

The Return of the Disaster-Class Hero

CHAPTER 81: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

[Breaking news. Do you remember the top star Ms. Jin Yuri? She had fallen into a vegetative state due to the Blood Fog incident ten years ago.]

[We have just received news that Ms. Jin Yuri has woken up!]

[Although ten years have passed since then, everyone is once again talking about the Blood Fog incident]

[Back then, the place where the incident occurred had been under the Sagittarius's protection. Therefore, the appearance of a Red-rank at that place was shocking.]

[It was this incident where the Archer Saint lost the public's trust as a Saint, right?]

[That's correct. The casualties reached the thousands. The blame for the monster's appearance was placed on the Archer Saint's feet. The Archer Saint had taken a lot of heat from the public.]

[Moreover, one of the casualties had been a princess....]

[Anyway, Ms. Jin Yuri has awakened. Does that mean the other 5,000 people in their vegetative states have woken up....]

The world was excited at this joyous news. However, one person screamed.

“This is nuts! How can people wake up after ten years? What nonsense is this!” Yoon Siwoo was in the penthouse used by high-rank Gemini disciples. He had come here for his older brother to deal with Chun Sungjae. However, he almost fainted when he saw the news.

“I was told the hospital had turned off the machines keeping those people alive! So why would that actress awaken after all these years?”

Yoon Siwoo was one of the men responsible for the Blood Fog incident ten years ago. So this development made his situation precarious. The mere fact that the Blood Fog was killed gave rise to anxiousness in his heart.

He wondered. ‘If all the people from that time wake up...’

At that moment, a voice broke him out of his thoughts.

“This is nothing.”

“Hyung!”

It belonged to Yoon Siwoo's big brother. Yoon Taewoo was with the Libra Saint. He was the S-rank disciple that the Libra temple had sent to Gemini temple for the past ten years so that he could study away from home.

Currently, Yoon Taewoo was working as a Gemini disciple. Of course, he was studying abroad in name only. He was a spy with a mission to steal the Gemini temple's techniques. Moreover, he was skilled enough to be an SS-rank.

“Hyung! The situation is grave! What should we do!”

“Hey!”

With a woman in each of his arms, Yoon Taewoo gulped the alcohol. Then, he glared at his brother. “Get out! You're souring the taste of the alcohol.”

“Ah! Hyung!!”

Boom!

In the end, the older brother slammed the alcohol bottle on the table and waved in annoyance. The women with him got the message; they quickly left the penthouse.

Kwahng!

As soon as he heard the door shut, Yoon Siwoo said with anger, “Hyung! We had to go through so much to place the blame on the Archer Saint! If... If the Archer Saint's wife and his subordinate wake up...”

Yoon Taewoo let out a sharp laugh. “Are you playing with me? They'll never wake up.”

“!”

“I don't know about the other five thousand people, but those two had their souls eaten.”

Chun Jiwoo, the Archer Saint's wife, was the one who had witnessed these brothers summon the monster. Of course, the brothers had taken care of Chun Jiwoo and Lee Jaewon.

The appearance of the Blood Fog was placed at the feet of the Archer Saint. Then, they created a narrative that the Archer Saint had been lax in his defense.

“The chances of them waking up are zero unless the souls are regenerated,” Yoon Taewoo explained.

The younger brother relaxed. “Right! Even the Aquarius Saint can't do that.”

Suddenly, Yoon Siwoo realized he had forgotten something. “Uhh, yeah! Hyung! Chun Sungjae ran away with our magic tomes!”

“Hmph. The Gemini magic tomes?”

“No! Of all the things he could take, that b*****d ran away with the <Prison Magic Tome>!”

“What?” Yoon Taewoo stood up in fright. “Are you telling me you lost that, too?”

“I mean... Huhk!”

Taewoo grabbed his younger brother by his neck. “You know the importance of that item! How could you lose it?”

<Prison Magic Tome> was one of the forbidden books the Yoon siblings had secretly taken under the nose of the Gemini Saint.

‘Numerous gods cooperated to make that prison.’

The Pisces had used the “Intrusion-proof pocket dimension” ability. The Scorpio had used the “Absolute Hell Trap.” The Gemini had added “Binding that can restrain even a god.” The Leo had chosen “The world’s most dangerous beast” ability. The other eight gods had also used their abilities.

All twelve gods had come together to make this divine prison. They had locked away important beings in there.

Yoon Taewoo had been tasked to bring out someone specific from that book. And what the hell did his brother just say?

Yoon Taewoo yelled, “You crazy b*****d! There’s information about him in there...!” If that got into the hands of Lee Gun or Hugo, it would cause a lot of headaches. ‘I guess that doesn’t matter.’

Even the Gemini Saint was incapable of using the Magic Tome. Why? ‘The strongest amongst the Fairy Monarchs, the first Fairy Monarch, had sealed it.’

This was the reason the Gemini Saint Heiji tasked her disciples with making contracts using Soul Invocation. She had done that to summon the first Fairy Monarch.

‘However, none of her disciples could make a contract with the first Fairy Monarch.’ How could disciples summon a being that even their Saint was unable to? Tens of millions of magicians existed, yet none of them could do that.

“Whatever! I want you to go to Lee Gun!” Yoon Taewoo looked at his brother.

“What? Why would I go to Lee Gun? Why!”

“What do you mean, why? You said Lee Gun might have killed the Blood Fog! What do you think will happen if they analyze the corpse!” the older brother explained.

“...!”

“So, trick Lee Gun into believing you’re approaching him as part of a research team. Or you can say you’re there for auction purposes. Just find a way to recover the corpse. I’ll chase after Chun Sungjae.”

“I... I understand!” The younger brother quickly exited the penthouse.

Unknown to the brothers, a woman was watching this exchange in secret. She was one of the women Yoon Taewoo had chased out.

‘As expected, the two brothers had the Prison Magic Tome.’

The woman brushed her front hair to the side, and something amazing happened. She turned into a young man. This young man was none other than the Korean Gemini general, Choi Sunghyuk. The general had used a s*x-change spell on himself.

Canceling the Eavesdropping spell. Choi Sunghyuk ground his teeth. ‘I know I made a mistake, but I can’t believe I had to do this!’

He hated using these spells. ‘S**t. If only I hadn’t given Lee Gun the Gemini contract...!’

The Gemini temple’s elders had used that as leverage and asked Choi Sunghyuk to carry out this task. Of course, Choi Sunghyuk wasn’t doing all of this because of that disaster magnet Lee Gun.

‘Of all the things he could do, Lee Gun severed the connection to the Gemini...!’

Due to that, the Gemini temple had become incapable of using their skills; they were close to being ruined. The entire organization was in a state of panic. Currently, the temple was using their god’s stored energy to use spells.

‘We can barely maintain our temple. This is a precarious situation.’ Eventually, the stored power would run out. ‘We have to reconnect with our god again.’

The only solution to this situation was in the Prison Magic Tome. However, when the Gemini temple’s elders had tried to take out the Prison Magic Tome, they had found an irregularity.

– What? The magic tome was stolen?

– Yes...! That is... Someone stole it and left behind a fake!

Therefore, they had been looking for the stolen item, and the two brothers just proved that they had stolen the tome.

This wasn’t surprising. Why would the Libra Saint send one of her kin to the Gemini temple without an ulterior motive?

Despite that, Choi Sunghyuk had found something troubling. ‘Why did that magic tome have to fall into the hands of Sungjae?’

The general’s face turned pale. It was inevitable. ‘S**t! If the tome is in Sungjae’s hands, there is a high probability he’ll hand it over to Lee Gun! That damned god of calamity can’t have it!’ Choi Sunghyuk had to somehow entice Sungjae before that.

Soon, the space he occupied was distorted. He had teleported.

* * *

The Archer disciple Goat couldn’t hide his shock. The reason was the scene caused by none other than his Saint.

“That is right! Our Gun caught a toad as big as a house!” Hugo mumbled.

“Oh! Does that mean the Virgo Saint didn’t catch the monster? It was Lee Gun?”

“The defense force said the Virgo Saint killed it...!”

“No way! Gun beat it to a pulp!” Hugo clarified their doubts.

“Ohhhhhhh!”

The shouts of joy left Goat dumbfounded. ‘Didn’t he say we have to keep a low profile?’

Yes, Goat was in a bar right now. In front of him was Hugo, who had taken residence on top of the stage. With a mic in his hand, the Archer Saint let out triumphant yells toward the civilians.

The drunk Hugo picked up the mic. “It was a monster that even the Virgo Saint couldn’t kill! Yet, Gun killed it in one blow!”

The crowd cheered. The disciples from other temples murmured amongst themselves. They had been wondering what had happened.

“Since this is the Virgo Saint’s territory, we assumed the Virgo Saint dealt with the monster!”

“No way!”

“I don’t think the Archer Saint would lie...!”

The monster had threatened even the third dome. After hearing the rumors, the reporters had arrived as soon as they could, but they had been barred from getting close. Therefore, the public was curious to know the details.

“Did Lee Gun really kill the monster? It wasn’t the Virgo Saint?”

“The Virgo Saint wasn’t even there!” Hugo answered,

“As the Archer Saint, you probably—”

“I couldn’t kill it either! In that sense, our Gun is amazing! The twelve Zodiacs s**k!” Hugo wasn’t stopping.

A Saint was trash-talking his god? Goat grabbed his head.

On the other hand, Lee Gun calmly drank his vodka. “Ah! His drinking habit is still the same.”

The words baffled Goat. “Lee Gun-nim. What the hell is he...”

“What? Your leader has been at it for 3 hours.”

“...?!” Goat was freaked out, but Lee Gun had no intention of stopping Hugo. In fact, the man cackled.

[The people’s faith toward the Serpent Bearer has significantly increased!]

[The people’s faith toward the Serpent Bearer has significantly increased!]

[The people's faith toward the Serpent Bearer...]

Not just anyone, but a Saint was doing voluntary missionary work for Lee Gun. This was as sweet as the situation could get. Moreover, the reward was out of this world, too.

Goat looked like he wanted to die as he placed his hand over his face. Of course, the Archer's SS-rank disciple could guess why these two men had come here.

'This place is the closest to the Virgo Saint's holy ground.' It was the best place to observe their enemy's movements. Goat understood their strategy, but... 'Saint-nim's drinking habits came out again!'

From what he heard, Goat could surmise that Hugo was telling the crowd about a variety of Lee Gun's exploits from twenty years ago. Of course, this wasn't a bad thing.

"I can't believe the Archer Saint is so generous in talking about Lee Gun."

"It seems Lee Gun isn't the weakest amongst the Saints."

"Should we donate to the two of them?"

In the end, Goat sighed. He was about to leave to buy some hangover cures when he heard a question.

"Are you ok with not going with Sungjae?"

"What?" Goat didn't understand.

Lee Gun discreetly took out Goat's credit card from his wallet. "I'm talking about the general of your temple. It seemed he was a special person to you."

"I'm one of the Ten Stars, an SS-rank disciple. I can't leave behind my Saint-nim!" There was no way Goat would allow Lee Gun to settle the bill with his card. He clung to the card. "Also, Jihoon and Yeorin went with Sungjae. They are both S rank. They are powerful enough. I don't need to go with them."

Lee Gun laughed in a knowing manner. His smile held a shrewdness. The two Archer disciples were his fans. He was thinking about bringing them into his camp at a later date.

"Well, he was the smartest amongst the fifty of us."

Lee Gun's face scrunched up at Goat's words. He was having a hard time believing Oh Taeksoo had fifty disciples.

Goat grunted as he tried to extract the card from Lee Gun's hand. Even though it looked like Lee Gun wasn't putting any effort into it, his fingers didn't budge from the card.

'S**t. Why is he so strong?' Goat wondered. "Anyway, Jaewon hyung-nim will be ecstatic when he wakes up! The general spoke highly of Lee Gun-nim too... Huhk!"

Goat fell backward. Lee Gun's eyes turned round as he let go of the card. "What the hell? I know your general? I don't recall that name at all."

The expression on Goat's face was a sight to behold. "At the very least, you should remember the names of the people who fought by your side!"

"Nope! Remembering over three characters is annoying."

"Thankfully, you remember my name."

"Yes. Idiot Goat."

"....."

'This guy...! Really!' Goat got up. He glared at Lee Gun while dusting himself off. "Do you know this? In reality, Saint-nim considers you a nuisance. I know you're his friend, but you shouldn't continue to—"

He couldn't finish as he heard something.

"Everyone! Listen to this! Gun beat up an SS-rank from our house!! Isn't it amazing!" Hugo was still at his praises.

"Ohhhhhh! Does that mean Lee Gun is stronger than an SS-rank!"

"An SS-rank from the Archer temple is nothing!"

"That's right! The SS-rank is nothing!"

Goat felt like crying. He slammed his head against the wall. As for Lee Gun, he cackled as he held a chicken leg.

Of course, Goat acknowledged that too. Lee Gun was amazing. Even if Goat hadn't seen Lee Gun in action, his Saint Hugo admired Lee Gun. That was an acknowledgment in itself. However...

"Look at this! Lee Gun gave me this horse carving! It saved my life! Isn't it amazing!"

"Ohhh! Is it a protection holy item?"

"May I touch it once?" someone asked Hugo.

"Of course!"

Boom!

The User who had touched the horse carving suddenly fainted. People screamed.

"Hey! What's wrong! Are you ok?"

"This guy must have had a few too many drinks!"

Hugo was surprised.

“Saint-nim!” The flustered Goat approached Hugo. The item came to a stop on his feet. Surprised, Goat tried to pick up the horse carving. “Huhk...!”

The next moment, Goat was swaying on his feet. ‘M-my magical energy...!’

Half of his magical energy had left his body in a flash. As if to make matters worse, his magical energy headed toward Lee Gun!

Realizing what this holy item was, Goat glared at Lee Gun. His initial impression of the item had been right! It was an item that took away magical energy! “Lee Gun-nim! This isn’t a protection-type holy item! How can you give him this?”

That item affected an SS-rank this badly. A regular User had fallen because of his magical energy being drained. It was a dangerous item!

However, Lee Gun remained indifferent. “He’s sharing with me. I’m self-sufficient, so my store of magical energy is small”

“?!”

Of course, Hugo had made a direct contract with a god. The magical energy he had was on an entirely different level than normal disciples; his attributes were different, too. Hugo wouldn’t be affected if he was being drained by this much, but...

“No! This is a step too far!”

“It’s fine. It’s fine. He’s a bit on the slow side, so he won’t even notice it.” Lee Gun was nonchalant.

“?!” Those words baffled Goat. ‘How is this ok?’

“If you’re jealous, I’ll give you one too,” Lee Gun added.

“I don’t need it!”

Boom boom boom!

Suddenly, everyone heard heavy steps. The crowd outside was making a commotion after seeing something.

Kwahng!

“Lee Gun! Are you here!”

The door was slammed open.



CHAPTER 82: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

“Lee Gun! Are you here!”

Someone slammed open the door. In fact, both the front door and the back door opened at the same time.

“Lee Gun! We are here for you!”

The commotion surprised the people in the pub.

“W-what the hell! What’s going on!”

A group of men dressed in black entered the pub through the back door. To hide their identities, all of them had worn black coats.

Another group stepped in through the front door. The men in this group wore pure white armor. Their armor suits were unique with the symbol of the Virgo Saint engraved on them. The symbol looked as if someone had connected two “m”.

Alongside the group wearing pure white, soldiers clad in pure white uniforms surrounded the pub.

Clank clank!

The soldiers held guns in their hands. Although guns were ineffective against monsters, they worked on regular humans.

This development caused a stir inside the pub.

“Those pure white... They are the holy knights of the Virgo temple!”

“High-ranked Virgo disciples?”

The disciples from the other temples became vigilant. Troops supposed to be guarding the Virgo Saint’s holy ground had come here. They weren’t supposed to show up in a place like this unless they were on special business.

The crowd pointed at the group wearing pure white.

“They are the inquisitors of the Virgo Saint...!”

“!”

Their gazes then headed to the ones wearing white leather armor.

All the Saints were different, but most of them had similarly divided their temples into three internal factions. Naturally, the god and the Saint resided on top of this structure.

The first faction was field troops; they were called the Cluster, which contained the generals and disciples. The second faction was the Elders; they wrote the rules and managed the temple's internal affairs. The last faction was the Inquisitor; they monitored and took disciplinary actions.

Of course, the Archer Saint didn't have such a system. His temple was made out of a small number of elite disciples. The Leo Saint had decided to get rid of the elders and the inquisitors. However, they were the exception to the rule that only had the Clusters. The temples of these two Saints were considered eccentric...

"Anyway, why have the Inquisitors come into town?"

"Didn't they just say they were looking for Lee Gun?"

"What? No way!"

The crowd gulped. The inquisitors were a somber bunch that hunted down disciples who were deserters or criminals. They also hunted down disciples from other temples.

Moreover, these inquisitors belonged to the Virgo Saint. The Virgo Saint's territory was called the great empire of the west, and the Saint was very strict about the separation of the three powers. His inquisitors were famous for being cruel.

Therefore, everyone raised their guard.

"Is the Virgo Saint trying to steal Lee Gun's achievement?"

"Since the inquisitors have come here, you might be right!"

"Wait a moment! What about the dudes wearing black?" someone asked as they saw the intruders that had entered the pub through the back door.

"Are the ones wearing black part of the Inquisitors?"

"That's odd! I've never seen that group at the Virgo temple...."

"I'm sure they are a team under the Virgo temple."

This assumption was ruthlessly shattered the next instant.

The group wearing pure white angrily spoke toward the group in black, "What the hell are you guys?"

"Who are you to look for Lee Gun?"

