

Overgeared 431

Chapter 431

The NPC called Swan.

He had the unique skills of 'Adaptation' and 'Escape.'

Adaptation showed the effect of 'increased speed of recovery from abnormal conditions,' 'decreased terrain penalty,' and 'decrease in the usage conditions of items.' Escape had the effect of 'never being caught by the enemy and never dying in combat.'

Grid had an idea the moment he saw Swan with the Great Lord's Sword. He gave Swan the role that he originally intended for himself, under the assumption that Lael predicted all his thoughts and actions and prepared countermeasures for them. It was to convince the enemy that Swan was Grid and make them follow Lael's plan.

The result was commendable. Swan was armed with Grid's Greatsword and Triple Layers. He was recognized as Grid and served as good bait for Skull's group. The US determined that Lael's plan was a success and completely erased their guard against Grid.

Thanks to this, Grid could act freely. He waited until the buff effect of the Motley Flail was activated and successfully pushed the US into a crisis.

The result was a defeat.

After the end of the siege.

The resurrected NPCs gathered around Grid. The NPCs in the US team seemed to be resurrected as well. The NPCs for the siege weren't disposable. At least, in the server dedicated to the National Competition, they enjoyed eternal life, just like players.

"I'm sorry. I was unable to properly perform my role as bait."

Swan apologized and looked at Grid.

Grid alternated looking between him and Lucky. He was filled with a powerful possessive desire to have them.

'I want to take them to Reidan...'

Third advancement NPCs. The level was nearly twice as high as the soldiers in Reidan, and a lot of them were able to deal with the unbuffed Grid. In addition, Lucky had the good luck special stat and Swan had skills that would be useful in raids. But Grid had to end this relationship here. They would only temporarily be used for a limited amount of time in the National Competition.

"You did nothing wrong. I'm sorry that you lost because I was lacking."

Those who were originally in a high position couldn't easily recognize their mistakes because they had a lot to lose, and were also good at passing on responsibility. But Grid was the opposite. He apologized to Swan and even knocked on his shoulder to encourage him.

Swan was thrilled because he was a noble person with humility and responsibility. There was a growing sense of respect in his heart. Grid reached out to the thrilled Swan. Did he want to shake hands?

'A noble man is shaking hands with someone like me...'

The moment the excited Swan grabbed Grid's hand.

"What are you doing?"

"...Huh?"

There was rising resentment in Grid's eyes as he looked at the bewildered Swan.

"Are you planning to keep my items?"

"Ah..."

He could feel killing intent. The frightened Swan hurriedly started to take off Grid's items that he had been wearing for a while. Grid also gave back Swan's items.

"..."

The two men had an expression of regret as they changed items. Someday, they hoped to meet again. On the other hand, the magician Lucky was staring at Grid in a hot and sticky manner.

'The taste of hitting was very good...'

He couldn't forget the thrilling feeling whenever his flail hit Grid's hard muscles. Due to Grid, Lucky got a new hobby. Unfortunately, his everyday life was destined to be difficult.

Thanks to the match between South Korea and the United States, other countries were able to gather useful information.

First, the NPCs had hidden abilities. Second, the NPCs could be armed with new items. Third, there was no need to be deceived by the eight paths.

"It's a simple matter if you walk through the center."

The shortest and widest path. It was better to concentrate their forces on the most efficient path, rather than disperse their forces and take risks on inaccurate plans. Most of the countries thought this, making the siege matches very monotonous.

The moment the siege started, they gathered in the central path and fought. The country who won there would win the siege. Of course, it wasn't just a contest of power. The battle tactics was the key. The representatives of each country distributed their items as efficiently as possible, armed and strengthened the NPCs, and fought against the enemies in an extraordinary manner.

As a result, the siege event maintained a steady high audience rating and produced many conversations. But the South Korea vs US match received the highest ratings.

Grid broke his existing image of 'ignorant overgeared' person and prepared a lot, while Lauel's brains made everything useless. Grid's destructive force which smashed the US formations.

The South Korea vs US match had more elements to stimulate the viewers than any other match. Grid and Lauel's reputations rose in an incomparable manner, and this was directly linked to the rise in awareness for the Overgeared Guild.

The National Competition's third day.

After the round of 32, round of 16 and the quarterfinals, the four finalists were decided. Under the power of Damian, Japan earned the nickname of the 'Strongest Army.' Russia had Kraugel, who broke through the enemy and reached the castle. The world's strongest United States.

Thus far, there was nothing big. People predicted that the US and Japan would enter the finals, and Russia's actions were also within prediction range. But Argentina was different. Few people expected Argentina to advance to the semi-finals. Even the people of Argentina didn't expect it. Argentina was one of the countries weak in Satisfy, and they didn't even qualify for the 1st National Competition. They were almost the same as South Korea.

But they advanced into the top four and were facing the strongest countries. How did they do it?

Seuron. The result was due to his absolute force.

"Soul Predator..."

The reserved audience seats. The South Korea representatives, including Yura and Peak Sword, kept a close eye on Seuron. They weren't the only ones. Players from all countries were concentrating on Seuron as they watched the siege. It was due to Seuron's presence. His strength was comparable to Kraugel, Damian, and Grid.

'This is the dignity of combat specific classes.'

Seuron's unique combat ability to exploit the souls of enemy and allied corpses to increase his own strength was perfect. It was difficult to find any weak points in all aspects of physical attack, magic attack, defense, resistance, AOE, CC, etc.

'I think that even God Grid will find it hard against Seuron...'

Peak Sword had this thought, despite being a passionate follower of Grid. But Grid had no interest in Seuron. Grid was only focused on Kraugel.

'How can he think about moving like that?'

Kraugel's movements avoided all the concentrated attacks of dozens of NPCs while breaking through the enemy at the same time. Grid couldn't even imagine the movements, let alone mimic it. Grid realized one thing.

'Imagination.'

Maybe this imagination was one of the important elements of his strength? It was a tremendous weapon because Kraugel could move in ways that others didn't expect. It was movement beyond predictions. However, did a person have to be smart to be imaginative?

In other words...

'He is good at fighting and smart?'

Grid recalled that he heard people who were smart were good at sports.

"This is very annoying."

It was a desperate reality for Grid who wasn't smart. He felt like he faced a higher barrier than an average person living in this world. The Grid in the past would've trembled with anger and lamented.

