

Overgeared 351

Chapter 351

"You're the cause of this?"

Grid received an explanation from Piaro and observed the pit in the ground. The traces left behind of the battle were impressive. He was able to get an indirect glimpse of the 1st ranked Kraugel.

'He competed against Piaro, who was reborn was a legend.'

In the previous confrontation, Grid was able to consume only half of Piaro's life. Then what about now?

'I can only decrease it by 1/4th.'

Piario had grown.

During the spar with Grid, he had woken up to the true use of farming techniques. Then after the spar, he gained the bonus of increasing his stats and greatly increasing his skills. There was also the bonus of raising his level.

Then a person who managed to compete against Piario?

'Even a normal class...'

Kwack.

Grid clenched his fists with all his strength. Strange emotions sprang up, making his chest burn hot. Kraugel noticed his silence and apologized.

"My first impression is bad. I apologize that Reidan suffered damage because of my personal greed. I will pay you back as much as possible."

The person who actually caused the damage was Piario. However, Kraugel felt a strong sense of responsibility. He applied for a spar with Piario and this incident happened, so he thought it was primarily his fault.

Grid made a snide remark at his sincere apology.

"Yes, a good answer deserving of the number one rank. Do you have a lot of money?"

An earthquake had occurred in the aftermath of the battle, causing all of Reidan to shake. Just looking at Reidan's smithy alone, the overall loss of wealth was quite big.

"Can it be reimbursed by an individual alone? As a close brother to Piario, shouldn't you take responsibility?"

"M-My Lord."

Piario stuttered. He felt like his lord was more upset than usual.

'Why?'

Piaro couldn't figure out Grid's heart. Asmophel was different. He could read the emotions in Grid's eyes.

'Envy and jealousy...'

Asmophel was born as the second son, so he always felt these emotions. Now Grid was displaying it towards Kraugel. They were emotions that couldn't be understood by Piaro and Kraugel, who were always the best.

"Don't worry about reimbursement. Instead."

Shaaaaaah-

A clear blue transparent sword appeared in Grid's left hand and a black-blue greatsword in his right hand. It was Failure and Grid's Greatsword.

"Fight me."

"...?"

Wanting to randomly fight? Kraugel was baffled. He couldn't understand why things were happening like this. In addition, this was Grid's city. Everything here belonged to Grid. Piaro wasn't an exception.

'Does he mean to isolate me?'

A death penalty was huge. Should Kraugel interpret it as never stepping foot in this city again? Kraugel looked grim while Grid pointed Failure at him.

"Don't think too deeply about it. I am applying for a fair one-on-one fight."

A one-on-one match? If so, Kraugel welcomed it. Grid was also a legend. It was a golden opportunity to win against a legend and complete the 'Sword Saint' quest. But Kraugel couldn't justify accepting the fight. Using a complete stranger to clear his quest, his ego couldn't tolerate it.

"Why do you want to fight me?"

Kraugel's sentences became shorter. It was natural. Grid didn't show any courtesies to him, so there was no need to be polite.

"You are called the top, or the sky above the sky? I want to see if you're really such a great person."

"Do you have the qualifications to get a glimpse of my skills?"

"You'll find out soon."

Grid sent a sparring application to Kraugel. This was Reidan, Grid's domain. Despite Kraugel receiving a big penalty if he died, Grid applied for a duel, demonstrating that he took this fight seriously.

"Sehee... No, Ruby. Use healing on him."

"Are you going to fight?"

Ruby asked in a testy manner. She was worried about her brother because she had seen Kraugel's skills. However, she was embarrassed to show her worry, so she looked testy instead. Grid prompted her.

“Hurry.”

“...Be careful.”

Ruby read her brother’s sincerity towards Kraugel and ended up using ‘Hope.’ Hope was the ultimate heal that randomly recovers 10~30% of the target’s maximum health. Kraugel confirmed his rising health and admired it.

‘Saintess...’

Grid’s sister.

Kraugel wondered.

‘Territory, family, subordinates, colleagues, and friends.’

Was it fun to be in such a limited space with the same group of people? Did they need to repeat what they always did in reality in the game? The world of Satisfy. It was so wide that it would take the rest of his life to explore it. As a user of the game, wasn’t it right to travel around alone, not bound by anything, in order to experience new things faster than anyone else?

Sehee used Hope in succession and Kraugel’s health reached the maximum. Kraugel made a decision and shared his quest information with Grid.

[Sword Saint]

Difficulty: SSS

Win against a legend.

“This confrontation with you might be a help to me. Is it still okay?”

Grid stopped.

Sword saint. Could he give the strongest legendary class to other users? The past Grid would’ve cancelled the fight immediately. But now he was different. He was the leader of Overgeared, a lord, and the father of a child. Eyes were watching him. In particular, he couldn’t take it back with Lord watching.

‘What would Lael do?’

Grid worried about it for a moment.

"It’s also a good thing if you turn into a sword saint because of me. The 1st ranked user owing me a favor, won’t you pay it back one day?"

He phrased it in such a way that Kraugel owed him a favor, despite Grid being the one to propose the fight in the first place.

"And I don’t think I will lose."

He expressed his dignity with an expression of unwavering confidence.

Kraugel replied honestly, "Grid, I have seen your capabilities many times on broadcast. That’s why I know it well. You can never beat me."

"Stop speaking so long."

At the time of the Elfin Stone raid. After sacrificing Huroi due to his powerlessness, Grid pledged never to feel so helpless again.

'I will be the best. I will be the best and not sacrifice my colleagues again.'

It was his dream, whether it was fanciful or not.

'I will check it through you.'

Step, step.

Grid walked out without hesitation. At first glance, it was an ordinary gait, but he was actually using the footwork of Pagma's Swordsmanship. He was hiding the use of his skill. Two years in real time after Satisfy opened, he was finally using the basics of the game. But Kraugel saw it instantly.

It was easy because he had keen eyes and good insight.

"Kill."

Kraugel sidestepped the legendary skill and counterattacked.

"Mole Ascension."

"Revolve."

Pagma's Swordsmanship. It was a relatively demanding skill that required taking an average of five steps. Grid had used it for hours over the years and gradually adapted. The skill was used at an incomparable speed to before, resulting in damage to the unique presence called the sky above the sky, Kraugel.

[You have suffered 17,500 damage.]

The white swordsman's defense was lower than other third advancement normal classes. Moreover, he didn't wear his gloves because he was afraid they would break if they received further damage.

On the other hand, Pagma's Descendant was a legendary class that could exert the ultimate attack power. Grid was equipped with the best items. Kraugel's health was cut by a quarter in a single blow.

This was also due to the title effects and defense, otherwise it would've been a fatal blow. However, Kraugel wasn't shocked by Grid's attack power.

'I was wounded by a user?'

There were no users who had touched his body except for Agnus, king of the dead, and the 'duo' from Blood Carnival. Kraugel's eyes sunk. It was the moment he recognized Grid as a strong person.

"White Light Steps."

Susuk.

Under the sun, Kraugel disappeared from Grid's field of view.

'Stealth?'

Grid watched carefully. He thought about what to do and pulled out Kenen's Belt.

Pepeng!

Grid's appearance was obscured by the smoke that emerged. But Kraugel still remained calm. He quickly saw Grid's shape being covered by the smoke screen and stopped his attack.

'Gone?'

The puzzled Kraugel stopped as 'Keen Senses' sent him a sharp warning. The danger came from behind him.

"If you use stealth, I will become invisible."

Grid revealed his appearance in a white hooded zipper and swung his greatsword. Pagma's Swordsmanship, Pinnacle, fell vertically towards Kraugel.

'An invisibility cloak, it's amazing.'

Kraugel laughed to see Grid using such great items so casually. He rotated his body and swung White Fang. It was the appearance of his counterattack, Tearing the Sky, whose orbit was limited to going up.

Chaaeng!

[You have suffered 21,050 damage.]

"Cough!"

Grid was hit by the powerful skill and his health gauge sharply declined. Kraugel didn't give him a break. He continuously swung White Fang and seized the momentum.

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

'This orbit...!'

Grid was currently armed with the Slaughterer's Eye Patch. His high insight and synergy with the item meant he could reach most of the enemy's attack orbit. However, Kraugel's swordsmanship contained a much deeper orbit than that of Piaro.

[You have suffered 3,500 damage.]

[You have suffered 3,610 damage.]

[You have suffered 3,485 damage.]

The wounds on Grid continued to increase. He tried to counterattack with Link, but Kraugel didn't allow it. He avoided or blocked everything. In the first place, it was almost impossible to hit Kraugel with a non-targeted skill. Kraugel's control skills were that excellent. In the end, Grid summoned the God Hands.

"Magic Missile!"

Pepepeng!

Light flashed from four directions and threatened Kraugel. Grid gave Grid's Greatsword, Failure, and the Doppelganger's Greatsword to the God Hands, then used Quick Movements. He summoned Iyarugt while rushing forward.

[Over here!]

Iyarugt gave him the best sword path. The red light shot forward towards Kraugel. But Kraugel barely managed to respond. He avoided it using the least amount of movements, and counterattacked, stabbing White Fang into Grid's chest.

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 8,300 damage to the target.]

Kraugel thought it was absurd.

'His defense is ridiculously high.'

It was hard to imagine what type of armor Grid was wearing. However, Grid thought it was more absurd.

'The defense isn't applied properly because he is only hitting my vital spots.'

Hitting his vital spots every time? He was like a supercomputer, not a person.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship...!"

Energy gathered around Grid and surged violently like a wave.

It was the precursor of Wave.

But it wasn't manifested.

Kraugel hit Grid's legs, causing the sword dance to be cancelled.

"Storm Sword."

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

As Grid stumbled, Storm Sword emerged from White Fang and hit Grid's chest. Blood spurted from Grid's chest, while Kraugel leapt forward and attempted to link 'Meteor Sword.' The God Hands tried to keep him in check but it was wishful thinking. The God Hands' Sword Mastery skill was still at the beginner level, meaning it was impossible to threaten Kraugel.

"Meteor Sword."

The moment that Kraugel had shaken off all the God Hands and succeeded in using Meteor Sword.
Blood Cry.

Chaaeng!

"...!"

Kraugel's body shook as a strong wave was emitted. A strong tempest hit him and he lost his balance. As he started to fall helplessly, a flash came from Grid. His skin whitened and a black haze of demonic energy appeared around him.

The speed of his demonic sword was incomparable to before. It was the linkage of Blacksmith's Rage and Blackening. It was Grid's power.

Puok!

The clouds that were already torn due to Pounding Mortar scattered even more. In the center of it, Grid had stabbed Kraugel's heart with Iyarugt. Blood spurted up like rain.

"My Lord!"

Piario groaned.

Kraugel. As someone who was always looking for the best opportunity in a crisis, he managed to counterattack.

Puok!

White Fang flew and penetrated Grid's neck. Even Iyarugt couldn't see the sword orbit, so Grid couldn't take advantage of Doran's Ring.

[How did he...?]

"Ugh...! Pagma's Swordsmanship...!"

Grid's current health, which decreased due to Blackening consuming maximum health in exchange for attack power, rapidly headed towards the bottom. But he didn't shrink back. It was because he believed in his immortality passive.

Kraugel's attacks? He could still allow attacks for five seconds. Grid judged calmly and used Restraint, planning to connect it with Link to end Kraugel. However, Kraugel used his skill faster than he could use Restraint.

Chaaeng!

The powerful kicking effect of 'Charging' slammed Grid's body to the ground.

Chapter 352

Kuwuong!

Dust rose as Grid crashed into the ground. Grid was relatively fine. No, his health wasn't very good, but he was relatively rosy. The wounds on his body were fairly recovered. It was thanks to recovering 13,000 health after wearing Doran's Ring as well as utilizing the option effect of the Holy Light Armor the moment he got kicked at close range.