"We'll settle this depending on your answer!"

The group in black responded in anger.

"What business do you have with Lee Gun?"

"How dare you follow us! If you interfere with our matters, we'll take care of you first!"

“...?”

The crowd had no idea what was going on.

On the other hand, Goat’s mouth fell open. His eyes were sharp, so he had discerned the identity of the group wearing black.

‘They are from the Leo temple!’

These men had worn black coats, but...

‘How are they supposed to hide that?’

The Leo disciples were unique. All Leo disciples over Rank B were muscular, macho men. Moreover, their faces were menacing too. There was a reason Chun Yooha, who was considered the height of beauty, stood out within the Leo temple.

The words from the Leo temple’s group were unsurprising.

“The Leo disciples found Lee Gun first! F**k off, harem disciples!”

“What did you just say?”

“If you don’t back off, you’ll become our enemy too!”

“You stupid muscle-brained idiots!”

The two groups unsheathed their weapons at the same time.

Cheng!

“They are all enemies!”

“If they don’t leave in ten seconds, we’ll kill all of them!”

Hugo, who still stood atop of the stage, became vigilant. Goat took out his bow; well, he attempted to.

Goat’s face turned pale when he tried to draw the bow on his back. ‘What the hell? Where did it go?’

His bow was missing! Goat continued to grope at his back, but the bow really wasn’t there. He was starting to wonder if his bow had combusted into thin air.

Then, a man in his thirties, who looked to be the leader of the group wearing pure white, stepped forward. “Listen, Leo disciples. It seems we both have business with Lee Gun. How about we go in order and take care of our business that way?”

“Alright! Of course, we’ll go first.”

“That’s okay! We don’t mind.”

“Haha! You’re speaking my language…”

Suddenly…

Boom!

“Kyahhk!”

“Ahk!!”

An explosion erupted amongst the legion of the Virgo disciples.

Dumbfounded, everyone turned to look at a young man nonchalantly lowering his bow.

“You guys are dead.” It was Lee Gun. He had stolen Goat’s bow. As if that wasn’t enough, he had lain waste on his enemies.

Laughing, he said, “You guys stopped the faith. It was rising so well.”

The targets of the attack cursed him out.

“What the hell? Have you lost your mind?”

“Gun!”

The Virgo disciples and the Leo disciples reacted to the shout at the same time.

“What? Lee Gun?”

“Did he say Lee Gun?”

“Where is Lee Gun!”

Arrows came flying once again.

Kwahng! Kwahng!

The two groups were flustered. They were losing before they could even attack.

“W-wait a moment! Lee Gun! We aren’t here to fight—”

Kwahng!! Kwahng!! Kwahng!!

As if Lee Gun wanted to shut them up, arrows came flying in once again. The disciples didn’t even get to finish what they had to say. Almost half of the Virgo disciples and the Leo disciples had suddenly gone down.

“Let’s talk! Please!”

Kwahng!

The arrows infused with magical energy refused to hear their voice. Emitting green light, the arrows smashed the ground with their incredibly destructive power!

Kwahng!!

“Retreat!”

“S**t! He’s not the Archer Saint, so how can he do this?”

“I taught him how to shoot the bow! What about it!”

Kwahng kwahng kwahng!

“Ahk!”

The disciples finally tracked the trajectory of the arrows.

“Over there! Lee Gun is over there!”

The Leo disciples desperately turned. It was the same for the Virgo disciples.

“Elder-nim! It’s that young man over there!”

The leader of the Virgo disciples was surprised.

Lee Gun waved his hand as if he was glad to see them.

“Please wait! Lee Gun-nim! It’s me! Pelio....”

“I told you guys to get out!”

Kwahng!

“Kuh-huhk!”

Lee Gun spoke as if he was angry. “I want both sides to get out! Let me raise my faith!”

“...?!”

He didn’t know what Lee Gun was saying, but the elder of the Virgo temple had come looking for Lee Gun.

Pelio became desperate. “Lee Gun-nim! Do you not remember me?”

Lee Gun didn’t care. “F**k off before I send an arrow to your dome. Ten! Nine!

“Eight....”

“Wait a moment!” For some reason, Goat was shocked. “That person is the prince of Belgium. He’s Prince Pelio!”

“That’s right! It is me!” Pelio responded. Everyone looked at him in surprise. Pelio was a man in his thirties with a stylish beard.

Taking off his hood, Pelio continued, “Lee Gun-nim! Do you remember me? I shared a meal with you twenty years ago when you came to Belgium!”

“How the hell would I remember that?”

“Huhk!”

“Elder-nim!”

Lee Gun drew back the bow in anger.

Goat was taken aback. “Lee Gun-nim! He’s royalty—”

“Who cares? Do you think him being royalty will stop my arrow from piercing him?” Lee Gun replied.

Lee Gun’s instant hesitation left Goat speechless. As for Belgium’s prince, Pelio was frightened.

As if they preferred this development, the Leo disciples stepped forward.

“See!”

“The Virgo disciples should get out of the way!”

The Leo disciples quickly brought forth an LCD. Then a loud sound rang out from the screen.

[Lee Gun!]

The voice was familiar, surprising both Hugo and Goat. Then, a familiar face appeared on the LCD.

[What? Can you hear me?]

[Ah! Saint-nim! That’s the mic— You shouldn’t break it! Just speak into it!]

[Lee Gun! Are you there!]

Lee Gun furrowed his brows. The man on the screen was the Leo Saint. Stevens was wearing a hospital gown, so he had to be in the hospital. One of his disciples was holding up a minicam, so this was being shot live.

The Leo Saint yelled confidently through the LCD.

[Lee Gun! Make me my weapon...!]

Crash!

The display instantly broke. The disciple holding the display broke into a cold sweat.

Lee Gun harshly said, "That b*****d is still alive."

The Leo disciples shook. They had come here to make a request, but for some reason, all of them felt like they would be sent back in body bags. As if to make things worse, the Leo Saint seemed to have become a target again, which the disciples were ok with.

"It's fine even if you don't remember me!" Prince Pelio stepped forward. It seemed the prince was dying to speak as he got straight to the point. "Please kill the Virgo Saint for us!"

"!"

"If you agree to our request, we'll return Lee Gun-nim's holy item, which is in the Virgo Saint's possession!"

* * *

While the Virgo and the Leo disciples were confronting Lee Gun at the pub...

"Lee Gun! Are you here!" The Virgo Saint entered a shop. The shop was empty, however. The only one to look up in surprise at Kevin was the owner of the shop.

The Virgo Saint ground his teeth. "Why isn't he here? I heard the Archer Saint was doing missionary work here!"

The Virgo Saint was directionally challenged, so it was taking him a bit of time to find Lee Gun.

* * *

An isolated island near Canada!

This island was a beautiful island where one could hear the sounds of the waves. It was located within the Scorpio Saint's territory. The island housed a white building, a hospital.

"They really are Madam and the general!"

Chun Sungjae's party finally found the people they had been looking for. The group was in a clean hospital room with white curtains fluttering in the gentle wind. Two patients lay there with a screen in between them. The two looked like they were asleep.

Chun Sungjae couldn't formulate any words. The people in front of him were relying on life-prolonging treatments, but it was clear that they were the two he had been looking for.

The young man could merely bite his lips. When Chun Sungjae didn't move for some time, Yoon Yeorin placed a hand on his shoulder. "Sungjae. Go on...!"

Chun Sungjae finally nodded, then approached the two of them. He took out the Hugo figurines from his bag. Then...

Bbah-gahk!

He twisted the figurines to break them open. Something surprising happened.

Shweek!

Lights appeared out of the figurines and sank into the bodies of the two people lying there. It was as if the souls were returning to their right places.

“Is that all we have to do?”

The group looked down at the two of them with eyes full of anticipation.

Thirty seconds!

Sixty seconds!

Five minutes!

Time continued to pass, yet those two showed no signs of movement. This made Chun Sungjae and the two Archer disciples scrunch up their faces.

“As expected, it isn’t working!”

Of course, Lee Gun did say the probability of this succeeding was a coin toss. Despite that, they had been hopeful. Thus, their disappointment was expected.

“We should try it again!”

Suddenly, they heard an unfamiliar voice.

“It’s useless, idiot.” The voice came from the doorway to the hospital room.

Chun Sungjae’s face distorted when he saw the person standing in the doorway. “Yoon Taewoo!”

At the same time, the Archer disciples took out their bows and shot their arrows. Their loading speed was so fast that it was invisible to the naked eye.

Kwahng!

However, the light arrows failed to pierce Yoon Taewoo.

“...!”

A barrier pulsed in front of him. This was a spell.

Yoon Taewoo laughed as if he found them too much. “You shouldn’t attack someone so suddenly like that. I’m practically a family member of Sungjae. I’m a senior who’s like a big brother to him. I’m only here to pay my respect to the sick.”

These words left the Archer disciples baffled. How could he speak such words when he had entered the hospital room with such killing intent?

As if to prove this point, Yoon Taewoo raised his hand. “You Archer disciples are getting in my way. F**k off!”

“Sungjae— Koohk!”

Boom!

The two Archer disciples screamed as they fell. A restraint spell took hold of them. The problem was that the restraint spell wasn't under the domain of the Gemini.

‘Libra!’

They were in a tough spot. The Libra was a top god amongst the twelve Zodiac gods. In terms of quality and quantity of disciples, the Sagittarius was last. So, the Archer disciples could never measure up to the Libra disciples.

While their personal skills were similar, the power difference between the gods created a crushing difference.

‘Also, we don't have a general or someone of Goat's caliber here!’

Soon, Yoon Taewoo walked toward Chun Sungjae. Chun Sungjae started to chant a spell, but Yoon Taewoo didn't pay any attention to it.

“You really learned all the bad habits. Whatever! I want you to give me the magic tome you stole. Do it while I'm being nice. If you do, I won't kill you.” Frighteningly laughing, Yoon Taewoo added, “Of course, I'll have to kill those two.”

The surprised Chun Sungjae quickly put up a barrier. A blue light surrounded the Archer disciples and the two people in the beds.

Yoon Taewoo grinned as if he found Sungjae's actions laughable. “It won't matter if you put up a barrier. Who cares if you're a genius? You're only an A-rank.”

Then, he punched the barrier.

Kwahng!

However, an enormous amount of energy pushed back Yoon Taewoo's fist. It was only one blow, but the barrier had succeeded in stopping it.

Chun Sungjae gritted his teeth, while Yoon Taewoo grinned. “You've grown a lot. I never expected that little kid was you. I didn't recognize you until they said it was the Archer Saint's son!”

Kwahng!

The barrier instantly broke. Due to the backlash, Chun Sungjae vomited blood and crumpled to the ground.

Yoon Taewoo headed toward the two people in the beds.

Chun Sungjae got up as if he was going to protect the two. Even breathing seemed painful for him as he gasped.

“Idiot! Don’t waste your energy. I don’t know what you planned on doing, but did you really think they would wake up? This is something even the Gemini or the Aquarius can’t fix.”

“...!”

Chun Sungjae had clenched his eyes shut as he stood near the beds. However...

Someone beside him grabbed his hand. Then, the coin Lee Gun had given to him shone.

CHAPTER 83: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

Hugo couldn’t believe his ears. ‘What the hell did they just say? They want us to kill the Virgo Saint?’

The statement was so shocking that Hugo almost sobered up on the spot.

Goat was also surprised. ‘What kind of disciples want the death of their Saint?’

This was unheard of. It was like asking someone to assassinate the pope or a king. The Zodiac Saints were that special. Moreover, the prince was making the request in front of a large crowd.

The confusion Goat felt soon turned into surprise when he surveyed his surroundings. ‘What the hell!’

All the people in the pub were frozen. It was as if time had stopped. It was the same for the Leo disciples, who had been fussing over their tablet a moment ago.

Yes, this wasn’t a regular magic spell.

‘This is the Virgo’s Divine skill!’

The Virgo was a battle-type god, but also the god of contract. This skill was the Virgo’s <Contract Space> skill.

In other words, Prince Pelio had created a pocket dimension where he could make a contract with Lee Gun. Aside from the ones making the contract, the pocket dimension excluded everyone else. The time for those excluded people within a certain radius would stop as well.

Of course, the people under the skill wouldn’t be aware of the time stop. From their point of view, only a second would’ve passed, the blink of an eye.

The skill should’ve affected Goat in the same way. ‘So why am I...’

It didn’t take Goat long to realize why he wasn’t frozen. Hugo had placed his hand on his shoulder. Goat felt a powerful magical energy. It seemed Hugo had counteracted the Virgo’s influence using his power.

This surprised the Virgo disciples.

‘At the end of the day, he’s a Zodiac Saint.’

The Virgo disciples had wanted to exclude everyone except Lee Gun.

“You’re asking Gun to kill your Saint after you put up this barrier. What are you guys trying to start?” Hugo asked.

The Virgo disciples gulped when they saw Hugo’s hard eyes. A moment ago, the Archer Saint had been praising Lee Gun in a drunken state. Yet now, he was almost like a completely different person.

Of course, it didn’t matter. In the end, the Archer Saint was Lee Gun’s comrade. If he was included in this talk, he might become a big help. There was no downside to this.

Hugo spoke. “Don’t do anything funny— Kuhk!” Hugo grabbed his shin as he fell over.

After kicking him, Lee Gun said, “Talk to me after you sober up.”

“Huh-uhk...!”

“S-Saint-nim!”

“Jeez! Really!”

Hugo felt like dying from pain. The Virgo disciples couldn’t believe what they were seeing. They were having a hard time picking up their jaws from the floor.

They never expected to see a Saint in so much pain. The Archer Saint was considered the weakest Saint, yet he could tank skills sent by a countless number of people. Therefore, they cheered when they saw Hugo, a Saint, in pain.

They had no choice. Why?

In truth, disciples couldn’t attack their Saints. This wasn’t just talk. Accomplishing that using their abilities was impossible, the reason being that their powers came from their god and the Saint.

It was like the creations couldn’t go against the creator.

A Saint could kill another Saint, but their guard was too strong for the disciples to do the same. However, Lee Gun might be able to...

“Please agree to our request!”

“We will return Lee Gun-nim’s holy item! Please kill the Virgo Saint!”

Lee Gun grinned when the disciples got on their knees to beg. His reaction was understandable. ‘They are offering to return the item when I was already planning on killing him.’

That wasn’t all.

“Our Saint stored Lee Gun-nim’s holy item in his treasure room.”

“It’s sealed uptight, but I am sure that item is <Heaven’s Punishment>, the weapon that rages when it drinks the blood of fallen beings.”

The revelation surprised Hugo and Goat.

‘Heaven’s Punishment.’

‘I didn’t expect the item possessed by the Virgo Saint to be that...’

On the other hand, Lee Gun laughed as if he had been expecting it. His weapon was really there. The Gemini Saint had told him that the Virgo Saint possessed his weapon.

Hugo was filled with emotions too. Lee Gun was a maker, yet he regularly fought monsters. He could do so because he had developed a clear battle strategy.

That was <Heaven’s Punishment>. Lee Gun could use any weapon as if it were an extension of himself, but Heaven’s Punishment was his main weapon when he faced monsters.

When people thought about Lee Gun’s weapon, Heaven’s Punishment was what they thought about. Above all else, it was the weapon that had killed Red Eye.

“You can even kill the Virgo Saint with it.”

“We’ll also give you all the Virgo Saint’s treasures.”

They were even offering him treasures.

Hugo had the same thought as Lee Gun. He mumbled as if he was dumbfounded, “We were going to kill him even if they hadn’t— Kuhk!”

Lee Gun kicked Hugo once again. “Sober up.”

“&*!”

It wasn’t hard to understand why these disciples were offering so much. Very few people knew that one of the twelve Zodiac Saints had locked Lee Gun in the tower. In truth, Lee Gun seldom teamed up with the other Zodiac Saints aside from Hugo.

There had been only one exception. The Devil’s Tower! It seemed the image of him joining with the other Saints had stuck in people’s hearts. Or maybe it was his legendary image as one of the first thirteen awakened beings.

People around the world thought Lee Gun was very close to the twelve Zodiac Saints and a comrade-in-arms of theirs.

As expected, the Virgo disciples looked at Lee Gun with anxious expressions.

“Of course, we know it’s rude to ask you to kill a past comrade! I’m sure this gets on your nerves!”

‘Nope. It doesn’t bother me at all.’ Lee Gun laughed. He wouldn’t go out of his way to explain that he was already en route to killing the Virgo Saint. That was unnecessary. He simply said, “Hey, toothpaste royalty.”

“!”

“Are you playing with me?”

“What?”

Lee Gun continued, “The Virgo Saint is a cherished friend of mine.”

“...?!” These words took Prince Pelio by surprise.

Hugo looked disgusted. Lee Gun was doing his snake oil salesman act.

Ignoring his friend, Lee Gun snorted. “You’re bold in bringing a request for me to betray a great friend of mine.”

Prince Pelio started to sweat.

The incident at Sophie’s press conference and the incident with Thousand Legs had made one thing clear. The twelve Zodiac Saints had never directly recognized Lee Gun, but it was clear that his strength had been undervalued for the past twenty years. It was a point of contention that the disciples still argued over.

The twelve Zodiac Saints had kept silent about Lee Gun’s power, so Pelio had assumed Lee Gun might be dissatisfied with them. He assumed it was why Lee Gun was acting in various ways against the twelve Zodiac Saints. According to the rumors, Lee Gun had killed Yang Wei.

‘I thought he had a big grudge against the twelve Zodiac Saints. Is that not true?’

Moreover, the Virgo Saint ground his teeth when Lee Gun’s name came up. There was no way they were on good terms. That was why Pelio had chosen to visit Lee Gun for this task. ‘S**t! Our plan was flawed...’

