

Overgeared 391

Chapter 391

The flail was a swinging tool. It was impossible to stab or cut with it. It was why Grid chose the black iron wood as the material.

'Resilience is important for this type of weapon.'

Black iron wood was 'bent iron.'

It had high rigidity and elasticity. Generally, it was used as a material for spears and the price was very expensive. The rankers and knights of each kingdom needed to have spears made of black iron wood.

'In short, it's one of the best materials.'

It was impossible to buy it without any pressure. However, Grid judged that it was natural to have the finest materials for the items he created. It was an item created by a legendary blacksmith, how could he use lacking materials?

'It hurts that the expenses are so big.'

Ttang!Ttang!

Grid swallowed back his tears and devoted himself to working on the black iron wood. First of all, he made a 1.3 meter pole and attached four long sticks to the end. The pole was at a width that was comfortable to hold in his hands, while the slender twigs were trimmed as sharply and thinly as possible.

'I have a good feeling.'

Shaving, combining, etc. After repeating a series of processes, Grid looked at the thin sticks that had been shaped and expected the birth of a legendary item. But Grid's feeling of 'not bad' didn't fit.

[You have completed the production of the Motley Flail.]

[Motley Flail.]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 259/259 Attack Power: 143~191

* A special effect will occur every time the target is hit. The effect is unpredictable.

* Thrashing speed will increase by 150%.

* There is no guarantee how the condition of the thrashed grain will change.

Farming equipment designed by Grid who has been reborn as a legend.

It's made of solid black iron wood and has excellent durability and attack power. It's at a level to be called a weapon.

However, the effects can't be guaranteed due to the influence of Silverun's Secret Remedy. Use with caution. It is recommended that you don't use it.

User Restriction: Level 200 or higher.

Weight: 109

"...Shit, just a little bit more."

It would be nice if his hope worked out just once. Sticks didn't notice Grid's frustration and spoke.

"That's a great flail. It seems to be a good farming equipment."

It was his sarcastic way of asking why Grid was making farming equipment. In the end, Grid declared.

"This isn't conventional farming equipment, but a weapon. I'm going to use this to break through the 41st island."

"A weapon...!!"

Sticks admired it. Grid's spirit was amazing to think about using a flail as a trump weapon. Sticks was a sage. He was a wise man. He tried to understand Grid rather than treat him as a strange person.

'There must be something deeply profound.'

However, that didn't mean he had confidence. Sticks looked over. Grid was grabbing the hammer again.

'I will give the unique-rated one as a gift to Piaro.'

He would challenge it one more time.

'I have to get a legendary rated flail!'

Ttang!Ttang!

Grid pledged and started working on the spare black iron wood. Finally, he got the desired form and added Silverun's Secret Remedy. As a result, once again, a unique-rated flail was completed.

"...This \$%!#."

It had been a really long time since Grid cursed like this. His thinking power might've expanded and his personality matured, but his essence couldn't change. A year and a half had passed since he became Pagma's Descendant.

Meanwhile, only 12 legendary items were made. Even a saint would be enraged.

'Why can't a legendary blacksmith make legendary items?'

Probability games were really rotten. Grid realized it once again and soothed his mind.

'Okay, let's calm down. It isn't necessary to have a legendary flail to break through the 41st island.'

That's right. Grid didn't want a flail for its attack power. He only needed a random effect to cause a reversal. He wanted a legendary rated flail for the special event and rise in stats, but it was better not to be obsessed with it.

"Now I will practice."

21 hours passed since the creation and production of the flail. Grid needed to get used to the flail in the next three hours, until the cooldown of his immortality and Noe and Randy returned.

The 41st island.

“Bring it on.”

“...”

The clone was puzzled when it saw Grid holding a flail. As a person with 100% of Grid’s abilities, it found it strange that Grid would use the flail.

[Motley Flail.]

...

...

“...”

The clone checked the options of the flail and couldn’t understand Grid more and more.

‘It’s an inefficient weapon.’

Why did he appear with this? The clone questioned it, but didn’t think deeply. The reason for the clone’s existence was just to hurt Grid. It was useless to question the behavior of someone who would die soon.

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship.”

Teong!

The clone moved forward. It was dazzling like a butterfly’s wings. It was the precursor of Link.

Pit!

Pipipipipit!

The clone quickly unfolded the attack. The sharp energy blades shot out from Grid’s Greatsword and aimed at Grid. The Grid from 24 hours ago would’ve avoided this attack and fought back. But now Grid had regained his original judgment. The swords flying towards him?

‘I won’t stop it!’

Pepepepeok!

Blood spread like a fog around Grid’s body as he was hit by Link. Why didn’t Grid take any defensive actions? It was for a quick counterattack. Grid didn’t resist the enemy’s attack and swung the flail.

Hwiririk!

“...!”

The clone's eyes shook. That's right, it was hit. Grid's speed was incomparably faster, causing the clone to feel confused.

Peeok!

The clone was struck in the face with the flail. There was the sound of a watermelon bursting and blood scattered, but it was just the appearance. The four thin sticks on the flail were so sharp that they triggered bleeding, but the damage was actually low. But was damage important?

Ssik!

Grid's mouth curved upwards.

"Let's try it once!"

The Motley Flail caused a random effect when it hit the target. It could give a buff or a debuff. It would be the worst if the target was giving a buff.

'A debuff is no use.'

Grid knew. The clone was the same as him. A debuff wouldn't have a big effect. Nevertheless, the reason why Grid fought with the flail was because he believed.

'It will have a definite effect, not simple debuffs...!'

For example, the effect of decreasing the target's health to 1 point or increasing the weight gauge to MAX. These effects weren't classified as debuffs, so Grid couldn't withstand the physical effects.

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

The flail had an immediate effect after hitting the clone. A light flashed once.

[The target's attack power will double for 10 seconds.]

"..."

Grid had already decided. An unlucky bastard like him, depending on an item with random effects, the probability of getting a positive outcome was like winning the lottery. But still, this was too much.

'If it is double the attack power...!'

Grid stepped back as the clone's greatsword started moving.

Seokeok!

"Kuak!"

This was a basic attack, but the level was that of a skill. Grid's eyes shook as he received great damage. However, he didn't forget to fight back.

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

[The target's maximum health will triple for 10 seconds.]

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

[The target's skill damage will increase by 20% for 10 seconds.]

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

[Grants a shield spell to the target.]

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

[The target has been affected by the silence state.]

[The target has resisted.]

"Ah, really!"

Grid's anger soared as the battle continued.

Pisik.

The clone ridiculed him. It was the first emotion that the clone showed.

"You bastard...!"

Grid gritted his teeth. At first glance, it seemed like he had lost his reason. But reality was different. Grid had already anticipated this and was prepared to die a few more times. He constantly struck the clone and activated the effect of the flail.

On the other hand, the clone was careless. It was because the effect of the flail continuously favored him. He was careless as Grid continued to swing the flail. He didn't avoid Grid's attack as he kept pressing Grid.

[You have suffered fatal damage!]

[A legend doesn't die easily. You can resist all attacks for 5 seconds with a minimum of health.]

In the end, Grid went on the defensive. In order to generate more effects, he tried to speed up his attacks using Blackening, Blacksmith's Rage and Quick Movements, but it just ended up helping the clone.

'I have no choice but to be lucky in the next challenge.'

Grid gave up on this game. He cleared his mind and wielded the flail. The clone didn't even bother avoiding the flail. The odds of the flail threatening him was like finding a needle in the desert. Indeed, it showed that the clone had a very high artificial intelligence.

The concept of 'chance' was insignificant to him. The clone was making fun of him.

Peeok!

"...!"

Immediately before Grid's immortality passive was over. The clone was surprised when it was struck in the face just as the match was about to finish. Grid was even more surprised.

[The effect of the Motley Flail is triggered!]

[Change health values with the target.]

“...!”

The confused clone hurriedly tried to pull out a potion.

"Where are you going?"

Grid smiled with satisfaction and kicked the clone's abdomen. The clone's health fell to 1 and it entered the immortality state.

"I can't miss this opportunity."

Grid declared and summoned Noe and Randy. The moment of the end of the long battle was approaching.

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'Really long...'

Grid had been tied up by the 41st island for five days. If Grid was an ordinary player, he likely would've been satisfied and abandoned the 41st island the moment that his new skills were acquired.

This was normal. What player in this world could repeatedly challenge death? There would only be 1 in every 10,000. The more high level a player was, the more cautious they were.

But Grid wasn't an ordinary person. He was obsessed with overcoming his inadequate talent and was persistent. For Grid, giving up was a concept that should be avoided, and was one of the driving forces behind why he could stand shoulder to shoulder with geniuses.

"Well, it ended sooner than expected."

He didn't know that the effect of the Motley Flail would resolve it from the beginning. He thought he would have to repeat his death several times. Yet the best outcome occurred in the very first fight.

'God has a conscience.'

Was God sorry about always giving Grid bad luck and gave him good luck once in a while?

Ssik!

Grid smiled as he swapped to Grid's Greatsword and neared the clone. The clone was in the immortal state. Grid was cautious of Meditation, so he was thankful for the clone's actions.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship, Linked Kill Wave."

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The sword technique was unfolded and eight stormy energy blades flooded towards Grid. Grid was lost the immortal passive, so the clone needed to gain the advantage in these five seconds. It was what Grid expected.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship, Linked Kill Wave."

Compared to the best artificial intelligence, his skill development rate was rather slow. Originally, it was difficult for him to use Linked Wave Kill, but the power of 'prediction' was great. Grid anticipated that the clone would use Linked Wave Kill and succeeded in unfolding it at the same time.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The storm of swords swallowed up each other and a powerful shock wave occurred. The land shook and the sea became chaotic.

"Noe! Randy!"

"Nyaang!"

"Yes!"

A tsunami seemed like it would swallow the island. Noe and Randy flew towards the clone at the same time. Randy used Link while Noe opened his mouth and attempted to steal the stats. But the clone wasn't easy.

"Blackening, Blacksmith's Rage, and Quick Movements."

Peeng!

The clone used buff skills as an explosion of dark magic occurred around him, shrugging off Noe and Randy and aiming for Grid.

"Kuk...!"

The movements were as fast as lightning. Grid reeled back as he was stabbed in the heart with Iyarugt. If the tsunami hadn't covered Grid and the clone at the same time, a combo would've succeeded.

Kwa kwa kwang!

