

Overgeared 421

Chapter 421

Grid's shocking strength and bravery were backed by his items. It was enough to qualify as a tiger. It was relatively easy to avoid the combo of Transcended Link and Linked Kill Wave, but even Russia was forced to shrink back from the power of the items.

'Alexander was overwhelmed... I didn't know that the power of items was this much.'

'It isn't a match for Kraugel, but it can be compared to Night.'

'There's a limit on what the three of us can do.'

Night.

Night, an unofficial ranker who destroyed Alexander at the PvP competition held by the Russian government. Grid was so strong that they were reminded of Night's strength. The Russian representatives shuddered, while the third advancement users thought quickly.

'The two second advancement classes failed to escape from Grid's Transcended Link and fell down the mountain.'

'Those two are weak. If we're killed by Grid, it's impossible to win with just Kraugel and those two.'

'We should compromise here.'

Step, step.

Grid was approaching. If they didn't want to experience a catastrophe, they needed to make a quick decision. The Russia representatives made a suggestion to Grid.

"How about making an alliance?"

"Haven't you suffered a big loss of power? We won't fight until the end, instead we will help each other out with other countries. Won't we be invincible if we join forces?"

"Let's share the gold and silver medal."

The Russians thought that Grid would willingly accept the proposal. Currently, the only survivors of the Korean team were Grid, Yura, and Peak Sword. It was also clear that Yura and Peak Sword would soon be logged out by Kraugel.

'Grid would be left alone.'

'Grid will stubbornly fight.'

'It's the end for South Korea if Grid dies.'

'If Grid isn't a fool, he won't fight us until the end.'

The Russian representatives were sure of it.

"What if I don't want to?"

Grid showed an unexpected reaction. Was he stupid? No. He had steadily developed in the past year. It wasn't just his power, but his thinking abilities as well. He was always aware of Lael's advice and grasped the battlefield more accurately.

"The moment we ally with each other, it's likely that the other counties busy fighting each other will become alert towards us."

The countries currently alive were powerful. It wouldn't be good if they worked together in a pincer attack.

"Let's make it simple. I will kill you here as originally planned."

The Russians thought it was absurd. They hurriedly tried to persuade him.

"Think about it calmly! It's better to combine strengths rather than fighting and destroying both of us!"

"Destroying?" Grid asked like he didn't understand. "I will be destroyed by you?"

"...?"

The Russian representatives frowned.

"What is with this reaction? Don't tell me you believe that you can easily beat the three of us alone?"

"It doesn't seem that hard?"

Grid shrugged as he held Grid's Greatsword + Failure, which only had a short duration remaining. Grid's Greatsword and Failure were both weapons with a legendary rating. Once they were joined together through Item Combination, their power exceeded the 'sealed' myth rated weapons.

It was a weapon that couldn't be understood using the common sense of current users. What happened if the Rune of Darkness effect was added to the Blacksmith's Rage buff skill? It would make the 50% drop in PvP damage pointless.

[Opening the Rune of Darkness. Demonic power has permanently increased by 10. * For one minute, 20% addition shadow damage will be added to normal attacks and skills.]

[Blacksmith's Rage has been used. Attack power will increase by 25% and attack speed will increase by 40% for 35 seconds.]

Teong!

Grid rushed towards the Russian representatives. The Russians clicked their tongues at his ridiculous judgment and threw their weapons to weaken Grid's power.

Teteteteng!

"...!"

Their eyes widened. Grid surrounded his body with the black cloak and the weapons thrown at it were stuck or bounced back.

{W-What? Did you see that? What in the world is that cloak?}

{I've seen several legendary cloaks, but nothing like this...}

{Don't make a big fuss. Stay calm.}

Indeed, it was funny to be surprised at items. From the very beginning, Grid was the king of being overgeared.

{No matter how great his items are, he'll have definite limits.}

Grid's control skills were at the level of the low level rankers.

{Aim at this point.}

Pahat!

As soon as Grid got within a certain distance, the representatives of Russia formed a triangle shape with Grid in the center, isolating him. They linked skills that made use of the strengths of their different weapons, disturbing Grid and dealing constant damage.

It wasn't that Grid didn't know their intentions. His intense combat experience amplified Grid's judgement ability in a positive direction.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid moved naturally while using Pagma's Swordsmanship, avoiding the Russian rankers' non-targeted skills. This made the Russians feel astonished.

'Avoidance skills?'

'Grid?'

They didn't know. Over the past year, how hard Grid had been working to defeat stronger enemies and how much he developed. Then Grid gave them despair.

"Restraint."

A wide area CC was activated in an instant, causing the Russians to look contemplative. Grid swapped from Braham's Boots to Grid's Boots to raise the destructive power even more, and dealt a blow to them. At this moment, commentators, experts and viewers around the world were thrilled.

『 Pagma's Swordsmanship, it had an obvious weakness! The footwork is needed to use it. 』

『 In fact, in last year's National Competition, Grid was hit by a few rankers using this weakness. 』

『 But this year's Grid is different! He uses the skill while moving! Grid has learned how to avoid this weak point! 』

『 Overcoming weaknesses and sublimating weapons...! It's really amazing! Really great! Grid is actually a genius! 』

It was more than two years since Grid was exposed to the world. It wasn't a short amount of time, and at last, the world started to see Grid's true value.

A true top class.

'A monster was hiding on this small island.'

The Chinese representatives were upset. They ignored Japan as a small country. Yet Katz' strength was incredible. It was more than they predicted. Meanwhile, Damian was also very surprised.

'He's above the average level of Overgeared.'

'Genius at fighting' Hao.

The best person in China, whose population was over 1.3 billion, his strength was unrivalled. In particular, he had excellent control skill over secondary weapons like chains. Damian thought that Hao was equal to the top members of Overgeared.

Yet the more surprising thing...

'Katz is the same as Hao.'

"Blood Breath!"

"Dragon Fear!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

It was like a Hollywood blockbuster movie. As the magnificent and destructive confrontation between Hao and Katz deepened, the environment became worse. Damian used a wide range protection spell so that his teammates wouldn't be hurt by the damage.

'What will be the outcome?'

The Chinese representatives stood arrogantly, believing only in Hao's strength. On the other hand, the Japanese were nervous that Katz would be defeated by Hao. In the end, Japan couldn't wait any longer and moved.

"Don't fight head on. Retreat and fight!"

China boasted the best power in Asia and their average level was higher than Japan by 15. There were three third advancement classes. The moment that Yoshimura and the Japanese representatives were being pushed back by the momentum of the Chinese representatives.

"Don't run away and fight. Divine Protection, Incarnation of Light, Goddess' Blessing."

Damain used various buff skills.

[Divine Protection increases the defense of you and your party by 20% for 3 minutes.]

[Light Incarnation increases the attack power of you and your party by 10% for 3 minutes.]

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

“...!”

The effect was comparable to the buffs used by priests. In particular, the effects of Goddess’ Protection was beyond imagination, causing the Japanese rankers to feel shocked.

Katz was also impressed.

‘He isn’t the pope for nothing.’

The Blood Warrior had a passive blood-sucking effect, so his battle endurance was very good. With Damian’s buffs and healings, Katz would be able to hunt infinitely. Katz decided that he would surely turn Damian into his own person after the National Competition ended. He didn’t doubt it, because he believed in his wealth.

“Kuk...!”

Hao groaned because he couldn’t adjust to Katz’ rise in stats. It happened when Katz smiled triumphantly and was going to link a combo.

"Shed Weapon."

“...!”

Hao showed wonderful control through a different skill. He accurately grasped the orbit and speed of Katz’ sword, grabbed it and dropped Katz’ weapon to the ground.

[Your weapon ‘Crave’ has been released!]

[This is the result of a skill. You won’t lose ownership of the item. In 12 seconds, the item will return to your inventory.]

‘My weapon was forcefully removed?’

If he couldn’t pick up the sword that fell to the ground, he wouldn’t have a weapon for 12 seconds. Hao hit Katz’ chest and shoulders and used another skill.

"Shed Armor!"

“Shit!”

Once his armor was caught in Hao’s hands, Katz cursed as he felt the worst result. Then Hao’s sword tore through the single piece of cloth and pierced his abdomen.

“Cough...!”

‘It’s up to here.’

Hao wanted to finish Katz off completely. But he was worried about Damian’s intervention. While Katz was flinching, Hao stepped back and examined the battlefield.

“Ugh!”

“Hiik!”

Most of the screams came from the Chinese representatives. China was completely shaken by Japan.

‘Pope...’

Along with the fraudulent buffs, Damian occasionally used offensive magic and healing magic. He was showing off the ridiculous abilities of the first pope user, standing there with a laidback expression, like an old man who was drinking alcohol.

‘Japan is a strong team this year.’

They were also a candidate to win. Japan felt stronger than any country that Grid and the Overgeared members belonged to. It was almost like Russia or the United States. Thus, Hao had a question.

“Why? If you have this much power, why aren’t you absorbed in the target processing? Why abandon getting a medal?”

Damian responded like it was obvious.

“Isn’t Grid participating in this? Rather than losing and lowering the morale of the team, it’s better to give up on this event.”

“...?”

Hao had no direct experience with Grid. He’d only witnessed Grid’s videos in the past, so he couldn’t understand.

Lauel and Damian. Why did people who he acknowledged keep overestimating Grid?

‘No?’

The puzzled Hao became shocked. The only object of his awe, the score of the Russian team that Kraugel belonged to, completely stopped, while Korea’s score started to rapidly accelerate.

Chapter 422

Hao was able to guess what had happened when the scoreboards of Korea and Russia, who were first and second, stopped at almost the same time. Korea and Russia were confronting each other. Then after a while, Russia’s score would move again while Korea’s score would stop forever.

Hao believed it.

The result was the exact opposite.

‘It can’t be... Don’t tell me Grid defeated Kraugel?’

Hao was confused. The words that Lauel spoke during the Reidan invasion rang in his ears.

“Watch Grid’s path. You will soon know that he is the only sky.”

It was an obvious lie, so Hao just snorted. But.

‘What is this?’

Stagger.

Hao's body lost its balance. He leaned back against a tree and could barely stand because of dizziness. Hao had received a huge mental shock.

'Kraugel.'

The only one who brought frustration to Hao, who had believed he was the most gifted person in the world. No matter how Hao tried, he could never reach that sky. That high sky was being collapsed by another person, not him? He was bested by Grid?

"I have to confirm it... I must see it with my own eyes."

Until then, he couldn't understand. Like a man possessed by a ghost, Hao tried to escape the battlefield. Damian blocked his way.

"I can't let you go. If I let you go, I will be misunderstood by people again. This time, I might be called Chinese."

"You aren't qualified to decide if I go or not."

Hao didn't understand what Damian was talking about, but he opened his true power.

Kwaang!

There was an intense wave of energy.

Jjejeok!Jjejeok!

Hao's muscles rapidly swelled, while the skin of his chest, back, shoulders, abdomen, thighs and other parts of the body cracked. What appeared in the cracks of the skin? It wasn't flesh, muscles, or blood vessels. It was red scales.

Flap.

A pair of wings emerged from Hao's back and spread wide. They resembled the wings of a dragon.

Kudu!Kududuk!

10 black fingernails protruded like blades, while the white pupils tinged with gold froze the heart of anyone who looked in them.

Kururung!

Hot breath emerged like flames. The facial features were close to that of a human, but Hao also had partial features that were similar to a dragon. Currently, Hao's half-draconian form was level 2.