His train of thought was broken soon.

“However, you have your reasons for doing so.”

“!” The disciples looked at Lee Gun in surprise.

Lee Gun added, “I can make it my business if there’s sufficient reward to do so.”

The disciples’ faces brightened.

“Yes. of course!”

“From what I’ve heard, a Saint is a special existence for their disciples. There must be a reason you’re turning your blades against your Saint. You guys are too respectable to not have a reason,” Lee Gun inquired.

“That’s right! The reason—”

Lee Gun interrupted them. “Ah! I don’t need to know that!”

“!”

“What are they?” He asked.

“What?”

Lee Gun got to the point. “The treasures of the Virgo Saint?”

“Ah! That is...!” Soon, Prince Pelio started naming all the treasures.

Hugo and Goat recognized these names. Their eyes almost flipped when they realized how valuable those items were.

‘S**t. He’s on an entirely different level.’

As the poverty Saint, Hugo had known about it intellectually. However, he once again felt the power difference between him and the Virgo Saint, who was in charge of the empire in the west.

‘I get why he’s called the billionaire Saint.’

In contrast to them, Lee Gun looked unsatisfied. This made Pelio nervous, and he started offering treasures of his country. However, Lee Gun’s expression continued to worsen.

Suddenly, Lee Gun heard something, and his expression changed. Breaking into laughter, he said, “Guide me to the treasure room.”

* * *

Around the same time...

“Lee Gun! Are you here!” The rage-filled voice continued to ring as a man slammed the door open to a pub.

Boom!

The Virgo Saint’s face turned ugly when he looked inside the pub. ‘He isn’t here either...!’

Yes, the Virgo Saint still couldn’t find the pub where Lee Gun was. This was already his fifth dud. So he was close to losing his mind.

‘Why can’t I find Lee Gun...!’ Of course, Kevin knew he was directionally challenged. However, it was very rare for even him to be this lost. ‘It feels as if someone is interfering with me.’

No, this wasn’t just a feeling. Someone was messing with him. ‘Did Lee Gun make it so that I can’t find him? No, that’s unlikely. He’s not that kind of guy.’

Lee Gun wasn’t one to use cheap tactics like this. ‘Then who is it?’

At that moment. The Virgo Saint's eyes flashed. His gaze headed toward the back.

“Saint-nim?” As soon as the man met eyes with the Virgo Saint...

Poo-hahk!

A fountain of blood erupted.

“Huh-uhk...!”

One of the Virgo Saint's subordinates fell over with blood pouring out.

“S-Saint-nim!”

The Virgo Saint was the world's strongest swordsman. He had used his quick draw skill. The subordinates hadn't even seen him draw his sword.

The severed head of the disciple fell.

Boom!

Surprised, the Virgo disciples wondered what was happening.

“S-Saint-nim!?”

The Virgo Saint ignored them as he headed toward the severed head. Then, he raised his sword high.

Kwah-jeek!

Exerting strength in his arms, he stabbed down toward the face. This would be a gruesome sight, so everyone closed their eyes. However, that lasted for only a moment.

The sound of metal grating against metal rang out.

Ggah-gahk!

Something flew into the air, surprising the Virgo disciples.

“That's...!”

The item that fell from the sky was a tooth. It rolled on the ground.

The Virgo Saint had extracted a gold tooth. The problem was that it wasn't a normal tooth.

“That's the holy item of the Scorpio Saint!” Kevin was sure of it. This was the Scorpio's holy item, something needed to make a sophisticated trap.

[Labyrinth (Maze) Fragment]

Somehow, that disciple's body had this item inside it.

The shocked Virgo disciples covered their mouths in fright.

“Anyone near that item will lose their way...!”

Moreover, this was done by a Zodiac Saint, so the item had been hard to detect.

Of all the Zodiac Saints, this holy item belonged to the Scorpio Saint. Therefore, Kevin furrowed his brows. The Scorpio Saint had a connection to Lee Gun.

He muttered, “It seems some forces want to interfere with what I’m trying to do!”

The Virgo Saint wanted to use his elegant hand movements to clean the blood off the blade. However...

“...!” Kevin quickly turned his head.

“Saint-nim?”

“Someone broke into my treasure room!”

“What?!”

Kevin instantly returned his blade to its sheathe. Then, his steps became hurried.

* * *

“Currently, the Virgo temple is divided into two factions.”

The group was at the Virgo Saint’s main palace. They were headed toward the treasure room within the “Girl’s Palace.”

“The division is between the SS-rank disciple <Black Thorn>, one of the Ten Stars, and the Saint Kevin-nim.”

“Also, Kevin-nim has stopped fulfilling his duties.”

“Duties?”

“Yes. He refuses to listen to the Virgo.”

“Oh! That’s odd.”

The entrance to the treasure room was fancy. From the floor to the ceiling, it was plated with gold. It was reminiscent of the Palace of Versailles. This wasn’t the Saint’s main residence, yet it was ostentatious.

“The goddess ordered the Virgo Saint to kill the Aquarius Saint. For some reason, our Saint refused to listen.”

Lee Gun didn’t care what had caused the rift.

Suh-guhk!

“Kyahhk!”

Suh-guhk!

“Huh-uhk!”

Suh-guhk!

“How dare you, human!”

Transformed into scissors, Lee Gun’s slime ruthlessly cut the curtains in the room to pieces. Of course, these weren’t curtains. They were the Virgo Saint’s familiars.

Suh-guhk!

“Kyahhk!”

Suh-guhk!

“Help!”

Goat, who had been following Hugo, whispered, “Excuse me... what’s Lee Gun-nim cutting?”

“Constructs.”

“What?”

“Amongst the twelve Zodiac Saints, the Virgo Saint possesses the best quality clothes.”

“...?!”

With a bright face, Lee Gun continued to cut the curtains. No, they were the low-rank gods, the Constructs, in the form of curtains. Lee Gun looked satisfied as he laughed. “These are ingredients I’ll use to make clothes.”

He was cutting up the precious familiars that the Virgo Saint had cultivated. These Constructs’ attack attribute was low, but they were gods nonetheless. Their bodies were the world’s best fabric.

Lee Gun kept cutting and cutting.

“Kee-ehhkh!”

“How dare you do this to a god! Kuhk!”

Pelio watched Lee Gun work with an awkward expression. “Excuse me, Lee Gun-nim. I did say you could take all the items within the treasure room, but I said nothing about vandalizing—”

“What? Are you going to do something about it?” Lee Gun shot back at him.

“N-No. Do as you like. I guess they are only clothes. Ha ha ha!”

As he put away the highest-grade corpse, Lee Gun took out a coin from his pocket. This was inevitable. ‘The coin I gave him must have shown a reaction.’ This was a good sign.

“The Saint refuses to listen to his god. He has lost his way. Please help us.”

“Alright, I’ll do that after I get back my item,” Lee Gun replied.

The door to the treasure room was opened.

Ggeeek-

Suddenly...

“Lee Gun!”

He heard a familiar voice ring behind him.

CHAPTER 84: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

“Lee Gun!”

He heard a familiar voice ring behind him.

Lee Gun turned his head. A man stood in the golden hallway that was shaped like an arch.

The man was fuming. A distance of fifty meters lay between him and Lee Gun. This young man clad in a black shirt and a white jacket was Kevin Hazard, the Virgo Saint. Kevin looked like a celebrity with his light blonde hair.

Lee Gun looked at the Virgo Saint’s flamboyant figure with disdain. On the other hand, Kevin ground his teeth as he looked at Lee Gun and said, “I finally found you, Lee Gun!”

Hugo and Goat immediately took out their bows. The Archer Saint’s anger toward the Virgo Saint pierced the heavens. The Virgo Saint had trapped his friend in the Devil’s Tower and was responsible for the monster that had eaten his wife and subordinate; he was the culprit behind many incidents.

Of course, Hugo was angry.

“Let’s end this today.” Kevin ignored the others. Huffing and puffing in anger, he walked toward Lee Gun.

Silver light particles appeared around his arm as the arm turned into steel. This was the Virgo Saint’s blade. The blade was clearly different from the sword Kevin usually carried around his waist.

Recognizing the blade, Goat freaked out. ‘Royal holy item!’

This blade was one of the strongest swords wielded by the Virgo Saint, humanity’s strongest swordsman.

Winter Frost—the transparent and white blade looked like an ice sword. It emanated cold energy. Engraved on it were divine letters.

Everyone flinched at the sight. Sure enough, divine magical energy containing the cold winds instantly surrounded the sword!

[Northern Wind of January]

Kevin let out a murderous intent as he sent the fierce energy ahead of him.

Too-gah-gahhk!

Every disciple screamed.

“What the hell! We are in the palace!”

“That skill isn’t supposed to be used inside the palace!”

This skill was supposed to be used in a vast stretch of land like the US. It was a deadly technique that should be used against only monsters! Moreover, it was an AOE skill that the Virgo Saint never used unless he was fighting Red Zone rank or stronger monsters.

As expected, the terrifying destructive power of the skill ruthlessly destroyed the building.

[Caution! The powerful magical energy has an attribute disadvantageous to you.]

[You are under a penalty. Your durability and defense are not at their full capacities.]

[Your body’s upgrade is still going on.]

[Even a grazing blow to your body will be a mortal blow.]

The fierce ice storm destroyed all the pillars holding up the arches in the hallway. Then, it raged toward Lee Gun.

Kwahng! Kwahng! Kwahng!

When the ice storm was almost in front of him, Lee Gun gripped the scissors in his hands. Then, he pushed over half of his magical energy into the scissors.

Paht!

Exerting strength into his biceps, he took a big swing. A shockwave traveled forth as a direct counter!

Kwahng!

An incredible collision of magical energy ensued.

“Huh-uhk!”

The shock sent the ceiling flying.

Lee Gun let out a sharp laugh. The power energy had failed to send him flying or rip him apart. He managed to stand firm, green magical energy flashing at the tip of his scissors. Like a repulsive force, his magical energy pushed back the harsh storm.

Koo-goo-goo-goong!

Lee Gun didn't budge an inch.

Pelio, Goat, and the other Virgo disciples felt chills watching this scene.

‘This is nuts!’

‘He isn't even using a defense skill!’

In theory, stopping an attack skill without using a skill in response was possible. To do that, however, one had to have the capability to predict the skill movement, direction, and speed.

Basically, Lee Gun was aiming for the <Canceling> effect. It was the ultimate defense in theory. If the move was successful, it would be more effective than the greatest defensive skill in existence. Moreover, one could use this technique while the enemy's skill was on cooldown.

However, no one dreamed about using this canceling technique. If one had to make a comparison, the requirements for executing it were like reading the angle, speed, power, and direction of a bullet.

One could do that with only one's eyes and intuition. There had to be zero mistakes. This made executing the canceling effect impossible, and thus, most Users tried to awaken high-rank skills.

‘However, that man...!’

The level of experience they possessed was too different.

Goat gulped. As an SS-rank disciple, he knew how insane this was. The SS-ranks like him could probably pull it off, but in truth, they wouldn't have the b***s to carry out such a move.

A thought entered his mind. ‘There is a reason Saint-nim always praises Lee Gun-nim when he becomes drunk.’

If Goat had seen Lee Gun pull off such feats every day, he would also talk nonstop about it. In truth, the odd thing would be if one didn't feel a sense of shame when watching this scene.

Kwah-jaeek!

After taking on the murderous storm, Lee Gun swung his weapon.

Kwahng!

An enormous explosion erupted. The bitter cold storm that had been rushing forward at frightening speed suddenly disappeared.

Lee Gun's magical energy disintegrated the storm into small ice dust and dispersed it. This scene was reminiscent of shiny glass pieces dispersing into the air, an unbelievable sight.

Several Virgo disciples almost fell to their knees.

'He possesses incredible power.'

However, the Virgo Saint wasn't surprised at all. He smirked as if he was sure of it now. "You really are Lee Gun."

"...!"

Kevin had been quick to use his skill because he wanted to make sure the other man was Lee Gun. Of course, he had executed a skill he normally used on monsters, but Lee Gun wasn't human.

Kevin raised his sword as he let out a sharp laugh. "I had a hard time finding you, Lee Gun! Well, only I could've found you so quickly!"

"By the looks of it, you probably got lost again," Lee Gun replied.

"What!"

"I wonder! Did you get lost for five hours this time?"

"...!"

"You probably didn't listen to your subordinates either."

"...?!"

"Do you know why you're called directionally challenged? You walk without knowing the direction. You're the eunuch Saint, yet you're like a kid who gets lost. Aren't you embarrassed?"

Goat, who had his bow drawn, tilted his head in puzzlement. 'Eunuch?'

How had a man become the Saint for the Virgo? That had never made sense. And why was Lee Gun calling the Virgo Saint a eunuch when the world disparaged the Virgo Saint for being the harem Saint?

The more shocking part was that the Virgo Saint couldn't come up with a retort. This was to be expected since Lee Gun was right.

In fact, Kevin had been chosen as the Virgo Saint on the night that he had decided to sleep with his girlfriend for the first time.

The Virgo Saint became impatient. He imbued his sword with magical energy. “Whatever! Pick up your weapon, Lee Gun!” He stabbed the floor with his sword.

Kwah-jeek!

Something surprising happened.

[A powerful seal has been destroyed.]

The palace shook as it emanated silver light.

Kwah-gwah-gwahng!

A sound came from the treasure room. Normally, the enormous golden door to the treasure wall was sealed shut. However, when the Virgo Saint had used his skill, the treasure room’s walls had collapsed.

Something could be seen through those collapsed walls, a storage box that looked like a coffin. The coffin’s lid opened, and a very familiar item appeared from within.

‘That’s...’

It had a long handle like a spear and a wicked-looking blade. This weapon was an enormous ax. Although the weapon was far away from him, Lee Gun saw it wrapped up tight in chains. There was no mistaking this item. It was Lee Gun’s main weapon.

<Heaven’s Punishment>

It was the ax that everyone had seen in textbooks. The weapon stole everyone’s gaze.

Kevin yelled, “Lee Gun! Hurry up and grab your weapon! Let us settle this once and for all! I’ll erase your cursed number from this world!”

Hugo snorted at this development. “He brought out the weapon on his own!” This was a truly fortunate turn of events.

“This is great! He wants to take your head off with that!” After saying that, Hugo immediately shot his arrows.

Kwah-gwah-gwahng!

The arrows’ targets were Kevin’s vital points.

However, Kevin didn’t even need to look at the arrows. As he used his incredible swordsmanship, his sword danced in the air, making all the arrows blow up.

Kwahng! Kwahng! Kwahng!

Each arrow had enough power to deal a mortal wound.

Hugo pulled back on his bow. “Gun! Hurry up and get your weapon! I’ll keep him in check—”

Hugo didn't even need to say he would keep him in check; he didn't even get to finish his sentence.

Kwah-gwah-gwahg!!

When Lee Gun gestured with his hand, his weapon flew toward him. The coffin came along with it.

Boom!

Finally, Lee Gun put his hand on the ax, which was restrained by chains.

<Heaven's Punishment (SS rank)>

Among the weapons Lee Gun had made in the past, this was his masterpiece. It was a Gold-rank weapon. Only nine such items existed.

Moreover, this weapon had a special ability that whenever Lee Gun called, it would come flying to him. 'I can only call for it when it's in sight.'

Anyway, this weapon was a mutant like the slime. The ax possessed a consciousness. 'It decapitated Red Eye.'

Lee Gun had lost this ax when he fell into the trap; it was the moment when he had been taking a breather while the ax was embedded in Red Eye's corpse.

Kwah-jeek!!

Lee Gun ripped out the weapon from the coffin.

To the others' surprise, the coffin and the chains broke away as Lee Gun took full possession of the weapon.

[The item is strongly marked with the power of the Serpent Bearer]

When Lee Gun's hand grasped the weapon, the ax shook as if it were shivering.

Doo-doo-doo-doohk!

It had thought it would never meet its owner again. This situation seemed as if the weapon was sobbing.

Lee Gun laughed when he felt the weapon trembling. He raised it. At that moment...

[The activation requirement for the weapon hasn't been met yet.]

Lee Gun laughed. Activation requirement! This weapon had to s**k in the blood of fallen beings to activate itself. That was why usually Lee Gun started off by striking the low-ranking monsters first to activate the weapon.

As if he were making an offering, Lee Gun would start a battle by decapitating a monster. He used to do it so much that it had become a habit.

The way Prince Pelio and the other Virgo disciples looked at the scene changed. If Lee Gun could activate this weapon, he could take care of the Virgo Saint.

“S**t! Don’t interfere, Archer! My business is with Lee Gun!”

Kwahng!!

Kevin swung his sword. He was angry at Hugo, who had successfully stalled him. His move made cracks appear in the ceiling as the enormous gold walls started to fall.

Then, the Virgo Saint immediately rushed toward Lee Gun. Moving almost as fast as Lee Gun, he instantly closed the distance between them. “Let’s fight! Lee Gun!”

“I don’t want to.”

“?!”

Lee Gun flicked his finger.

[Get Hit Instead of Me (F)]

“Huhk!” Hugo, who had been far away, had been instantly summoned in front of Lee Gun. This took the Archer Saint by surprise. In this strange situation, the first thing he saw was the Virgo Saint’s blade. In fact, the blade was only fifty centimeters away! The blade came at him as if it was trying to split him in two.

“What the...!” Hugo desperately stopped the Virgo Saint’s blade.

Pahng!

He clapped his hands as if he were catching a fly. After blocking the blade, the Archer Saint swore. “Hey!!! I’m a long-distance archer. Why would you summon me in front of you! F**k!”