But Grid wasn't satisfied.

"It would've been better if I took advantage of it when it was a sword attack, not a kick."

His health would've been three times higher than it was now.

"Isn't that right? Yakult."

[...]

Iyarugt was silent despite being called Yakult. He felt bad that he couldn't read Kraugel's sword orbit and caused Grid to fall into an awful position.

"It was the same when I fought Piaro and Chucksley. You seem to have no use."

[That...! It's because most of my original abilities are sealed! If I could really demonstrate my abilities, these guys would be nothing!]

"Well, let's say that is true."

In fact, Iyarugt's rating was unique. It would be more help once the rating was increased to legendary.

The center of the depressed ground.

Suuk.

Grid, who was deeply embedded in it, slowly raised his body. It wasn't meant to be, but this break away from the battle was very important. Grid's head calmed and prevailed over his frustration. He suppressed his extreme idea of relying on his immortality. Grid would use this incident to further strengthen himself.

'Did I use Blackening too soon?'

Blackening consumed 50% of his maximum health to increase his damage, magic power and agility by 20%. It was a double edged sword because he could suffer catastrophic damage if hit by the enemy. Just like before.

'If I used it when things were more conclusive... No, it's better to use it than to save it. I wouldn't be able to threaten him if I didn't use Blackening.'

The difference in skills was too great. Kraugel could avoid most non-targeted skill and find the perfect opportunity to counterattack.

'Based on his attack speed and attack power, there surprisingly isn't much difference between our stats.'

This was the part he was most curious about. Grid had went through the minus levels, received all types of titles, and steadily raised his stats through making items. It was right that he would have more stats than anyone else.

However, Kraugel's stats were also unbelievable.

'Isn't it natural?'

The 1st ranked Kraugel. He was ahead of everyone else, and gained a lot of advantages from this. He gobbled up the useful quests and titles, so his stats were likely to have significant growth. He probably also did separate training.

'When I was level 80...'

Yes, it was before he became Pagma's Descendant.

'At that time, Kraugel had already crossed level 240.'

It was correct that there was a gap between both of them that couldn't be narrowed yet.

'At least, I think he's ahead of me in combat related skills.'

Kraugel was equipped with the appropriate items. His defense wasn't great, but his weapon was enormous. It was comparable to the legendary weapons produced by Grid.

"...In many ways, I still have a long way to go."

Was he going to lose? The moment that thought ran through his head.

Kwaduduk!

Grid's face distorted in a frightening manner. In the past, he had lived as a loser due to his lacking talent.

'Let's stop losing now.'

Didn't he overcome a lacking talent with effort? Some people might think it was ridiculous, but Grid was most aware of it. He was able to become Pagma's Descendant due to his own efforts.

'I want to win.'

Kraugel. He was praised as the sky above the sky, and an object of envy for rankers. Grid wanted to wash away the stigma of the past and start a new stage by winning against him. He wanted to be recognized as a true talent.

In order to do that, he needed to put in more effort. As much as possible.

"This is the second round."

[Grid's Boots have been removed. Movement speed and evasion rate have been restored to normal.]

This was his first mistake. Grid's Boots were designed to boost the power of a greatsword, but it was poison when used with the one-handed Iyarugt. The slowness and lowered evasion rate weren't taken into consideration.

[Braham's Boots have been equipped. Movement speed has increased by 10%. Skill cooldown time will be reduced by 20%.]

Braham's Boots were limited in defense, but they had excellent options. Indeed, it was an item from a legendary great magician. Grid didn't sell them and used them steadily for a reason.

[The spell 'Fly' has been used.]

Teong!

Grid flew up. The lightness wasn't comparable to before.

"Pant... Pant... What?"

At the top of the pit in the training ground. Kraugel was gasping for breath when his eyes widened. It was because he saw through the smoke, Grid flying up while looking fine.

'Is he a human?'

He had to question it.

'Sword Saint Candidate Stage 5,' 'Virtuous Man of the West Continent,' 'Panda's Hero,' 'Person who Creates Miracles,' 'First...,' 'First...,' 'First...,' 'First...'

The value of all the titles that Kraugel obtained couldn't be converted into money. His attack power was unmatched and users couldn't endure it. But Grid endured it again and again. Now his health had recovered like a lie, and his momentum had risen even more.

In Kraugel's eyes, Grid was like a boss monster.

'He was once a subject of ridicule, but he's truly a legend.'

Kraugel also had eyes and ears. The owner of a legendary class with poor control skills. A coward who overcame his shortcomings with items and his class. Now he was an overgeared person with some ability.

Kraugel was knowledgeable about Grid. In fact, he watched the video of the pope candidate speeches. But now he realized. Everyone was always growing, and Grid was the same. Grid had grown.

The proof was that he was one of the few players who managed to hurt Kraugel.

'You aren't slow-witted.'

Grid put in more effort than other people.

'In the first place, he wouldn't have become a legend if he didn't work hard.'

Kraugel admitted it. Grid was a great person. He shouldn't be taunted by anyone.

"I will sincerely pay my respects to my opponent. Meteor Sword."

Kraugel used the skill that had been cancelled because of Blood Cry. Qi energy filled the atmosphere like meteors.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Kraugel rose steadily while Grid started his sword dance. It was as Kraugel expected. Grid was a character with legendary items and skills, so he would be more confident in them than in anything else. It was obvious that he would confront Meteor Sword head on.

'That's your mistake.'

Meteor Sword was a multi-stage skill. It cut several times in a short period and every time it hit, the damage increased. This could cause terrible damage when facing it head on. Kraugel was confident, but Grid made a choice that was contrary to Kraugel's prediction.

“Transcend.”

Kuoooooh!

The flow of air caused by Kraugel’s qi changed. Grid absorbed the transcendent energy.

‘The second mistake.’

It was trying to face someone with better control skills than him head on.

[Entering the transcendent mode.]

[Your attack power is doubled and your default attacks will turn into ranged attacks. This effect will last for 30 seconds.]

Suuk.

Utilizing the advantage of Fly, Grid floated in the air and opened up a distance from Kraugel. At the same time, the energy blades shot forward.

[You have suffered 10,700 damage.]

“Cough!”

Meteor Sword’s course was simple. This was the limit of a targeted skill, which resulted in a restriction of Kraugel’s control skills. Kraugel was hit by a black energy blade and blood poured from his mouth.

‘Change the route...!’

Kwaang!

Kraugel fell to the ground and got straight up. There were three energy blades already heading towards him. Kraugel rolled on the ground and used a skill.

Kururung!

A white cloud spread from White Fang and covered the area. It was a trick to hide Kraugel’s body. But it was useless. Grid had a combination of high insight and the Slaughterer’s Eye Patch. He couldn’t detect Kraugel’s sword, but he wasn’t completely helpless.

Grid ‘quickly’ grasped Kraugel’s location within the clouds. It was proof of how high Grid’s present concentrating was.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Sharp energy blades flooded towards Kraugel every time Grid swung his sword. Kraugel, who was hoping to avoid the incessant energy blades, allowed another attack.

‘Kuk... Is this different from the skill called Transcended Link?’

Grid didn’t use Transcend in the two broadcasts Kraugel had watched. The only ranged attack he used was Transcended Link. The difference between the one-time Transcended Link and the persistent Transcend made Kraugel feel baffled.

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

A heavy rain of energy blades poured down from the sky. Kraugel used his power to avoid it and eventually regained his composure. He was truly a genius who adapted to the speed and trajectory of the energy blades.

Shortly afterwards, the heavy rain of energy blades stopped.

'The duration of the skill is over.'

Kraugel determined and jump up towards Grid. A wicked smile appeared on Grid's face.

"Fake."

Peeng!

The duration of Transcend was 30 seconds. There was still five seconds remaining. Grid once again fired energy blades at Kraugel. Unlike the ground, there was a limit to moving in the air, so Grid believed that Kraugel wouldn't be able to avoid the attack. However, Kraugel changed the trajectory of his body using the back of White Fang. It wasn't like Grid's flying magic, but he seemed like he was flying through the sky.

'Dodge it!'

Grid felt shocked.

"Haaap!"

Kraugel moved through the air and reached Grid, swinging White Fang.

Seokeok!

Grid's chest was badly cut. Kraugel heard Grid speak the moment he was able to link the next attack.

"The third mistake..."

God Hands.

He reproduced his hands, but so far he only used it for Magic Missile or wielding weapons. Indeed, it was the worst mistake.

Deopsseok!

"...!"

Kraugel got goosebumps. The swordsmanship was pathetic, but the four golden hands had far superior movement speed. They flew over and held onto his wrists and ankles. He was easily caught by the hands. Kraugel tried to quickly remove them, but a gap was shown.

Grid didn't miss that gap.

"Linked Kill."

"Super Sensitivity!"

[The cooldown time of Super Sensitivity still isn't over.]

"...!"

Puk.

Puk puk puk!

Just as the excellent use of skills was recognized as part of one's abilities, making use of good items was also a part of their abilities. Grid climbed the cliff persistently, despite being frustrated by his poor talent.

He defeated the 'sky above the sky' that even famous rankers couldn't reach. The Overgeared members, who belatedly arrived, witnessed the scene and couldn't close their mouths. On the other hand, Lord's eyes were shining like jewels as he was held in Ruby's arms.

Lord Steim. It was the moment when the perception that 'Father is the best' was stamped on the future absolute power.

Chapter 353

[You have been hit by a lethal blow!]

[The durability of the White Clouds Clothing (Unique) has decreased by 15.]

[The durability of the White Clouds Footwear (Unique) has decreased by 21. There is a risk of damage.]

[The durability of the White Fang (Legendary) has decreased by 9.]

[You won't die in sparring mode. Your health has fallen to the minimum, so sparring mode is finished!]

Kraugel had been reigning at the top since Satisfy opened. He was praised for being the sky above the sky.

'I lost.'

It was just after he fought Piaro and he had many disadvantages, so was this the cause of his defeat? It was flimsy.

'I lost to his efforts.'

There were no excuses. If he made excuses every time he tasted frustration, the present Kraugel wouldn't have existed.

Shaaaaaah-

Was it mourning for the broken sky? Dark clouds formed in the blue sky and rain poured down.

"Ku...ock!"

Kraugel exchanged looks with Grid as blood flowed from his body. He was about to fall when Grid caught up.

"Be careful."

“...?”

“You’ll die if you fall from this height.”

Grid used more strength while bluntly speaking. He was tired, so it was difficult to control his body. Kraugel laughed as his head rested on Grid’s neck.

“I’m thankful that you saved my life.”

“Of course. You would’ve lost your experience if it wasn’t for me.”

“...Yes, thanks to you, I’m able to keep my number one ranking.”

“Protect that position until I take it from you.”

“It means I will have to play the game for 100 years.”

“...It won’t take that long.”

After decreasing his body fat through constant exercise, Grid showed off his good frame, as well as his thick eyebrows and high nose. Once he entered his late 20’s, he was able to look more mature and gave off a manly charm.

On the other hand, Kraugel was a man with a neutral type of charm. He was beautiful with stubborn eyes, fine skin, red legs, and well styled black hair. The two men leaning against each other while landing on the ground gave women a strange stimulus.

‘It’s to the extent that I feel jealous.’

Jishuka couldn’t help laughing.

‘Now I am being pushed by a man.’

Yura was frustrated.

‘I would rather see Oppa with a man rather than a woman...’

Ruby had dangerous thoughts.

The two men, Grid and Kraugel, descended safely and stared at each other for a moment, while they were watched by the Overgeared members.

‘Can I win if we fight again?’

‘I don’t want to turn him into an enemy.’