It increased his strength, agility, health, and resistance by 15%. He also got an incomplete flying ability, fire ability, and stamina regeneration ability. The disadvantage was that he couldn't use most of the skills available to humans, but the draconian Hao was less likely to rely on skills.

He had the ultimate physical form, so he relied on this and secondary weapons to win. The transformation into a draconian maximized his combat power.

"Get lost!"

Kuwaaaang!

A breath spewed out. His feelings about Kraugel were close to pure longing. One day, in the process of gazing at Kraugel with a desire to overcome him, he became a passionate follower of Kraugel.

Kraugel didn't know Hao, but Hao's route in life was closely related to Kraugel. The reason why he participated in this National Competition was because he heard Kraugel was participating.

Peeng!

Damian used a shield to block the fired breath and Hao approached Damian. Then he wielded his sharp claws. It was once against defended by Damian's shield.

Hwaruruk!

However, he was burned by the influence of the flames around Hao's body. Damian didn't feel great pain. He was the first paladin of the Rebecca Church, obtained the the first unique class Goddess' Agent and was now the pope.

His swordsmanship was taught by Piaro and was comparable to Grid's level. He boasted an overwhelming defense and endured Hao's flames.

Sakak-!

He couldn't dream of being a great swordsman, but he fought Hao with skills that could match a great swordsman.

Hao shook.

'He's even good with the sword?'

Hao knew that the pope was the ultimate priest. He was far different from the paladins that used swords and blunt weapons. But Damian had the various buff skills, healing skills and wide area attack skills of a pope, as well as the swordsmanship of a paladin.

That's right. Damian was a fraudulent character with the potential to become the greatest pope ever. He was really top class.

Chaaeng!

The moment Damian tried to slash at him, Hao spun to minimize damage and counterattack by kicking at Damian. Using the rebound, he opened the distance and used chains to restrain Damian's wrists.

Kkirik!Kik.

Damian's wrists were bound and he couldn't use a sword or shield. Hao looked at his confused expression and spread open his wings as widely as possible. Then he flapped once.

Peeng!

Hao's body accelerated and he shot towards Damian like a lightning bolt. It would be hard for Damian to cope. The wrists restrained by chains were pulled to the left and right, and he was forced to stand with

his arms wide open like a crucified Damian. The moment Hao was about to stab his claws into Damian's chest.

"Goddess' Wrath."

In the end, Damian showed off the power of the pope.

Chiiiiing!

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

Peeeeong!

Two huge pillars of light, which erased everything in a straight line, emerged from the circles and penetrated Hao's body. The momentum was so enormous that it caused an upheaval in the earth. Thanks to this, Hao flew far away and the chains binding Damian were loosened.

After releasing the chains, Damian wiped the sweat off his forehead.

"If this was before I became the pope, I wouldn't have been able to deal with you."

Hao angrily replied to Damian.

"It's the same now that you're the pope. I admit that you're strong, but you can't beat me."

Wide area magic had limits. In addition, the current state of the battle was the National Competition, where PvP damage was only at 50%. Hao wasn't affected by Goddess' Wrath. He was just knocked back.

Hao regained his posture and rushed to Damian again. He freely took advantage of the momentary acceleration caused by flapping his wings, showing off dazzling movements. Damian's defenses were exquisitely shredded and his counterattacks avoided.

As the battle progressed, Damian suffered one-sided damage.

"You're really strong."

Damian spoke honestly. Damian had lost one-third of his health, while Hao's health had recovered. Hao was really strong. It was difficult to hit him because his movements were so great.

"I'm going to show this skill to someone other than Grid."

Damian sighed.

He used the ultimate skill of the Goddess' Agent, Light's Blessing. It was the manifestation of the highest buff skill that was comparable to the pope's Goddess' Blessing.

[Light's Blessing will increase the defense attack power and accuracy of you and your party members by 80% for 3 minutes.]

It was ridiculous. The downside of this skill was the somewhat long cooldown time and high mana cost. In the case of the Goddess' Agent, the maximum mana wasn't high. Therefore, if a slight mistake was made with controlling mana, the skill couldn't be used at all.

But now Damian was the pope. His mana was at least 10 times higher than it was before, so he was able to use this buff skill without any burden.

Seokeok!

“Kuk...!”

The hit rate of Damian’s sword suddenly increased. He read the orbit and moved like his body was a magnet. Hao was upset.

‘A buff that dramatically increases hit rate...!’

High accuracy was the ‘system’ that disrupted control based evasion. It was the reason why rankers valued accuracy highly. However, items or skills that increased accuracy were rare. Therefore, it was hard to find a ranker with a level of accuracy that would make Hao’s control skills ineffective.

That person showed himself now.

Damian. Thanks to the buff, even his damage and defense greatly increased.

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

The flow started to reverse. Hao went on the defensive. More importantly, the Japanese representatives started to overwhelm the Chinese side. After a while, Hao, the only survivor of China, was isolated.

This sight shocked Asia.

『 C-China...! Asia’s strongest country has been defeated by Japan! 』

『 Damian’s abilities are far too great. He’s fighting one-on-one with Hao and isn’t pushed back at all. He also multiplied his party’s abilities several times with buffs... 』

『 Maybe Japan will cause the biggest upset of the tournament? 』

『 It wouldn’t be strange if Japan became the champion this year. 』

The stir created by Damian was even greater than that caused by Grid. On the other hand, Hao asked a final question before he was logged out.

"Despite having this much power, why do you value Grid so much?"

Damian replied.

"The one who made me who I am now is Grid."

The defeat of the fallen pope Drevigo, the conversion to Goddess’ Agent, and the defeat of pope candidate Pascal was all thanks to Grid.

With Damian’s abilities alone, he would’ve been limited to just being the Rebecca Church’s first paladin. It was only thanks to Grid that Damian could grow and save Rebecca’s Daughters.

"Grid is my god. It’s natural that he’s much greater than me."

"..."

Currently, Damien had the attention of the world. Hundreds of cameras were filming Damian and transmitting it to every country in real time. Whether they understood or not. Thanks to Damian deifying Grid, the world was turned upside down.

The world's curiosity and enthusiasm for Grid deepened further.

Chapter 423

Before Grid raided Russia.

As Grid predicted, Kraugel targeted South Korea. It was because among the countries that remained, South Korea had the highest score. Of course, he didn't intend to fight to kill. He planned to keep Korea in check by preventing them from concentrating on the target processing.

Kraugel wasn't in a perfect state. Yes, he was like a car out of fuel. It was the same as just after his confrontation with Piaro. What if he faced Grid now?

Kraugel was sure that the probability of his defeat was more than 80%. It was shocking if Kraugel was to be defeated by someone, but Kraugel knew. He wasn't invincible. In addition, Grid was strong.

'This?'

Kraugel stopped moving through the forest. In the sky above. The golden hands holding weapons were handling the targets.

'...The God Hands.'

South Korea's score was slowly but steadily rising. Kraugel realized that it was thanks to the God Hands. He looked around and confirmed that there were no signs of Grid. He had to neutralize the God Hands.

But.

Chaaeng!

'Indeed, destroying them is impossible.'

The God Hands were ridiculously durable. After being hard by White Fang, causing them to stiffen for 2~3 seconds was the limit.

Bururu.

The God Hands' protection system was activated. They started targeting Kraugel.

'The Sword Mastery skill is attached?'

The God Hands had grown compared to when he faced them in Reidan. They were stronger and faster. Kraugel guessed that the God Hands could hunt level 200 monsters alone. They were really great items.

Indeed, it was the private item of Pagma's Descendant.

'Will a sword saint have an item only for them?'

Kraugel imagined it as he avoided the attacks of the God Hands in a relaxed manner. It was like a professional boxer facing four elementary school children.

“...?”

Once the God Hands were drawn to him, South Korea’s score had completely stopped. Now Kraugel jumped with surprise. It was because Russia had been increasing the gap from South Korea, only for their score to suddenly stop.

‘It can’t be!’

Kraugel felt like he had been hit in the back of the head. It was clear that someone attacked Russia while he was away, and that someone was likely to be Grid.

‘Go back.’

Kraugel determined that it was impossible for Russia’s representatives to deal with Grid and was going to return.

Tatang!

Around 120 meters to the rear. A sniper shot came from behind a huge rock. A bullet made of magic power. Based on the direction of the sound and the wind, Kraugel predicted the point of impact. He moved his waist and avoided the magic bullet.

Peeng!

The tree behind Kraugel exploded, the shockwave causing Kraugel’s long ponytail to become a mess. It revealed his face that was as beautiful as a sculpture.

『 As expected from Kraugel! This is the control skill of the 1st ranked user! As long as it isn’t a definitive attack, he can avoid almost all of it! 』

『 I received some statistics just now. In this target processing match, Kraugel avoided a total of 502 out of 537 non-targeted skills... Heok, is this data wrong? 』

『 He has gone beyond the realm of a human... 』

The former 5th ranked Yura. Despite her appearance and her hidden class, the world was only focused on Kraugel. Yura one of the most popular women in the world, was only a supporting figure when placed next to Kraugel, the peak of two billion users.

『 How long will Yura grab Kraugel’s ankle? 』

『 Currently, Kraugel is in a tired state. Since she was the 5th ranked user, shouldn’t Yura be able to hold on for five minutes? 』

『 No. Since the old days, Yura was vulnerable to close combat. She can only withstand for one minute. 』

As the commentators and experts speculated, Kraugel rushed towards Yura with White Fang. Kraugel was convinced that Yura was a gunman, so he focused on narrowing the distance. Yura planned to buy time while running away, but...

‘Fast!’

Kraugel's speed was much faster than expected. The actual speed of movement was similar to Yura, but Kraugel grasped the forest terrain in an instant and minimized his movements, making it more efficient.

Kraugel caught up to Yura. At this time, the God Hands had completely left Grid's sphere of influence. Therefore, they no longer targeted Kraugel and were forced to return to Grid's inventory.

Chaaeng!

Kraugel wielded White Fang without any hesitation. Yura defended with Alex's Magic Engineering Gun in rifle mode and shuddered. Kraugel's white sword had gone over the top of the barrel and stabbed into her heart.

Puok!

"Uh...!"

A truth that everyone overlooked was that Kraugel's greatest strength wasn't his control skill, but his ridiculously high level. Due to the gap in level, there was a bonus to the attack power, defense resistance and accuracy.

Yura had just reached level 260 and wasn't able to cope with Kraugel who was level 343. She suffered great damage. Kraugel was surprised by this.

"You, why is your level so low?"

Yura was 5th on the unified rankings. Half a year ago, she had already crossed level 300. But looking at the damage that Yura received, she didn't seem to have experienced her third stats awakening yet. She was just a paper body, despite the excellent condition of her armor.

Why? What would make her level drop so drastically? Kraugel was feeling confused when Yura whispered in his ear.

"I believe that one day you will know why."

"...!"

Kraugel hurriedly moved back. Yura's magic gun suddenly transformed into a sword. The barrel divided into four and a blue blade emerged.

Pit!

The aim was Kraugel's face. The sword left a wound on his left eye, causing blood to flow.

"..."

The owner of the second legendary class, Yura. Like a flower blossoming, the blue light of the sword illuminated the strong will in her eyes. Kraugel's black eyes sank coldly while the commentators were extremely excited.

『 Yura has dealt a wound to Kraugel! 』

『 Yura's strength can't be ignored! 』

『 What is Yura's weapon? How did the magic gun turn into a sword? 』

General magic engineering guns only supported rifle mode and pistol mode. But Yura's magic gun changed into a sword, making the commentators feel disbelief. The experts speculated.

