

The Return of the Disaster-Class Hero

CHAPTER 96: I NEVER ASKED FOR THIS

For a moment, everyone in the arena froze, wondering if they had heard wrong. What did he just say?

“He doesn’t need his weapon?”

“Uh!”

Lee Gun’s statement had stunned them.

Of course, they had also gotten a shock when they had tried to sign Lee Gun up for this fight.

The reason had been Lee Gun’s reaction!

“Good! I already planned on spending a day or two in the US.”

“...?!”

Lee Gun had readily accepted their invitation. It had been too easy.

The sparring match would be taking place at a newly opened world-class stadium that was similar in size to the Wembley Stadium!

‘Has he lost his mind? The stadium will have a hundred thousand people there. The tickets to the seats will be sold out!’

‘Does he not mind being publicly humiliated in front of a crowd?’

Yes, the disciples’ goal was to recreate the legendary match from twenty-three years ago. In other words, this was a marketing ploy.

The disciples hadn’t told the Leo Saint about this, but they wanted him to defeat Lee Gun, like he had all those years ago in front of all those people.

The Leo temple had been using the video of the previous match for the past twenty-three years. There was a limit to how much they could use it!

Moreover, the world was currently abuzz due to the appearance of the thirteenth Saint. This was a golden opportunity for the Leo disciples.

The match would be witness to tens of thousands of people in the stadium and the rest of the world on broadcast, an incredible marketing opportunity.

Of course, the Leo disciples had assumed Lee Gun would never come to the match willingly. In fact, Oliver, who was overseeing the project, had made some preparations for that as well. “I’ve prepared enough compensation for Lee Gun. Getting him on board would be very difficult, but you have to get him to agree to the match.”

However, Lee Gun’s response was like he had found money. “Alright. I’ll fight him.”

“Thank you! Also, do not worry about your compensation! Your compensation…”

“Ah. I don’t need to be compensated.”

“What?!”

“You guys can keep it.”

“What????!”

This had surprised even the Virgo Saint and Hugo. They turned to look at Lee Gun. There was no way the mighty Lee Gun would do this.

‘So why is he being like this?’

Lee Gun had agreed to the match too easily. Moreover, he said he didn’t need any rewards.

And now, he was saying he didn’t even need to use his weapon.

The shocked high-rank Leo disciples looked at each other.

‘Has he lost his mind? Is he thinking about fighting the Leo Saint with his bare fists?’

‘Did he transition into a hand-to-hand fighter?’

The disciples’ gazes then headed toward the ax, which was now in Hugo’s hands. The weapon was whining. The ax was crying because it didn’t want to be separated from its owner.

‘As expected, it’s Heaven’s Punishment.’

‘Why would he want to fight with his bare hands when he has that weapon?’

That weapon was one of the legendary weapons all awakened beings around the world coveted.

This ax was rumored to have a consciousness, so it was known as a weapon troublesome to handle.

In truth, before landing in the Virgo Saint's possession, this weapon had come out at an auction. Countless awakened foamed at the mouth to acquire it.

Its wicked magical energy was a problem, but its incredible weight was the biggest detriment to its use!

[No one is capable of lifting Lee Gun's weapon]

Of course, a rumor said that this weapon was light in the hands of its owner. Everyone assumed Lee Gun had received a contract when he received the weapon.

When the ax had to be transported, they had to seal its power with a spell. Even then, a hundred awakened beings could barely move it.

'I assumed he would use that weapon to fight our Saint-nim.'

Lee Gun had seemingly followed their gazes. He mockingly laughed as if he found their thoughts ridiculous.

"Did you really think I would use that here?"

Heaven's Punishment cried as if it was sad.

Lee Gun clicked his tongue. "Activating it needs blood."

"...!"

"If you don't mind me slitting your throats with it, I wouldn't mind using it."

Seeing Lee Gun's cold gaze, the disciples felt chills run up their spines.

'He started each raid by cutting off a monster's neck. I guess that wasn't for nothing!'

In the videos of Lee Gun's raids, it looked as if the ax absorbed the blood. The disciples now knew this wasn't just their imagination.

Then there was Lee Gun's smile and the light in his eyes. Only an asura who practically lived on the battlefield could make such an expression.

The Leo disciples gulped.

‘He might rival our Saint-nim.’

In the end, they nodded in acknowledgment.

“Understood. We’ll guide you straight to the arena...”

At that moment...

Brrrrr!

“!”

The high-rank disciples tilted their heads in puzzlement; they had received an urgent message. Then, they looked between Lee Gun and their phones. For some reason, they were tiptoeing around him.

“Excuse me, Lee Gun-nim?”

“Is it possible to check your abilities through a test?”

Hugo looked at the disciples as though they were speaking nonsense.

Lee Gun responded as his eyebrows fiercely rose. “You want me to do an ability test?”

For an instant, they could feel a murderous intent in his gaze. For awakened beings, an ability test was synonymous with a head-on clash to gauge each other’s abilities.

The flustered Leo disciples quickly denied this.

“Ah! That’s not what I’m trying to say! This is more like a form of physical examination. We Leo disciples have an examination tool.”

“Why would you suddenly ask for that?”

“Ah! That’s... Saint-nim— Kuhk!”

After stepping on his colleague, a Leo disciple put on a bright smile and said, “To make our best preparations for the match, we have to calibrate the arena to your abilities! This will be a fight between Saints! We have to know the upper limit of your and Saint-nim’s powers so that the arena doesn’t break!”

The disciple who had his foot stepped on whispered to the other disciple, “Hey! Have you lost your mind? Why would you suddenly ask for an ability check? Oliver-nim never mentioned it!”

“What can I do? Saint-nim wants us to put Lee Gun-nim through the ability test!”

“What? Why bother doing that now?”

“I have no idea! He wants us to check his power!”

The two disciples were whispering, but they couldn't evade Lee Gun's hearing ability.

Lee Gun grinned. He had no idea why Stevens wanted to check his strength, but it didn't matter anyway. In fact, if he didn't have to take the stage right now, that would be better. Why?

[Disciple 1 is being attacked.]

[Your Constructs are harming your first disciple!]

[EXP related to the fight is coming in.]

A struggle was happening between his Constructs and Sungjae. ‘Monitoring this will be fun.’

Lee Gun originally wanted to raise Sungjae to the Saint rank, but one thing bothered him.

[Disciple(Human Familiar) ranks]

[Slave

Normal

Rare

Heavy Hitter

Star

Hero (Legendary)

Familiar Hero God]

‘Familiar Hero God?’ Was it talking about becoming a Construct?

Anyway, Lee Gun needed Sungjae to become resilient to physical attacks if he wanted the young man to grow. He could increase Sungjae’s resiliency by beating him up, but Sungjae was basically his nephew. How could an uncle treat his nephew like Hugo?

Therefore, Lee Gun had sent his Constructs. Others might think he was being cruel, but Lee Gun didn’t care about that. ‘I doubt they’ll kill him....’

[Disciple 1 is in critical condition.]

Mmm! Lee Gun now wondered if sending the Constructs was too much. He scratched his cheek.

“Excuse me! Lee Gun-nim!”

Suddenly, the Leo disciples brought something else. This object looked like a sturdy, golden punch machine.

[The Golden Lion’s Power Measuring Instrument]

“Lee Gun-nim, please put your magical energy into your fist and punch the doll!”

Hugo’s eyes turned round. ‘That is a divine treasure!’

The punch machine contained a massive amount of divine energy. It was clearly an item of the Divine rank.

This machine probably measured the power of Constructs that the Zodiac passed down to the disciples.

Hugo was about to say something, but the Leo disciples spoke up in a knowing manner. They laughed.

“This item can absorb shocks created by Saint rank magical energy. You have nothing to worry about!”

That wasn’t the problem, however. Hugo awkwardly looked at Lee Gun. “Gun, I’m telling you this beforehand, but that’s basically a national treasure!”

Lee Gun didn't even listen to him.

“Go for it, Lee Gun-nim!”

The Leo disciples soon tilted their heads in puzzlement. Lee Gun was shaking his head from side to side while clicking his tongue.

“Lee Gun-nim?”

“You guys should get out.”

“What?”

“Get out if you don't want to get flattened and die.”

“What? Why would we get flattened and die?”

Lee Gun grinned.

Sensing an ominous feeling, Hugo yelled at his friend, “Wait a minute! Gun!”

However, he didn't even get the time to stop his friend.

Lee Gun punched, and the punch containing incredible power landed on the machine.

* * *

“What? He destroyed the measuring instrument?” The Leo Saint turned pale when he received the call. “The shock destroyed the building?”

Yes, Stevens was the one who had ordered his subordinates to check Lee Gun's power. His disciples had advertised the fight to the whole world, so he couldn't back out now. Therefore, Stevens had wanted to find out how strong Lee Gun was.

That treasure could measure the stats of all awakened beings and compile them into a graph or numbers.

The Leo Saint had become much stronger than the last time he had used the machine, and he had wanted to compare Lee Gun's stats to his previous benchmark.

If the fight looked doable from the results, he would go out to the arena. So what the hell happened? Lee Gun broke the divine measuring instrument?

‘No way!’

The machine was designed to withstand any attack from a human!

‘What the hell happened?’

– Ah! Despite it being destroyed, the measuring instrument did gather some information. We’ll send the results to your phone in short order.

“!”

Despite being destroyed, the machine had shown its worth as a treasure.

Lee Gun’s stats arrived at Stevens’ phone.

Dee-ring!

Relieved, Stevens quickly checked the results.

“...”

His face froze. Sweat ran down it. At this moment, only one thought came to his mind! ‘I’ll tell them I have a stomach ache. I’ll just run away.’

However...

“Please do not worry, Saint-nim!”

The SS-rank Leo disciple Oliver’s eyes twinkled. “I’m sure you’re worried about Lee Gun running away. He could use a stomach ache as an excuse. That’s why I brought in the best doctors and the finest medicines! All the preparations are world-class. You just have to focus on fighting.”

“?!”

This b*****d really!

* * *

The Virgo Saint Kevin was looking around the stadium, furious as Lee Gun had agreed to fight the Leo Saint. “Lee Gun! He won’t fight me, but he’ll fight that muscle-bound fraud?”

