.

*Epic level items are not available for purchase in the store.

Kang Chul-In knew exactly what items he needed to buy. The items that he purchased were as follows.

-10 Blood Swords (5Gold Each, 50 Gold total)

-25 Black Thorn Spears (10 Gold Each, 250 Gold total)

-5 Cold Pavise (A large s.h.i.+eld, about 8kg, very heavy.) (20 Gold each, 100 Gold total)

-70 Stamina Potion Low level (1 Gold Each, 70 Gold)

-70 Low level Wisdom potion (3 Gold Each, 210 Gold total)

-2 Chains (50 Gold each, 100 Gold total)

Total: 780 Gold

Will you purchase the above items? (Yes/No)

780 Gold.

It was a large sum of money totaling almost 32,000 dollars so it made him cringe a little, but he did not feel like it was a waste.

He would collect most of the items back anyways, and this would be cheaper than purchasing an army. Gold could be gathered and earned back, but dead people would not come back alive.

‘This is enough.’

With this, he had everything he needed in order to face the peac.o.c.k dragon.

“Lucia, load these items onto the wagon.”

“Yes, Sovereign.”

“Tell Timothy, 3 weeks’ worth of rations for 40 men also needs to be prepared.”

“Yes, Sovereign.”

“Ah, also...”

Kang Chul-In added.

“I will take Podorski in this conquest.”

“The Director of Security, my Sovereign?”

“Yes.”

“But Podorski is questioning Kimura...”

“What? He is caught already?”

“Two days after he hid, Podorski found him hiding inside the closet and locked him inside the dungeon with handcuffs.”

“He is like I thought.”

“Huh? What do you mean...”

“Ah, nothing.”

Podorski, was the master of capture and binding.

“But, my Sovereign how is it that you are taking Podorski? For the peac.o.c.k dragon conquest, it seems like Commander James is more fit for the role.”

Lucia asked.

“I have a reason.”

Kang Chul-In answered with an unknown smile.

“And what is that...”

“If you want to hunt a dragon, you need to bind those wings first.”

“The Podorski that I have seen is a master in knots and binding. I do not think there is one better to handle the metal chains than him.”

“Oh, really? I did not know that Podorski had such skills.”

“It is even the way he looks.”

Lucia did not understand what Kang Chul-In was saying at all, and tilted her head in confusion. There was no way for her to know that Podorski looked exactly like the Korean Police Department mascot.

“Do not try to know everything.”

“Ah, yes my Sovereign.”

“Prepare everything.”

“Yes, Sovereign.”

And the preparations ended with that.

Next morning.

Kang Chul-In set out to meet the explorers.

“Oh, Oh! Our Sovereign is going out!”

“Sovereign! Please rid us of the bad monster!”

“Please be safe!”

“Our people are putting our faith in you!”

Around 500 people of Laputa saw Kang Chul-In off and paid their respects to their

leader.

‘It’s perfect!’

Lucia who was standing on the right side of Kang Chul-In worthy of her position as an advisor, she was very much pleased with the current situation.

Kang Chul-In’s march to battle was small, but was filled with cla.s.s and authority.

Kang Chul-In who was wearing a black armor with the print of a tiger on it showed off the Sovereign image. And the white horse that Kang Chul-In was on was a horse from a good bloodline—enough to add more authority to the Sovereign.

And to the right and left of Kang Chul-In, there stood Lucia who was wearing a tight leather suit, sword, and s.h.i.+eld, and Podorski who was wearing a blue uniform. It exemplified power and authority to anyone who saw.

How was the back?

Bulls as big as a house were pulling three wagons that held items and food for the Explorers, and the ten troops that were guarding the wagons were the most competent soldiers of Laputa, in full armor.

All these things were a scene that Lucia had prepared. She had shown her potential as an advisor.

“I don’t know if there is a need for the troops as well.”

Kang Chul-In said.

“I am using the Explorers to preserve our troops, but this seems counterintuitive.”

However, Lucia’s opinions differed from that of Kang Chul-In.

“Sovereign, I think that I am right this time around.”

“Really?”

“Yes, a Sovereign needs to have authority. No matter how charismatic and competent you are, I do not think the explorers will see that right away. Also, humans are highly

dependent on what they see and they are quick to judge others based on this. I believe that it is right to prevent any possible negative thoughts amongst the explorers before it happens.”

Lucia was right.

Alfred in the past had also often pointed out Kang Chul-In’s flaws such as these and nagged at him often.

“Sovereign, maintain your dignity!”

“Sovereign, please do not go to the enemy’s side on your own!”

“The author called Dorian is too frivolous. How is this putting some distance? I cannot close my eyes at night worried you might become frivolous as well!”

Lucia probably would have agreed with Alfred as well.

“You are right.”

Kang Chul-In agreed with Lucia and nodded. He needed an aura of sovereignty from the beginning if he was to control the Explorers from the start.

It was about an hour and 30 minutes from Laputa to the entrance of the Dark Forest, so Kang Chul-In spoke about many things with Podorski and Lucia while on his horse. Kang Chul-In mostly listened.

“This humble servant, Podorski is so honored and glad that you have called me, my Sovereign!”

Podorski who was riding on the wagon with the supplies laughed loudly and was happy. The handcuffs that were on his left waist gleamed in the reflection of the sun.

“I will make sure to tie up the peac.o.c.k dragon’s wings and prove that your trust in me is worthy!”

It seemed like Podorski was fired up to prove himself.

“Ha. Director General, you know a few tricks, but do you have the skills to please the Sovereign?”

Lucia looked at Podorski and laughed.

“Tricks! These are all skills that are flesh and blood!”

Podorski roared.

“Well, Director General, you can’t even handle one Ogre!”

“That...”

“Think about it. If you are to keep your position as Director General, you will need to train and improve yourself diligently.”

“But... but!”

“Of course, you have many tricks up your sleeve. But that is not enough, definitely not.”

Director General Podorski got swept up in Lucia’s sharp remarks over and over again and got scolded again and again.

However, talking back was impossible, for Lucia was second in command to the land. Position was everything.

“Sovereign, that dethroned Sovereign—he is still crying and saying that he still does not want to go home.”

Podorski who gained nothing of the conversation he had with Lucia tried to avoid the situation by throwing a conversation over to Kang Chul-In.

“Sovereign, after this conquest, won’t you check out the bar within the land? The woman who runs the place is so beautiful that the men of Laputa are all crazy over her. However, the woman did not even blink an eye. Don’t you think the story might be different if you showed up?”

However, Lucia did not leave Podorski alone.

“Can you please shut that low mouth of yours? Our Sovereign is far from the flames of desires from a common man, Director General Podorski.”

Lucia’s face showed clear signs of disapproval.

“The Sovereign will only associate with pure and virtuous women, like myself.”

Lucia’s shoulders puffed up.

“Who, who is pure and virtuous?”

Podorski tilted his head to the side

“What do you mean who? Of course, it is me. If one was to receive the Sovereign’s Royal favor, shouldn’t the woman at least be myself?”

“Ha... what is this...”

“Why? Is there a problem?”

“Well, aren’t you, Advisor Lucia, far from purity and virtue?”

“What? What does that mean?”

“I mean, your body... ah!”

In that moment, Podorski caught himself and shut his mouth, but it was spilled milk.

“Director General, Podorski?”

“...Yes, Advisor Lucia.”

“For harassment of a superior, you will have a salary reduction for three months.”

“...”

“Do you have an issue with this?”

“No... No.”

There was no way he would have such a thing.

If he had said he had any issues... it was obvious that today would be his last day alive.

“Ha... Sovereign, I am sorry that I had to make a scene. Please forgive me...”

Lucia with a flustered expression asked for forgiveness.

“No. Of course, you are in a higher position than Podorski, so of course he can be punished. It was just.”

“Thank you, Sovereign. Sigh... it seems like you trust and like Podorski, but in my opinion, it doesn't seem like he is someone to keep close.”

“Why? Is it because he is rude to you?”

“It is not that...”

“...?”

“Isn't he too crude?”

“Crude?”

“How can he talk to you about a bartending woman... I am worried that you might be influenced by the Director General's crudeness.”

“Sovereign, you will only have a pure, virtuous, and innocent woman. And also, don't you think only such a woman will suit you?”

It seemed like Lucia really had gotten things mixed up.

“Sovereign, you are the highest and most dignified of men. If you were to have a woman, a woman from a high status and pure bloodline from a good family...”

“Lucia.”

Kang Chul-In cut in.

“I have no interest in status or family.”

Lucia's face was filled with shock at the response that she did not expect. It looked like the face of someone who was betrayed.

“I want to explain in detail, but it would be too long anyways, so I will not. Just know that.”

To tell the truth, Kang Chul-In had maintained an allied relations.h.i.+p with the Grand Sovereign Hecate on 'Planned Enjoyment'. It was a shocking truth that the Ishtar Coalition was built on him and Hecate's fiery one-night stands, but it was a long-lost past that no one remembered but Kang Chul-In himself.

"I, Lucia, get it finally."

Lucia nodded as if she understood.

"So, you do not care about status, nor family background of the woman, but only herself as a person?"

Lucia who did not know Kang Chul-In's true intentions misunderstood.

"Ah, love that goes beyond status and position! You are a true romantic, Sovereign!"

Kang Chul-In did not know what to answer, and so he just stayed quiet, nudging his horse to walk ahead.

'what romantic.'

He had never been called such a thing in his life.

"Would Overlord really come?"

"I mean, I doubt he wouldn't. He even sent a contract."

"Right?"

"But how did he get those items? Did he find a good dungeon somewhere?"

"On World, there were posts that said they gained items by opening up treasure chests found in ruins. Overlord probably opened one of those."

10 in the morning, the 40 Explorers who showed up to the promised location were talking amongst themselves and were busily talking about Overlord, who had shook the world community upside down.

However, when Overlord did not appear even after 10'o clock pa.s.sed, the Explorers began to talk. There were even explorers who were quick to anger and running here

and there with red faces.

“This b.a.s.t.a.r.d! How dare he trick me!”

Billy who was almost 190cm and all muscle showed his anger at Overlord who did not appear even after 10 minutes.

“Yea, don’t come at all! If you come late, I will break your neck!”

Billy was threatening Overlord, and then...

“There, there he comes!”

“White horse? What’s with the wagons?”

“Overlord, is it?!”

A couple of the Explorers pointed to the figures coming towards them and shouted.

“What? Overlord is here?”

Billy opened his eyes wide and looked towards the pointed fingers.

“Hah, he’s late, and he’s taking his sweet time?”

Billy’s thick hands grasped the handle of his ax.

“Let’s see if he will move like a turtle in front of me.”

Billy took large, bouldering steps towards Kang Chul-In who was approaching them from far away.

Chapter 32

Meeting with the Explorers.

'What, what is that? An army?'

Billy who had lessened the distance between himself and Kang Chul-In was surprised that Kang Chul-In was not alone...

'That is Overlord?'

And was surprised once again at the sight of Kang Chul-In.

Kang Chul-In in the eyes of Billy was not just any ordinary explorer.

Firstly, the level of armor and items that he had was quality on a different level.

Kang Chul-In's items were all rare level items, and they were made different from the explorers' cheap s.h.i.+elds and weapons. Billy's ax seemed like a hunk of metal compared to the sword that Kang Chul-In had. And Kang Chul-in's appearance also had a lot to do with putting Billy in his place.

A gaze that looked down on everything, a determination coming from his tightly drawn lips, wide shoulders, and a gleaming gaze. Kang Chul-In could not be summed up as a lucky explorer like Billy initially thought.

"An explorer?"

Kang Chul-In who had reached Billy spoke in his leisurely voice.

"Ye, yes."

Billy stuttered, overcome before he knew it of Kang Chul-In and his soldiers. His thought of teaching Overlord a lesson had disappeared long ago.

'c.r.a.p... How, how can I beat all these guys by myself?'

Simply put, Billy chickened out.

He was intimidated by Kang Chul-In's charisma, but Lucia's icy cold stare and Podorski staring at him with gleaming eyes overwhelmed him just the same.

Also, the ten soldiers that were guarding the wagon were filled with discipline, and if he were to start a fight, he would become food, skewered on their spears.

"You walked fast. Almost running."

Kang Chul-In spoke, as Billy was unsure of what to do next.

"Are you... by chance upset that I was late?"

Billy flinched because Kang Chul-In hit the spot, but he shook his head right away and answered.

"Ah, no, no it's not that... just wondering why you were late... wondering if something had happened... there is no phone here and stuff..."

It was a lame excuse.

'I get it.'

Kang Chul-In could see right through Billy, but he did not show it. Instead, he toyed with Billy, so that Billy would be at an awkward place.

"Really? I thought you were mad."

"No, no."

"Really, you aren't upset?"

"I am not. I really am not."

"Really?"

"Really!"

Finally, Billy put his tail between his legs, intimidated by Kang Chul-In and his people.

Even those who tell everyone, 'I have anger management issues' controlled their anger extremely well in the face of the strong.

"Lead the way."

Kang Chul-In spoke.

"Oh, okay."

He had embarrassed himself, but Billy had no other choice. He did not have the courage to cause a commotion in front of Kang Chul-In and his subordinates.

"Let's go."

Kang Chul-In had Billy lead the way, and called for his troops.

The speed was still slow.

The horses' hooves, the wheels turning on the wagons, and the footsteps of the soldiers created a harmony that showed off military discipline.

And Billy who felt all this behind him had to hold his bladder as he tried his hardest not to fall to the ground.

"That... that Asian is Overlord?"

When Kang Chul-In and his people drew closer to the Explorers, someone spoke in a surprised tone.

All the other explorers were the same.

All 40 explorers like Billy were overwhelmed by Kang Chul-In and his troops, and there was not one person who complained about Kang Chul-In being late.

'Lucia, you are competent in these things.'

Kang Chul-In was impressed at Lucia.

The explorer's responses were 100% the same as the response that Lucia was trying to have. Lucia's opinion that humans decide on others depending on what they see

was the right one.

“Move, move.”

“To the side.”

The explorers moved left and right, making a road for Kang Chul-In and his troops. It was like Moses and the parting of the Red Sea.

The white horse that Kang Chul-In was on stopped.

The soldiers of Laputa with a large click stopped behind Kang Chul-In in a disciplined, structured way.

“Nice to meet you.”

Kang Chul-In introduced himself atop the white horse.

“I am Overlord.”

And that was the first meeting between Kang Chul-In and the 40 explorers.

Kang Chul-In who had joined the explorers began by putting down ground rules.

“Our goal is hunting, and hunting again for 3 weeks. During this time, I will provide tents and food, as well as potions if any injuries are to occur. Also, those who will show exceptional skill, I will actually give you the rare level items.

In that moment, Podorski uncovered the cloth that was covering the wagon and revealed the items inside.

“Wow...”

“All of those are rare items?”

The explorers were surprised.

The items that were on the wagon (they were chosen for the hunt) were on a different level than the low-level items that the explorers had. It was the difference between a Sovereign and Explorer.

“I will divide equally all the treasures that we receive while hunting monsters, and I will only take shares when we hunt high level monsters.”

It was in thought of the Peac.o.c.k dragon conquest.

The items that you could receive from hunting lower level monsters in Kang Chul-In’s position were things that he didn’t really need to have.

It would be better to give it up coolly in order to be received favorably by the explorers. Kang Chul-In’s real purpose lied in the dragon heart anyways.

“Hey, Overlord, are you serious?”

“You are really giving rare level items as well as dividing up treasure evenly?”

A couple of Explorers shouted questions. In their position, it was too good of an offer.

“Of course.”

Kang CHul-In nodded.

“Wait!”

In that moment, Lucia stepped forward, and after asking permission from Kang Chul-In, stood in front of the Explorers.

“I am Lucia, and I tend to his Majesty Kang Chul-In, here. Nice to meet you, Explorers.”

Lucia’s face seemed stern and cold as she introduced herself.

“Majesty?”

“What majesty? He’s a king?”

“What’s up with the t.i.tle?”

The explorer started to talk. Most did not know of the existence of the Sovereign cla.s.s.

“Quiet, quiet down.”

Lucia scolded the Explorers and quieted them, and continued.

“I, Lucia will talk about a couple of things that you explorers must keep in mind. Please listen carefully.”

The explorers were drawn in by Lucia’s cold charisma and quietly focused on what she had to say.

“First, the leader of this army, Slayers, is Majesty Kang Chul-In. Therefore, if there is any reason to call for him, you must use proper honorifics. Of course, I will not force you to call him majesty. ‘General’ would be fine instead.”

Lucia talked about all things that Kang Chul-In could not say for himself, and she was fulfilling her duties as advisor wonderfully.

“Also, there are no such things as not following orders or disobedience. The Majesty’s orders are absolute, and if one was not to follow orders, or cause unrest, prepare to pay the price.”

Thud!

The soldiers who were behind Kang Chul-In slammed their spears to the ground, focusing the attention of the explorers.

“If there are any of you who have issues with this, return home with your own two feet when you can. As you know... this is not your world. I heard there is a saying ‘When in Rome, do as the Romans do’ in your world. I believe you are all familiar with this saying. I will end here.”

Lucia went back to her position and the air was frigid.

However, this was extremely necessary.

In any organization, clear relations.h.i.+p between superiors and inferiors, as well as commands and directions needed to be clear in order to prevent disputes. Even if the mood was a bit depressing, this could not be avoided.

“Are there any of you who want to go back?”

Kang Chul-in asked.

“Like Lucia said, if you want to return, go back now.”

There was no one.

‘It’s because the conditions are good.’

Kang Chul-In looked at the explorers and thought.

There were a couple who seemed to have issues here and there.

Their expressions said, ‘what majesty?’ and ‘how great is he, that he pretends to be a king?’

If it was not for the good conditions, they were the kind to go right away.

‘I can mold them slowly.’

Kang Chul-In was not in a rush.

It was not even an hour since they formed the team. It did not make sense to expect loyalty or trust from them at this moment.

“If there is no one, then I will think everyone agrees, and I will move forward in our schedule. Podorski, distribute the items to the Explorers.”

“Yes, majesty! Come here everyone! I will give you all the items! Ah, of course, we are not giving it to you but lending it to you for the time being!”

At the announcement, the cold atmosphere began to warm up. You had to give a carrot after the whip.

“The blood sword?”

“The black thorn spear?”

“Ugh! What s.h.i.+eld is this heavy?”

The Explorers were delighted at the rare level items that they had never seen before.

‘Simpletons.’

Kang Chul-In looked at the explorers and laughed to himself. Just like the past, explorers were so easy to control.

“Sovereign, the items have been dispersed.”

“Really? Let’s go.”

“Yes, Sovereign.”