『 It's a magic engineering gun made by dwarves. 』

『 It's likely that Yura has travelled to the dwarf city of Talima. 』

『 However, this isn't a card that will upset the battlefield. 』

Yura was presumed to have obtained the gunman hidden class. She didn't possess the Sword Mastery skill. In the first place, swordsmanship was out of the question for a black magician. This was what the experts thought, but...

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

Surprisingly, Yura's swordsmanship was at a good level. She fought back and directly received Kraugel's counterattacks. The spectacular effects that occurred when the two people crossed swords dazzled the viewers.

But this tense confrontation didn't last long. Yura's swordsmanship wasn't comparable to Kraugel, and above all, their level and stats difference was too great.

Peok!

After throwing away Yura's sword, Kraugel raised his sword vertically. He put his knee on Yura's shoulder and held the handle of his sword. It was the precursor of 'Jajinmori.' (TL: only thing I could find was related to music, basically the fastest tempo.)

Peeeong!

"...!"

He was kicked in the chest and Yura rushed away. Kraugel tried to hit her by throwing a secondary weapon. But at this time, he felt an intense energy from the rear.

While Yura grabbed Kraugel's attention, Peak Sword aimed for a surprise attack from the rear.

"Draw Sword, Sudden."

Piing.

Once Peak Sword's sword was pulled out, there was a sharp burst of energy and it suddenly flew at Kraugel. Fast. In the first place, drawing sword techniques weren't easy to avoid. Even Kraugel, with his keen senses and insight, wasn't able to avoid the skill that was used with perfect timing.

Seokeok!

"Cough!"

The sword penetrated Kraugel's chest, causing him to cough up blood.

'Dangerous.'

The moment this thought crossed his mind, the figure of his mother appeared in front of him.

'...Stand up.'

Kraugel was at the last of his strength. Yura turned her weapon back into pistol mode and fired magic bullets at him.

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

Kraugel's body was consecutively hit by magic bullets. Peak Sword recovered his sword and prepared for his next attack. Then Kraugel used 'True Clouds'. A blue cloud-like haze covered the area.

'I can't see.'

Yura and Peak Sword were nervous because they could see Kraugel within the clouds. They didn't know when and where Kraugel would appear to attack them. After 20 seconds, Kraugel didn't attack them and the clouds completely disappeared.

He had run away. It was because the continuous battles had pushed Kraugel's stamina and mana to the depleted state. Kraugel decided to survive and maintain Russia's score, keeping the silver medal, rather than kill Yura and Peak Sword.

Then 20 minutes later. South Korea scored 400 points and the target processing match was automatically stopped.

『 The 2nd Satisfy National Competition, there was an upset from the very first event! 』

<The shocking drop of the United States and the rise of South Korea, Russia, and Japan.>

<Zibal is weak, Kraugel is strong. The gap between the 1st and 2nd ranked users is like the difference between heaven and earth?>

<The tearful struggle of Russia's only survivor, Kraugel... After keeping Canada in check, he won the silver medal.>

<Grid, an attack power and defense that surpassed the nerf.>

<(Review) Let's analyze Grid's items in depth.>

<(Column) Maybe the real strongest person is Damian?>

<The Rebecca Church's pope has deified Grid... I hope Goddess Rebecca's jealousy won't turn to Grid.>

<Is Damian really Korean instead of Japanese?>

<The collapse of China, which was proud of being Asia's strongest country.>

<Greece and Britain fought the entire time, and couldn't even handle one target... The people of both countries are blaming Regas and Seuron.>

<Canada's Vantner and Chris conflicted with each other, causing them to eventually miss the silver medal.>

<Bondre and Bubut are people of the past.>

<Tarma had zero presence. Are the rumors exaggerated, or is Grid too strong?>

<(Column) The gap between second and third advancement classes is greater than expected.>

After the opening day finished. There was a brief press conference and the players returned to their rooms.

Shang X Lila Hotel. The Korean representatives were gathered in Grid's room.

"Amazing! Amazing! Korea won the gold medal at a team event. No one would've imagined it!!"

Peak Sword shouted excitedly.

"This is all thanks to Grid, Yura, and Peak Sword."

"I'm sorry that we were no help to you."

"Hah, we are useless. We were completely disruptive..."

Kyunghook, Sumin, and Jinhee couldn't lift their heads. The proud people trembled from their helplessness. The atmosphere suddenly sank. Surprisingly, the one to encourage them wasn't Peak Sword.

It was Grid.

"No, this result is due to all of us. If all of you weren't present, we wouldn't have won the gold medal."

Grid had been despised for incompetence his whole life. That's why he knew.

"There are no worthless people in the world. Everyone has their own personality and talent. Always have pride in yourself."

As soon as a human saw themselves as unnecessary, their lives would be at risk. Their self-esteem would collapse and they couldn't overcome misfortunes due to their misery. Just like the Grid of the past.

The smiling Grid. As the protagonist of the gold medal, he wasn't arrogant and shared his achievements with everyone. Yura felt that he had matured. It was interesting and pleasant to watch a man who was becoming an adult day by day.

Chapter 424

Ture Hotel.

The hotel where Russia, Brazil, and Japan were staying had a special area. It was a capsule room limited for just the National Competition. The representatives from various countries could play Satisfy any time they wanted in their hotels.

Kraugel visited this place. There was 14 hours and 23 minutes remaining until the start of day two of the National Competition. In the meantime, Kraugel planned to raise his level in Satisfy. Most

representatives were exploring Paris or unburdening themselves with drinking, but Kraugel couldn't afford to enjoy the present.

His only aim was to win the National Competition, and he would do his best to achieve this goal. Kraugel was about to sit in the capsule when someone called to him. It was Alexander, one of the representatives of Russia.

"So what if you play games until you die? In the end, it's about winning the gold medals."

Alexander moved in front of Kraugel. He had a height of 190cm and a muscular figure, making him look threatening to anyone. His thick finger poked Kraugel's chest.

"The sky above the sky? Stop fooling around. In the end, because of your incompetence, Russia missed the gold medal and you won't be able to fix your mother's illness."

The skinhead Alexander treated yellow skinned people as more useless than monkeys. Russia was beaten by Grid and Alexander pushed all responsibilities Kraugel, who didn't come to save them. Kraugel was silent for a moment.

Kwack!

"Ugh!"

Alexander's face crumpled. It was because Kraugel grabbed his wrist and his grip was too strong and terrible.

'How does a yellow skinned person have such power?'

Kraugel was as feminine as a woman. Alexander couldn't believe that Kraugel could exert more power than him. With a force that was enough to break the wrist, Kraugel whispered in a desolate voice.

"I was forced to endure it on the opening day, but not anymore."

Yes, Kraugel hadn't figured out the team's tendencies at the start of the match. He was forced to give the lead to Alexander, but not anymore.

"You aren't in a position to say anything. I am the dominant one in this relationship."

Flinch!

Kraugel's black eyes were deeper than the abyss. Alexander felt a strange fear because he couldn't read any emotions in these eyes. This was just a yellow skinned person. Alexander couldn't admit it and tried to swing his fist.

"This damn monkey hasn't grasped who you are going against...!"

"..."

Did the physical abilities of the real body affect the virtual reality body? The experts' opinion was 'no.' The body in virtual reality was completely separate from the physical body. In order to move the virtual reality body better, the important factor wasn't the physical abilities, but the interaction of the brain.

In this regard, Kraugel thought that 'experience' was an important factor. For example, swordsmanship. Swinging a sword 10 times in reality meant it was possible to use a sword in the virtual world without Sword Mastery. Of course, the ability to use a sword was communicated through commands from the brain.

Before Satisfy was released. They were the days when he didn't know about his mother's condition. Kraugel participated in many sports and martial arts with pure passion. It was with the attitude of becoming the supreme person in Satisfy.

A slender body? That was only when wearing clothes. Kraugel's sleek muscles hidden under his clothes were comparable to professional martial artists.

Peeok!

"Kuack...!"

Kraugel evaded Alexander's fist and punched his face. The process was as fast as lightning, causing Alexander to fall and see stars.

Kuuong!

Kraugel placed his foot on Alexander's thick neck.

Kkuok!

"Kek...! Keeek!"

Alexander felt great pain from his vocal cords being pressed on. Kraugel spoke to the terrified Alexander.

"I know people like you. You're a type of gangster who doesn't obey until you are trampled on. You decided that I couldn't be targeted in virtual reality, but reality is different. Isn't that right?"

Kkuok!

Kraugel placed greater weight onto the foot on Alexander's neck. In the end, Alexander's face turned white. He still couldn't see any emotions in Kraugel's eyes. Alexander realized that Kraugel wasn't afraid of hurting people.

'This guy... This guy is the real deal.'

He could kill a person. A person who absolutely shouldn't be touched.

Alexander shook as Kraugel gave a last warning.

"If you ever mention my mother with that filthy mouth of yours again, I will pull your tongue out. In addition, don't grab my ankle in the next team event. New medicine? Russia isn't the only one who has it, so you can't control me."

"...!"

Tang tang!

Alexander, who had difficulty breathing, banged his hand several times on the floor in surrender. It was a signal of surrender. But Kraugel didn't let him off easily. He pressed down on Alexander's neck, staring down silently for a long amount of time.

Alexander felt dizzy due to lack of oxygen and couldn't meet Kraugel's eyes. The hierarchical relationship was perfectly established.

'An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.'

Kraugel was forced to be an eternal outsider in Russia, where trash like Alexander lived. This personality was revealed during his first meeting with Piaro. Alexander ran away after Kraugel let him go.

Kraugel lay down in the capsule with an uneasy expression.

'Russia is the only one who has the new medicine.'

Satisfy was the largest culture and business in the world, so Kraugel's value was astronomical. There were countless countries who wanted him to immigrate there. However, none of them had developed a new drug that could treat Alzheimer's.

Yes, Kraugel needed to lead Russia to victory.

[Scanning your body.]

[Recognize your iris.]

[Verifying the user's information.]

[The capsule protection system is working.]

[Log in to Satisfy.]

Chiiiiing!

Kraugel's eyes slowly cleared. His five senses were sucked into Satisfy. Then after a while. A capsule in the corner opened. The person who got up was Jishuka.

"Kraugel had this story."

She had laid down in the capsule before Kraugel and heard a noise before logging in. Then she unintentionally learned Kraugel's story. This information, she needed to tell Grid and Overgeared. Jishuka rushed over to Shang X Lila Hotel.

"The combination of sweet and salty is very good."

"It melts in my mouth."

Shang X Lila Hotel's restaurant.

The South Korean representatives were dining there. The restaurant had three Michelin stars, so the food was excellent. Even Peak Sword, who was an enthusiast about Korean food, had to acknowledge this taste.

“The cooking skills are great. I want to try the kimchi stew made by the chef of this restaurant.”

“...”

It was hard to understand why he would want to eat kimchi stew made by a French chef. In this atmosphere, Grid felt frustrated.

“Why is the rate of service so slow when the amount of food is so small? The restaurant owner is incredibly lazy.”

Grid was a typical modern Korean used to delivery food. The average time was 15 minutes. However, the French restaurant took 2~3 hours on average for a course, causing Grid to feel horribly frustrated.

“In this case, it would be better to just boil ramyun. Michelin is a waste of time.”

“Um... I would like to try the soybean paste stew made by the chef of this restaurant...”

“...”

The frustrated Grid and Peak Sword who was talking nonsense. The two people made it difficult to relax and enjoy the food. The party thought that they shouldn't eat with Grid and Peak Sword from the next meal onwards.