Grid felt awe towards Kraugel. The jealousy caused by an inferiority complex was completely erased. Was it the leisure of a winner? It wasn’t such a simple concept. This was pure respect. He was driven to the defensive by Kraugel, who had a normal class. Grid was glad to meet him.

Kraugel also had similar feelings to Grid. Grid had the best talent, despite not inheriting talent from the heavens. Kraugel felt respect for Grid, who put in effort to overcome everything he had endured over the years.

Kraugel asked, "How do you have time to grow despite your status, family, and colleagues?"

Grid asked in return. "Is it possible for a person to grow alone? I can't do that."

"...I think the concept of growth that I am talking about is different from your concept of growth. But, well, I understand."

Kraugel accepted it and stood up. The rain stopped and the sun appeared again. A smile appeared on Kraugel's face.

"It looks good."

People crowded around the wounded Grid. They were the famous rankers belonging to Overgeared, baby Lord, Ruby, and Piaro. Dozens of people were only looking at Grid. Looking at their worried and proud eyes, Kraugel was able to see how much they cared about Grid.

He wanted to be the best. So he had to get ahead of anyone. Alone, quickly.

Grid became a new inspiration to Kraugel, who always isolated himself.

"I will see you again one day."

Then Grid caught up to Kraugel, who was trying to leave alone.

"Stop by the smithy. I will repair your items."

"I don't want to owe more than this."

"Aren't you going to pay for the cost of the repairs? So it isn't a debt. Come on, let's go."

"..."

"What happened?" Jishuka asked.

How did the 1st ranked Kraugel come to Reidan and how did he face Grid? Jishuka and the Overgeared members wondered about the situation.

"That..."

Piario explained honestly. The Overgeared members were filled with anticipation after finding out the whole story.

'Kraugel is a close brother to Piario?'

'Hopefully this...'

'Is it possible for Kraugel to join Overgeared?'

If so, it was a jackpot. The power of Overgeared would jump by leaps and bounds.

[+8 White Clouds Clothing]

Rating: Unique (Set)

Durability: 150/389 Defense: 317+168

* Overall speed will increase by 5 + 1.5%.

* Evasion rate will increase by 10 + 3%.

-When 3 set items are equipped: Defense +300, evasion +5%.

-When 5 set items are equipped: Defense +600, evasion +12%.

Clothing that the people of the East Continent enjoy.

The appearance is plain, but its functionality isn't.

The blue leopard's fur woven into the silk material gives it excellent defense and durability.

Weight: 411

User Restriction: Level 300 or higher. White Swordsman, saurabi, spiritualist, daoist, etc.

[+8 White Clouds Gloves]

Rating: Unique (Set)

Durability: 11/190 Defense: 53+36

* There is a low chance of activating 3 Joint Attacks.

* Attack speed will increase by 4 + 1%

-When 3 set items are equipped: Defense +100, evasion +5%.

-When 5 set items are equipped: Defense +250, evasion +12%.

...

...

[+9 White Clouds Footwear]

Durability: 25/210 Defense: 120+62

* There is a 5~15% reduction in skill cooldown time.

* The effect of movement skills will increase by 10 + 4%.

...

...

The smithy. Grid was convinced when looking at Kraugel's equipment.

'Saurabi, spiritualist, daoist... Just like this continent mimics the culture of the west, the East Continent must be based on oriental culture.'

The appearance of the clothing was very similar to those worn in the Joseon Dynasty.

Also.

'It's like Pagma's attire.'

It might be the case. No, there was a high probability that he needed to visit the East Continent. But how? As Grid played Satisfy, he constantly heard talk about the East Continent. Even the explanation of Piaro's Supreme Swordsmanship mentioned the East Continent.

Grid learned something in the process. In order to reach the East Continent, he had to cross the Dead Sea. Beyond the Dead Sea? It was impossible to enter the East Continent.

'How was Kraugel able to enter the East Continent?'

Grid was curious. He wanted to ask Kraugel about this. But he didn't open his mouth. What did Kraugel have to do to reach the East Continent? Grid didn't want to be the impertinent person who asked for such high value information. This was also his pride.

Grid repressed his curiosity and asked, "The set item effect? Take out the other two. I will repair the whole set."

"This is all."

"...Do you mean you were only wearing three pieces of armor when fighting me?"

In fact, it was two pieces. He didn't wear the gloves. However, Kraugel didn't give a lengthy explanation. It was just the excuses of a loser.

"It was the same when fighting Brother Piaro."

"...You are great."

Grid started to repair the White Clouds clothing, shoes and gloves. As a legendary blacksmith, Grid could produce cloth-type armor with good quality, so repairing them wasn't difficult. Kraugel watched Grid and admired his dexterity, then he handed over White Fang.

"Can you repair this as well?"

"Yes."

Grid repaired the armor and grabbed White Fang. Then he became thrilled.

'Truly great.'

[+9 White Fang]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 170/409 Attack Power: 915+486

* Attack speed will increase by 7 + 2%.

* Skill damage will increase by 10 + 5%.

* Ignores 20 + 10% of the target's defense.

* After succeeding in three combos, further damage will be dealt in the form of cutting damage.

The favorite weapon of one of the 33 great demons, Drasion.

Weight: 887

User Restriction: Level 310 or higher. Advanced Sword Mastery level 5 or higher.

'There was a reason to be scared. How did he get this to +9...? He must've spent a lot of money.'

The probability of enhancing legendary equipment was the worst. Grid had a passive skill that increased enhancement rate, but even he had to pour a huge amount of money into enhancing Failure to +9.

It was impossible to gauge how much money Kraugel would've spent in enhancing White Fang.

'Anyway, its performance is great.'

White Fang. As a great demon's weapon, it was a very excellent weapon.

The options were somewhat lacking, but that wasn't a disadvantage. The few options meant that the basic attack power was unique. It was comparable to Failure, despite being a one-handed sword.

Grid was admiring it when he felt doubts.

'Isn't this too weak for a weapon used by a great demon? The level limit is too low.'

The material was strange. The color was reminiscent of mithril at first glance, but its hardness was several times better than mithril.

'A metal that even a legendary blacksmith can't recognize...'

It was likely to be a mineral that could only be collected from hell, like the blood stones.

'If I know the exact material, my proficiency in the blacksmithing skills will greatly increase...'

Grid thought for a moment and opened his mouth.

"Maybe. It's possible that I can draw out the true power of this sword."

"...?"

Draw out the true power of the sword? Kraugel didn't know about the Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill, so he couldn't understand the concept. Grid made a suggestion to the puzzled Kraugel.

"If I was to upgrade the performance of this sword, could you help me with one thing in return?"

Games. In particular, items were especially important in MMORPGs. It was an unchanging truth that the 1st ranked Kraugel was well aware of. Therefore, he spent a lot of money on enhancing his equipment.

That's right. The reason that Kraugel didn't have the full armor set was the limitation of the the white swordsman class. In this situation a legendary blacksmith was offering an item upgrade. It was an irresistible temptation.

"I am willing to accept the deal. However, I will pay the value of the upgrade if you make a ridiculous demand."

"Okay."

Grid used a skill with a happy face.

[The Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill has been used.]

[The blacksmith who became a legend can appraise items with an excellent discerning eye. If a hidden feature exists in the target item, it will be found.]

[You have discovered a hidden feature in White Fang!]

Chapter 354

[You have discovered a hidden feature in White Fang!]

[The information about White Fang has been updated.]

Ttiring~

[+9 True White Fang]

Rating: Legendary

Durability: 170/609 Attack Power: 1,015 + 539.

- * Attack speed will increase by 10 + 3%.
- * Skill damage will increase by 15 + 7%.
- * Ignores 25 + 15% of the target's defense.
- * Slashing attacks will add an additional 20 + 10% damage.
- * After succeeding in three combos, further damage will be dealt in the form of cutting damage.
- * The skill 'Heart Selection' will be generated.
- * The curse 'Bunhelier's Gaze' will be applied.

It was produced by smelting the fang of the evil dragon Bunhelier, giving it the ultimate power. But it contains a curse. The owner will be followed by Bunhelier's Gaze.

The great demon Drasion sealed a portion of the sword's power to avoid this gaze, but the legendary blacksmith Grid released the seal.

Weight: 887

[Heart Selection]

Passive.

When striking at the target's heart (including both normal and skill attacks), there is a normal chance that double the damage will be dealt. There is also a low chance of instantly killing the opponent.

Resources Consumed: None.

Skill Cooldown Time: None.

[Bunhelier's Gaze]

Curse.

The evil dragon Bunhelier is always watching over you.

You might be attacked on a day when Bunhelier is feeling grumpy.

Skill Activation Condition: random.

[Information about 'Bunhelier's Fang' used to make the item has been obtained!]

[The skill proficiency of (Understanding of Gods' Weapons) Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill has increased by 10%.]

'Amazing...!'

There was a persistent problem with legendary skills. Was it the long cooldown time and resource consumption? No, that was a secondary issue. It was basically very difficult to raise the level.

It was the same for the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill. Grid had become Pagma's Descendant three years ago in Satisfy time. He invested a considerable amount of time and effort into making items, but was only able to raise the level of the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill to seven.

It couldn't be helped. After reaching level seven, his skill proficiency only increased by 1% when making unique items. But now, he gained 10% experience just from learning about a new mineral

It was a dragon material. Grid felt like everything paid off.

'Moreover, the results of the White Fang appraisal are also good.'

The attack power and durability increased by 100 and 200 respectively, and an additional option was added. Grid was thrilled with the performance, as he got some idea of what Iyarugt would be like if it grew to the legendary level.

In particular, the skill Heart Selection would have a great synergy with Kraugel. Kraugel's godly control skills meant he could freely take advantage of Heart Selection. But there was one thing Grid couldn't accept.

'A cursed item?'

Grid's face stiffened as he read the item description until the end. It was good that White Fang's performance was enhanced. But a curse? It was the worst curse, to be surveilled and attacked by a dragon!

'...Crazy.'

It seemed like he had done something wrong. After the spar with Kraugel. Grid wanted to do a favor for him, but it turned out to be poison.

Gulp.

"What's going on?"

Kraugel had an ominous feeling after seeing Grid's color drain away and snatched White Fang. Then he stood like a petrified statue after checking the item information.

"..."

An awkward atmosphere flowed.

Grid and Kraugel. The two men both remained silent. Grid was the one to break the uncomfortable silence first.

"...I'm sorry. I am ashamed."

Grid was no longer shameless. He acknowledged his own mistakes and was ready to take responsibility for them. This was because he had to maintain his honor as Lord of Reidan, leader of Overgeared and father of Lord.

"I'm really sorry. It wasn't maliciously done. Give me time and I will return the item to its original state."

Grid apologized again. Kraugel looked at White Fang quietly and spoke in a trembling voice.

"...Amazing."

"Eh... Huh?"

"Seeing the hidden abilities of an item and drawing them out, you truly are a legendary blacksmith. Among the two billion users, you're the only one who can do this. It is truly amazing."

Kraugel expressed his admiration. The peak of two billion users, how many users were able to impress the 1st ranked Kraugel? It would be enough to be counted on 10 fingers. Grid's ability was unique and great.

Hwik.

Hwiik.

Kraugel wielded White Fang a few times and spoke to Grid.

"Thank you."

"...?"

Grid was stunned. Kraugel's reaction was completely different from his expectations, making him confused. Kraugel shrugged at the puzzled Grid.

"Thanks to you, I can now own the best item."

It wasn't an exaggeration. Kraugel was sincerely happy. The True White Fang's performance was enhanced. In particular, he was inspired by the Heart Selection skill.

'I will become two, no three times stronger than before.'

Kraugel was confident that the Heart Selection skill would be his greatest weapon in the future. Striking the target's heart? It was easy for him, since he had complete control over his movements.