When the item dispersion ended, the Slayers went on to the monster conquest.

“Sovereign, you don’t look too well.”

Lucia asked as they were entering the dark forest. Like she said, Kang Chul-In did not look too well.

“The one I needed did not come.”

“The one that you need...?”

“It’s a guy named Dorian.”

Like he said, Dorian Explorer was nowhere to be seen.

‘I don’t know where he wandered off to, when he said he was going to come for sure.’

Dorian had said over and over again that he wanted to participate in the Peacock dragon conquest. And he had not come, so it was understandable that Kang Chul-In was upset.

“He must be quite useful, seeing that you even remember his name.”

“He isn’t just useful.”

“The Dorian that I know has the potential to be the best dungeon hunter there is.”

“He is that good?”

“And he too is a Sovereign. Of course, he is a different level than these explorers.”

“Ah...!”

Lucia heard of the explanation of Dorian and exclaimed. If it was someone Kang Chul-In spoke highly of, Lucia would also respect him.

“Well, ultimately, he didn’t even show up so he is nothing but a liar.”

What was the point of thinking highly of him if he didn’t even show up? Maybe it was just not meant to be today.

‘Idiot! I will kill him if I meet him later.’

Kang Chul-In grinded his teeth towards Dorian.

It was then.

“Sovereign!”

The soldier who was walking ahead quickly came to Kang Chul-In and reported back.

“in 200m from us, I found a Crocuta.”

“Mm... perfect timing.”

Kang Chul-In smiled, as if he approved.

Crocucas were half human and half animal, and had the head of a hyena- a monster that was compatible with the Gnole which was a Level 15 monster. Its level was 20, a strong monster that was difficult to beat with even three explorers at their current levels.

“Let’s go, I will take it on myself.”

Kang Chul-In guided his horse.

“Sovereign, are you thinking to take the Crocuta yourself? How, why Sovereign...”

Lucia opened her eyes wide in surprise and asked.

“I will need to show an example so that the explorers can trust and follow me.

Kang Chul-In smiled and answered.

In hunting for the Crocuta himself, he would teach the explorers how to hunt as well as exemplifying his skill, that was Kang Chul-In's plan. He would catch two birds with one stone.

"Hyah!"

Kang Chul-In nudged the side of the white horse.

Neigh!

The strong horse quickly ran ahead.

Chapter 33

Proving One's Cla.s.s

“Wh, what’s going on!”

“Why did he suddenly dash forward?”

“Did he say Crocuta? What is that?”

The gathered explorers were surprised with Kang Chul-In’s sudden movements.

“Be quiet!”

Lucia’s strength filled voice shut the explorers’ mouths up.

“Master, no, General has already stated that he would be showing us how to kill the level 20 Crocuta monster.”

However, that remark had stirred up the group even more.

“Th, that’s nonsense! A level 20 monster?”

“By himself?”

“Hey, stop fooling around.”

“How do you kill at level 20 monster by yourself!”

Disbelief quickly spread like an infectious disease.

“Hey, you pretty lady over there! Does that make sense? Even if he is the General, how is he planning on killing a level 20 monster? Not only that, but by himself?”

A robust African American man yelled.

“That’s right! A couple of days ago, I tried fighting against a level 15 monster and

almost got myself killed. But, a level 20 monster? Do you really expect us to believe that?”

Another explorer came forward and spoke of his distrust towards Kang Chul-In.

“Is this some sort of deception?”

“Are you trying to scam us by placing a dead, or already weakened monster in front of him to supposedly kill by himself?”

“That’s right, that’s also possible!”

Beginning with one person’s suspicions after the other, distrust continued to grow.

It was an obvious reaction.

Even the current highest leveled explorer was only level 12. For these types of people, they were unable to fathom the thought of solo killing a level 20 monster, and thus could do nothing more than to show disbelief.

‘Crack! They dare to disbelieve our General? These b.a.s.t.a.r.ds who aren’t even showing the slightest bit of trust!’

A raging fire was burning within Lucia.

But, she did not lose her rationality, because she knew.

The more the explorers disbelieved and were suspicious, the more faith would be returned later.

Lucia firmly believed in Kang Chul-In.

Even if the monster was level 25, she believed that Kang Chul-In would easily be able to manage against it.

This feeling wasn’t just because she was his aide, but because she could feel the calmness and confidence from Kang Chul-in that could only be felt from the strong.

“Everyone.”

Lucia laughed as if it was ridiculous, and spoke to the explorers.

“If you really don’t believe it, then all you have to do is see it with your own eyes. Since the General has dashed forward, he should have made contact with the Crocuta by now. Before you start thinking of useless suspicions, I want you to see with your own eyes, exactly how amazing our General is!”

The explorers responded back as such...

“Ha! Alright, let’s see how amazing your special General is!”

“Just tell him not to die!”

“That’s right, you said some great words! I’ll make sure to watch everything with these eyes of mine!”

...while Lucia responded back as such.

“Heung, Alright. Follow me everyone.”

Riding the horse, Lucia headed towards the direction that Kang Chul-In had disappeared to. The explorers followed behind her one by one, as they spoke to themselves.

“She thinks we wouldn’t be able to go with her?”

“But, do you think he’ll really be able to kill it by himself?”

“Bullshit! If it’s the Crocuta, even I’ve seen it once before. It’s a brutal monster that can’t even be compared to the Gnoll!”

“Is, is that so?”

“Ey, whatever! Let’s go and see for ourselves!”

“That’s right! I need to confirm it with my own eyes!”

It took 5 minutes for the group to reach Kang Chul-In’s location.

He was at the mouth of a running stream, in a confrontation with the Crocuta monster

that had the head of a Hyena.

(Djinn- FYI Crocuta is the scientific term for Spotted Hyena's)

“Is everyone gathered?”

Kang Chul-In did not even look behind him as he spoke.

“I shall show you all, as slowly as I can.”

His eyes were still focused on the Crocuta.

Grrrrr!

Feeling that Kang Chul-In was looking down on it, the Crocuta bared its fangs as it growled.

“The Crocuta is no different from the Gnoll. It just grew a little.....”

(Djinn- Gnoll is a humanoid Hyena. People who play D&D should recognize it)

He honestly was looking down on the monster. Whether the Crocuta was growling or not, Kang Chul-In did not even blink as he continued to explain.

“You deal with the Crocuta the same way you would deal with a Gnoll. If you can go against the Gnoll, you can go against the Crocuta as well. Of course, you do have to have a stronger physical body, but the attacking method still stays the same.”

Kang Chul-In had the att.i.tude of a teacher teaching his students.

‘Th, this psycho!’

‘Who the h.e.l.l does he think he is!’

The explorers were surprised.

They were surprised of his boldness, and again surprised of his calmness.

How could he be so bold in front of a brutal level 20 monster. The explorers were unable to understand it with their common sense.

It was at that moment.

The Crocuta that did not rush in rashly, began to rush towards Kang Chul-In as if it was now angered.

“Ah!”

“D, danger!”

Seeing such a scene, several explorers yelled out.

Within their heads, Kang Chul-In was already considered to be dead.

However.....

Bang-!!!

“It is not difficult to stop a Crocuta’s frontal attack.”

The Crocuta’s attack was unable to get through Kang Chul-In’s sword.

“You can do it as much as you want if you’re at least level 10.”

Kang Chul-In spoke calmly, as if it was nothing much.

The eyes of the explorers were filled with dismay.

A level 20 monster was blocked so easily. If that wasn’t enough, he was even talking? They were completely shocked.

“However...”

Kang Chul-In continued.

Roar!

With a roar, the Crocuta tried to rip apart Kang Chul-In.

With the head of a Hyena, the Crocuta’s base belonged to the canine family.

Its biting strength was so immense, that it was also a dangerous attack for someone like Kang Chul-In. Only, if it could succeed in actually biting him.

“This is a bit dangerous.”

With a swish, Kang Chul-In easily slid to the side and evaded the Crocuta’s attack.

“The main force for both the Gnoll and Crocuta are their mouths. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that their jaw strength is all they have. As for their strength..... I would say about 600kg? Should be around there. The moment you get bit..... there will be no more future for you.”

Kang Chul-In spoke as he hit the head of the Crocuta away with his wrist guard, as it was constantly trying to bite him.

“I will emphasize this again. Just watch out for its bite. If you do that, whether it’s a Gnoll or a Crocuta, there will be no reason for your death.”

Afterwards, Kang Chul-In spent another 30 minutes playing with the Crocuta, as he continued to teach the group.

The explorers were awe-struck.

Their predictions were completely shattered, as Kang Chul-In had proven with skills that he was on a different class as them.

With his expert and seasoned techniques, the explorers could not dare to stand against him,

‘I should do it now.’

Thinking that he had taught them enough, Kang Chul-In began to move to finish off the Crocuta.

“Their weakness.....”

Kang Chul-In knee kicked the bloody Crocuta in the stomach, and got back into a stance.

“Is here.”

And, after lowering his stance, Kang Chul-In rushed in towards the right.....

“Right below the ribs.”

And stabbed the Crocuta right into its weak point.

Stab-!!!

Together with the sound of ripping skin and flesh.....

Bang!

The Crocuta cried out in pain.

“And.....”

Using the Vampiric Sword that was stabbed into the Crocuta’s lung, Kang Chul-In fixed himself to grab the sword at an inverse, then stepping in with his right foot, he twisted his body to his left and pulled the sword from the inside to the out – Cutting the Crocuta’s stomach completely.

Spurt-!!!

With the massive amount of blood coming out, the Crocuta’s white and black innards began to drop to the floor.

“Finisher.”

As a finisher, the Vampiric Sword was stabbed through the inside of the monster’s jaw.

With a drop, the Crocuta fell. It was over with that.

Swish, swi swis.h.!.+

Having cleanly killed the Crocuta, Kang Chul-In waved around the sword a few times to clean it of the monster’s blood.

Lucia quietly walked to Kang Chul-In’s side and cleaned the sword of blood and grease with an immaculate white cloth.

“It’s easy, and anyone can do it.”

While receiving Lucia’s care, Kang Chul-In spoke flatly as if it was nothing.

With those words, the explorers face expressions became rotten.

‘Ea, easy? That is?’

‘Psycho.’

‘That son of a b.i.t.c.h. Does he think it’s going to be easy for everyone just because it’s easy for him?’

‘If that’s considered easy, then what’s considered to be difficult?’

Kang Chul-In’s words did not have a conscience.

The explorers were normal people that were living very normal lives in their own respective countries until just a few months ago.

For the explorers that have only held a weapon for the first time since a few months ago, Kang Chul-In’s movements and skills were not considered to be easy.

Seeing the strange reactions from the explorers, Kang Chul-In tilted his head.

‘Why are their expressions like that?’

He could not understand the explorers’ expressions.

“Lucia.”

So, he decided to secretly ask Lucia.

“Yes, General.”

“The reactions from the explorers don’t seem that great. Why is that?”

“That is..... I think it is difficult for someone from a high stature to see the world of those that are lowly.”

“You, General, have said that your actions were easy, but for them, it is definitely not so. If a crow-t.i.t tries to walk like a stork, it will break its legs.”

(Djinn- It’s basically a Korean phrase that means to tailor your ambitions to the measure of your abilities)

“Ah!”

Kang Chul-In was finally able to realize his mistake.

He tried his best to teach the group in the easiest way possible, but from the point of view of the explorers, that wasn’t the case.

‘Well, I never was that great at teaching.’

Kang Chul-In sneered at himself.

Even in the past, he had tried to guide his followers himself, but the results were terrifying.

Different from his trouble-free personality, Kang Chul-In’s sword skills were very technical, and was very difficult for normal people to grasp.

As much as his fighting style was instinctive and was a talent that he was born with, even if Kang Chul-In was to explain everything step by step, it was honestly difficult to say that the explorers would be able to follow his movements.

It would be a wonder if they were able to at least grasp the key points.

“General, please don’t be disappointed.”

Lucia tried to comfort Kang Chul-In.

“Please look at their expressions. Have they not become inspired from watching your skills? I think that is plenty enough, sir.”

That was true.

Although the explorers showed confusion within their expressions, they did not deny his skills. Their suspicions suddenly seemed to have disappeared!

“Were you guys able to see everything?”

Lucia turned to the explorers and haughtily stared at them.

“The General has the skills to be at the level of a General. I’d be very glad if you did not look down on him in public. Heung!”

Although it was quite the bitter irony, the explorers were unable to rebut against Lucia’s words because of the things they had previously said.

‘I should be content with just showing them my skills.

Although he wasn’t able to catch two rabbits at once, Kang Chul-In should now be able to easily control the explorers since he had shown them his skills.

He was planning on showing them more in the near future.

‘Dorian, if that b.a.s.t.a.r.d was here it’d make things so much easier.’

Kang Chul-In thought of Dorian.

It was safe to say that there were no suitable candidates to train the explorers except Dorian.

Although the Dorian now was a Sovereign that was at the same level as Kang Chul-In, he had a unique talent.

If Kang Chul-In was known for his techniques, then Dorian could be known as someone with great understanding of basic standards?

Their styles were so different that, in the past, even if they were to look at the same thing, their opinions of it were completely different.

It was true that Dorian’s lighter style of training was better for the explorers. They say that it’s sometimes difficult to get something very common for an emergency use, but this was exactly that type of situation.

‘You better owe me for today.....’

As Kang Chul-In was cursing Dorian, it happened.

Clap, clap clap!

The sound of clapping could be heard from somewhere.

“Wow~ how shocking. I’ve really been struck with admiration.”

A Caucasian man walked out from within the thicket, and began to walk towards Kang Chul-In with his thumbs up.

Chapter 34

Level Up, Again and Again

“You’re Overlord, right?”

Spoke a man that looked like a b.u.m.

“Nice to meet you. You, your skills aren’t too bad?”

Then, he proceeded to walk towards Kang Chul-In to shake his hands.

“I’m known as ‘Lumpen’ in the World Community, Dorian. Dorian Explorer.”

Kang Chul-In did not grab Dorian’s hand. He was very dirty, and there was no way for Kang Chul-In to harbor goodwill towards him since he was late.

“I’m Kang Chul-In. But, why were you late?”

Asking instead.

“Th, that is.....”

Dorian began to give out poor excuses.

“I, I was too excited..... As soon as I received your message, I asked an adventurer to borrow his gate and immediately came here..... But... it somehow ended up... No that I think about it, I don’t even have any food..... Or a bag... Then I noticed a weird looking animal, so I followed it around and eventually, the day was over. I was hungry..... and as I was looking for food to eat.....”

It basically meant that he had come to this world with just his body, and ended up running around in the forest.

‘This crazy b.a.s.t.a.r.d.’

Listening to Dorian’s excuses, a vein popped up on Kang Chul-In’s forehead.

'For a guy who said that he was from the special forces, how is he able to get lost?'

Starting from the year 2021, the 25-year-old Dorian was part of the famous SAS (Special Air Service) in the British Armed Forces, and was a monster with plenty of experience in Afghanistan, Somalia, etc.

Although it was weird that such a person could get lost, the real Dorian often got lost.

"So, I rushed to the meeting spot as quickly as I could, but it seemed like everyone had left first. The only thing I could do was to follow the traces and ended up here. Either way, I'm sorry I'm late."

Dorian apologized.

"But, the handshake? I told you I'm sorry..... You're making me feel embarrassed....."

"If you're going to stick your hand out, wash yourself first."

Kang Chul-In retorted.

"Forget the handshake, even a b.u.m would cry after looking at your appearance."

"It, it's that bad?"

"No, dirtier."

"Aren't you a sovereign as well. It would have been better if you had brought a subordinate or 2 with you?"

"Ah, they all seemed to be sleeping..... I felt bad waking them up, so I came by myself."

Kang Chul-In understood.

It was obvious that this guy had ran out in the middle of the night while his confidants and leaders were asleep. Dorian was a tiresome, and irresponsible sovereign in their eyes.

'Well, it's nothing new I guess. Since, you've always been like that.'

It wasn't something that had only occurred once or twice.

'I don't understand how this guy went through military life.'

There was something that Kang Chul-In did not know.

The Navy Seal and Delta Force, famous special forces like the SAS, had a very different image from what regular civilians knew. Most of the people in these forces were filled with people that were worse than thugs.

Of course, once training started, their personalities would take a full 180-degree change, but it was undeniable that the military discipline was poor.

Same with Dorian, normally he seemed to be out of it, but once he was put into battle or was killing monsters, he would completely change into a different person.

Murder? If it was necessary, Dorian would be able to heartlessly kill a person, just like Kang Chul-In.

"Ah, by the way....."

Dorian spoke as if he had something to say.

"That thing just now."

"That thing just now?"

"When you killed off the Crocuta."

"Did you hold the sword backwards to put more force into it? And, did you turn your body to the right, so you could dodge the Crocuta's counter? It just seemed like a movement that was preparing you for the possibility of being bitten, since you would have to get close to the body with the sword pierced into it. The purpose of attacking with the most amount of damage, yet at the same time, dodging the counter. Wasn't it a movement of the perfect balance between attack and defense? Well, at least that's what it looked like in my eyes, but it's alright if it's not."

A discerning eye that had looked completely through Kang Chul-In's intentions. He was indeed the Dungeon Attacking Strategist (at least in the past), with those sharp insights.

"Ah, is that so?"

“Was that what it was?”

“It kind of makes sense after it was explained like that.....”

“Is that why the General moved to the right when he cut the Crocuta’s body?”

The adventurers that had listened to Dorian’s explanation, began to understand Kang Chul-In’s demonstrations.

“What do you think about my words?”

“It’s accurate.”

Kang Chul-In nodded his head.

‘As I thought, he has a lot of uses. He would be perfect as a teaching a.s.sistant.’

Kang Chul-In felt very happy and believed that it was G.o.d’s grace to be able to catch Dorian.

Dorian’s questions had the same effect as being able to explain the confusing parts to the adventurers. Kang Chul-In believed that if he used Dorian right, he would be able to create a great synergy in teaching the adventurers.

‘I will use you to the fullest.’

Although he was late, since Dorian had joined the group, Kang Chul-In vowed that he would use him to the fullest rather than destroying him. Although, that was his true purpose from the beginning.

With the addition of Dorian, the attack unit ‘Slayers’, gained momentum.

It was the same as giving lectures.

If Kang Chul-In fought against a monster 1 on 1 to show a demonstration, Dorian would ask questions he was curious about, and share his opinions. If Kang Chul-In was the teacher, then Dorian was the a.s.sistant, or an honor student.

Thanks to the discussions between the two, the adventurers could find solutions for the parts they were doubtful of and were slowly able to build up their knowledge.