Grid and the clone were swept to the edge of the island by the tsunami. He swapped from Grid's Boots to Braham's Boots and used Fly to escape the destruction of the sea.

"Heok... Heok..."

The damp Grid laughed while panting. On the other hand, the clone revealed impatience. There was less than two seconds remaining on the immortality.

"Magic Missile."

Pepepeng!

He summoned the fake God Hands and fired four Magic Missiles at Grid. At the same time, the clone used Transcended Link. Surprisingly, Grid responded with Revolve. Why would he use Revolve first when it was unconditionally disadvantageous to him?

The clone was confused and also started to use Revolve. But at that moment.

Pe-ng!

"...!!"

A flash of light struck the clone, who had been paying attention to the approaching strengthened Transcended Link. Where did this attack come from? It was from below. It came from the sea where the clone was standing.

Magic Missile flew from it. The moment that the tsunami occurred, Grid left one of the God Hands in the sea and waited for this moment.

“Ack...!”

The clone stumbled. He had a pale complexion and coughed up blood. It was an unbelievable situation for the clone. Placing items to take advantage of the terrain and using a skill to draw attention? It was ridiculous that Grid had threatened the clone with such a trick.

“Haven’t I grown? It is all thanks to you. You have helped a lot in developing me.”

Grid dealt the killing blow.

"Kuaaaaak!"

The clone screamed with rage as it turned to grey.

[You have won the fight against yourself!]

[You have succeeded in beating the 41st island!]

[You have acquired 1 skill level point from the mission clear reward.]

Grid lost a huge 61.2% experience from the 42nd island. As a result, Grid’s level fell to 305. He would have to hunt for at least 20 days to recover 61.2% of his experience. The time loss was enormous.

But Grid didn’t think he received any damages. He gained the strongest skills Linked Kill Wave and Pinnacle Kill, as well as rich combat experience.

“Very good.”

It was strength that transcended the concept of level. A noble pride could be seen in Grid’s smile of satisfaction. A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[You have overcome your limitations and have taken one step closer to being a legend.]

[One of Pagma’s Descendant’s hidden pieces ‘Sealed Ability’ has been acquired.]

[The skill ‘Blacksmith’s Eyes’ has been acquired.]

So far, Grid had acquired three hidden pieces. The first hidden piece gave him a 10% reduction in his skills cooldown time and also the Item Modification skill. He got Item Combination from the second hidden piece, and Minerals Strengthening from the third one.

‘Since then, it’s been a while...’

Blacksmith’s Eyes? Grid felt anticipation as he checked the description of the skill.

[Blacksmith’s Eyes]

You can see some of the abilities and options when looking at the target item. Limited to equipped items.

* The closer the distance to the target item, the better the analytical power.

"In short... It is an item observation skill that applies to items I don't own."

For example, he could get a glimpse of the armor and weapon that the enemy was using?

"...?"

What was the point of this skill? What was the point of checking items? Grid thought for a moment and was belatedly thrilled.

"Heok, isn't this a huge skill?"

It was a huge scam being able to see the details of the enemy's items. Why? He could block the trump cards hidden in the enemy's items in advance, and also exploit the weaknesses.

"Kuoh..."

Grid's fists clenched as he shuddered. It was a state where he couldn't contain his joy.

"I like it when Grid is happy."

"Me too, nyang."

Noe and Randy laughed and Grid stroked their heads. Sticks smiled as he watched the group of three. There was one fact that Grid overlooked. Grid's clone had died in the Blackening State. The present Grid never imagined that this variable would provide a fun and positive environment for him.

[Skill Level Point]

Increases the skill level of a specified skill by 100%.

"Um."

Raise the level of any skill?

It would be nice to raise the level of powerful fusion skills like Linked Kill Wave, Pinnacle Kill, Transcended Link and Linked Kill. Unfortunately, the fusion skills didn't have the concept of level.

They were so powerful that they were already judged as complete skills.

'It is better to raise the level of Kill.'

No, it might not be the case. Grid couldn't decide hastily.

'It might be good to raise the Legendary Blacksmith's Craftsmanship Skill.'

It was hard to choose right now. Grid decided to save the skill point and not use it hastily. Then Sticks approached him.

“Do you want to move on to the next island?”

Grid nodded without hesitation.

“I will do that.”

There was 36 days left until the National Competition. Prior to that, Grid planned to capture all of the Behen Archipelago, so he hastened his steps.

[You have entered the 42nd island.]

[You have entered the 43rd island.]

[You have entered the...]

The trials to overcome himself seemed to have ended. The 42nd to 49th islands were ordinary missions such as monster hunting and boss raids.

‘It is comfortable.’

The monsters inhabiting the islands in the 40’s weren’t weak. They were just very easy compared to when dealing with his clone. Thus, Grid’s momentum continued until he reached the 50th island.

Braham, who had mastered magic while being a direct descendant of Shizo Beriache. In the end, he was regarded as a legend and was close to the title of the strongest. Then what about now? After losing his body and becoming a soul, he was weak and miserable. The glory of the past couldn’t be found anywhere.

[Dammit...! Dammit!]

The 1st great demon, Baal. That monster’s contractor was one of the few people able to fight with a dragon. They caused trouble for Braham every time.

[It can’t happen again this time.]

Braham went looking for his body sealed at the Sword Grave, only to be weakened by Agnus. He felt irritation at his soul losing strength and was eventually reminded of Grid.

[Pagma’s Descendant will be able to do it.]

Just as Pagma had the power of a great demon.

Pa-at!

Braham’s soul squeezed out all his remaining magic power and triggered detection magic throughout the continent. It was to find Grid.

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“Dammit!”

The 3rd ranked Chris' pride was as high as the sky. It was understandable. It would be strange to have low self-esteem when he was top three among two billion users.

Chris only felt his limits with two people: Kraugel and Grid. In the case of Kraugel, he was overwhelmed by the incredible level up speed and physical abilities, while Grid was a legendary blacksmith.

In other words.

'I can't believe I was jerked around by Zibal.'

Chris thought that everyone except for Kraugel and Grid were less than him. Zibal was one level higher than Chris and fought closely with Piaro, but when Chris thought about it objectively, Zibal was a person with high political skills. He was right below Chris. But such a person played with him.

Chris' pride was greatly damaged when Zibal raised doubts at the gathering of the leaders of the seven guilds. It would be difficult to recover unless he showed his strength to Zibal.

'I want to completely smash Zibal and the Snake Guild.'

The Giant Guild, led by Chris, was the strongest guild in the past, but not anymore. It fell after being hit hard by the Reinhardt golem invasion. Now it would be fortunate if his guild power could be considered in the top three of the seven guilds.

In this situation, he couldn't guarantee an unconditional victory if he clashed with the Snake Guild. In addition, there was the problem of the other guilds allied with the Snake Guild. If Chris struck at the Snake Guild, the entire Giant Guild might be isolated.

In the end, Chris had only one choice.

'I have to aim for the National Competition.'

He would meet the seven guilds, including Zibal and Seuron, in the National Competition.

'Trample them.'

Kwaduduk!

Chris was one of the strongest people in the world, despite being defeated by a farmer. His biggest strength? It wasn't his level, control or items. It was his unique rated second class, Tyrant. This was Chris' biggest weapon.

A second class was a great concept. Since a user had two classes, it was hard to list the effects and benefits.

Huroi's combat power was the worst until he got his second class, Apostle of Justice's Partner. He couldn't use any weapons apart from a book and because he was an orator, he had to fight with words instead of attack skills. In the past, Huroi could only believe in his mouth every time he experienced a crisis.

"Heok... Heok..."

Behen Archipelago, the 31st island.

After falling into his days as a level 73 orator, Huroi fell into a desperate crisis. He was surrounded by 13 level 85 monsters, the grey-mane wolves that boasted superb attack power and agility.

'This is an island that recreates my past trials.'

Huroi was desperate. He couldn't use a sword without his second class and his overall stats were the worst. He wasn't sure how to handle this crisis.

'How did My Lord overcome such trials?'

Huroi once again thought that Grid was great.

'It was worth giving him all my loyalty.'

Kwack!

Huroi gained courage from this. As Grid's right arm, he didn't want to cause shame. Huroi wanted to overcome this trial. He made fun of the wolves.

"Your mother is a fox!"

"...!"

The mother who gave birth to the wolves was a fox? It was an insult.

"Awooooo!"

Bark!Bark bark!

The angry wolves started to go crazy, falling into a mental shock from Huroi's Spiteful Tongue.

"Your father has a yellow mane!"

"You are dogs!"

"Your ancestors were turned into my jerky!"

It was a really low mud fight that made the listeners frown.

"Haha."

It was one month to the National Competition. Chairman Lim Cheolho, who hadn't been able to monitor the rankings for a while due to his busy schedule, watched the recorded video of when Grid hit the 41st island and laughed.

Was he happy about Grid's growth? No, that wasn't it. Grid was making steady progress, so this wasn't anything new. Right now, Lim Cheolho's attention was on the clone who died in the Blackening state.

"The clone should've been destroyed at the moment of death..."

But it actually fell to hell due to the Blackening state, becoming an independent entity completely separate from Grid.

"It this a bug?"

Lim Cheolho was the creator of Satisfy, but he didn't build all the systems alone. In order to minimize errors and create a larger system, Lim Cheolho left Satisfy's overall operation to the supercomputer, Morpheus. Despite the end of Blackening, Grid's clone wasn't pushed out of hell to the human world. Therefore, Lim Cheolho felt doubts.

Morpheus explained.

[It isn't a bug. Z10B005 isn't a user. Therefore, he isn't subject to the rules of Blackening and hell.]

"Hrmm... This situation is very interesting."

Hell started to tremble with the arrival of Grid's clone. What change would this cause in hell? In addition, how could the clone grow now that it was independent from Grid?

Lim Cheolho was very excited and was looking forward to it.

[You have entered the 50th island.]

[This is a save point. Would you like to register?]

[You have been registered. When you enter the Behen Archipelago later on, you will start from the 50th island.]

On the 41st island, Grid tasted great adversity. After that, he succeeded in reaching the 50th island in a short amount of time. But it wasn't a pleasant feeling.

"The mobs are over level 360."

The higher the number of the island, the higher the level of the monsters. On the 49th island, the average level of the monsters was 360~370. It was at least 55 levels higher than Grid. Their basic stats were very good and they had good defense, making it hard for Grid.