On the other hand, Yura was glad. She felt a strange happiness just sitting at the same table as Grid. If she was with Grid, she could endure eating instant noodles three times a day for the rest of her life.

“You're this far from home, how about having a glass of wine?”

A restaurant where a nice piano melody was flowing. A youth with silver hair approached the raucous South Korean table. His blue eyes was as beautiful and clear as the sky. It was Lauel. Despite his casual appearance, he looked like a noble as he held out a bottle of red wine.

It was a relatively recent vintage of Romane X. Only 6,000 bottles of wine were produced a year, it was one of the finest limited quality wines. Lauel had prepared such a precious wine for Grid and was touched by his own loyalty.

“This body of wine, like the blood that flowed in my body for thousands of years, is lavish and sublime. This red wine is the symbol of me, Lauel... It reflects my will to be in your heart forever.”

The Korean members paled. Their hands and feet shrivelled up from Lauel's words. But Grid, Peak Sword, and Yura were fine. Yura had outstanding composure, while Grid and Peak Sword didn't have good English.

“Okay, okay.”

“Do you know God Grid?”

Grid and Peak Sword responded as they accepted the wine that Lauel brought. However, drinking soju and rice wine was still the best.

“...”

Lauel was speechless as he watched tens of thousands of dollars disappearing in vain. In this chaotic atmosphere...

“Listen to my story!”

Jishuka ran in and started to tell Kraugel’s story. But there wasn’t a translator so the only people who could understand here were Yura and Lauel. Lauel watched Grid and said to Yura and Jishuka.

“For the moment, keep this a secret from Grid.”

Lauel knew that Grid and Kraugel had a great affinity with each other. If Grid knew about Kraugel’s circumstances, he might not be able to fully concentrate on the National Competition.

“I will fix this problem.”

He learned how to get Kraugel into Overgeared. Lauel smiled with satisfaction and headed to his room.

Then the next day. The 2nd day of the National Competition began.

Chapter 425

There was a total of three events on the 2nd day of the National Competition.

The first game was ‘Keep the Base.’

The goal was to defend against an infinite amount of monsters, installing defense turrets and traps from goods present in the base, surviving longer than anyone else. The placement of the turrets and traps was the key, requiring a high amount of strategy and wits.

Park Jonghwa was the Korean representative who participated in this game.

『 Lauel of the United States has won the gold medal and Bondre of France has won the silver medal! 』

『 Bondre was doing well until the middle of the game, where he rapidly lost concentration in the second part. 』

『 In a situation where the anti-aircraft guns were insufficient, the appearance of the flying monsters on a large scale was a critical factor. 』

『 On the other hand, Lauel had enough anti-aircraft guns. Despite the fact that flying monsters didn’t appear until the second half, he didn’t neglect the existence of the anti-aircraft guns on the list, consistently installing them. 』

『 The bronze medal went to Vantner of Canada, who used the traps well. 』

『 Using his taunting and charging skills properly, he placed the monsters into the traps. It’s to be admired. 』

『 It’s hard to believe he’s the hot-blooded person who grabbed Chris’ ankle during the target processing. 』

『 Um... Originally, tankers should have good teamwork. However, Vantner seems more specialized in solo play. He's a person who would act like a variable in Overgeared. 』

The Spanish representative, Pon, snorted as he watched the match.

"He's a vacuum, not a variable."

Pon smiled sarcastically. He fought with Vantner every day, but they had known each other for a long time. Pon congratulated Vantner and was happy.

The second event that followed was 'Catching Pigs.' Out of the thousands of identical pink pigs, the participants had to find the pigs with black dots and handle them. The pigs without dots had unlimited health and couldn't be killed, so their numbers continued to grow.

The gold medal winner was the person with the ability to observe their target and not lose concentration...

『 Brazil's Jishuka! 』

『 Her observation abilities are great. How can she find the dots among all the identical pigs? 』

『 It must be Hawk Eyes, Hawk Eyes. It is the ability to see 30m away while maintaining a safe distance from the target. 』

『 The crowd became mixed up again when a target was handled, but she didn't miss any shots. She has great concentration. 』

『 Jishuka alone scored higher than the sum of the scores of the 2~5th places. 』

『 In one word, it's overwhelming. 』

In the second event, Brazil won the gold medal, Britain the silver medal, and the bronze medal went to the United States. The countries with outstanding archers monopolized the score.

"Grid, did you see? Later in the night, I will go to your room and receive your congratulations!"

At the press conference after the event. One of the sexiest women in the world, Jishuka made a remark that caused shockwaves.

-Going to his room? -_-;;

-An adult man and woman, what are they going to do in the room...?

-Hah...I'm jealous of Grid...Doing things at night with a sexy girl like that...

-He probably saved the planet in a past life.

-Damn Grid...

"Why are my ears ticklish?"

As Grid become the public enemy of the men of the world, the competition was becoming heated up.

Then the third game in the afternoon.

Hell running. It was a map that embodied a part of hell. The first person to arrive at the destination while avoiding obstacles and the threat of the demonkin would be the winner. The interest of the Satisfy players was very high. It was comparable to their interest in team events and PvP.

Hell. It was a great opportunity for them to indirectly experience the land that no one had visited yet.

"You should pay attention. Hell is likely to be the ultimate content in Satisfy."

The reserved audience seats. Lael suddenly came to the place where the Korean representatives were gathered and sat beside Grid.

"Hell will be one of the countless lands that you will reign over."

Except for Grid and Peak Sword, the Korean representatives moved away from Lael. They still didn't have resistance towards his chuuni nature.

"Hell... It was a little strange."

Grid was currently wearing an interpreter. Thanks to that, Lael understood his words and was shocked.

"Have you visited hell before?"

"Just for a short time."

"Wow."

He visited hell? It sounded like a joke or a bluff. But the one saying it was Grid. Lael had to believe him.

"What was it like?"

"Hrmm."

Lael's eyes shone like lanterns, but Grid turned his gaze away. Yura was participating in 'Hell Running' for South Korea. The match was about to start.

"Confirm it with your own eyes. It's much better than hearing from me, since I only experienced it for a few minutes."

Grid was also interested in hell. His demonic power was now at 830, so Grid never knew when he would go back to hell.

It was very meaningful to experience certain contents ahead of others. They were able to acquire faster and more accurate information than others, becoming a driving force of their growth. In that sense, hell running was a very important event and the participants were spectacular.

Zibal of the United States, Hao of China, Seuron of Argentina, Regas of Britain, etc. The strongest people of each country were participating in this event. Their intentions were to experience hell, rather than focus on the gold medal. In a nutshell, they prioritized individual development rather than national honor.

The criticism of the people? In this event, they didn't mind. They were those who were dreaming higher.

Kraugel foresaw this. That's why Alexander participated in hell running instead of Kraugel. He judged that Alexander would be able to secure gold. He might miss out on the opportunity to experience hell, but he was doing his best to treat his mother's illness.

[You have entered hell.]

[You are affected by a strong evil energy.]

[Your body is exhausted. Attack power, defense, and agility will decrease by 30%.]

[Health won't recover naturally.]

[You have received a mental blow. Mana regeneration rate will slow by 50%.]

"There are a lot of debuffs."

"There's no health recovery? Do we have to depend on only potions and recovery skills?"

"Look at the speed of mana regeneration. We can't abuse our skills."

"Um... Solo play in hell is impossible."

The representatives were confused by the debuffs. They felt like they were being rejected from hell. However, Yura was different.

[Hell is a Demon Slayer's true stage!]

[All stats will increase by 20%.]

[Skill cooldown time will be reduced by 20%.]

[The power of all purification skills will increase by 15%.]

[Magic bullet production rate has increased to the maximum.]

[Health and mana regeneration rate will increase by 50%.]

'My stage.'

The Demon Slayer class. Yura was amazed and thrilled by the power of the legendary class, which was superior in all respects to a normal class. However, it fell behind in many ways when compared to Pagma's Descendant. Of course, Grid had opened up several hidden pieces while Yura couldn't open even one. Even taking that in consideration, the Demon Slayer was a combat specialized class, yet it had a much weaker impact than Pagma's Descendant.

Yura wondered if she was wrong about this class and became anxious. But now it turned out that the Demon Slayer had a real stage. In accordance with the name, this was a class that exerted its true power in hell. This was very positive news. Sooner or later, the content about hell would open and Demon Slayer was predicted to be the strongest class in hell.

Yura was looking forward to how she could develop in the future.

『 32 participants representing each country are at the starting line. 』

『 We have all the greatest players gathered together. 』

『 I'm particularly looking forward to Damian, Hao, Sueron, Zibal, Pon, and Regas. 』

『 I don't know what type of variables the stage called hell will produce... For now, they could be considered the biggest favorites to win. 』

『 In particular, I'm expecting a lot from Damian. A pope who can use the power of the goddess of light will surely do great damage to the demonkin. 』

『 I agree. In this event, there's more room for Damian to act than Kraugel. 』

『 Is that why Kraugel gave up on this event? 』

People didn't care about Yura. She struggled against Kraugel, so the expectations for her were low. The hidden class she obtained wasn't that great and the limitations were clear. But after a while, people in the world were paying attention to Yura.

Hell moon. It distinguished between those who experienced the Behen Archipelago and those who hadn't. Yura quickly dealt with the demonkin and avoided the obstacles. The other participants were focused on grasping hell itself.

In contrast, Alexander was running alone and complaining about Yura. He couldn't overlook the fact that she was ahead of him.

'This damn girl.'

She was beautiful and had excellent abilities. But she was still yellow skinned. Kraugel and Grid were inevitable, but other yellow skinned people shouldn't be ahead of him. Why? The race itself was trivial.

Alexander thought this and attacked Yura. The hardened aura stretched out and stabbed Yura in the back. Alexander was strong and had a much higher level than Yura. When viewed objectively, Alexander was in a position to crush Yura. But an unexpected result occurred.

The environment was the problem. Currently, Alexander received serious debuffs while Yura received rather large buffs.

"Kuaaaaak!"

Yura stopped Alexander's attack by turning her weapon into a sword, then she immediately fired a magic bullet. Alexander suffered terrible pain. After firing at him a few more times, Yura shifted her gun into a sword and attacked. After that. The main character of hell running and the one who won gold was Yura. Alexander barely escaped from Yura and received the silver medal.

After the event was over. n front of reporters, Yura looked at the camera and said.

"Grid, tonight I will go to your room for praise...please let me in."

Her expression was detached but her voice was shaky. Her white face turned red. Yura was embarrassed, but she didn't want to lose to Jishuka. There was another uproar on the Internet.

-Grid ##

-A man must have no conscience to steal two beautiful girls.

It was the day when the incarnation of jealousy was born all over the world. Grid's anti-fan cafe, which had been quiet for a while, suddenly became noisy.

Chapter 426

『 This year's National Competition has reduced the number of participants in each country. 』

『 Thus, the siege system has been changed. 』

『 Now that the siege is ahead of us, let's take a look at that changed system. 』

Siege was classified as a team event. All participants from 32 countries had an obligation to participate. It would be held in a tournament form, the matches determined by drawing lots.