Thanks to that, their learning efficiency had increased greatly, and in proportion to that, their levels grew quickly.

Although the adventurers were unaware of it themselves, but they were currently getting private lessons from the rare scam character know as Kang Chul-In, and the genius know as Dorian.

[You have raised your level! Attained level 15!] [You have raised your level! Attained level 16!] [You have raised your level! Attained level 17!] [You have raised your level! Attained level 18!] [You have raised your level! Attained level 19!]

1 week since starting the hunt, Kang Chul-In had attained level 19. Excluding eating and sleeping, all his time was put into monster hunting.

However, Kang Chul-In was unsatisfied.

He had a high threshold that he wanted to hit, and it was a far road of hitting at least level 100. Also, he knew that he would be unable to go against the Peac.o.c.k dragon with a mere level 19.

‘Still too far. I won’t be able to deal with that thing unless I hit at least level 25…….’

Late at night, Kang Chul-In was lost in thought while everyone was already asleep.

Listening to the reports from Podorski, who was going back and forth between the territory and base camp, the b.a.s.t.a.r.d Peac.o.c.k dragon was still looking for food around the territory, even though the territory had been concealed.

‘It would be best to hit level 30……. But, it’ll be too late by then.’

Even now, gold was quickly being used.

With the territory being concealed, Kang Chul-In would suffer a great loss as more time continued to pa.s.s.

“Hey, what are you thinking about so hard?”

With a swish, Dorian got closer and spoke.

“Aye! So hard, so hard! I don’t think It’s ever been this tough even during my military

days. It's not easy hunting monsters."

It was obvious that Dorian was exhausted.

Because, Kang Chul-In was staring at Dorian as if he was going to eat him. The adventurers that were watching from the side, felt pity for Dorian because of how severely he was being exploited. If it was anyone else, there was a high chance that they would have ran away by now.

"It seems like you're having a tough time?"

"Would it be considered normal if this wasn't tough? It's so easy with such half-assed demonstrations, huh? You should try it yourself, or what do you want me to do? Sigh! It's not like I'm some kind of genius!"

Dorian grumbled.

'You are a genius. A dumpy genius.'

Kang Chul-In laughed to himself.

"If it's that hard, why don't you go back? I won't stop you."

Words that Kang Chul-In truly didn't believe in.

"What are you talking about! I'm not going back until I fight that Peac.o.c.k dragon! Of course, although it's tough..... I'm learning a lot from you, and I feel that it was a good idea to have come here."

Dorian truly seemed to be enjoying himself right now.

'That's, their all things I learned from you.'

In more ways than one, Kang Chul-In was also enjoying himself.

The owner was like the customer, and the customer like the owner. It was a situation where their roles had completely changed.

If Kang Chul-In was the one learning in the past, it was different this time. Dorian was learning from him now. He was learning his own tips and attack strategies from Kang

Chul-In.

For such an irony to occur.

It was something that could not have occurred if there wasn't a Soul Back-up. A situation that Dorian would never have dreamed of.

"Hey, buddy."

Dorian spoke.

"Can I ask you something?"

"If it's something that I can answer."

"Why are you not telling the adventurers the final goal? Although the others aren't saying anything, because they're unsure, their goal isn't to simply level up, right?"

"It's a problem of confidence."

"Confidence?"

"Although the Peac.o.c.k dragon is the weakest of the dragon species, it is a level 40 monster in name. If I was to tell them that we were going to fight against an uncouth monster like that, do you think they would follow me?"

"Mm?"

Dorian made a stupid expression.

"They would have run away, or would have said that they would not do it."

"Ey, what do you mean run away? I'm sure they have definitely agreed, since we'll be fighting against a dragon type."

"You idiot."

"You think everyone is like you? The adventurers' goals are money and items, not to die from fighting a high-level monster."

“I, is that so?”

Dorian could understand Kang Chul-In’s words.

No matter what it was, there was a big difference between having confidence, and not.

“By tomorrow, you and I should be level 20, while the adventurers will be level 15.”

Kang Chul-In spoke.

He was planning on fighting against the Peac.o.c.k dragon once he hit level 25, and the adventurers level 20.

“I think we can slowly enter into special training.”

“Special training? What special training? Did you by chance think up a strategy specifically to fight against the Peac.o.c.k dragon?”

“How admirable. To think that you would be able to think that far.”

“.....Hey, I’m not stupid.”

“Of course you are.”

...as Kang Chul-In responded like so, he thought to himself.

‘If you’re not stupid, then who is?’

It was quite pleasant to be messing around with Dorian.

At that moment.

Dorian spoke as if he was doubtful of something.

“Wait, something’s weird?”

“What’s weird?”

“You... what’s your purpose?”

“Something’s weird. How do you know how to fight every monster that we come across? How do you know the existence of the Peac.o.c.k dragon and how to fight against it? Are the items that you distributed also part of the strategy to specifically fight against the Peac.o.c.k dragon?”

For a moment, Kang Chul-In was very surprised with Dorian. He did not know how sharp Dorian was, because he had only seen Dorian as an easy fish, someone who could easily be played around with.

“It really is suspicious. It’s only been a month since the Grand Summoning, yet you know too much. Are you by chance.....”

With eyes full of suspicion, Dorian stared at Kang Chul-In.

“When did this b.a.s.t.a.r.d get this smart? He usually would skip through it as if it was nothing.”

As Kang Chul-In was at a loss, Dorian took the initiative.

“Did you practice earlier? You wanted to get stronger quicker, and wanted to fight against high-leveled monsters?”

Kang Chul-In was super nervous, but as expected, Dorian guessed wrong.

“You asked your confidants, and if there was something they didn’t know, you researched the information on World. What do you say, am I right?”

Kang Chul-In thought ‘You stupid idiot, that’s why you always get played with in the palm of my hands.’, as he agreed enthusiastically.

“.....I’ve been caught.”

“As I thought.”

Dorian was elated as he perked his shoulders up. Idiots were idiots and were happy because of it.

“Well, either way. We just need to gain the skills needed to fight against the Peac.o.c.k dragon. Or, fight against monsters that have similar characteristics as the Peac.o.c.k dragon.”

Dorian used his innate monster hunting skills to grasp Kang Chul-In's intentions.

"That's what I'm planning."

Kang Chul-In had already planned a curriculum of monsters that he wanted to kill. Slowly, there was a list of monsters in Kang Chul-In's head that he wanted to hunt within the next week.

'From this point on, we need to fight against big monsters.'

In order to fight against the Peac.o.c.k dragon, the 40+ adventurers needed a big monster that could take on everyone's attacks at once. A big monster that was at least around level 30.

What Kang Chul-In didn't know was that, this opportunity would come a lot faster than he thought.

Chapter 35

The Inexperienced Genius, and the United Body

There was nothing particularly special about the next morning.

As usual, Team Slayers ate breakfast as soon as dawn came, then Podorski did an informal roll call to check on the health of the adventurers.

The results were good health. They were good to start their day.

An hour before departure, Kang Chul-In and Dorian moved to a secluded location.

One could say that it was a type of private tutoring.

In order to solidify their relations.h.i.+p, Kang Chul-In decided to teach Dorian 1 on 1. It was an act to keep Dorian away from the b.a.s.t.a.r.d Rothschild once Ragnarok came.

Dorian was a man that showed loyalty to those that showed him favor. If Kang Chul-In was to help him grow quickly, at the least, they would not become enemies.

“Sigh..... This doesn’t seem to be working out too well?”

Having blossomed a deep blue flame on to his hand, Dorian suddenly furrowed his brows. With the sound of a ‘bang!’, the flame disappeared.

“You’re struggling with something so easy.”

Kang Chul-In’s mouth made a tiny smirk as he teased Dorian.

“Such an easy thing.....”

As he spoke such words, a flame bigger than the one that Dorian had created appeared on Kang Chul-In’s hand.

It was the skill Mana Fire.

It was a skill that wasn't particularly special.

Mana Fire utilized the root of mana for all supernatural powers to create the flame. And, although it was just the spirit of the natural laws, it was a skill that wasn't known to the adventurers. To put it simply, it was the most basic of basic skills.

"You can't even do an easy thing like this. How incompetent."

Kang Chul-In made fun of Dorian as he proceeded to teach him the basic skill.

"s.h.i.+t!"

Dorian exploded.

"Why, why isn't it working!"

Dorian suddenly created the flame, but it did not last long. It would last for about 20-30 seconds and disappear. Compared to Kang Chul-In who had had his flame going for over 5 minutes, it was a drop of water in the middle of an ocean.

"Who knows."

Kang Chul-In smiled.

"You... you you..... Are you pitying me?"

"What pity? I have no pity for an incompetent person."

"Crack!"

The angry Dorian clenched his teeth.

"Ah... Why, why isn't it working? Why?"

It was normal for him to be angry.

They were both sovereigns, at the same levels, using the same skill, yet Kang Chul-In's was like an active volcano while Dorian's was nothing more than a match flame. Being on equal terms, it was normal for Dorian to get angry when he's trying so hard.

“Chet, nothing is coming out of me teaching you.”

Kang Chul-In shook his head.

“Th, there’s no point in teach me? But, isn’t this considered to be good?”

“Go somewhere else if you want to hear compliments.”

“If you think that everything is going to work out just because you’re trying, than there would be no such things as failure in this world.”

“Th, that’s true.”

“Find the cause. Your skills won’t get any better if you’re not fixing the fundamental problem.”

“I’m telling you that I don’t know what that is!”

“If you don’t know, then you will stay as an incompetent person.”

“Wh, what?!”

“That’s the way this world works.”

Kang Chul-In continued to admonish the depressed Dorian.

‘He seems to be quite angry.’

Keeping to himself that he was quite happy.

‘No matter how talented you are, it’s still too much for you.’

Although Dorian’s learning abilities were quick, it would take some time for him to catch a clue. At the least 2 months? It was impossible for him to create an intact Mana Fire before then. However.....

‘If I give him the answer, it would be different.’

He may understand at a moment’s notice.

Kang Chul-In was also a talented individual, and knew how to use Mana Fire like the back of his hand, so he knew exactly how he was to guide Dorian.

“It’s because your head is too stupid.”

Kang Chul-In spoke.

“Head? Mine?”

Dorian was surprised.

“How? I’m not stupid.....”

Saying that he wasn’t stupid when he was stupid made Kang Chul-In laugh, but he decided not to react to those words. Although Dorian had slow senses and was clumsy, he was definitely at the top when it came to utilizing mana, compared to the 300,000 people that had crossed over to this world.

“Close your mouth and listen.”

“...Yes, sir.”

“I’m not sure if it’s because you’ve spent a lot of your time in the military, but your head has gotten a bit dull. Although you might be good at following orders and doing as you’re told..... You probably don’t know where those orders came from, and why those orders were being given. It may have also just been a waste of time to be questioning the orders that were given to you.”

“Is, is that so?”

“From what I can see..... although you don’t want to admit it, you are extremely smart when it comes to specific fields. Only, you’re unable to apply everything because of how dull your head has gotten.”

“Mmmm..... so, what’s your point?”

“The reason why you’re not able to properly command your Mana Fire.”

At Kang Chul-In’s words, Dorian’s eyes grew wide.

“It’s very simple.”

“R, really?”

“Do you want to learn it?”

“Of course!”

With Kang Chul-In’s subtle question, Dorian nodded his head with strength.

“You need to come to me whenever I call for you.”

“Whenever? When are you going to call for me? I also have a schedule.....”

“Whenever you’re completely free and have time.”

“Okay, I’ll do it. Is that enough? Now tell me.”

Dorian did not know that he was signing into a type of slave contract.

‘You are now my little b.i.t.c.h.’

Kang Chul-In kept Dorian hard at work in the past, and now he had set himself up to do the same in the present. He was quite the ruthless man.

“What’s the fundamental for the Mana Fire?”

Hiding his black heart, Kang Chul-In spoke.

“That is... you said that I had to focus my mind onto my mana and release it? And, think of a flame as I’m releasing it? At least, that’s what you said.”

“That’s just if you’re talking theoretically. What do you think you need to do if you want to create a flame that lasts as long as mine, and is as strong as mine?”

“It’s the power of your imagination.”

“Imagination?”

Dorian asked back regarding the unexpected answer.

“Is that the solution?”

“I’m sure I told you that it was simple.”

“Y, you did.....”

“When you use Mana Fire, I’m sure you simply think of a flame. Something like a bonfire or a as fire.”

“How did you.....!”

“That is the difference between you and me.”

“I’m sure I have told you before that we do not use the mana within our hearts with the strength of our heartbeats or the use of muscles.”

“That’s right. You told me that it was my concentration, and the power of my imagination.”

“You can’t expect your Mana Fire to be strong when your imagination is so weak.”

“Hmm?”

“When I use Mana Fire, I picture an active volcano or floating lava.”

“If you use your whole mind to focus on the image, and completely solidify your image making..... this can happen. Watch.”

Wooshh!!!!

A deep red flame rose up from Kang Chul-In’s hand and shot up 5m into the air. This was the true Mana Fire. In his prime days, Kang Chul-In had used the basic Mana Fire skill to skill a company of enemies.

“Woah!”

Dorian gulped down a storm.

‘H, how can such a thing.....!’

The current Mana Fire was on a completely different level to any of the ones that Kang Chul-In had shown till now.

It was strong, and looked dangerous. There was no doubt about it that the damage would be immense as well.

“It doesn’t always work just because you think about it. You need put yourself through intense mediation every day to grind and polish the flames within your heart.”

“Ah.....!”

As if he finally understood, Dorian gave a shout.

“Only, bear in mind that you will deplete a lot of mana if you release something this big.”

“Aha!”

“Try it.”

Kang Chul-In pointed at Dorian with his chin.

“Already? It hasn’t even been a minute since you’ve taught me!”

“You should be able to do it after seeing it once.”

“Th, that’s too much!”

“If it’s too much, then don’t learn it.”

“.....I’ll try it.”

Dorian lowered his tail as soon as Kang Chul-in made a scene. The only one disappointed was Dorian himself.

‘A bigger flame... concentrate, and concentrate some more.’

Using what he had learned from Kang Chul-In, Dorian focused his mind.

Whoosh, whoosh.h!.+

A Mana Fire appeared.

“uh, uh?”

Dorian was surprised to see that the flame was stronger than before. It was obvious that it was unbelievable for him, even though he had created it himself.

“It, it worked!”

“I’ll give you 10 points out of 100.”

Kang Chul-In smiled as he rated the flame.

“H, How!”

“Because, it’s smaller than mine.”

“If you think it’s unfair, then do better.”

After saying such words, Kang Chul-In began to move before Dorian could say anything. Just in time for Podorski to leave for his morning hunt.

The afternoon of that day.

Dorian applied his Mana Fire for 10 minutes, and played the leading role for the engineering group.

Smack-!

Dorian had hit the Orc in its chin.....

Swoos.h.!.+

Quickly turning his body, he threw out his elbow.

Baam!

With a dull sound, the Orc fell to the ground whilst vomiting. Surprisingly, Dorian could take down his opponent with his bare hands.

“Sigh!”

Having just finished a fight, Dorian took a deep breath.

“Wow, Dorian’s getting stronger?”

“How was he able to take down an Orc with his bare hands?”

“That, what is that blue thing that’s wrapped around his hands?”

Seeing the rapid growth within Dorian, many surprised adventurers were speaking amongst themselves.

‘Kang Chul-In is much stronger than this……. how exactly did he become so strong?’

Dorian was not fazed by the attention he was getting from the adventurers.

The only thing running in his mind was his curiosity towards Kang Chul-In’s strength, and the strong desire of wanting to reach that same level. Kang Chul-In had no way of knowing that he had become a G.o.d within Dorian’s mind.

‘He’s quick, but he’s too hasty.’

On the other side, Kang Chul-In was very cold with his evaluation of Dorian.

‘I’m sure you want to hurry and get stronger. However, there are steps for everything, Dorian.’

Kang Chul-In could see Dorian’s psychological state like a ghost.

‘The you right now is too hasty. No matter how much of a genius you are, you’re going to end up paying dearly for it if you rush things.’

He even knew how much of a dangerous state Dorian was currently in.

The period where it’s most dangerous for anyone. That was the situation Dorian was currently in. It was a situation where, with the slightest mistake, one could be filled with rage acting with haste.

And, Kang Chul-In’s worries did not go long as it became a reality right in front of his

eyes.

1 hour later.

It happened when Team Slayers was on their way back to Base Camp after a tough fight with an Orc.

Crack-!!!!

As a gigantic tree fell to the ground, a huge greenish gray giant appeared and blocked their path. It was a distance of about 150 meters.

Roar!!!

The loud roar was like thunder as it shook the entire forest.

With the sudden appearance of a giant, the adventurers were frozen with fear.

“Leader! Let’s hurry and retreat!”

Lucia yelled out.

“It’s dangerous!”

Podorski also urgently yelled.

It was because they knew the ident.i.ty of the monster.

‘It’s still a young..... ’

Just like Lucia and Podorski, Kang Chul-In was also able to tell the ident.i.ty of the monster with a quick look.

‘Ogre.’

It was a level 35 Ogre that was often known as the king of the forest.

“Lucia, Podorski! To the front!”

Kang Chul-In yelled out.

“Yes, General!”

“On my way!”

Having received orders, Lucia and Podorski rushed out like lightning.

‘This, might be dangerous.’

A fully-grown Ogre was about 5m tall, however, the Ogre that had just appeared was only about 3.5m.

Yet, it was still dangerous.

Even if the Ogre is considered to be young, it was still dangerous for the current adventurers, and with the slight mistake, they may be unable to escape total annihilation.

Rooooaaarrrrr!!!!

With a loud roar, the Ogre began to rush towards them.

“Parvis, equip the parvis!”

Kang Chul-In issued his orders.

The 5 parvis s.h.i.+elds that were given to the adventurers were about 8 kg in weight, and were used to ram into the ground as obstacles.

“Swords, to the front! Spear, parvis to the back!”

With Kang Chul-In’s orders, the adventurers quickly moved. They knew that the only person they could believe in at this moment was Kang Chul-In.

It was at that moment.

“Mister Dorian!”

Lucia yelled out.

“That crazy b.a.s.t.a.r.d.”

A vein popped up on Kang Chul-In's forehead.

Dorian Explorer was the first to rush out, and was trying to fight against the Ogre head on.

Being able to take down an Orc with bare hands, he must have thought that the Ogre was easy game. Even if he's able to use Mana Fire, the Ogre was currently way out of his league.

The desire to become strong, it was the outcome of a hasty heart.

Smack!

Kang Chul-In kicked the white horse in the ribs.

Neiiggghhhhhh!!!!

The horse began to gallop forward.