Was it possible to go 5 against 1? He fought against level 360 monsters in a 5 against 1 match. It was great enough to make general rankers lose their words. But once again, Grid wasn't satisfied. The stronger the monsters, the slower his hunting speed.

"It's doubtful if I can reach the end of the Behen Archipelago by the time the National Competition arrives."

It was a month in reality and 90 days in Satisfy time before the National Competition arrived. It might not be possible to reach the 66th island in this period of time if the difficulty kept increasing.

"In order to increase the speed of hunting, I need Fog Island."

Before he knew it, Grid had collected 18,851 challenger points. It was enough to purchase the Weapons Mastery skill book and 51 elixirs.

'51 elixirs.'

It was equivalent to 51 levels. If he was able to acquire Weapons Mastery and the elixirs, Grid would be able to hunt the monsters of the Behen Archipelago more easily.

'It is also possible to make the ratio of strength and agility 1:1.'

This meant he could copy Piaro's stats distribution. Grid was convinced that he would surely become stronger if he made the ratio of strength and agility 1:1.

'I won't follow anyone else, only Piaro.'

Since Satisfy opened, Piaro was the third strongest person Grid had ever met. The vampire duke Marie Rose and great magician Braham were the other two, so Grid judged that he would become stronger if he copied Piaro's stats distribution.

"Huhuhut!"

Ttang!Ttang!

Grid repaired the items whose durability were severely damaged in the Behen Archipelago and laughed. He was imagining the scene where he would reach Fog Island and be compensated for his hard work.

That's right. Grid had forgotten. The fact this his wishes didn't always occur the way he wanted.

[You have entered the 51st island.]

[A mission will be created.]

[51st Island]

Defeat 10 golden crowns in 20 minutes.

First Clear Reward: 1,900 Challenger Points.

'Golden crowns?'

It was a high level mob that Grid was unfamiliar with. It was the same with 'golden crown.' It was the first time Grid had even heard the name.

"What nuisances will appear this time?"

Unlike his complaint, Grid's expression was bright. Grid boasted the ultimate attack power, so he was confident in time attack missions.

Kkirik.Kik.

It was a small island with rock walls rising in every direction. Grid was about to deploy Fly to find the monsters called golden crowns when he suddenly stopped. It was because he had an unidentified sound coming from a relatively close place. Grid pulled out the blue-black Grid's Greatsword and prepared himself.

“Kyak!”

A monster wearing a golden crown on its head fell from a rock wall. At the same time, it swung a big and heavy club.

Chaaeng!

Grid moved the greatsword horizontally and blocked it, before moving forward.

‘It is dirty.’

The power wasn’t a joke. The damage was almost at the level of a skill. It felt like he would lose at least 6,000 health if he was hit with it.

"But it doesn’t matter.”

Grid had met many strong enemies since becoming Pagma’s Descendant. It was enough to make fun of common monsters like these.

“Pagma’s Swordsmanship.”

Chaaeng!

Grid blocked the club and used a skill while narrowing the distance.

“Kill!”

Puok!

It was a monster with green, bumpy skin and a golden crown. The blue-black greatsword precisely struck the heart. However.

[You have dealt 1 damage to the target.]

"Eh?"

Grid’s eyes widened.

“Kyaoooooh!”

The golden crown started to counterattack.

Jjejeong!Jjejeok!

He was puzzled by the unexpected situation. Most players would feel confused if the skill damage they were so proud of didn’t affect the target. However, Grid was surprisingly strong against variables.

‘I’ve been through this once or twice.’

Jjeejeeong!

There was a piercing roar as the greatsword and club collided. Grid calmed down while frowning at the echoing sound. He used his developed thinking skills to try and find the blind spot of the golden crowns.

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'For Kill to only do 1 damage, it isn't just physical defense. They have resistance to physical attacks. The status resistance is also high.'

[Kill Lv. 6 (57.1%)]

A killing sword that expresses hatred.

Deals 1,800% of your attack power to a single target. There will be a bleeding and desperation effect.

Skill Usage Conditions: Have a sword type weapon equipped.

Skill Mana Cost: 1,000

Skill Stamina Consumption: Consumes 20% of your stamina.

Skill Cooldown Time: 380 seconds

As with any skill, Kill was steadily strengthened as the level rose. The resource consumption and cooldown time decreased, while the power increased. The level 360~370 monsters on the islands in the 40's would lose more than 60% of their health if hit by Grid's Kill unleashed from Grid's Greatsword.

However, the golden crown received only 1 damage. This couldn't be explained with just high defense.

'I need to check to make sure.'

Grid thought and planned as the golden crown aimed the club at his head.

Peeok!

[You have suffered 6,360 damage.]

"Ugh."

It wasn't a damage that Grid could make fun of.

'One-tenth of my health disappeared in one blow.'

At level 300, one strength stat increased health by 7, while one stamina stat increased health by 25.

There was the 6,000 health added by the Holy Light Set, the 3,000 health added by the Man who has Touched Hell title, and 3,000 health added by Tiramet's Belt and Tiramet's Shoulderguards, giving Grid approximately 63,000 health.

Now he received 6,000 damage from base damage, not a skill, so he became tense.

'Let's concentrate.'

Grid moved forward. He aimed Pinnacle at the golden crown.

[Pinnacle Lv. 3 (15.9%)]

A sword that expresses the essence of a warrior god.

Deals 780% of your attack power to a single target. This skill will ignore 62% of the target's armor.

Skill Usage Conditions: Have a sword type weapon equipped.

Skill Mana Cost: 700

Skill Cooldown Time: 143 seconds

Seokeok!

Pinnacle slashed at the wide chest of the golden crown. Looking at the momentum, it was a blow that could cut the golden crown in half. But the result?

[You have dealt 1 damage to the target.]

'Indeed.'

Grid was convinced. This green monster with a golden crown resisted physical attacks. The proof was that Pinnacle, which ignored the target's defense, only dealt 1 damage.

'Their weakness...'

Magic. Enemies immune to physical damage were vulnerable to magic, just as those immune to magic were vulnerable to physical attacks. This was common sense for users playing Satisfy, and the reason why party play was prevalent in Satisfy.

It was difficult for a warrior with strong physical attacks or a magician with high magic power to overcome crises in the game alone. But Grid was different. He had the ability to play the game by himself.

Was it because of his legendary class? No, it was because of his relationship with Braham. Due to that bond, Grid had learned magic.

"Magic Missile."

Magic Missile (Enhanced) Lv. 2 (37%)

A magic missile developed by the legendary great magician who has completely overturned the activation formula.

It boasts tremendous power, but consumes a lot of resources.

It deals damage equal to twice your current magic power to the target. It also ignores the enemy's magic resistance.

Resource Consumption: 380 Mana.

Skill Casting Time: 1 second.

Skill Cooldown Time: 4.8 seconds

Peeng!

A sharp flash of light pierced the heart of the golden crown.

'Good.'

The biggest advantage of Magic Missile was its fast casting speed. Grid smiled with satisfaction as he saw the golden crown that couldn't cope with the sudden emergence of Magic Missile. But that smile didn't last long.

[You have dealt 1 damage to the target.]

"What?"

It resisted physical and magic attacks? The golden crown struck the confused Grid.

[You have suffered 6,160 damage.]

"This really hurts."

Grid wore the Slaughterer's Eye Patch. His ability to read the enemy's attack orbit was excellent. But the golden crown was a level 380 monster, so its physical abilities far overwhelmed the level 305 Grid. In addition, there was the penalty due to the level difference.

As a result, Grid couldn't fully read the movements of the golden crown and allowed a successive string of attacks. Grid was pushed back by the momentum.

"Kiyaaak!"

The golden crown approached and swung its club again.

Jjejeok!

'This damn monster...!'

There was 17 minutes and 1 second remaining for the mission time limit. He needed to hunt 10 golden crowns in 20 minutes, but he couldn't even hunt one in 3 minutes, making Grid feel nervous. But he didn't despair.

'Keep my composure.'

Grid had numerous experiences with unexpected things. He wouldn't repeat the same mistakes again.

Jjang!Jjeong!

Grid calmly blocked the golden crown's onslaught.

'Physical attacks and magic attacks don't work on the opponent.'

Then how could he hunt them?

"Ah...!"

Grid was blocking the club from hitting his collarbone when he remembered an unusual monster.

'Mimic!'

Mimic. They were monsters that looked like treasure chests to deceive adventurers. One of their greatest strengths was that they had the 'resist all damage' passive. Grid had only met a mimic once.

'No matter the attack, it only suffers 1 damage.'

However, this didn't mean that a mimic was invincible. The maximum health of a mimic was 10~120 depending on their level. Grid only dealt 1 damage, but he would be able to hunt it if he hit it many times in a row.

That's right. Grid judged that the golden crown was a monster like a mimic.

'It is only 1 damage per hit, but they have low health.'

He just needed to hit them a lot. Grod swapped from Grid's Greatsword to Iyarugt to increase his attack speed and used Link.

Pit!

Pipipipit!

[Link Lv. 7 (61.2%)]

A dazzling sword dance that is like the wings of a butterfly.

Deals 800% of your attack power to a single target.

Skill Usage Conditions: Have a sword type weapon equipped.

Skill Mana Cost: 300

Skill Cooldown Time: 60 seconds

The number of strikes for Link was proportional to the attack speed. With Iyarugt, he could do a total of 25 strikes.

[You have dealt 1 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt 1 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt...]

...

...

The biggest advantage was that continuous attacks caused the target to stiffen. Due to the series of attacks, the golden crowns were unable to move. Grid used Continuous Stab during that gap. It was the skill he acquired from the reservist training.

Puk!

Puk puk puk!

A total of five stabs struck the golden crown's body. In the midst of this, the God Hands were also moving rapidly. All of them held a weapon and attacked the golden hands without stopping.

'It should be now.'

Grid believed that the golden crown's health gauge should've fallen sharply. But reality was relentless when he checked it with his eyes.

“Heok.”

Despite the efforts of Grid and the God Hands, the golden crown’s health gauge was still full. Grid realized. The golden crown was different from a mimic.

‘Should I try another way?’

Pakak!

Grid’s face was hit by the club while he was trying to think.

Kuuong!

Grid felt pain as he was thrown back and hit a rock.

“Kilkil!”

Grid heard a bad laugh from above his head.

‘Don’t tell me.’

Grid stiffened as he looked in the direction of the laughter. Then he felt despair. Three golden crowns were looking down at him from a rock.

‘The worst.’

He couldn’t do anything against one golden crown. Now three more enemies were added.