'But I'm not useless.'

Grid now knew. It was much more profitable to overcome this than to blame his own talent.

"Umm..."

Grid grew more and more focused as he watched Kraugel. He was devising methods to win against Kraugel in PvP.

At that moment.

Ttiring~

A mail arrived on Youngwoo's phone.

'Is it Sehee?'

A phone that almost never rang. He expected it to be from his parents or sister, only to find something interesting. Comet Group. It was a mail from one of the domestic companies that offered to sponsor Grid.

[Shin Youngwoo-nim.

We've been watching your activities in the National Competition with great interest. As a Korean citizen, I feel very proud and thankful. If you don't mind, can we discuss the contract that was cancelled the other day? We will do our best to satisfy you. Please give us a positive response.

Head of the Public Relations Team, Yook Shihyun.]

It was the company that offered him 300 million. 300 million. He couldn't deny that it was a huge amount of money to receive just for wearing the mark of the Comet Group on his chest. However, Grid's value was much higher than that. It wasn't a baseless pride. Weren't there articles about Zibal getting 3.6 billion from the world class company Radidas?

'I should get at least 1 billion...'

Yura spoke to Grid, who was looking at the text message.

“Why aren’t you replying to it?”

“Hrmm...”

Grid turned to look at Yura. There was a pink flush on Yura’s white cheeks. She couldn’t help feeling embarrassed as Grid stared at her. But Grid wasn’t conscious about this at all.

“I don’t want to meet them at all. They don’t know my value.”

It wasn’t a grudge. Above all, Grid was in the position of master of Overgeared, so he couldn’t put down his value. He was worried that the value of Overgeared would fall if he was too cheap.

Yura asked him with a serious expression, “Youngwoo, your current cash assets should be around 6 billion?”

“No, it’s around 5 billion.”

If he added the building that was to be completed in a month, his total assets would be 15 billion. It was huge for Grid, who was debt-ridden two years ago. He couldn’t help being proud as he recalled those days. The fact that he could eat food without worrying about money made him feel like he could have the world.

Yura handed out reality to Grid with a gentle expression.

“Youngwoo, 5 billion isn’t as much money as you think. It is likely that you will have to spend billions of won if you want to buy high end materials like adamantium or dragon scales, that ultimately must be collected.”

Then Peak Sword chimed in.

“There are many rich people in the world, and at this moment, a new rich person is being born. There are hundreds of gold spoons in South Korea alone who can collect cars worth more than 5 billion won. As the average level of the users in Satisfy increases, the value of items will rise more and more. We need to have enough money to adapt to the times.”

The end point was simple. If he was aiming to be a king, he shouldn’t be complacent with what he currently had. Grid wasn’t in a position where he could reject the pumpkin that rolled up to him.

‘That’s right.’

Grid received enlightenment and replied to the team leader.

-4 billion.

Chapter 432

The average number of viewers for the Super Bowl was just 100 million people, so why were the advertising fees much higher than the Olympics and World Cup? It was due to the abundant concentration.

Unlike the Olympics and World Cup, which were festivals of the world, the Super Bowl was only for the US. From the company’s point of view, it was easy to identify and capture the needs of the Super Bowl

viewers. A single ad was able to reach 100 million potential customers, so the value of the Super Bowl ads was inevitably high.

It 2030, it was natural for the advertising fee per second to exceed 250 million won.

On the other hand, the Olympics and World Cup? The number of viewers overwhelmed the Super Bowl, but the concentration was too low. It was necessary to produce several advertisements in accordance to the interests of each country, and the advertisement effect was also limited because viewers were interested in different events and countries.

The first time it occurred, companies from each country thought that the Satisfy National Competition would be similar to the Olympics. It might have the highest number of viewers, but the advertising effect would be low compared to the number of viewers. They didn't actively invest in any advertisements, choosing to sponsor individual participants, similar to the Olympics. In the first place, it was funny to call gamers 'players' and to sponsor them.

But the result was shocking. The Satisfy National Competition attracted the attention of people around the world, even though there were few participating countries. The advertising effect far exceeded the Super Bowl. In particular, the performance of the individual players had a huge impact.

Sports and games were different areas. When watching athletes, the consciousness of the viewers stopped at 'great.' Meanwhile with gamers, it extended to 'I am going to be like that,' making the viewers immersion very high. Thus, the value of gamers was soaring. If they could sponsor a top-class gamer, a company wouldn't hesitate to invest billions of won.

Nevertheless, the 224 gamers participating in the 2nd National Competition had an average sponsorship value of 500 million won. This market was still not properly formed. Satisfy gamers didn't know their value. They were people who played games from home, so they didn't understand economic principles.

What did the companies think about this? They sucked as much from the players as possible. Sooner or later, the players would have professional managers to handle these things. At that time, the value of the players would surge. Until that day, the companies wanted to benefit as much from the players as possible without paying as much.

But it was reaching the limit. The players were starting to realize their value. The evidence was the 4 billion proposed by Grid.

"He came out surprisingly strong."

The Comet Group's PR team leader, Yoo Shihyun, laughed as she saw Grid's reply. She didn't think Grid would come out like this.

'This is because of Radidas.'

Radidas sponsoring Zibal for 3.6 billion won was the trigger. The players looked at Zibal and started to realize their true value. Grid suggesting 4 billion meant he judged that his value was higher than Zibal's value.

"...Well, it's appropriate."

To be honest, it wasn't just appropriate, but the best. As a result of sponsoring Grid for 4 billion won, the Comet Group could enjoy the huge promotion effect of tens of billions, maybe trillions of won. Grid's power was that great. His global popularity was increasingly rising. Grid himself might not be aware of his true value.

Yoo Shihyun smiled and called the direct line of the president of the Comet Group.

Then after a while.

After discussing with the president, she came to the best conclusion. She would offer Grid 10 billion won in exchange for a two-year contract. Grid's value would obviously rise by the time the 3rd National Competition arrived, so it was a tremendous benefit to keep Grid when his price was still cheap. She was convinced that he would take the deal if she offered more than double the 4 billion won.

-Can I meet you now? I'm in Paris.

Even at this moment, Grid's value was going up. Other companies would try to make contact with Grid. Thus Yoo Shihyun urgently sent a reply to Grid.