『 Up to here is the same as last year. However, there are a few things added. Every country will get 50 NPCs that are level 300. It's the organizer's intention to expand the size of the siege and diversify the strategies. 』

『 Level 300 means they are third advancement NPCs. The presence of these NPCs will be overwhelming given that only 47 out of the 224 National Competition participants are third advancement. 』

『 That's right. The key to this siege is how effectively you use the NPCs, rather than the strength of individuals. 』

『 Will they destroy the enemies or take possession of the enemy's castle? The two countries with the highest probability of winning are... 』

『 It's the United States and Japan. The United States has Lauel's strategies while Japan has Damian's buffs. 』

『 Lauel's strategy and Damian's buffs... Doesn't Damian have a high chance? So what if Lauel has an outstanding strategy? The Japanese team's NPCs who receive Damian's buffs will be overwhelming. 』

『 We can't ignore Bubac of Turkey. He might be defeated by Grid every time in PvP, but Bubac's true strength shines in large scale battles. Bubac might sweep through the battlefield. 』

『 We also can't miss Canada. As the peak of the guardian knights, Vantner has wide range taunts and the strongest tanking power. If this is combined with Chris' overwhelming damage, they can neutralize the NPCs. 』

『 These five countries can be considered the best candidates. 』

『 What about Russia and South Korea? They have Kraugel and Grid. 』

『 Haha, that's impossible. It's true that Kraugel and Grid are the strongest. 』

『 But Russia and South Korea don't have any obvious buffers or strategists. 』

『 If the third advancement NPCs can tie up Kraugel and Grid's feet, Russia and South Korea will collapse. 』

『 In particular, the South Korean players are weak... I think it will be hard for them to even move to the round of 16. 』

The second day of events finished. Yura and Jishuka really came to Grid's room. The purpose of their visit to Grid was very pure, unlike people's dirty imaginations. They each won a gold medal. Therefore, they wanted to celebrate with their favorite man. They just wanted to have a good time talking with Grid.

That's right. Both women had no dating experience and were acting cautiously. Fortunately, Grid didn't misunderstand Yura and Jishuka's visit. It was because Grid lost confidence in relationships after being trampled on by his first love, Ahyoung. He thought that Yura and Jishuka treated him this way because they were friends and colleagues. He never imagined that the world's greatest beauties and talents would like him. He treated them as friends.

He sat on the couch and watched TV with them without any agitation. Grid was even chewing dried squid.

"..."

Even so, was there no mood? Yura wore a white dress down to her ankles and showed an innocent beauty. Jishuka wore a figure revealing dress that reflected her sensuality. They wanted to maximize their charms to appeal to Grid. They gazed at Grid who was scratching his stomach while wearing a t-shirt and shorts.

In this uncomfortable atmosphere, Grid spoke after being deeply immersed in the news for a long time.

"No matter how hard I think, it will be difficult to win a gold medal in the siege."

Grid knew better than anyone about Lauel and Damian's strengths. He couldn't beat them when it came to a siege. Jishuka leaned her chest on Grid's forearm and responded.

"Aren't you giving up too easily?"

Grid was aiming for the top. It was to reign as the absolute existence. Jishuka thought that Grid should try his best in any situation. Grid felt Jishuka's soft chest and Yura's cold eyes and cleared his throat. Then he spoke while chewing on dried squid.

"I have directly experienced Damian's buff, and it's a complete scam. If it's given to 50 third advancement NPCs..."

Was it adding wings to a tiger? No, more than that. It was giving birth to a monster unit. It was terrible when he imagined it.

"Then Youngwoo, do you think that Japan will win the siege event?"

Grid nodded at Yura's question.

"Japan or the United States."

The arena selected for the siege was Anterava Forest. Two large castles faced each other across a forest. But this forest was huge. The thorny road that couldn't be cut, the misty road where it was impossible to see in front, and the swampy road that was hard to escape from. There were many dangerous areas judged to be impossible to move through, so there were only eight ways to make it through the forest.

It was a siege map with eight available routes to invade the other team's castle. This was enough to make Lauel's strategies shine.

'It will happen like this as long as the US and Japan don't meet in the beginning.'

In the end, Grid assumed that the US and Japan would play in the finals.

"Then what about South Korea?"

Jishuka asked Grid, who was locked in serious thought. Grid's response...

"As the experts said, we would be lucky to enter the round of 16."

Yura didn't deny it. South Korea relied on Grid too much, but it wasn't difficult to tie Grid up with the third advancement NPCs.

"Well, Brazil is the same."

Brazil was classified as a minor country in Satisfy. Furthermore, Jishuka was a normal class and didn't have Grid's potential.

Suuk.

Jishuka smiled bitterly and rose from the couch. She looked around at Grid's room with curiosity and interest. She was trying to grasp Grid's taste and tendencies.

"Hehe, isn't this bed quite big? It isn't a bed for people to sleep in alone."

It was too hard on her yesterday and today and she fought for the honor of her country and Overgeared. Jishuka was mentally and physically tired, so she lay on Grid's bed without any impure intentions. Then she literally fell asleep.

"Wow."

"..."

Grid was embarrassed and Yura was caught in a crisis. Yura thought she might lose Grid to Jishuka and eventually lay on the bed as well. Thanks to that, Grid slept on the couch. To be honest, he wanted to enjoy the luxury of sleeping next to Yura and Jishuka. However, he was afraid that he would be reported as a sexual harasser.

Shang X Lila Hotel's 3rd floor hallway.

One man was hiding at the entrance of the corridor and watching Grid's room. It was the representative of the United States and the 2nd ranked user, Zibal.

“Ugh... In the end, he’s going to sleep with both of them?”

Zibal was a man. He particularly liked pretty girls. In other words, like most men in the world, he had instinctive feelings for Yura and Jishuka. But they were very tough. He didn’t tell anyone this, but he actually had an experience where he was rejected.

But Grid! This person who seemed worse than him was currently having a frenzied night with both women. It had already been three hours since Yura and Jishuka entered Grid’s room, and no one had come out. Zibal couldn’t understand why such bright women would fall for Grid.

‘You... You are big.’

He had items in the game and boundless energy in reality? Zibal was feeling envious when a hand touched his shoulder. He looked back in surprise and saw Lauel.

“I’ve been looking for you for a while. I didn’t expect you to be a voyeur.”

"I’m not a voyeur! What do you think of me...?"

“Ah, calm down. It doesn’t matter what sickness you are suffering from. Come back to my room.”

“Why?”

"Why not? Are you going to hide here all night in front of Grid’s room? Do you want to get a glimpse of Yura and Jishuka’s ankles? Kukuk."

“That’s not it! Why do I have to go back to your room with you?”

"I’m holding an operational meeting to prepare for the siege tomorrow."

“Ah...!”

Zibal had been blinded by jealousy and couldn’t make a reasonable judgment. Lauel followed him into the elevator and thought.

‘The ideal flow of the siege tomorrow...’

It included Japan’s early elimination and had Russia fight well. Lauel wanted to eliminate as much risk as possible so that he could confront Russia. The reason was simple. He hoped to use the bait of a gold medal to have Kraugel join Overgeared.

But he was worried about whether Russia could do well in this siege event. The skills of the Russian representatives, including Kraugel, were greater than he expected. However, he wasn’t sure if they had any talent for strategy.

‘I will feel sick if Russia meets Japan or Turkey early and are eliminated.’

At this moment. Even Lauel, who acknowledged and worshipped Grid as much as Huroi and Damian, didn’t think much of South Korea’s chances. There was little room for South Korea to play in the siege event.

『 The 2nd National Competition that the whole world is paying attention to! It's now day 3! It has started! 』

『 The siege is the only event on day 3? 』

『 Yes, it is a tournament format and team event, so it has to last a long time. 』

『 At this moment, a representative from each country is climbing onto the stage. 』

『 They're drawing lots to determine their opponent. 』

『 The representatives who pick the United States or Japan as the opponent will receive the grudges of their team members and people. Haha! 』

Who would have the golden hand and who would have the dirt hand? The whole world watched the monitor with anticipation. Then after a while. The world's greatest dirt hand appeared. A character born with bad luck. Of course...

"...Sorry."

It was Grid.

Grid picked the United States. The Korean people were frustrated, while Grid started sweating.

Chapter 427

『 Huhu, Grid pulled out the A lot. 』

『 The first match of the siege... It's also against the United States. 』

『 Look at Grid's expression. He has never sweated like this before. 』

『 It's a rare appearance. This means he doesn't have much confidence. 』

The ratings of the siege relay started to rise rapidly. It showed that most people were having great fun with this situation.

-Didn't Yura and Jishuka sleep in Grid's room last night?

-I want to deny it, but it's true...The paparazzi took photos of them leaving Grid's room this morning...

-Kuoh...He deserves punishment for being alone with the best beauties in the world.

-The United States will trample on him!

-Grid's misfortune is my happiness!

Hundreds of millions of men were blinded by jealousy. They wanted to see Grid collapse quickly. The Korean people were resigned.

-Well...It would be hard to win a medal in the siege war, even if we didn't meet the United States right away.

-In retrospect, it's better to be eliminated early. Our players will be able to take a day off and fight hard tomorrow.

-In particular, Grid must've spent a lot of energy last night.

-Grid was the one who drew the United States. He thought of the big picture.

-Truly God Grid.

The early elimination was confirmed. The Korean citizens tried to think as positively as possible. It was the same with Grid.

'I'll finish it quickly and go to the capsule room.'

What if he concentrated on hunting while the other rankers were busy with the National Competition?

'I can get a little bit ahead.'

Grid only thought about the game and had no intention of exploring Paris. Lauel came near him.

"Think of this as war exercises."

"War exercises?"

Lauel grinned brightly at Grid.

"Isn't your ultimate goal to be rich, to be the best, and to be recognized by people? To achieve that goal, you must become a king."

The first condition for becoming a king was lineage, but users had no concept of lineage. What Grid needed was justification and a vast territory. It was his destiny to constantly take part in wars to expand his territory.

"Originally, a war simulation requires huge manpower and money. It's difficult to do with Overgeared's current capacity. But today, we have an opportunity to try a free simulation."

"..."

"Try your best. I will teach you strategies and tactics. Well, if you're afraid, you can give up early. This is your limit."

Lauel was the only one in Overgeared who criticized Grid. Lauel always pointed out Grid's faults, sometimes making him feel ashamed. The reason? He was hoping for Grid's development. Yes, it was the same right now. Lauel spoke in a high and mighty tone, clearly provoking Grid.

He knew. The current Grid had lost motivation. Thus, Lauel couldn't stay still.

"..."

The Grid of the past would've felt resentful without grasping Lauel's intentions. But now it was different. He saw why Lauel was provoking him and replied.

"Okay, bring it on."

He was idle for a moment. Giving up? It was clear that he forgot himself these days.

'Wake up.'

Clap.

Grid slapped his cheeks with both hands. His black eyes once again gained their like.

'I will try my best to win.'

As always.

"You're taking care of Grid."

"Do you think I will lose on purpose?"

The American representatives heard the conversation between Lael and Grid. Lael shrugged at them.

"You don't need to worry. I will fight my best for Grid's development."

Above all, he had to win until they met Russia. Lael had no intention of being defeated by South Korea.

'The variables that Korea has are the Ruler's Cloak and the Hooded Zip Up.'

Lael was aware of most of Grid and the Overgeared members' items. First, the Ruler's Cloak. It was a legendary rated item that Grid acquired the day that Reidan's Overgeared knights were created. Charge Command, Military Command, and Ruler's Voice were all skills attached to the Ruler's Cloak, allowing for a simple and efficient commands delivery system. If Grid took advantage of it, he would be able to efficiently command 50 NPCs and act as a moderate threat.

Next was the Hooded Zip Up. The invisibility cloaks made by Grid out of the sylphid scales were luxury Overgeared items. Grid, Yura, and Peak Sword all possessed one, so it was necessary to guard against stealth.