'I can't leave you to die like this.'

Dorian was an indispensable human resource that had to be fully used. There was no way that Kang Chul-in was going to leave him to die a dog's death. The unified body was attempting to correct the mistakes of the immature genius.

Chapter 36

To The Dragonia Mountain Range...

However, it was impossible to prevent Dorian who had already dashed out. As both sides were rushing towards each other with the Ogre approaching quickly as well, Kang Chul-In did not have a chance to cut in between them.

‘That’s just your luck.’

Kang Chul-In left Dorian’s life to pure chance.

There was no doubt in the fact that Dorian will lose, regardless of mana fire, because a 3.5m mass of muscle was about to collide with Dorian, who topped at 171cm.

Kwang!

Equipped with mana fire, Dorian’s fist collided with the Ogre’s fist.

Crack!

With a sound of something breaking,

“Aak!”

Dorian fell back with a single scream.

“Lucia!”

Kang Chul-In called out for Lucia as he rushed.

“Yes!”

Recognizing Kang Chul-In’s call, Lucia removed a large shield, Aegis, from her back, and protected Dorian, who has fallen.

Chi-Chunk-!!!

A loud noise rang out as the Ogre's fist and Lucia's Aegis shield collided.

– Aaaaah!

A painful scream exploded from the Ogre.

Surprisingly, the side that lost was the Ogre while Lucia remained unwavering.

'Especially skilled in shielding.'

Kang Chul-In was amazed to see that.

Without even being pushed back a step, Lucia has perfectly defended against the Ogre's punch. All that had happened was just a 10cm divot, where she was standing.

However, there wasn't any time to be marveling at that. The Ogre rushed to attack again as fallen Dorian looked helpless. Someone had to come and divert the Ogre's attention.

'Coming.'

Already on his saddle, Kang Chul-In was storming towards the Ogre.

'There!'

Levitating in the air, Kang Chul-In looked for a point of attack, using the height advantage like a falcon's eyes.

Puck-!

With foul trick, the Blood sword has cut through the Ogre's collarbone.

The offensive move was deemed to have scored 100 out of 100 points.

The Ogre's muscle fiber was overwhelmingly hard, strong, and elastic beyond that of iron. His skull was also as hard as steel.

Kang Chul-In had aimed at what seemed to be the least attractive point of attack (in fact, it wasn't) and went after the most vulnerable area! If the shoulders had been targeted, the trapezius muscles could not have been penetrated, and if the head had

been targeted, the Blood sword would have been shattered into little pieces. *

– Aaaaaaah!!!

The Ogre let out a painful scream after the unexpected attack.

‘Continue to effect fatal wound...’

Kang Chul-In quickly thought of delivering a fatal wound to Ogre, using mana fire. However, he wasn’t able to do so. Unexpectedly, the Ogre executed an agile, reflexive move and attempted to crush Kang Chul-In by swinging both of his arms.

‘Abandon.’

Calmly abandoning the attack, Kang Chul-In swiftly moved to beside Lucia and out of the range of Ogre’s attack.

“His conditions?”

Kang Chul-In asked keeping his eyes on the Ogre.

“His right arm is broken and even lost his consciousness.”

“Pick out four soldiers and move him. He cannot die! Must keep him alive!”

“Yes, my lord! There, four guards! This way! Take Dorian!”

Upon hearing Lucia’s commands, the four guards that were moving towards the Ogre quickly made their way towards them and took Dorian.

Meanwhile, suppressing the pain, the Ogre glared at Kang Chul-In and rushed to attack him.

“Let’s go, Lucia.”

“It’s my honor!”

Kang Chul-In and Lucia rushed towards the approaching Ogre.

The synergy that was created by the two was enormous.

The collaboration between Kang Chul-In, the dedicated offense, and Lucia, the master of defense displayed perfect teamwork.

Paang-!

As Lucia's shield blocks the Ogre's attack,

Puck!

Kang Chul-In came forward and sought the Ogre's vital point.

'Lucia, to the left!'

'I will bypass my attack to the top.'

Kang Chul-In and Lucia were communicating without speaking, using only their movements and their eyes while defending against the Ogre.

The coordination and harmony was incredible.

Even though they have never coordinated their movements before, Kang Chul-In and Lucia worked in perfect unison as if they have been in practice for a long time. It was as if the Gods of War were in telepathic communication.

In the meantime, the confused adventurers came back to their senses and began to assemble, holding on to the rare items distributed by Kang Chul-In.

"Lucia, stay back!"

"Yes, my lord!"

Both, Kang Chul-In and Lucia simultaneously sprang.

- Krrr...!!!

Immensely angered, the Ogre clenched every one of his muscles as if to explode. Having reached the limit of his rage, his wrath was uncontrollable and this was an indication that the Ogre had raised his capacity to battle to the limit.

In contrast, Kang Chul-In no longer had the intention of continuing the fight with the

Ogre. Putting the Ogre down belonged to the adventurers, not him and Lucia.

“Pavise, assemble.”

The thick, authoritarian voice of Kang Chul-In led the adventurers.

Tuck!

Eight adventurers of excellent physiques assembled, raising their Pavise shields.

“Spear, to the back!”

An adventurer, holding a Black Thorn spear, and six troops from Laputa territory stood behind the shield.

“Sword, next to me.”

Adventurers, holding Blood swords assembled next to Lucia and Kang Chul-In.

“Podorski, iron shackles.”

Lastly, Podorski and 3 adventurers with powerful physiques grabbed on to the iron shackles of bondage.

With that, the line up was completed as Kang Chul-In had planned for the purpose of fighting monsters.

“Do not be afraid.”

Kang Chul-In spoke to the nervous adventurers.

“We will win, focus on my words.”

By the assurances carried in the voice of Kang Chul-In, the adventurers were reassured. It was the power of charismatic invocation that is only available to those with the Sovereign class.

– Roar!!!

The Ogre catapulted his heavy body towards the humans, confronting them with a

roar.

“Sword, this way! Pavise, prepare for impact!”

The line of Pavise shields met the Ogre as Kang Chul-In side-stepped.

Kwang!

The Ogre and the Pavise line have collided.

“Spear, pierce!”

25 Black Thorn spears pierced the Ogre’s abdomen.

“Iron shackle, restraint!”

Spinning the chain splendidly, Podorski tied up the Ogre’s left leg, using the iron shackle. 3 adventurers followed by coming close and pulling the iron shackle with all their might.

Kwang!

The Ogre fell, losing its balance. It would have sustained its balance had it been an adult Ogre. However, not having been fully grown, that much force was sufficient against the Ogre.

“Sword, let’s go!”

Lastly, Kang Chul-In led the adventurers, holding Blood swords, towards the Ogre.

Puck!

Puuck!

Crimson blood sprang out.

‘This is it, this is it.’

This was the fight that Kang Chul-In wanted. That is, training the adventurers with strong individual personalities to coordinate in a military formation to fight against

the monsters!

After that, there were a couple more useless attacks by the Ogre. The result was...

– Croak, croooak...!

Soon, honeycombed by the swords, the Ogre gave a death rattle. The attack unit led by Kang Chul-In, it was the Slayer's victory.

#

After the day the Slayers have been victorious, they kept hunting monsters like Ogres and Minotaurs.

Dorian, who was severely injured and fell unconscious, was rushed to Laputa territory for treatment. Kang Chul-In was disappointed in missing Dorian's camaraderie, but he continued on with his agenda as he took satisfaction that Dorian was not dead.

And 1 week has passed.

As the adventurers have reached level 20, Podorski eavesdropped on the adventurers following Kang Chul-In's order. He was performing his secret duties as the security head.

“Hugh... this is insane, insane.”

“What is?”

“This crazy hunting is killing everyone.”

Some adventurers complained.

“Still you are getting stronger?”

“Tough is still tough.”

“You are speaking like a rich man. How much was earned up to now. Just tallying up trophy items would be enormous?”

“That's true.”

“However... What is the identity of the General, anyway?”

Other adventurer expressed curiosity over Kang Chul-In.

“Mr. Dorian seems ordinary, but the General does not seem to be a human?”

“That’s right!”

“For crying out loud, how can that be a human? When the General confronts an Ogre with a sword.”

“Just forget it. Thinking about it over and over would not give an answer. We should just sit back and enjoy the spoils. I have no interest in the identity of the General. Just do as you’re told then make money and grow stronger, that’s all.”

Some 10 or so adventurers were busy murmuring stories around the bonfire.

“Still, isn’t it awesome? We can destroy anything as long as we follow the General’s instructions.”

“That, I agree. I’m thinking that we can hunt anything as long as we are with the General.”

“Now our levels have gone up so high that we can even easily capture an Ogre, even without the General? On top of that, if the General and Lucia join forces, everything becomes a piece of cake.”

“Certainly! We are strong!”

“I’m not sure, but wouldn’t our level be the top class among the adventurers?”

The conversation of the adventurers was full of praise, trust, and extreme confidence regarding Kang Chul-In.

‘Ooooh!’

Podorski, who was listening in on the adventurers’ conversation was elated as he ran over to Kang Chul-In to report.

“The time has come.”

Kang Chul-In nodded his head upon hearing the report.

That's what he wanted.

The respect, trust for the leader, harmony among the adventurers, and most importantly, strong confidence that anything can be overcome. Finally, the preparations to pursue his objective is complete.

'Although it will be accompanied by sacrifices,'

After ordering Podorski to assemble the adventurers, Kang Chul-In fell into a thought.

'I'm the lord, my territory is more important.'

It was certain that someone will meet their death in the hunt for the Peacock Dragon.

Minimum 10, maybe 20 deaths, in an extreme case, could be possible. In the worst case, Kang Chul-In and Lucia may be the only survivors.

However, for that purpose, this army of slayers has been organized. They were the mercenaries that will preserve the power of Raputa, and become the future customers of the territory.

Although it was callous, to a lord, other than towards his own citizens, being merciful towards non-citizens of his land was not a virtue. Besides, as it was unavoidable for the lord to cast his own people into hell, Kang Chul-In has assembled the adventurers to hunt for the Peacock Dragon without hesitation.

"We are setting out to hunt a level 40 monster."

Kang Chul-In spoke.

"That's a strong monster. As an Asian Dragon, it is a monster on a different plane than anything else that we have faced."

If it had been just 2 weeks ago, such speech would be considered explosive however, there was not even a single adventurer that showed fear or stirred any unrest.

"Death is possible, no, someone right here will certainly die. Maybe 10. Maybe more."

Kang Chul-In raised the stakes.

However, it was the same.

No one stirred up unrest.

Some adventurers even showed expressions of feeling bored.

“What is the problem.”

Billy, an American adventurer, standing 190cm, shouted. He has become a devout new believer and admirer of Kang Chul-In since some time ago.

“We will do it! Being an adventurer, are we not staking our lives for being adventurers, anyway?”

In a short time, Billy has realized what being an adventurer is all about.

That was it.

Putting his life as a pawn, moving around the great land of Pangaea was what being an adventurer is all about.

“I’ll do it! With the General, what is there to fear? Besides, more the dangerous it is, the more we have to gain! Isn’t that so?”

“That’s right.”

Kang Chul-In responded.

Then he spoke of the spoils to gain once the Peacock Dragon would be hunted, in order to mesmerize the adventurers.

“The meat of the monster that I wish to hunt is a medicine that gives a weakling health and longevity, and drinking its blood will increase mana. The feather of its tail can be used to make an item that can cause strong hallucinations. Its eyeballs are ingredients for making an anti-spell item.”

It was like throwing a double edged sword, both carrot and stick.

However, the responses of the adventurers were...

“We will do it.”

Another adventurer, other than Billy led the chant.

With that, every member of Team Slayer came forth, committing to participate in the hunt for the Peacock Dragon.

“I will do it, too.”

“General, count me in, too!”

“We can do it!”

“With you General, what is there to fear!”

“You only die once, not twice!”

“Let’s turn our fortunes around!”

“We will do it, we will do it!”

With the exception of 3 that put family matters for reason, everyone said that they will follow Kang Chul-In.

The adventurers that have been exposed and mesmerized by Kang Chul-In’s power and control, fear was nowhere to be seen. Even the confidence that death can be overcome, which Kang Chul-In wanted, existed among Team Slayer.

“All right.”

Showing a satisfactory smile, Kang Chul-In nodded his head.

“It is my honor to be with you.”

He was sincere.

Kang Chul-In used to think highly of those who would jump into fire for one’s own ambition.

“The monster that you will be hunting is called... The Peacock Dragon.”

Then the Slayers led by Kang Chul-In left the dark forest and headed towards the Dragonia Mountain in search of the Peacock Dragon.



The Peacock Dragon was an easy monster to track.

An Asian dragon, this monster displayed well integrated features of a dragon and a peacock, hence, it would often drop its tail feathers in and around its habitat, unknowingly exposing its location.

“There is a basin in the cypress forest, about 7km straight ahead from here. That appears to be the nest area of the Peacock dragon.”

Mr. Paschurmers, a veteran hunter in the Laputa territory, who was ordered by Kang Chul-In to track the Peacock dragon in advance, provided the decisive intel. As a result, Kang Chul-In did not have to search the wide area of the Dragonia Mountain range.

“Have you seen it yourself?”

“I have not seen it. I might come close to my death...”

Mr. Paschurmers did not finish his sentence. He appeared to be in fear of certain imminent chastisement from Kang Chul-In.

“Well done.”

“.....!”

“.....!”

“It took a lot of guts for sure. I shall reward you soon. Return to the territory and wait.”

“My, my lord!”

“Hurry.”

“I’m overwhelmed, your highness!”

After being promised a reward, Mr. Paschurmer bowed to Kang Chul-In many times before returning to the territory.

'We shall meet within the day.'

It has been 10 hours since he has been lying in ambush with the adventurers. Kang Chul-In felt the imminent face off against the Peacock Dragon.

Such feeling has never proven untrue. Kang Chul-In had that what has often been called 'sixth sense'. And... That feeling soon materialized.

Flock!

A great sound of wings was heard.

* Editors Note: The trapezius muscle stretches over the collar bone.

Chapter 37

Hunting of the Peacock Dragon

Srrrrrrr!

A green monster softly landed from the sky.

Measuring about 11m from head to toe, this was a unique monster species, displaying features of a dragon and a peacock.

It was beautiful.

As all peacocks are, the Peacock Dragon's figure was elaborate and had unmatched beauty. It was appropriate that it ranked at the top among the dragon species with respect to aesthetics.

'Male.'

Kang Chul-In has determined the gender of the Peacock Dragon after observing a half moon shaped feather around its waist (In fact the feather is also on the peacock's waist). The females of the Peacock Dragons did not have the half moon shaped feather that symbolized peacock dragons.

'A female would have been easier.'

Kang Chul-In smacked his lips.

The fighting power between the male and female was like night and day.

If the fighting power of the male was more or less like 4, 5 fully grown Ogres, that of the female was far short of that.

'No, perhaps, it is better.'

However, as the heart of a male dragon is more precious, Kang Chul-In switched the disappointment with a thought of anticipatory rewards.

– Podorski, you, you are first.

Kang Chul-In sent a hand signal to Podorski.

– Just leave it to me, my lord.

Podorski nodded his head.

The best, first step in battling a Peacock Dragon, or any other winged monsters, was to take away its mobility. It required breaking its wings or shackling up its ankles. That was the reason for engaging Podorski, the master of shackles.

– Wait, wait.

Kang Chul-In waited for the most opportune time without taking his eyes off of the Peacock Dragon. Hunting demands patience.

It has been about 30 minutes.

The Peacock Dragon finally came to a rest in the middle of the basin after moving around the area for a while. Then twisting its body, it buried its beak into the left wing.

‘Sleeping, this is the chance.’

It was the best opportunity for Kang Chul-In and the adventurers as the Peacock Dragon prepared to sleep.

– I, will lure its attention from the front.

Kang Chul-In sent a hand signal.

– In that time, tie it up, failure, will not be, tolerated.

Podorski’s eyes looked suddenly piercing as it was the first strict order that he had received since he had come to Laputa territory.

As failure will not be tolerated meant strict accountability will follow, for Podorski, he had to ensure that his duty was carried out with all his might.

– Lucia, Let’s, synchronize.

– Anytime, I’m always waiting, my lord.

After giving strict commands to Podorski, Kang Chul-In turned to Lucia and requested the same performance that he had shown during the battle with the Ogre.

– On three, we shall attack.

After the final hand signal to the adventurers, Kang Chul-In tightened up his entire body muscles.

‘Inhaling, exhaling. Inhaling, exhaling.’

Kang Chul-In observed the sleeping Peacock Dragon’s body as he waited for the right timing.

This was utilization of the feature that Dorian had discovered in the past, where the time that it took a peacock dragon from inhaling to exhaling takes a long time and that it becomes quite sensitive while inhaling.

However, during exhaling, the peacock dragon becomes completely defenseless, and this could afford about 10 seconds.

If the attack was made right at that moment, it was possible to gain the advantage when engaging in a battle.

‘Inhaling, exhaling. Inhaling, exhaling... Inhaling... Now!’

Finally, Kang Chul-In stood up after finding the right time to attack. After him, Lucia, the adventurers with Blood swords followed.

Yeah-!!

The front line of the Slayers led by Kang Chul-In began rushing towards the Peacock Dragon.

‘Lucia, Hold!’

Kang Chul-In stretched his hand toward Lucia.

Tuck!

As soon as their hands met, Lucia turned her body, using her right leg as the axis, and threw Kang Chul-In with all her might. It was an incredible power similar to a war catapult.

Taat!

Springing forward in an instant, Kang Chul-In reached next to the sleeping peacock dragon in a blink of an eye.

Flash!

Having transitioned from exhaling to inhaling, the Peacock Dragon felt someone and opened wide its unique emerald eyes and leered at Kang Chul-In. Then, spreading its wings, it prepared to punish the human that dared to attack it.

However, as Kang Chul-In had come as close to the tip of its nose, there was no way that it can dodge his blow.

Prrrrr...!

Kang Chul-In's Blood sword dipped in mana fire, flared up as struck the peacock dragon.

Chi-chung-!

The beak of the peacock dragon and the Blood sword met, causing a clashing sound as if metal and metal have collided.

Knocking its head back, the peacock dragon stumbled. It illustrated the destructive power that Kang Chul-In's attack carried.

The chance was then.

Kang Chul-In's strike partially stunned the peacock dragon's brain and prevented it from taking flight, even buying time for the adventurers to approach.

"Let's go!"

"Die!"

The leading adventurers attacked like a colony of bees as they swung the Blood swords at the peacock dragon.

Snap, snap!

The adventurers with Pavise shields and the adventurers with Black Thorn spears assembled, following right behind.