Grid's answer was 'Okay.'

"Good."

A smile appeared on Yook Shihyun's face. She sat in front of a mirror and made herself look as beautiful as possible. The basics of selling something was to convey a good feeling.

"Now I'm going to make money."

The semi-finals were just beginning.

United States vs Japan.

Russia vs Argentina.

It was very interesting to study. Peak Sword was puzzled when Grid got up during such an important time.

"Isn't it better to watch the matches?"

"I can watch it on TV."

Even if he sat in the audience, it was still watching on a monitor. He could watch it on any TV. In particular, his hotel room had a 3D TV that was a huge 120 inches. He would rather watch it on TV.

"I'll go as well."

Yura got up along with Grid. It was regarding a business deal, so she was uneasy about Grid going alone. However, Grid refused.

"I can do it alone."

So far, Yura had handled his money. Grid thought he was sufficient since he learned from watching her.

"If I keep depending on you, I will be a fool who can't do anything alone. In the first place, you can't be with me forever, can you?"

"..."

'We can be together forever.' Yura wanted to say, but Grid had left before she could even open her mouth.

The area around the Eiffel Tower was always troublesome. It was because there were too many tourists. But this was the time when the National Competition was in full swing. The streets were empty, as if to prove the overwhelming popularity of the National Competition.

There were only a few roadside cafes that had guests.

Thanks to that, Grid was about to recognize the person he was meeting at first glance. There was only one Asian woman sitting alone at the promised meeting place.

"Team Leader Yook Shihyun?"

"Hello, Shin Youngwoo-nim. It's great that I can meet a global star directly."

The woman who answered Grid's call greeted him politely. She smiled brightly and handed Grid her business card. Grid confirmed it and sat across from her. Yook Shihyun inwardly panicked. A man who remained nonchalant after seeing her beautiful face and body was unfamiliar to her.

'I thought he was a womanizer because he's dating Yura and Jishuka at the same time.'

Yook Shihyun started a long attempt to persuade him. She talked about the Comet Group's social position and the benefits that Grid would enjoy if he was sponsored by the Comet Group. But Grid interrupted her in the middle.

"The conclusion."

Would she give him the 4 billion won that he asked for? Yook Shihyun smiled with satisfaction.

"I will offer you 10 billion won. However, it's for a two year contract."

"..."

Grid's expression didn't change. His pupils didn't even move. It was different from what Shihyun expected.

'He can remain so calm after hearing 10 billion won?'

In the game, Grid was close to a beast. He was always violent and crushed any enemy. But he was actually a very smart person. Yook Shihyun considered Grid's potential for development and became greedy. She felt possessive.

On the other hand, Grid was very surprised, unlike his outer appearance.

'10 billion?'

It might have a two-year contract attached, but it was more than Grid wanted. 10 billion! It might be insignificant to some rich people because it was 'much lower than the price of the mansion my parents bought me for my birthday,' but it was very big for Grid.

Wasn't it equivalent to four or five legendary items? Grid had only created 13 legendary items since becoming Pagma's Descendant.

'Isn't this a windfall?'

Grid was about to chuckle when he suddenly had a thought. He learned all sorts of knowledge and reasoning during the year he spent with Lael, so his thinking ability expanded.

'My value was higher than I thought.'

It was rare for there to be any free favors in the world. Especially when it came to business companies. The 4 billion he proposed was changed to 10 billion? A two-year contract... Maybe it means that my value will far exceed 10 billion won next year.'

Grid had experienced the worst result one or two times after chasing the greed that was right in front of him. Grid took time to calmly consider it before opening his mouth.

"I'm confused."

Of course he was confused! It was the first time that a company had placed his value so high! Yook Shihyun had a satisfied expression on her face as she looked at Grid.

"I was hoping for 4 billion won per event, only to be offered 10 billion won for a two-year contract... Is the Comet Group a crook?"

"...?"

Yook Shihyun couldn't understand for a moment. But she soon realized.

'You're the crook!'

Well, strictly speaking, Grid had a point while the Comet Group was the crook. There was an awkward silence between them for a while.

Ttiring~

A mail arrived on Grid's phone. No, it wasn't one.

Ttiring.

Ttiring.

Ttiring.

Grid's phone kept on making noise! Yook Shihyun had an uneasy expression on her face as Grid checked the contents and rose.

"One company who offered me 3.5 billion won per event has eventually offered 4 billion won in response to my request."

Of course, it was a lie. But Grid was convinced that it would be realistic. Yook Shihyun cried out in a desperate voice.

"4.1 billion! We will give you 4.1 billion!"

"...Hah."

It was a painful thing for those who had no money. Grid grasped the concept of money and laughed.

'Indeed, this is why sports athletes have annual salaries of over 100 billion won.'

Was his worth lower than them? No one could say that. This was the era where virtual reality games was more popular than any sport! Grid ordered coffee and declared.

"4.2 billion. I will give you until I finish this coffee to reply."

"..."

It was an espresso! The cup of coffee was the size of two thumbs, causing Yoo Shihyun to urgently call the president.

Chapter 433

Among the seven guilds, the Golden Guild was at a medium level. Seuron was the master and he had gradually been growing stronger after acquiring the Soul Predator class. It was enough to make him aspire to become the peak of two billion users.

"Kukukuk!"

Argentina met Russia in the semi-finals. Seuron was thrilled to face Kraugel.

"Kraugel, I'm lucky that I have a chance to defeat you in front of the world."

Argentina wasn't active in the target processing match because they didn't have competent ranged dealers. Since they weren't in the race for the medal, Seuron wasn't obsessed with the event and just enjoyed himself. But things were different now.

In the battlefield where a hundred people were fighting for their lives, Seuron was able to create an environment with fresh souls, complementing his class effect. Seuron was confident. It might not be possible yet in a one-on-one match, but he could defeat Kraugel on the battlefield.

"Become the stepping stone of my fame!"

Seuron excitedly pulled out some of the souls accumulated in his body and turned them into beads. They were beads the size of soybeans.

Suuuuok.

Dozens of glittering jade beads circled around Seuron. It was a beautiful effect comparable to Grid's Iyarugt.

"Bang!"