Just one day had passed since the Leo disciples had disseminated the news of the fight between Lee Gun and the Leo Saint. The stadium had been opened in haste, and an overwhelming number of people had gathered around it.

Tickets to all hundred thousand seats were sold, and several hundred vehicles from media stations around the world were already parked in front of the stadium.

Of course, everyone got out of Kevin's way when they recognized who he was. However, Kevin was deaf to his surroundings.

“Ah! Why is the waiting room for that cat b*****d so far away?”

That's right. Kevin's destination was the Leo Saint's waiting room. He would get rid of the cat b*****d, who had the luxury of fighting Lee Gun, and enter the arena in his stead.

Then there were Lee Jaewon and Goat. These two had the unenviable task of looking over Kevin. In truth, Lee Gun had tasked them to look for an opportunity to raid the Leo Saint's warehouse, which was located within the stadium.

“Does he realize the Leo Saint's waiting room is on the opposite side of where he is going? I wonder if he knows that...”

“Leave him alone, hyung-nim. He's been at it for an hour. Anyway, it seems he wants to get rid of the Scorpio Saint too.”

“The Virgo Saint wants to get rid of her?”

“Yes, Hyung-nim. The Virgo Saint believes the Scorpio Saint was the one who attempted to kill Lee Gun-nim. The Virgo Saint tried to fix Lee Gun-nim by giving him herbal medicines, and he's pissed that the Scorpio Saint took a shot at Lee Gun-nim's life.”

An odd expression appeared on Lee Jaewon's face. “Really? That's odd! I'm pretty sure the Scorpio Saint has a crush on Lee Gun-nim.”

“I guess so! The Scorpio Saint has a crush on Lee Gun-nim— Wait, what? What do you mean?”

The shocked Goat tried to get the details from Lee Jaewon, but they caught sight of someone. It happened when their mouths had fallen open.

[Lee Gun! Lee Gun has made his appearance.]

The stadium erupted in cheers.

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Northeast, US!

The Beaver Stadium was located past Washington, DC, in Pennsylvania to be exact. In the past, this stadium was used as an outdoor football stadium. After renovations, it was now an arena where disciples could have matches.

The stadium had a seating capacity of around a hundred thousand. And right now, the numerous spectators in the stadium were screaming.

[Do you hear the cheering?]

[The atmosphere is different from usual! It's on another level!]

The United States was the Leo Saint's territory and was famous for being the holy land of arenas. As expected of a territory under a battle-type Saint, each of its states had a large arena. The arenas were used for sparring and battle simulation.

<The Texas Arena Zone currently has a 30 consecutive win streak!>

<The Neyland stadium is holding a match between the Generals. The scalped tickets are worth 23 thousand dollars.>

The Leo Saint's arena system was famous around the world. Awakened beings from everywhere took part in the weekly sparring matches.

It wasn't just the Leo disciples. Disciples from other temples also participated in the matches to test their abilities. They also joined the betting pool.

Enormous amounts of money were exchanged in the Leo Saint's arena system.

<Just the matches between the generals generated a ticket revenue of over a hundred million dollars>

<Which disciple this week has the highest winning?>

<If the Scorpio Saint VS Leo Saint happens, it will have a spread of +12.7!>

Naturally, the regular disciples and the civilians bet on the matches. It had become commonplace now. The most popular matches were the fights between the generals, of course.

A star general's appearance turned the site of the match into a festival.

On top of that, broadcasting stations had channels dedicated to the fights. Famous fighters were plastered all over the media around the world.

However, the most anticipated match had yet to take place in an arena. It was a match everyone wanted to see.

“Saint VS Saint!” The world had only twelve Zodiac Saints. A match between them would be a match between superhumans. Of course, the number of Saints had expanded to thirteen now.

That was why the current situation in the stadium was understandable.

Wahhhhhhhhh!

The cheers came in waves. They were deafening. Reporters from various news stations and even commentators had to block their ears because the stadium was too loud.

“This is amazing! I never expected this much excitement from the crowd!”

“In the history of the arena circuit, the most legendary match was the match between two members of the Ten Stars. Is that correct?”

“That’s right. It was a fight between the Leo temple’s ‘White Lion’ and the Gemini temple’s ‘Black Thorn.’”

“Ah! In my opinion, Chun Yooha’s match was the most legendary one!”

“You do have a point. At the time, it wasn’t a battle between two members of the Ten Stars. It was a battle between two S-ranks. Anyway, a match between the Saints is on a different level!”

“This match will spit on any arena legends to come in the future!”

The sound of the audience’s roars rang out once again.

In truth, people had requested a match between Saints numerous times, but in the end, this never came to pass. Why?

A match between Saints could ruin the temples. On the surface, the reason given for never conducting the match was the worry that the arena might not be able to withstand the clash of powers between the Saints. However, the real reason was that the win or loss would create problems. A political fallout would ensue from the results. So, of course, the Zodiac Saints declined to participate in these matches.

“The opponent is none other than Lee Gun! Ever since he has returned after twenty years, he’s the talk of the town! As if that wasn’t enough, he has become the Saint of a new Zodiac!”

“That’s correct! He’s the thirteenth Saint! Currently, he’s inside the waiting room. Now, he’s incredibly charismatic! His body is much smaller, but his physique is on par with the Leo Saint!”

“However, Lee Gun lost twenty-three years ago. Didn’t a single punch from the Leo Saint send him flying?”

“Yes! However, he might have been grinding his teeth for the past twenty-three years! Or maybe the Leo Saint became his role model!”

“Ha ha! What do you think will happen today? Will it be the same result?”

“Don’t turn your channel away! The match will start in ten minutes!”

The stadium was becoming vociferous.

“Ha! Look at this b*****d.”

Stevens anxiously sat on the other side of Lee Gun. Reporters were everywhere with their cameras, and even Leo disciples stood outside in their armor.

Yes, the Leo Saint had suddenly barged into Lee Gun’s waiting room. Stevens said that he wanted to pay his respects before the fight, but the reporters stuck close to him.

Sitting on the other side of the table, the Leo Saint had said some strange words.

“I’m visiting you because I was worried. Before the match starts, I just want to make sure that you’re unhurt. Are you hurting anywhere?”

“No!”

“You... You never know. You might be fine right now, but you might suddenly have a stomach ache later. What if you’re unable to leave the restroom later...”

“Don’t worry about me! Why don’t you go take a dump in the restroom?”

“I’m just worried about your body. You were very ill in the past. You fell all the time. You don’t have to participate in this event...”

“There is no problem! I’m fine. I’ll see you later. It has been twenty-three years. I’m looking forward to it.”

“...”

Although the Saint had tried hard not to show it, Stevens’s face was a sight to behold.

“As expected of Saint-nim! He’s thoughtful enough to think about the health of his old comrade!”

Cameras flashed as everyone assumed the Leo Saint was trying to give a heartwarming talk to Lee Gun.

“You can have one.” The Leo Saint pushed a stick of gum toward Lee Gun.

Of course, the reason for him pushing the gum was obvious. Lee Gun’s suspicion was proven true when he unwrapped the gum. The gum wrapper had words written on it.

[I’ll give you ten million dollars! Let’s make a deal!]

Lee Gun’s eyebrows rose. The reporters were on the other side, so there was no way they could see the words written on the gum paper.

When Lee Gun looked at Stevens, Stevens let out a bright smile. But...

Crackle crackle!

“?!”

Lee Gun ruthlessly crumpled up the gum wrapper and tossed it in the trash. Then, he chewed on the gum as if it was delicious.

However, Stevens wasn’t someone to give up just from that. “Ah! I’ll give you more. This is a specialty product from my holy ground. It’s called the Leo gum.” He sounded a bit more desperate this time.

Two words were written on the gum wrapper this time.

[Thirty million!]

Really? The dumbfounded Lee Gun laughed.

This time, Stevens pushed the entire box of gum toward him.

[Fifty million!!!]

Idiot!

“Ptooy!” Lee Gun spat out the gum into the gum wrapper.

“?!”

Then, he threw the entire box of gum into the trash can. Stevens's expression was a sight to behold.

However, Lee Gun nonchalantly got up. "Ah! I'm getting hungry. I should eat something before the match starts."

Suddenly...

Tuhk!

As if he had expected this, Stevens desperately put something in Lee Gun's hand. It was bread, and words were written on its packaging.

[I won't ask you to make me a weapon!!! Please!]

This b*****d was pushing it. Lee Gun ripped apart the bread packaging and threw it to his slime. The slime ate it up as if it hadn't eaten for a while. It enjoyed its meal.

Stevens looked at Lee Gun in despair, wondering why his deals weren't working.

Lee Gun let out a cold laugh. Deal? Bullshit!

'F**k off! I can get that money by claiming ad revenue for the past twenty years.' How much interest should he tack on for the past twenty years?

Lee Gun's laugh made Stevens nervous! Stevens decided to bring out his last card. He was about to take something out of his pocket, but...

Kwahng!

Lee Gun put his feet up on the table. "You know I noticed it."

"!"

"I noticed the lineup of the fights before mine. They are all fighters from other places."

Surprised at his friend's words, Hugo quickly checked something. He looked at the fight schedule.

A close look revealed that the fight schedule was two hours long. Basically, Stevens and Lee Gun weren't the only ones fighting.

Stevens was the highlight! Disciples from other temples were going to fight in matches beforehand. It was pretty obvious these were mercenaries Stevens had gathered in haste. Of course, they weren't normal mercenaries.

‘The arena’s strongest fighters!’

If needed, Stevens wanted to tire out Lee Gun before fighting him.

Lee Gun let out a bright smile. “You’re trying really hard to tire me out.”

Stevens expected Lee Gun to get angry, but the man said something unexpected. “Don’t get cute with me! Send all your disciples too.”

“...?!” The Leo Saint wondered if he had heard wrong. However, Lee Gun tossed his phone toward him!

Toohk!

When Stevens saw the phone, he reared back in shock.

‘This is...’

The phone screen was showing pictures. They were the personnel files of his disciples.

Lee Gun looked unconcerned as he laughed. “Cut out the bullshit! Send out the guys I checked off.”

Stevens started sweating when he realized who Lee Gun had picked out. Unfortunately, Lee Gun had picked out the elite disciples, whom Stevens treasured.

‘Of all the people he could pick...!’

They weren’t just his first-rate troops. The list even included someone with great potential.