The Virgo Saint’s blade contained enough power to split open Hugo’s head. The only reason he had withstood the attack was the fact that he was a Saint.

“Get out of the way, Archer! This has nothing to do with you! If you don’t let go, I’ll cut you down too!” Kevin shouted.

Hugo became angry. “It has nothing to do with me?” Magical energy exploded forth from the enraged Archer Saint.

[Sun Detonation]

Kwahng!

The Virgo Saint quickly created some space between them. Immediately after that, arrows started flying at him.

“You released the monster that killed my wife and subordinate, yet you dare say this has nothing to do with me?”

“What?” Kevin was baffled.

Hugo continued, “Also, you stabbed Gun. You’re the one who dropped him into the trap!”

“What the hell are you talking about! That wasn’t me!”

“How dare you deny it!”

Goat was taken aback by this sight. He wanted to help Hugo, but he found Lee Gun’s reaction odd. “Aren’t you going to help him?”

Lee Gun laughed as if Goat were talking nonsense. “Why would I fight that attention hog?”

“What? The Virgo Saint caused harm to Saint-nim and you!”

“Ah! He’s not the culprit,” Lee Gun replied.

“What?!” Goat was shocked, but Lee Gun just let out a sharp laugh.

Yes, from the beginning, Lee Gun had been sure the Virgo Saint wasn’t the culprit. Why?

‘There is no way that an attention w***e would secretly stab me in the back.’ The Virgo Saint was narcissistic who wanted to broadcast his achievements to the world.

If it were him, he would want the entire world to know that he had beaten Lee Gun. So why would the Virgo Saint try to kill him in such a fashion? ‘That makes no sense.’

Lee Gun explained, “There is no way that attention w***e would commission me to kill a monster here.”

“...?!”

“This place is his land. If I do well here, it would tarnish his reputation. There’s no way he would let me operate in his land.”

“Then...!” These words had left Goat puzzled.

It was true in Hugo’s case too.

‘As soon as I received the commission, we found out Hugo’s nemesis is in the same place?’

Lee Gun continued, “At a glance, this looks like someone’s scheme. So why would I move to the tune of their beat? That would be crazy.”

“Someone’s scheme...”

“Well, it doesn’t matter since I’m going to kill them all.”

“!”

At that moment...

“Lee Gun-nim! Please hurry!” Pelio had brought out weapons and armors from the treasure room. He had done this for Lee Gun. “If you kill the Virgo Saint, you’ll be able to activate your ax!”

“Yes. I do have to activate it.” Lee Gun put strength in his ax. Then...

Poo-hahk!

Pelio’s blood flew into the air.

“Kuh-huhk...!”

Lee Gun’s ax sliced open Prince Pelio’s body.

“Elder!”

Shocked, the Virgo disciples looked at Lee Gun.

“Lee Gun-nim! What is the meaning of this!”

Lee Gun smirked as he took large swings with his ax.

Poo-hahk! Poo-hahk!

His ax ruthlessly cut down the Virgo disciples who had accompanied him.

“Kuh-huhk!”

Goat was surprised by the sight.

As for the Virgo Saint, he glared at his nemesis. “Lee Gun!”

“Lee Gun-nim!” Prince Pelio twitched as he glared at Lee Gun. “Lee Gun-nim! Why would you—”

“Why? That’s what I want to ask you,” Lee Gun asked him instead.

“What?”

“You guys smell like the toad I killed today.”

“...?!” Pelio’s face crumpled.

The Virgo disciples yelled out.

“You promised to—”

“Promise? Do you mean the story about the Virgo Saint losing his way? You wanted me to kill him?”

“!”

Lee Gun scoffed at their foolishness. “What are you guys trying to pull? You guys aren’t even Virgo disciples.”

“?!”

Lee Gun looked at the disciples with contempt. His reaction was understandable.

[Virgo Faith: 3%]

[Virgo Faith: 5%]

...

[Virgo Faith: 1%]

Lee Gun could see their faith from the start. It was another reason he had realized they were trying to pull a fast one on him.

[Libra Faith: 90%]

[Libra Faith: 92%]

[Libra Faith: 93%]

“Your faith is much higher to a Zodiac that is not the Virgo. It bothered me.”

“...!”

Lee Gun let out a cold laugh. “Speak! The person moving the strings behind you is the Libra Saint, right?”

“?!”

The faces of Kevin and Hugo were a sight to behold.

Pelio ground his teeth in response. “S**t. I have no choice now... We’ll carry on with the plan! We will follow the Libra’s will! We’ll kill both Lee Gun and the Virgo Saint!”

CHAPTER 85: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

When Pelio shouted, his body emanated a yellow light. This yellow was that of a forsythia.

The yellow light shocked everyone.

“No way!”

That color was the color of the Libra, the owner of the balanced sign.

“How could a Virgo disciple let out that color...!”

<Unique Colors>! The magical energy of the twelve Zodiacs differed in color.

[Cardinal Red—Red Archer]

[Navy Blue—Blue Gemini]

[Violet—Purple Aquarius]

[Gold—Gold Leo]

[Dark Red—Garnet Aries]

That was how it worked. Moreover, whether one had rented skills or not didn't matter. A disciple had to power their spells with the magical energy of their own Zodiac. Of course, exceptions existed, but the current situation wasn't one.

‘If he's a Virgo disciple, he should be letting out silver light!’

Pelio letting out a different-colored magical energy was clear proof of him being a traitor. And as expected, the Belgian prince drew the holy symbol of the Libra and activated his ability.

[Equivalent Exchanged-Changing Space]

The yellow light appeared along the wall and the floor. It was shaped like a hexagon.

“...!”

In a flash, their surroundings changed.

Koo-goo-goong!

Goat and Hugo couldn't believe this sight. The area within the hexagon had changed scenes; they were now within a garden.

[The Virgo Saint's treasure room has been swapped with a privately-owned Royal estate in Belgium.]

It was a bizarre sight. However, the problem wasn't the changed surroundings.

Boom boom boom!

To everyone's surprise, standing in the swapped space were several thousand knights clad in helmets and armor. Armed to the teeth, every one of them was letting off the magical energy of the Libra. It didn't end there.

‘That's...!’

Toads were also in that area. These were the toads Lee Gun and the Archer disciples had killed outside the dome. Moreover, that symbol was engraved on their backs too.

This made Goat furrow his brows. ‘Something like this couldn’t be prepared in just one or two days.’

In the first place, the Virgo Saint’s holy ground shouldn’t have been penetrated so easily.

‘Also, he used the Changing Space skill.’

The Libra was considered the number one amongst the twelve Zodiacs, and its Saint was famous for being the <Exchange Saint>.

In other words, the Libra Saint gained something equivalent to what she sacrificed. According to rumors, she could revive a dead person if she sacrificed someone of the same rank.

‘Or she could kill someone with it.’

However, this had to be an equivalent exchange. It was like weighing with a scale. This also applied to spaces. ‘To be able to invade this space, they had to have sacrificed an equivalent cost.’

The problem was that they had been within the Virgo Saint’s holy ground even if it were a small part. Goat couldn’t imagine what had to be sacrificed to do this.

‘At the very least, souls had to have been sacrificed. Tens of thousands of people at the bare minimum!’

On the other hand, the soldiers who had been called forth flinched when they saw Lee Gun’s party.

“Elder! This is different from the plan! The Archer Saint is also here...”

Pelio glared at them for speaking such words. “He’s a good-for-nothing Saint! We’ll just kill all of them!”

“...?!”

Hugo and Goat felt anger surge in their hearts at being treated like trash.

On the other hand, Kevin had witnessed the betrayal with his own eyes. It had shocked him. “What the hell did the Libra offer you...”

Pelio was a prince of Belgium, and the Virgo Saint had been protecting him. The prince had become one of the Virgo Saint’s top three officers and the elder of the Virgo temple.

Therefore, Kevin couldn’t understand how Pelio could betray him so easily.

Hugo and Goat laughed out of spite.

“I guess your high-rank disciples aren’t much. How could you recruit a spy as your disciple?”

“This is why you are always second.”

These words made Kevin angry. “Do you really think I didn’t know about the spies?”

“You didn’t.”

“Our Gun knew about them from the start.”

“...!”

Hugo continued, “It’s fine. Our Gun is the best. All the twelve Zodiac Saints should bow down to him.”

Baffled, the Virgo Saint looked at Hugo. “Did you drink alcohol again, Archer?”

“I didn’t drink any!!”

Hearing those words, the flustered Goat quickly gave Hugo some medicine to make him sober up faster.

Then, Kevin glared at the soldiers. “I would’ve known if there was a problem with the faith of my disciples!”

Hugo accepted his words. ‘While he’s a high-rank battle Saint, he’s also the Contract Saint.’

The Virgo Saint was the <Contract Saint>. He used his abilities through strict contracts and restrictions. Amongst the twelve Zodiac Saints, his power had the most restrictions. Yet, his abilities were strong.

As expected of a temple under the Contract Saint, to join the Virgo temple, a disciple had to accept a strict contract. If the disciple’s faith underwent changes, they would suffer immediate punishment.

That was why a spy could never pass the entrance test of the Virgo Saint. Therefore, Kevin muttered, “How were they able to falsify their faith?”

Hugo feigned a smile in response. “Either you’re an idiot, or this is a plan to deceive us.”

“What?”

“You killed Gun and deceived the world. A deception of this caliber is probably nothing to you”

Realizing the implication of Hugo’s words, Kevin unsheathed his sword in anger. “It wasn’t me!”

“What do you mean it wasn’t you? We saw it in the memory analysis, and your warehouse was full of swords similar to the one that stabbed Gun!”

“I don’t know what you guys saw, but it wasn’t me! In fact, I was the one who investigated Lee Gun’s death!” Kevin tried to explain himself.

“What?”

“I found those blades while investigating the suspect!”

The expression on Hugo’s face was a sight to behold. He had truly become sober.

Kevin ground his teeth. The fact that Lee Gun hadn't been able to exit the tower had been eating at him for the past twenty years. "He died before I could kill him. Do you know how much that burned me up? I even thought about dragging the Aquarius Saint by her hair into the tower!"

Hugo didn't know what wrong the Aquarius Saint had committed, but it didn't matter. "You really...."

"If my Zodiac hadn't forbidden me from doing it, I would've gone into the tower. Lee Gun is someone I recognize as a man. There's no way he would've died so easily. At the very least, I wanted to be first to find Lee Gun's corpse!"

The revelation left Hugo more and more dumbfounded. 'It doesn't seem as if he's lying.'

However, there was a dubious point to Kevin's story. 'Didn't the appraiser read the memory from the blade? He said the Virgo Saint had stabbed Lee Gun in the back.'

Therefore, Hugo decided not to believe Kevin. In the first place, only a swordmaster of Kevin's caliber could stab Lee Gun in the back. The Archer Saint asked, "If not you, then who dropped Gun into the trap?"

"That's...!"

At that moment...

Cheng!

The soldiers raised their spears, trying to activate their skill.

Lee Gun furrowed his brows as he saw a familiar magic formation. Until now, he had been on the sidelines, having a ball watching the Virgo Saint suffer like an idiot, but now...

'That is a forbidden technique.' This spell could destroy a holy ground.

A holy ground was a space created using the power of a Zodiac. If the holy ground got damaged or destroyed, the Zodiac would be directly harmed as well. And if the Zodiac suffered damage, its Saint suffered catastrophic damage.

In other words, dealing with the holy ground was the only way the disciples could neutralize a Saint, who had absolute defense!

"This holy ground has eight barrier cores! We just need to destroy them!" Since Pelio had been a Virgo disciple, he knew how the inner barrier was constructed.

Hugo glared at the Virgo Saint when the latter held up his Winter Frost. "You—"

"Shut up! I don't have time to converse with you right now!" Kevin immediately disappeared.

"!"

He reappeared in front of the soldiers! "You dare attack a Saint in his holy ground. It seems you guys also think I'm soft."

Inside their holy ground, a Saint could receive 100% of their Zodiac's power. As for a high-rank disciple, they would receive the highest of buffs.

Kevin let out an ugly laugh. The murderous intent he radiated now was completely different from the one he had when he tried to fight Lee Gun. His mouth twisted upward, and his piercing gaze looked almost possessed by spirits.

[Carry Debt to the Grave]

<One might forget a favor, but a bitter foe will be taken to the grave.

This was the Virgo Saint's advanced skill, a mental elevation skill. If he held a grudge, even the midsummer would become frosty. This skill was a body awakening skill that didn't deactivate until the subjects of the Virgo Saint's grudge were all dead.

Kevin's sword started dancing.

Poo-hahk! Poo-hahk!

“Kuhk!”

Seeing the Virgo Saint's murderous intent, Pelio became desperate.

The problem with the Virgo Saint had been his obsession with Lee Gun. Although Kevin might not look like much, he was one of the strongest fighters. He could go into a Red Zone and slaughter monsters by himself.

“Hmmp! When the holy ground falls, it'll be the end of both Lee Gun and him!”

Sounds of explosions rang everywhere. The monsters that had invaded the Virgo Saint's holy ground started to destroy the holy ground's seals.

Kwahng! Kwahng! Kwahng!

[The Virgo Saint's power is starting to falter.]

Despite this, Kevin was quick in dispatching his enemies.

[Dead Leaves(Withered Leaves) of November]

As he swung his sword, the nearby soldiers and monsters shriveled up like mummies.

Pah-sssssss!

Pelio's desperation only increased due to that. “Are you guys done destroying the holy ground's barrier! How much more time do you need!”

“We couldn't locate one of them!”

“What!”

“One of the eight cores was a fake!”

“...!”

“We cannot destroy his holy ground...!”

This took Pelio by surprise.

In contrast, Kevin let out a cold laugh. “Did you really think I would make it so easy for me to lose my power? The last location is known only to me and my Zodiac...”

“Over there.” A voice interrupted him.

“What?”

“The head of the sculpture over there. You should destroy it. That’s the c**e you guys are looking for.”

“...?!?”

Lee Gun nonchalantly threw that statement out there. He was pointing at the large statue visible through the windows. The statue was that of the Virgo, and it was located at the center of the holy ground.

[The eighth pillar holding up the Virgo Saint’s holy ground!]

The shocked Kevin turned to look at Lee Gun. Lee Gun grinned as he maintained his snake eyes.

[Gaze of a God]

Lee Gun laughed after grasping the internal structure of this place with his skill. His actions left a mixture of joy and grief in the room.

“You...!”

Kwahng!!!

The head of the goddess sculpture was instantly decapitated.

All the cores, which were the pillars of the Virgo Saint’s holy ground, had been destroyed at that moment.

[The Virgo Saint’s holy ground has been destroyed.]

[The Virgo Saint’s power will temporarily disappear.]

Kevin slumped to the floor as the power drained out of him.

The overjoyed traitorous Virgo disciples restrained the Saint. The thing binding Kevin wasn’t a normal rope. It was a monster made out of clay. The clay bound the Virgo Saint’s hands and feet, then hardened.

Kevin glared at Lee Gun. “Lee Gun!” An aggrieved expression took over his face. “I didn’t expect your help, but at the very least, you shouldn’t have interfered!”

“Why would I do that?”

“Why? This is an obvious conspiracy, and you said you won’t fall for it! However, you basically played into the Libra Saint’s hands by doing this!”

Lee Gun laughed as if he found Kevin’s assertion ridiculous. “Who cares about that?”

“What?”

“At a glance, I could tell this is that woman’s machination. However, it doesn’t matter. I’ll just get rid of all of you!”

“...?!”

Kevin might not look it, but he was humanity’s strongest swordsman. In terms of speed, he was on par with Lee Gun. In some aspects, the Virgo Saint might be faster.

It was a good thing that those Virgo traitors had taken out the Virgo Saint without Lee Gun having to lift a finger.

With a cold smile, Lee Gun lifted his ax. “I feel bad for you. You’ll die before you can pleasure yourself.”

“What? Ah—” The Virgo Saint was about to say something, but he flinched when he saw the look in Lee Gun’s eyes.

Lee Gun was dead serious. As if it were letting out a roar, the ax in his hands descended toward the Virgo Saint’s body.

Kwah-jaeek!

A massive amount of blood flowed into the air, and a severed head hit the floor.

Hugo and Goat were surprised.

“Lee Gun-nim!”

The Virgo Saint was surprised that he could hear the voice. His eyes turned round as the head of a monster rolled past his head. It was the monster that had been restraining him.

Boom!

As soon as the head fell away, the next part to fall was the Virgo Saint’s right arm.

Toohk!

At the same time, the monster that had been restraining the Virgo Saint started to sway on its feet.

Lee Gun laughed. Of course, it was rare to encounter the Virgo Saint in a powerless state. Lee Gun had thought about just killing Kevin, but in the end, he hated doing the dirty works of others. So, he had cut off only an arm.

However, for a right-handed swordsman to lose his right arm, it was a fate worse than death.

‘This is the price you’ll have to pay for the past twenty years.’

The Virgo Saint wasn’t someone to let this opportunity, which Lee Gun created for him, go to waste.

[Temporary Contract: Swiftess]

Kevin instantly escaped the grasp of the monster.

Shweek!

As soon as he escaped, he looked into the cold snake eyes of Lee Gun. It was a hair-raising experience. Then, the monster which had been holding the Virgo saint was obliterated.

Poo-hahk!

Lee Gun’s ax ruthlessly broke apart the monster’s body.

Hugo gulped. He didn’t know why, but Lee Gun was furious. It took a lot for the man to show so much murderous intent.

However, this reaction was inevitable for Lee Gun. Why?

‘The monster holding the Virgo Saint...’