Seuron shouted like a young child firing an imaginary gun. Dozens of beads turned fiercely and shot off. Their goal was Kraugel. The Russian representatives and NPCs near Kraugel weren't targeted because they were recognized as trivial by Seuron.

Tutututututung!

The soul beads shot forward at a speed that second advancement classes couldn't see and attacked Kraugel. They were like bullets fired from machine guns. The phenomenal thing was that Kraugel avoided all the beads. It was a miraculous move that combined Keen Senses, his high agility and his innate skills.

Kraugel ran in a zigzag and reached Seuron, wielding White Fang.

Chaaeng!

Seuron defended with the Brutal Heavy Sword and felt the difference in strength.

'Indeed, it's clear that his battle stats have reached at least level 400.'

It was the result of completing various quests and titles first. It was unknown if any elixirs had been taken. It was truly unique. Kraugel's stats were beyond common sense.

Peeok!

Seuron was shaken by the blow, while Kraugel removed his sword and dealt a second strike. The moment that Kraugel was going to deal a critical strike.

Pahat!

The soul beads that stopped in the place where Kraugel was first standing started to move again. They flew to Kraugel and spread like a spider's web. Kraugel's reaction was somewhat late because he hadn't expected such an efficient skill. One arm was caught in a spider web.

[Your right arm is temporarily restrained.]

"..."

Kraugel's expressionless face slightly distorted. Seuron's sword came flying as he swiftly switched White Fang to his left hand. Seuron laughed as he avoided Kraugel's counterattack and kept attacking.

"Kukuk, I will bind your soul!"

Seuron's skill was activated. The soul web in contact with Kraugel's body linked to Kraugel's soul, giving Seuron temporary control of Kraugel's soul.

[Your body is out of control for seven seconds!]

Kraugel had a different experience. His right foot moved when he tried to move his left arm. When he tried to move his left feet, his right arm moved. Kraugel's best strength, his control, was contained.

Seokeok!

At this moment, Seuron summoned 14 soul spears and shouted with all his might.

“Taste this unbreakable power!”

It wasn't a lie. Since changing to a Soul Predator, Seuron had never been defeated. There was only one person. He was defeated during the Reidan raid by the 'temporary farmer.' But that farmer was a named NPC, so he didn't count as a user. At this moment, Seuron was sure of his victory. He didn't know. The fact that the Kraugel in front of him was that farmer!

“You have certainly grown.”

Kraugel acknowledged Seuron, even when they met in the past at Reidan. He avoided all the soul spears pouring towards him and praised Seuron.

'How?'

Seuron was shocked. It was natural to be surprised, since the soul-controlled Kraugel moved just as swiftly and precisely as before.

'Don't tell me...! He was able to adapt in such a short amount of time?'

White Fang pierced Seuron's neck. Seuron was able to increase his defense using Soul Armor and killed his allies to obtain more souls. Then he attempted a counterattack. The brilliant battle between the two people received praises from all over the world.

“Ah, I think I am going crazy.”

Brr!

Grid's body continuously shook after he left the cafe. At first glance, the jerkiness was like a tap dance. It was the aftereffect of drinking the espresso. A headache was coming.

“Dammit...”

Grid didn't like bitterness and only took the syrupy cold medicine for children when he had a cold. For him, coffee was like rotten water. He was disgusted by Americans who could drink it like it was bottled water. That's why he only ordered juice or hot chocolate at a cafe.

Then why did he drink a cup of espresso? It felt like he was drinking poison. But it was worthwhile. He got the ideal contract! Grid purposely chose a smaller drink in order to give Yook Shihyun a feeling of pressure.

That's right. The reason why Grid ordered an espresso was that it was necessary to his bluff. Now he was using a process called 'pre-planning.' He couldn't just rush forward forever. He acted cautiously.

-Please read the contract carefully. Read it several times until you completely understand it. Don't forget to record it.

-God Grid! Isn't it amazing for a Korean to contract with a Korean company?

-♣ Go! ♦ If you join ♦ ♣ ✂ You will get 1 million ★ cash bonus ★

-Team Leader Kim Minyoung. ^^

Grid intended for messages to arrive during his conversation with Yook Shihyun. He had asked Yura and Peak Sword in advance to send him a message at this exact time. The spam messages came flying by chance. He hadn't signed up for the spam blocker service because it cost him 2,000 won each month...

'This is why people say that money shouldn't be spent.'

Grid received a new enlightenment and vowed he would only order jajangmyun instead of kanjang.

『 Oh my god...! The United States' castle was captured! 』

『 Against everyone's expectations, Russia has won! 』

The road to Shang X Lila Hotel. A loud noise was heard from the store that Grid was passing, and Grid turned towards the TV in the store.

'Russia won?'

It was also against the United States? Grid clenched his fists tightly. He couldn't suppress his feelings after learning that Kraugel had overcome the United States.

'Kraugel...'

Was he superior to Grid in every way? Grid couldn't accept it. He didn't intend to derail the value of the person called Kraugel. Grid couldn't evaluate Kraugel's innate talent and achievements. However, Lael was a normal class user who beat Grid!

It was a cruel reality for Grid. Grid felt how trivial he was. His self-esteem that he raised with much difficulty was crushed at this moment.

The 3rd day of the National Competition ended. The National Competition's ranking was updated.

1st. South Korea (2 gold)

2nd. Russia (1 gold, 2 silver)

3rd. United States (1 gold, 1 silver, 2 bronze)

4th. Brazil (1 gold)

Joint 5th. United Kingdom and France (1 silver)

6th. Canada (2 bronze)

7th. Japan (1 bronze)

It was a lot different from what most people expected. The most powerful country in Satisfy, the United States was ranked 3rd, while Korea and Brazil stood out? But people weren't shaken. The National Competition was just beginning. There were 16 events remaining and as the days passed, it was clear that the overall ranking was taking shape as people expected.

As everyone thought, the overall rankings stabilized on the 14th day of the National Competition.

- 1st. Russia (4 gold, 3 silver, 2 bronze)
- 2nd. United States (4 gold, 2 silver, 4 bronze)
- 3rd. Canada (3 gold, 3 silver, 3 bronze)
- 4th. South Korea (2 gold)
- 5th. Spain (1 gold, 2 silver)
- 6th. Japan (1 gold, 2 bronze)
- 7th. Brazil (1 gold)
- Joint 8th place. United Kingdom, France (3 silver)
- Joint 9th place. Argentina, China (2 bronze)
- 10th. Turkey (1 bronze)

South Korea and Brazil hadn't won a single medal since the third day, while the countries considered strong in Satisfy were constantly winning medals. It was the time when the difference between a strong team and a weak team was evident. Now there were only 5 events remaining.