In the end, Stevens glanced at the reporters, then opened his mouth. “What are you going to do with them?”

Lee Gun grinned. “I only have one disciple right now.”

“!”

“I want to take anyone who looks useful.”

The one to get surprised this time was Hugo.

‘This guy...’ Was this why he had accepted the match request? Was this his original intention?

Stevens was truly taken aback. His first-rate troops aside, how did Lee Gun find out the abilities of his young trainees!

Lee Gun let out a light-hearted laugh. In truth, he had received a new mission when he arrived in the US.

[Disciple Mission]

– Please make weapons and gears for your disciples.

– Please add more disciples.

(Battle Saint Bonus: +200%)

And this was the place where Lee Gun could satisfy both requirements. He could make the weapons' bodies with no problem, but the data was a problem. The difference between data's presence and absence was equal to that between a day and night.

'All the data I've accumulated until now isn't great for raids.'

Moreover, he had used up a lot of the accumulated data in conducting many experiments.

'Of course, I still haven't used the important ones.'

The Leo was a Zodiac that specialized in fighting. Fighting its disciples will give physical-attribute-related data in spades. Lee Gun would benefit no matter what happened.

Bbee-bbee-bbee-bbee!

As the alarm notifying the start of the event echoed, cheers rang out.

"Lee Gun! Lee Gun!"

"Stevens! Stevens!"

The Leo Saint froze.

* * *

At this moment, Lee Jaewon and Goat were running somewhere with flustered expressions. They had caught sight of someone at the arena.

'The Scorpio Saint!'

That wasn't all.

“Hyung-nim! Wasn't that the Libra Saint too?”

“Yes. Unless she changed her face while I was asleep, that was her.”

Both women had hidden their faces, so no one seemed to notice them. However, the Archer disciples were savants at tracking and surveillance. The Eagle Eyes of the Archer couldn't be evaded.

The eyes of the Archer disciples could almost see through items, so they were sure of it. They had seen the two Saints carry the premium betting tickets one could buy only on site.

‘Did they come here to bet?’

‘That's odd.’

At that moment.

“My god! The viewership today will be insane!”

“!”

Lee Jaewon and Goat looked at the reporters heading up the staircase. One of them seemed to be a producer in charge of the broadcast.

“Lee Gun will fight the Leo disciples and the arena champions!”

Of course, the tastiest meal had to be put off until the end. Lee Gun's match against the Leo Saint was the second round, but the people were excited for the first round too.

“This guarantees people will watch the whole two hours!”

“No way, producer! There's no way it'll be two hours.”

“What?”

“We'll have them watching for two and a half hours!”

“Ha ha ha! You are right!”

Lee Jaewon and Goat looked at each other. What? It'd take Lee Gun two and a half hours?

Oblivious to everything else, the producer excitedly yelled, “Let’s hurry up. We don’t want to miss anything important!”

“We don’t need to hurry. The first match just started.”

“I guess you’re right. Isn’t Lee Gun’s first opponent the arena champion of this stadium?”

“Yes! He should need at least twenty minutes to defeat him—”

Kwahng!!!

Suddenly, the sound of an explosion rang in the stadium.

“What... what the hell? What’s that sound?”

“Is it a terrorist attack?”

No, it didn’t seem like a terrorist attack. When the flustered producers entered the arena, they froze. The mouths of the audience and the reporters had fallen open as well.

Lee Gun was dusting off his hands inside the arena ring as the arena champion lay on the ground outside the ring.

“What the hell is this b*****d? He’s the champion? The fight ended before I could even check his stats.”

The match that everyone assumed would take twenty minutes had ended in a minute.

When the first match ended in a K.O., cheers rang out.

“Lee Gun- Lee Gun!”

“That’s right! He has to be of that caliber if he wants to stand a chance against the Leo Saint!”

The announcer was taken aback, but he yelled out those words in excitement.

[Ah! That’s right. A Saint should be on this level! However, the next match won’t be as easy! The next participant has won thirty matches consecutively! He’s an undefeated powerhouse!]

At that moment, Lee Gun wagged his finger toward the announcer as if he wanted the man to shut up. “Hey, you’re being too noisy.”

[What?]

“It is annoying to fight one by one. I want you guys to send out everyone.”

[What?! Everyone?]

“You might be able to make this last a little longer if they attack all at once, right?”
Lee Gun let out a cold smile. “What? At the very least, I want there to be enough footage to air for five minutes.”

“...!”

Stevens was sweating as he watched the fight. He was restless. His reaction was understandable. ‘It didn’t even tire him.’

Oblivious to his Saint’s reaction, Oliver furrowed his brows. The SS-rank said, “As expected of one of the first awakened beings. He’s pretty skilled. However, he’s practically nothing in front of you, Saint-nim.”

Stevens’ eyes shook. Practically nothing in front of him! Bullshit! Has he lost his mind?!

The Leo Saint’s face had turned pale, and only one thought occupied his mind. He had to run away. If he didn’t, he would die.

What? Everyone was surprised because a match estimated to take twenty minutes had ended in a minute?

‘Don’t make me laugh.’

Lee Gun wasn’t using his real power right now. He was taking it easy because he was checking the stats of the disciples! Lee Gun wanted to scout disciples for his temple!

“Saint-nim?”

In the end, Stevens discreetly got up from his seat, trying to get outside. “Saint-nim? Where are you going?”

“Restroom!”

“Yes. Take your time.”

Grinning in triumph, Stevens headed toward the door. However...

“Hey! Where are you going?”

The bone-chilling voice hit his ears.

Bbah-gahk!!!

In a flash, someone instantly punted him toward the stage.

Kwahng!!!

The people in the arena screamed!

“Kyahhhk! What the hell!”

“Saint-nim?!”

Stevens was about to get up from the broken stage when the sight in front of him surprised him. The champions who were supposed to tire out Lee Gun in the first round lay defeated in front of him.

Lee Gun slowly walked down the staircase. “Where are you going, b***h? You’re next.”

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Stevens shook. Of course, he knew that cold voice.

As expected, Lee Gun had jumped on top of the stage. Grinning, he looked down on the Leo Saint, leaving him dumbfounded.

In the first round, Lee Gun had faced five champions.

‘All of them were champions from each region.’

The Leo Saint had arenas in each state around the US. These champions had won consecutive tournaments and defended their titles in those arenas.

The five champions had been quickly brought in, and they all had won over ten consecutive tournaments. They were experts on what they did. Of course, all of them were general rank!

‘At the very least, I thought they could tire out Lee Gun!’

No one cared if Stevens was surprised or not. The stadium was abuzz.

“Did... did you see that?”

“Didn’t all the champions attack Lee Gun at the same time?”

“My god!”

They had seen it with their own eyes, but they were still having a hard time believing it.

The ones who had taken the stage against Lee Gun were always betting favorites. People usually bet a lot of money on them. Many fell to their knees and shed tears of blood in front of these champions.

Some fighters had become cripples, and they had to be carried out. They were experts at fighting these arena matches, yet all of them had lost at once!

The commentators shouted as spittle flew from their mouths.

[Did you just see what I saw!!]

Normally, the commentators didn’t even blink an eye while commentating. They were so excited now, however, that they were screaming into their mics.

[It took him three minutes to defeat all four of them! Three minutes!]

[I can’t even make ramen in that time!]

[It was so fast that it counts as a premature e*****n!]

[He didn’t even use a weapon! He used his bare hands!]

There was another reason for their excitement.

[Moreover, Lee Gun is fighting with a penalty in the first round, right?]

[Yes! Currently, Lee Gun can use only half of his strength! At the end of the day, he’s a Saint. To make the fights fair, he’s wearing magic suppression bracelets!]

[And yet, he knocked down four of them! Let us see the replay of the fight!]

“Wahhhhhhhhhhh!”

Along with the cheers, the jumbotron replayed the footage of the fight. It showed how Lee Gun had defeated the four champions.

– Did you just hear that? Lee Gun called out all the champions! His fighting spirit is amazing!

– Ah! The champions have immediately started a discussion amongst themselves!
Ah! They have taken the stage! All of them have come out!

-The match has started! All the champions have come out! They are running toward Lee Gun! The one in the front is John! A Taurus disciple, John is the first to strike!

The enormous man roared toward the sky. An enormous monster took form in the sky, overshadowing the arena.

– It’s the Taurus Charge! He’s using that skill right at the start!

– That skill can knock out most awakened beings!

– No one can dodge that skill!

Despite this commentary, the video showed Lee Gun easily dodging the attack. He destroyed his opponent’s jaw bone using the blade of his hand.

Crack!

When one fell over, Lee Gun said something as he wagged his finger. It was as if he was calling for a dog.

This angered the rest of the champions, and they attacked at the same time.

Lee Gun spread his arms wide. Then, he fought a 1v3 battle. In a flash, two men and a woman fell over as they vomited blood.

Boom!

The video ended there. Then, five wins were put on the board. The crowd cheered when they saw this on the jumbotron.

[As expected, it was amazing!]

One of the producers, who was filming everything in excitement, almost dropped his camera.

“Two hours and a half...”

“I don’t think it’ll last that long...”

“Is this a joke?”

It seemed they were shocked. On the other hand, some people jeered.

“That was boring!”

Of course, they weren't disparaging Lee Gun.

“Even if the match with the Leo Saint is the main event, this isn't how it should be!”

“How do you call yourself champions? I get the first round is for fun, but you made Lee Gun look too good!”

“That's right! Lee Gun's power is being suppressed right now!”

“Right! This is boring! As expected, we have to see the Saints fight each other!”

They started cheering for Stevens, who had been tossed onto the stage.

“Stevens! Stevens!”

Boom! boom!

Even though the crowd was cheering his name, Stevens's face stiffened. He had told the champions to drag out the fight so that Lee Gun would tire out.

‘How can they not last even ten minutes?’

The “Leo Saint VS Lee Gun” was supposed to happen an hour later. The champions' incompetence had pulled forward the main event. It was about to start right now.

The crowd started stamping their feet as they anticipated the fight between the two Saints.

“Leo Saint! Send Lee Gun flying with a single punch like before! Do what you did twenty-three years ago!”

“That's right! Even if Lee Gun has grown in power, he couldn't have gotten that much stronger!”