Grid carefully asked the delighted Kraugel.

"That... Is it okay? There's a curse."

Kraugel laughed.

"Ah, you were worried. You don't have to worry about Bunhelier. I remember a verse from the folk song of the Trempet people, stating that 'Evil dragon, a hero sealed it 500 years ago.' It is highly unlikely that Bunhelier will appear at this time."

'Where is Trempet?'

While ordinary users played the game by exploring Satisfy, Grid was a unique case who stayed in the Eternal Kingdom. In other words, he didn't know the names of rural areas.

'And a verse from a folk song?'

Grid was insufficient in this regard. He played Satisfy and often missed minor parts. Kraugel was the opposite. His senses were sharp and he was cautious about everything, so he didn't miss anything trivial. The evidence was that he remembered the folk song of a remote village in a small kingdom called Trempet.

"So, what is the price I have to pay?"

"That..."

Grid wasn't able to easily speak the price for repairing the True White Fang. The thing he most wanted was to obtain Kraugel. Of course, it was to join Overgeared. But Grid couldn't readily say this.

Wasn't the reason why Kraugel was always alone, despite being ranked 1st for the past several years, because he wanted to do it himself? Grid had to take into consideration Kraugel's tendency to dislike belonging to groups. It was proof that he grew.

Grid thought about it for a while before opening his mouth.

"Tell me how to get to the East Continent.'

"Good."

Kraugel's mind became lighter. He had inflicted damage to the territory in his spar with Piaro. Grid had protected his experience. White Fang received an upgrade. He was thankful for the help, so he could relieve his burden by telling Grid the way to get to the East Continent.

The value of this information was great. It was information that could only be completed if knowledge and information gathered around the continent for at least one year were aligned like puzzle pieces.

“There is an archipelago in the sea south of the Sea Kingdom Media called Behen. It is an archipelago made up of a total of 66 small islands.”

Grid listened closely.

Kraugel sent him a provocative look.

"There is a sage present somewhere called Sticks. If you find him, you will be able to move to the East Continent."

"If I can find him? Are you saying that he's hiding in a place that is hard to find?"

"The Behen Archipelago is a very dangerous place. You have to cross 66 islands one after another. A few high rankers became frustrated and couldn't even pass the 10th island. And Sticks usually lives on the 25~29th islands."

"Media... Behen... Sticks..."

Grid didn't forget to take notes of the information obtained. Kraugel was shaking with excitement as he watched Grid.

'What island can he reach?'

Even Kraugel reached his limit at the 30th island. This island was believed to be the limit of the current users. But Grid was the one who beat him. Maybe he would be able to get something bigger from Sticks?

'I am looking forward to it.'

A person ridiculed as a dull-witted. Kraugel hoped that despite all the trials, despair and frustration, Grid would grow up and inspire Kraugel to grow. It was the true wish of Kraugel, who gained a precious rival.

"Why is it so bustling?"

Grid fully repaired Kraugel's items. He was confused as he left the smithy with Kraugel. Jishuka, Lauel, Regas, Pon, Vantner, and the other members of Overgeared were all gathered in front of the smithy.

Their eyes were staring at Kraugel. They were hoping that Kraugel would join Overgeared.

"Eh, um..."

Grid was perplexed. As leader of Overgeared, he had failed to meet their expectations. Grid felt guilty and turned towards Kraugel.

"How is it? Do you want to have a meal with us?"

"Hrmm."

Just as Grid's liking towards Kraugel increased after the spar, Kraugel also liked Grid as well. He personally wanted to become friends with Grid. He believed that both of them could help each other.

However, he was burdened by the attitude of the Overgeared members. Kraugel slowly opened his mouth as he watched the Overgeared members, who were saying 'be our friend' with their eyes.

"My mother suddenly called, so I should go. Log out."

Suruk.

"...?"

The peak of two billion users. The sky above the sky. The best. The absolute leader of the rankings, who monopolized all types of titles, Kraugel.

Was he an elementary school student, to use his mother as an excuse to log out? It was a rather childish appearance. Grid and the Overgeared members thought it was absurd.

Chapter 355

After a few minutes of silence.

Vantner stared at the spot where Kraugel logged out.

"We should stay here until Kraugel logs in again."

"Is that a good idea? Once he logs in, we will immediately kidnap him."

"Okay! We'll make him a slave of Overgeared!"

"Ohh! The 1st ranked user will join Overgeared!"

The members of Overgeared made a plan. Grid frowned at them and said, "Cut it out. Don't force it."

Jishuka was surprised.

"You want to miss out on the chance to get the best power?"

Grid was the embodiment of greed. Considering Grid's usual tendencies, he should be obsessed with obtaining Kraugel. She couldn't help feeling curious.

'Does he personally not like Kraugel?'

Grid spoke to the questioning Overgeared members.

"We can't get colleagues by force, right?"

Of course, there were those who were baited by Overgeared. For example, Lael. But Lael and Kraugel were different. Lael was a person who became fascinated with the power of items when he was looking for power, while Kraugel was a person who disliked belonging to a group.

If they forced him to join, would he really be born again as a true companion?

"And I already have the best colleagues. All of you. So don't cling to Kraugel."

It wasn't a pretense at all. Grid believed that he could accomplish any goal with his current colleagues. He didn't feel great regret towards Kraugel. Grid had a separate role that he wanted for Kraugel.

'Kraugel.'

Go your own way. Be sure to become a sword saint. Then on the day they met again.

'Make me grow stronger.'

Grid had learned a lot in the spar with Kraugel. How to avoid non-targeted skills, how to deal with targeted skills, how to use mana and physical strength, how to use items and skills, how to use the terrain and so on. Every one of Kraugel's judgments and movements were deeply engraved in his heart.

'Of course, I can't be like Kraugel right away.'

Grid believed it. If he keep trying and trying, one day he would be able to fight a better match against Kraugel.

That's right. Grid was conscious of Kraugel as his rival. A stupid person having a rivalry with the best genius? Some people might laugh. But Grid didn't doubt his eligibility. It was because he had a high pride as the unique being who broke the sky above the sky. It was a pride unmatched by the arrogance that had been used to cover up his deficiency.

Jishuka returned to the castle with Grid and asked.

"Why didn't you call us when Prince Ren's army tried to invade Reidan? Do you know how absurd it was when I had to hear from the news that our territory was invaded by the enemy?"

"You were working hard hunting the vampires, so I didn't want to disturb you. In the first place, it was possible to resolve it with Lauel alone."

"You should call us if there is an incident! What if you were in danger?"

"..."

In the past, Grid would've responded casually, saying 'If I was, I would summon a knight.' But now Grid was different. He realized why Jishuka was angry and apologized.

"I'm sorry the actions that I chose made you dissatisfied."

It wasn't because he thought they were useless, or because he didn't think of them as colleagues. It was pure goodwill. Grid apologized with gentle eyes and Jishuka couldn't say anything more.

'It is becoming harder to deal with him.'

Jishuka couldn't help being conscious of Grid. Grid had a weak and stupid side, so sometimes he felt young. That wasn't the case anymore. Since becoming a father, Grid had been changing rapidly. He felt a strong sense of responsibility and his deficiencies were being erased one by one.

Jishuka liked this appearance even more.

'He will be great by the time he reaches 30 years old.'

She wanted to see the mature Grid. As Jishuka felt mesmerized, Lael approached Grid. Then he randomly apologized.

“I’m sorry.”

“What is it all of a sudden?”

“Actually...”

Lael honestly confessed.

“When I saw you on the battlefield a while ago, I thought you were still lacking. But this time, I realized that my eyes were wrong. You won against Kraugel, the sky above the sky. In the future, I won’t doubt your skills again.”

After the 1st National Competition, Lael had been with Grid for more than 10 months in real time. So far, Lael had never looked at Grid with ‘envy’ or ‘respect.’ But now it was different. The emotions in Lael’s eyes deepened.

“I, Lael, will stop following you just for your items. In the future, I will serve you with an honest and pure mind. This is the true oath of my soul that will penetrate the past and present.”

Grid and the Overgeared members got goosebumps at Lael’s words. Their hands and feet shrank and they couldn’t think of anything else. Huroi was the only one thrilled by Lael’s oath.

Going back in time, to when Grid had just completed the Elfin Stone raid.

『 A non-NPC player was elected as the pope! In addition! A Japanese person! 』

Japan was overturned.

Damian. An exceptional person who rose to the 2nd ranked paladin, despite being a paladin of the Rebecca Church. One day, he suddenly disappeared from the rankings list, so there was a rumor that he’d obtained a hidden class. And he was an otaku.

One of Japan’s best Satisfy players was elected as pope of the Rebecca Church. The Japanese were filled with joy. They weren’t able to win a medal at the 1st Satisfy National Competition, but Japan cheered at the birth of a savior.

『 Damian! Congratulations on being elected pope! The Japanese people are very proud! 』

『 Thank you. 』

『 How hard was it for you to become a pope? The whole nation wants to know. What how did you overcome the trials and adversities to achieve something so great? 』

The power of the pope of the Rebecca Church was absolute. Even the kings of a few kingdoms had to bow to the pope. This was why the Japanese had high hopes. Damian would develop a lot of policies favouring the Japanese users, making a great contribution to Satisfy’s development in Japan.

This changed once Damian started the interviews with various media outlets.

『 I only became the pope thanks to Grid. 』

『 The legendary blacksmith Grid? There was a big battle with Grid and the Red Knight on the day of the pope candidate speeches. Was this how he helped Damian? 』

『 It isn't just that. From beginning to end, I could only become pope thanks to Grid's help. 』

Grid's popularity was steadily rising.

In particular, since the release of the white-haired version of Grid, a large fandom had formed in Japan. It was enough to make him the protagonist of the 5th Korean wave. But as always, the Korean wave was a story that applied only to a small number of people.

Most of the Japanese people didn't care about the Korean wave. In such a situation, the Japanese hero Damian praised Grid exclusively, causing resentment. Grid was one of the main people who frustrated Japan in the National Competition, causing a backlash among the extreme right-wing people.

"Why is Damian attributing all his achievements towards Grid?"

"Doesn't he know how much Japan suffered because of Grid?"

"Grid is our nemesis! Not only did he destroy the Japanese rankers in the National Competition, he was also involved when the Sakura Guild attacked the Silver Knights Guild in the past!"

"What? Grid is completely the worst! Damian, why is he praising that bastard? Is he a Zainichi (A Japanese word referring to Koreans who live in Japan)?"

"It's possible! It makes no sense that a pure blood Japanese would be a traitor!"

The Japanese felt public outrage.

'Damian is a Zainichi' appeared on various SNS. A rumor that he 'wanted to improve the image of Korea in Japan' started to spread. It was the dirty masterpiece of the Japanese extreme right-wing forces.

But Damian didn't care. He had always been mocked for being an otaku, so such accusations were familiar to him.

『 Rumors are raging about whether Damian is Korean or not. What do you think about this? 』

『 I am a pure blood Japanese. 』

『 However, Damian tends to portray Korea in a good manner by mentioning Grid in all interviews. There are many people who are questioning your intentions. 』

『 I have never portrayed Korea in a good manner. I just thanked Grid, and it was misinterpreted by some people. 』

『 In any case, it's true that Damian's image isn't good for our country. In order to change your image and remove suspicions, why don't you build a Rebecca Temple in the territories ruled by the Japanese? 』

『 Strict conditions must be met in order to build a Rebecca Temple in certain areas. A temple can't be built just because we belong to the same country. 』

『 Then... Damian, do you have no intention of helping Japan after becoming pope? 』

『 Of course. What does being pope have to do with Japan? As a pope, I must always be neutral. 』

『 ...I see. Then can I ask about your first official plan of action as pope? 』

『 It is to build a temple of Goddess Rebecca in Reidan. 』

『 No, didn't you say that strict conditions had to be met to build a temple? Reidan's current population is only 20,000, so doesn't it fail to meet the conditions? You said you are neutral, but aren't you blatantly favoring Grid? 』

Fuji TV. It was one of Japanese's leading right-wing media outlet, with the announcer representing the extreme right-wing people. He conducted an interview with a very negative view on Damian's behavior.