‘I am going to die from normal mobs, not a boss.’

In the beginning, Grid was killed by rabbits. But this experience became unfamiliar since becoming Pagma’s Descendant. The mental blow was very big.

‘There has to be a way...’

The three golden crowns jumped from the rock.

Fortunately, there was a lack of cooperation and the separate attacks could be blocked by the God Hands, buying time for Grid’s brain to work. He couldn’t think of a way to overcome this crisis.

‘Should I just give up and die?’

He had barely recovered the experience that he lost from dying to the clone, and now he had to die again? It couldn’t be.

‘It would be better to give up the mission and survive.’

Grid decided and was about to summon Randy and Noe.

[The name is golden crown? The body isn’t the green monster, but the crown on its head.]

It was an unexpected voice. The familiar voice entered Grid’s ears.

“You...!?”

Grid was confused by the unimaginable existence and raised his head to look at the sky, where a faint soul was floating. It was Braham's soul.

[Pagma's Descendant is playing around in the playground that Pagma made.]

Originally, Braham's voice was filled with infinite power. It contained absolutely confidence and magic power. But not anymore. Compared to before, Braham's voice was very weak.

'He still hasn't found his body? What on earth happened?'

Why did he come here in the first place? Grid was puzzled but still kept an eye on the golden crowns. After avoiding the clubs flying from the front and rear, he cut the golden crown of a green monster with Iyarugt.

Then.

[You have dealt 5,900 damage to the target.]

'This is the strategy to handle them.'

Thanks to Braham, Grid got a glimpse of the light. But he still had to give up on the mission. There was 12 minutes and 59 seconds remaining. He might've discovered the weakness of the golden crowns, but it was difficult to beat 10 of them in that time.

Braham suggested to Grid.

[Accept my soul once again. This time for a bit longer than before.]

Grid received a hidden quest.

Chapter 395

'A playground made by Pagma?'

This place called the Behen Archipelago, hadn't the Hall of Fame existed since a long time ago? The timing wasn't right to say that Pagma made it.

'Don't tell me.'

Did it mean that Pagma made the 'Contaminated' Behen Archipelago?

'In other words, the person who contaminated the Behen Archipelago is Pagma?'

Pagma was always being exposed through Braham. Grid didn't 100% trust Braham, but he had positive feelings towards him.

"And why should I accept your soul again? Did you fail to recover your original body?"

No, what was this? Didn't he say he would be resurrected if Grid made him the Vessel of the Soul?

Jjejeong!Jjang!

The onslaught of the golden crowns continued while Grid was asking Braham questions. It wasn't easy to cope with the clubs from four golden crowns, and Grid couldn't rely on the God Hands. The Sword

Mastery level of the God Hands couldn't cope with the remarkable movement of the level 380 golden crowns.

Braham gave advice to the struggling Grid.

[The golden crown is a parasitic being that uses other monsters as a host. Since there isn't a limit in controlling the host's body, the overall stats are better than other monsters at the same level. With your present skills, it isn't easy to overwhelm them. So accept my soul.]

"Speaking nonsense with my body, do you think I would agree to that again? Don't just speak one-sidedly. Answer my questions."

Grid suffered greatly from the arrogant and chuuni words that poured from his mouth when he accepted Braham's soul. He didn't want to have the same experience again. In the first place, he was uneasy with not having control of his body.

Peeng!

Grid temporarily restrained the behavior of the golden crowns with Pagma's Swordsmanship, Restraint. At the same time, he fired Magic Missile at the golden crown opposite him. The golden crown screamed but didn't die.

"Kakakakak!"

"Ugh!"

Indeed, it was as Braham said.

The golden crowns didn't care about the safety of the host monster.

It showed movements beyond the limit, not caring if the muscles or joints were damaged. The arms swung the club like an electric fan. The bones that protruded from the broken elbows were used as weapons, making Grid feel confused in many ways.

[The petty questions that you have, if you accept me then you will naturally get the answers. You can also easily overcome this crisis.]

[A quest has been created.]

[Legendary Great Magician]

★ Hidden Quest ★

Braham has failed to recover his original body. He wants to stay in a safe space until he recovers his exhausted magic power, and has chosen your body as that space.

If you accept Braham's soul, you will gain a powerful force.

Quest Acceptance Reward: 50% increase in affinity with Braham. The legendary second class 'Legendary Great magician' will be acquired.

'Legendary second class?'

Grid's mind shook like he was struck by a hammer. It was a truly shocking offer. He would get a second class that was hard to obtain, and it was also a legendary class? Was there anyone in the world who could enjoy such good luck?

'This is a dream, right?'

Since Huroi first obtained a second class, it was said that less than 100 users had obtained a second class. Most of them received a normal rated second class. The number of people with a higher rated second class could be counted on one hand. A legendary second class was an uncharted territory.

But he was able to obtain it.

'A legendary blacksmith and a legendary great magician...!'

Grid shook.

Sticks, who had been silent, cautioned him.

"Grid, you might not know it, but Braham is actually a vampire, not a human. He is also one of the nine direct descendants of Beriache. Don't be misled by him just because he is a legend. You might become his host, just like the golden crown monsters."

Sticks earnestly spoke. Grid looked at him in a mysterious manner.

"The man who was silently watching while I was attacked by the golden crowns is now speaking up."

Now Grid knew Braham's identity. But Braham helped him, so Grid didn't feel negatively towards him. So what if he wasn't human? Grid had gone through too many things to be prejudiced towards a person because of their species.

Sticks was embarrassed.

"I'm called a sage, but I don't know everything. I didn't know about the golden crowns, so I wasn't able to give you advice. It wasn't done maliciously."

"You don't have to be so serious. I'm not trying to sell you off."

Grid was no longer interested in Sticks. He summoned Noe and Randy and started to attack the golden crowns while talking to Braham's soul.

"Braham, if I accept your soul, will you also freely move my body like last time?"

If so, he couldn't accept this hidden quest, even if he wanted the legendary second class. Grid's caution couldn't be compared to the past. Braham inwardly admired it while answering.

[No, your flesh will purely be yours if you accept me. I won't take over your body unless you want it yourself.]

"It is a spiritual rapport?"

Once Grid accepted Braham's soul, he would be able to share his thoughts with Braham and communicate. It was a mysterious experience in many ways. Braham wasn't 100% reliable, so it was right to draw a line.

[Right now, I am very weak. If I communicate with you spiritually, I am likely to be influenced and absorbed by you. Rapport... It doesn't exist unless I take over your body.]

It was a satisfactory answer. Grid nodded and asked a question.

"What is the duration of your stay?"

[A minimum of one year.]

"Give me a definite answer. Up to how many years?"

[...Four years.]

From one to four years. It meant that Grid could only have the legendary second class for that long and of course, it was based on Satisfy time. Grid was a little disappointed.

'It is too short.'

It would be hard to bear if he suddenly lost power one day. Wouldn't it be better to ignore that power from the beginning? Braham read Grid's worry and tempted him.

[Do you think you will get nothing from me? You will be able to learn all types of magic and wisdom from me. Isn't that alone beneficial?]

"...Okay."

There was no reason for Grid to reject. Sticks tried to stop him, but it was useless.

"Grid, you don't know how atrocious the demonkin are...?"

"Demonkin or human, it doesn't matter. I want to become stronger. "

The reason that Grid was so devoted to Satisfy, despite making enough money, was to prove the value of his existence. In order to get further away from his despised past, Grid was looking higher and higher.

His first goal was to win three gold medals in the National Competition. Grid once again wanted to be recognized. In particular, for those who tormented him, he wanted to show that he was living well. In order to do that, he needed to cross beyond the mountain called Kraugel.

"Braham, I will accept your soul."

[A wise choice.]

Flash!

Braham's soul was sucked into Grid's chest. A notification window popped up in front of Grid.

[You have become one with Braham's soul.]

[The second class 'Legendary Great Magician' has been acquired.]

[You are the first player to achieve two legendary classes!]

[It is truly a great achievement!! The title 'Glimpsed the Myths' has been acquired!]

[Glimpsed the Myths]

The minimum qualification to raise your class rating to 'Myth.'

The title itself has no effect.

'Myth...!'

Most players already knew about it. The highest rating in Satisfy was myth, not legend. They were able to know this because there were all types of myth rated items, including the Rebecca Church's three divine artifacts.

But who could've imagined it? A player could actually reach the myth rating.

'Lael didn't even know it.'

It was a great feeling of accomplishment to obtain new information before anyone else. A notification window appeared in front of Grid. But the contents...

[You have learned all of Braham's magic.]

[It failed because of your low intelligence!]

[In order to master Braham's magic, you must raise your intelligence.]

[In order to provide Braham's soul with steady magic power and restore it, you must raise your intelligence.]

[6]

[The skill 'Assimilation' has been generated.]

[Assimilation]

Will awaken Braham's sleeping consciousness in your body and become one.

At this time, your class will be converted to Great Magician' and control of the flesh will be transferred to Braham.

Skill Duration: 3 minutes

Skill Cooldown Time: 10 days

"...?"

He acquired a legendary second class, but why didn't the result look good? No, it didn't look good.

"%\$(#!!"

It stunk. He gained 10 stat points per level. Of those, six would be forcibly invested in intelligence? Grid naturally cursed. He couldn't control his anger, so Sticks asked with an anxious expression.

"Did Braham deceive you? A demonkin isn't someone you should encounter."

"..."

The elves who wanted to keep the balance of the world, and the demonkin who wanted to destroy the world, their relationship was the worst. Grid continued to ignore Sticks' remark, since he had a bias against Braham.

'I wasn't deceived.'

It was his fault for not asking what penalties he would receive if he accepted Braham's soul.

'For example, I already had the experience of falling to level 1 after becoming Pagma's Descendant...'

Nevertheless, he didn't regret it, since obtaining a legendary second class was priceless. He never thought it was possible.

"First of all, I have to test Braham's strength."

The time left to clear the mission of the 51st island was only 8 minutes and 35 seconds. He needed to hunt 10 golden crowns. It was an impossible task for Grid alone, even if he summoned Noe and Randy.

'But what if I use Braham's abilities?'

"Assimilation."

Sururuk.

Grid's wide shoulders and thick forearms started to gradually change. His jawline became tapered and his black hair was as white as snow.

"...Kukukuk, failing to catch such dogs.' I will burn them together with the whole island."

It was the white-haired version of Grid that attracted female hearts and brought about the 5th Korean Wave in Japan. This was indeed...