“Hey! Don't look down on Lee Gun! He'll last at least ten minutes this time!”

The Leo Saint's lips turned white at the cheers. The reason for his reaction was Lee Gun, who was walking toward him.

Lee Gun let out a cold laugh. “You didn't listen to me.”

Stevens flinched.

Lee Gun's eyes turned sharp. "Didn't I tell you earlier? I wanted you to bring out the disciples I pointed out."

These words broke Stevens out of his stupor. "Have you lost your mind? Why would I bring them in front of you?" He would be crazy to lose his precious elite disciples to Lee Gun!

Lee Gun laughed in contempt. "Whatever! I'll interview them later on my own. Ah! Right now, I'll..."

He grabbed Stevens' shoulder. "I'll have to get rid of you first."

"...!" Stevens felt a chill run up his back.

Oblivious to the exchange, the audience continued to stamp their feet in excitement.

"Stevens! Stevens! Strongest Stevens!"

"Battle god Stevens!"

The excited commentators were yelling into their mics.

[The first round has come to an end. The second-round match will start right now.]

[The matches in the first round ended too early, but that shouldn't matter.]

[Correct! The earlier matches were the appetizer. This is the main event.]

The high-rank disciples from other temples, who had come to watch the match, nodded in acknowledgment.

"It would have been embarrassing if the thirteenth Saint couldn't perform this well."

"Hurry up and start the main match!"

As if they had been waiting for this moment, the commentators shouted.

[The intensity in the stadium is amazing!!]

[The first round unexpectedly ended quickly, so the deadline has been pulled up significantly!]

[You will be unable to place any more bets for today! We are closing it soon!]

[Three, Two, One!!]

Ddaeng!

[That was the closing bell!]

As soon as the speakers blasted those words, numbers appeared on the jumbotron.

Betting Odds for the Leo Saint VS Lee Gun!

[Amazing! The betting line for Lee Gun is 170/1!]

[That means everyone is betting that the Leo Saint won't lose, right?]

[That's correct. It seems the result from that fight twenty-three years ago had a big influence on the figure.]

[In the history of the Arena, the biggest underdog until now was 20/1. It was Chun Yoo-ha's fight against an S rank.]

[Yes. Anyway, it means you can make 170 times your original bet if Lee Gun wins!!]

[You can walk away with 1,700 dollars on a 10 dollar bet! You can get 170 thousand dollars on a 1000 dollar bet!]

[Will you be able to change your fortune with your luck!]

[You can win more by participating in the prop bets, so please watch until the end!]

Lee Gun heard the full-throated screams of the announcer. It baffled him, but he still laughed. "Really? I'm at 170/1?"

An odd murderous intent escaped out of him.

Cold sweat ran down the Leo Saint's back. 'I have no choice now.' At this point, his participation was a given.

'I have to make my Zodiac descend.'

It was the only way he could stand a chance against Lee Gun. Also, he had no reason to back off if he was being honest with himself. Why?

"That's right, Lee Gun. It isn't as if I've been slacking off for the past twenty years." Firming his resolve, Stevens widened his stand.

Boom!

He had become stronger than before, and he had never called for his Zodiac in a fight. However, it would be different now.

The Leo Saint's eyes flashed. His eyes changed to that of a beast.

Flash!

[Uh? It has been released! The bracelets suppressing Lee Gun's magical energy in the first round have been released!]

At that moment, the bell rang.

Ddaeng!

The crowd made the stadium rumble.

[It has started!! The match has started!]

As that announcement rang, everyone could feel an incredible tremor.

The one to make the first move was none other than Stevens! The Leo Saint kicked off the ground! As he surged into the air, the golden light roared toward the sky.

Boom boom boom boom!

Spittle flew from the mouths of the commentators seeing this.

[Yes! Stevens! The Leo Saint! He's charging forward! He's charging forward!]

[Lee Gun is moving too!]

[This is great! It's playing out exactly like the match from twenty-three years ago!]

[Ten meters! Five! One...!!!!]

[Let's go! Leo Saint! He's gaining momentum! He is punching! Will this fight end in one blow!]

[They are engaging each other!]

At that moment...

Bbah-gahk!!!!

An incredible sound echoed throughout the stadium. The Leo Saint's head bent at an odd angle as he received a hit in the face.

“Kuh-huhk...!”

The sound of him choking on blood rang as his body bent too. He was flying through the air.

Hundred milliseconds.

Five hundred milliseconds!

Finally, Stevens fell on top of the large fighting stage.

Boom!

The stadium fell dead silent. No one was breathing. It was as if someone had muted all the sounds. This stayed so until someone finally sneezed.

[Huh... The Leo Saint is down!!]

[My god! He fell when Lee Gun's fist hit him!]

From the crowd, a fierce roar pierced the sky. The commentators, who had also yelled, laughed at the unexpected development

[As expected of the Leo Saint! He knows an arena fight is all about performance!]

[That's right! It would have been boring if the fight ended the same way as twenty-three years ago!]

[Moreover, he's loyal to his comrades. He probably let his colleague get one shot in, in this fight.]

[Yes! This will be the golden opportunity where he'll be able to show off the Leo's skills!]

[That's correct! He should be getting up soon. What kind of performance will he show...]

However...

[Uh?]

Turmoil erupted within the stadium.

[Leo Saint-nim?]

Everyone's face suddenly turned serious.

[Uh uh? Something is wrong. The medics are rushing in!]

Surprised, the commentators looked at each other. Then, they stood up to their feet as if they had seen something unbelievable.

[My god! Down! He's down for the count!]

“What?!”

A large commotion occurred when it was determined that the Leo Saint was knocked out. Such a buzz had never been heard within the stadium before.

Hugo, who had been watching the fight, pinched the bridge of his nose as if he had known this was going to happen. “That idiot Leo Saint...!”

At the very least, he should have called forth his Zodiac faster.

“Phew! This is why he always loses to Gun, then becomes obsessed with him.”

Of course, the Leo Saint was strong. However, Lee Gun was much more powerful. In terms of pure strength, the Leo Saint was powerful in his own right. However, a critical difference separated him from Lee Gun. Lee Gun possessed a god-given battle sense and intuition.

It was the reason Stevens could never catch up to Lee Gun, no matter how much he tried. ‘It's also why he became so obsessed with Gun's holy items.’

Stevens wanted to be Lee Gun. Therefore, he would always call Hugo before and after Lee Gun's death. Hugo used to work as a support to Lee Gun.

It seemed Stevens was under the misconception that he would gain the same power as Lee Gun if he had Hugo as a supporter. Therefore, he would call Hugo from time to time and make a big fuss about Hugo becoming his supporter.

‘It was also the reason he kidnapped Yooha.’

Well, if Hugo were being truthful, Yooha put herself in the Leo Saint's care, but Hugo considered it an abduction. Stevens got what he deserved.

At the fighting stage...

[Uh? Lee Gun is doing something!]

[He is wagging his finger?]

“!”

Lee Gun was crooking his finger toward the Leo Saint as though he was telling the Leo Saint to get up.

[Ah! The Leo Saint! He's getting up! He's getting up!]

[I guess our earlier analysis was a mistake!]

[Of course! This is how it should be! It was a performance!]

Stevens barely got up using all his limbs. Although he managed to stand on his feet, his legs were shaking. Still, he had gotten up.

The Leo disciples cringed as they shouted at their Saint.

“Saint-nim! Are you ok! Your head is bleeding!”

“Haha! Saint-nim! You're doing too much fan service for the people!”

Stevens looked like he was about to fall over as he wiped at his face. His nose was broken, and his jaw was dislocated. However, that wasn't important right now.

‘Semi-Divine state!’

A light erupted from his body. Then, he charged forward. “Lee Gun! This time I will—”

Bbah-gahk!!!

Lee Gun kicked Stevens in the face. Sent flying like a bullet, the Leo Saint hit a pillar, then fell to the floor.

Boom!

“Saint-nim!”

While everyone was shocked, Lee Gun just snorted. “Idiot! Are you some kind of magical girl? Who the hell would wait until you finish your transformation?”

Cheers erupted within the stadium.

[KO! It's a complete knockdown! It is a knockdown!]

[The Leo Saint! He didn't even get to hit Lee Gun before Lee Gun put him down!]

It seemed they couldn't believe what they were seeing.

[My god! Lee Gun just needed a single blow to knock out the Leo Saint!]

[In fact, it seems as if Lee Gun was holding back on the first exchange. Is that the feeling you get?]

[Ah! Wait a moment. What happened in the match twenty-three years ago?]

[I'm... I'm not sure. Did Lee Gun grow that much in power? Or maybe...]

[Anyway, the thirteenth Saint is no joke! You can also watch today's broadcast on YouTube and the N channel. If you were unable to catch the fight, please check those channels.]

Another round of cheers erupted in the stadium.

“Saint-nim!”

The Leo disciples finally reached their Saint with a stretcher.

At this point, the reporters the Leo Saint had called were flabbergasted. They were in a state of confusion.

“What the hell happened? Didn't he say the legend would repeat itself?”

“Does this mean the Leo Saint is not as strong as advertised?”

This angered the Leo disciples.

Kwahng!

However, they soon jumped in surprise.

Lee Gun stood in front of the Leo disciples who had come to retrieve Stevens. The disciples raised their guards, but for some reason, Lee Gun was closely looking at each disciple.

With a menacing laugh, he said, “I'll ask one question”

“What?”

“Who wants to become my disciple amongst you guys?”

Lee Gun had an expression that looked like he wanted to kill them if they didn't all raise their hands.

CHAPTER 99: I'LL TAKE YOUR SEAT

[Is this three-second cut of the Leo Saint real?]

[I saw it live. It's real!]

[Was it a performance? Did they predetermine the result? What kind of acting is this?]

[□ □ Idiot. Why would the Leo Saint get crushed like that if they were acting?]

[If they do two more performances like this, he'll be pulverized.]

[I guess you're right;;;]

[Does that mean he really lost to Lee Gun in an instant???]

The result of the match spread around the world in no time. After all, the whole world had focused on this match. The match had been broadcast live on TV, but all the popular analysts and BJs were also on standby to talk about the fight.

Analysis of high-rank disciples' abilities and achievements were highly profitable. The world even had national analysts that provided their service as a profession. It was an important class of profession when it came to stopping the invasion of the unknown civilization.