If Damian was a common person, he would've been afraid of the influence and retaliation of the extreme right wing forces. But Damian was an otaku. An otaku's firm belief wasn't easy to bend.

『 I'm not showing favoritism to Grid, but repaying his grace. Grid is the person who saved me and the Rebecca Church! Goddess Rebecca has given me a divine message to repay his grace! Praise God Grid!! 』

『 ... 』

“Crazy bastard!”

The Japanese extreme right wing forces were furious. The Japanese had gained great power, but that person wouldn't help his own people, or convince the Koreans to help him. They started thinking up a terrible plan.

Chapter 356

What was the terrible plan that the Japanese right wing forces set up?

"We will kill Damian. Let's show him the taste of fear and despair, so that he won't talk about Grid again."

"We will tame him and use him to thoroughly strengthen the forces of the Japanese guilds."

"Let's support the rankers who will participate in the next National Competition. If there are 10 Rebecca healers per ranker, who would be able to beat them in the National Competition?"

That's right. In the name of patriotism, they were trying to use force to dominate someone else's life. It was a complete human rights violation and a terrifying idea.

'I want to step on Grid.'

That thought was on their minds. The right wing Japanese forces had no intention of touching Grid. The Seven Guilds didn't have the power to threaten Grid, so they couldn't even if they wanted to.

They were weak to the strong, and strong against the weak. Just like the mass protests against Korean and the small anti-Chinese protests, the Japanese extreme right wing forces chose the path they believed was wise.

Grid was the fundamental problem, but they turned away from him and aimed the arrow at the relatively weaker Damian. But they overlooked one thing.

Damian was never weak. He might've been acting as an informal ranker for nearly a year, but he was originally a high ranker. He was also the first person to obtain a unique hidden class. Now he had become the pope.

He was definitely one of the strongest people. However, when compared to Grid...

Lauel was always interested in international affairs.

Collecting a wide range of information while playing Satisfy was a basic skill, and knowing the issues of each country was a great help when it came to gathering information.

“Eh?”

It was early in the morning. Prior to accessing Satisfy, Lauel was looking at the overseas topics and was baffled when looking at the news from Japan.

[Pope Damian! He announced that he would build a Goddess Rebecca temple in Reidan!!]

“This person...!”

Lauel's expression twisted. Didn't he advise him several times that the cooperative relationship between Overgeared and the Rebecca Church should proceed discreetly?

In fact, during Damian's campaign, Grid and Huroi had acted as carefully as possible. They tried to help Damian's campaign while avoiding people's attention. On the day of the pope speech candidates, they accidentally appeared on air, but there was no doubt that they were trying their best.

Now Damian was turning all their hard work to naught.

"Stop worshipping Grid!"

The more influential religions were, the less biased they should be. They had to maintain a neutral position and treat everyone equally. It was because certain powers might collude with others to weaken the power of the religion.

Lauel immediately connected to Satisfy and whispered to Damian.

-Why are you ignoring my advice? How many times have I told you that you must keep your help towards Grid and Overgeared a secret?

-It couldn't be helped. It's hard to maintain a neutral position forever because I'm receiving too much pressure inside and outside of the game. I had to make a choice.

-Inside the game? Apart from the Japanese extreme right wing groups, there is another force putting pressure on you?

-Yes, the Saharan Empire is trying to take the Rebecca Church as a state religion.

Laue's expression stiffened.

The Saharan Empire, based on a nationalist ideology, was trying to make the largest religion on the continent its state religion? The aftermath would be enormous. It would be prohibited to serve Goddess Rebecca unless they were part of the empire.

The Saharan Empire was already the greatest power. There were a total of 17 nations on the continent, but it wasn't an exaggeration to say that all of them were under the rule of the empire.

'The Saharan Empire...'

They grew arrogant, as there were no enemies in the world.

'If I was going to hand the Rebecca Church over to you, I wouldn't have made Damian the pope.'

The cynical Laue laid out a map of the West Continent. Then he examined several kingdoms that bordered the Saharan Empire.

Thorny Vine Forest.

It was one of the roads connected Reidan and the Saharan Empire, and was the place where the legend of Faker, the god of death, began.

"Isn't this where the Ice Flower Guild was wiped out by Faker?"

"Do you believe that ridiculous rumour? The Ice Flower Guild is one of the strongest guilds, and part of the Seven Guilds. How could they be wiped out by Faker?"

"That's right. Bondre alone would be able to take care of Faker."

"Grid just spread an exaggerated rumor in order to increase the reputation of Overgeared. It's just a bluff."

Japan's leading right wing guild, the 180 players of Sakura, were hiding in the forest. Their goal was Damian. Their first task was to kidnap and detain the traitor who was heading for Reidan.

"We can wait around here. We'll make that traitor pay for betraying his country."

"Building a temple in Grid's damn territory, he must be a Zainichi."

"Whoa whoa, suppress your killing intent. We can't kill the person who will become our puppet."

The Sakura Guild members gritted their teeth. After a while, they witnessed a long procession entering the forest.

"Happy-chan~ isn't it difficult? Do you want me to do it?"

"Your Holiness, please maintain your dignity."

"I don't care about my dignity if it means ignoring girls who are having a hard time."

"..."

"Now~ Happy-chan, come on. Yes? Are you shy? You are completely cute. I want to pat your head like this."

"Kyaak! Your Holiness! Don't use too much strength!"

The Sakura Guild members frowned. Pope Damian was part of a procession with 200 young girls? They heard he was an otaku, but they didn't know he was a lolicon as well.

"He's enjoying this world properly after becoming pope."

"Bringing his harem girls on a journey...!"

"Is he the emperor of the Lorije Empire?"

Kkirik!

Yoshimura, the master of the Sakura Guild, pulled back his bowstring. The bow of the person who was once the 2nd ranked archer was aimed exactly at Damian's heart.

"First, eat this!"

Piing.

A quick shot was fired. Yoshimura might've fallen to 4th place on the archer rankings, but it was rare to see someone with such a good bow skill in the world. The arrow quickly broke through the gap in thorns and precisely struck at Damian's heart...

"...This is?"

Yoshimura was astonished. The 200 beautiful girls in white clothing who were following Damian. The young girls aged from 10 to 15 years old instantly brought out spears, swords, and shields, and blocked Yoshimura's arrow?

'Reading the arrow's position and even blocking it? An arrow shot by Yoshimura?'

'These kids are freely swinging a blade bigger than their bodies?'

'The speed at which they take their formation is like well-trained soldiers!'

The Sakura Guild members couldn't believe the sight that was happening in front of them. They wondered how little girls could show such great talents and agile movements. It didn't make sense.

"..."

Deep in the quiet forest.

The Sakura members' mouths gaped open as they hid, while the beautiful girls looked around the forest while holding weapons. Damian stood in the center and gave a meaningful smile.

"Trying to fight the Rebecca's Daughters candidates, how foolish."

The eyes of the Sakura Guild members shook.

'Rebecca's Daughters candidates!'

The Rebecca Church only chose girls who were born with divine ability and talents, secretly training them to be the strongest paladins who could handle the three divine artifacts. And the name of the strongest paladins were called 'Rebecca's Daughters.'

These girls were the candidates?

'Shit! Aren't the candidates secretly fostered in a secret temple of the Rebecca Church? Why are they accompanying Damian?'

'These young girls are unbelievably strong...!'

The confused Sakura Guild members were about to turn back after realizing the situation, when...

"Goddess' Eyes."

Pahat!

A golden light concentrated on Damian's fingertips and spread out all over the place.

[The pope receives Goddess Rebecca's blessing.]

[Goddess Rebecca detects all living things within 300m of you. Undead and the demonkin will receive great damage.]

"There are exactly 180 people."

Damian's eyes sank coldly.

"I don't want blood covering the fine hands of these girls. I will do it myself. Goddess' Blessing."

Pahat!

Pa pa pa pa pak!

It was truly spectacular. More than 200 green lights streaked through the dark forest, falling from the sky and hitting Damian and the girls.

[The Goddess' Blessing increases you and your party members' stats by 10% for 5 minutes, negates one strike and will create a shield that absorbs 8,000 damage.]

"Ack...!"

The Sakura Guild watching Damian frowned. It was due to the intensity of the green light that wrapped around Damian and the girls that made them shine. Damian gazed towards the location where most of them were gathered.

"Goddess' Wrath."

Chiiiiing!

Two huge magic circles, around 3m in diameter, were quickly created behind Damian's back.

'What's that?'

The Sakura Guild couldn't get a sense of Damian's actions. It was natural. Among the users, only Grid would recognize the pope's skills.

"Die."

Damian's declaration was a signal.

Kuwaaaaang!

It was like watching an anti-tank gun. Two huge rays were fired from the magic circles created behind Damian's back, moving in a straight line that swallowed everything in its path. Half of the forest was destroyed.

[Party member Gigs has suffered 14,100 damage!]

[Party member Kinji has suffered 15,500 damage!]

[Party member Rokman has suffered 14,990 damage!]

[Party member Yoshimura has suffered 12,100 damage!]

[Party member Orochi has suffered 9,900 damage!]

[Party member...]

[Party...]

...

...

"This is ridiculous!"

The faces of the Sakura Guild members turned white. It only took a few seconds to cast a large area skill that inflicted huge damage to dozens of guild members that were at least level 210? This was a complete scam!

"How...? How can a user be so strong? This is ridiculous! It's unbalanced!"

Damian just laughed.

"The pope's tenure is limited to one year, so shouldn't I be able to exercise this much power? Your level is just too low."

"Eek! We would be able to win if you weren't the pope!"

"I know that I'm the pope, but you're stupid."

"I didn't know a pope was so strong! Shit! Damn! If you were weak, we would be able to easily take care of you!"

Truly unscrupulous guys. Damian sighed and pulled out a sword. Then he threw off his white clothing, revealing golden armor. 'I love Isabel-chan, Rin-chan and Luna-chan' was beautifully engraved on the armor.

"I don't need to use the pope's power on you."

Teong!

Damian rushed towards Yoshimura, the master of the Sakura Guild. Yoshimura calmly fired an arrow, despite being surprised at the paladin's speed. It was a strong blow, but the arrow was offset by the shield of light around Damian.

"It's just this much."

"...!"

Seokeok!

Great skills.

Damian showed a high level of swordsmanship that Yoshimura couldn't escape with his agility, leaving him wounded. It was far beyond the range that the Yoshimura Guild estimated for the first unique hidden class and the pope.

Damian might look silly because he was an otaku, but his ability was actually really great. However, when compared with Grid...

Chapter 357

All paladins had similar swordsmanship.

Every time they wielded the sword, they poured their whole heart into it, making it close to the concept of breaking the target. Due to this, the orbit was simple, and when the attack failed, it inevitably revealed a gap.

Yoshimura had a lot of experience and was aware of this fact. How could an archer with high agility struggle against a paladin? It was like that until now. For Yoshimura, paladins were merely solid targets. They wouldn't easily fall down, but they weren't a threat.

Damian was the exception.

Seokeok!

"Kuak!"

Every time Damian wielded his sword, Yoshimura's body became covered in wounds. Yoshimura couldn't avoid his attacks.

"You..! How can a paladin use such splendid swordsmanship? Is it because you're a hidden class and not a paladin anymore?"