'Other than that.'

He needed to pay attention to Grid's basic attack power. Yura hadn't grown enough to be comparable to the US representatives outside of hell, while Peak Sword could only tie up one US representative. The other Korean representatives weren't worth discussing.

"Let's go."

South Korea and the United States were the opening match of the siege event. Hundreds of thousands of people cheered for them as they entered the capsule.

[You have entered Anterava Forest.]

[You have 20 minutes before the siege starts. Please prepare during these 20 minutes.]

"South Korea... They are only good for warming up the body."

"Can they even warm up the body?"

"Hahaha!"

In fact, the atmosphere in the United States team was the worst when Zibal picked the A lot. The siege where they only knew the map and simple rules. There was a lot of pressure because they didn't have information about 50 NPCs and were expected to open the event in the first match. They were also worried about meeting Japan in the beginning.

But Grid pulled out the A lot after Zibal. He was truly a nice guy. The US representatives could relax because they weren't worried about South Korea. Their footsteps were light as they entered the castle, which had walls of a low height of one metre.

"Hoh, they are the rumored NPCs.

"Let's take a closer look."

The castle's garden.

50 NPCs were present. 15 of them were tankers who were heavy armor and were armed with large shields, while 20 were close combat soldiers wearing light armor and holding sharp weapons. On top of that, there were 10 archers and 5 magicians.

"Panmir, check the status of their items. Then we will measure their stats with a simple spar."

Zibal was surprised to see the NPCs' faces when he issued the orders.

"Isn't it rude to want to look at our equipment and skills just like that?"

"A rude group of people arrived as reinforcements..."

"Do you have any skills? I don't trust you."

The NPCs remarked. Zibal and the US representatives were baffled at their attitude.

'These NPCs aren't our subordinates...'

'They are equal to our position?'

'We are playing the role of NPC reinforcements?'

Then a notification window appeared in front of the US team.

[A joint quest has occurred.]

[Siege War]

Level of Difficulty: Not measurable.

Two countries are in a war for ownership of Anterava Forest.

You are a member of Kingdom A.

Cooperate closely with the knights of Kingdom A to occupy the castle of Kingdom B and take over Anterava Forest.

* This quest is specifically developed for the National Competition and isn't related to Satisfy's story. However, the NPCs understand Satisfy's worldview.

Victory Condition: Take over Castle B or wipe out the troops of Kingdom B.

* The time limit is 2 hours. If there is no victor within the time limit, the country with the highest number of survivors wins.

* If you don't attack and only defend, your affinity with the NPCs will drop exponentially and this will lead to defeat.

'This...'

They thought that the NPCs had the concept of soldiers. But they were allies? It was quite different from what they expected. It would be difficult to form an absolute command system.

"Let's go the enemy castle. Let those seven people follow our plan."

The NPCs started to act arbitrarily. If the US team couldn't give orders to them, any plans developed would become useless. What should they do? The US representatives were in turmoil for a while before coming up with a good idea.

{Lael, explain your strategy to the NPCs.}

{Yes, if they listen to a good plan, they will understand and pass the command rights over to you.}

It was true. However, it was doubtful if explaining the plan would change the attitude of the NPCs. They couldn't rule out the possibility that there might be stupid NPCs. Lael asked his team members.

{Who has the dignity, leadership, or charm stats?}

'Ah!'

The US team members noticed Lael's intentions. Among them, Zibal, Skill, and Zephyr went forward. They were top rankers and held various titles, including a nobility title. They had at least 300 points in dignity. In particular, Zibal and Skull had opened up the leadership and charm stat.

Lael took the lead and declared to the NPCs.

"I am Lord Lael. As an earl and hero of the Eternal Kingdom, we won't fail. If you trust in my honor and status and follow my commands in this war, I will guarantee victory."

Lael was followed up by Zibal, Skull, and Zephyr. Then more than half of the NPCs exchanged looks and nodded.

"I will trust you for the moment."

"But if you're judged incompetent, we will no longer follow your orders. At that time, you will have to follow our orders instead."

"...Okay."

Lauel and Zibal nodded without hesitation. Exactly 31 NPCs bowed to them, while the remaining 19 NPCs watched silently. Still, it was a level where the chain of command could be completed. On this positive note, Lauel started to explain the plan to the NPCs. The NPCs became impressed by Lauel and gradually started to trust him.

The viewers of the world watched this process and were impressed.

-Wow, I thought it would be bad at first when I saw the status of the NPCs.

-The dignity stat of the US representatives is enormous. Now the NPCs are following them willingly.

-Lauel is first class.

-Doesn't Lauel seem to have over 500 dignity?

-The dignity stat is the dignity stat, but the NPCs were quickly inspired by the plan. It seems like Lauel has prepared a great operation.

Then what about South Korea? As the US representatives checked the equipment and skills of the NPCs, the screen switched to the Korean castle.

『 Grid is the first user to become a duke, so it's estimated that his dignity and charm stats are higher than Lauel's... 』

『 It's unknown if the other Korean representatives have opened up special stats like dignity. 』

『 In addition, South Korea doesn't have a strategist like Lauel. We have to worry if it is possible for Grid to persuade the NPCs... Heok? 』

『 W-What is this? 』

The commentators were amazed and their mouths dropped open. It was the same with the viewers. Why? Grid wore a small crown and as he walked forward...

"I will swear allegiance to you!!"

"Just say the word! I will follow you!"

The 50 proud NPCs knelt before him! The world fell into a great shock as Grid smiled.

'Lauel, it doesn't matter if you are good at strategies.'

Grid would show his unique value by breaking all this down with items. Grid grabbed the Great Lord's Sword and gave an absurd command to the kneeling NPCs.

"Take off your equipment."

Chapter 428

Apart from strength, stamina, intelligence, and agility, special stats could be opened by clearing specific quests or acquiring a title, position or class. In addition, it wasn't possible to put points into special stats, so they were very difficult to increase.

But Grid was different. Every time Grid created items with a certain rating, 'all stats' increased. There was also the various titles that increased his stats such as Apostle of Justice, Kingdom's Hero, and First Duke. He even had items. The Holy Light Crown increased his intelligence by 300 and his dignity by 200, while the Great Lord's Sword gave him 150 dignity, insight, and leadership.

The result? At present, Grid had 2,000 dignity, 1,000 charm, and 300 leadership.

This wasn't the end. There was even the Pagma's Descendant class effect of 'easily acknowledged.' NPCs, especially NPCs with the proper perspective, had no choice but to instinctively look up at Grid. They were able to sense that he was a 'great person' simply by meeting Grid's eyes.

Grid's presence was overwhelming. This was one of the reasons Lael often stated that 'Grid is a qualified king.'

However...

Now, take off their equipment? No matter how great the person, it was an absurd command that couldn't be easily accepted. They had to take off their equipment? It might be different if their affinity was high, but the 50 NPCs didn't follow Grid's unreasonable command.

In this confused atmosphere, Grid put on the Ruler's Cloak and ordered again.

"Take it off. If you want to win the war, believe in me."

"...!"

Grid was just repeating himself. However, Grid's voice rang out through the castle. There was a heavy weight in his voice that caused the listeners to feel a thrill. This was the effect of the passive skill attached to the Ruler's Cloak, Ruler's Voice.

"...I understand."

Grid's words contained a mysterious power. For some reason, everything that Grid said seemed to be a reality. The 50 NPCs felt an infinite trust in Grid and started taking off their equipment.

Grid observed them with the Great Lord's Sword.

'The fastest and most obvious means of making them stronger is item enhancement.'

At first, he thought about strengthening the equipment of the 50 NPCs. But the economic spending was too big. He couldn't rule out the possibility that these NPCs were 'disposable,' so he had to avoid excessive investment. In the first place, he didn't have a lot of enhancement stones. In order to prepare for the National Competition, he had enhanced the recently produced Triple Layers.

Thus, Grid came up with two possible methods. The first was to utilize the Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill. He planned to strengthen the NPCs by finding hidden features in their items. But the result wasn't good.

'Is it all a failure?'

Grid appraised the items of all 50 NPCs, but none of them had a hidden feature. One method was discarded. Grid was disappointed, but he didn't judge it to be hopeless yet. There was another way to

strengthen the NPCs. This method was to utilize the Character Observation skill attached to the Great Lord's Sword.

For example, in this way.

Name: Tron.

Level: 300

Class: Heavy Armor Knight

Strength: 1,610 Stamina: 1,300

Agility: 500 Intelligence: 105

Possessed Skills: Piercing, Charging, Three People Provocation, Shield Throw, Steel Skin, Intermediate Spear Mastery Lv. 3, and Intermediate Shield Mastery Lv. 5.

Unique Skills: Increased Attack Power (Passive), Rotation Cut, and Advanced Sword Mastery Lv. 5.

Name: Cary

Level: 300

Class: Armored Sword Knight

Strength: 1,500 Stamina: 600

Agility: 1,415 Intelligence: 80

Possessed Skills: Increase Aura Attack Power, Three Stage Cutting, Ascending Slash, Intermediate Sword Mastery Lv. 8.

Unique skills: Multi Shot, Quick Shot, Advanced Bow Mastery Lv. 6.

"Tron."

"Yes!"

"Throw away the spear. Take Cary's sword and use it. Cary, give him the sword and take up a bow."

"Huh? Ah... Yes! I understand!"

Everyone in the world had particular aptitude and skills. However, when living in society, it was inevitable that they would face a situation where they had to compromise, taking up a job that wasn't suited to their aptitude or skills. It was the same for NPCs. Some of them were wasting their talents due to their own circumstances, or they weren't aware of their aptitude.

Grid realized it when watching the soldiers and knights of Reidan.

"How did he...?"

"He noticed my skills at first glance?"

"There were no vacancies in the light armored knights, so I suffered from acquiring shield skills that I'm not interested in."

"...Thanks to Grid, I'm able to use what I'm interested in."

[Affinity with Tron has risen by 20.]

[Affinity with Cary has risen by 20.]

[Affinity with Faiba has risen by 20...]

...

...

The affinity of the NPCs towards Grid started to climb. It was gratitude for Grid identifying their aptitudes and redistributing their items and roles. The amazed NPCs couldn't tear their gaze away from Grid. It was the same with the Korean representatives.

'How is this possible?'

'Grid constantly shows things that are beyond common sense.'

'He's top class. Different from normal players.'

As the Korean representatives and NPCs were feeling admiration. Grid was observing the rest of the NPCs when he suddenly made a strange smile.

"I found someone interesting."

Grid's sharp eyes were fixed on a NPC called 'Lucky' standing among the magicians. Lucky was the only one among 50 NPCs to have a special stat, and it was the good luck stat. It was a stat that even Grid failed to have, despite his 14 stats. Well, it was a stat that Grid would probably never get.

"You will use this weapon."

"...?"

Grid handed something over to Lucky, causing all eyes to widen. They couldn't understand the current situation. Grid seemed like he was playing around. It was natural. The new weapon that Grid gave to the 'magician' Lucky was a flail.

"Why... why are you giving me farming equipment...?"

He liked magic, but had no interest in farming. Why was he being given a farming tool in this situation?

'Is he indirectly saying that I am useless?'

Lucky was confused. His chest heart at the thought of his presence being denied.

"Take it."

As an awkward silence flowed, Grid moved away from Lucky and pointed to another NPC.

"Swan, follow me for a while."

Grid was smiling strangely again. The anxious Swan was brought to a tent.