Moreover, the highest rank of disciples that they could analyze were the Saints.

Of course, a new breed of disciples called the <Ten Stars> was considered the strongest humanity could offer. However, these ten couldn't be compared to the original awakened beings. The Zodiac Saints, in some ways, were symbolic leaders of the world.

This match had been a golden opportunity for everyone to analyze the thirteenth Saint. They could see what kind of Saint he was. The fight was even a popular topic amongst the generals.

“The Leo Saint will win in the end.”

“That's right. Although the Leo Saint looks like an idiot who can use only strength, he uses a lot of underhanded tactics.”

“Tsk! Poor Lee Gun! He is being used for marketing.”

All the disciples who had returned from raids had gathered around their TVs in groups of twos and threes. However, what they saw was unexpected.

– My god! Lee Gun just needed a single blow to put down the Leo Saint!

– Ah! Wait a moment! What happened in the match twenty-three years ago?

The generals who outwardly showed no interest had been watching the match from the corners of their eyes. The outcome of the fight had shocked them as they took possession of the PC.

“What the hell? He’s knocked out? It took one blow from Lee Gun?!”

“Are you sure this isn’t some prank show?”

“I thought the Leo Saint was the war god?!”

The shocking end to the fight stunned the whole world.

Of course, the Leo disciples felt their souls leave their bodies. They had expected their Saint to repeat the legendary fight.

Lee Gun, who had hit the world on the back of its head, looked unconcerned by their reactions.

He nonchalantly laughed. Moreover, what he talked about frightened the Leo disciples. “Did you not hear me?”

“!”

“Who wants to become my disciple? Raise your hand.”

Taken aback, the Leo disciples looked at each other. Half of them couldn’t comprehend what Lee Gun was talking about; the other half was baffled.

Lee Gun was asking if anyone wanted to become his disciple!

‘Is he trying to convert us?’

‘He’s doing it in this situation?’

‘He put Saint-nim in this state, yet he’s asking us that question?’

The disciples wanted to ask if he was joking, but they had a feeling that he wasn’t.

‘I... I don’t think he’s joking.’

A wicked light appeared in Lee Gun's eyes. Sure enough...

"I'll change the question. Who doesn't want to become my disciple?" Lee Gun laughed as he asked that, but the Leo disciples could only open and close their mouths in silence.

The image of Lee Gun sending Stevens flying with one blow was still fresh in their minds.

If they said no, they had a feeling that they would suffer the same fate as the Leo Saint. At that moment...

"You... You dare do that to Saint-nim!" A spirited recruit ran toward Lee Gun.

The high-rank Leo disciples, who were off to the side, turned pale.

"That idiot!"

"Hey!"

The senior members quickly tried to stop the young recruit, but it was useless.

"This is revenge for our Saint-nim!"

Lee Gun laughed as if he found the man's action cute. "You don't want to join? Alright."

He moved his finger as if he had given up.

The exuberant recruit, who had rushed forward, realized his mistake.

Pahng!!

A voice rang out as if a firecracker had gone off in the stadium. Flying through the air like a bullet, the recruit hit the wall. Then, he slumped to the ground as if his soul had left his body.

The disciples didn't even see Lee Gun's fist. In fact, it wasn't a punch.

"F**k... What the hell was that?"

Normally, they never lost their composure, but even they had to curse this time. Lee Gun hadn't used his fist; he had used his finger!

'He flicked his finger?'

This meant Lee Gun didn't even need to take out his weapon for the normal disciples.

“That finger flick had enough power to kill!”

Lee Gun sighed after sending his opponent flying. This was the first time he had used the finger flick ever since using it on Sungjae. Since the recruit was acting cute, Lee Gun had wanted to go easy on him, so he had used the finger flick. But...

‘Tsk! My power has gone up too much.’

After his body's upgrade, he was still having a hard time controlling his power. Well, he didn't really care if he could control his strength or not. Why?

[You have acquired rare potential data.]

[<Triumphant General>]

[Effect: You must win your fight. (Satisfy Condition)]

As he had thought, he had received the data he wanted. ‘As expected of a battle-type Saint.’

The Leo Saint was a battle-type Saint like Hugo and Kevin, but he was completely different from them.

Expected of a psycho, the Virgo Saint possessed clingy skills like “I'll never die alone.” Hugo was impotent in close-range battles, so he constantly gave up data on cowardly skills like “Observing in Secret.”

In comparison, the fierce Leo Saint was a paradise of pure battle data! Basically, it didn't matter if Lee Gun could acquire another disciple or not. Coming here had been pure profit for him.

“Let me ask again.”

“...?!”

“Who doesn't want to become my disciple?” This time, Lee Gun lifted his fist. “I don't mind if you guys say no.”

Lee Gun's bright smile sent chills running up the Leo disciples' spines. What kind of missionary work was this?

‘Even the most diabolical Saints don't make direct threats like this!’

When Lee Gun moved closer to them, the disciples yelled out in surprise.

“Excuse me! We have to move our Saint-nim!”

“Yes. I see! So you guys don’t want to become my disciples?”

“That is not what we—”

Bbah-gahk!

The jubilant Lee Gun gathered data under the guise of recruiting disciples.

* * *

At that moment...

“What? The fight between Lee Gun and the Leo Saint has already started?”

“Yes... It started and ended at the same time... I guess you can say the fight has already started.”

The Virgo Saint Kevin got furious at the stadium employee’s reply.

“You lucky son of a b***h! You’re a mere cat, yet you got to fight Lee Gun! I didn’t even get to fight him!” Kevin still had been unable to find Stevens’ waiting room. He had been thinking about getting rid of Stevens to get in the ring.

Kevin glared at the arena. “You cowardly cat! You were afraid of me finding you, so you made the stadium into a maze!” Kevin claimed a maze spell had been placed over the stadium.

The stadium employees kept their mouths shut, but they knew the truth.

‘The waiting room is in the opposite direction.’

The Virgo Saint was famous amongst the disciples for being directionally challenged. The stadium employees worried that if left alone, Kevin would be lost forever.

Therefore, they carefully said to him, “Excuse me. If you don’t mind, I can guide you to the arena stage where the two of them are fighting.”

“Do you think I’m a kid? I can find the arena stage by myself.” The angry Kevin pivoted toward a new direction.

The employees started to sweat again.

‘He is going toward the exit!’

“Excuse me, Kevin-nim!”

“I said don’t follow me!”

In the whole universe, only he existed. Ignoring his surroundings, Kevin walked forward. Suddenly...

“What? Don’t treat Saint-nim? Let him die?”

“!”

An unfamiliar voice was coming from an isolated hallway.

The employee, who had been chasing after Kevin, was surprised. “Kevin-nim! You’re heading towards the Leo Saint’s training room— Aht!”

Kevin placed a finger on the employee’s mouth. Then, he soundlessly walked toward the direction the voice was coming from. Frost Walk! Even Lee Gun acknowledged Kevin’s skill in hiding his presence.

After hiding himself, Kevin furrowed his brows as he looked at someone. ‘The Leo Saint’s SS-rank disciple.’

The man in front of him was the deputy Saint. If Kevin remembered correctly, the man’s name was Oliver.

Kevin was sure Oliver was the one who had his spot in the Ten Stars snatched away by Chun Yooaha.

Oliver was talking with his subordinate right now. “He’s degrading himself by pining after Lee Gun’s crappy items. As if to make things worse, he lost to Lee Gun this time. Is he really suited to be the head of the Leo temple?”

“But...”

“It doesn’t matter who we promote, but we need a generational shift. It would have been great if Lee Gun had killed him, but it doesn’t matter.”

“...!”

“Tell this to the reporters. Saint-nim suffered acute blood loss from the wounds Lee Gun inflicted on him. Tell them that he passed away.”

“Are you saying you want to turn Lee Gun into a murderer?”

Then...

“You guys are full of s**t.”

“!”

“Who are you!”

The Virgo Saint sneered at their foolishness. “How dare you push your sins off to someone else?”

Oliver and his subordinate unsheathed their blades.

“I’ll get rid of him!”

This made Kevin let out a harsh laugh. “Get rid of me? You guys will get rid of me?”

“Hmph! We heard about the war within the Virgo temple! Due to that, the faith toward the Virgo Saint has hit rock bottom. You also lost an arm. Do you really think we’ll be afraid of you?”

A Saint, who had lost his power, had shown up by himself. Kevin, a Saint of a different Zodiac, was now a fodder that they could kill! It was a golden opportunity that would allow them to increase their Contribution to their temple!

As expected, the high-rank Leo disciple fiercely rushed forward. “Become an offering to the Leo!”

The corners of the Virgo Saint’s mouth creepily curved up. “You guys aren’t even Lee Gun. How dare you!”

They felt a chill. It was like encountering a wraith. This was the special look that could be seen only when the Virgo Saint was fighting. At the same time, a sound cut through the air.

Poo-oohk!

The sword was instantly unsheathed, and its blade dug into the Leo disciple’s neck.

“Kuh-huhk...!”

This was done with pinpoint accuracy and ruthlessness. The Virgo Saint possessed wraith-like eyes as he danced with his blade.

Kwah-jeek!

The situation was like a banquet of red droplets. They sprayed into the air. However, Kevin’s dance wasn’t at an end.

Poo-oohk!

His sword moved like a flash of lightning as it made a hole through Oliver's neck.

“Kuh-huhk!”

The blade pierced up through the palate and exited through the back of the man's head. Kevin ruthlessly twisted his blade.

Bbah-doo-doohk!

The Virgo Saint was rumored to be the cruelest Saint or, at the very least, in contention in being the second cruelest.

Kevin said, “How dare you look down on the saints! You don't even deserve your abilities.”

Of course, he didn't care if the Leo Saint died by his subordinate's hands or not. In fact, Kevin had thought about killing the Leo Saint for getting on his nerves. The thing that made him angry was the plot to place the blame of the Leo Saint's death on Lee Gun. Why?

‘I killed off the rumors to the best of my abilities. It'll be troublesome if they start ballooning again.’

This had happened after Lee Gun had died. Rumors had been running rampant. Like Hugo, Kevin had tried to kill off those rumors. Of course, he hadn't done it from start to finish.