It was an incorrect guess. As Goddess' Agent, Damian was still a paladin. However, it was a unique class. He was able to learn a higher Sword Mastery skill than general paladins, and that was the key to his high quality swordsmanship. Furthermore, Damian...

"I'm a paladin. A paladin with the strongest master."

That's right.

Damian was a person taught by Piaro. He grew by leaps and bounds when he was farming under Piaro. It was thanks to a clear enlightenment, as well as the quest reward for '★ Hidden Quest★ Fun and Exciting Training!'

"Supreme Swordsmanship might be slower than other swordsmanship techniques and less varied, but it is the most excellent one."

"Why?"

"A good sword might be controlled with strength, while an excellent sword is controlled by the mind and heart. It can accelerate according to the speed of the mind, while making many changes like the heart."

"..."

As a paladin, Damian couldn't understand it. If this was reality, Damian wouldn't have felt anything from Piaro's teachings. But a game was different from reality.

[You have received the teachings of the sword by Piaro and awakened!]

[Accuracy is increased by 30% when wearing sword type weapons. This effect is applied separately from the Sword Mastery skill.]

In other words, it was an additional reward for the hidden quest. Damian was well behaved and built up a great deal of favor during the hidden quest, and was able to gain great strength thanks to it.

"The strongest teacher? What are you saying?"

"There's no need for you to know."

Puok!

"Kuaaack!"

"Master!"

Yoshimura was deeply stabbed in the side and eventually sat down. Orochi saw this and ran over aggressively.

"How dare you do this to Master!?"

The strongest person in the Sakura Guild, Orochi. He was the master of twin swordsmanship. He was particularly strong in PvP as a high ranking player, capable of dazzling the target with his swordsmanship.

But he wasn't Damian's opponent. Damian scoffed as he easily defended against Orochi's sword with a shield.

"Even Reidan's farmer who likes potatoes will yawn against you."

Reidan's farmer who likes potatoes?

'Who is that?'

Did he mean the legendary farmer who caused an uproar in the world by smashing Hurent and 2,000 troops in a short amount of time? Orochi felt doubts.

Chaaeng!

Damian pushed at Orochi using his shield and then stabbed his chest.

"You aren't my opponent. You should at least be a temporary farmer in order to deal with me. Oh, I am still lacking compared to him."

Temporary farmer?

"Who is that?"

"I also don't know."

"...?"

From then on, a one-sided massacre took place. The Sakura Guild lacked a third advancement class, so they were totally overwhelmed by Damian, who was over level 300. Damian's basic defense was high and his healing was fraudulent, so it was difficult to kill him.

It wasn't an exaggeration to say that Damian's endurance in battle was the best. The Rebecca's Daughters candidates were also a problem. The Sakura Guild's hands and feet were tied up because they thoroughly assisted Damian.

"Shit! Shitt!"

Once their colleagues started dying, the Sakura Guild members became angry.

Yoshimura cried out, "Why? Why are you helping a Korean person!?" (TL: Once again, a Japanese word meaning Korean person that has negative connotations)

"Korean person? What an old-fashioned and racist remark. You should apologize."

"What? You... Keook...!"

Damian no longer continued the conversation. He knew that the opponents weren't worth talking with, so he just silently killed the Sakura Guild members.

On this day.

The Sakura Guild suffered big damage. All the guild members died and lost experience and some items. It was a huge loss, making them unable to do anything big for a while.

Grid became certain of one thing after the spar with Kraugel. His goal of becoming the best wasn't a fanciful dream.

'Geniuses... No, it's true that my talent is poo compared to the general public.'

He didn't deny it, since it was a reality he'd realized since his childhood.

'But.'

Grid had a weapon that no one else had. It was the power of items. It wasn't the usual items, but the items which had collapsed the sky above the sky.

'First, polish the weapons.'

In order to regular users to obtain items, they had to devote themselves to raids or hunting. However, Grid was different. As a legendary blacksmith, he was able to produce ideal items directly.

'But it isn't easy.'

There was a limit on the performance of items. It was virtually impossible to make a 10 billion damage weapon that could kill a target unconditionally, or to be invincible by making a 10 billion defense armor.

'It's about creating ideal items within the limits.'

It couldn't be done by staying in the smithy. Grid knew from experience. Then what did he have to do?

"..."

Reidan's smithy.

Grid was locked in thought for a while.

"Expand my insights."

Would it be possible to build up his current skills if he was alone like Kraugel, even if he was a genius? It wasn't possible. Through repeated adventures, meeting new people and enemies, and learning and growing through them.

'I should do that.'

There was a place that Grid decided to go.

'Behen Archipelago.'

It was made up of 66 islands. Even Kraugel had only managed to reach the 30th island. By challenging it and experiencing new things, he could overcome his shortcomings and design more ideal items.

The determined Grid moved to the castle.

"Abu! Abuuuu!"

"Welcome back."

Irene and Lord welcomed Grid. Irene's affectionate gaze and Lord's envious gaze were directed towards Grid.

'I want to make them happy for the rest of my life.'

Satisfy was different from reality. Enemies were everywhere and his precious people could be in danger at any time. In order to completely protect them, Grid wanted to become stronger. Grid summoned Lael.

"Did you call?"

Lael, who was buried in a pile of papers in his office, came running wildly. Grid was thankful for his diligence, despite always being tired.

"I'm incompetent, so you're experiencing a lot of hardships by taking on everything."

"I wanted to do it. You don't have to worry. Continue to rely on me."

"Yes, I will believe in you and leave for a while."

"...Huh?"

"I'm planning to go to a place called the Behen Archipelago. Please look after Reidan and my family while I'm not here. Ah, can I also take some of the potions produced by the alchemy facility?"

"Huh? Ah yes, of course."

Lael was confused, but he didn't ponder over Grid's choices and actions. Grid had become more cautious since the spar with Kraugel, so Lael thoroughly trusted him. After that, Grid made love to Irene, said goodbye to Lord, and left for the Media Kingdom.

"Aba! Abubu! Abu!"

Lord held the 'Baby's Wooden Sword' in his hands and cried out as he looked at his father's distant back. But there was no one who could understand the baby's words. People thought that Lord was just saying goodbye to his father.

However, the truth was different.

A few days later. After some suffering, the pope procession succeeded in crossing the desert and finally arrived in Reidan. Damian's heart was overflowing with joy. He was happy because he could see Grid and Piaro, who had helped him a lot without blaming him for being an otaku.

But the touching reunion didn't occur easily.

"A murderer like you can't enter the city!"

The soldiers guarding Reidan's gates blocked Damian's way. It was unavoidable. Damian's name was bright red from killing the Sakura Guild.

"No, I'm the pope."

"Nonsense!"

"Why would the pope commit such butchery?"

"A murderer is trying to lie! Disgraceful person! Get out now!"

"..."

After a while, Damian was able to enter Reidan due to Lauel. However, Grid wasn't there anymore.

There were countless players hoping to cross to the East Continent.

There were those who wanted to get ahead of everyone else, those who aimed for a reversal in a new land, etc. All types of people tried to reach the East Continent. The wealthy even invested an astronomical amount of money.

However, most of them failed to reach the East Continent. They became stuck at the Dead Sea. Only a very small number of people succeeded. Out of two billion users, less than 1,000 succeeded in figuring out how to get to the East Continent.

They were the people who grasped the existence of Sage Sticks by clearing a lot of linked quests. However, fewer than 10 people managed to cross to the Eastern Continent.

Behen Archipelago. It was a difficult task to break through the 66 islands, which were like an instant dungeon.

"Sigh."

After a long journey, Grid arrived at the Behen Archipelago and took a deep breath to calm himself down. Was he nervous because he remembered Kraugel saying that even famous high rankers had been eliminated at the first island?

No. Grid was actually filled with confidence. The reason for his deep breathing was to stop himself from becoming angry.

"Now, shall I get started?"

Grid readied himself and started to cross the bridge between the mainland and the first island. A notification window appeared at the end of the bridge.

[Do you want to enter the instant dungeon 'Behen Archipelago'?]

"Yes."

[The 'Behen Archipelago' is limited to one person and the escape method is unknown. Death is highly likely. Do you still want to enter?]

"Go."

At the same time. Grid's body was sucked into the gate.

“It’s been a long time since there was a challenger.”

The hidden sage, Sticks. He gazed into his magic ball and saw a man with black hair. Sticks examined him closely and didn’t feel inspired.

“Anyway, he will be eliminated.”

The first island dropped the challenger’s stamina to the limit. Faced with the terrible limit, they would cause their own self-destruction. Over the past few decades, most challengers lost their lives at the first island.

Sticks was sure that the same thing would happen to this black-haired man. However, the result was different from what he expected.

“Heok! N-No, how...?”

Sticks was shocked. He looked like he saw a ghost. It was natural. The first island. The goal was to take advantage of the island terrain to hold out against the monsters that appeared ‘infinitely’ for 20 minutes.

They should reduce the area that the monsters could attack from by moving to the highlands or into narrow places. It was a common strategy, but most people didn’t survive for 20 minutes even if they knew the strategy. There was a limit to their stamina.

However, the man with black hair used an unconventional method. He cleared the first island easily without using a strategy. After summoning four golden hands that each held a weapon, he waited for the monsters to appear and killed them. It was a method that destroyed common sense, making even the sage Sticks embarrassed.

Chapter 358

[You have entered the first island.]

The first island was much smaller than Grid expected. The area of one tenth of Yeouido Park. The structure was very simple. There were several rock piles, as well as white sand.

“There isn’t anything?”

Grid was looking around with confusion when he saw the notification window that popped up.

[A mission will be created.]

[First Island]

Survive for 20 minutes!

First Clear Reward: 1 Challenger Point.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

“Survive?”

This place was Behen Archipelago, where even high ranking users died. What terrible things would happen in the future that he needed to 'survive?' Ordinary people would be extremely nervous and uneasy.

But Grid was the person who broke the sky above the sky. This created a high pride, and he wasn't easily upset. Grid was only focused on the compensation.

'Challenger points? Is it something that only applies to certain areas?'

Reputation was used as the currency in the Reputation Store.

'What can I buy with this?'

Grid was full of anticipation. He used Braham's Boots and looked over the island from the sky. It was to grasp the situation before the mission started.

'Magic circle?'

There were four large magic circles engraved on the island. What were they for? Another person would've been able to grasp it more quickly, but Grid just had the intelligence of an ordinary person and only came up with an idea after a while.

'Are they places where monsters are created?'

Since it stated that he had to survive for 20 minutes, it meant he would be threatened for 20 minutes. Grid guessed that monsters would pour out of the circles as soon as the survival mission started.

But he wasn't fully convinced. It was to leave his mind flexible to cope with unexpected situations.

"I have to prepare."

There was a few minutes left until the start of the mission.

In order to secure the minimum of safety and prevent himself from wasting mana, Grid landed on some rocks. He summoned the God Hands and gave them the strongest weapons, before moving them to the different magic circles.

"Attack as soon as the enemy appears."

The four God Hands swung their weapons as if in reply to Grid's command. After a while.

[The first island's mission has begun.]

Pak!

Pa pa pa pat!

A smile appeared on Grid's face. He was delighted that his expectations were correct. That's right. Monsters were created at the four magic circles.

Kieeeeek!

Kyaack!

The monsters that emerged from the magic circles were the creepy sellobu.

'It has been a long time.'

Sellobus. They were a spider type monster with low defense and stamina, but high attack power and speed. The sellobus were so fast that humans couldn't counter. They were ghastly monsters that slaughtered players all over the continent.

'Only level 200.'

Now Grid could destroy the sellobus in one blow. But the God Hands were different. The God Hands only had 30% of Grid's stats. In addition, his Sword Mastery was only beginner level 7. They had the most advanced weapons, but they couldn't stop the sellobus instantly. It took them an average of three to four hits.

'Too slow.'