That wasn’t a normal monster. It possessed the energy Lee Gun had felt when he was stuck in the Devil’s tower. He had felt it ad nauseam.

‘It’s the tower’s guard.’

Lee Gun had been the subject of an experiment; the monsters of the tower were supposed to eat him. He had eradicated those bastards. So, it had been a while since he had smelled this foul stench.

It got under Lee Gun’s skin. ‘Still, I found a clue.’ If he got rid of Pelio, he could confirm who was the culprit behind him falling into the trap.

Lee Gun put strength into the hand holding the ax.

This change of events had shocked Pelio, but the prince feigned a laugh. Lee Gun freeing the Virgo Saint was unexpected, but the world’s strongest swordsman had lost his arm. It was a critical blow for the other side!

Therefore, Pelio created the Libra magic circle. “Do not underestimate their power! The armless Virgo Saint and the Archer Saint are nothing in front of them!”

At that moment.

Pahng!

A deafening roar that sounded like a cannon shot rang out, and something flew toward Pelio.

“!”

Kwahng!

Pelio shuddered when he was the item that got embedded near his feet. It was the severed head of the monster that Lee Gun had cut.

With a cold smile on his lips, Lee Gun looked at Pelio. “If you have the b***s, pick it up. I’ll do the same thing to your head.”

Suddenly, the coin inside Lee Gun’s pocket shook and emitted light.

CHAPTER 86: TRIAL OF REPUTATION

Lee Gun laughed as he saw the coin shine inside his pocket.

[Missionary (Special) is in progress]

[Completion Rate: 80%]

He had prepared these coins for his second trial.

‘Since Taeksoo would have objected to it, I kept it a secret.’ This change meant the situation over there was going smoothly.

‘So I just have to take care of business here.’ Lee Gun’s eyes flashed.

When Pelio made eye contact with Lee Gun, the prince trembled. In truth, he had been looking down on Lee Gun. It was to be expected.

He had met Lee Gun before, over twenty years ago

Lee Gun had come to Belgium after receiving a contract from the Belgium government.

“Why are you looking at me? I thought this place was famous for its chocolate? Do you want to get hit with the chocolate?”

At the time, Lee Gun had been twenty-six years old. He had been wearing a mask to hide his hideous face, and he had no hair.

Of course, Pelio thought Lee Gun was a weirdo, but he didn’t feel any fear toward him. Why?

At a basic level, the prince felt Lee Gun was fighting for humanity. Lee Gun wasn't someone to do things at a loss, but when it came to saving people, he didn't quibble with profit and loss. That was why his body was in such a terrible state.

In fact, Lee Gun had gone searching for a squad left behind in a monster's cave. He had done it despite knowing there would be no reward. Everyone thought he had lost his mind.

Regarding how Lee Gun had treated him, Pelio just assumed Lee Gun had a screw a bit loose.

However, he now realized that wasn't the case. Back then, Lee Gun didn't think he was an enemy. It was that simple.

However, this realization came to the prince only when Lee Gun truly regarded him as an enemy.

"Hey. Someone can control that monster?"

Pelio was having a hard time breathing when he heard Lee Gun's cold laughter. Did he always look at his enemies like that?

Pelio felt his knees wobble, but he told himself that he had no reason to be afraid. "Lee Gun! You are merely on the Saint rank, so don't look down on them!"

After his shout, light erupted from the floor.

[Equivalent Exchange—Tunnel Formation]

When he paid the price, a round formation appeared. A round summoning circle appeared, and black flames erupted. Soon, a hand emerged out of the summoning circle.

Kwahng!

The hand was larger than a person.

This made Hugo raise his guard. "S**t! He's summoning pets!"

It wasn't just one or two. Several hundred unknown hands emerged out of the circle.

Boom!! Boom! Boom!

They were unknown beings, but Hugo's intuition was telling him something. 'S**t! We have to end them before they can fully emerge from that place!'

Even in their surprise, Hugo and Goat pulled back on their bows.

Tahng! Tahng!

Hugo wasn't called the strongest long-ranged Saint without reason; all his arrows hit their marks. Like lasers, they shot through the hands.

"Kee-ehhhhhhk!"

However, the hands coming out from the summoning circle were too many to shoot!

‘S**t! How many are there...!’

However, the bigger problem wasn’t their number.

“Kee-ehhhhhhk!”

“!!”

Hugo and Goat were surprised by the faces that emerged next. Kevin, who was usually hard to surprise, was shocked as well.

“No way!”

“Those aren’t pets...!”

Yes, those were monsters from the unknown civilization! People also called them Calamities.

There was no mistaking it. They could feel fear and hatred just from being close to the Calamities.

‘Monsters.’

They felt entirely different from the pets summoned using a skill. That was the reason for this chaos.

‘A human summoned the enemies of humanity!’

Moreover, he did it within the dome under the Zodiacs’ protection!

Goat suddenly realized something. ‘This is exactly like what happened ten years ago.’

Ten years ago, in a region protected by the Sagittarius, the toad had appeared out of nowhere. The incident had resulted in the death of the Archer Saint’s wife and general and put five thousand people in vegetative states.

Due to that, the entire world had criticized the Archer Saint for his ineptitude. People had wanted to take him out of the twelve Zodiac Saints.

‘That is why he’s still known as the last place Saint.’

At the time, everyone had criticized Hugo for not being able to notice the monster’s attack. However, the narrative would change if people found out that monsters could be summoned anywhere and anytime.

‘Does this mean that incident was...!’

It was probably a plot to get rid of the Archer Saint, who tried hard to clear Lee Gun’s bad name.

Goat didn’t have the luxury to analyze this situation anymore.

Kwahng!

“Koohk!”

Seeing the monster’s faces, the humans raised their weapons. Hugo and Goat let out fierce attacks. The Virgo Saint, who had been trying to stop his blood loss, picked up his sword with his left hand. When the Virgo Saint raised his sword, streaks of light descended from the sky.

[Meteors of July]

Kwahng! Kwahng! Kwahng!

The meteorites fell on the heads of the monsters trying to emerge from the summoning circle.

“Kee-ehhhhhhk!”

“...!!”

The humans realized none of their attacks were working. When the monsters opened their eyes and roared, everyone’s face turned pale.

“S**t! These are the unkillable types...!!”

These monsters were called the <13th species>. These were the same type of monsters as the one that had tried to take away Lee Gun’s bone at Drachma.

These were monsters that the Zodiac Saints couldn’t kill, and so they scared the hell out of everyone. They were so strong that no attacks worked against them.

In the end, Hugo and Kevin put down their weapons at the same time.

“Retreat!”

“What?! We are retreating?”

“We can’t fight them!”

This change surprised Goat. He never expected two Zodiac Saints to put down their weapons at the same time! However, they meant what they said.

“We saw them at the Devil’s Tower! We avoided fighting them at that time! We have to retreat—”

At that moment...

Poo-hahk!

“...!” Kevin, who had been raising his voice, saw blood erupt from the side. The surprised Kevin turned and saw one of the monsters fall to the ground while choking on its blood. The Virgo Saint didn’t even have the time to be shocked.

Poo-hahk!!!

He could only see the long handle and the blade of the ax surging into the air. In between the gory fountains of blood, a man laughed like a wraith.

“Gun!”

“It has been a while, you bastards!!”

As he let out a simple exhalation, the giant’s head was split open.

Pah-gahk!!

The headless corpse of the giant fell next to Kevin.

Boom!!

Lee Gun was on a different level compared to when he fought with his fists or a blade. As a blacksmith, he was well-versed in all weapons, but there was a clear difference in his movements when he used his main weapon.

“Good! I kept meeting subpar opponents, so I felt my body had become a bit stiff!” Lee Gun surged into the air and spun amongst the cluster of monsters.

Kwah-gah-gah-gahk!

“Kee-ehhhhhhhk!”

“Kuh-ha-ehk!”

He fell on top of the monsters’ heads like a meteorite.

Entranced, Goat held his bow. Hugo once again felt pleased. On the other hand, Kevin was unsettled.

Of course, Kevin knew Lee Gun was skilled. The others might have denigrated Lee Gun, but the Virgo Saint recognized Lee Gun as a man. That was why he wanted to defeat him.

Kevin had also mourned Lee Gun’s deterioration. He had secretly met with the Aquarius Saint and spent a lot of money to find a way to help heal Lee Gun. He even secretly put expensive restorative medicines in Lee Gun’s food in an attempt to regenerate Lee Gun’s body.

However, what he saw right now was a completely different story!

Lee Gun was a completely different man than the one Kevin had known twenty years ago! ‘He is much stronger!’

It seemed Lee Gun wasn’t just trapped inside the tower.

‘I guess the report that said all the monsters within the Devil’s Tower are dead is true!’

When the thirteen of them had gone to kill Red Eye twenty years ago, Lee Gun had dodged these same monsters too.

Kevin watched Lee Gun laugh as if he was enjoying himself.

[As a reward for the Trial of Strength, your body is being upgraded.]

It did say the upgrade would take a day.

‘I can feel a bit of a change.’ Lee Gun’s eyes flashed. This was a great chance to test out his still-changing body.

He grabbed his ax to take a powerful swing. He had been about to decapitate a monster when...

“Huhk! Gun!”

“?!” Lee Gun, who had been pouring strength in his arms, was surprised. His biceps and triceps were swelling to ridiculous proportions.

Taken aback, Lee Gun slapped at his arms, and they returned to their normal sizes. He let out a sigh of relief. “My body is finally getting warmed up!”

His ax created blood to erupt into the air. This scene looked like a whale spouting water into the air.

Happy at the return of its owner, Heaven’s Punishment let out a roar.

* * *

Pelio was seeing something unbelievable.

Kwah-jeek! Kwah-jeek!

A person was going berserk in front of his eyes. This person wasn’t human. His entire body was painted with blood as he extracted his ax. This man looked like a wraith from hell. No, he was an Asura.

The Asura walked toward him immediately after killing all the summoned monsters in short order.

Fifty meters!

Thirty!

Ten!

One...

The man, who was one head taller than him, stopped right in front of him. “Are they all you got?”

“...?!” Pelio felt the strength leave his legs.

“The only thing left is to take your head.”

S**t!

The prince crumpled to the floor. However, the next second, his shadow wavered.

[It seems this was too much to ask since you're facing Lee Gun.]

“!”

A young man's voice came from the shadow.

[Do you want some help?]

Pelio laughed when he heard the voice. ‘As expected, the Libra hasn't abandoned me...!’

[Since Lee Gun is your opponent, I'll help you. This is a special case.]

Pelio was deeply moved. However...

Poo-oohk!

“Kuhk...!”

The shadow turned into a spike and pierced Pelio's heart.

Vomiting blood, Pelio looked backward. “What...what are you...!”

[I just gave you a little bit of a power up]

“!”

The new voice surprised both Hugo and Kevin. Of course, they knew the voice.

“The Crab Saint...!”

The voice belonged to Jean-Louis Morain, the Crab Saint.

Amidst their surprise, Pelio's shadow stood up like a person.

Hugo sent an arrow flying.

Kwahng!

The arrow ruthlessly broke apart the shadow, but soon, the shadow gathered once again.

[You didn't even say hi before you shot me.]

“F**k off? You are a cockroach that eats trash others throw away!”

Hugo hated the Crab Saint. If he was being honest, he didn't like any of the other Zodiac Saints.

‘He is nicknamed the Crime Coordinator.’ The Crab Saint only showed up at scenes of murder and crime.

When Hugo heard Jean-Louis had appeared at the press conference, this news had crept him out.

Jean-Louis was the one who had told Hugo the news of Lee Gun's death and his wife's death. And he had done it with a smile on his face.

Hugo replied, "Nothing good happens when you show up! F**k off, you dirty & disgusting b*****d!"

[You're too much. We love the antics when the two of you pair up.]

Jean-Louis had appeared at both the funeral of Lee Gun and Hugo's wife in a fancy party outfit.

"I'm pretty sure Gun stole your power," Hugo said.

[Yes. That's why I can't use my abilities. I have to move using this form...]

Suddenly, a large explosion erupted.

Kwahng!

Lee Gun had planted his ax on the ground as if he were trying to shut Jean-Louis up.

The shadow was taken aback as it was stuck between the ax and the floor.

[Lee Gun!]

"You're merely the sidekick of the Libra Saint."

The Libra Saint and the Cancer Saint were the Saints of the south. Even though they dominated the south, they had endlessly worked to obtain the Virgo Saint's lands. It wasn't strange to see them involved in this venture either.

"You showed up of your own volition to pay tribute to me."

Kevin's complexion worsened as desperately yelled, "Lee Gun! Don't do it! Don't put your hands on the shadow! Human hands won't be able to take it!"

"Then it'll be fine if I'm not human?"

The shadow flinched when it saw Lee Gun's cold smile.

Poo-hahk!

Lee Gun used his hands to smash the shadow.

[You have acquired data]

The Crab Saint was baffled. His shadow was made out of poisonous substance; it should've decomposed any body part that touched it.

[What kind of body do you possess?]

Lee Gun laughed.

[You're shedding the body of a human.]

[Body Upgrade: 80%]

“You don't need to know anything.”

The shadow flinched when Lee Gun moved closer. The Cancer Saint was flustered.

[I don't know what you've done, but even you won't be able to do anything.]

“What?”

[The times have changed. The Zodiacs' powers change depending on their disciples' actions. As Saints, we receive those powers straight from the Zodiacs. What about you? You don't even have any disciples. What can you really do?]

The Cancer Saint then disappeared as if he were running away. An enormous magical energy surrounded Pelio's body.

It was darkness. After the darkness swept him up, Pelio's appearance changed. He looked like the devil. There was no way to call him a human anymore.

“You are first, Lee Gun!”

The incredible magical energy destroyed the Virgo Saint's holy ground.

Boom! Boom!

“Koohk! As expected of the number one Zodiac's magical energy...!”

At that moment.

[You have cleared the Trial of Reputation]

[The Serpent Bearer has gained the first disciple.]

Lee Gun grinned. He was sure who it was. However, that wasn't the end.

[Your disciple's rank has increased.]

[The name of the disciple was written in the Serpent Bearer's bible.]

[You can use the bible from here on out.]

CHAPTER 87: FIRST DISCIPLE - Infobagh

Lee Gun's eyes turned round from surprise.

[You have received the Reputation reward for clearing the Trial of Reputation.]

[You have acquired the Missionary Reward.]

It seemed his plan to clear the Trial of Reputation had gone exactly as he planned. To clear the trial, he had to acquire one disciple. That was why he had given that coin to Sungjae. He had chosen one of the two ways to take in a disciple.

[You can choose between <Missionary(Regular)> & <Missionary(Special)>.]

[When you created the Mission Coin, you chose <Missionary(Special)>.]

[Target(Chun Sungjae) was given a mission.]

[Target(Chun Sungjae) must fulfill the mission to awaken as the Serpent Bearer's disciple.]

If Lee Gun had chosen <Missionary(Regular)>, he just needed the other person's consent to turn them into his disciple.

The probability of this option's success was 100%, but it didn't result in many special abilities.

On the other hand, the <Missionary(Special)> option also needed consent, but it had a requirement as well. Failure was a probability here; moreover, that probability was quite high.

[The probability of failure is 70%]

That wasn't all. The Missionary couldn't be used twice on the same subject. Basically, if someone failed the Missionary task, Lee Gun couldn't attempt to bring that person in as a disciple again.

[If Missionary(Special) succeeds, you will acquire a special reward.]

[Reward(Lee Gun): Missionary Reward (S rank).]

[Reward(Disciple): Special awakening, exclusive data, increase in disciple rank.]

The difference in rewards was like that between night and day. The special awakening was the most important one.

[Special awakening makes the disciple much stronger.]

[It's a special benefit that can be used during the missionary task.]

In other words, Lee Gun could upgrade the disciple from head to toe. It was basically like a re-awakening, a high-risk, high-return option.

'If I were a conservative person, I would've gone for the Regular Missionary...'

Lee Gun had felt something when he had looked at Sungjae. Sungjae was considered remarkable, but Lee Gun thought there was more to him.

‘If things turn out right, he could reach Saint rank.’ His limit wasn’t just the rank. There was a lot of room for his basic attributes to grow.

Lee Gun didn’t want to trim the sprouts. Of course, it wasn’t easy to find someone with 100% faith either. Moreover, he needed to clear the mission of bringing in a disciple if he wanted to use his <Death Instinct>.

So, he had taken an incredible gamble with that move. However, he trusted Sungjae. The young man was his friend’s son.

As if to prove this, Chun Sungjae had beaten the odds and became Lee Gun’s disciple.

‘However, what the hell is this about the bible?’ As expected, a familiar description appeared in front of his eyes.

[A new achievement has been added to the bible.]

[Achievement no. 4]

– A young genius who served a different Zodiac became your first servant. His name will be lifted by the Serpent Bearer.

[First disciple’s achievement (Achievement no. 4) has been engraved. The worth as a Zodiac has gone up.]

[As your disciple accomplishes noteworthy achievements, your divine power becomes much stronger.]

[The achievement engraved into the bible can be used to wield power]

Everything was good up to this point. Acquiring a disciple would allow him to use the achievements recorded in the bible. The problem was the next part.

[The first disciple has created a new page in the bible.]

[<Gospel of Lee Gun>]

What the hell is the Gospel of Lee Gun!

However, he didn’t have time to be flustered.

“Lee Gun! I’ll kill you first! I’ll kill you and the Virgo Saint!” Transformed into a monster, Pelio let out magical energy.

Kwahng!!

The magical energy wasn’t simple.

[Warning! A unique magical energy is restraining your body.]

“!”