“Podorski, hurry!”

Kang Chul-In did not look towards the adventurers. He kept his eyes on only Podorski, who was holding the iron shackles, Billy the adventurer, and the 2 other adventurers. The most important issue was to succeed in tying up the peacock dragon to the ground.

Thuddudduk!

Aiming the left leg of the peacock dragon, Podorski has launched the iron chain.

Click, click, snap!

The iron chain has successfully wrapped around the left leg of the peacock dragon.

‘Done!’

Upon seeing what Podorski has done, Kang Chul-In believed that bringing him was a god sent move. As a master of the shackles, he was certainly a useful talent.

“Everyone, attack!”

Kang Chul-In suddenly shouted and led the adventurers.

Having been ambushed suddenly and left leg tied up tightly, the peacock dragon did not even have a chance to fly, but was getting indiscriminately pummeled by more than 40 or so humans. All the while, Podorski tied up the iron shackles around a number of Cyprus trees in order to strengthen the hold.

However... , even with the successful ambushing and shackling, the peacock dragon was not an easy opponent.

– Kooooo!!!

The dragon blood wasn't flowing inside the peacock dragon for nothing as its large body mass alone was sufficient to overcome the Team Slayers' attack.

On top of that, as if the shackled left leg was maddening, it crazily shook its body.

As a result of that shaking, the first casualty occurred.

Puck!

An adventurer snapped his neck after receiving a direct head shot by the wildly wielded tail (feathers are on its back) then fell and rolled to the ground. Anyone could tell that it was an instant death by the broken neck.

“.....!”

With the first casualty, some adventurers showed shock in their eyes. They could not have imagined that someone would meet instant death, right in front of them. That was the discrepancy between having confidence and reality.

“Focus!”

Helping them overcome that discrepancy was Kang Chul-In's role.

“All will die if you retreat! Killing it is the only way to live!”

It only takes a matter of seconds for a team to disintegrate before a colleague's death. Well aware of this, Kang Chul-In saw a need to severely push the adventurers, so that they do not break.

Nonetheless, there was nothing that Kang Chul-In could do as the number of casualties rose one by one. As his level was also low at the moment, it was impossible for him to save every adventurer.

With a sheek sound, one adventurer, with a Blood sword, fell as he was sliced in half from the top of his head. Another adventurer was killed by getting his upper body pierced with the peacock dragon's beak.

The movements of crazed peacock dragon produced immense power.

'Just to here, losing more will mean no future.'

When the number of casualties rose to seven, Kang Chul-In felt a crisis. If the casualty count kept rising like this, there was a very high chance that the adventurers would collapse. Something had to be done before reaching that point.

"Lucia, let's go!"

"Yes, my lord!"

Ultimately, leaving the large formation that he had formed with the adventurers, Kang Chul-In joined Lucia, rushing towards the peacock dragon for a full frontal assault.

It was a highly risky maneuver, but someone had to carry the torch. As it is also a life form, the peacock dragon will eventually become exhausted, hence the real key to victory is who lands the fatal blow.

The duo of Kang Chul-In and Lucia faced the peacock dragon. As a result, the peacock dragon's attention was focused on the two, providing the adventurers with some breathing room. As defending against the peacock dragon's attacks fell almost entirely on Kang Chul-In and Lucia, they felt like it would be the death of them.

Kang Chul-In was nearly burnt out, but he did his best to sustain himself. As long as he was able to sustain himself, the adventurers' attacks would become more active.

'Damn it!'

While he was holding himself up, his inside was filling up with the inferno of wrath.

He felt suffocated.

Since he was engaged in a battle with an opponent that in his usual self, would have been cut in two pieces with effortless wielding of his great sword, Fragarach, he realized how powerless he was at the moment.

'Be patient. Impetuosity is poison. I will be strong after this hunt. What I need right now is patience, not wrath.'

He grew angry, but did not lose control. He focused on battling the peacock dragon, suppressing the sense of suffocation. He knew that by overcoming the current

situation, he will obtain a dragon heart that will become the platform for recapturing his old power.

That patience has finally opened a door.

The peacock dragon, having shed so much blood after being stabbed countless times with the Black Thorn spears, has become very weak and the tail that was being swung wildly became useless by the Pavise shields. Along with that, with the advanced coordinated attacks by the adventurers, Kang Chul-In and Lucia have caused the hard exterior leathery scales to begin to show cracks as it became brittle.

“Abdomen, lower abdomen!”

Kang Chul-In shouted. He couldn’t lose this great chance.

“Let’s go!”

“Stab-!!!”

“Die, you bastard!!!”

Filled with rage, the adventurers wildly stabbed the lower abdomen of the peacock dragon as they shouted. Designed just for the purpose of stabbing, the sharpness of the 24 Black Thorn spears was beyond imagination.

Shook,

Shooook,

Shook-shook!!!

Blood began to pour out of the lower abdomen of the peacock dragon. Some areas showed scarlet skin through torn leathery scale.

It was then.

Feeling threatened for its life, the peacock dragon roared and took out its secret weapon.

Whirrrrl!

The feathers on the back of the peacock dragon opened wide and formed into a fan shape. The peacock dragon has initiated 'psychedelic silk', known as its lethal weapon.

The peacock dragon's fan shaped feather, the psychedelic silk, was a technique that causes one to suffer intense hallucination upon looking at them. Once falling into it, one enters near unconscious state for about 5 minutes, during which time the peacock dragon could devour them as they fell victim to the technique's crowd control mechanism.

Srrrr... Srrr. Srrrr.

The peacock dragon's feather swayed as if to be dancing as it cast its psychedelic spell. Without a counter, everyone was in danger of falling into the hallucination spell.

-Krrrrr?

The peacock dragon tilted its head.

Something was strange.

None of the adventurers that were in the peacock dragon's spell showed any swaying at all.

It was so even after using the psychedelic silk used to cause complacency. It must have looked impossible for the peacock dragon.

"Hugh."

Kang Chul-In let out a long exhale as he raised mana level.

He gave a fishy smile. It was as if he was saying, I knew it all along, it is a futile effort. Having drunk a focus potion in advance, he and the adventurers were free from the effects of the psychedelic silk.

Thuup!

Raising the Blood sword, Kang Chul-In became one with the flash of silver as he stormed towards the peacock dragon.

Shooook!

The Blood sword penetrated the peacock dragon in between the crack of its leathery skin. The target was lower abdomen, a single penetration, moving from bottom to top.

- Krrrrr!!!

The peacock dragon tried to shake, letting out a cry filled with pain.

'That's the end.'

However, Kang Chul-In had no interest in leaving the peacock dragon alone.

Scheek, scheeeek!

The Blood sword produced sparks.

'Mana fire,'

Kang Chul-In devised a way to neutralize his opponent even with a low sorcery power as he gathered up all his mana. It was explosion, great explosion that he visualized.

'Intraburst.'

Kang Chul-In's mana transformed into an explosive and it flowed down the Blood sword into the peacock dragon's body.

The target was the head of the peacock dragon.

It took less than 1 second for Kang Chul-In's mana to travel from the lower abdomen, through the neck, into the brain.

Kwang!

With the sound of explosion,

Whirrrl!

...The skull and its contents of the peacock dragon broke into million pieces and fell to the ground.

[Level has been raised! Level 26 reached!]

[Level has been raised! Level 27 reached!]

2 levels have been raised instantly, and

[Secret Quest: 'Ambush of the peacock dragon' Cleared!]

[Award for completing the Quest: Experience +1200/Gold +300/Buf: Dragon Species Prohibited/'One who bends air' title attained!]

[Buf: With the effect of initiating dragon species prohibition, the monarch's region will be free of any presence of dragon species for 6 months!]

[Level has been raised! Level 28 reached!]

Additional 1 level has been raised.

That's how the peacock dragon hunt has ended.

However.

As it appeared to have reached the finale, an uninvited guest appeared and threw cold water on the Team Slayers, who were about to pop fire crackers in order to celebrate.

"Lord, my lord!"

Lucia ran towards Kang Chul-In like a madwoman.

Chapter 38

Awakening, Kang Chul-In!

War Machine, Lucia!

“.....!”

Kang Chul-In was surprised at the inexplicable behavior of Lucia, but immediately tried to find the cause.

First, he followed Lucia’s gaze.

Lucia, who ran across, was staring at the sky far behind him, not at him.

“Behind!”

Unless the eyes were on the back of the head, it was impossible to spot an enemy from the rear.

Kang Chul-In turned his head and looked at Lucia’s eyes.

“.....!”

At the moment Kang Chul-In’s eyes filled with embarrassment.

Something was diving at him, at a tremendous speed. The speed was great, and would only take a few seconds to hit him.

“Female!”

Kang Chul-In felt his stomach tighten as he realized the identity of the diving thing.

“Damn it, it’s a female.”

The Peacock Dragon he knows breeds and spawns every spring.

It was unusual that Peacock Dragons, moreover a pair of male and female, were here at the cyprus forest basin in this season like now.

But, sorry.

Now he had to find a way to live somehow rather than complaining.

Right now, Kang Chul-In was in a state that he has no power left for even lifting his finger, as he had fought for a long time and used the mana fire intraburst. Completely exhausted, he still needed time to move his body.

“Move!”

Kang Chul-In concentrated his whole mind and tried to move his legs.

“Move, move!”

In fact, he was completely spent and couldn't move his body due to exhaustion, but he had to move his body if did not want to die.

Despite the superhuman mentality, he was not able to move.

However.

Kang Chul-In still tried to avoid the diving female peacock dragon even at the painfully slow speed which was all he was able to manage. It would have been nice if all the stamina and mana recharged because the level had risen, but that was only in a game.

“Rather, thrust.”

In the end, Kang Chul-In decided to give up and accept his fate.

He was Kang Chul-In the Kingslayer, the Grand Sovereign.

If he can not avoid it, even if he die, it suited his temper to die in one strike. He did not want to be beaten to death.

“Eyes.”

Kang Chul-In was aiming at the right eye of the female Peacock Dragon only a short

distance away. Now it was only the eye he could damage now.

“Come.”

It was when Kang Chul-In squeezed out his strength and stretched out his Vampiric Sword.

“I.”

Lucia appeared like a lightning, covering his front side.

“This Lucia.”

Chuck! The Aegis Shield covered Kang Chul-In.

“I protect the Lord.”

At the same time, the diving female Peacock Dragon and Lucia’s Aegis Shield collided.

Clank!

Kang Chul-In and Lucia flew for several tens of meters and were thrown against the cyprus forest surrounding the basin, with a roar and a tearful sound.

“Cough!”

Blood gushed out of Kang Chul-In’s mouth. It was his first injury after the resurrection.

“Sigh... That... almost killed me.”

While muttered dryly, Kang Chul-In looked at his abdomen. At the moment of the collision, the Peacock Dragon’s beak was scratched and his left side was pierced, and blood was pouring out.

“Lo,lord... Are you alright...”

Lucia, who fell into Kang Chul-In’s arms, lifted her head. And she was surprised to see the wound in Kang Chul-In’s abdomen.

“.....!”

Lucia's expression hardened.

"My... my lord... how dare... an inferior beast... to the master of my soul..."

Lucia, who spoke to herself with rage filled voice, suddenly got up.

"Lord... This Lucia... will protect you, my lord... please... for a while... please close your eyes for a moment... close your eyes..."

With those words, Lucia left Kang Chul-In's side and started walking towards the Peacock Dragon.

Kang Chul-In couldn't see it, but suddenly Lucia's eyes were out of focus. Her facial expression was terrifying and it was frozen on her face as if she was a doll. Soon after... The deep-black darkness started to spread in Lucia's eyes.

[War. Machine. Mode. Ready]

Mechanical voice flowed out of Lucia's mouth.

[Target, confirmed!]

[Aim, Extermination]

[War Machine Mode, Operate!]

When the word 'Operate' came out, intense energy was emitted from Lucia's body. At first glance, it seemed to be several times stronger than the original Lucia.

[War Machine Mode time remaining 4:59... 4:58... 4:57...]

Lucia ran.

With Zenith, the Sword of Heaven, on her left hand and Aegis, the Shield of God on her right, Lucia's appearance was dignified and frightening as she was indeed a Warrior born for Battle.

[Die.]

With a flat, emotionless and an eerie voice, Lucia began to attack the Peacock Dragon.

[Die.]

Lucia repeated that word only and fought the Peacock Dragon like a machine. How powerful were her attacks and defense that she was able to fight equally with the female Peacock Dragon that is 9m long?

“Lord!”

“General!”

While Lucia blocked the Peacock Dragon, Podorski and Billy urgently ran to Kang Chul-In.

“I, I will escort you.”

Podorski was trying to support Kang Chul-In with great astonishment. But, surprisingly, the reaction of Kang Chul-In...

“Leave it.”

His voice was so cold.

“.....!”

“Don’t think to bring me anywhere.”

“Bu, but...”

“Is there a thread and a needle?”

“Were you... going to stitch up your wounds here?”

“Just tell me, whether you have it or not.”

“I have. I can do a simple surgical procedure.”

“Do it.”

“.....!”

“I won’t say it twice.”

Podorski opened his backpack due to Kang Chul-In’s tough attitude, and pulled out thread, needle, bandage, and two bottles of potion.

“I do not have an anesthetic. It would be very painful so...”

“Right now.”

Kang Chul-In had already turned away his eyes.

“I... Am I being protected by making my subordinates stand in front of me?”

It was natural that a Sovereign was protected by his subordinates, but Kang Chul-In was the world’s strongest, and it was humiliating to be helpless.

“Quickly. There’s no time.”

“Yes, yes!”

At the command of Kang Chul-In, Podorski hurriedly began executing first aid on his wounds.

“Ughh...!”

Kang Chul-In swallowed the pain inside.

He refused to cry out from the pain.

He endured the pain with iron will and thought only to get up once again.

“5 minutes... The War Machine Mode limit.”

Lucia’s War Machine Mode, that he saw, was obviously powerful, but it was impossible to beat Peacock Dragon by herself as long as there was a 5-minutes limit.

“The adventurers are exhausted. If Lucia lost, it’s complete destruction.”

Kang Chul-In sought to find a way to overcome the situation calmly while Podorski stitched his torn side. Kang Chul-In was the only person Kang Chul-In could believe

now.

“Lord, I have finished the first aid treatment.”

Podorski said it while tying a knot to cover the sutures with a bandage.

“Podorski.”

“Yes, Lord.”

“Go and cut the Peacock Dragon’s heart out.”

“.....!”

“Hurry!”

“Yes!”

Podorski ran out of hurry.

“Gen, General... just run away...”

Said by the big man, Billy with tearful face that didn’t match to his image.

“Do you say run?”

“Yes?”

“Look at that.”

Billy’s gaze turned turned to the direction that Kang Chul-In has pointed to.

“.....!”

The adventurers... The Adventurers were moving to support Lucia, while dragging their weary bodies from the battle before.

“Do you think it makes sense to ask me to flee this situation?”

“It, it was right but...”

“Do not worry.”

“...?”

“I will stand up, and... I will kill that damn bird.””

Kang Chul-In declared.

Kang Chul-In will keep his word, to make reality follow his will, even if the sky fell down.

“Lord! Here is the Peacock Dragon’s heart!”

Podorski brought the heart of the dead male Peacock Dragon.

“Good work.”

Kang Chul-In nodded slightly and accepted Dragon’s hear from Podorski.

The Dragon’s heart was small. The size was similar to human’s heart. It doesn’t make sense when you recall that the Peacock Dragon’s body reached 12 meters.

However, Dragon’s heart is originally like that, the higher the dragon’s level, the smaller the heart, refining and purifying like a diamond. The Peacock Dragon’s heart was small and nothing was wrong.

Kang Chul-In immediately brought Dragon’s heart to his mouth.

Gulp!

There was a creepy sound as the flesh crunched.

“...!”

“...!”

Podorski and Billy were shocked.

The appearance of Kang Chul-In, chewing the dragon’s heart with his mouth dripping blood, was diabolical. It looked like the Great King of Hell eating the enemy’s heart.

“Eat, and after eating it will strengthen you.”

Although it was dragon heart, it is not an ordinary thing to chew a lump of flesh with the blood still dripping, but Kang Chul-In has to endure the horrifying texture for him to recover his strength.

When he almost finished consuming the Dragon’s heart, the reaction started.

“...!”

[Level has been raised! Level 29 reached!]

[Level has been raised! Level 30 reached!]

Kang Chu-In felt that his depleted mana had risen at the same time as the level. His physical strength has also recovered to some extent. Even if the Peacock Dragon was the weakest among the dragons, at least the dragon’s heart was still useful.

“The potion.”

At Kang Chul-In’s words, Podorski immediately pulled out the potion and opened the lid. Kang Chul-In, who received it, gulping down the 250 ml potion to the dregs.

“Phew.”

Kang Chul-In, who drank the potion, took a long breath and threw the potion glass bottle away.

“Lord, my Lord! If you get up already!”

“Move aside!”

Podorski tried to persevere, but Kang Chul-in was stubborn. It was not good that Kang Chul-In was still bleeding, staining the wrapped bandages.

“If you block, I’ll cut you down.”

Kang Chul-In, who uttered an obviously empty threat, used the Vampiric Sword as a staff as he raised his body.

Sssh!

From Kang Chul-In's body, white steam started to emerge. It grew like a haze, and the dense mana flowed from Kang Chul-In's insides.

"How dare you drive me into a corner."

Seen in Kang Chul-In's eyes, the man who came back to life with the power of Dragon, was a Heavy Light that wasn't there before.

"I will kill you."

According to common sense, Kang Chul-In's words were ridiculous.

However, it was true that his body was in very bad condition, although he stood up by the power of dragon heart. If it was put into numbers, would it be about 40% of his best condition? It was obvious that he was weak.

But, as soon as he reached level 30, Kang Chul-In had a trump card that could destroy the Peacock Dragon.

Now was the time to show it.



Lucia, who had turned on the war machine mode, proved her worth by holding her own against the Peacock Dragon.

Although it's a female, but the fact that only in five minutes, she drove the monster that even Kang Chul-In could not stand against alone, was enough to acknowledge Lucia's power and prowess.

But... By the time it reached five minutes, the limit of War Machine Mode, Lucia was in crisis.

[4, 3, 2, 1... 0!]

The countdown ended,

[War Machine Mode, Shut Down. Cool Down time: 168 hours]

Lucia's declaration of war is over.

".....!"

And the Peacock Dragon's counterattack has begun.

"Ms. Lucia!"

"It is dangerous!"

"Avoid it!"

The adventurers who fought together with Lucia shouted all at once, but Lucia, who suffered the aftermath of the ended war machine mode, was unable to move even a single step.