The speed at which the sellobus were created was much faster than the speed of the God Hands' hunting. Their numbers started to get out of control and they shot poisonous liquid at Grid.

"Kuk."

As expected of an offensive monster, their damage was flawless. The cumulative damage was a burden on Grid.

'It's a waste of experience, but it can't be helped.'

Grid used Pagma's Swordsmanship, Transcended Link, to kill the sellobus around him, then pulled out his next method.

"Noe, Randy."

"Snack time! Nyang!"

"Randy, Grid okay."

Noe and Randy, who was in the form of Grid, appeared. Grid ordered the two of them.

"Support the God Hands in the east and north. I will support the hands in the south and west."

"Nyang!"

Noe replied energetically, moving his wings and heading east. On the other hand, Randy didn't know where the north was. However, he soon moved quickly when Grid pointed. Thanks to them joining, the east and north God Hands could quickly kill the sellobus.

Grid also wasn't idle. He reached out his hands to the left and right and fired the Magic Missiles, assisting the God Hands that were suffering under the sellobus. From this point on, numerous notification windows appeared in front of Grid.

[You have killed a sellobus.]

[612,000 experience has been distributed.]

[Your pet Noe has acquired 204,000 experience.]

[Your pet Randy has acquired 204,000 experience.]

[You have killed a sellobus.]

[612,000 experience has been distributed.]

[Your pet Noe...]

...

...

"Wow, this is a big hit."

Grid was astonished. He killed almost four sellobus per second, so the speed of his experience gain was beyond imagination. It was around 10 times faster than the current best hunting ground, the vampire cities.

This wasn't the end.

[The Sword Mastery of 'God Hand' has increased from beginner level 7 to beginner level 8.]

[The Sword Mastery of 'God Hand' has increased from beginner level 8 to beginner level 9.]

The Sword Mastery of the God Hands grew at a tremendous rate as they wielded their swords without a break. Grid trembled with something that was beyond joy. As the Sword Mastery level of the God Hands increased, the speed of the sellobu hunting became even faster, causing an equivalent rise in the speed of acquiring experience. Now it was 20 times faster than when hunting in the vampire cities.

[You have killed a sellobus.]

[You have killed a sellobus.]

[You have killed...]

...

...

[The level of Noe has risen!]

[The level of Randy has risen!]

[The level of Randy has risen!]

"Yes! This is honey! Amazing!"

Grid was so excited that he couldn't help cheering. The first island that frustrated so many challengers...

The land of despair turned into a great hunting ground for Grid.

[You have cleared the first island.]

[You have acquired 1 challenger point for the mission success.]

[Challenger Point]

Can be used to purchase items from the Challenger Store that exists somewhere in the Behen Archipelago.

“Ah, too bad.”

Grid ended up hunting for 20 minutes. He gained an extra 15% experience.

“It would be nice if the mission was surviving for 20 days instead of 20 minutes... Or maybe 20 hours...”

Grid’s heart wanted to take advantage of the first island. He wanted to repeatedly clear the first island so that he could catch up with Kraugel’s level. But it was a stupid idea. There were still a lot of islands. Wasn’t it likely to have a better hunting ground later on?

‘In the first place, I need to escape from here before I can do it again, and I don’t know how to escape.’

Grid hadn’t yet fully grasped the system of the Behen Archipelago. He needed to be more careful. He disciplined his heart and stepped onto the newly created bridge. The gate to the second island was located at the end of the bridge.

[You have entered the second island.]

This island was at least 10 times larger than the first island. The scenery was also different. There was the sound of waterfalls from the lush jungle, as well as a small mountain at each end of the island. There were also lakes and caves.

“Huh? Treasure chest?”

Grid looked around and noticed one place. It was a towering rock wall just behind the starting point. There were 10 golden boxes shining brightly.

“What is this... No, is it a trap?”

Grid didn’t act carelessly, unlike the past, and notification windows appeared in front of him.

[A mission will be created.]

[Second Island]

Open the locked treasure chests!

There are 10 keys hidden throughout the island.

It is important to find as many keys as possible, as each box has a different key.

Time Limit: 3 days.

First Clear Reward: Every time you open a box, 1 Challenger Point.

* If two or more boxes can't be opened within the specified time, you will be expelled from the island.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

"This time, it involves searching."

It seemed to be very difficult to find the keys if the time limit was three days.

'Of course it's hard.'

The island was big and the terrain was too complicated. There were bushes, lakes, waterfalls, caves, and cliffs all over. He had to find a small key in this place? It was no different from finding a needle in the desert.

But Grid didn't show any signs of being troubled. He still had a bright smile on his face.

"The second island had the most dropouts."

Sticks observed Grid through the magic ball. He didn't have much expectations.

It was true that the black-haired man broke through the first island in an extraordinary manner, but the difficulty of the second island was extremely high when compared with the first island.

"In order to break through the second island, you need the intelligence to bring together the different clues observed, without missing a single one. But..."

The black haired man was sitting in front of the magic circle and just resting during the 30 minute preparation time before the mission began. He was wasting this time and not even looking for clues, so it was like the black haired man had already given up.

"I don't have much expectation for him."

Sticks was surprised when he looked at the magic ball. Why was he so surprised?

"Keok...! Keok keok.... N-No! Don't tell me that person is a legendary thief?"

Sticks was bound to think so. The treasure boxes that couldn't be opened unless it was the right key, the black haired man opened them with one key in his possession. It was a dexterity that could only be admired.

"T-The second island in just 10 seconds...!?"

It was an unprecedented record. It was the moment when Sticks, who was called a sage because he was wiser than anyone else, became a fool. On this day, Grid reached the ninth island. It also meant that Sticks was surprised a total of nine times.

Chapter 359

[You have cleared the ninth island.]

[You have acquired 24 challenger points for the mission success.]

'I have a total of 102 points.'

Grid reached the ninth island at a fast pace and was still okay. There were no signs of exhaustion at all. It was natural. He didn't get tired because it wasn't hard for him.

"It's easier than expected."

To be honest, Grid felt deflated. But he didn't become overconfident. Wasn't the Behen Archipelago the place that caused difficulty for Kraugel?

'The difficulty is likely to rise exponentially over the next few islands.'

Grid thought this and controlled his heart. He didn't know.

The endless monsters on the first island, the hidden keys on the second island, capturing the escaped fox mice on the third island, swallowing the raging fire on the fourth island, surviving the blizzard on the fifth island, passing through the poisonous sixth island, the seventh and eighth islands where the strong boss monsters appeared...

And the ninth island that he just cleared...

From a general point of view, they weren't easy. Grid was the only person who felt like the hell islands were easy. Even Kraugel suffered on the first and second islands.

[Do you want to enter the 10th island?]

"Yes."

Grid was sucked into the gate.

The 2nd National Competition was to be held in Paris in around two months.

Thanks to that, the employees of the S.A. Group were constantly busy. They ate rice and frequently worked overtime, so they couldn't stay healthy. They had to coordinate the details before the opening of the global festival.

"Hah, it's hard."

Even Chairman Lim Cheolho, who was more passionate than anyone, was sick. As soon as he returned from Paris, he sat down in his massage chair at work.

"I'm too old. No matter how much I manage myself, I quickly become exhausted."

Kkuok.Kkuok.

The massage chair worked on his shoulders and back, giving a very good effect. Chairman Lim Cheolho properly recovered from his fatigue and asked the supercomputer Morpheus.

"Did anything happen to them?"

Them. They were the five miracles, including Grid and Kraugel. They were people who repeatedly caused results that even Morpheus couldn't predict. Chairman Lim Cheolho watched the five of them with interest.

Before leaving for Paris, he asked Morpheus to monitor them. Morpheus reported with a mechanical voice.

[Kraugel and Grid confronted each other, while Agnus encountered Braham's soul. The other two are just raising their level.]

"Huh?"

Lim Cheolho doubted his ears. His focus wasn't on the part about Agnus and Braham. The meeting between the two of them was scheduled, so there was nothing special about it. On the other hand, Kraugel and Grid were different.

"What did you say just now? Kraugel and Grid fought? Why?"

[Kraugel visited Reidan after acquiring the Sword Saint quest.]

"Hah...! He has the Sword Saint quest already!?"

Kraugel was really amazing. As a player, he was perfect without lacking anything. No, his perfection could be described as transcendental. That's why even the supercomputer Morpheus couldn't predict all his actions.

"He will safely become a sword saint."

It would be easy for him to deal with the relatively weaker Grid.

Sword saint. The most powerful battle focused class. In the future, how much stronger would Kraugel become? Chairman Lim Cheolho's expectations were amplified. Morpheus spoke unexpected words.

[Kraugel failed to obtain the sword saint class.]

"...?"

Lim Cheolho's eyes widened with surprise.

"It can't be... Surely he didn't lose to Grid?"

Chairman Lim Cheolho knew better than anyone how great Grid's power was. It wasn't an exaggeration. Lim Cheolho evaluated Grid higher than Grid did himself. But Kraugel was different. In particular, he was an overwhelming presence in PvP. Apart from Agnus, there was no player who could win against Kraugel in a one-on-one match.

Morpheus explained to the confused Lim Cheolho.

[Kraugel was incomplete. The cooldown time of an important skill hadn't recovered yet, and his equipment was damaged, so he didn't wear all of them against Grid. As a result, Grid's odds increased from 21.13% to 54.98%.]

"Grid's odds were so high from the beginning?"

[I analyzed the skill tree, items possessed and accumulated battle data of both people, but I can't be sure it is accurate. Kraugel has made my analysis meaningless 185 times and Grid 13 times.]

That was why they were called miraculous beings. A smile appeared on Lim Cheolho's face and he laughed loudly.

'Today is chicken and beer.'

Lim Cheolho decided to have chicken and beer while watching footage of the match between Kraugel and Grid. He was the one with the most assets in the world.

[You have entered the tenth island.]

It was a room rather than an island. The floor, walls, and ceiling were painted white, and the size of the empty room couldn't be measured. It was hard to get a sense of the distance. Grid frowned as he looked around.

"What's this?"

There were white pointed pillars rising from the ground. They were thin metal poles around 5cm wide and 2m long.

"There are hundreds... No, thousands?"

What was the identity of this pillars? A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[A mission will be created.]

[Tenth Island]

Avoid the lightning that will pour down like rain!

The lightning can't be defended against by any means. You can only evade.

Mission Success Conditions: Reach the gate for the eleventh island.

First Clear Reward: 30 Challenger Points.

* You will instantly die if hit by a lightning strike.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

[The ceiling is opened.]

Kurururung.

Then a roar was heard from above. He looked up and saw the sky that was revealed by the opened ceiling. It was a sky full of dark clouds.

'A lightning storm that can't be defended against.'

The lightning storm that would cause instant death would come pouring down. Considering the speed of the lightning, it was a mission that couldn't be cleared. Only people with excellent control abilities could. For example, people like Kraugel, Regas, and Faker.

"The difficulty is growing."

Grid finally became nervous. As he was worrying about what to do, he became interested in the pillars that appeared everywhere.

'They wouldn't be here for no reason.'

Identifying the use of the pillars was a priority. Grid approached the pillar closest to him and used a skill.

"Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal."

[The Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill has been used.]

[The blacksmith who became a legend can appraise items with an excellent discerning eye. If a hidden feature exists in the target item, it will be found.]

Ttiring~

[Lightning Rod]

Durability: 1/20

A metal rod with a pointed end that attracts and absorbs lightning.

The durability is weak because it is severely damaged. It will immediately turn to ashes from one lightning strike.

Weight: 3

[A hidden function doesn't exist.]

[Your understanding of the Lightning Rod is now 100%.]

[The 'Lightning Rod' production method has been acquired.]

"Ah, a lightning rod. I have to use this to avoid the lightning."