Kevin started ten years ago when Hugo had to move away from anything related to Lee Gun. However, Kevin had ended his work when Lee Gun's unearthed fighting video had overtaken his own fighting video in terms of popularity to take the number one spot.

At the time, Kevin had wondered who had started all those foul rumors.

“I have a good idea of who the culprit is.” As the Virgo Saint spoke those words, the SS-rank Oliver's appearance changed.

Flash!

His face melted away, and a symbol appeared on his neck. The symbol of the <Libra>!

This made Kevin scoff at the foolishness. ‘I wondered why I could easily get through the guard of someone on the same rank as the Ten Stars.’

Yes, the person here wasn’t Oliver. It was someone else. Moreover, the tattoo on the neck was the “Saint Seal.” It was a mark that only the most-beloved disciples of the Zodiacs received.

All the Saints had a large mark somewhere on their bodies. The mark on the disciples the Zodiacs favored was smaller, but it was also somewhere on their bodies.

‘Is this her scheme to get rid of the Leo Saint?’ The Virgo Saint flicked the blood off his sword in annoyance.

He didn’t care if a Leo disciple killed Stevens or not. Kevin just needed to satisfy his grudge. “I’ll have to head towards the infirmary.”

Full of spirit, he quickly moved forward. However...

“You idiot! The infirmary isn’t in that direction!”

“!” Kevin turned toward the familiar voice. He saw Hugo and his subordinates.

Hugo acted as if he knew this would happen. He looked down at Kevin. “I heard my subordinates saw the Scorpio Saint and the Libra Saint nearby.”

“What?!”

The Libra Saint was enemies with Kevin and Hugo.

“The two of them are finally here to kill Lee Gun.”

[I have nothing to do with that!]

“!”

They suddenly heard a voice. The voice had come from the tattoo on the corpse of the man Kevin had killed. The voice mockingly spoke to the two Saints.

[Whom should I congratulate first? Your subordinate was in a coma for ten years, yet he’s moving in a lively manner. You’re amazing, Hugo. Or should I say you were just lucky? You were just the recipient of Lee Gun’s power.]

“...!”

Hugo’s face hardened when he recognized the voice. His reaction was expected. The voice belonged to the Libra Saint, after all.

[Of course, your wife won't be able to wake up so easily.]

They instantly became vigilant. Their opponent was considered the number-one Saint. Moreover, she was using a skill that allowed her to speak through a corpse.

'I thought that was a skill that only her Zodiac could use.'

Of course, the Libra was oddly close to its Saint. This wasn't out of the ordinary. Then there was the power they felt. It was clear that she had become much stronger in the past ten years.

In the end, Hugo snorted. "You were the one who made Pelio hire Gun to kill the monsters. What are you planning? Are you here to kill Gun once and for all?"

The Libra Saint sounded like a queen as she let out a high-handed laugh.

[Don't impute my character like that. I'm just here to bet today. It was obvious that the idiot Leo would lose today.]

"Do you think I'll believe that?"

[I'm not here to do anything.]

The woman let out a meaningful laugh.

[I'm...]

They didn't even have time to ask what she meant.

Kwahng!

The stadium shook violently. Screams rang out next.

"Monsters!"

The two Saints saw monsters through the windows and were surprised. Their surprise was normal.

'Rare-type!'

These monsters were the mysterious type of monsters on which no attacks worked. The same type of monsters had appeared before inside the Floating Castle Drachma.

'Five of them this time!'

They had struggled to fight even one at Drachma. Moreover, these five monsters were much more overbearing than the ones from before.

‘They are stronger!’

At that moment...

Kwahng!

The wall next to the Saints crumbled as something hit it like a cannonball.

“?!”

It was a Leo disciple, who had flown through the air. The disciple was bleeding from his nose.

Everyone’s surprise lasted only a moment. The disciple they had been observing yelled, “Lee... Lee Gun-nim huzzah! I... I’ll join.”

“Alright. That’s one disciple.”

“...?!”

What the hell was going on?

They looked in the direction the disciple had flown from.

“What? I needed ingredients to make my badges. This is great!” Lee Gun’s snake eyes flashed.

CHAPTER 100: I’LL TAKE YOUR SEAT

Hugo’s and Kevin’s eyes turned round when they heard the voice. However, before they could register who the voice belonged to, something flew past their faces.

Shweek!

A spear! It had flown past them like a laser! Leaving behind an afterimage made of green light, the black spear pierced through all the five monsters at once.

Kwahng!

The enormous worm-like monsters roared as they fell.

The spear had traveled a distance of over several hundred meters, yet the throw was a clean one.

Boom!

The surprised Hugo and Kevin turned their heads back again. Their gazes landed on Lee Gun, who had thrown the spear.

Dusting off his hands, Lee Gun muttered, "How dare these worm bastards crawl up out of the ground? They really are asking for death."

"...!"

As expected of Lee Gun, he didn't even let one monster live.

However, there was another reason for the two Saints' surprise.

"Lee Gun-nim, huzzah...."

"!"

That was the Leo disciple whom Lee Gun had sent flying. The two Saints got angry when they saw the bloodied disciple.

"Gun! What the hell are you doing right now!" Of course, Hugo was taken aback by Lee Gun's misconduct.

"Lee Gun! Why the hell are you fighting the cat's minions!" Kevin was pissed off to see Lee Gun fight the Leo disciples. He went on a rampage. "You ignore me whenever I request to fight you. You treat me like I'm invisible!"

Even while coming to this place, Kevin had kept trying to pick a fight with Lee Gun. However, it didn't matter. Lee Gun treated him as if he were a fly or a mosquito, ignoring him again and again!

Yet, Lee Gun had immediately agreed to a match against the Leo Saint!

Kevin continued, "As if that wasn't bad enough, you're personally sparring with people way beneath you!"

Hugo was dumbfounded by the Virgo Saint's anger. "In what world does that look like sparring to you?"

Lee Gun was bullying his opponent in a one-sided manner! That was clear!

The Leo disciple, who was very durable, looked like he was about to die. He surrendered to Lee Gun. “Lee Gun-nim, huzzah...! Lee Gun-nim, huzzah!”

How much did Lee Gun beat him up to put him in such a state? However, that wasn't the problem.

‘I'm pretty sure he said to join his...’ Hugo got an ominous feeling. He asked a question to confirm something. “Gun, who did you send flying again?”

“What? Are you deaf? I just told you he joined my temple. He's my disciple now, idiot.”

Hugo clenched his fists. “What's your name?”

The bloodied disciple tilted his head in puzzlement as he looked at Lee Gun.

“Was your name Puppy?”

“It's Puffin!”

“Ah! His name is Muffin.”

“I said it's Puffin!”

It seemed Lee Gun didn't know his name. Hugo wanted to curse, but he gave up on it. ‘My god! Who the hell does his missionary work like this?’

Of course, Hugo was the one who had suggested Lee Gun should do his own missionary work. After all, Lee Gun still didn't have a disciple specializing in missionary work. However...

‘This isn't missionary work. This is basically intimidation and abduction!’ Normally, in missionary work, one showed one's best behavior to scout others. The more outrageous part was the fact that Lee Gun wasn't scouting just one person.

“P-Puffin! Are you ok!”

“!”

Two survivors appeared from the direction where Puffin had flown from.

“F**k! You're the first string tanker that lines up at the front line for the Leo temple, yet you're bleeding from your nose?”

Their voices shook as they shouted.

Lee Gun grinned and turned his gaze toward them. “Alright! Next batter up!”

When Lee Gun met their eyes, the two disciples froze. Until a moment ago, they had been protesting to Lee Gun for putting their Saint in such a state. However, even the thought of protesting had disappeared from their minds now.

‘This man is a monster.’

They should have known when the rumors started circulating about Lee Gun dropping the Leo Saint from Drachma!

In the end, Lee Gun cracked his knuckles as he approached them. One of them screamed in terror.

“Excuse me, Lee Gun-nim!!”

Lee Gun’s fist stopped. His eyes fiercely rose. “What, you little s**t.”

Lee Gun looked annoyed, so the disciple flinched in surprise. However, he didn’t back off as a disciple of the Leo temple. At the end of the day, this man had defeated their Saint.

“With all due respect, do you mind if I say something?”

There was a fire in the disciple’s eyes, so Lee Gun laughed. “You’re brave. Go for it.”

“What do I have to do if I want to enter Lee Gun-nim’s temple?”

“?!”

The disciple’s partner looked at him as if he had lost his mind, but the disciple was desperate. He spoke as he perspired. It seemed he had realized this was the only way to get out of this alive.

Looking pleased, Lee Gun laughed. “The prerequisite for joining? It’s simple. Your faith has to be a 100%.”

“Ah! I see! A 100% faith is a simple req— What?”

The expression on everyone’s face was a sight to behold.

Hugo’s eyeballs looked like they wanted to pop out. “What? A faith of 100%!”

What the hell? Did this mean his son's faith was at 100%? Of course, this couldn't be the faith toward the Zodiac. The Serpent Bearer had never revealed itself, after all. That meant his son's 100% faith was directed toward his friend...

'Hundred percent towards that b*****d???' Hugo grabbed the back of his neck.

The shocked disciples yelled out.

"Lee Gun-nim! I'm sorry, but 100% is impossible!"

In the first place, the Saint with the highest faith was known to have 96% faith! Lee Gun's requirement was out of the question!

"We can't join even if we wanted to! We don't meet the prerequisite...!"

"Ah! It's fine. It's fine."

"What?"

Lee Gun's snake eyes flashed in a dangerous manner. "If it can't happen, I just have to make it happen!"

What... What the hell did he just say? Frightened by the look in Lee Gun's eyes, the disciples tried to run away.

Lee Gun sharply laughed since they had nowhere to run. He disappeared in a flash, then appeared in front of the disciples. Grabbing their shoulders, he sent them flying.

"Ahhhk!"

Kwahng!

"That's an additional two disciples."

"...."

Lee Gun dusted his hands off, leaving Hugo dumbfounded. He wanted to convert them, so why was he trying to abduct them? It didn't matter in the end.

"Gun!"

"I know." Lee Gun's cold gaze finally landed on the corpse.

The corpse started laughing.

[My god! I would have much preferred if Lee Gun had a hidden son.]

The woman who had an elegant way of speaking was aghast at the fact that Lee Gun was alive. As if to prove this, she venomously asked,

[Answer me! How did you get out of there?]