The people wondered about which of the three countries between the US, Russia, and Canada would win. But no one could easily predict it. All members of the United States could be called top-class. Russia was slightly weaker than the US, but they had the crown called Kraugel.

Chris and Vantner were starting to show good chemistry for Canada. They were too powerful. It wouldn't seem strange if any of them won.

『 We are forgetting something. Isn't there another country that could be a contender to win? 』

Another championship candidate? The viewers from all over the world were puzzled by the experts' words when they recalled someone. Grid. The main culprit behind the destruction of common sense hadn't competed in any solo events yet.

-Perhaps South Korea is another candidate to win?

-At any rate, winning gold medals is the best thing to do in the National Competition. If Grid wins the gold medal in the raid event and his three solo events, Korea will win. ㅋㅋㅋㅋ

-Wow, that's right. If Grid wins four gold medals and Russia and the US don't win any, Korea will win.

-But that's impossible. -_-;

Right now, people of the world were aware of Grid's power. It couldn't be denied that he was top-class. The problem was that there were many top-class players comparable to Grid. Kraugel of Russia, Chris of Canada, Damian of Japan, Seuron of Argentina, Pon of Spain, Regas of Britain, Zibal of the US...all of them were tough.

Would Grid be able to win four gold medals alone against the specialists of each event? It was impossible.

『 What if... What if Grid really wins four gold medals and leads South Korea to victory? 』

『 He will be a myth. 』

『 But it's impossible. The peak of 2 billion users, Kraugel, is standing in his way. 』

『 It's questionable if he can cross the mountain called Kraugel. In addition, Zibal might seem weak, but isn't he optimized for raids? There's a less than 10% chance that South Korea will defeat the US in the raid event. 』

These words kept coming. The atmosphere of the people of South Korea, who had been looking forward to Grid's appearance, became solemn.

Chapter 434

"I'm full."

It was his mother's words. His mother, who raised him alone in a cold and foreign land. She went hungry everyday, causing the skin of her belly to go taunt. But she took care of her son's three meals a day without fail. She endured countless suffering that Kraugel couldn't even fathom.

Just.

He wanted to repay the grace his mother showed when she raised him. But the heavens didn't allow it. It taunted his mother, as if she was born to be unhappy.

After the 14th day of the National Competition, the players were given two days of rest.

It was a type of maintenance period. The players began their preparations for the remaining five events. There were some who obtained new items and raised their levels, some who cleared quests with high rewards, or some who raised their control skills with spars.

Kraugel was one of them. He entered a dungeon that other players would find difficult alone and hunted monsters. He gained experience as the talk with the doctor passed through his mind.

-Your mother's symptoms are becoming worse. If she doesn't receive the new medicine...

During the National Competition, Kraugel was forced to hospitalize his mother and constantly kept in contact with her doctor. And the news that was delivered every day was unfortunate. There were physical complications and his mother might only have a few years left.

"..."

The only new medicine that could cure Alzheimer's. Kraugel needed to lead Russia to victory to obtain it. He discarded his pride and conscience and agreed to a dirty deal. At the time of the siege. Kraugel couldn't refuse Lauel's suggestion to join Overgeared in exchange for Lauel 'conceding' the game.

But the current flow wasn't ideal. Judging by the five events remaining and the list of participants, Russia was unlikely to win. Russia could only aim at the gold medal in PvP, while the US was in a position to win gold medals in the boss raid and blacksmith production event.

Unless there was a special incident, the winner was likely to be the United States.

‘There’s hope if another country wins the boss raid or blacksmith event, but...’

Zibal’s ability in boss raids was unrivalled, while Panmir was the best blacksmith after Grid. In addition, Grid declared that he wouldn’t participate in the blacksmithing event. It was natural that the US would win gold medals in these two events.

Had Heaven forsaken his mother?

Kraugel’s feeling of despair deepened.

The Overgeared members knew about Grid’s ability in raids. In particular, Peak Sword had witnessed Grid raiding Hell Gao. After that, there was Vampire Earl Elfin Stone and Vampire Viscount Tiramet... Grid had defeated many named bosses.

But Zibal was more than that. There were rumors that the number of named boss monsters raided by Zibal was approaching 20. Debirion’s Envoy had a passive skill that dealt addition damage to monsters as well as various active skills. Zibal was a real specialist in raids.

“God Grid! Let’s aim for a silver medal!”

Grid watched Zibal’s raid videos. Peak Sword guessed he was nervous and energetically shouted. ‘Incompetent Peak Sword’ had failed to win a medal during the National Competition, so he could only keep up Grid’s morale.

Ttiring~

As they were watching Zibal’s videos against boss monsters and trying to analyze his raid skills more deeply, the phones of Grid and the Korean representatives rang at the same time. It was an announcement delivered to all National Competition participants by the organizers.

[The information of the raid monster has been released. For more information, please check the TV or the Internet.]

Grid confirmed the message and terminated the footage being played, turning the channel to Satisfy’s news station. The middle aged anchor was delivering the hot news that was just received.

『 The information about the boss monsters to be raided by 32 countries has been released. Let’s take a look. 』

The life of breaking news was fast. The anchor moved quickly in case he lost viewers to other stations and the information of the boss monster flashed on the screen.

[Drake]

Level: 420

A flying monster with a small amount of dragon’s blood.

Their intelligence is greatly reduced compared to wyverns, but their combat power and power of the breath is overwhelmingly superior!

They have high status resistance, extreme resistance to physical attacks, resistance to magic attacks, relatively high stamina, and can stay in the air infinitely.

Drop items: Drake's heart, drake leather, drake's fang, drake's bone.