Along with the warning, Goat fell to his knees.

Koohng!

“Koohk...!”

It was as if a building was pressing down on his head.

The Saints also trembled. Hugo and Kevin were enduring it, but they were having a hard time.

“S**t! This is the Libra’s...”

[Equivalent Exchange—Body Imprisonment]

By sacrificing his movement, Pelio was able to restrict the movements of his opponents. It was a debuff skill. In other words, both the user and the opponent couldn’t move now. Normally, the people in the rear used this skill. It was a support skill.

“How can a mere disciple do this...!”

The ability was stronger than the Saint.

Was it because his body was in the process of being upgraded?

Like the others, Lee Gun couldn’t move as well, but the effect lasted for only a moment.

[Caution! It is a power that absorbs abilities.]

[You are under a penalty. The opponent’s skill is restricting your movement.]

[You covet the other Zodiac’s abilities.]

However, the more frightening event started at that moment.

Koo-goo-goo-goohng!

Suddenly, the ground shook. Even assessing what was going on became hard.

“The dome is...”

The domes, which were considered humanity’s walls around Belgium, had disappeared.

It wasn’t just the fourth or the fifth domes, which were far away from the city. The first dome, which was humanity’s last line of defense, was gone too!

That was the dome protecting the cities of Belgium!

“No! If they are gone...”

Humanity would become extinct in no time. As if to emphasize this point, the sounds of birds crying rang in the sky

“Kee-ehhhhhhhhk!”

Monsters from the unknown civilization always hung around the dome, trying to take down the cities of humanity.

Those monsters let out loud cries toward the sky. The fact that the hated walls protecting the city had come down was a signal for them to invade the city. As soon as the dome disappeared, the large bird monsters started attacking from the sky.

Kwahng! Kwahng!

The buildings of the city where two million people resided instantly crumbled.

Kwahng!

The sounds of screams and explosions filled the air.

“All the domes are gone!!!”

“Ahhhhhk!”

“Help!”

Absolute chaos reigned in the city.

Both Hugo and Goat were surprised. The divine walls were fine even when Kevin had temporarily lost his power.

“The domes are barriers supposed to be maintained by the Constructs!”

“What happened?”

Kevin seemed to realize something. He ground his teeth as he glared at Pelio. “Something must have happened to the Constructs maintaining the domes!”

“Is that the reason the fourth and fifth domes got destroyed so easily?”

Goat, who had come as an advanced scout, had found that odd at the time.

Even if the Virgo Saint was considered the second in terms of power, there was no way the monsters should’ve been able to reach the third dome.

Goat now understood what had happened.

“They are the ones who purposely sabotaged the fourth and fifth domes before the attack.”

However, that wasn’t important right now.

“Kee-ehhhhhhhhk!”

When the scout sent out the signal, an army of monsters was approaching the city from a distance. They were coming from all directions, numbering tens of thousands. If one included the monsters that might come from farther out...

‘This will be a slaughter of two million people.’

Most of the residents in the city were normal people.

“S**t! I can’t move...”

“Ha ha ha! The Virgo Saint and the Archer Saint are nothing. I want you to feel how powerless you guys are!”

This made Hugo yell, “Gun! Do something! You aren’t the perennial second-place like Kevin! You’re always number one!”

“What the hell did you just say?” Kevin felt a surge of anger, but Hugo was reciting the truth. In this situation, they could only turn to Lee Gun.

“Lee Gun! I’m sorry, but help me just this one time!”

Lee Gun grinned. “Why should I?”

“What?! Why should you...!”

Hugo was surprised, and Kevin raged.

“The people of the city will all die! At the end of the day, I didn’t think you were the type of man to let civilians die! I’m disappointed in you, Lee Gun!”

For some reason, Lee Gun looked up at the sky. Then...

A bombardment happened from the sky.

Kwah-gwah-gwah-gwahk!

Countless fire arrows fell! The arrows came down like streaks of light, and the army of monsters could do nothing but die.

“Kee-ehhhhhk!”

“Koo-ohhhhhh!”

This surprised everyone. Lee Gun just laughed as if he wanted to show them this.

[The person who has received the power of the Serpent Bearer’s bible is close by.]

The monsters became angry as they tried to use their abilities. However, it was useless.

[Ten Million Burning Bomb]

Streaks of arrows containing incredible firepower rained down upon them. It covered the entire city.

However, something amazing happened. The arrows pierced through only the monsters. Humans were unharmed. Even if they took a hit, the arrows harmlessly dissipated into the light.

Kevin forced a laugh when he saw this. It was the skill of the Sagittarius.

“Archer, when did you call for your allies...” Kevin turned his head, but what he saw left him surprised.

For some reason, Goat and Hugo were shaking as they watched the streaks of fire descend from the heavens. It was as if they couldn’t believe what they were seeing.

“No way!”

“That technique is...”

They were sure of it.

“General...”

It was a technique belonging to Lee Jaewon, the man eaten by the monster ten years ago alongside Hugo’s wife.

Hugo and Goat had never expected to see this skill again, and they felt emotions surge in their chests.

‘Can it be?’

“Saint-nim!”

Hugo looked in the direction Goat pointed at; he almost shed tears. Using his enhanced vision of the Archer Saint, he could see far into the distance. He could easily identify that face. The face standing on top of a high-rise building was familiar.

‘Jaewon!’

Lee Jaewon laughed and nodded when he made eye contact with Hugo.

How could someone who had been comatose for the past ten years be standing there?

For some reason, Lee Gun’s magical energy surrounded Lee Jaewon as if it was protecting him. However, that wasn’t important right now.

[Thousand Rain]

Kwah-gwah-gwah-gwahng!

Finally, all the monsters trying to invade the city fell to the skill.

This scene shocked Pelio. “Yoon Taewoo should’ve taken care of him!”

“The dome side is taken care of now.”

Hearing Lee Gun’s voice, Pelio turned his head in surprise. However, he soon laughed once again. “I’m using a power greater than that of the Saint rank! There is no way—”

Kwah-jeek!

Lee Gun broke out from Pelio’s Body Imprisonment skill.

“!”

Pelio was shocked. “How...!”

This technique was born through Equivalent Exchange. It was a powerful restriction skill. As if to prove this, the two Zodiac Saints and another SS-rank disciple had become incapable of moving!

However, the skill didn’t work against Lee Gun.

Of course, his body’s upgrade was still in progress. Lee Gun had just used the power that was upgraded to break free.

[You have fulfilled the requirement needed to use the bible.]

[You decided to use the <Gospel of Lee Gun>.]

Lee Gun laughed. ‘I don’t know what the Gospel of Lee Gun is supposed to be.’

The only part he was sure about was that the gospel contained an account of him from the perspective of Sungjae. Sungjae’s strong faith powered the gospel, and the power manifested in reality.

Scripture! The content engraved in the bible could be used as power. All the thoughts within Chun Sungjae’s mind had been engraved into the first page of the bible.

<In the beginning, Lee Gun-nim existed. He unexpectedly walked out from the crumbling tower!>

Accompanying the bible verse, Pelio’s restriction skill got eradicated.

Kwah-jeek!

What the ability did was simple.

[The effect of the <Gospel of Lee Gun> has dismissed the abnormal status.]

[Gospel of Lee Gun – Page 1: Abnormal status of a certain level will be forcefully removed.]

Divine rank! To affect Lee Gun, a monster needed to be stronger than Red Eye, which was considered humanity’s worst Calamity. That was the minimum needed to stop him. Of course, it didn’t end there.

After Lee Gun broke the restraints, Pelio sent bizarre tentacles toward him.

<Gospel of Lee Gun – Page 2>

<Lee Gun-nim has returned. Nothing can hurt him.>

Koog-goo-goong!

“What...what the hell! All his wounds...”

[The effect of the <Gospel of Lee Gun> has neutralized all physical damage.]

[Gospel of Lee Gun – Page 2: Physical damage under a certain level will be nullified.]

The tentacles, which surrounded Lee Gun, tried to rip him apart. However, their efforts were useless.

This left Kevin dumbfounded. ‘He isn’t using any skills...!’

What was that?

Lee Gun was also taken aback. ‘Even if this is an ability that manifests the belief of a disciple, this is a bit...’

The power was broken; it was a cheat.

Lee Gun, who was testing the power, got flustered. ‘How highly does Sungjae normally think of me?’

The bible didn’t care about his reaction as it continued to activate.

<Gospel of Lee Gun – Page 3>

<The know-it-all Archer Saint was sent flying with one blow. All monsters fell to their knees in front of his fists.>

Lee Gun’s fist let out a light, and he punched Pelio’s head.

Bbah-gahk!

The incredible power collided with Pelio, and light erupted.

[You have finished using your bible.]

[Your bible will be sealed until it is filled with faith.]

Pelio screamed as he exploded.

Kevin was unable to close his mouth. Finally, the light dissipated.

Boom!

Pelio groaned on the ground. His skin was completely peeled off. He was disfigured everywhere and was barely breathing.

“You aren’t even a Saint, so how...!” He sounded aggrieved. “I will restore the power of the royal family! I will regain my country!”

They had used the Zodiacs as an excuse to turn his country into a theocratic state. That was unacceptable.

“The Libra Saint should have come to Belgium instead of the Virgo Saint! The Virgo Saint can’t even hold a woman’s hand...”

Hugo decided to hold his tongue.

“Lee Gun! The Libra Saint is different! The Libra Saint is willing to work with us to bring power back to our kingdom!”

Poo-hahk!

Lee Gun decapitated Pelio as if his words weren’t worth hearing. “What are you talking about, b***h?”

[You have acquired data]

[You have received a reward for the Trial of Reputation.]

[Trial of Reputation Reward: Serpent Bearer’s Awakened Skill (SSS)]

[You have acquired the Missionary reward.]

Lee Gun picked up Pelio’s head.

Hugo was taken aback. “Are you sure you didn’t want to ask more questions about who was behind all of this?”

“We already have the answer.”

Well, he had a point. Moreover, it was easier to read the memories instead of conducting an interrogation.

Hugo asked a question as he watched Lee Jaewon, who was walking toward them. “What was that? That’s not how you usually look. Also, how is Jaewon here....”

“Ah! It’s all the effect of the bible,” Lee Gun explained.

“Bible?? Religious scripture?”

“Something like that. I can use it now that I have a disciple.”

The expression on Hugo’s face was a sight to behold. “You have a disciple now? Who...”

Hugo stopped himself from asking who the disciple was. He didn't care who had become Lee Gun's disciple. It was a good thing in the end if that wasn't one of his children. He replied, "That's great! I don't know who it is, but I hope you found a disciple that can give up his life for you."

If that happened, Lee Gun knew Hugo would cry. Well, it didn't matter.

Flash!

"!"

Lee Gun was surprised.

The coin that was connected to Chun Sungjae let out another light.

'Just one was enough for me to do this. It flashed twice?'

What was going on over there?

CHAPTER 88: FIRST DISCIPLE - Infobagh

While Lee Gun was in Belgium, Yoon Taewoo was trying to kill Chun Sungjae's family in Canada.

"Don't break your back for nothing, idiot."

"...!"

Chun Sungjae was trying to protect his mom and Lee Jaewon. His back was against the bed.

"I don't know what you're trying to do, but do you really think they'll open their eyes? Even the Gemini Saint and the Aquarius Saint couldn't do it."

At that moment, Chun Sungjae, who had his eyes clenched shut, got a shock. It was understandable.

Squeeze!

Someone had grabbed his hand. Sungjae was sure it was Lee Jaewon. That man was h****d up to the respirator, yet he had grabbed Chun Sungjae's hand.

"...!"

The sensation was faint, but Chun Sungjae could feel the hand grip his hand. He almost cried. He could feel Lee Jaewon's gaze.

The man was mumbling something as he looked at Chun Sungjae.

"...!"

Yoon Taewoo was oblivious to this exchange since his skill was quite loud. He approached Chun Sungjae. “The Archer Saint is quite foolish. For the past ten years, he spent his money to put everyone on life support. He should’ve been humane and let everyone die in peace.”

Chun Sungjae bit hard on his lips. Yoon Taewoo laughed as if there was no hope for the young man in front of him. However, Chun Sungjae was acting this way because he had heard something clearly.

“Sungjae. Are you unhurt?”

He was choked up as his throat felt like it was burning.

Ten years ago, in that incident, Lee Jaewon had told Sungjae that his father would be there soon. Lee Jaewon had soothed Sungjae until the end, until the monster ate him instead of Sungjae.

And when he woke up after ten years, the first words out of his mouth were words of concern about Chun Sungjae. It seemed Lee Jaewon wasn’t aware that ten years had passed.

As if to make matters worse, Lee Jaewon had been at that place only because Chun Sungjae had wanted to see his m****r.

It was all his fault. Chun Sungjae couldn’t speak as he could barely swallow his saliva. That wasn’t all.

‘!’

His m****r’s fingers started twitching as well.

When the young man saw this, strength entered his hands. ‘I have to protect them.’

Yoon Taewoo scoffed when he saw the look in Sungjae’s eyes. His fist flew toward Chun Sungjae’s face.

Bbah-gahk!

The restrained Archer disciples turned pale.

“Sungjae!”

They were sure of it. The noise sounded like a head being cracked open. Since the fist was infused with magic, anyone taking a hit from it would feel like a truck had hit them.

As proof, blood flowed out of Chun Sungjae’s head, nose, and mouth. However, it didn’t end there.

Bbuh-uhk!

After taking a punch in the stomach, Chun Sungjae threw up. “Oohk...!” His ribs were shattered.

Yoon Taewoo didn’t care. He let out a cold laugh. “You little s**t! I’m your god-like senior, yet you glare at me like that?” His voice rang out as if he were enjoying this. “You little chiwawa b*****d!”

Bbah-gahk! Bbah-gahk!

Killing intent oozed out of him as he sent forward a kick.

Chun Sungjae, who was already small in stature, felt his bones break everywhere.

“Your b***s haven’t even dropped, yet you tried to come at me? You are only an A rank!”

His face was crushed, and his head was split open.

Kwahk!

“Idiot!”

The floor was stained with blood. In the end, the youngest Archer disciple couldn’t stand it. He yelled, “I’ll give you an S-rank holy item of the Archer Saint! That’s enough!”

Yoon Taewoo laughed as if he wanted that disciple to f**k off. “I don’t want an item from that terrible Zodiac. Kids like these don’t listen to words. He’ll only learn when he is beaten like a dog!”

The Archer disciples shuddered at what they saw.

‘There is too much difference between an A-rank and an S-rank.’

It didn’t matter what Chun Sungjae wanted to do. There was no way he could win against Yoon Taewoo.

At that moment...

Dae-goo-roo-roo!

“!”

A coin rolled out of Chun Sungjae’s body.

It made Yoon Taewoo tilt his head in puzzlement. “What the hell is this?”

The coin felt like a holy item, but it contained the energy of an unknown Zodiac. In fact, he had never seen this symbol before. However, Yoon Taewoo laughed as if he didn’t care. Then...

Poohk!

“Huhk!”

Chun Sungjae threw up blood as his magical energy suddenly exited his body.

[Equivalent Exchange—Magical Energy Absorption]

It was a Libra skill. Yoon Taewoo had taken away magical energy in exchange for passing on his pain.

Chun Sungjae had never been able to receive much magical energy from the Gemini, yet it was all stolen from him. He vomited blood.

Yoon Taewoo enjoyed himself as he heard Chun Sungjae groan. “Your vessel for storing magic is trash even for an A-rank. This coin is trash too. Looks like you didn’t buy it. I don’t know who the original owner of this coin was, but I bet he’s trash like you.”

When Chun Sungjae heard those words, he became madder than ever. He ground his teeth. The young man didn’t care if Yoon Taewoo disparaged him, but he wouldn’t allow Yoon Taewoo to disparage his uncle.

“You son of a b***h...!”

However, he was a mere A-rank; he had no chance of winning against the other man. It wasn’t as if he could just become an S-rank either. Why?

‘I’ll be honest regarding your test result. The limit of your talent is C rank.’

‘!’

‘This isn’t a problem about your faith. Even if your faith were a 100%, you could never reach the S-rank. You have no talent.’

The Korean Gemini general Choi Sunghyuk and the Gemini Saint Heiji had told him so.

‘At most, the Gemini temple can raise you to the A rank.’

The fact that he had somehow risen to A rank was good news, but...

‘It won’t be enough!’ Chun Sungjae wouldn’t be able to protect his family, who had barely woken up. Moreover, he won’t be of any help to Lee Gun.

At that moment of despair...

[Congratulations! The Serpent Bearer’s Mission has started.]

Surprised, Chun Sungjae looked at his surroundings. The voice continued.

[Destroy all the enemies in front of you!]

[If you agree to the mission, a provisional contract will be formed. You will receive the protection of the Serpent Bearer!]

[Do you want to take on the mission? You don’t? You want to die?]

Chun Sungjae was taken aback, his reaction completely normal.

‘Uncle?’ He was sure of it. The manner of speaking was different from normal, but it was the voice of Lee Gun.

From the nonreaction in his surroundings, Chun Sungjae realized he was the only one who could hear the voice.

While Chun Sungjae was confused, Yoon Taewoo grabbed him by the neck and said, “Why the f**k do you keep grinning, you creepy little b*****d? Do you need more of a beating?”

Chun Sungjae heard the voice once again.

[Hey! Do you want to get hit and do the mission? Or do you want to get hit and not do the mission?]

It was unclear if that was an attempt to convert him or a threat. However, he didn’t care.

‘I’ll do it.’ Chun Sungjae laughed as he grabbed Yoon Taewoo’s arms.