Instead of answering, Lee Gun mockingly asked, “Are you the one who sent the marinated crab to the bedwetter’s press conference?”

He was talking about the Cancer Saint.

The woman wasn’t offended by Lee Gun’s refusal to answer her question. She broke out in laughter.

[Of course! The bedwetter was so afraid that she was about to confess to everything. I had to get rid of someone like that.]

[Anyway, you should be thankful to us. You never possessed any special abilities, yet we made you look like a hero who sacrificed himself.]

These words left Hugo dumbfounded. “Hero, my a*s! You’re the one who made up false rumors stating Gun was an insignificant awakened being!”

[I know nothing about that.]

As if he had decided that she wasn’t worth his time, Lee Gun took out Heaven’s Punishment.

He planned on crushing the corpse’s face, and he didn’t need to activate his weapon to destroy a corpse. However...

[I guess nothing works out as planned. The Virgo Saint took it into his hands to trap you inside the tower.]

The ax stopped in midair.

Kevin and Hugo were surprised. The woman didn’t care about their reactions as she continued.

[Did you not know that? The one to stab you in the small of your back was the Virgo Saint.]

The enraged Kevin was about to unsheathe his sword, but Hugo yelled, “Don’t fall for it! That woman is capable of saying anything to get her way! You know that!”

“!”

“She purposefully shoots her mouth off to stir up trouble!”

For some reason, Lee Gun grinned.

Kwah-jeek!

Heaven’s Punishment crushed the corpse’s face. At the same time, a voice could be heard.

[Heaven’s Punishment has activated using the blood of the wicked.]

[You have acquired valuable data(SSS).]

[<Part of the Libra Saint>]

[You have acquired the data of another Zodiac. You have learned about the <Saint Seal> skill.]

Extracting data from a corpse was supposed to be impossible. The data might have come out because of a Zodiac’s energy surrounding the corpse.

Lee Gun was about to turn his back from the corpse.

[Why did you come out from there?]

“!” He turned his head.

The faceless corpse continued to talk. To be precise, the voice was coming from the special seal engraved on the corpse’s neck. This Saint Seal was emanating the voice, and that wasn’t all.

Doo-doo-doohk!

The corpse got up and moved.

This made Hugo draw his bow. “It’s the Saint Seal! It allows a Zodiac to control the disciple!”

As soon as he spoke, a fierce fire arrow flew toward the corpse.

Pahng!

When the corpse took a hit with incredible firepower, flames surged into the air. The fire was hot enough to instantly turn the corpse into ash. However, the corpse didn’t move despite that.

The flames soon dissipated, and Kevin tried to use his sword skill, but it was useless.

Kwah-jeek!

“!”

When his sword landed on the corpse, cracks appeared on the sword's white blade. This was an SS-rank royal holy item his Zodiac had given to him!

“Tsk!”

Currently, the faith toward the Virgo Saint was falling off, so the Virgo's power had dulled. ‘That damaged my royal holy item.’

He was sure of it. Even a Zodiac was intervening. It was all thanks to the Saint Seal on the corpse's neck. The <Saint Seal> was something only the disciples favored by a Zodiac would receive. It was a special stigmata.

‘The Zodiac could use it to control that body.’

The Saint Seal wasn't a simple tattoo. If one had to make a comparison, it was the evidence that a Zodiac had visited the body. In other words, it was the stigmata that allowed one to carry out miracles.

In simple terms, the Saint Seal was a connection to one's Zodiac, which allowed one to carry out miracles. It was a bit different from a skill. For example, the Taurus Saint had a body that could survive a nuclear blast; Sophie's tears could cure blindness just on contact.

The stigmatas were tokens that signified that the Zodiacs took special care of anyone with the seal. Normally, only the Saints had the stigmatas. However, very loyal disciples could receive the Saint Seal as well, and it allowed them to create decent miracles.

Anyway, this seal in particular used the connection to the Zodiac to strengthen the disciple.

‘In most cases, the Soul Seal isn't used like this.’

In theory, controlling a corpse was possible. The stigmata connected the Zodiac to the body of the disciple. However, this was akin to treating a disciple like a doll or cattle.

‘Well, the Libra Saint is fully capable of doing this.’

As expected, the woman replied in a proud manner.

[Didn't you hear what I said? There are twelve Zodiacs. That's enough, so why did you have to show up?]

Hugo furrowed his brows at those words. "She—"

Lee Gun stopped Hugo.

[I had counted myself lucky that you were imprisoned before the thirteenth made its appearance. However, it seems I was mistaken. You're a disaster. You made Aries run away, and I have no idea where it is. The Gemini can't use its power now either.]

The woman let out a meaningful laugh and continued.

[As expected, we should've gotten rid of Hugo inside the tower too. He's the reason the thirteenth came back from being nearly dead.]

"...?"

They wondered what she meant.

[Well, it doesn't matter. You guys can decide which side you'll join. Think long and hard about it. That man won't be of any help to humanity.]

Hugo was flabbergasted. "You're worried about humanity, yet you joined forces with humanity's enemy?"

[What?]

"You conspired with the unknown civilization. In Belgium, we saw your minion summon monsters."

[You should ask the Virgo Saint about that.]

Kevin's eyebrows twitched. What the hell did she just say?

[Anyway, I have nothing to do with this incident. I don't care if you kill the monsters or not...]

Puhk!

Lee Gun's ax came down to bisect the body. However, it seemed that wouldn't be enough to defeat the corpse.

"Wait a minute! You can't defeat that unless you're a Zodiac. I'll let my Zodiac descend..."

Hugo and Kevin had been about to make their Zodiacs descend.

Boom!

However, the corpse just fell over in two parts. The corpse, which had been moving haphazardly a moment ago, became still.

“How...!”

The bisected body melted away as if it had come in contact with a poison.

The two Saints, who were about to call forth their Zodiacs, looked on with round eyes. Only one question had to be asked in this situation.

“Gun? When did you call forth your Zodiac?”

Lee Gun nonchalantly answered, “I didn’t call for one.”

“What?”

Kevin and Hugo were baffled.

“Are you kidding me? You can’t defeat that without the power of a Zodiac! You’re saying you didn’t call for yours...”

“I’m telling the truth.” Lee Gun spoke as if it wasn’t a big deal. “I don’t have a Zodiac.”

What?

CHAPTER 101: I’LL TAKE YOUR SEAT

For a moment, they wondered if they had heard wrong. What the hell was he talking about right now?

“What do you mean you don’t have a Zodiac?”

“What are you talking about, Gun?”

In the first place, the world was abuzz because the thirteenth Zodiac Saint had shown up. Lee Gun not having a Zodiac made zero sense. However, Hugo did find it reasonable why Lee Gun was saying this.

‘I’ve never seen Gun have an audience with his Zodiac.’ Hugo perspired.

Yes, for a Saint, their holy ground was considered the holiest of locations. It was called the bedchamber of the Zodiac. It was the place within the temple where the Saint could directly meet and converse with their Zodiac.

The situation differed depending on the Saint, but Hugo had to have an audience with his Zodiac once a day. There, he offered tributes to his Zodiac and listened to any of the Zodiac's complaints and requests. Of course, the Zodiacs didn't have human bodies, so they didn't possess human appearance when they appeared in front of their Saints.

Anyway, Lee Gun had never convened with his Zodiac. 'He's a couch potato who always watched dramas and played video games all day.'

To anyone who looked at the situation from the outside, Lee Gun would look like some kind of king who ruled over the disciples. Some might even mistake him for a Zodiac.

In any case, Hugo had just assumed Lee Gun was a new Saint with no holy ground and that the new Zodiac didn't have any rules.

'It was odd that he released his Constructs in our holy ground.' If Hugo thought about it, the thirteenth Zodiac would never allow that.

In truth, a Zodiac would get furious if its Saint went into the holy ground of another Zodiac. Why would its contractor go to the house of someone else?

And yet, Lee Gun had mooched off Hugo in Hugo's holy ground for a month.

'If his Zodiac had made an appearance, it would have never allowed that.'

That was why Lee Gun could fearlessly traverse through the holy grounds of other Zodiacs.

Kevin asked in surprise, "That means you've never met your Zodiac? I assumed your Zodiac fixed your body."

Lee Gun looked at Kevin with loathing in his eyes. "Idiot! I recovered by myself."

"?!" Kevin was dumbfounded.

However, Hugo just massaged his forehead. Yes, he had heard it all before, but he hadn't taken it seriously. He had just thought Lee Gun had made a contract with a Zodiac and just hadn't realized it yet.

‘After all, Gun doesn’t have any experience with it.’

Hugo and the other Zodiac Saints had been with their Zodiacs from the start. He had assumed Lee Gun had later become the thirteenth Saint and that, unlike them, he didn’t know how to meet his Zodiac.

Therefore, Hugo said to Lee Gun, “Gun, you probably don’t remember it, but I’m sure your Zodiac appeared in your dream. Or maybe an animal tried to talk to you— Kuhk!”

Lee Gun disapprovingly looked at his friend. “I don’t have one. Do you want me to hit you?”

‘You already hit me!’ Hugo wanted to say something, but the look in Lee Gun’s eyes made him shrink back a bit.

“Right. Your Zodiac will appear soon. Don’t worry about it.” Some Zodiacs were very interested in humans, and some were indifferent to them.

Lee Gun dismissively nodded. If he was being honest, he didn’t really know much about his power. The only certainty was that he had satisfied some condition within the tower to acquire this power. Moreover, the power might be the power of the thirteenth Zodiac.

If that was true...

‘The owner of the power might show up someday.’

Kevin, who was quick on the uptake, had a completely different thought than Lee Gun. “What if he became a Zodiac?”

Lee Gun never had a Zodiac from the start. He was an oddity who generated his own power. What if he was capable of such a feat because he was a Zodiac? What if he went through an uncertain awakening process twenty years ago? What if he was in an incomplete state?

Kevin glared at Lee Gun with a meaningful look in his eyes, then called out to Hugo, “Hey, Archer. You said Lee Gun can control his Constructs, right?”

“What about it?”

“What if Lee Gun awakened as a Zodiac when he exited the tower? There is a high probability...”

Kevin couldn't finish his question. He got surprised by the expression on Hugo's face.

"What? Zodiaaaaaaaaaaac?"