『 Drakes are a senior monster that have never been raided once. It means a strategy hasn't been revealed yet. 』

『 Doesn't that mean all teams are in an equal position when starting? 』

『 That's right. It seems like the organizations have considered equality. 』

『 However, the players will be feeling desperate. In order to hunt flying monsters, ranged damage dealers and magicians are needed. How many ranged damage dealers and magicians are capable of damaging a drake? 』

『 Blocking the flying ability is the key to the raid. But how can they block it when the monster has status resistance...? 』

『 Since it's a level 400 monster, they need to be at least at the third advancement to do damage. I wonder how many countries can succeed in the raid. 』

"How do we defeat that?"

"Won't the US also find it hard?"

The South Korean representatives were sulking. Yura and Peak Sword's expression was also bad. Only seven people were going against a flying boss monster, and South Korea only had Grid and Peak Sword above level 300. Everyone judged that the raid was impossible and felt despair.

"I'll be in the capsule room for the next two days."

Grid rose from his seat.

"Yes, let's go hunting. I should gain at least one more level."

Peak Sword got up along with Grid. It was impossible to think up a strategy to defeat this boss monster. The South Korean representatives were tired and judged it was better to give up early and prepare for other events. It was the same for the representatives gathered in other spaces.

Only the United States, Russia, Canada, and France were seriously concerned about a strategy against the drake.

The National Competition's 17th day.

The last team event, the boss raid would take place. The interest of the world was hot.

A drake. People were excited about the chance to indirectly experience the power of boss monsters that were difficult to meet. The players were motivated, unlike how they were originally. The organizers announced that the teams would keep the items dropped by the drakes.

It was an extreme measure because they were worried that the unmotivated attitude of the participants would interfere with their performance in the event. The result was commendable. The representatives who grumbled ‘How can we catch a drake?’ and planned to drop out early became motivated. They needed to succeed in the raid in order to get the items that the drake would drop.

It was the same with the Korean representatives. The materials dropped by the drake were incomparable to the materials distributed in Satisfy so far. It was a profit even if it was shared between seven people.

“God Grid! Let’s do our best! Even if we can’t win the medal, we must fight to the end and make sure the drake dies!”

Peak Sword shouted with tension. Meanwhile, Grid was still calm. His attitude made Yura uneasy.

‘Why?’

Grid was promised a large amount of money from the Comet Group and raised his value of a Satisfy gamer. Despite feeling proud and pleased with himself, he somehow felt bad since he signed with the Comet Group. She wondered if he had some worries that she didn’t know about?

Regardless of Yura’s concern, the competition’s schedule proceeded.

『 All participants should go to the capsule room! 』

The 244 participants from 32 countries moved to the capsules assigned to them and logged into Satisfy. The countries appeared in different maps, but a drake appeared in front of all of them and roared.

Kurarararara!

[The dragon’s blood deals fear to all subordinates!]

[You will be in a rigid state for 10 seconds.]

[All buffs are deactivated, with defense and resistance reduced by 50%. You will step back from the enemy.]

[You have temporarily lost your hearing from the drake’s roar!]

[All types of conversations will be blocked for 1 minute and 30 seconds!]

[Your body has been suppressed by the gust from the drake’s wings!]

[As long as the drake’s wings continue to flap, all speeds will drop by 30%!]

Depending on the level and resistance of each player, the duration of the debuff was different. In any case, all the players of each country suffered. In particular, the players who pre-used buff skills lost them before they could even enjoy the effect.

‘The command system has collapsed.!’

The United States was also overwhelmed. The drake's roar had the effect of blocking all types of conversations. This was a problem because no matter what they said, the contents wasn't communicated to their colleagues. An unknown enemy, the drake.

Zibal quickly understood thanks to his numerous raid experience, but it was useless because he couldn't communicate with his team members.

"Kuak!"

"Ugh...!"

The drake, which was over 5m in length, moved at a speed that wasn't suitable for its huge size. It started devastate the US team, making the world feel shock.

『 The strongest US team is trampled on so easily...! Strong! The drake is really strong! 』

『 The 30% slowness effect is deadly. Even Kraugel was hit. First of all, the strategy is to stop those wings... 』

『 Ah! As soon as you spoke, Bondre of France used ice magic and froze one of the drake's wings! 』

『 ...But it was broken in an instant. Its resistance to magic is ridiculously high. 』

The moment that the atmosphere became serious.

"Eh? Comet's new capsule is so much better than the performance of other capsules! I can move smoothly! Hey! It's amazing!"

The Korean Grid started speaking loudly. The attention of the commentators and viewers focused on him. On the upper chest of Grid's Triple Layers, the logo of the Comet Group could be seen. Yura blushed as she looked at Grid and realized.

Grid had been uncomfortable the last few days because he was embarrassed at the thought of speaking such words.

"..."

Yura looked at Grid while the viewers resented Grid's obvious PPL (product placement) because it broke the immersion. Grid was being blamed for being a monster created by the age of materialism. Fortunately, the voices of the viewers didn't reach Grid.

Grid wasn't shaken and could concentrate on the raid. He took out a pole that was 3m long and had a diameter of 80cm, inserting it deep into the group. Then he threw the trident attached to the pile by a rope towards the drake. It was the Spear Shot skill that he obtained from the Behen Archipelago.

Puok!

The trident pierced the drake's leather and it tried to fly away. But the rope connected to the pole pulled it tightly and the drake's flight was blocked. That's right. Once again, it was the power of items. During the past two resting days, Grid had devised items that could neutralize the strength of flying monsters.

He came up with several of them.

Chapter 435

Grid pulled out new items.

There was a very large hammer that could be swung with both hands.

[Dragon Hammer]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 400/400 Attack Power: 250

A hammer made by the legendary blacksmith Grid.

It is designed to hit the 'Dragon Harpoon Pillars.'

It is very big and heavy and the attack power is excellent. It can be used as a weapon, but it isn't easy to swing.

Conditions of Use: More than 3,000 strength.

Weight: 5,500

The Dragon Harpoon was a pillar with a trident. Yes, this large harpoon was designed to block a dragon's flight.

[Dragon Harpoon]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 500/500 Attack Power: 620

* There is a 100% chance of hitting the target when the 'restrain' effect is activated.

* The restraint effect will last while the pillar is embedded in the ground.

* The pillar will come out a little bit every time the opponent resists.

A secondary weapon made by the legendary blacksmith Grid.

The harpoon optimized for throwing is made of jaffa, while the pillar designed to be embedded in the ground is made of a large amount of steel.

The harpoon is thrown after the pillar is embedded in the ground, so the super large weapon is extremely difficult to handle.