Yoon Taewoo sensed magical energy through his hands. It surprised him. “Huh? You have magical energy left? Whatever. I’ll just eat it all...”

However...

“!?” Yoon Taewoo turned pale. The magical energy he had just tried to absorb struck fear in him. ‘What... what the hell is this?’

This magical energy was hideous. The more terrifying fact was that it wasn’t the magical energy of the Gemini. In his knowledge, no Zodiac possessed this magical energy.

In the end, Yoon Taewoo quickly retreated. “Which Zodiac’s magical energy did you—”

Poo-hahk!

“Ahhhk!”

An agonizing scream ran out. One of Yoon Taewoo’s eyes leaked blood. Chun Sungjae had used his magic to slash at him.

“You b*****d!” Yoon Taewoo glared as he cut off Chun Sungjae’s arm.

Kwah-jeek!

“Koohk!”

“Sungjae!”

“Idiot! If you had done nothing, I wouldn’t have cut you at the very least—” Yoon Taewoo couldn’t talk any further.

Puhng!

“Kuh-huhk!”

His arms swelled and then exploded.

“Ahhhk!”

Boom!

This frightened the Archer disciples, who had been watching the fight.

‘Who the hell did that?’

Yoon Taewoo looked up, shock all over his face.

[You have accepted the Serpent Bearer’s mission.]

[The provisional contract has come into effect.]

[I’ll lend you my magical energy. If you do not win, you are dead!]

As Lee Gun’s voice rang, Chun Sungjae made a fist.

[Hundred Strike]

When Chun Sungjae moved his hands, powerful b***s of magical energy flew toward Yoon Taewoo.

Kwahng! Kwahng! Kwahng!

“Ahhhk!”

Ten straight shots! Twenty! Hundred!

“Huh-uhk...!”

The mouths of the Archer disciples fell open. Chun Sungjae had destroyed the body protection magic of the S-rank Yoon Taewoo.

“S-Sungjae! How...”

At that moment...

“That’s as far as you go!”

The air distorted as a group of magicians appeared at the scene. It was a teleportation spell.

“Where is Yoon Taewoo?”

These people were none other than the Gemini generals and their underlings. Twenty of them, including Korea’s Gemini general Choi Sunghyuk, had come here. They had come to reclaim the magic tomes Chun Sungjae had taken away.

However, all of them had grim looks on their faces. It was to be expected.

‘Chun Sungjae would’ve probably lost the magic tome by now.’

Yoon Taewoo, who was related to the Libra Saint, had probably gone on a rampage against Chun Sungjae. That was why they were tense.

“Yoon Tae—”

However, their eyes soon turned round.

Kwhang!!!

Something hit the wall as if it were trying to paint the wall with blood.

The magicians reared back in fright when they realized who it was.

“Yoo-Yoon Taewoo?!”

Both of his arms had been blown off, and various parts of his body had suffered the same fate. At this point, Yoon Taewoo was almost a corpse.

“Wh-what the hell! Who did this to an S-rank magician?”

Soon, they realized who was the culprit.

“G-General-nim! O-over there!”

The generals looked in the direction a subordinate pointed out. The next moment, they reared back in fright.

“Chu-Chun Sungjae?”

That was right. Chun Sungjae stood there, b***s of magical energy floating around him. One of his arms was missing, but it was clearly him.

Of course, this shocked the group.

“No way! Did Chun Sungjae do that to Yoon Taewoo?”

“Hey! That makes no sense! Chun Sungjae is only an A-rank! How could he do that to a general-rank....”

Their disbelief lasted only a moment, then they gasped.

Kwah-jeek! Kwah-jeek!

Needles made of rock ruthlessly pierced Yoon Taewoo.

The Gemini generals, including Choi Sunghyuk, shuddered as blood erupted into the air. They were sure of it. The skill’s attack power and the pressure created by his magical energy were enough to tell them.

‘S rank...!’

Yes, Chun Sungjae, who had been their subordinate, was showing powers equivalent to that of a general!

“Did... did he rank up!”

“What? He’s an S-rank now?”

They all shuddered. For some reason, they felt an odd sensation. It felt as if Chun Sungjae wasn’t a simple S-rank. He seemed to be above them. However, something was even more surprising.

[Your faith toward the Serpent Bearer is very high! (300%!)]

[As a bonus, you can use the Serpent Bearer’s bible during the mission. You can use it 3 times.]

Chun Sungjae flinched as if he had heard something. Then he suddenly started reciting something while looking into the air. “Zero, one, two!”

He wondered what those numbers meant, but it didn’t take long for him to find out.

Boom!!

All the Gemini magicians fell to their knees.

“Koohk...!”

Some unknown force was pressing down on them. At the same time, they heard an odd sound.

[Achievement No. 1]

– Killed the devil from the ocean. Brought down the divine beast to its knees.

They had no idea what those nonsensical words meant, but the power pressing down on the Gemini disciples got much stronger.

Koo-goo-goo-goong!

“Koohk...! What kind of skill is this?”

However, that wasn’t the biggest surprise.

“General-nim! This is odd! Sungjae isn’t using the magical energy of the Gemini!”

“?!”

Choi Sunghyuk was also taken aback. Chun Sungjae was using magical energy that didn’t belong to the twelve Zodiacs. Moreover, the Korean Gemini general knew where he had felt this magical energy before. He knew it well.

‘This is what I felt from Lee Gun...!’ Choi Sunghyuk was sure of it. It felt like Lee Gun’s magical energy. Moreover, he knew what this implied.

Chun Sungjae was not using the magical energy of the Gemini, and Lee Gun was currently being called the thirteenth Saint!

‘Did he change allegiance to a different Zodiac?’ In the end, Choi Sunghyuk yelled in desperation, “Sungjae! You’re a good boy, right? Don’t get this twisted. We are only here to recover an item. There is a divine magic tome amongst Yoon Taewoo’s magic tomes that you took....”

Boom!

Flames flew toward Choi Sunghyuk’s face, surprising everyone.

“General-nim!”

“Chun Sungjae! What’s the meaning of this?”

Chun Sungjae coldly spoke as he looked at his mirror-shaped badge. “Why did you lie to me?”

“What?”

“You said I’ll max out at the A rank.”

Choi Sunghyuk flinched. ‘S**t!’ It was as he had assumed. Chun Sungjae had awakened as an S-rank.

As someone that had ranked up too, Choi Sunghyuk recognized the signs. There was a big difference in power between the two ranks. Moreover, he knew it by looking at the badge. The badge checked the owner’s rank in real-time. As expected, Chun Sungjae’s badge showed the sign of an S-rank.

Choi Sunghyuk let out a bright smile. “I didn’t know. Congratulations on becoming an S-rank!”

Chun Sungjae furrowed his brows. He was under the Serpent Bearer’s provisional contract, and it had unlocked a special ability in him.

[Eyes that Distinguish Lies]

Therefore, he knew. It was all a lie. He had known, and the words of congratulations were false as well.

Crack!

Chun Sungjae crushed the Gemini badge in his hand.

“...!”

The meaning behind the gesture was clear. All the generals glared at him.

“Take it from him!”

“Hurry up and take the magic tome from him!”

“Even if he is an S-rank, he’s a novice who has just awakened!”

All of them went into battle mode.

[Soul Invocation!]

The Gemini magicians brought out their second characters. Depending on their talent, awakened beings could summon an infinite variety of spirits.

Koo-goo-goo-goong!!

When they invoked the skill, their expressions and the color of their eyes changed.

“Chun Sungjae can’t use Soul Invocation!”

“He’s a magician, but he can’t go into battle mode!”

Even if it was the same spell, going into Soul Invocation state created a power difference. Moreover, the generals could summon high-rank spirits. These spirits were at least of the noble rank.

On the other hand, Chun Sungjae was a failure who couldn’t even call forth a spirit. It was the reason everyone made fun of him.

‘Chun Sungjae doesn’t have a spirit.’

However, at that moment...

[You finally are worthy of calling me out]

“?!”

Along with a voice, light exploded forth.

CHAPTER 89: FIRST DISCIPLE - Infobagh

“What the hell? An awakened middle schooler?”

Three years ago, Gemini’s <Awakening Ceremony>! It was the entrance ceremony that determined the levels of Gemini temple recruits.

The crowd murmured amongst themselves.

“He’s Chun Sungjae?”

The older Gemini disciples and the generals had gathered there. Chun Sungjae was the topic of conversation in many ways. His age was a factor, but he had aced the entrance test as well. So this awakening ceremony was special. Why?

[Soul Invocation, Spirit Summon Contract]

The Gemini temple decided their ranks depending on the rank of the summoned spirits. The recruits summoned spirits in the awakening ceremony, and this determined their ranks within the temple.

“You said the spirits were divided into slave rank, normal rank, knight rank, high-rank, and lord rank, right?”

“Yes. All the generals(S-ranks) can summon nobles, the high-rank spirits.”

“From what I’ve heard, you need to summon at least a knight-rank spirit to become a high-rank disciple...”

“That’s right. Although it’s not a 100% correct, it’s a good indicator. Last year, a kid summoned a great noble spirit, and it became the hottest topic.”

“Oh! A lord-rank spirit might show up today!”

“!”

The generals burst out laughing at the reporter’s words.

“Only Saint-rank awakened beings can pull the lord-rank spirits!”

“Even the generals are incapable of that!”

“Uh... I thought you said Spirit Summon has nothing to do with one’s current rank and that one’s potential determines what comes out.”

“You’re correct. However, the spirit that showed up last year was too powerful.”

“I doubt any rookie this year could beat that...”

Chun Sungjae had indeed rewritten the history of the Gemini temple on that day. But not in a way everyone expected. So what had happened?

“How could someone fail to summon a spirit?”

“He really failed?”

“He failed! Nothing appeared!”

Yes, Chun Sungjae had failed to bring out a spirit.

“My god! He must have no talent! Even the least talented person can summon a normal rank...”

“How did he get first place in the entrance test?”

“Well... He did get a hundred points in the written test.”

Of course, Chun Sungjae had worked hard to reach the A-rank in the next two years, but...

“Since he is smart, he can use a different form of magic. However, he has reached his limit.”

“He’s a talentless pipsqueak that can’t even summon a spirit.”

Everyone had made fun of him.

However, right now, a solemn man had appeared in front of that very same Chun Sungjae.

[It has been a long time.]

The Gemini disciples foamed at the mouth.

“A spirit!”

They had made fun of Chun Sungjae more than anyone else, so this development shocked them.

“What the hell? I thought Chun Sungjae was incapable of summoning a spirit. That’s not true?”

“I guess not... It seems he succeeded in summoning it in the past.”

“What... what rank is that?”

The Gemini disciples snorted.

“I’ve never seen it. I bet it’s some lowly spirit.”

“Right? General-nim?”

The disciples turned to look at the generals. However, the expressions on the generals’ faces were off. For some reason, their faces were pale.

“General-nim?”

Their reactions were understandable.

“F-Fairy Monarch!”

“What?”

“Lord-rank!!!”

“What?!”

The generals were sure of it. The magical energy and the presence emanating from the spirit confirmed that. This spirit was a rank above the spirit summoned by their Saint Heiji; it was a spirit at the pinnacle rank, a Lord-rank spirit that no Gemini disciples could summon!

Only Saint ranks could call out spirits of this rank. However, there was a bigger problem.

“That’s the Primal Fairy Monarch!!”

“What?!”

Yes, this was the spirit that Heiji had been yearning for! It was the strongest existence amongst the generations of Fairy Monarchs. The Primal Fairy Monarch was capable of making all fairies and Fairy Monarchs submit to it.

Even the Gemini Saint had been unable to summon this Fairy Monarch. It was unparalleled, the lord amongst lords!

Moreover, it was the only Spirit King who could remove the restrictions over the Prison Magic Tome that Yoon Taewoo had stolen!

Such a being had descended in front of their eyes!

[My name is Elysion. I am the first and the last Fairy Monarch. Tell me your name, Contractor.]

The generals felt the strength leave their legs. They sank to the ground.

“I’m sure of it! I’ve seen that face in books!”

“Even Heiji-nim couldn’t summon it...”

The situation was serious. Of all the people, Chun Sungjae had called forth this spirit.

Choi Sunghyuk’s mouth fell open. He had thought that Chun Sungjae had a talent beyond that of an S-rank, but he had never expected this! Suddenly, a thought came to his mind.

‘In the future, he might be able to become a Saint.’ The Korean Gemini general trembled as he felt a chill. However, that wasn’t important right now.

“W-We have to recover the magic tome and that spirit!”

Hearing this, the Primal Fairy Monarch turned its head with a displeased expression. Then...

Kwahng!!

The Gemini magicians were sent flying.

“Huhk!”

“Kuh-huhk...!”

[Mere humans dare talk about retrieving me!]

S**t! It was on a different level.

In fact, even the other fairies that the Gemini disciples had called forth with Soul Invocation were shaking in fear even though they were all noble-rank spirits at the least.

At that moment, the Primal Fairy Monarch entered Chun Sungjae, and Chun Sungjae’s eyes turned golden.

“!”

The power it used wasn't even a greeting. It didn't rise to that level. After entering Chun Sungjae's body, Elysion lifted his hand. Magical energy gathered around Chun Sungjae's arms.

“Kneel, savages.”

Kwahng!!!

“Ahhhhk!”

The Gemini magicians, who had been using Soul Invocation, were sent flying, their Soul Invocation instantly canceled.

The Primal Fairy Monarch's power was overwhelming. However...

“Kuhk...!”

Chun Sungjae vomited blood. At the same time, the Spirit King was pushed out of him.

[Unlike how you were three years ago, you're now qualified to call me. However, your body is still too weak. It needs to grow further.]

At that moment...

[You have killed your enemies!]

[You have completed the Serpent Bearer's mission requirements.]

[Would you like to become the Serpent Bearer's disciple?]

A green light fell on top of Chun Sungjae's head.

This made the fallen generals apoplectic.

“He has completed his missionary work!”

All of them were familiar with this sight. As awakened beings, they had to go through a similar process to become disciples.

It seemed Chun Sungjae was about to join some unknown Zodiac as a disciple...

“Wait a moment! Doesn't this mean he won't be able to take the Fairy Monarch if he does a transfer?”

“That's right... If he does transfer, he'll only be able to take his normal skills!”

<Transfer> was the act of changing one's Zodiac. Even if one transferred to another Zodiac, the skill one developed remained with oneself.

Although the unlocking of the skills happened due to the Zodiac's power, the skills' development was considered the disciple's domain.

Transfer erased only the skills unique to the Zodiac and the skills that were a threat to the Zodiac. This was the price of doing business with a Zodiac.

If a disciple ran away from the temple, the Inquisitors would track them down and put them on trial.

The Fairy Monarch spirits were the unique treasures of the Gemini temple. The temple could not lose them to outsiders.

Therefore, the deserters hadn't been a problem. The Gemini temple hadn't paid attention to those who transferred to the Criminal Saint's Cancer temple.

However, it didn't seem Chun Sungjae was willing to return that spirit.

The subordinates gulped when they realized this.

"Isn't this a precarious situation?"

Nevertheless, Choi Sunghyuk snorted. "While the Fairy Monarch is linked to the Gemini skill, it is also a Construct under a special contract. There is no way we will lose it."

As if to prove this point, Elyson spoke.

[Oh, Contractor, I belong to the Gemini. Only those affiliated with the Gemini can be with me.]

Choi Sunghyuk laughed as he had expected this. "See. There is no way it'll betray the Gemini...."

However...

[A magical energy surrounds your body. I don't know who it is, but it's a very powerful Zodiac. Alright! I'll transfer with you.]

"?!"

Magical energy emanating green light exploded forth.

[Chun Sungjae and the Fairy Monarch Elyson became the disciples of the Serpent Bearer.]

The generals were shocked by what they saw. Of all the things Chun Sungjae could take, he had to take the treasure of the Gemini! Then...

[Let's continue. Let's make our contract.]

The generals' eyes flashed.

"This is our chance! We have to steal his power before he makes a contract with the spirit!"

"If we kill Chun Sungjae, we can recover the Primal Fairy Monarch!"

Boom!!!

“...!”

The generals tried to move, but a fire arrow blocked their path. Surprised, they looked in the direction where the arrow had come from.

“That man...”

The one who had made and shot the flame arrow was Lee Jaewon.

Everyone’s mouth fell open.

“I’m pretty sure he was the general of the Sagittarius!”

Having taken off his respirator, Lee Jaewon glared at the generals as if he wanted to kill them.

“If you don’t want a hole through your heads, get the f**k away from Young Master.”

“...!!”

This development surprised everyone.

“He was in bed until a moment ago, so how...”

“Is it possible to move like that after waking up from a ten-year coma?”

Unlike everyone else, Chun Sungjae knew the reason for that.

[Achievement no. Zero – ”Returned” is in effect.]

[Effect: Temporary Super Regeneration. The body will recover to its optimal state in short order.]

[Achievement No. 2 – A great Saint called the Archer Saint was deeply moved by the Serpent Bearer.]

[Effect: Power is borrowed from the Sagittarius]

The Gemini generals instinctively felt the difference in power, so they surrendered.

Chun Sungjae laughed as he took out his phone. “I’ll contact Uncle—”

When he saw his phone, however, his face turned pale.

[20 Missed Calls]

[Sungjae]: 13:01

[Chun Sungjae]: 13:04

[Hey]: 13:06

[Answer me]: 13:30

[I'll buy you lunch]: 13:31

[Please Sungjae!]: 13:32

[Sungjae ♡]: 13:33

[I'll kill you if you become Uncle's disciple before me]: 16:48

(No Name left the chat room)

Fear struck Chun Sungjae, and his phone fell out of his hand.