『 What is he doing? 』

『 I can't understand Grid's behavior. 』

The commentators for the National Competition were confused. It was difficult for them to understand why Grid had the 50 NPCs take off all the items and they swapped equipment around.

-He's changing the role of the NPCs?

-It's too absurd and stupid to interpret it as something deep.

-Why did he give a magician a farming tool?;;;

-I can't understand it...

As the chaos among the viewers increased, some keen experts speculated.

『 I just remembered. Grid's current sword looks similar to the Lord's Sword. The Lord's Sword can only be received from the king or emperor, and it's capable of showing detailed information of the desired character. 』

『 In other words, Grid is confirming the abilities of the NPCs and giving them roles and items more suitable to them... 』

『 Unfortunately, we can't be sure about this. The Lord's Sword is a rare item without a lot of information about it, and Grid's sword has some differences. 』

『 Anyway, one thing is for certain, the act of giving a magician a farming tool is a joke. 』

『 Haha... Ah, as we are speaking, the battle between South Korea and the US is about to start. 』

20 minutes of preparation time ended. Now the first match of the siege event started.

The US team.

The US representatives and NPCs, led by Zibal and Lauel, left the castle. Zibal gazed at the Anterava Forest in front of him before turning his attention to the wall. The blacksmith Panmir was at the walls.

"Panmir, I will ask you one last time. Is everything okay with the NPCs' equipment?"

"How many times have you asked already? According to my research, they are armed with level 300 rare items and there's no problem with the durability."

"Okay, from now on, concentrate on making siege weapons."

"I already know, so stop telling me."

The 1st ranked blacksmith, Panmir. He learned the techniques of the dwarven blacksmiths. As a result, he could create a variety of items including ego items, magic weapons, and siege weapons. Panmir was confident that he was better than Grid.

'Grid, please reach here. Then I will trample on you.'

Grid luckily found a legendary class and became the best blacksmith without any effort. Panmir's sense of hostility towards him was incalculable. Panmir started making the siege weapons, while Zibal looked at Skull. Skull led eight NPCs and was going to head to the point where Lauel predicted Grid would appear.

"Will Grid really appear here?"

"It's 100% certain."

"Hrmm... You must have a reason to be so sure. Well, I will believe in your brain for now. But there's one problem. Do we really need this many people to tie up Grid's feet? Even Skull..."

Lauel looked at Skull's unit and reminded Zibal.

"If Grid uses Blackening, he's stronger than Kraugel before Super Sensitivity is used."

"To that extent? Even so, the duration is only approximately three minutes."

"We need Skull and eight third advancement classes to hold on for those three minutes."

"..."

He was frankly unable to understand. Zibal was 2nd in the rankings, but he would find it hard to face Skull and so many third advancement classes. However, he couldn't deny Lauel's opinion.

"Okay, I understand. Then I will move."

Zibal disappeared into the forest.

Chapter 429

There were a total of eight paths in Anterava Forest.

Some paths were intricately intertwined like mazes, some paths had numerous obstacles, and some were narrow enough to only allow single file movement. Of course, there was also a wide road. They all had different appearances. The paths had different lengths and travel times, but they all had one thing in common.

They would eventually lead to the castle. Yes, no matter which route was chosen, they could reach the enemy castle.

'This is the difficult part.'

How could they win by moving forward while defending against eight paths? There were too many variables. It was virtually impossible to produce definitive results. But Lauel believed. When the environmental and military conditions were equal, the most important factor in designing a strategy was the enemy's tendencies.

Lauel was confident of victory because he perfectly understood Grid's character.

The path through the center of Anterava Forest.

It was the path that took the shortest amount of time to reach the enemy castle, and was flat, so many people could move at the same time. The South Korean side made their way along it. It was meaningless to go against Lauel's genius, so they judged it was better to concentrate their power in one place and play a quick game.

Of course, this was expected by Lauel.

"Welcome."

"...!"

The Korean army moving along the path were surprised and stopped. It was because the US team ambushed them from the forest on the left and right. The tankers immediately raised their shields, but...

Puk!Puuooooook!

Pepepepeok!

"Kuak!"

"Kkuk!"

The US archers had already fired their arrows and the magicians finished casting their spells, causing a great deal of damage to the Korean army. It was difficult to block arrows and magic that was suddenly fired. The Korean troops were confused because of the sudden ambush.

"Hit them!"

Puaaack!

The US tankers and close damage dealers lead the way, assaulting the Korean army. Zibal was planning to trample on South Korea, but...

'What?'

Did the NPCs have different levels? It was strange. The NPCs that the US and Korea received should be equal, but the Korean NPCs seemed better. It was difficult to overwhelm them, despite starting the battle with a perfect ambush.

"Che."

Zibal was tied up by three NPCs. In the rear of the Korean formation, Yura was firing her magic bullets while the magicians cast spells to counterattack. There was a brief lull.

"Get ready!"

Lauel appeared as the Korean representatives were hurriedly organizing the troops.

“As expected from Grid. He properly took advantage of the Great Lord’s Sword.”

‘Great Lord’s Sword?’

Zibal had heard of the Lord’s Sword, but it was the first time he heard of the Great Lord’s Sword.

‘Don’t tell me it’s a special sword only given to dukes?’

Zibal shook as he felt doubts.

“Lael... How were you so certain of our route? What courage did you have to lay forces here for an ambush?”

“Prior to the beginning of the siege, I declared to Grid that I would show great strategies and tactics.”

He emphasized strategy.

“I wanted to plant a bias in Grid. The bias was that Lael will use complicated maneuvers and strategies.”

As a result, this situation was created.

"Grid gave up on predicting my movements and decided to focus on moving quickly."

In fact, it was impossible for Lael to not know that pressing forward with force was Grid’s specialty. He spoke loudly, causing Peak Sword to look horrified.

"In other words, we used the route that you intended?"

"That’s right."

Papapapang!

At the same time as Lael’s reply, the US archers once again shot their bows. But this time, the Korean rankers were prepared and blocked the arrows with their shields. The arrows blocked by the shields fell to the ground, trampled on by the swordsmen.

"Did you speak to make us uneasy? You guys, you are quite empty. Don’t you have 10 less troops than us?"

A smile spread across Peak Sword’s face.

“Maybe you were anxious that we wouldn’t use this route and deployed one or two defenders on the other paths?”

Lael asked, “Is that so?”

"You’re all in trouble."

Lael made an interested expression.

“Why? Do you think you can break through this road just because there are more of you?”

"Let’s see?"

Grid had redistributed the roles and items of the NPCs, making it possible for the Korean NPCs to be stronger than the US NPCs. But the level difference between the two countries was too great. The US had many strong users such as Zibal, so their difference of 10 troops didn't mean victory was guaranteed.

'But.'

Peak Sword had faith. It was in Grid. Grid had separated from the main force alone. He selected another route and was moving down that way. Lael had set aside plans for any situation, so he probably set one or two people on every path. As soon as they encountered Grid, they would be killed as soon as possible and Grid would advance to the US castle faster than anyone else.

'Until then, we have to somehow endure.'

Grid would break through and Lael's plan would be in vain. They had to hang on. Under the leadership of Peak Sword, Korea maintained a thorough defense. Lael looked at them and muttered.

"There's one person missing."

It was as expected. No other words were needed. They were members of the same guild, so he didn't want to cruelly give them despair.

The road through the southernmost part of the Anterava Forest. It was very narrow, had many obstacles and was long. Of the eight paths through the forest, it was the route that took the most time to reach the enemy castle.

But Skull and eight NPCs were using this path. Their mission was to grab the feet of Grid, who would appear here. If Grid didn't show up, they would move to occupy the Korean castle. But Lael was convinced that Grid would appear here.

If you didn't have the means to win, you had to bet. If this was a gamble where victory wasn't assured, Lael would bet it on a person's psychology.

'Grid has flying magic, so the complicated terrain won't be a problem for him. Lael said he would come this way, but...'

Skull was one of the people who appreciated Lael. But this time, he couldn't help feeling dubious. It was questionable if Grid would really appear here. What if he used a different route? The United States would only be able to rely on Panmir.

"Hat!"

Skull and the group moved as slowly as possible while Magic Detection was used. Suddenly, he burst out laughing at his frustration and anxiety. It was because the symbol of Grid, his items, could be seen from far away. There was a helmet on his head so the ID couldn't be seen, but who else could it be?

It was Grid!

Skull shouted at the group.

"The enemy! Hit him!"

“I understand.”

The NPCs pulled out their weapons and jumped at Grid. The magicians only used basic attack magic, because they had to keep the magic spells in case of an accident. But that alone was enough.

Chaaeng!Chaeng!

As expected from third advancement classes. Grid couldn't withstand the attacks of eight people and was forced on the defensive.

“Die!”

Skull saw an opportunity and aimed for Grid's back.

Puok!

Nevertheless, he was overgeared. Grid's defense was so strong that Skull couldn't cause much damage, but he didn't panic. Maybe it was because he lost composure from the plan going wrong, but Grid was moving terribly, unlike what he showed in the recent target processing match. He was so weak that eight NPCs weren't needed.

'I would've been enough by myself.'

After falling to the ground to avoid Grid's counterattack, Skull kicked up and attacked. Grid was hit and stated to hurriedly run away. He was trying to survive and accomplish his purpose, running in the direction of the US castle.

'How ridiculous.'

Skull chased after Grid. He was now enjoying this hunt.

“Pant... Pant... They're really solid.”

"This is the United States.”

The center of Anterava Forest. South Korea was on the defensive. They couldn't move easily because their health and stamina were at the bottom. The United States had completely surrounded them, but couldn't relax either. Most of their NPCs were hit hard by the South Korean NPCs. But what could they do when the US representatives like Zibal were more active than the Korean representatives? The Korean NPCs were 1-2 times stronger than the US NPCs, so it took too long to create this situation.

'How did the Great Lord's Sword create such a difference in the NPCs?'

The overgeared Grid. Zibal felt envious. He gave an order to everyone.

“Let's end this.”

Cheok!

The US troops surrounding South Korea raised their weapons at once, causing the Korean representatives to feel frustration.

'We couldn't last.'

Despite the fact that Grid strengthened the NPCs, they couldn't hold on before Grid occupied the castle. They couldn't help being ashamed of their helplessness. The United States stepped forward to deal the final blow. At this moment, there was a noise.

Chwack!

The strange sound of hitting was heard from the Korean side. It was a very strange, yet light-hearted sound.

'What?'

The US and Korean representatives were puzzled and turned their heads towards the sound. Then they became embarrassed. A crazy magician was striking someone on the same side?

'F-Farming equipment.'

Suddenly, Zibal felt a pained feeling and grabbed his forehead as he recalled the bad memories.

"...Finally."

The knight being hit muttered. Unlike the other NPCs, he was a knight without a name because his head was wrapped in cloth.

'What?'

The eyes of the Korean members' widened. It was because the low health gauge of the faceless knight suddenly fully recovered. Their doubts deepened and an awkward atmosphere flowed.

"Do you know how bad I feel that while you are fighting fiercely, I alone am standing still and being hit repeatedly by a flail? It was awful. I really thought I was going to die."

"...Heok!"

The US and Korean representatives stiffened at the same time. The complaining knight took off the cloth and the name that appeared above his head...

"Grid!"

That's right. It was Grid. Originally, he intended to go alone to capture the US castle, but he was caught by Lael. Despite strengthening the NPCs with Character Observation, he determined that they couldn't cope with the US forces. Thus, Grid relied solely on items.