The ridiculous weight and the long time it takes to install makes it impossible to be popular.

However, the effect is absolute.

User Restriction: More than 4,000 strength. More than 2,000 dexterity. A skill in the javelin series.

Weight: 30,000

Putting aside the weight, the conditions of use were ridiculous. 4,000 strength was a stat that damage dealers only dreamt about, and 2,000 dexterity was impossible to obtain unless they were production class users. There was also the javelin type skill...

How many people could meet these three conditions at the same time? It might be different in a few years, but at the moment, it was only Grid. It meant there was no material value. It was clear that no one would buy it if he put it on the auction house.

But the power was excellent. The attack power and options were very different from normal secondary weapons, and the durability was high enough for it to not be considered consumables. But secondary weapons had limitations that couldn't be overcome. Their persistence was weak.

[The target 'drake' is struggling with the Dragon Harpoon!]

[The pillar of the Dragon Harpoon is pulled out a little bit from the ground! (4/5)]

[The target 'drake' is struggling with the Dragon Harpoon!]

[The pillar of the Dragon Harpoon is pulled out a little bit from the ground! (3/5)]

Five times. The pillar could only withstand the resistance of the object restrained for a certain period of time. The laws of physics didn't apply. Regardless of the weight or strength of the object being restrained, it could unconditionally resist it five times.

Kurarararara!

The drake struggled like crazy against the harpoon. Every time the giant body moved, the rope connected to the trident was pulled more tightly and the pillar stuck in the ground shone. Every time the pillar was shaken, it felt like a natural disaster where the ground shook and the earth rose was occurring.

『 The South Korean team's drake is extremely angry! 』

『 The pillar won't last much longer. It will soon regain its freedom. 』

The relay of the commentators became urgent. They were imagining the Korean representatives who would soon be killed. But Grid was fine. He held the Dragon Hammer and hit the head of the pillar.

Kwang!

[The target 'drake' is struggling with the Dragon Harpoon!]

[The pillar of the Dragon Harpoon is pulled out a little bit from the ground! (1/5)]

[The Dragon Hammer has hit the pillar!]

[The Dragon Harpoon's pillar has sunk deeper into the ground! (2/5)]

[The durability of the Dragon Harpoon is decreased by 57!]

It wasn't unusual for it to be pulled out completely, but Grid hammered in the pillar of the Dragon Harpoon again. It wasn't a hammering machine.

Kyaoooooh!

Kaaang!Kaaang!

Grid kept hitting the pillar while the drake went wild. The rope that connected the harpoon and pillar were stretched and loosened repeatedly. Grid confirmed that the durability of the Dragon Harpoon was rapidly decreasing and shouted.

“What are you doing? Attack it while it can’t fly!”

The Korean representatives lost their hearing from the drake’s roar and couldn’t hear anything. They didn’t understand what Grid was saying. But they weren’t fools, so they knew what to do.

“Draw Sword, Sudden.”

"Regulus."

“Flame that won’t turn off!”

"Shield Boomerang!"

Pepepepeok!

The Korean representatives attacked the drake using their strongest skills. Yura had already been firing her magic gun from the beginning. However...

[You have dealt 250,040 damage to the target.]

[The target has avoided it.]

[The target has resisted.]

[The skill can’t penetrate the target’s leather.]

The Korean representatives couldn’t damage the drake except for Peak Sword. Was it because the drake’s defense and resistance was ridiculously high? That was a secondary problem. The real problem was the low level of the South Korean team members.

Apart from the level 306 Grid and the level 309 Peak Sword, the level of the Korean members were in the 200s. In severe cases, there was a 200 level difference with the drake. If the level difference was that big, then damage wasn’t applied properly. It was like smashing an egg against a rock. No, maybe worse than that.

‘I’m not helping at all.’

Yura was firing her gun. However, her beautiful face distorted as countless MISS messages emerged in front of her. She had reigned for a long time so this helplessness was difficult for her to bear.

Chapter 436

Kwaaaaah!

The drake fired a breath like this resistance was futile. It was powerful enough to turn this place into a sea of fire with one breath.

"Aaaagh!"

Screams were heard. Peak Sword and Yura endured the breath, but the remaining representatives suffered a deadly blow and fell into confusion.

“...Hrmm.”

Grid checked the damage of the breath. While the other team members were feeling stress and despair, he had a smile on his face and made an absurd remark.

“Maybe I should do this alone? If so, all the drops belong to me okay?”

“...Eh?”

He would hunt that huge monster alone? The Korean representatives heard an absurd remark as soon as their hearing was restored, while the pillar of the harpoon was pulled out.

Kuuong!

The durability was severely damaged and the Dragon Harpoon was a mess as the drake recovered its freedom. Grid placed the Dragon Harpoon to the side and looked at the monster flying into the sky.

“You’re much weaker than Elfin Stone.”

Vampire Earl Elfin Stone was a named boss with overwhelming abilities and skills. Despite the combined Overgeared elites, they experienced despair several times. On the other hand, the drake wasn’t named and only had a high level. It needed to be raided by combining the strength of the seven representatives, so the organizers came up with this gap between the drake and Elfin Stone. The only part where the drake was more tricky than Elfin Stone was that it was a ‘flying monster.’

“I can move in the sky.”

Grid armed himself with Braham’s Boots and flew up. The weapon he held in his hand as he shot through the sky wasn’t Iyarugt, Grid’s Greatsword of Failure.

[Efficient Hunting Sword]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 410/410 Attack Power: 720

- * Deals an addition 30% damage to monsters.
- * Increases critical rate by 50% when attacking monsters.
- * The chance of a monster dropping items when killed is increased by 20%.

A longsword made by the legendary blacksmith Grid.

A weapon made by combining the advantages of the weapons that monster hunters love.

User Restriction: Level 300 or higher. Advanced Sword Mastery level 3. 2,000 strength. 1,000 agility.

That’s right!

Grid successfully produced an item that dealt additional damage to monsters! It was possible because he collected hundreds of production methods during the two years since he became Pagma's Descendant. It was unfortunate that he only strengthened it to +7 because he was lacking enhancement stones. But in this state, the monster hunting ability was better than the +9 Iyarugt, the +9 Failure and the +8 Grid's Greatsword.