The giant hind legs of the Peacock Dragon fell on Lucia.

It would have been natural for Lucia to be crushed to death if she was trampled by the sharp claws.

"Aaww, Lord...!"

Lucia felt only praise for Kang Chul-In even though death had come in front of her.

'By now, you have escaped to a safe place, and because I have done my job, there is no lingering feeling even if I die now. Mr Timothy, please take good care of my Lord! Lord, even without me, I hope you accomplish your goal!'

Lucia closed her eyes.

She was the one who waited for Kang Chul-In for an eternity from the other dimension. It was a glorious end for her to be able to die for Kang Chul-In.

Of course, Kang Chul-In would not let it end like this.

"Good work."

Kang Chul-In, who appeared like a ghost, embraced Lucia. Then jumped. The Peacock Dragon's foot smashed the ground in vain.

“L, Lord!”

Embraced in Kang Chul-In’s arms, Lucia was surprised. Kang Chul-In’s condition was severe. It did not make sense for him to be able to move so quickly.

“That was enough.”

“But...”

“I have the power to kill that thing.”

“.....!”

“So, stand down.”

“.....?”

“Heavy.”

“So, Sorry...!”

Lucia was surprised and wriggled out from Kang Chul-In’s arms. Her face turned red.

“10 seconds.”

Kang Chul-In said.

“I will see the end of it.”

And he rushed to the Peacock Dragon. “Phut!” Kang Chul-In moved so fast there was the sound made by a sonic boom.

At that time, everyone on the scene was able to see and hear how poorly the Peacock Dragon fared against Kang Chul-In’s devastating strikes.

Chapter 39

Overdrive, Activate!

'Overdrive', which can be used from level 30, was a skill of the buff concept that increased the total ability of the user by 40%.

Kang Chul-In acquired this ability by discovering and exploring an ancient ruin, from the excavation, and since then he has swept into the battlefield as a Sovereign, a powerful force. In other words, Overdrive was the base and source of Kang Chul-In's armed might.

Kang Chul-In, who activated the overdrive, has nothing to fear. Peacock Dragon? At that moment, it's just a sandbag!

Kathud!

Kang Chul-In's fist struck the abdomen of the Peacock Dragon.

- Urgh!

Surprisingly, the giant body of the Peacock Dragon was wobbling.

"Hit and kill."

Kang Chul-In did not draw a sword. Only two fists, the Peacock Dragon was 'crushed' with bare hands.

Bwak, bwok!

Everytime a simple punch hit the body of the Peacock Dragon, the Peacock Dragon rolled over in the basin with strange sounds. It was a scene that was unbelievably unrealistic and amazing.

"7 seconds."

Kang Chul-In remembered the Overdrive's time limit and rushed his attacks.

Overdrive was a crazy skill that consumed significant quantities of mana per second. Even after eating a Dragon Heart, it was hard to sustain it longer than 10 seconds. He had to finish it during that time.

– Kiieakk!

The Peacock Dragon spread her wings open widely with a strange sound. It was obvious that Kang Chul-In's attack was so brutal that she tried to fly away to the air.

“Where are you going?”

Kang Chul-In had no intention of releasing the Peacock Dragon.

Kang Chul-In jumped up on the right wing of the Peacock Dragon like a lightning bolt. And he caught the corresponding part of the Peacock Dragon's shoulder joint.

Keeak!

The red blood burst out while the right wing of the Peacock Dragon was ripped off. Kang Chul-In's marvelous strength was power that could make your jaw drop, there was no other way to explain it.

Kang Chul-In immediately got off the Peacock Dragon's back and landed in a good posture, then jumped back towards the crazy Peacock Dragon. All of them happened in only less than two seconds.

“Done.”

Kang Chul-In knew that there was not much time given.

Soon the mana was about to run out. Now, he had to end it.

Bwak!

The two fists of Kang Chul-In knocked out the Peacock Dragon.

Bwabak!

The speed of his fists was the speed of light. Kang Chul-In's fists were so fast that no one knows how many punches per second he made. They also contained powerful

destructive power.

– Kyaaooo!

The Peacock Dragon was unilaterally devastated by the punches of Kang Chul In, which was not suitable for her big body. Even Peacock Dragon was nothing but a mere sandbag in front of Kang Chul-In with overdrive.

“Urgh!”

For the first time, groaning sound came out of Kang Chul-In’s mouth.

Blargh!

The bandage that Podorski bundled tightly pulled off and the red blood poured out. The dynamic movement made the stitched wound tear.

Kang Chul-In did not let it bother him.

He did not stop even though the blood flowing from his side.

He had the toughness to crush his enemy while ignoring his wound.

“I’m going.”

By the time the duration of Overdrive was almost over, Kang Chul-in stretched out his fist once for all.

Baam!

The Peacock Dragon’s body leaned to the side and fell with a heavy sound.

Patt!

Kang Chul-In leapt off the ground.

– Cluck?

The Peacock Dragon found Kang Chul-In on her back. So she shook her head to throw him off. But Kang Chul-In’s attack ended that.

Khajick!

Kang Chul-In's fist pierced through the skull of the Peacock Dragon. The spark then sprang up and Kang Chul-In's remaining mana flowed into the brain of the Peacock Dragon. Intraburst, the technique that ended the male Peacock Dragon was again activated!

Pong!

The results were the same as before.

Ka-thud.

The Peacock Dragon, which the head was blown apart, became a dead body and laid her enormous body in the basin.

"Huu... huu..."

Kang Chul-In, who walked on the ground, gasped his rough breath.

Swollen muscles, bloody eyes, shaking shoulders, and blood dripping from both hands. Kang Chul-In now was like a beast, an angry beast.

"Lord!"

Lucia ran towards Kang Chul-In.

"I, I was worried. Sob...! My Lord... sob... sob...!"

Lucia, who ran to Kang Chul-In's embrace, sobbing and wailing. In just 10 seconds, she felt her heart choked and stomped endlessly.

"Stop... Get off me."

On the other hand, Kang Chul-In was burdened and felt like he was dying because of Lucia, who suddenly come to his embrace. Lucia's weight was unbearable for him who had been completely exhausted. He could have collapsed.

"I'm okay."

Kang Chul-In pushed Lucia slightly and stood firmly on his legs.

“Gen... General... you won.”

“Such a monster... How could you to that huge monster...”

“Win... We won!”

“Waaaa! General!!”

“Waaaaa!”

The adventurers jumped in towards Kang Chul-In.

“Damn.”

For Kang Chul-In, the flocking adventurers who gathered like dogs were more pressuring than the dead Peacock Dragon, but he could not run away. Now it was really the time for him to rest.

So, the hunting of the Peacock Dragon came to an end.



Kang Chul-In did not return quickly.

Kang Chul-In knew that if you started anything, you should finish it well.

The return of Kang Chul-In and the adventurers was very relaxed and calm.

First, they had to move the Peacock Dragon’s body.

Kang Chul-In sent Podorski to Laputa to call up eight large wagons and loaded the dead bodies of the Peacock Dragons.

Unfortunately, except for the Dragon Heart, the dead body of the female Peacock Dragon had little value, so it was divided into two pieces to be loaded to two large wagon.

By the way... When the female’s belly had been sliced open, there were three big eggs

that surprised everyone. Kang Chul-In ordered the adventurers to take care of the eggs well. Peacock Dragon's eggs had a lot of uses.

Compared to the females, the male Peacock Dragon's body was treated better.

The expensive and colorful feather that reached 12 meters, was the symbol of the Peacock Dragon hunting by Kang Chul-In. Even if only to show off the dignity of the Sovereign to the people, the body of the male Peacock Dragon had to be fully preserved. Because of that, Podorski had to sew together all the pieces of the Peacock Dragon's head that was blown apart.

"Where are we going?"

Billy asked Podorski, who was carrying the body of the male Peacock Dragon.

"I go to my homeland. Go back to your hometown after a rest for a few days."

"To your homeland? Is there any place for a person to live?"

"You'll know if you go."

For the Sovereign Class, their existence is unknown to the public and there was no way for them to know about it.

It was the same for the other adventurers, but Kang Chul-In and other people of Laputa just responded the same, you will know when you go. Because Kang Chul-In's instructions said that rather than explain it in detail it would be better if they see, hear, and feel it by themselves.

"Lucia."

While taking care of the Peacock Dragon's body, Kang Chul-In called Lucia secretly.

"Wash it off."

".....!"

Lucia's face grew hot.

"I... Lord... Uh, how..."

“.....?”

“I... I... still...”

Because she seemed to have misunderstood something, Kang Chul-In explained what he wanted exactly with his eyes closed.

“Just literally like what I said, let’s wash it.”

“.....!”

“I can’t return with this beggar-look.”

“Ah...!”

It was Kang Chul-In, whose name became the Triumphant Sovereign. Considering the crowds, there was a need to return in a clean appearance.

“My body still doesn’t work well. So, I need help. If you feel uncomfortable, I will ask Podorski or Billy.”

“Oh, no no! I will do it!”

“Then, please.”

“Yes... My Lord”

Kang Chul-In and Lucia found a stream nearby.

“I just need you to wash my upper body only, so don’t worry.”

Kang Chul-In, who said that, took off the coat he was wearing.

“Haaa.....”

Lucia, who saw it, can only moan inside (she clamped her mouth shut).

Kang Chul-In’s body was beautiful. Also, it was like a sculpture.

The white broad shoulders, the rock-hard abs, the muscles which are not too small

nor big, just the right size, and moreover the inverted triangle make his body perfectly balanced. Kang Chul-In's body has the charm that make any woman can only see it in awe.

"Lucia."

"....."

"Lucia?"

"...yes? Lord? did you call me?"

"What are you thinking so deeply like that?"

"Ah, no, sir."

"Please help me start from the wound site."

"Yes, Lord."

Lucia hid her shamed and embarrassed feeling and quickly moved her hands to touch Kang Chul-In's wound.

She removed the bandages that was soaked with blood, poured the potion, added the regenerative power to the wound, cleaned it with cloth, and covered it with the new bandage. A series of processes just as good as any doctor or nurse.

"Lord, the blood still...!"

"Cover it with more bandage."

"Alright."

Finally, after she bandaged it several times then the blood barely stopped.

"Don't you feel hurt? How can you not let out even a moan?"

"This kind of wound... was nothing at all."

"Amazing"

“it’s not amazing. Next please wash my hair and face.”

“Yes, Lord.”

Kang Chul-In was able to finish cleaning himself with Lucia’s help.

“In black.”

Kang Chul-In shook his head when Lucia was trying to hand over the white clothes.

“Pardon? Since you have been victorious, of course it is the pure white clothes...”

“Are you going to let the people see the blood?”

“Ah...!”

“No one should be aware of my injuries.”

“How come you think so far?”

“The Sovereign that reveals his weakness, is not more than a third-rate. Even if I die tomorrow, I have to look good today, that is the weight in life that a Sovereign has to bear.”

“.....!”

In his remarks, Lucia once again realized that Kang Chul-In was extraordinary.

“Indeed, my Lord is really a Sovereign to the bone.”

Kang Chul-In’s words were the word that usually could be said by a king.

It was an opportunity to make Lucia fully trust (though she already believed it) Kang Chul-In’s words, he who was the Overlord in the past.



Kang Chul-In said that he would take care of the bodies of the dead adventurers neatly and give them a brief funeral at Laputa.

He also promised to give some compensations to the bereaved families when he returned to Earth.

The adventurers were impressed and satisfied with Kang Chul-In's meticulous care.

No one complained.

It was purely their choice to join the Peacock Dragon hunting and not because there was a push or threat by Kang Chul-In.

"Let's go."

Kang Chul-In, who had been cleaned, turned to Laputa.

"Depart!"

Podorski shouted.

The procession began to continue.

Kang Chul-In led the way, Lucia stood in a position slightly behind him. After that, two tiers of the adventurers followed up.

Kang Chul-In led the wagon carrying the bodies of the Peacock Dragons which were brought by 10 soldiers and 4 bulls, in addition, he was escorted by 20 soldiers lined up on both sides.

"Lord, are you alright?"

"I'm fine. Don't mind me."

Lucia was worried about Kang Chul-In, but Kang Chul-In maintained his dignity like a frozen statue without as much as an eyebrow twitching. It was impossible to find traces of injury from that look.

The travel time was not long.

It takes about 2 hours to walk from Cyprus Forest to the destination, and the party was able to arrive at the entrance gate of Laputa soon.

“What?”

“Where are you going?”

“Is there any place could be the General’s place?”

The adventurers shook their heads.

“Lucia, go and get my soul core”

“Yes!”

Lucia flew away and disappeared somewhere at Kang Chul-In’s command.

“.....!”

“...!”

The adventurers were surprised.

Since Lucia suddenly disappeared in front of them, they were like that.

Lucia came back in less than 10 minutes and handing a luxurious sword to Kang Chul-In. It was the main controller of Laputa, the Soul Core.

Kang Chul-In, the owner of the Soul Core, slightly looked around the adventurers. The adventurers were bewildering because they do not know how things are going now.

“They seemed shocked.”

While thinking like that, Kang Chul-In released the hide function of the land using Soul Core.

Total maintenance time: 467 hours.

Total maintenance cost: 233.5 gold (0.5 gold per hour)

Do you want to deactivate the hide function? (Yes / No)? Yes

As soon as he press 'Yes', 233.5 gold in the inventory disappeared in a moment, and the land's hidden function was immediately deactivated.

Phajik, Phajjik!

The shroud that surrounded the land began to unravel, and the appearance of Laputa from the top of the Sky Fortress gradually began to show up.

“Wooww...!”

“What, what is that...!”

The pupils of the adventurers, who looked at all of that, widened.

And... from the inside of the land, a thunderous applause and cheers burst out.

It was fun!

Chapter 40

Triumphant Sovereign Kang Chul-In

“Waawwww.....!!!”

“Kang Chul-In, Your Majesty, hooray! Hurray!”

“Your Majesty has defeated the evil monsters!”

“Hooray! Hooray! Hooray!”

The people of Laputa cheered enthusiastically like crazy.

Kang Chul-In shone as a hero in the people’s eyes.

How troubled you are because of the assault of the wicked Peacock Dragon.

The fear that it might hurt them or their family, was beyond imagination.

The Peacock Dragon, source of their fear, the two of them was dragged in by the men of the Sovereign. Even with the head shattered. No wonder that Kang Chul-In looked like a hero.

Besides, look at the stunning imposing appearance.

Although Peacock Dragon is a subspecies of dragons, but it is definitely a dragon.

Even though he hunted down such monsters, moreover two of them, Kang Chul-In was expressionless and wearied. He even showed they were not a big deal.

Could you not respect such a Sovereign? Could you not love him? No matter what is Kang Chul-In’s nature, in the eyes of his people now, he became a foremost king that will not appear again in history for the second time.

On the other hand, the adventurers were still astonished.

“Actually, what is the true identity of General?”

“Who are these people?”

“Oh my gosh... There was such a castle in Pangea Continent...”

“Majesty? Do you mean The General is a real king?”

Everything was doubtful.

Laputa Fortress, The People of this Land, Kang Chul-In’s real identity, etc... Lots of things were confusing the adventurers. Moreover, because there was no one who can explain it, it was natural that the frustration would grow like a snowball over time.

“Wow... Although I don’t know, but I can see that General was really great. Is he coming from Royal Family? I think even the Queen of England was not as popular as him.”

“I think so... Where is it... Ah! Wouldn’t Mr. Kim from the north enjoy it too?”

“This idiot! He’s a dictator! Do you call that as popular?”

“Oops!”

“Look at those people. Look at their expressions. Everyone is just looking at the General. I don’t know whether The General is the king of these people.”

“Damn it! As long as that man is an earthling... Ah! What, What is that!”

The curiosity and the conversations of the adventurers was just up to there.

“Kyak!”

“The brave warriors ~”

“Thank you! Thank you very much!”

“Come here~ Let’s dance together with me ~”

The ladies of Laputa clung on to the adventurers.

The Adventurers were also heroes for the Laputa's people. It was reasonable for the ladies to cling on the proud and amazing adventurers.

"It's cool!"

"Haha! It was nothing!"

"Thank you, thank you very much."

"No, I just did what I had to do."

Warm scenes could be seen here and there.

"Young man ~ How can you be so strong? Look at these arms!"

"That, that is... errr..."

"Huh! Where are you going, young man? Young man!"

Dangerous scenes were also produced.

The condition was good.

By eliminating the evil monsters, The Sovereign proved his ability while the adventurers were given a very warm welcome. There is no one who is not happy, everyone was satisfied.

"The crisis has passed."

Kang Chul-In watched these scenes silently from the top of the white horse that he usually ride on. Although actually he also was in a good mood, but he did not show it. Being a Sovereign was generally a heavy duty.

"Your... Majesty...?"

"Your Majesty, please give us a chance to celebrate you victory."

When Kang Chul-In quietly watched the festive atmosphere, a group of ladies stepped forward into the procession. They were the young ladies of Laputa.

“Hmm?”

Kang Chul-In was embarrassed for a moment.

“Why are there so many?”

It seemed that all ladies from teens and twenties have come to him. The ladies who have come to Kang Chul-In were much more outstanding than the ladies who have come to the adventurers.

“Your Majesty... This is the watch that my late grandfather wore...”

“This is a 77 year old Mandrake Liquor.”

“For the Lord, I devote this body and heart...”

“This is a ring that descended from my ancestors for generations.”

Various ladies gave offering to Kang Chul-In.

There are diverse group.

The ladies with pure heart, the ladies full of lust, the ladies trying to get a chance to succeed, and so on... There were quite varied in goals and desires.

“Tribute.”

Kang Chul-In opened his mouth.

“I will accept your heart only. But...”

Those who watched him saying this unexpected remark were surprised.

Did he refuse the offering?

Refusing the offerings which offered voluntarily and not by force was a pretty exceptional event. Moreover, ignoring the sincerity of the ladies who offered the tribute was a problem.

“It is not the time to take them now.”

However, Kang Chul-In had a thought and made a wise judgement.

It didn't matter with the offerings.

It was Sovereign's right to receive offerings from the subordinates.

But, the things that weighed his mind the most was the place and the ladies as the subject who gave the offerings.

There is no position that needs someone to be careful and aware of other's gaze, as much as Sovereign. Those in high status are all like that, but especially Sovereign is the highest position, he had to do it more.

"There is no free things in the world. Even if it is not a big thing for me, but they are precious things for them. Besides, if that position is open to the public, there will be troublesome things. Every single act of my life here is going to be interpreted as the official Sovereign."

For example, let's say that Kang Chul-In receive the watch from the lady an with orange hair. So, what will happen?