"...!"

It was as if Hugo was asking what nonsense Kevin was spouting. Maybe, it was because Lee Gun was his best friend.

Hugo looked like he wanted to spit in response. "If someone with such a bankrupt character is a Zodiac, I'm the god of the universe! If what you say is true, I'll clean that b*****d's feet."

Kevin was on the fence, but he decided to accept Hugo's point. If someone like Lee Gun had become a Zodiac, humanity would've met its demise already.

"Then..." Kevin was about to say something, but...

Koo-goo-goohng!

The ground shook. Everyone looked out the window in surprise and saw a familiar sight.

"Those are...!"

The things causing damage were the enormous worms Lee Gun had killed.

"Their vitals were pierced, so how..."

The Archer disciples were taken aback, but the two Saints furrowed their brows.

"It would've been odd if they had died..."

"What?"

They were the rare-type monsters.

'They are the ones who showed up at Drachma.'

These monsters had appeared at Drachma to take that billion-dollar bone Lee Gun had once wielded. Currently, twelve confirmed classes of monsters existed amongst the unknown civilization. The rare-type monsters were the

thirteenth class as they couldn't be classified within the existing twelve classes.

'Above all else, none of our attacks work on them.' The toad-like monster that had consumed Hugo's wife and subordinate was probably a rare-type monster too.

All the rare-type monsters had identical characteristics somewhere on their bodies. It was a unique wound. That wound looked like a snake.

Anyway, they were a troublesome class of monsters that the Saints couldn't hurt.

"I guess it wasn't a killing blow." Lee Gun, who had taken them down, sounded dissatisfied.

The complaints left Kevin dumbfounded. "Are you kidding me? None of our attacks works on those bastards! The fact that your attack actually worked on them means a lot..."

Hugo laughed as if he was proud of Lee Gun, as if he was showing off. "Gun's magical energy works even on the great rare-type monsters."

The spear Lee Gun had killed these monsters with was the Leo Saint's weapon.

"It worked because Gun infused it with his magical energy—" Hugo couldn't finish his sentence as a scream escaped his lips.

Boom!

Lee Gun disappeared with a deafening roar.

"Gun!"

The deafening roar was the sound of Lee Gun calling forth Heaven's Punishment. As soon as its owner called for it, the ax instantly flew toward Lee Gun's hands.

Lee Gun jumped out of the hole in the wall as he grabbed his ax.

"Lee Gun-nim!"

They were on the fourth floor! Lee Gun didn't have a floatation skill, so he immediately used another skill.

[Familiar Summon]

He summoned a large beast. It was none other than Pixiu!

[You summoned Piggy Bank]

[Due to the summoning, it failed to eat Disciple 1.]

Boom!

Perhaps, because it had been forcefully summoned, the building-sized Pixiu immediately expressed its anger. It asked who dared interfere with its meal when it had been about to eat Sungjae.

Realizing its owner was the one, Pixiu reared back in fright, but its reaction lasted only a moment.

Kwah-jeek!

“!!”

Lee Gun used Pixiu’s head as a launching pad to jump forward. It allowed him to take a flying leap.

Kwah-jeek!

The incredible force behind his feet sent Pixiu flying backward.

Boom!

Pixiu cried in pain when it fell into an empty lot.

The Saints and the disciples could only look on in shock.

“Did... did he just use a Construct as a stepping stone?”

Constructs were a Zodiac’s direct subordinates. Of course, unless they were battle-type gods, many Constructs had less fighting power compared to the Saints. However, Constructs were gods at the end of the day.

‘How can he treat it like that...!’

Oblivious to their reactions, Lee Gun landed on a worm’s head.

Boom!

He raised his weapon high. Heaven's Punishment activated after consuming blood, and it let out a light.

Flash!

An incredibly bright light surprised the audience members who had been evacuating from the stadium.

"What the hell is that light?"

"Over there! Someone is standing atop the monster's head!"

"Head? Hey! Did you take a shot to your head? What psycho would get on a monster's head!"

"That's right. Even the Leo Saint and the Taurus Saint, who fight up close, wouldn't do that!"

Despite those words, the people who moved toward the glass windows became thunderstruck.

"What the hell? There really is someone atop the head?"

"Who the hell is that?"

"It's Lee Gun! Lee Gun!"

"What?!"

Letters made out of light were engraved upon the body of the activated ax. They formed a magical energy sharp like a blade as the ax roared.

Go-ohhhhhhhhhh!

In truth, Heaven's Punishment was a dull ax. Normally, it couldn't split wood with its blade. However, when it activated, that was a completely different story.

Paht!

It sounded like the breathing of an old man had changed into the roar of a young devil, and its body that looked like rusted copper sheen had recovered its light.

Doohng!

A sound rang out as if it would shake heaven and earth. It was as though the heartbeat of the earth was ringing through the heavens.

Doohng!

The crowd and the reporters who had been evacuating came to a stop in surprise.

“That’s...”

“Yes, it is! It’s the legendary weapon that has the three-stage transformation!”

“My god! I never expected to see it in real life...”

The roaring ax received the magical energy of the snake.

Go-ohhhhhhhhh!

Its blade let out an enormous flash of light as it fell toward the worm’s head. The light falling from the heavens made the ax’s blade look like the blade of a falling guillotine!

Kwah-jeek!

The blade of light dug into the worm’s head and instantly bisected it from head to tail.

Kwahng!

However, Lee Gun wasn’t done yet. “Ha ha ha! One, two, three! They’ll make great ingredients when I make my badges!”

Having fun, Lee Gun parted the flesh and bones of the monster. He ripped out its innards with his bare hands.

Hugo and Goat, who had weak stomachs, put their hands over their mouths. Only Lee Jaewon was smiling. He looked impressed.

“As expected of Lee Gun-nim, he hasn’t changed at all.” Lee Jaewon respected Lee Gun since he had worked like a mule for Lee Gun.

However, Hugo, who had the same experience as Lee Jaewon, hated it. “You don’t think he has changed at all? He has returned as a complete psychopath!”

“What? What do you mean? Lee Gun-nim has always been a psychopath.”

“ . . . ”

Hugo couldn't deny those words, so he felt like crying. In the end, it didn't matter.

“Saint-nim! Look over there!”

“!”

Kevin and Hugo turned to look at what Goat was pointing out and were surprised. A familiar crystal dropped out of the bisected monster. It was the mark of the Scorpio Saint.

The two Saints furrowed their brows. Of course, they knew what this meant.

‘The Scorpio Saint called out those monsters.’

“As expected, she's in league with them.”

Of course, there was also a nagging feeling about why Lee Gun could easily kill these monsters.

* * *

When Lee Gun killed the monsters, most of the crowd was cheering. However, someone ground her teeth in shock.

“What the hell! How can he kill them so easily?”

She was a very beautiful woman and the one who had released the monster, the Scorpio Saint! Of course, she wasn't really the Scorpio Saint.

“S**t! This messes up our plan.”

Yes, this woman who looked like the Scorpio Saint was, in fact, an SS-rank disciple from the Pisces temple. Named Silvia, she was one of the <Ten Stars>.

The Pisces specialized in transformation skills, and its Saint was another magician Saint alongside the Gemini Saint. The two Saints were a pair of magicians.

Anyway, Silvia had come to the stadium in the guise of the Scorpio Saint for a simple reason.

<Assassination of a Saint>

Yes, she was here to assassinate Lee Gun. Why?

[Kill Lee Gun in the US]

The Pisces Saint had ordered her to.

The order had actually left Silvia dumbfounded at first. ‘The Saint hasn’t contacted me in two years, so why now all of a sudden...’

However, the person on the other end of the phone call didn’t care if Silvia was annoyed or not. She just sighed.

– That’s too bad. If you kill a Saint, I’m pretty sure a skill greater than the Faith Destroyer would come out.

“!”

The person on the other end of the line continued.

– If you kill Chun Sungjae, you will 100% receive an SS-rank skill. If you kill a Saint, I’m pretty sure an SSS-rank skill would come out. I would like you to get rid of Lee Gun before you go hunting down Chun Sungjae.

Silvia lowered her head as she made a call. “I’m sorry! You lured Lee Gun to this place, yet I...”

She gritted her teeth. ‘This is all the Scorpio Saint’s fault.’

Two years had passed since they had last spoken, yet her Saint, the Pisces Saint, had sent an unreasonable demand to her. That had surprised Silvia. She asked how she could kill Lee Gun. After sending a hundred text messages, she had finally received an answer.

[Scorpio. Same side. I’ll speak to her.]

In the end, her Saint was saying the Scorpio Saint was on the same side as them. The Pisces Saint wanted Silvia to ask for cooperation from the Scorpio Saint. That was Silvia’s interpretation of the message.

In the end, Silvia went to the Scorpio Saint and asked for help. The Scorpio Saint was a bombshell that even a woman would fall for.

The Saint had replied to Silvia with a mysterious laugh, “I see. You want to get rid of Lee Gun.”

Her voice was so beautiful that it gave Silvia goosebumps. Silvia felt as if the Scorpio Saint wasn't human. Her eyes, hand gestures, presence, etc. The Scorpio Saint possessed incredible charisma. When it was said that looks could kill, they were talking about her.

“Yes. I already received payment.” The Scorpio Saint had long black hair, and she had worn a black dress. As the corner of her mouth lifted, she had replied, “I'll give you something fit for this occasion. You'll be able to kill Lee Gun with them.”

And so, Silvia had received monsters. The Scorpio Saint told Silvia that the monsters would follow her order if she transformed to look like her, the Scorpio Saint.

That was the reason for Silvia entering the stadium looking like the Scorpio Saint. So what the hell happened?

‘Did that woman give me the right monsters?’

The Scorpio Saint had guaranteed these monsters could kill Lee Gun! What was happening was completely different from that! Silvia almost felt as if the Scorpio Saint had sent these monsters so that they could purposefully lose to Lee Gun.

Silvia felt like she had been duped. The person on the phone spoke.

– Lee Gun is no good. He's bothersome.

Silvia's eyes twinkled. “Please do not worry! Even if Lee Gun is the thirteenth Saint, he only has one disciple. He has a critical weakness. That's why I will take care of him today...”

At that moment...

“You're having a fun conversation.”

Someone viciously grabbed her shoulder.