"Fireball."

[The magic isn't cast because your intelligence is too low.]

"..."

The first time Grid accepted Braham's soul, it was full of magic power. Then what about now?

'...Shit, it's like this.'

Now Grid wanted to cry at the compensation of the hidden quest. In many ways, it was regretful.

stat points will be forcibly invested into intelligence every time your level goes up.

Chapter 396

Behen Archipelago, the 51st island.

Four golden crowns faced the white-haired Grid.

"Fireball! Fireball! Fireball!"

[The magic isn't cast because your intelligence is too low.]

[The magic isn't cast because your intelligence is too low.]

[The magic isn't cast...]

"..."

He tried again, but the result was the same. The white-haired Grid, no, Braham, couldn't accept it.

"How can this be? How bad is your head that you can even get the formula for Fireball wrong?"

Grid snapped back.

'My head isn't bad!'

It was true. If they used the scale of the 'intelligence stat' to measure good or bad, Grid's head wasn't bad. Why? Malacus' Cloak increased the wearer's intelligence by 200 and the Black Quartz Earrings increased it by 15%, so he had close to 1,200 intelligence.

The influence of items was great. Which blacksmith in the world would have intelligence over 1,000? No, it wasn't just blacksmiths. Grid was currently level 305. Among the level 305 users, it was extremely rare for them to have more than 1,000 unless they were magicians or scholars.

In other words, Grid was smarter than average. Once again, Grid was smart when using the intelligence stat as a measuring stick. But Braham saw Grid at the level of an idiot.

"What a fool."

The level of Braham's magic spells could be broken down into 10 levels. There were many types and uses. However, Grid's current intelligence meant he could only use the lowest 10th level magic. Braham couldn't even use Fireball, which was 9th level magic? Braham's Fireball wasn't a regular Fireball, but an enhanced one. It was impossible to complete the complex formula with Grid's current intelligence.

"Your intelligence is a means to overcome a crisis, but it's like I entered the body of a skunk."

'...W-What?'

Why did he keep being blamed for not being able to use magic? Grid thought it was ridiculous, so words couldn't come out properly.

Braham explained, "Currently, most of my soul is asleep in your body. I am just a fragment of that soul. I have to borrow your brain and magic power to use magic. But it has no meaning with your current status."

'Eek...!'

Grid's anger skyrocketed. He accepted Braham's soul to become stronger, but the reality was that he just became angrier. It was truly a cursed life. There was no way to solve this.

'Then is there any meaning in accepting you?'

"Let's see?"

Braham just nodded at the agitated Grid. His relaxed attitude made Grid more heated up.

'Dammit! What the hell is this?'

Grid cursed and shouted.

"Kieeek!"

"Kyaak!"

Suddenly, the mood of the golden crowns changed and they sprang at Grid. The atmosphere of the white-haired Grid was different from before, but they judged that he was still easy. Grid wanted to cry.

'Will I die like this?'

The duration of Assimilation, this useless skill where the miracle was $1+1=0$, had 2 minutes and 30 seconds remaining. Grid had given over control of his body to Braham, so he thought he would die because he couldn't rely on items or Noe and Randy.

Braham read Grid's fearful mind.

"I must look very funny to you."

Braham was special among the legends. Unlike the other legends of human origin, his abilities were overwhelming. He was also unique enough to raise the science of magic to another level.

"Do you think that this body will be hit by hybrids?"

'...!'

Grid was beyond shocked. Braham's vision of the four rushing golden crowns was different from his own.

"Magic Missile."

Peng!

Pepepeng!

Great magician. A legendary great magician was on a different dimension. The skill description for Magic Missile (Enhanced) said that it had a cooldown time of 5 seconds, but Braham was able to shoot four without a time difference.

"Kuwek!"

The golden crowns was accurately pierced and the monsters hesitated in pain. Braham didn't give them a break.

"Magic Missile."

Pepeng!

Pepepepeng!

He used only Magic Missiles. But the power was effective enough. Braham was in assimilation state. In other words, Grid's class was Great Magician. His Magic Missile was at the 10th level and the power was incomparable to Grid's Magic Missile.

Finally.

[The golden crown has been defeated.]

[13,498,000 experience has been acquired.]

[The golden crown has been defeated.]

[13,498,000 experience has been acquired.]

[The golden crown...]

...

...

Golden crowns. Golden crowns that emitted light to attract monsters.

They used the lured monsters as hosts and were capable of showing overwhelming combat power, but they had one weakness. The health of the golden crowns were low when compared to monsters of the same level.

Grid was filled with joy as he saw that they couldn't endure the bombardment of master level Magic Missiles.

'This might be possible!'

He thought he might be able to clear the mission of the 51st island.

'There is 7 minutes and 34 seconds until the mission ends.'

Assimilation would end in 1 minute and 59 seconds. Would Braham be able to defeat 6 golden crowns in that time? Grid was looking forward to it, and Braham tried to meet those expectations. He used Magic Detection (Enhanced) to find the location of the golden crowns on the island, then fired Magic Missiles towards them.

Pepepepeng!

"Kyaak!"

'Wow.'

Grid once again felt admiration.

In the case of Grid, he fought it difficult to hit four targets that were 50 meters ahead with Magic Missile. Meanwhile, Braham accurately struck the golden crowns that were 200 meters ahead.

'Great.'

Six golden crowns around the island were hit and flocked towards Braham. Grid trembled as he sensed the approaching success of the mission.

'Shit, my mana is gone.'

"...?"

At level 300, every point in intelligence gave him 6 mana. Grid had 1,193 intelligence, giving him 7,158 mana. The master level Magic Missile (Enhanced) cost 350 mana, while the master level Magic Detection (Enhanced) cost 2,000 mana. Braham wasn't joking when he said his mana ran out.

Grid looked at the six golden crowns approaching and shouted.

'A great magician can't even properly control his mana?'

"It is the first time I've had such a small amount of mana, so I made a mistake."

'Shit! Don't waste time giving me excuses. Drink a mana potion!'

Grid's skills had a high consumption rate. Thus, he always kept mana potions on him.

Click.

Braham identified the mana potions in Grid's inventory and pulled out one of them. It wasn't the advanced mana potion that cost 20 gold each. Instead, it was the super mana potion produced by Reidan's alchemy facility that didn't have a price yet?

'No, what are you...?'

In fact, even advanced mana potions were a luxury for Grid. The mana restored by an advanced mana potion was higher than Grid's total mana. However, the reason that Grid had the advanced mana potions was because the intermediate ones were lacking. Anyway, for Grid who was always in pain when drinking an advanced mana potion, he couldn't stand Braham drinking a super mana potion. He even felt hatred.

'You...! What are you doing?'

The price of an advanced mana potion was more expensive than a chicken. But the super mana potions were at least 10 times more expensive. Braham shrugged at Grid, who couldn't believe the scene occurring in front of him.

"My mouth has luxurious tastes."

'What...? It's the same!'

Grid felt anger and annoyance. While Grid's regret deepened, Braham showed his worth.

"Magic Missile. Magic Missile. Magic Missile."

It was only one type of spell. Thanks to this, Grid was able to safely clear the 51st island.

[1,900 challenger points have been acquired.]

[The gate to the 52nd island is open.]

[Your level has risen.]

[As someone with a second class, you will receive a level up bonus. 12 stat points have been acquired.]

[6]

[The duration of Assimilation is over. Braham's soul will be asleep for 10 days.]

"..."

It was easy to clear the island and reach level 305 thanks to Braham. However, he couldn't feel any happiness.

Grid pledged.

'I shouldn't summon him in the future.'

Grid thought he might die if he had to often face Braham. But Grid was also dimly aware. Braham had a great affinity towards him. His words, tone and expression were much softer than they were in the past.

'He will gradually reveal Pagma's secrets.'

Grid gained the solid insurance called Braham, so his expression was bright, despite wasting points in intelligence. It was exactly 30 days in real time until the National Competition.

Chapter 397

'It isn't a big loss if I think about it calmly.'

A typical player gained 10 stat points for each level increase. But those with second classes like Grid were able to gain two additional stat points. Six of them were forcibly invested in intelligence, but it wasn't a negative thing.

'Intelligence increases my maximum mana, so I'll be able to use more skills and the power of my magic will also increase.'

Above all, the important part was for Grid was to increase the efficiency of the Assimilation skill. It was very difficult to give control of his body to Braham, but there was an irresistible appeal about Assimilation.

The charm of it was shining in the 'Magic List' right now.

-Available Magic Spells that can be Learned!-

[Magic Detection (Enhanced) Lv. 1]

A magic detection spell developed by the legendary great magician who has completely overturned the activation formula.

Emits a large amount of mana in all directions, locating all living things in a radius of 10 meters.

The higher the magic level, the wider the detection range and the more information that can be seen.

Resource Consumption: 3,000 Mana.

Skill Casting Time: 6 seconds.

Skill Cooldown Time: 10 minutes.

-If you use this spell three times in Great Magician mode, you will learn it.

Thus, it was possible for Grid to acquire magic used by Braham in Assimilation mode. It meant he could get the unique magic of a legendary great magician for free. This was a complete scam. It was so crazy that it wouldn't be strange for others to be blinded by jealousy.

'I want to learn more of Braham's magic, so I need to raise my intelligence.'

Grid's main duty was as a blacksmith and then a swordsman. If he was blinded by immediate greed and invested a lot of stat points in intelligence, he was likely to shed tears of blood in the future.

'A weak hybrid is the worst. Don't be impatient.'

Of course, the way to raise his intelligence wasn't just stat points. He could wear items that increased his intelligence, such as Malacus' Cloak and the Black Quartz Earrings. But it wasn't easy to make items that raised stats. If it was that easy, Grid would've made agility items from scratch in order to make his agility and strength ratio 1:1.

"I will try to challenge it later. First, I need to try my best to finish the Behen Archipelago."

He saved his 6 remaining stat points despite being filled with the sudden desire to raise intelligence.

『 There were a total of eight events in the 1st National Competition. 』

<The 2nd National Competition's Special Broadcast>

The director of the broadcast, which expected them to have a lot of interest, pointed to the monitor on the stage. Boss raid, PvP, pet marathon, escape the labyrinth, the target processing match, international siege, and various production events were listed on the monitor.