It was the thing that her late-grandfather wore. Despite the price, that watch contains a symbolic meaning. Maybe the lady with orange hair would think that Kang Chul-In accepted her heart.

What if he take the ring that descended for generations?

The lady who offered that ring laughed, but showed her inner feelings in a glimpse. Perhaps she had been pushed by her parents to come out.

What if he takes everything?

If he takes everything like that, it would make gossip. How does he deal with the ladies who offered their body and heart? That would be more troublesome.

The person who became a Sovereign had to doubt even the simple tributes as being suspicious. There were many ladies with pure motives, but the problem is the haughty things within them. Who will be Kang Chul-In's woman also could be a problem.

Of course, there must be the kind heart within them.

However, it would be unfair to receive only the offerings of a specific individual. But it was not easy to not receive any of it at all. It was obviously a tiring situation in many ways.

Therefore, Kang Chul-In had to show his wisdom.

“You.”

Kang Chul-In’s finger pointed at the impressive girl with maroon hair. People’s gaze turned to the girl whom Kang Chul-In pointed at once.

“Pardon!”

The surprised girl got in the wind.

“My, my Lord, I...!”

Rustler’s daughter, Lana, was amazed and confused.

“I will accept yours. That tribute, gave it to me.”

Said Kang Chul-In.

“My, my Lord... This... is very... tacky...”

“It’s fine.”

“Then... My... my lord... I... will... give you... this thing... I made... by myself...”

Lana’s offering was a flower wreath that looked like a necklace and made of wild flowers. As a matter of fact, based on price, her offering was the cheapest among all.

However, Kang Chul-In’s choice was correct and wise.

“Why... is he choose that?”

“A wreath made of wildflowers... I offer this to you, lord!”

“A little lady and her flower wreath! It seems you will only take the pure heart only!”

As Kang Chul-In has chosen to take only the wreath of the little lady, he rejected the talk that he will ignore all of the sincerity, and dealt with the problem about women. The past Kang Chul-In would not have taken such a sophisticated political stance.

“I’d rather be in a battlefield a hundred times.”

While thinking about that, Kang Chul-In get down the horse and headed towards Lana.

But...

Plop.

Lana has collapsed.

“.....”

Just by thinking of standing close to the Sovereign, would surely make somebody faint.

“...Lucia.”

“Yes, lord.”

“Take that child to her parents and hang the wreath on the horse saddle.”

Kang Chul-In found a suitable compromise because he could not hang the wreath on his neck.

“Let’s go.”

Leaving behind the minor incident behind, Kang Chul-In climbed on his white horse with the wreath and headed towards the inside of the land.



Even after he arrived at the Sovereign’s hall, Kang Chul-In did not rest.

First, he ordered Timothy to give the Slayers the land’s first-class pass and paid for the accommodations and food

After that, he personally met the bereaved families of those lost in the Peacock

Dragon's hunting, he came with informality, comforted them and paid the compensation.

He also met Commander James.

He received some awards because he was able to protect the land safely while Kang Chul-In was away.

The awards for Lucia, Podorski, and 10 elite soldiers were postponed. They had to received the bigger award, to take a break now is the first award.

"Be generous with alcohol and food. Let's not be hungry for today."

Lastly, Kang Chul-In ordered the festival to commemorate the Peacock Dragon subjugation. It was the one thing he can do to lift the mourning and sorrows of the people and to raise the happiness to the highest level.

"Huu..."

Kang Chul-In, who had done all of this work, was finally able to sit down on the throne and take a deep breathe while looked like perfectly ripe green onion kimchi. The sound of singing praising the glory of Sovereign came loosely as if the festival had begun outside.

"Let's check this one last thing and rest."

Lastly, open [My Information] items.

[My Information]

Name: Kang Chul-In / Rank: Sovereign / Class: Warrior

Score: 140P / Complete Ranking: D-100 to the public

Level: 31 / Specialty: (B Grade) / Tendency: Conquest Sovereign

Kind: Human / Skill: Locked (Unlocked when Grand Sovereign status is obtained)

Spouse: – (Maximum of 7)

Charisma: 77 (B++)

HP: 119 / 1412 (Warning, please take a rest)

Mana: 63 / 1954

Physical Attack: 248

Magic Attack: 79

Physical Strength: 187 / Intelligence: 141

Agility: 161 / Spell Management: 20

Accuracy Rate: B+

Evasion Rate: B-

Fatal Blow: B+

Defensive Power: 17 / Endurance: 14

Finance: D- / Internal Affairs: E-

Resource: B- / Politics: C+

Diplomacy: C- / Command: A+

Attack: A+ / Defense: C-

Military Force: A+ / Charm: A+

Obtained Points: 30 (+5 Per level)

Remaining Points: 30

I have grown quite a lot.

Start from the level, it was from level 25, then hunting male Peacock Dragon +2,

While clearing the Secret Quest +1,

Ingested the Dragon Heart +2,

Then by killing the female Peacock Dragon +1 level, total it raised 6 levels, so it reached level 31.

As the effect of Dragon Heart the total amount of mana has also increased to 800.

In addition to this, if he eats Dragon Heart of the female Peacock Dragon, he can gain up to 1.5 level of the experience and mana.

Moreover, since he obtained 70P of Sovereign Points in this hunting, it would be more advantageous for him in the ranking competition of Grand Sovereign.

“Great. Now, if I can resolve the financial situation of the land, I can do conquest immediately.”

Everything was fine except the lack of gold coins being the only obstacle. He was planning on getting the whole eastern plains of Dongjun right after finishing in the finances.

It was that time.

Urgh!

The pain began to spread out when the stitching on his side burst again.

“Now... I really need to get rest.”

In a three-week hunt, he battled with the Peacock Dragon, he has done a variety of work with the serious injury on his body. If it happened to the others, they would have collapsed ten times at least.

“Your Majesty!”

It was when Kang Chul-In was trying to take the lid off the potion held to his mouth.

“Mr... Mr. Dorian!”

Lucia ran in a hurry and told him the bad news. It was a news that similar to a Death Sentence to Kang Chul-In, who was trying to be able to breathe.

It was very interesting!

Author's words

* Last time, there were 70P of the Sovereign Points missing. While hunting the male Peacock Dragon the Sovereign Points were increased by 70P and now Kang Chul-In's points are 140 points. You do not have to look back at the previous chapters.

*The stats window will not appear frequently. I will use it only in the necessary part as an indicator to show how much Kang Chul-In has grown. Because I want to tell you more of the story than the amount of points he get by the stats window... (sorry)

*Ah, Dorian is remained.

Chapter 41

Teaching Down

“...what could happen to that fellow.”

Kang Chul-In answered with a grim voice as he is fatigued.

“He is recovering from the trauma, but due to the exhaustion of losing extreme mana, it seems that the flow of mana has mixed up. If we leave it like that, I think he won’t make it through the night...!”

The matter was pretty serious.

“So, it was that.”

But, Kang Chul-In’s mind was different. He knew how to improve Dorian’s condition. There was a very simple and easy way.

“Cut the heart of the Peacock Dragon in half and feed it to him, help him absorb the mana. He will be fine.”

Female Peacock Dragon’s heart, half. That’s enough to cover Dorian’s condition.

“Th, That!”

Lucia surprised.

“Dragon Heart is a spirit elixir. I think that Mr. Dorian’s life is important, but it is a treasure.....!”

“Investment.”

“.....!”

“Lucia, don’t look at me like a small fry.”

“I, how can I dare to see Your Majesty as such a disgraceful sight!”

Lucia glared to show she was being treated unfairly.

“How can you draw a big picture by being stingy? It seems like the value of the Peacock Dragon’s heart made your hands tremble, I just want to do my best for the future instead of following the mainstream thinking of the continent.”

“Your Majesty’s words are right.”

“It is not giving him all, just half, it is a plenty amount to invest. Moreover... it would be troublesome to let him die. He must live.”

“Alright, sir. I will feed the Dragon Heart to Mr. Dorian and help him absorb the mana.”

“No, I will do it myself.”

Kang Chul-In stood up from his throne as though he had trouble.

“It will be more efficient if I do it myself.”

Mana’s intensive recovery using Dragon heart. Rather than simply ingesting, let someone help in absorbing the mana was the proper way. Of course, Kang Chul-In is a better choice than Lucia.

“Lord! With that body! You need to immediately rest!”

“I know. I’ll take care this one thing only then rest. I have a limit too...”

But Kang Chul-In did not finish his crazy words.

“This.”

Kang Chul-In fainted because of the dizziness and giddiness.

“The limit.”

That was the last one thought by Kang Chul-In.

“Lucia... wait a moment I need... help...”

Kang Chul-In tilted forward like in a slow motion. He kept on holding on but in the end he collapsed.

“My Lord!”

Lucia, who really startled, hugged Kang Chul-In immediately.

“My lord! Are you okay? Stay awake! Lord, Lord?”

Lucia, who was worried about the half-conscious Kang Chul-In’s safety, found a strange thing at the end of his words that was unclear.

“Is, is he sleeping...”

Kang Chul-In didn’t fall unconscious because of an emergency to his health. He just fell asleep as he is fatigued, there was no other signs to Lucia.

“Whew... He does everything so well but taking care of his jade body like a baby.”

Lucia laughed while pulling Kang Chul-In to her embrace. Kang Chul-In is sleeping with his face stayed between her busty chest.

“Lord, please do not bear everything on you shoulder only. Lucia is here, and there are other loyal people too. So... please rest when it is the time to rest. This Lucia will do better so that My Lord can rest comfortably.”

Lucia pledged to be a more faithful, more capable assistant.

“But... Your sleeping look... why so...”

Then her face blushed.

Kang Chul-In’s face, who was usually as hard as a tiger, was calm after sleeping. His look when he was sleeping like a baby, stimulated her maternal love strongly.

“Lord, please forgive...”

Disgracefully, Lucia dared to touch Kang Chul-In’s jade body.

Lucia’s white fingers gently swept Kang Chul-In’s head. Kang Chul-In, who fell into a

sleep as deep as the deep sea, didn't notice it.



The next day.

In the end, Kang Chul-In had to be side by side with Dorian to get treatment.

“Does it make sense that the winner and the loser look the same.”

Kang Chul-In was impressed while he was looking at Dorian, who was still sleeping.

Something was missing because the person, who did the stupid thing, or the person, who reached for the goal till the end and won, were both cared for as patients.

“Urgh...!”

Since then Dorian woke up two days later.

“Here, here is...”

“My land.”

“.....?”

Dorian raised his upper body toward the voice that he heard.

No, he tried to raise it, but he had to lay down again because of the severe pain.

“Urgh!”

“It was impossible, though.”

In the eyes of Dorian, who turned his head, he was seeing Kang Chul-In, who was lying on the bedside and reading the book of Pangea continent.

“How, how come.....”

“You are dead and come back alive, that's all.”

“Ah...”

“You don’t need me to nag at you, right? Because you, yourself, know what you did wrong better than I.”

“.....”

Dorian’s face hardened by Kang Chul-In’s admonition.

“I... I did that kind... of mistake...”

Disgust feeling swept out Dorian in a blink.

Ah, How stupid and foolish his action can be?

He was one of the first and the best soldiers in the world who served in special forces SAS, and was active in the conflict area. He knew better than anyone else how catastrophic an individual’s recklessness in a team unit battle could be. Therefore, the feeling of disgust that Dorian felt was beyond imagination.

“It was possible.”

The voice of Kang Chul-In flowed to the ear of such Dorian.

“Unfamiliar places, unfamiliar enemy, and unfamiliar skills. The distinction between you in the past and you in the present has totally ruined your judgement.”

“.....!”

Dorian’s face was covered with unexpected encouragement.

“We are the dimensional travelers.”

Kang Chul-In said this.

“I am constantly in conflict and agony between the me from the earth and the me from Pangea Continent. Actually, it’s not that different... I’m just confused by the changed environment and abrupt power. I have ever been like that.”

“.....”

“If you get into that state, normal accidents would be impossible. Everyone does something crazy at least once. Like you.”

“Is it...”

“It was something you had to go through once anyway. Because you got burned, you’re better prepared for the future. Actually... even I do not feel like letting it go.”

“.....!”

“If you have any reason to do it, then it would be better to do it. If you had been alone, you’d be dead by now.”

It was like that.

Kang Chul-In’s action, which caused Dorian get mad and stirred up, was actually meant to look ahead and as a test for Dorian.

“Don’t be in a hurry. It has been two months since the summons took place. Just think about whether you were too greedy in these two months. I’ve seen it once, so I believe you won’t do it again but... remember, it is important to hold on to the center of yourself tightly and not let it go.”

Kang Chul-In, who had said that so far, took a sip of the beverage that the caretaker had left.

“Oh, I will send the bill to your land.”

“What, bill? Treatment fees?”

Dorian was panicked when the money talk came out.

“If you swallowed the Peacock Dragon’s heart, shouldn’t you pay money?”

“Dragon... Heart?”

“Your mana got mixed, so I wrote it off as a remedy. You supposed to feel it, right? The total amount of mana must be increased much than before.”

“.....!”

Dorian opened his eyes.

'Po, Powerful mana... It seems added 20% more than before.'

Kang Chul-In's words were indeed true.

"How much can I charge?"

"Errr... I appreciate it but,... how much would it be... it seems... expensive..."

Dorian shed cold sweat. It was difficult to gauge how much Peacock Dragon's heart was worth.

"Okay."

Kang Chul-In smirked and said.

".....?"

"Do you remember your promise to me?"

"The promise that I will come whenever you call?"

"Just remember that. Just be thankful and work it out to pay me."

"Alright! I will surely pay this debt."

Dorian grasped both of his fists. Kang Chul-In was in fact being restrained, but unfortunately Dorian did not notice it.

"However..."

".....?"

"Are we friend (buddy) now?"

"....."

Kang Chul-In turned his eyes.

Friend?

Has he ever had a relationship with a friend?

Probably not.

A relationship called friend for a Sovereign was like a proverb of the international relation that says there are no permanent enemies, and no permanent friends, only permanent interests.

Especially if the opponent was the same Sovereign, it was even harder. Because when the relationship breaks down, the crash is just different from just friends.

“Maybe it’s okay.”

But, he thought that if it was Dorian, it would not be bad.

Dorian could be regarded as Sovereign, which emphasizes his own activities rather than having power, a godly strong adventurer. He wasn’t a hitman of the Baldur Alliance.

“Anyway the twisting moment is over”

If the distance in this life also get wider... then that time he should eliminate Dorian.

“Friends or whatever...”

Kang Chul-In said.

“Think as you like.”

“Hmm?”

“I’m tired.”

Kang Chul-In, who did not want to let the words like ‘friends’ out from his mouth, closed his eyes by covering them using the book, he was reading. He stop the conversation as he did not know what to say.

“Okay, as long you think that we are friends, then let’s stop.”

Dorian interpreted what Kang Chul-In said according to his thought then humming happily.

At that time.

“Your Majesty, it is time to eat.”

A maid came in to the room and informed them it was lunch time.

Grumbling!

Just at that time, Dorian’s stomach alarm sounded.

“Will you wake up?”

“Ah, yes.”

“Master Dorian’s meal is not ready yet. You have to wait about 30 minutes.”

Unfortunately, the meal brought by the maid was only enough for one person and there was not enough portion for Dorian.

“I’m fine.”

Kang Chul-In spoke unexpectedly.

“Give it to him.”

“Your Majesty, but this meal is made by Assistant Luca by herself.”

“Give it to him.”

“Yes, sir. Then I will prepare your meal right away.”

“Do it.”

She put the spectacular meal in front of Dorian and went out of the room.

“Wait a minute, are you sure is it okay to give yours to me?”

“I said I am not hungry.”

“The maid said your assistant made it by herself. Can I really eat it?”

“It doesn’t matter.”

“Re, really?”

“Of course.”

“Hmmm... then I’ll eat it thankfully. Because I was starving that I thought I was going crazy.”

Dorian picked up the fork.

“Wow, Lucia’s skill was unexpectedly amazing. It looks appetizing and it even smells good. She seems to fight well and even cooks well.”

“You said you are hungry?”

“Oh yeah. I’m hungry.”

The fork took a piece of meat in the stew. If you look at the steaming meat in a glance, it was such a mouth-watering visual...

“Then let’s try it...”

Dorian bit the meat.

“.....!”

Then...

“Bleh!”

He immediately spit it out.

“What, what is this! Why is it so bad?” *

Dorian’s face that was becoming white, was like a sick man.

“What was actually this thing made from?”

“The meat of the Peacock Dragon.”

“Wh, what?!”

“It is good for your body. Eat it all to make quickly recovered your body.”

“Was it, the Peacock Dragon’s meat usually not good?”

“No way.”

“Then...?!”

“Lucia... can’t cook well.”

“.....”

“Still... once your hand touches it, you should eat everything. Eat it, you won’t like to see Lucia’s anger.”

“It, it is hell... The meat tastes similar to tires...”

Dorian made the tearful face.

“Picky eater is the worst.”

“It is not the problem of picky eater.”

“Aren’t you British?”

“I am Scottish...”

“The tasteless food is normal, though.”

“Even though like that... This is so bad... Even the demons in the hell would not eat it.”

“Whatever. But once you touch it, you need to finish it.”

“.....”

After all, Dorian was finally able to handle the dishes made by Lucia after repeatedly eating and vomiting at the toilet for several times.

“You... Kang Chul-In... this wicked fellow...!”

A fool was a fool like always.



At the same time.

– The phone you are calling is not active. You are connected to the voicemail and the connection fee will be charged.

Again.

– The phone you are calling is not active. You are connected to the voicemail and the connection fee will be charged.

Again.

– The phone you are calling is not active. You are connected to the voicemail and the connection fee will be charged.

And again.

“Chul-In... please... please take the call... please...”

Lee Chae-Lin cried out.

It is interesting!

Chapter 42

Trade and Alliance (1)

Kang Chul-In reported back to Earth through the warp gate as soon as he recovered.

“Please be swift. I, Lucia, will wait for my lord.”

Lucia saw him out.

Laputa’s most trusted advisers were too busy executing Kang Chul-In’s “Special orders”. They had to accomplish all of their given orders before he came back.

“It’s going to be around 2 weeks.”

“That is too long.”

“My hands are tied. I have business back home.”

“I am afraid that I might wither to death while waiting for you my lord.”

“.....”

“Please remember that I am waiting for you and hurry back.”

Lucia looked like as if she was in despair, she looked like a puppy who lost its master.

‘I really don’t understand why she acts like this recently.’

Kang Chul-In could not get used to Lucia’s change after the hunt. He also thought that he was not like her.