Grid grasped the identity of the rods and looked more closely. The distance between lightning rods was around 15m on average. People had to properly utilize their dashing skills to use the lightning rod and avoid the lightning.

'Can I do it?'

Grid wasn't in a position to do it with his control skills. He worried for a while before coming up with an idea.

'It's really good that I made this.'

The item that Grid took from his inventory was the Portable Furnace that he created.

The number of players who had challenged the Behen Archipelago was exactly 990 so far. More than half of them were high rankers who dropped out at the first and second islands. Only 392 people reached the tenth island.

Of those 392 people, only 65 passed the tenth island. The degree of difficulty of the tenth island was incomparable.

“Heok... Heok...”

Sweat flowed down Sticks’ jaw as he sat on the ground. The burden on his heart was very painful. He took a deep breath and turned his gaze towards the magic ball again.

“He really won’t pass here.”

This person stimulated his bad heart, so Sticks couldn’t help giving him a bad evaluation. Sticks could clearly see that the black haired man had a strange ability, but the tenth island was a place where only people with divine control skills could pass.

‘It means he can no longer depend on artifacts.’

Could that man move 2,000 meters while avoiding lightning that fell three or four times per second? Sticks believed it was impossible. It wasn’t a baseless idea. Unfortunately, that black haired man didn’t seem to be able to perfectly control his excellent body.

“Ordinary movements will never... Huh?”

Sticks murmured with confusion. In the middle of the magic space, the man pulled out a portable furnace and started lighting it with the bellows?

“What is it this time?”

There was no ‘portable blast furnace’ in Sticks’ wisdom. A furnace couldn’t be easily handled unless the person was a blacksmith.

“In the first place...”

Why bring out a furnace in this situation?

‘Is he crazy?’

No, it was a problem because he wasn’t crazy. Sticks’ confusion increased as the black haired man raised the temperature of the furnace and started to smelt the iron ore.

“...Eh?”

Sticks had a large amount of knowledge as a sage. So he was forced to feel astonished.

“What? That smelting skill?”

The black haired man exerted a tremendous smelting skill that completely destroyed the concept of ‘smelting’ that existed in Sticks’ knowledge. The iron was instantly melted and purified.

“A legendary blacksmith...!”

He seemed like a magician when shooting magic, a warrior when wielding the sword, a person with a lot of artifacts, and a thief who could easily open solid locks. Now he was also like a blacksmith.

“What’s your identity?”

A question mark appeared over Sticks’ head.

Ttang!Ttang!

The mysterious man finished smelting the iron and started hammering it. Soon after that...

“Lightning rod?”

That’s right. A metal rod, similar to the lightning rods rising from the ground of the tenth island, was born in the hands of the black haired man. However, the size was significant. It was a huge 7m in length.

“...”

Sticks was no longer surprised. No, he tried not to be surprised. He was afraid that his heart pain would occur again.

Kururung!Kurururung.

Suddenly, a heavy rain of lightning started. The black haired man was safe. It was thanks to the floating golden hands that carried the large lightning rod. The man moved like a noble covered by the umbrella his retinue was holding as he moved through the island.

“Uh... Urghh...”

In the end, Sticks was surprised and he grabbed his chest as he collapsed. It didn’t match the appearance of the imposing Grid.

Chapter 360

The 31 year old Kim Doohyun.

Korea’s top star had an outstanding appearance and a proven performance in Hollywood. Despite his busy schedule, he steadily played Satisfy and finally arrived at the desert city of Reidan.

"How exciting."

Kim Doohyun, who only just reached level 197, ‘Nyangmong’ was deeply moved. It was hard to cross the scorching desert that contained powerful monsters.

‘If I was a normal class user, I would’ve never been able to make it through the desert.’

Nyangmong was a pet master. As a unique class, he possessed useful skills and it couldn’t be denied that he was a master of solo play.

An average person could have three pets, but he could have nine. He could even temporarily make monsters friendly, so the monsters in the desert might be strong, but they couldn’t block his way.

However, they were nothing in front of some farmers.

'It is immensely large.'

Outside Reidan. Vast rice fields stretched out from the outer walls into the horizon.

'Grid is the owner of this big city. A duke's authority is beyond my imagination.'

Indeed, there was something admirable about someone who was the best in their field. He could feel how great Grid truly was.

'He must've worked hard in order to climb up to his present place.'

Nyangmong had also undergone countless trials in order to become a top star. Therefore, he had a shallow idea of Grid's life. Grid might be younger than him, but it was respectable, regardless of age.

Step, step.

His footsteps were light as he walked through the rice fields. He hummed as he thought about soon being able to meet Noe. A farmer blocked his cheerful humming.

"Who are you?"

"...?"

Nyangmong was just walking along. He couldn't think of anything in his behavior that would've caused wariness. Then why was this person blocking the road? Nyangmong was confused by the farmer's question.

"I am called Nyangmong..."

The farmer closely observed Nyangmong. To be precise, he looked at the nine pets following Nyangmong. It was surprising that the various pets were showing absolute loyalty and affection towards Nyangmong.

"I covet your talent. The giant oaks can be used for farming."

"...?"

Farming? It was strange that a farmer would say that to someone passing by. That's right. Nyangmong didn't know about the crazy farmer of Reidan. He had a busy schedule and played Satisfy whenever he was free, so he couldn't watch TV.

"I'm not a farmer. Please open the path. I have to go to Reidan."

"You aren't permitted to enter Reidan without my permission."

"Why? Are you the owner of this land?"

"The owner of this land is Duke Grid."

"Then why should I get your permission?"

"It's my heart."

'Is he crazy?'

Nyangmong seriously felt doubts. He felt like there was nothing good about the farmer in front of him. The farmer caught up to him while he was trying to run away.

After a while. Nyangmong and his lovely nine pets were brutally destroyed by the farmer. From Nyangmong's standpoint, it was truly absurd and unreasonable.

-G-Grid, I finally arrived in Reidan. But I was caught by a mad farmer and forced to become a serf.Help me...

[The other person is in a place where they can't receive whispers.]

-Ruby, help me...

[The other person isn't connected to the game.]

"..."

"Follow me."

It was the day when the professional cattle man was born in Reidan. As a unique class, his abilities were excellent. Reidan's agriculture was becoming stronger day by day. Nyangmong also became stronger. He was still inadequate to join Overgeared, but he grew rapidly thanks to the '★Hidden Quest★ Fun and Exciting Training!'

[You have entered the 11th island.]

He disabled the lightning storm by making a huge lightning rod. Grid broke through the notorious tenth island in a smart manner, but he was still restless.

'Other blacksmiths could've come up with the same idea as me.'

He wasn't special. He repeated that painful truth many times. But it was also encouraging. He had managed to think about a way to break through compared to the old days when he couldn't think of ideas by himself.

'Yes, let's grow slowly.'

Grid's eyes filled with an emotion he didn't have in the past. It was a phenomenon where he became aware of his lack of talent and tried to become wiser.

'Somehow, my head is clear.'

It was the moment when his way of thinking started to expand. Now Grid was evolving. It wasn't a cataclysmic thing. It was the fruit of his steady progress over the past two years as Pagma's Descendant.

Was this impossible? No, it was possible. Grid wasn't dull-witted. Every human was able to broaden their thoughts and knowledge through learning, experience, and self-reflection. Grid was the same.

"That reminds me."

Was it because his thinking ability was higher than before? Grid had a new question.

‘What’s on the last island?’

The reason why Grid visited the Behen Archipelago was to meet Sage Sticks, but the ultimate content of the archipelago wasn’t Sticks. Sticks was located on the 25~29th islands. Not the last island.

In other words, what was on the 66th island and why did the Behen Archipelago called them ‘challengers?’ With the benefit of hindsight, he noticed the name ‘Challenger Point.’

"It’s a question that can be resolved when I meet Sticks."

It was foolish to waste his thoughts on meaningless things that he couldn’t figure out alone. Once he met Sticks, he would obtain the way to the East Continent as well as figure out what was on the 66th island. He should directly ask Sticks any questions he had.

A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[A mission will be created.]

[11th Island]

Defeat the lizardwoman!

First Clear Reward: 36 Challenger Points.

[The mission will start 30 minutes from now.]

Lizardwoman. The lizardwoman was the boss monster that lizardmen served, and her value was quite high. The reason was that she dropped the Pink Leather necessary for making the finest leather armor.

“Hrmm.”

Grid had a chance to raid the lizardwoman, which was difficult to see easily, but he didn’t show much inspiration. Was it because he didn’t know the value of pink leather? No, that wasn’t it. Grid also knew about the value of the pink leather. He’d even dealt with it directly. Every time Faker asked Grid to make him an item, pink leather was needed.

The reason why Grid didn’t show any inspiration was because based on previous experience, the monsters of the Behen Archipelago didn’t drop any items. That’s right. The monsters that emerged on the Behen Archipelago was merely a collection of experience.

It was disappointing, but Grid didn’t mind. The reason he first visited the Behen Archipelago wasn’t to obtain items, but to meet Sticks. He just had to move forward.

Grid used Fly and observed the location of the lizardmen village from the sky. It was a large village with 207 huts that could accommodate a few lizardmen at once. Grid was able to roughly guess the number of lizardmen, and he continued to observe the village to point out the important areas.

‘There are three ponds.’

He calculated all the variables involved in hunting a powerful lizardwoman and a large number of lizardmen.

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

Grid moved hastily to take advantage of his 30 minute preparation time, taking out his blast furnace and smelting iron. He made a large iron plate that was over 20m in diameter. An ordinary blacksmith would need several hours to spread the iron so much. But Grid was a legendary blacksmith. He even had the four God Hands.

Ttang!Ttang!

Grid and the God Hands hammered at the iron plate. After a while, he completed three iron plates and moved to the lizardman's village again. His timing was perfect as the notification window popped up.

[The mission has started!]

At the same time, lizardmen popped out of the 297 huts. There was close to 1,000 of them. Grid witnessed the sight and shouted.

"Noe, Randy! Help the God Hands cover the pond with these plates! I will cover you!"

"I understand, Grid."

"Nyahahat! Master, believe in me!" Nyang!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Pagma's Swordsmanship, Transcend flew towards the lizardmen on the path towards the pond. Some of the lizardmen hurriedly raised their shields to save their lives, but others were sliced apart.

Kieek!

Kyaack!

The screams of the lizardmen filled the village as blood splattered. But there were too many lizardmen. Grid didn't rest as he wielded his two greatswords, but the number of enemies didn't decrease.

Chaaeng!

The lizardmen narrowed the distance to Grid, who kept attacking.

Huuuuuuong!

The God Hands, Noe, and Randy finally blocked the three ponds with the iron plates.

Kik?

The lizardmen were amazed by the sound of iron plates falling. The ponds that amplified their strengths were hidden. That's right. The lizardmen were monsters who received stat bonuses from water.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid was reminded of this trait when observing the village, and covered all the ponds in the village with the iron plates.

"Transcended Link!"

Kyaack!

Kieeeeek!

The level of the lizardmen warriors living in the same village as the lizardwoman was quite high at 230. But they didn't receive any stat bonuses, making it hard to endure Grid's attacks. Their shields were also useless. Grid used his most powerful skills with the +8 Grid's Greatsword, before handing it to the God Hands.

Then he took out Iyarugt and cut at the lizardmen with Noe and Randy.

Kyaaaak!

The lizardwoman grasped the situation and came out with a roar. She was quite strong as a level 300 field boss, but it was lacking compared to Hell Gao and Elfin Stone, and Grid was stronger than ever.

The 11th island was easily cleared and Grid continued up to the 20th island. However, the 20th island was different. Thousands of eyes floated in a huge circle in the sky like a sun, watching Grid. He couldn't help gulping at the sight.