These were the events in the 1st National Competition

『 Unlike the 1st National Competition where there were 17 participating countries, this time there is a total of 32 participating countries. The size and interest are naturally bigger. 』

『 The S.A. Group has found that it's hard to show the best of the players with only eight events, and there is also a limit on the spectacles provided to the viewers. 』

『 The number of events has been increased to 13, and many of them are non-combat events. It is more friendly to various classes rather than just the combat classes. 』

『 Still, the most popular event in the 2nd National Competition will be the PvP, just like the 1st National Competition. 』

『 The S.A. Group said they would be changing the PvP system so that no nasty results like the Grid vs Hurent 3 second incident or Grid vs Bondre 4 second incident will occur again. 』

『 The damage of PvP (Player VS Player) will be reduced by 50% compared to the damage of PvE (Player VS Environment: a player's actions against monsters, dungeons, traps, terrain, etc). 』

『 In other words, if you use a skill that deals 100% damage to a monster, it will only deal 50% damage to a user. This will make the strategic elements of PvP more advanced, and viewers will be able to watch the spectacular sights for a longer time. 』

"Hoh."

"This means they don't need to watch out for the destructiveness of people like Grid or Chris."

"The importance of control has increased."

"The tankers will be the biggest beneficiaries."

The faces of the PvP participants in the National Competition brightened after they confirmed the changes. On the other hand, the Korean netizens felt resentful.

-Ah...One of Grid's gold medals will fly away.

-To be honest, Grid's strength is his powerful attacks. This is basically a patch to seal it.It is absurd;;

-This is a patch completely aimed at Grid.It isn't fair.

-Once upon a time, when Korea was still the gaming powerhouses, there were many patches to balance the power of the Korean players.This reminds me of that time.

-This is what is called a 'nerf.'

-Wow, that's a classic game term;;; my father used it when he was young;;; how old is it?

-Anyway, now that Grid can't win a gold medal in PvP, Korea will never enter the top 10.

-This is really...The S.A. Group is a complete traitor...Screwing up their own country like this...

-This is the conspiracy of the world governments. It's only the Koreans who are suffering.

The foreigners named this PvP system the 'Grid Nerf.'

In particular, countries such as China and Japan, who had a big sense of competitiveness with South Korea, were dancing with joy.

-Ah, ah.A small nation like South Korea is being squished by the world.

-China will prove that they are the best country in Asia!

-The best in Asia!China is the center of the world!Hao is participating, so it's natural that he will win!

-Don't make me laugh.Japan is better than China.

-China's only strength is their tactics, because each country in the National Competition is limited to 7 participants.

-In the end, Damian, Katz, and Yoshimura are the best in Asia.

-Let's see.

The 50% reduced PvP damage in the National Competition. As this patch was shaking the world...

[You have entered the 56st island.]

"Heok... Heok... Wow, this. It is really too much. The difficulty rises exponentially every time I pass an island."

The main subject of all the conversations, Grid, was solely devoted to capturing the Behen Archipelago. Was he pioneering his own way, regardless of what people said? That wasn't it. Recently, Grid only had time to play the game, sleep, and eat.

He was unaware of what was going around the world. Did he check the TV or Internet? No. Every moment of the day was too precious for Grid. The difficulty of the Behen Archipelago was so high that he had to focus his whole mind on it.

In other words, Grid didn't know that he was nerfed in the National Competition. Thus, the world started to misunderstand him.

-Grid is silent.

-Yes. He didn't complain to the S.A. Group despite being nerfed. ☐ ☐

-If this had happened to other rankers, they would be accusing the S.A. Group in various interviews around the world;;

-It's common sense to ask for compensation.

-Grid is seriously...A guy like this is cool.

-Truly God Grid!

The old stories on the Internet paint Grid as complete trash, but they must be written by anti-fans.

-Absolutely. Grid is amazing.

The spread of things was scary. Once favourable opinions about Grid started to appear, Koreans as well as people from all over the world started praising Grid's attitude.

He was acknowledged by the racists filled with the ideology of white supremacists, and even some terrible terrorist groups in the Middle East supported Grid. It was an amazing phenomenon.

Once it was 22 days away from the National Competition, South Korea had a talk show about Grid.

The guest was Peak Sword.

『 Why isn't Grid reacting to this patch? To Grid, this nerf is a minor problem. He is like this. Nerf? Try it. No one can stop me Why? I am God Grid! A healthy person from Korea! Do you know God Grid? Hooray South Korea! 』

"Dammit."

Things had already become too big by the time Grid heard about it.

In Grid's mind, he immediately wanted to call the S.A. Group and say, 'Why do you have to patch a person? Aren't games supposed to be fair?' However, he was too embarrassed to come forward now.

It was due to Peak Sword's words on the talk show.

"Dammit..."

Peak Sword. They had known each other for over a year, but he still wasn't aware of Grid's personality? The power of bias was too terrible.

"Unfortunately, this is where I give up."

"This is also my limit."

"Everyone seems to be the same."

The Overgeared members challenging the Behen Archipelago. The vast majority of them failed to pass the 31st island and raised the white flag. The worst trials of the past caused even the famous geniuses to feel despair.

"How did Grid pass?"

"How far has Grid developed...?"

"We're on the same side, but he's still scary."

The concept of the 31st island. The more genius a person was, the greater the difficulty they faced. Lael was aware of this fact, but he didn't want to pour cold water on the Overgeared members praising Grid.

'Their respect and affection towards Grid is becoming stronger.'

Lael predicted that on the 31st island, Grid likely faced monsters like ogres.

'In other words, the 31st island is a privilege for bad players.'

Except for Grid, it was natural for the Overgeared members to drop out at the 31st island.

However.

How did Yura, Jishuka, and Huroi pass the 31st island? Lael found the results incomprehensible.

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'Well, I can understand Huroi to some extent.'

The combat skills of the orator class were the worst, so his past ordeals were likely to have a low degree of difficulty. It wasn't difficult for Huroi to overcome the trial, since he had grown after acquiring his second class.

'But Yura and Jishuka are different.'

They were both geniuses. The difficulty of their past trials would be beyond imagination. So how did they get past the 31st island?

‘Did they never have hard times because they were so good in the first place? If so, it’s great enough to be compared to this body.’

As Lael was taking these ridiculous thoughts seriously, the other Overgeared members were comparing the items they purchased on Fog Island.

“I bought five agility elixirs and one rare skill book.”

“Huhuhu, I bought 13 stamina elixirs. I’m becoming increasingly qualified to be called a tanker.”

“Wow, Faker and Vantner hit the jackpot.”

“I’m envious... I found Fog Island too quickly and only bought four elixirs.”

“I reached the 31st Island and didn’t see Fog Island at all. It’s irritating.”

“Me too...”

The system of the Fog Island in the Behen Archipelago purely depended on luck. It wasn’t easy to use the island because it appeared too soon or too late.

“I’m worried about Grid.”

“...Yes.”

The world thought that Grid was an extremely lucky person. Wasn’t Grid the first legendary class? People appreciated Grid’s luck and assumed he was a person who saved a country in his previous life.

However, the Overgeared members knew the truth. Grid was never lucky. The question was whether he had been abandoned by Lady Luck.

“A legendary blacksmith who has bad luck and can’t make legendary items...”

“Even if he completely clears the Behen Archipelago, what if Fog Island never appears again?”

“...”

The Overgeared members were genuinely concerned, while Lael’s heart ached.

‘Even if you have bad luck as usual, keep up your mental strength, My Lord.’

The Behen Archipelago.

“What is this?”

Grid frowned after entering the 56th island. There were two caves in front of him.

‘Why two instead of one?’

Did he have to attack both?

'The scale isn't a joke.'

On the 55th island, level 400 monsters started to pop up. If there were many monsters in the huge caves in front of him, Grid wouldn't dare to challenge it.

'It will take a long time to deal with those in the cave due to the level difference...'

As he continued further into the Behen Archipelago, the difficulty increased exponentially. Grid's confidence was declining when a notification window appeared in front of him.

[A mission will be created.]

[56th Island]

Break through the labyrinth!

First Clear Reward: 2,150 challenger points. Access to Treasure Island for 3 minutes.

'Treasure Island!'

Grid, whose shoulders were slumped, instantly brightened.

'Treasure Island, the name is fantastic!'

A place where legendary achievements were celebrated, the Behen Archipelago. In some ways, it was the most sacred place on the whole continent. A hidden Treasure Island, wouldn't tremendous treasures be buried there?

'It will be great if I can obtain adamantium.'

The Holy Light Set that he used since the Pope Drevigo raid was made of the god mineral adamantium. Grid was convinced that he could make huge items if he had adamantium.

"Okay... I will challenge it."

Grid regained his motivation and neared the entrance of the two caves. At the same time, Grid's body stiffened like a stone statue.

'Eh? I can't move?'

It was different from a status condition. His hands were stiff and couldn't move as a choice entered his view.

[Do you want to go to the left cave or the right cave?]

'Ah...!'

From the moment he entered his island, the labyrinth had already begun. He wasn't able to move in a direction other than the two options.

'There are no variables.'

Grid turned his gaze to the rear. He wanted to ask Sticks, 'What should I do to clear the labyrinth?' But he couldn't speak.

'It isn't just my movements, but my mouth as well...'

It seemed to be the same for Sticks. He was standing as stiffly as Grid.

'This is confusing.'

Grid had no experience with labyrinths. The complex structure and traps made the difficulty of clearing labyrinths so high that he never challenged it. In other words, Grid didn't have the knowledge to break through labyrinths. It was dark in front of Grid.

'In the end, I have to gamble.'

Grid thought about it for a while before taking one step forward. The direction he chose was the right cave. The result.

'This is crazy!'

As soon as Grid entered the right cave, he automatically screamed. It was natural. There were six paths in front of him!

'I won't be able to pass it like this.'

Grid was able to get a sense of how much time it would take to pass through this massive labyrinth.

'Maybe I won't be able to pass it before the National Competition begins...'

It was the worst. He was desperate. However, Grid had a trump card.

"Assimilation."

Sururuk.

Grid's hair became white and his eyes shone like rubies. Did he borrow the wisdom of a sage? No, he borrowed the wisdom of someone much higher than that. Grid was gradually becoming more versatile.

"Hoh, you thought about using this method to take advantage of my wisdom."

Braham used Magic Detection (Enhanced) and walked towards the path with the most powerful and malicious aura.

After a moment.

Braham handled the hidden monster and appeared in front of a new crossroads. Then he taught Grid.

"The labyrinth has a habit of not wanting to miss anyone who steps in it. The closer you are to the exit, the more danger there will be. Use Magic Detection to move slowly."