Think about it.

167cm, size D, skinny waist, broad pelvis, and strong thighs. Lucia was a merciless glamor who easily out-ranked other female kinds.

And her face?

Sharp eyes and horn-rimmed glasses cool beauty, which reminded of a strict professional woman. There isn't a woman who's cute puppy form cannot go as well as she is now.

"...Well, I will have to come back once the business is over. I did order some things to be done, so I won't be gone long."

"You should do so."

"I will."

He stood at the warp gate with a huge sack on his back.

There were all sorts of items and trading good samples between the Earth and Pangea. His plan was to proceed a trading business after consulting with Mr. Kwon on the items in the bag. Money? He will be able to buy a private jet after a year.

"Please take care of the land."

"Do not worry, my lord."

Then, he ran the warp to head to Earth.



As soon as he arrived, Kang Cheul-In went to the parking lot and opened the trunk of a Mustang and loaded his cargo. The cargo, which included gold and other things, easily exceeded 100kg.

"The meat."

Realizing that there was something missing, he pulled out a precious wrapped meat.

It was the meat of peacock dragon.

Needless to say, it was not an ordinary cut of meat.

The meat he brought with him was the equivalent of neck chain of a cow and there

was only 3kg of it in the gigantic body of a peacock dragon, so it was a very rare meat.

'I do have to fulfill the duty of a son.'

He was to bring the meat to his mother.

A peacock dragon's meat had a special effect.

Anti-aging, increase of immune system, the increase of strength, fuel energy, etc. The meat's worth was more than a common restorative. No, the meat of peacock dragon could be the best restorative there is.

It was different from the unverified health food where it was impossible to know the benefits other than the gossips around it. The effect took place after a couple of pieces of the meat. This was the real deal.

'And for Mr. Kwon.'

He also had the meat for Mr. Kwon.

It wasn't as good as the neck chain, but it was a good cut.

Mr. Kwon was going to be his business partner, so it was better in many ways for him to restore his youth.

After placing the meat separately, Kang Cheul-In drove the Mustang to Bucheon. Kang Cheul-In was going to present the meat to his mother before anything.

Vroom-!!

The 2020 Ford Mustang Coupe 5.0L GT coughed out a heavy exhaust sound.

'It is time to get a new car. I will have to move too.'

As the fund grew, he started to think of moving and getting a new car. It was nonsense for a lord to live in a small studio of 33 m².

And the Mustang... It was a great car but it wasn't a car for a lord. He was not going to sell it but was going to keep it in his collection. He collects cars.

While heading to Bucheon, he turned on the radio.

As always, he read newspapers, watched TV and listened to the radio to ease the gap between the two places, just after he comes back.

- Now, foreign affair news. The young heir of the Rothchilds, Alex Rothchild, has announced that he is a dimension traveler. It is reported that Mr. Alex Rothchild has shown the ability to use psychic powers in front of many of the Hollywood's celebrities.

The very first news on the radio was that of a very unpleasant one. Kang Chul-In frowned.

He changed the channel. It was better to listen to a cheesy radio station than to listen to the news of the Rothchild's.

- The government announced to postpone the restriction against animals and plants brought from the other world.

He didn't actually change the channel to a music station.

- The High-level adventurer Mr. Lee Sang Deuk subdued a trio of adventurers and handed them over to the police. Mr. Lee Sang Deuk is known to be...

The world was changing.

'The market will grow.'

Kang Chul-In thought of the near future.

Thanks to the growing trade between the Earth and Pangea, the Republic of Korea entered into a record-breaking economic boom. Needless to say, that the man who made that possible was Kang Chul-In. The world was calm before the storm, and the fire was in its smallest state, yet.

Kang Chul-In turned on his iPhone as he got closer to Bucheon. He wanted to call his mother as well as see the missed call he had.

Missed call: Mother (7)

Missed call: Du Sik Park (3)

Missed call: Mr. Kwon (1)

7 missed calls from mother, 3 from Park Du Sik and 1 from Mr. Kwon. It was not bad considering he was out of Earth for a month. But... There was one who left him hundreds of calls.

Missed call: Lee Chae Rin Assistant Manager (287)

Lee Chae Rin, she was the lord with the abundance skill.

He checked the time stamp.

“.....?”

The last call was from 30 minutes ago. She must have called him over a week like this.

He turned on the mobile messenger application to see why she was trying to reach him.

Lee Chae Rin: Mr. Chul-In. I have decided to live like a lord!

Lee Chae Rin: Are you busy?

Lee Chae Rin: Are you still in Pangea?

Lee Chae Rin: Let's meet when you come back! I haven't forgotten about that talk last time. I hope we can keep a good relationship as partners.

...(omit)...

The messages from a week ago looked fine. But the content of the message started to become a bit worrisome.

Lee Chae Rin: Mr. Chul-In... Your phone is still off. Would you please call me back when you come back?

Lee Chae Rin: I can't reach you today too...

Lee Chae Rin: Mr. Chul-In...

Lee Chae Rin: Are you going to be out for long?

Lee Chae Rin: Help me... Mr. Chul-In, please help me... If you see this message, please call me as soon as possible...

He could feel the desperation from the messages. He couldn't know the scale of the trouble that she was in, which made her this desperate. It was clear that something had happened.

Just then.

He was receiving a phone call and the screen showed the name 'Lee Chae Rin Assistant Manager'. The call came as soon as he turned on the phone.

"This is Kang Chul-In."

He answered.

- ...Chul-In?

Chae In's voice was trembling over the phone.

"Yes, it's me."

- I've been waiting... for you...

".....?"

- Can we meet? Where are you? I'll be there.

She sounded desperate. A person on the edge of a mountain will sound like that.

"I can't at the moment."

But Kang Chul-In refused her request.

It was time to serve his mother some good food. No matter how bad others need his time, that couldn't come before his family.

“I’m on my way home. Let me call you back tonight. I don’t have any batteries left too...”

- I’m in Bucheon!

“.....?”

- I thought you would go to meet your parents when you come back... I’m in a hotel in Bucheon. I remembered that your mother works in Bucheon local market so...

“.....”

She was very desperate after all. So desperate enough for her to pack up and wait nearby.

- Please give me a call when you are done.

“.....”

- But please meet me. I... I need you, Mr. Chul-In...

Her attitude made him wonder why.

‘It is not that difficult to meet her.’

Kang Chul-In remembered what he said to her when they met before.

‘But I will only help you when you really want to live like a lord.’

‘You?’

‘I won’t spoon-feed you, but yes.’

He even said this.

‘I will end it here. Think about it and if you think you are ready to live as a lord, then call me. Then I will think and treat you like one.’

‘Ok...’

It is said that a man must keep one's word.

Kang Chul-In promised Lee Chae Rin that he would help her once she made up her mind to live as one. And She wanted to live as one.

Now, Lee Chae Rin is begging me to meet her. Because he gave his word, he is obliged to grant her request.

Even so, there was a possibility that she might become spoiled if he helped her without any hesitation. No wonder people say that if a favor continues, the recipient thinks that it is their right. He had to be picky about it in the beginning.

'Fine, I will meet you.'

Kang Chul-In decided to meet Lee Chae Rin. A thought crossed his mind. He thought of a 'reasonable reason to grant her wish' so he thought this will be an ideal deal for both of them. He also needed her as she did of him.

But before that...

"Ms. Chae Rin."

He said.

"Didn't you told me that you were going to live a life of a lord?"

He had to make sure of the things that bothered him.

- I did... yes.

"Then you will have to fix your attitude first. A lord is never servile, nor they beg of other's favors. Even if they want something from another, they will have to mask their real intentions and make the opponent to do it for them. That is the foundation of being a lord. Your actions only remind me of the Assistant Manager Lee Chae Rin, not a lord."

-

Kang Chul In's words made her speechless.

“I wouldn’t even meet you in other circumstances. A naïve lord is nothing but a prey for other stronger lords. Like how the lions never talk to the deer.”

-

“This is the last chance. If you show the same attitude as today in the future... Then that will be the end of our relationship. If you want to talk to me as one lord to another, you have to show it to me with your attitude.”

- I’m sorry... no. I will. I will keep in mind what you have told me, Mr. Chul-In.

Her voice recovered slightly from before. She seems to realize the position of a lord from Kang Chul-In’s advice.

“Let’s meet now.”

Finally, Kang Chul-In told the very words that Lee Chae Rin wanted to hear the most.

- Re... Really?

“But, before that.”

-

“There is one condition.”

- Anything. Anything is conditions will be heard if I can meet you, Mr. Kang Chul In.”

“Are you good at BBQ?”

- BBQ?

Because of this unexpected term, a slight hint of dumbfounded tone could be heard from her voice.

Chapter 43

Trade and Alliance (2)

Kang Chul-In had no intention of meeting Lee Chae Rin for free.

If she wanted to meet him this bad then, there must be a reason or she wanted to depend on him so badly.

If Lee Chae Rin was a commoner, it wasn't a problem, but she was a lord which made him act colder against her. That is why he had to set a term on this meeting, even if that was a minor thing. And that term was... BBQ.

Yes.

Kang Chul-In has no talent in cooking meat or in preparing a nice meal.

How was he supposed to respect his parents if he was not good at these things? I had to use whatever was available, and that was Lee Chae Rin.

“Son.”

Park Soon Ja called Kang Chul-In in the most subtle way.

“Where did you meet her?”

“We used to work together.”

“Did you notice that she is so bubbly and pretty? I guess she would be a perfect fit for my son's bride, don't you think? Oh my... I would like to have her as a daughter-in-law this instant.”

Park Soon Ja's eyes were locked on Lee Chae Rin who was washing the vegetables at the sink.

“It's not like that.”

Kang Chul-In shook his head.

“You may know her as a close friend. We are not involved romantically in any way.”

“But still. I hope you try, ok?”

“.....”

He did not answer.

‘At least there won’t be any mention of blind dates anymore.’

He felt relief.

‘Funny, how this tedious problem can be a burden.’

Kang Chul-In could not believe the difference between a lord and Chul-In, his mother’s son.

Even so, he had no intention of boasting his position as a lord in front of this mother.

He was a bad son to her in the past.

He was so into money and power that he was neglecting his one and only blood family in this world. A son who could only send his mother thousands of dollars but never show up for 10 years. He had to feel guilty on his actions.

“Mother, it is ready. Please sit here.”

The dinner was set and Lee Chae Rin led Park Soon Ja to the table with an amiable attitude.

“I told you to just sit here, you shouldn’t have done anything!”

“No. Mr. Chul-In’s mother is my mother too, so how could I just simply accept the dinner table? Don’t think about it and sit here.”

“Oh~ you adorable one.”

“Please, sit here~”

The two women were having such a nice time. Kang Chul-In was the only one who could not get used to this atmosphere. What would Lucia think if his merciless strong lord was in this situation...

‘But... It is not a bad deal.’

Even if he could not be used to the scene, he was satisfied by the deal he made with Lee Chae Rin, as he looked at his smiling mother.

He set his term to meet his mother, set a dinner table and cook the meat for her instead of him. Also, he asked her to hint as if they were seeing each other.

If was also a big lie to his mother, but it was a reasonable choice.

Losing her husband Kang Han in the early stage of marriage and to raise Kang Chul-In alone, Park Soon Ja wanted her son to get married fast and start a family.

Maybe it was an obvious thing.

To the Kang Chul-In family, there wasn't a lot of cousins and the ones who were there were trouble. The caused stress and acted worse than a bad neighbor. That is why Park Soon Jan wanted to have a daughter-in-law and a grandchild.

The thing is, Kang Chul-In didn't want to date someone, nor go on blind dates. That is why his mother was so keen on this subject.

So, the only option that he could think of was, to put Lee Chae Rin before him, giving his mother false hope and escape the deadly marriage pressure. It was as if the pressure was the spear and he dodged it with the shield called ‘Lee Chae Rin’.

At least she won't mention it for another few months.

How knows? He might actually have a girlfriend by then.

“What kind of meat is it?”

Tasking the well-cooked peacock dragon meat, Park Soon Ja was surprised.

“Son, where did you get this? It is something I've never tasted before?”

Of course, it was a meat of a dragon, so she would never have tasted before.

“It’s bear.”

He gave an excuse.

“I went to Japan and the owner there gave me bear meat... It’s supposed to be a special type of meat so, I brought it for you.

“Really?”

“Yes.”

“That is delicious... but why aren’t you eating?”

“I don’t like it... There are some people who like it and not. If it’s ok, please have some more.”

“But still... You should try some.”

“I’m ok.”

It was a meat for Park Soon Ja so, he wouldn’t eat a piece. Lee Chae Rin also did not touch the meat.

“Phew!”

Park Soon Ja sighed after finishing the meal.

“Why is it so hot in here?”

She was flapping her hands as if the meat was working.

“Ms. Stay with my son. I feel like I’m overheating so I want to go outside. I guess that bear meat really worked. Why do I feel so good?”

She should be.

Eating a peacock dragon’s meat is like the neck chain of a cow. So, she won’t feel sick for a good 1, 2 years.

“I’ll be back, my son. Spend a little time with this young lady, will you? Have a good time! Ok~??”

She hurried off after leaving some hint in her words. She must have liked Lee Chae Rin so much.

‘I should get her a good item.’

Kang Chul-In saw the back of his mother and thought of items that could protect her, that was at least over the Unique level. If he got her something like a ring or an earring, 2, 3 of them will be able to protect her from any harm.

Lee Chae Rin was struggling to start a conversation.

“Let’s talk, shall we?”

Kang Chul-In started.

“No, let’s talk. Lord Lee Chae Rin.”

She startled a bit to the change of the tone of his voice, but she realized that he was addressing her as a lord, so she accepted it.

“Ok, lord Kang Chul-In.”

She nodded.



The two talked on the roof of Kang Chul-In’s house. This was to prepare from when Park Soon Ja coming in without a warning.

“Help me.”

She spoke bluntly.

“What?”

He answered in short.

“Anything.”

“Anything?”

“I am under attack.”

“Already... Well, that can happen.”

He realized that her land was located in the same Pandemonium region. Kang Chul-In held his face with great stress.

‘Crazy Basterds.’

While the lords of the mainland were all concentrating on the inside, the lords of the outskirts of Pandemonium region was starting a war already. This could only be explained by the sanity of their leaders.

‘As I thought. The reason why I don’t know Lee Chae Rin.’

Now he knew why she could not show up during the Lord Union meeting.

She already lost.

The longest she could survive was probably until right before the first Lord Union meeting on 25th December 2012. She will be stripped off of her title before then... Or worst be killed by the other lords.

“So.”

He continued.

“How am I supposed to help you?”

“That is...”

She hesitated.

After listening to him over the phone, it was clear that she was trying to express herself as a lord.

“If you are trying to act like a lord at this point, it is too late. Just tell me. This will not be done in a day.”

Kang Chul-In smirked. She already begged to him. There was no dignity to be protected.

“Send... Send me a supporting army. You are a lord too. If you send me the troops...”

“I oppose.”

He cut the conversation sharp, declining Lee Chae Rin’s request.

“If what you want is supporting troops, then there is nothing to be discussed further. It is a waste of time.”

“Why? You said you’ll help!”

“I can give you personal advice for help. But sending troops is a different matter.”

It was.

A simple advice and sending a whole army was different in scale.

A War is not a joke.

Asking for a troops was not to be said even as a joke. Even if Kang Chul-In wanted to help her, he had to put things straight.

“Lord Lee Chae Rin.”

He looked at her straight into her eyes. Clear to the point.

“Think about it. The meaning of asking for troops.”

“.....”

“Is there a reason why my people have to spill their blood to protect you and your land? Of course, they will die for you if I give the right orders. But where is the meaning in that? Have you ever thought about the blood my people will have to spill because of your request?”

“.....”

His cold answer made her freeze. She didn't expect him to decline the request like this.

“Mr. Chul-In.”

But she didn't give up.

“I'm not asking without a price.”

This showed how desperate she was.

“Let's make a deal.”

She finally showed her side of the card.

“Deal?”

“I will pay for the troops you send me.”

“What kind of payment?”

“I have a lot of money. A lot.”

“Then why don't you buy troops with your own money?”

“That... is not that easy. To be honest, even if I have the money, I can't win this war.”

There must be a reason for this.

Otherwise, the equation of [Money = troops] should have worked. Like the politician and father of the Latin language, Cicero said 'A War's never-ending engine is the infinite fund.'

“So, you will give me money if I send the troops?”

“Yes, please.”

“Fearless, you are.”

“.....?”

“There is almost no interaction between the lords and you are here asking me to welcome my troops to your land. I don't know why you would say that in this kind of situation.”

“What... do you mean?”

“A bloodless victory, and betrayal.”

“...!”

“It's only going to take about 30 minutes to get to the headquarters. Then your head will be paraded on top of the castle wall and I will take your land as a whole. No aftermath. Nobody is looking over you and me, so there is no need to make a valid reason for it, don't you think?”

“How can you be so cruel...!”

“Don't act naïve. A lord's enemy is a lord. You can always be betrayed by the one that you believed the most. That is a lord.”

His words were harsh but right. What would you do about it? That was the life of a lord.

“Are... you going to do so? Will you pretend to help me and march in with your soldiers, cutting my head off? Taking everything that I have?”

Her voice trembled. How she sobbed while saying these words was so pitiful that most of the men would become soft.

“If necessary, yes.”

But Kang Chul-In was not one of those men.

“.....!”

“But... I would look over this if that person is the one who helped a clueless newbie.”

He thought of the old days with Lee Chae Rin.

There was one woman who looked after Kang Chul-In, while he was working for a human garbage, psychotic bastard boss. It was over 10 years ago, but thinking about it, he had some affectionate feeling to Lee Chae Rin.

“So... Will you send the troops?”

She asked as if she was hanging from a cliff.

“Of course not.”

He still had no intention of sending the troops. He had his own problems.

Laputa’s army was only about 100 men. He had no treasury to back him up to buy units or expand the land.

What if he landed the troops and other lords attacked?

Thanks to the dragon-safe buff, there might not be another dragon, but what if another kind of monster attacked?

“Then... That will not happen. I understand now. How you feel.”

“Understand what?”

“Aren’t you saying that you will not send me troops? I need those troops. If you can’t send me them, then I have no business with you anymore. Huh... It is my fault. I tried to lean on you. I’m sorry, to show such a disappointing side of me...”

Her tears dropped as she spoke those words. The tears looked frozen after being swept by the cold winter night’s breeze.

“Too fast. It is too soon.”

He spoke.

“What... do you mean?”

“Don’t you think that there is a way, even if I did not send you those troops?”

“.....!”

Lee Chae Rin lights up at the slight chance of hope.

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