* * *

“Anyway, that was how I came here. Young master has become very strong.”

Lee Jaewon's words left Hugo speechless. This man who looked to be in his late thirties was his first disciple. He was the general of the Archer temple. Of course, Lee Jaewon could come here because he had used a unique skill only received by a Saint's first disciple.

[Return], this skill allowed him to return to where his Zodiac resided. Normally, the Saint was connected to their Zodiac, so of course, Lee Jaewon had arrived near Hugo.

“Also, Young Master has left the Gemini temple.”

Hugo let out a sigh of relief. It seemed his son was finally going to listen to him and give up on being an awakened being. Even if that wasn't the case, he just had to stop his son from joining a different temple.

“What about Jiwoo?”

“Ah! Madam hasn't opened her eyes yet, but she can breathe without a respirator. If things progress well, she'll wake up later today.”

Hugo discreetly wiped his wet eyes. This was enough.

At that moment.

“Ha ha ha! It seems the Eunuch Saint's holy ground is overflowing with ingredients!”

Lee Gun was hunting down the Constructs within the Virgo Saint's fallen holy ground, and it seemed he was thoroughly enjoying himself. “Ha ha ha! One, two, three! These are the highest-grade clothes!”

[Kuh-huhk! The human is killing the familiars!]

[This is crazy!]

[Ahhk! Help me!]

Hugo pinched the bridge of his nose. In the end, he yelled, trying to tell Lee Gun that it was enough. “Gun!”

Lee Gun finally appeared in front of Hugo, his eyes round. He had also caught sight of Lee Jaewon. It surprised him quite a bit. “You were the one who was comatose for the past ten years?”

In the past, whenever Lee Gun teamed up with Hugo, Lee Jaewon had acted as their mule.

“You shook in your boots every time you saw a monster, yet you became a general?”

Lee Gun was speaking very disrespectfully, but Lee Jaewon was used to this. He got on his knees and bowed to Lee Gun. “It has been a while, Lee Gun-nim. Thank you for saving me! I will never forget this boon!”

Lee Gun snorted. “It’s fine. If you’re thankful, just be good to my friend.”

Hugo was deeply moved. “Gun....”

“Or you can abandon this guy and become my disciple.”

“Hey!!”

Suddenly...

“Dad!”

Hugo was surprised to hear a familiar voice. When he turned, he saw a familiar face running toward him.

“Yooha!”

Chun Yooha seemed to have run straight over here. She was out of breath. The girl looked relieved when she spotted Lee Jaewon. She had already received a call from Goat about what had happened.

“I heard you woke up...”

Lee Jaewon laughed. “I’ll guide you to where your m****r is.”

Chun Yooha nodded. Then she started looking at her surroundings. “What about Sungjae? Isn’t he here? He hasn’t been answering my calls.”

“Ah! Young master is next to Madam. He’s also tired from using a large amount of magical energy.”

“Is he ok?”

“Ah, yes. He became an S-rank when he became Lee Gun-nim’s disciple. He’s fine.”

“I see. There should be no problem since he became Gun’s disciple. Disciple—”

They suddenly had a realization. Hugo and Chun Yooha turned their heads around at the same time.

What? He became whose disciple?

CHAPTER 90: WHAT? SERPENT BEARER?

For a moment, Hugo and Chun Yooha wondered if they had heard wrong. It looked as if they had just heard something they never wanted to hear.

Hugo stiffly asked, “Sungjae. Right now. He became the disciple of which b*****d?”

Their reactions made Lee Jaewon look back at them as though they were being weird. “Lee Gun-nim. As I said earlier, Young Master left the Gemini temple...”

“...#\$...!” Hugo grabbed the back of his neck. He felt so nauseous that he almost fell backward, barely stopping himself.

The Archer Saint felt like crying. His son had finally left the Gemini temple, so he had been happy at first. He had thought his son finally understood how he felt as a father. The news had pleased him! However...

‘He added insult to injury!’

“I told him to give up being an awakened being!” Hugo had told his son that Gun’s temple was off-limits!

“Hey! You!”

Unclear if he was crying or raging, Hugo grabbed Lee Gun by the collar. “...#*\$&!”

“Speak in human words.”

In the end, looking like he was about to cry, Hugo shouted, “There’s no way Sungjae is your disciple! There’s no way!”

“You’re in denial of reality now!”

Hugo felt aggrieved. “I told you my children were off limits! You jerk!”

Lee Gun snorted. “Why? Other people can become my disciple, but not your children? I thought you wanted me to have a disciple who’ll throw away his life for me if needed?”

Hugo pounded his chest as if that wasn’t the intention behind his words. It was said that one had to be careful what one wished for. The problem was that Sungjae would really sacrifice his life for Lee Gun!

Lee Gun didn’t care. He just grinned. “Anyway, your son is my disciple.”

Hugo wailed as if trying to deny reality. “Expel him, you b*****d!”

“Why would I?”

“Just do it!”

“I don’t want to do that. I thought you said I deserve the world. You were practically singing it.”

“When did I do that!”

“You delivered the speech after drinking some alcohol.”

“I never gave a speech! I only remember sleeping!”

“You’re still the same. You black out when you get drunk”

As the two men bickered like children, Chun Yooha listened to them with a serious expression.

“Yooha?” Hugo called out to her, but she shook as she looked at her phone.

Her brother still hadn’t responded. The app said her messages had been read! So she called him, but...

Ddoo-roo-roo-

Click!

[Ah! Yooha! Did you hear? Sungjae—]

[F**k! Why did you answer the call? Block that number!]

[What? It’s your sister, so why— Ahhhhk!]

Beep! Beep! Beep!

[The person you have called is unavailable right now. You will be sent to voicemail...]

Bbah-gahk!

A crack appeared on the phone in Chun Yooha’s hands.

‘You little s**t.’

In truth, there was another reason Chun Yooha wanted to be Lee Gun’s first disciple. It was the “Bonus skill.”

Bonus skill was a skill that disciples could acquire under specific conditions. It was like winning a prize for being the first, hundredth, or thousandth customer. Or one had to fulfill a specific set of conditions. Bonus skills were like the hidden skills of the world.

For example, a disciple who looked like the ideal type for a Zodiac received the [Charm] skill. The 77,777th disciple received a skill called [Lucky Human]. The 4,444th disciple received the [Death Avoidance] skill. A disciple that moved the Zodiac would receive the [Gratitude] skill.

Bonus skills were countless, but one was particularly famous. It was the [Return] skill.

<Disciple Return (S)> Movement skill

[If the disciple uses this skill, they will head toward their Zodiac. When and where doesn't matter.]

– Condition: Has to be the first disciple (Excluding Saint)

– Since a Saint is contracted to the Zodiac, the disciple will head toward the Saint when this skill is used.

– Check Location Possible

– No condition is needed for use. This skill can be used in areas where teleportation is banned.

Chun Yoocha had wanted to earn this bonus skill. If she had this skill, it didn't matter where she was. She could instantly head toward Lee Gun!

One of the Ten Stars possessed the Return Skill. He could easily protect his Saint, and most importantly, he could be with the Saint for all 365 days in a year.

And her little s**t of a brother took that skill from her! Chun Yoocha's eyes were full of rage as she looked down at her phone.

Lee Gun became worried when he saw the serious expression on Chun Yoocha's face. "Yoocha?"

"He stole Uncle's first."

What?

"He's a magician. He can use a teleport spell."

"Yoocha?"

As if she had come to some decision, Chun Yoocha put her phone back into her pocket. It was fine. Why?

Even if one satisfied the conditions needed to receive the Bonus skill, the skill didn't appear immediately.

'There is a chance that the skill hasn't bloomed yet.' This meant... 'I just have to take care of business before that happens.'

Chun Yoocha's eyes twinkled. Red lightning flashed in her hand as a dagger appeared in it. She then approached her father and borrowed his wristwatch.

At a glance, the watch looked like a normal Tag Heuer watch, but it was actually the badge of the Archer.

Chun Yooha made several gestures above the watch. Then she heard a voice.

[A Saint-rank has made a request!]

[Archer Saint's rental skill(VVIP rank) has been activated!]

[Tracking skill(SS)!]

[Please select your target.]

Chun Yooha immediately turned around.

The surprised Hugo looked between his watch and his daughter. "Wait a moment! Where the hell are you going?"

Goat, who had gone off to acquire some healing potions, returned at this moment. Hearing the name his Saint muttered, he froze in place.

"Yooha!"

'What? Yooha?' Just hearing her name made him freeze. He quickly looked at his surroundings.

When Goat turned to look behind him, a scream escaped his mouth.

"Goat!"

"Ahhhk!"

It seemed he wasn't having an auditory hallucination. Goat almost sank to the ground when he saw Chun Yooha, who stood in front of him. Unlike his usually calm and collected self, this SS-rank Archer disciple looked nervous and on edge.

He quickly patted down his hair and clothes. "Miss Yooha! It... It has been a while..."

"Goat! Do you have any of Sungjae's items?" Chun Yooha asked.

"What?"

"You said you were with Sungjae not too long ago."

"Ah...!" Goat quickly took out a wooden tablet.

[Genius Workshop's Wooden Tablet (S)]—the Genius Workshop was where the world's greatest Makers gathered. This item was a rare item created there. Making it had been very tricky, so it was very expensive.

When Goat opened the folded wooden tablet, a black messenger bag appeared in front of him. "Sungjae gave this to me for safekeeping..."

He didn't know what they were for, but the bag contained suspicious magic tomes.

“Why do you want Sungjae's item—” Goat didn't even have the time to ask why she was looking for Sungjae's items.

Chun Yooha's eyes flashed, and she took out a wallet from the bag.

Goat asked, “Excuse me! When did Miss Yooha come here...”

“Thank you!” Leaving behind that remark, Chun Yooha instantly disappeared.

A light surrounded her as she surged into the air. It was a teleportation spell, and not a simple one at that. She was using it in conjunction with the tracking skill. Chun Yooha had used the Archer's high rank tracking skill and had gotten her brother's coordinates.

When Chun Yooha disappeared, Goat's face was ashen. He was mesmerized. He had seen her after almost half a year. Goat kicked himself for being an idiot who was unable to say a proper greeting to Chun Yooha!

Hugo clicked his tongue. “He froze again! Why does he act that way whenever he meets Yooha?”

Lee Gun cackled and made fun of his friend. “What do you mean why? He likes Yooha.”

“?!”

Hugo grabbed Goat by the neck, taking the SS-rank disciple by surprise.

Lee Gun cheekily laughed. “Tsk tsk! I know Yooha is pretty, but don't you have a conscience? Aren't you twenty-seven? There is a seven-year-age difference between you two. That's almost theft. Also, you look very old for your age”

“?!” Goat felt aggrieved.

Lee Gun was the same age as Yooha's dad! However, it was true that Lee Gun looked much younger than him. Lee Gun was much more handsome than him, too.

“Benjamin! You had evil intentions toward my daughter!” Hugo yelled.

“No way! Saint-nim! You're mistaken! I have no such thoughts toward her! This is a misunderstanding—”

“When Yooha was young, she said she wanted to marry her father!”

“No! If I'm being honest, I'm pretty sure she said those words for Lee Gun-nim!”

“What did you just say?”

Lee Jaewon laughed as he watched their antics. His Saint's love for his daughter was still the same. Lee Jaewon had been very surprised when he saw Chun Yooha. The last time he had seen her, she was ten years old.

‘She grew up really well.’

However, Lee Jaewon had no idea why she had joined the Leo temple. After all, the Leo Saint was someone Hugo hated the most.

Despite her affiliation, Chun Yooha’s tempered energy was giving off the impression of an S-rank at the very least. Moreover, she was a knockout in terms of appearance. Hugo’s nervousness was understandable.

Suddenly, Hugo said to Lee Gun, “Whatever! Just excommunicate Sungjae!”

“Hmm. Alright. Should I make Yooha my second disciple?”

“You son of a b***h! If you do it, we’re done!” Hugo didn’t care if Lee Gun was his friend or not. He tried to choke Lee Gun by the neck.

However, Lee Jaewon held him back. He did it because he had to tell them something urgent. “Lee Gun-nim! Saint-nim! I have something to—”

At that moment.

“!”

A powerful energy suddenly appeared in the surroundings

Lee Jaewon was surprised by who was approaching Lee Gun. It was the Virgo Saint.

Kevin looked at the sight in front of him with a dumbfounded face. “Huh!”

[DEAD]

[DEAD]

[DEAD]

He and the Virgo disciples had turned pale.

“My god! The Virgo’s Constructs! All slaughtered!”

Yes, the things in front of them were the corpses of the Virgo’s Constructs. The Virgo’s Constructs were fabric gods made of quality cloth and the wood gods shaped like trees. They were specialty products for the Virgo temple that the entire world coveted.

No humans could produce such products. Basically, they were materials straight out of fantasy.

‘Of course, the Constructs have to be transformed for people to use them.’

For example, the Constructs could be transformed into capes, curtains, desks, etc. That was how they were used.

‘How can he do that!’

Even if Lee Gun coveted the materials, there should be a limit. How could someone even think about dismembering the bodies of lesser gods! However, Lee Gun had done something even more audacious.

[Now that the first disciple has appeared, the Serpent Bearer's holy ground can be formed.]

[The levels of contribution provided by the disciple have accumulated. The holy ground's level has increased.]

[You have acquired Development Points.]

[The holy ground has increased in size.]

[The holy ground is starting to develop basic attributes.]

[Serpent Bearer's Holy Ground/Personal Palace (Lv. 2)]

[Size 16m² (5 pyeong)]

[<Base Location>: Undecided]

[Holy Ground's Special Attribute: Super Regeneration]

[Now that a disciple exists, the holy ground skill is available for use.]

[First Holy Ground Skill. The <Holy Ground Creation> skill has been unlocked. The holy ground can be unleashed.]

– Serpent Bearer's Personal Palace's Holy Ground Skill (1/?) – [Holy Ground Creation]

– Domain skill

– The Serpent Bearer can deploy the holy ground field up to where the disciple's faith reaches.

– Range: 16m² (5 pyeong)

That's right. On the ground was a magic circle emitting green light. It was regenerating the Constructs' bodies.

Lee Gun meticulously timed his knife and scissors. "Ha ha ha! I can create an unlimited supply with this!"

Suh-guhk!

[Kyahhkh!]

A comical expression appeared on the face of Kevin, who had come looking for Lee Gun. "Heaven will strike you down!"

If the world found out someone like that had become the thirteenth Saint, it would faint.

On the other hand, the Archer Saint and his disciples looked at Kevin with murderous intent. The Virgo Saint believed that the whole universe existed for him. He had a special brand of arrogance and narcissism. Kevin was also hostile to all the other Zodiac Saints.

Then, there was the Archer Saint, who remembered being trampled by the Virgo Saint in the past. 'He destroyed the entirety of my holy ground'

Hugo's opponent had been the second-ranked Zodiac Saint. He had lost because the number of disciples in his temple couldn't be compared to that of the Virgo temple.

In other words, Kevin had been the god of destruction! The Archer Saint had been overlooking that because of the incident with Pelio. However, the Virgo Saint was most definitely an enemy of his.

"I'll shoot if you come any closer!" shouted Hugo.

The female Virgo disciples who had followed Kevin reacted with murderous intent.

"Whose presence do you think you're in? How dare you raise your head like that! Stop your silly talk, Archer Saint!"

"!"

Above all else, the focus of their ire was Lee Gun.

"Lee Gun! How dare you do this to Kevin-nim's arm!"

The woman who looked to be the leader of the female disciples imbued her sword with magical energy.

"I told you guys to stop!"

"!"

Unexpectedly, Kevin lashed out at his subordinates. "It's fine. I reaped what I sowed."

"What? B-but..."

"Be quiet! The loss of an arm won't make me weaker."

"!"

Kevin looked at Lee Gun, who continued to hunt down the Constructs. Then, as if he was making a declaration of war, Kevin yelled, "Know this, Lee Gun! It doesn't matter what you do! My face and skills are above yours..."

At that moment, the Virgo disciples finally got a good look at Lee Gun. His appearance left them surprised. It was as if they couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"My... my god! He looks more dashing in real life!"

"His unpolished beauty, muscles... He's overwhelmingly better than Kevin-nim..."

“Hey! You guys...!”

Despite his feelings, the Virgo Saint dropped the subject as he called out to Lee Gun, “You were curious about the swords in my storage room, right?”

“!”

“Since I owe you for taking care of Pelio, I’ll tell you everything,” Kevin said in a serious manner. “I found that sword in the Scorpio Saint’s storage room around five years ago.”

“!”

The unexpected name surprised everyone. The Scorpio Saint was the thief Saint. She was the one vying for the north against the Leo Saint.

Although she was known for her powerful fighting skills, above all else, she was known for her beauty.

“In short, the Crab Saint, the Libra Saint, and the Scorpio Saint are in cahoots. They act like Zodiac Saints, but in the background, they run a lot of sinister plots.”

“Then....”

“The one to look out for is the Scorpio Saint. Shallow men get bamboozled by her absolute beauty, but that woman is a thing of evil. She is dangerous.”

“A thing of evil?”

“She isn’t like us, who wants to protect humans. She’s an evil person who preys on humans. She’s the worst type of evil.”

These words made Hugo tilt his head in puzzlement. His reaction was understandable. When he had been almost hauled away and killed by a monster ten years ago, the one to save him had been the Scorpio Saint.

Moreover, she was the one who had searched for a hospital suitable for his wife and subordinate.

‘It does bother me that she always runs away when she sees Gun...’

“She’s a cruel woman that sheds no blood & tears.”

– I don’t think that’s true.

A voice rang out at that moment.