The duration of Assimilation was 3 minutes. Braham gave Grid great advice and then fell asleep. A smile appeared on Grid's face.

'Thank you, Braham.'

Thanks to him, Grid got a hint about how to break through the labyrinth and learned new magic.

[Magic Detection (Enhanced) Lv. 1]

A magic detection developed by the legendary great magician who has completely overturned the activation formula.

Emits a large amount of mana in all directions, locating all living things in a radius of 10 meters.

The higher the magic level, the wider the detection range and the more information that can be seen.

Resource Consumption: 3,000 Mana.

Skill Casting Time: 6 seconds.

Skill Cooldown Time: 10 minutes.

'If I move using Braham's advice...'

Paaaat!

This time, Grid stood in front of eight paths and used Magic Detection that he had learned from Braham. Mana stretched out in all directions around Grid.

'I found it!'

The strongest aura was felt from the end of one of the eight paths. Grid was sure that there was a monster there. He summoned the God Hands, Randy, and Noe and entered the battle with his full power.

"Heok... Heok..."

The monster that appeared in the labyrinth had a level between 400~410. The level difference between the level 306 Grid and the monsters was so great that he didn't do much damage, while Grid suffered from tremendous damage whenever he received a hit. It was like a boss raid every time Grid encountered a monster.

'The problem isn't the monsters.'

The reuse time of Magic Detection was 10 minutes. This was reduced to 8 minutes if he wore Braham's Boots, which reduced cooldown time. As a result, Grid could only move every 8 minutes.

'How long will it take to break through this labyrinth?'

His eyes were dark. He was mentally very tired. But.

'I will continue.'

Labor was a familiar area for Grid. Grid's grim mentality started to shine.

The master of the Yak Guild, part of the seven guilds, was Bubat.

He was 53rd on the unified rankings. It couldn't be compared to his 25th rank in the past, but nobody said that he was worse than before. He combined bold judgments and powerful CCs to be called Satisfy's best initiator. The battlefield was always favorable to his allies when Bubat was fighting in the lead. His nickname was 'Yak who Promises Victory.'

But at the time of the last National Competition, Bubat was helpless. He didn't live up to his reputation and disappointed people. Was it because he was in a bad condition? No. It was because he met Yura and Grid in succession. In the case of Yura, his CC was destroyed by her excellent physical abilities. Grid was too bad because he resisted all CCs.

Bubat was frustrated because it couldn't be helped.

"But I won't be the one feeling frustrated in this National Competition."

After reaching level 300, Bubat obtained many hitting skills. Unlike the past where he relied exclusively on CC, he now had appropriate attack skills. Besides, Bubat was fundamentally a tanker!

"The biggest beneficiary of the patch is me! Huhuhut!"

Grid's legendary skills? 50% reduction in damage meant that Bubat could endure several blows. He would make it become a long battle and eventually break Grid with his high stamina.

"I will repay the shame of the past while gaining a gold medal for my country, Turkey!"

"Waaaaaaah!"

The people of Turkey cheered at Bubat's declaration.

At this moment.

It wasn't just Bubat. All the participants from all over the world were confident that they could handle Grid. One patch made a person into a pushover.

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"Grid? Certainly, he has grown. I was impressed when I saw the Eternal Kingdom war video."

The strongest nation in Satisfy, the USA.

Thousands of people gathered at a press conference for Zibal. The theme of the interview was the 2nd National Competition. However, most of the questions were about Grid.

"In the past, Grid played while relying on his items, skills, and stats. Now he has combined it with moderate control skills. Considering his talents, I guess it's a result of his efforts. I admire his efforts."

"You described Grid's control as 'moderate.' Are you saying that it isn't at an amazing level?"

"Well... Isn't it good enough from the public's point of view?"

"Then he hasn't reached the level of high rankers yet. It's said that Grid's power will be weakened in the National Competition due to the patch. How do you see it?"

"I also have the same opinion. If it wasn't for Grid's items and stats... He will be very ordinary."

"I have a question about that. Is Grid really weak? If his damage has been halved, can't Grid overwhelm the opponent in two blows instead of one?"

The reporter's question caused all the people in the room to laugh, including Zibal. The reporter's question was very rudimentary. Zibal stopped laughing and opened his mouth.

“Satisfy’s stats aren’t just attack power and health. Isn’t there also the concept of defense? For example, let’s say my defense is 100 and Grid’s attack power is 1,000. How much damage will I get if I am attacked by Grid?”

“...Isn’t it 900?”

The old and retired reporter didn’t know much about Satisfy. He was out of date, and in fact, he hadn’t even been intending to attend this press conference. But a sudden mishap occurred and he attended on behalf of his junior.

Zibal saw that he was a layman and kindly explained.

“No, that isn’t it. A formula is applied to defense. First of all, besides the defense that can be found in the stats window, every class has a unique resistance that is additionally added to defense to reduce the enemy damage.”

“In other words, this patch will reduce Grid’s attack power by more than 50%?”

“That’s right.”

“Then isn’t this patch fatal to other players with low attack power, not just Grid? How will you cause damage to each other?”

The reporter continued to ask basic questions. Zibal shook his head and pointed to his head and heart.

"It is to attack the enemy’s weak points. Be faster and more accurate."

But Grid didn’t have that type of skill. The old reporter finally understood and sat down to take notes. Other reporters’ questions followed.

"Now that Grid’s influence in PvP has weakened, what is your prediction for South Korea’s overall ranking?"

“22nd? As you know, there isn’t any other talent in South Korea besides Yura. There will be a limit to her alone.”

"What about Peak Sword?"

“Of course, Peak Sword is excellent. But his attack mode is one strike. It’s very powerful, but the delay after each attack is long. He’s also one of the victims of this patch. South Korea is tragic in many ways.”

"What about Russia and Kraugel?"

“Russia has some great participants and Kraugel is the only competitor I admire... They can easily enter the top 10.”

“What about the host, France?”

“They can get at least in the top 5.”

"The United States?"

“Of course, we will be 1st. As always, in all areas.”

Beijing, China.

"Hao. You didn't participate in the 1st National Competition held in South Korea last year. Because of that, China was forced to stay in 7th place. The reason you expressed your intention to participate in this National Competition is to sooth the disappointment of our Chinese people, right?"

Hao kept his 16th ranking despite the Overgeared members causing a cataclysm in the unified rankings. The miracle of their country was known as a genius of fighting. Whether it was a solo exhibition or team play, he boasted overwhelming stats in PvP.

Last year, Hao's vacancy was huge for China, who couldn't achieve remarkable results in PvP related events. He felt cynical towards the reporters' questions.

'I want to say that it has no relation to the hearts of the people.'

Hao was a Chinese person, so he knew them well. If he made a slip of the tongue, he could be kidnapped one day.

Hao took a deep breath and nodded.

"That's correct. Last year, I didn't participate in the National Competition due to personal circumstances and deeply regretted it. I swear before the spirit of the great Mao Zedong and China, I will lead our country to victory in this National Competition."

"Last year, Grid and South Korea interfered with China and rose to the 3rd spot. Now that Grid has been nerfed, will you be able to repay the past disgrace?"

'Grid...'

According to Lauel, Grid was someone beyond Kraugel. He would dismiss it as nonsense, but Lauel wasn't someone to exaggerate. It was clear that Grid had something.

'I can't say anything good.'

Hao looked around the room. The reporters were staring with expectations in their eyes. Hao sighed and eventually opened his mouth.

"Whether Grid is nerfed or not, he wasn't my opponent in the first place."

"Ohh!!"

The reporters got the answer they wanted. It was natural for the people of a great country to win over those of a small country.

Snap!

Snap snap!

Hao's remarks were written on Internet articles as photos were taken of him. Meanwhile, Hao sipped his cold water.

'It isn't a lie.'

The only one better than him was Kraugel. Hao had a high evaluation of his own skills. It was because he was able to tie up the feet of several Overgeared members alone during the Reidan invasion.

Paris, France.

"Bondre, you experienced a humiliating defeat after being logged out by Grid in just 4 seconds. Did that incident cause trauma? Will you be able to participate well in the National Competition?"

France was a strong favorite in the 1st National Competition. Surprisingly, many experts analyzed that France would win over the United States. But France's greatest player, Bondre, was torn apart by Grid and everything became a tangled mess. France narrowly settled for second place.

Bondre scoffed at the reporters' malicious question and made a scathing remark.

"Trauma? That's something that will happen to hyenas like you. I am a beast of prey. I will never shrink back."

"Your confidence is good. But isn't this patch fatal for you? Your Absolute Zero won't be able to function properly."

France was the host country of the 2nd National Competition. As the host country, the entire nation was hoping for them to win. But the public didn't trust Bondre. Bondre ridiculed the reporter's question.

"You still think that Absolute Zero is my only skill?"

"...?"

"A year has passed since the first National Competition. In the meantime, I have learned many powerful spells. In the first place, an ice mystic specializes in defense and utility rather than high attack power. This patch is just giving me wings."

Bondre was so angry that he spoke in informal language. He declared to the dozens of media outlets gathered in this place, "Those uncivilized Koreans who eat dog meat, I will shatter them. Then your attitude towards me will change. I will lead France to victory."

Ottawa, Canada.

3rd ranked Chris was also holding a press conference.

"Last year, Canada was one of the strong candidates to win the National Competition. But we had to experience the shocking result of not being able to enter the top 3."

"This year, the country is hoping for a different result. Chris, do you have the confidence to revive people's expectations?"

Please provide a satisfying answer. Chris read the words in the reporters' eyes and bowed his head.

"Last year, I was helpless. I lost to Zibal in the boss raid, was defeated by Bondre in the labyrinth breakthrough, and was defeated by Regas in PvP. I want to borrow this place to once again apologize."

In fact, Chris shouldn't have to apologize. Last year, Chris was very cool. He won the silver medal in the boss raid and labyrinth breakthrough, and reached the quarter-finals in PvP. That's right. Chris struggled against the best players of the world alone.

"Lift your head!"

"You're our hero!"

The reporters cried out, causing Chris to slowly raise his head. Then he smiled at them.

"I will try to show a better performance this year. I am confident of winning against all opponents except for Kraugel and Grid."

"G-Grid?"

The reporters were startled. Wasn't Grid a victim of the patch? At this moment, rankers and experts from all over the world were evaluating that Grid would find it hard to play a big role in the National Competition. Why did Chris see Grid as superior to him?

'Chris is also a victim of the patch, but...'