The method was simple. Have Lucky continuously hit him with the Motley Flail. He would resist the debuffs and continue to be hit until the best buffs occurred. It was a dangerous plan that could end with the worst case situation of a 'definite effect,' such as health or mana falling to 1 point. However, he couldn't win against the US using normal methods, so he had to take risks.

And now, finally.

[You have received a great blessing from the Motley Flail!]

[All resources will recover by 100%!]

[Your attack power and defense are doubled for 2 minutes!]

[Your accuracy is 100% for two minutes!]

[The next attack will be a critical hit!]

"I'm on a roll now."

Rather than Triple Layers which he let Swan borrow for a while, Grid equipped the Holy Light set, Grid's Boots, and Iyarugt. He immediately used Blackening, Blacksmith's Rage, Quick Movements, and unfolded Pinnacle Kill. Zibal was in pain from being reminded of the farmer and allowed the blow.

[Critical!]

[The Holy Light Gloves's option effect is activated, causing the skill '5 Joint Attacks' to be generated.]

Grid marvelled at the effect that appeared after a long time. Thanks to this, Zibal received another bad name. It was the bad name of 'punching bag.'

Chapter 430

Debirion. The indigenous god that the monks served. He was known as the god of hunting.

This was the reason why Zibal was Debirion's Envoy. He chose a class specialized in hunting, aiming only to raise his level to reach first in the rankings. The fatal disadvantage was that it was weak at PvP. He originally didn't greatly feel this disadvantage. His innate sense of battle was great and he couldn't perceive himself as weak. His experience of being defeated on the battlefield was so low that it could be counted on one hand.

But that was against 'humans.' Now he realized that he was lacking in talent compared to the top classes, the so-called 'skies.'

'During the Reidan invasion...'

Yes, he was killed in one blow by the hand plow of a crazy farmer. It was Zibal's history of defeat. Killed by a hand plow! The moment he couldn't believe this reality, he was killed by the assassin called Tarma and seriously wounded by Pon and Kraugel.

Above all, at this moment...

"Pinnacle Kill."

Puooook!

"...!"

[You have been hit by a lethal blow!]

[You have died.]

[This is a server dedicated to the National Competition. The death penalty won't occur.]

He died to Grid.

Defeat, defeat, yet another defeat. The head of the Snake Guild and representative of the United States fell to the status of punching bag. Zibal's shame and fury pierced the sky.

'I have always been praised...!'

He was proud about being better than anyone, so how could he be humiliated so many times in a row? This couldn't continue. He had to restore his fallen honor. Zibal swore as he watched the landscape change to black and white.

'I will become stronger!'

He would no longer cling to the rankings.

'I will obtain a strength that transcends the concept of level!'

Zibal was a fool with talent. On that day, he established a foothold for his efforts.

[Your party member Zibal has died.]

Zibal turned to grey after one blow from Grid. When the 2nd ranked user died, it wasn't just the people of the world who were shocked. It was Lael as well.

'What?'

Lael valued Zibal in many ways. Bold determination and execution, unique boss raid ability, fast level up skills and innate combat senses. Looking at Zibal's advantages and the abilities of his character, it was enough to qualify Zibal to be in Satisfy's top 10. He was strong and balanced.

Yet he died in one blow. Zibal had less than half his health remaining, but it was an unintended result, considering Zibal's equipment and level. Lael's gaze was stuck on the farming equipment in the hands of the Korean NPC magician.

'That flail...'

It was probably an item that had a chance to exert the strongest buff. Thanks to it, Grid's current damage rose by at least double.

'Crazy. When did he make such a strange item?'

Grid had stayed in the Behen Archipelago for a while, so failing to grasp his latest specs was deadly for Lael. Lael was anxious and took a few steps back. It was to look at the entire battlefield.

Puok!

Kwajak!

"...This is bad."

Blood and screams filled the battlefield. Lael's eyes twitched as he saw it. It was so absurd that he laughed. Grid was running wild like an unbridled foal. It was impossible to measure his strength as he tore through the US formation in an instant.

'The third advancement NPCs are being cut down like they are straw.'

Grid's current strength was just like Kraugel when Super Sensitivity was used. The level of a disaster. A level that humans couldn't resist. But Lael didn't give up. Buffs had a time limit. In particular, the more outstanding the buff, the shorter the duration. Grid could only maintain this for approximately two minutes.

Lael started directing the troops again.

"Set the forest on fire!"

Was it to suppress the Korean army that started to move in response to Grid? The NPCs set fire to the forest and Lael used Wind Dragon's Breath, quickly turning the area into a sea of fire.

"Restrain the actions of the enemies!"

Lael ordered without hesitation. The magicians summoned stone and ice barriers to forcibly lock Grid into a limited space. But the barriers built by the magicians were nothing in front of Grid.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

"T-This is impossible."

The magicians doubted their eyes. It was an unbelievable sight, the barriers summoned by investing a lot of mana were shattered with a single blow by Grid. In the end, Lael had no choice but to use Zephyr, who was keeping Peak Sword and Yura in check.

The 1st ranked acrobat, Zephyr. He was a man skilled in using tricks to distract the enemy with his agile and abnormal behavior. When Kraugel attacked the US, Zephyr was low on mana and couldn't act against Kraugel. But Zibal declared that Zephyr's footwork was excellent.

"Zephyr, please tie up Grid's feet. In the meantime, I will take the Korean base."

"I understand."

Pahat!

The monster who killed the 2nd ranked user and six third advancement NPCs in an instant, Grid. Zephyr showed no signs of tension as he headed towards Grid. He believed in his skills.

'He might be a monster, but he can't cope with my acrobatics.'

It was funny that he had to just buy time.

"Kyakyakyakyak!"

Zephyr burst out into bizarre laughter while jumping over Grid's head and spinning like a spintop. It wasn't a meaningless act, but the activation of his 'Acrobat's Laugh' skill. The enemies who heard the laughter would temporarily lose their hearing and become confused.

But Grid resisted.

Zephyr didn't panic. He already knew that Grid had status resisting capabilities.

"Kikikikikik!"

Nevertheless, the reason he laughed was because he didn't want the enemies to approach him and to also raise his morale.

"Why are you repeating it?"

The confusion was resisted, but the sound of the laughter was terrible. Grid frowned and swung Iyarugt towards the approaching Zephyr.

Pahat!

Red light scattered like jewels and cut at Zephyr's body.

Peeeeeeong!

"Kuk!"

A powerful explosion occurred and Grid groaned. It wasn't Zephyr that Grid attacked, but a Zephyr clone with the ability to explode. Beyond the smoke, Zephyr's eyes were curved like a crescent moon.

"Beast's Ring."

Peeng!

A blazing ring of fire was created around Grid.

'What?'

Like an elephant, a large cerberus appeared and jumped towards Grid in the center of the ring. The momentum was so terrifying that Grid reflexively took a defensive posture. However, no shock was delivered. The cerberus penetrated through Grid and the ring and disappeared like it was a lie.

'What is this?'

A mere trick? This pointless skill... Grid flinched the moment he thought this. It was because the burning ring, centered around him, had started to flare up.

'It is popping!'

Grid retreated with surprise and at this moment, Zephyr threw 12 balls that he had been rolling around in his hands.

Pepepepeok!

"Kyakyakyak! Does it hurt?"

Zephyr headed towards Grid, who was once again swept away by the explosion. He was overflowing with confidence. Even if he couldn't kill Grid, he was confident that he could play around with Grid for an hour. Of course, he was too arrogant.

"It doesn't hurt."

Step.

Grid stepped forward from the smoke. He spoke to Zephyr, who was summoning hundreds of doves.

"You will die in five seconds."

Grid had countless combat experience. He might not be smart, but he could quickly understand the characteristics of the enemies and judge how to cope with it. That's how he could say this.

"Kyakyakyakyak! I don't know what you are talking about!"

Zephyr burst out laughing like it was really funny and the hundreds of doves flew towards Grid. Grid's field of view narrowed as hundreds of flapping wings and beaks threatened him. Disgusting things like bird dung and feathers also fell down. But Grid wasn't shaken. He depended on all his buffs to rush in Zephyr's direction.

'It's difficult since he's resistant.'

Zephyr clicked his tongue and took off his hat. The moment Grid attacked him, he planned to pull out a turtle to defend, and then a rabbit to increase his movement speed and fight back. But Grid was too fast. He stabbed as soon as he arrived, not giving Zephyr time to pull out a turtle or rabbit. Inevitably, he had to use Clown's Tears.

It was the ultimate skill that caused a hallucinogenic effect on nearby targets and increase evasion rate by as much as 70%. If he combined all his items, titles and class effects, it was an additional 21%, giving him an evasion rate of 91%. It would be difficult to hit the current Zephyr even with targeted skills. It was no different from being invincible.

However...

Puk!

"Cough!"

Zephyr's heart was pierced by a sword. Questions rose at the unexpected pain.

'Why can't I avoid it?'

He evaded Grid's sword, only to be drawn back like there was a magnet. It was a phenomenon that couldn't be understood. Zephyr coughed up blood as Grid dealt a second blow.

Puok!

"Kuheok...!"

Why? Why couldn't he avoid the enemy's attack? Zephyr was filled with intense doubts when he suddenly had a hypothesis.

'Don't tell me that his accuracy exceeds my evasion rate?'

It was ridiculous. There was no way such a fraudulent accuracy existed.

'It's just luck...!'

Zephyr denied it as he died.

"..."

Silence filled the battlefield. This was Zephyr. One of the leading rankers was easily dismissed by Grid. However, the silence didn't last long.

"What are you doing? Sweep them all away!"

At Grid's cry, the South Korean representatives and NPCs attacked the US forces.

"Shoot! Shoot!"

The US archers and magicians resisted. They made Grid their top priority, so all of Grid's attacks were focused on Grid. However, Grid's defense had doubled. No matter how strong the third advancement users were, they couldn't deal a fatal injury. In particular, the Holy Light set resisted some of the magic attacks. His items were really great. Grid used the ability of Elfin Stone's ring to maintain his health as the enemy bombarded him.

There was a bright smile on Lael's face as they met face-to-face.

"I am proud of you."

Usually, he was criticized for only using items. But Lael knew. A person also needed abilities to utilize their items. A pig wearing a pearl necklace? In particular, Grid actively showed the use of strategies with their items. Lael was thrilled by the dramatic growth.

"If you have no talent, you wouldn't have grown to this point. Perhaps you could keep trying because you were stupid. I sincerely respect you."

Lael was touched and spoke tearfully. But Grid felt offended.

'Is that a compliment or a curse?'

Anyway.

"Can't you tell the difference between business and personal matters? Stop being so delighted."

Right now, Grid was the representative of South Korea. In addition, he fought with his colleagues rather than fighting alone. He couldn't be beaten on purpose by Lael. Lael understood. He was in the same position as Grid.

"I can."

"...?"

There was something strange. He was speaking from the standpoint of the winner...

'It can't be!'

The worst result appeared the moment Grid sensed it.

[Your castle was occupied by the enemy!]

It was the notification window that signalled South Korea's defeat in the siege. Lauel smiled at Grid.

"Setting fire to the forest was a signal to Skull."

"..."

Siege didn't support the party chat or whisper function. The organizers were hoping for a more realistic and dramatic war to be produced. Thus, Grid was careless.

Grid was very sad.

The result of the first siege match. As expected, South Korea lost. But the world didn't condemn or mock South Korea. Everyone, regardless of race or nationality, praised the Korean representatives, especially Grid.

"Well fought!"

Grid received more praise than when he won the gold medal. This meant that Grid showed an amazing scene. Now Grid was growing to be someone's subject of envy.