'Chris has much higher skills when it comes to the greatsword. He is different from Grid.'

Chris laughed at the reporters faces.

'I can't easily beat Grid, who competed with the crazy farmer for a long time.'

The world didn't know Grid's true value. Chris couldn't comprehend the public opinion, who ridiculed Grid despite all his achievements just because of his normal control. Of course, this didn't mean Chris was already obsessed with defeat.

Grid and Kraugel. Both men weren't easy to beat, but Chris didn't think there was no chance at all. This was the pride of the 3rd ranked user.

x

Chapter 400

Japan, Tokyo.

Yoshimura exclaimed under a splendid chandelier in the press conference room.

"Yoshimura will make Japan the most powerful Asian country!"

Among the Japanese, Yoshimura was known as the 'Defeated General.' His fight against the Korean Silver Knights Guild for Cork Island was a disaster. Then he was defeated by Damian, who was considered a traitor from the right side extremists.

Yoshimura had once been the 2nd ranked archer, but now his peak was over. Nevertheless, the Japanese still trusted Yoshimura. Yoshimura's achievements in the past were so great that there were still a lot of expectations. Unfortunately, Japan didn't have as many talented people as Yoshimura.

"Ohhhh!"

"It truly is Yoshimura!"

The reporters applauded at Yoshimura's flamboyant appearance. But they didn't ask any questions because there was no big interest. The reporters were interested in Damian and Katz who were sitting to Yoshimura's left and right.

"Hum hum."

Yoshimura felt ashamed and sat down. The reporters first questioned Katz, who hadn't appeared in public for a long time.

"Katz, I'm looking forward to seeing you after a long time. What have you been doing this whole time?"

"Bah, what a stupid question. Can't you tell by looking at the list of rankers? I have been raising my level."

Katz was the son of one of the largest conglomerates in Japan. He grew up with everything since childhood, causing him to become arrogant. Due to that, he had a lot of anti-fans around the world. But the Japanese didn't hate Katz.

The reason was simple. Katz was one of Japan's few hopes.

The third epic hidden class. Blood Warrior Katz, he dreamt of becoming the 1st ranked user and only focused on hunting for the past year and a half.

"That reminds me, you reached 19th on the unified rankings two weeks ago. At that time, all of the Japanese media outlets reported on Katz' news."

"You must be happy to be the first Japanese person ranked in the top 20."

"..."

The reporters praised him, but Katz was offended. It was embarrassing. A year and a half ago. He declared to the world that he would take the first position in six months, but he hadn't even entered the single digits yet. This caused Katz to go crazy.

19th out of two billion users. It was certainly a huge achievement, but Katz' pride was too high. Katz wasn't satisfied at all.

"What events do you plan to participate in this time?"

"I haven't decided yet."

"What are you expecting Japan's ranking to be?"

"How should I know?"

"..."

Based on Katz' attitude, it seemed unreasonable to ask him any more questions. The reporters were satisfied that photos and videos were taken of Katz and turned their eyes to Damian.

"The pope is known to have a special relationship with Grid. Will you be able to face Grid as an enemy in the National Competition?"

It was a question with hidden meanings. Damian chose Grid over his country. Would he be able to face Grid as an enemy in the National Competition? As Yoshimura felt tense and Katz indifferent, Damian declared with a proud expression.

"I know how to distinguish between the two. In the National Competition, Grid is naturally my enemy."

"Ohh...!"

The questions from the reporters poured out.

"What sort of events will you participate in?"

"Any combat related events are okay."

"Does this mean you have confidence in battle?"

"Of course. I am really big."

"What are you expecting Japan's ranking to be?"

"Hrmm." Damian glanced sideways at Katz. "At least in the top 10?"

"Ohhh!"

Being in the top 10 out of 32 countries wasn't low. It was likely to be the highest rank among the Asian countries. Damian, who had responded coldly to requests for cooperation from the right-wing groups, was now speaking favorably about Japan, causing the reporters to feel excited.

They were once again glad that a powerful presence like the pope was a Japanese. But some right-wing media groups questioned Damian.

"Is there still no plan to build a Rebecca Temple in the territories that the Japanese Guilds rule over?"

"How about giving healers from the Rebecca Church as support for Japanese rankers?"

Questions not related to the National Competition started to pour out. Damian was silent. He couldn't understand the psychology of the extreme right-wingers who wanted one-sided help just because he was Japanese.

"Tsk, I am building a temple in Reidan."

"You really must be a Korean."

The moment that the right-wing reporters made the atmosphere uncomfortable.

"What do you think about this balance patch?"

One young reporter asked a new question that reversed the mood. Damian's answer was enough to excite the Japanese people watching the press conference broadcast.

"It's a patch to benefit me."

Damian had strong defense, recovery skills, and phenomenal buff skills. What person could damage him with this patch?

"At least in the National Competition, I am invincible."

"Waaaaahhhhh!"

Japan was overturned. The expectations of Japanese people towards Damian skyrocketed. The Internet speculated that perhaps Damian could win three gold medals in the National Competition. However, Damian poured cold water on them.

"Well, as long as I don't go against Grid."

"..."

Why? Why did Damian praise Grid so much? The Japanese people didn't know the details about the relationship between Grid and Damian, so they questioned it. More people wondered if Damian was actually a Korean.

Moscow, Russia.

The press conference held for the participants of the 2nd National Competition.

"..."

In the end, Kraugel didn't attend.

Seoul, South Korea.

"Zibal doesn't know anything. If he meets God Grid in the same event, he will eventually have to give God Grid the gold medal."

Kang Daehan of the Korean Patriotic Association. His ID was Peak Sword in Satisfy and he was sitting in front of hundreds of reporters.

"And Hao? He doesn't seem Chinese with how rude he is. Whether God Grid is nerfed or not, he is no match for God Grid."

"Excuse me... Kang Daehan, why didn't Yura and Youngwoo attend this interview...?"

"Also!"

Peak Sword didn't answer the reporters' questions. It was only 17 days until the National Competition. There was only one reason why Peak Sword attended this press conference despite being busy. It was to refute the words of rankers around the world.

Kung!

Peak Sword slammed his hand on the table and shouted.

“Bondre, the French person who called Koreans uncivilized because we eat dog meat! The French eat foie gras, which is far more atrocious! A pot calling the kettle black. Bondre, I will make you feel ashamed, so be prepared! Understood? Hooray South Korea!”

“...”

It was the moment when the National Competition’s press conference was turned into a Korean Patriotic Association meeting. The reporters thought it was silly, but also nice to have a character like Peak Sword in South Korea. He made them feel much better.

As the whole world was paying attention to the 2nd National Competition, Grid was still wandering the labyrinth.

[You have killed a cavalry knight.]

[16,112,300 experience has been acquired.]

‘Heok... Heok... Wow, I’m going crazy.’

He had spent a fortnight of Satisfy time trapped in the labyrinth. It was hard to keep moving through the dark labyrinth without knowing how much was left until the exit.

‘It might be different if the monsters are weak.’

The monster that appeared in the labyrinth were between level 400~420.

It took Grid at least three minutes to hunt one. The monsters were strong. Allowing one attack would decrease his health by at least one-fourth. If he met three or more monsters at once, it was hard to deal with them without relying on his immortality passive.

‘If it wasn’t for the immortal passive, I would’ve died and gone back to the 50th island.’

Just imagining it was horrible. Grid gulped and used magic.

[Magic Detection (Enhanced) Lv. 1 (93.1%)]

-The cooldown time is 4 minutes and 42 seconds-

‘Sigh...’

After entering the labyrinth, the newly acquired skill was almost at level 2. It was catching up with the level of Magic Missile. It showed how many times Grid had used Magic Detection, and how long he had travelled. Yet he still couldn’t find the exit...

Grid sighed and sat down. He would try and use Meditation to recover his health, mana, and stamina while waiting for the cooldown time of Magic Detection to end. But it was difficult to use Meditation since he needed the utmost concentration.

Grid was able to succeed in Meditation after two minutes.

[Entering a meditative state.]

[Increases health and mana regeneration rate by 50%, and stamina regeneration by 30%.]

[Skill cooldown time will be reduced by 10%.]

'Not bad.'

At first, it took him more than five minutes to succeed in Meditation. Grid was fairly satisfied with the current speed of Meditation while thinking back to that time.

'The level of the God Hands' Sword Mastery has gone up by quite a lot.'

Grid had certainly improved when compared to before he entered the Behen Archipelago. He was proud that he didn't walk on this path in vain. However...

'When can I escape this labyrinth?'

He wanted to at least clear it before the National Competition began. Come to think of it, he should be able to use Magic Detection again. Grid got up and approached the three paths in front of him.

'Magic Detection.'

Pahat!

Mana poured out as Grid tried to find life in one of the paths. However.

'Eh?'

No signs of life were detected anywhere. This was the first time.

'What am I supposed to do?'

According to Braham's advice, the closer he was to the exit of the labyrinth, the bigger the risk. But all three paths had no danger, so Grid couldn't help feeling confused.

'Should I ask Braham for help again?'

He already relied on Assimilation when he faced a big crisis three days ago. If he waited for the cooldown of Assimilation to return, wouldn't he need to wait at least six more days here? It was too big of a waste of time.

'In the first place...'

He felt like he degenerated every time he depended on Braham.

'Yes, haven't I been doing it all by myself so far?'

How could he overcome this situation? Grid took a deep breath and focused his mind to the limits. Then he discovered an answer.

'Perhaps?'

So far, monsters were waiting on all the paths he took...

'Maybe I have already passed the labyrinth?'

It was possible that the exit was right in front of him. However, he couldn't go back after stepping on a new path, so he was terrified.

'It will produce a much more valuable result than staying here.'

If his thoughts were wrong and he fell into a new labyrinth, he would just need to find the way out again. Grid raised all his courage and took the path in the middle.

At that moment.

[You have succeeded in breaking through the labyrinth!]

[You have acquired 2,150 challenger points for the mission success.]

[You have entered Treasure Island (the 57th island)!!]

[Escape from Treasure Island in the next three minutes.]

"Ohh...! Ohhhhhh!"

Grid was extremely excited. It was strange not to get excited as the island full of gold and treasures appeared before him.

'Today's lunch is seafood jajang!'

The moment that Grid decided to summon Noe and Randy to get more treasures.

[Fog Island haunts this island.]

Treasure Island was covered with a thick fog.

"Ah."

Grid shed tears. They were deep tears of regret.