"Above all, there is an option to increase the item acquisition rate."

A weapon optimized for hunting like Debirion! Grid held a blade that was reminiscent of a half moon and unleashed his swordsmanship.

Kurararak!

The drake wanted to kill this dirty human.

Kuoooooh!

The drake exerted a great pressure on the atmosphere as it headed towards Grid. But Grid didn't shrink back. He held his posture to the end.

"Linked Kill!"

Puok!

He stabbed strongly at the large target that was thankfully coming towards him on its own.

Puook!

Two hits.

Puk!Puk!Puk.

Three hits, four hits, five consecutive hits.

Peeok!

The drake hit Grid's chest, but thanks to the strongest armor Triple Layers, Grid was able to endure the pain and link another sword technique.

"Link."

[Critical!]

[Critical!]

[Critical!]

[Critical!]

A small human facing a monster that was bigger than a house. How many of the viewers watching thought he was like a flame in front of the wind?

Kieeeeeek!

The monster's fall!

『 This is impossible! 』

The commentators of the raid were silent. Were they admiring the systematic strength of the US team, which quickly recovered from the confusion and started to hit the drake?

No.

Were they admiring the stability of the Japanese team, which relied on Damian's buffs and tank?

No.

Were they admiring Kraugel's control skills as he completely controlled the drake's aggro? That also wasn't it. The representatives from each country were obviously impressive as they raided the drake in different ways, but it didn't leave a deep impression.

Only a single person. Only Korea's Grid was able to create this feeling of thrill in the commentators. Grid faced the drake and played the role of tanker and damage dealer alone. Control? Strategy? He just smashed at the drake with overwhelming attack power. He also did it alone.

"God Grid fighting!"

The 15th ranked Peak Sword was cheering hard for Grid.

Kwaaaaah!

The drake roared as it was repeatedly hit by Grid. At the same time, its tail moved nervously.

Peeeeeeong!

"Kuk!"

Grid's body was hit by the quick and sharp tail. He trembled as he coughed up blood.

'Shouldn't a dragon type have more magic damage?'

A dragon's strongest technique was well known for being the breath. Grid thought the drake would be the same. However, he was mistaken. The drake had weak breath attacks and strong physical damage, the opposite of the wyverns.

'Dammit! I thought it was weak due to the first breath!'

It was actually pretty strong. Every time he was hit by the tail, his health decreased by 6,000 and it caused the 'stunned' and 'stiff' state. Grid was sure that there was no one who could raid a drake alone.

So what if your raid abilities were excellent?

The first strike from the tail would cause a state where they would die! However, Grid was different.

[You have resisted.]

Grid cleared away the stiff state the moment he was hit by the tail. He moved forward during the opening where the drake pulled back its tail and stabbed his sword. Once again, Grid targeted the drake's brow.

"Kill!"

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 635,900 damage to the target.]

The power of the Efficient Hunting Sword was amazing. Criticals kept bursting out every time he used a skill, causing amazing damage. The situation was very pleasant for Grid, who was under the influence of 50% damage reduction in PvP during the National Competition. It felt like the shackles binding his hand and feet were released!

Kurararak!

Why did it keep being hit? The drake was upset by Grid and fired a breath. A huge fire pillar headed straight for Grid. The drake was relieved. It laughed because it was confident that the human would be roasted. But Grid was fine! Grid wore Lantier's Cloak, which had the option to raise various resistances depending on the climate. Grid wrapped the cloak around himself as he advanced through the flames and attacked the caught off guard drake.

"Pinnacle."

Kieeeeeek!

There was a critical and the drake wailed like a newborn baby. It didn't seem so dreadful now.

"Wow... Really bad."

"He keeps hitting the same place... A demon, a demon."

The Korean representatives muttered at Grid's brutality, but they knew. How difficult it was to hit and hit the same spot again and again. To be honest, the Korean representatives were extremely impressed.

'It's common sense that if you continue to hit the same area, the defense will weaken and the damage will become bigger.'

'It's really hard to hit the same spot when the target is moving.'

But Grid was doing it. It was something that completely overturned the evaluation that 'Grid doesn't have good control.'

"You finally understand? This is God Grid's skills!"

Peak Sword jumped excitedly as he watched Grid's activities and shouted.

"God Grid has always faced enemies stronger than himself!"

Nobody knew it except for the Overgeared members, but Grid was the one who faced the most powerful NPC Piaro and the peak of two billion users, Kraugel. No matter how bad Grid was, it was impossible for him to not improve his control. However, Grid's control wasn't noticed during this

National Competition because his items were so overwhelming. He didn't have a chance to show off his skills because he defeated the enemies with his items before he could show his control.

But the drake was strong, giving Grid a chance to show his power.

"Do you know God Griddddd?"

Peak Sword's yell reached Grid in the sky.

Grid frowned.

"That person is really loud."

It was enough to disturb him. His concentration was disturbed. Grid would prefer he be quiet, like during the Hell Gao raid.

'I should make him a pickaxe soon.'

He could mine minerals during these times. Peak Sword would feel sad if he knew this. Meanwhile, Grid checked the drake's health gauge. 50%. This was the result after Grid's serious onslaught that lasted seven minutes. It was poor compared to the US, Japan, Russia, and Spain who were raiding the drake as a team. In particular, the United States and Japan had already reduced the drake's health by 70%.

Grid also expected this. But Grid wasn't worried. He wouldn't stop attacking!

Peeng!Peeng!

The patterns of the drake changed after it fell to 50%, subsequently launching a breath.

'I can't let this hit.'

The drake's breath was weaker than expected, but it was still 3,000~4,000 damage. The cumulative damage was a burden. Grid concentrated and avoided it. He had fully adapted to flying magic over the past two years and was able to move freely in the sky.

However, the problem was that the drake's breath cooldown time temporarily became 0.

Pepeng!Pepepeng!

It meant it was impossible to avoid the breath indefinitely. In the end, Grid allowed one breath to hit him and was shaken. It was only for a moment, but the drake didn't miss the gap and swung its tail hard.

Peeeeek!

The tail precisely struck Grid's face. It was a well-timed attack. It was natural that a critical would pop up! The Korean representatives and commentators who saw it were certain. Grid was in danger. In fact, Grid also felt a chill. But he was lucky. Grid didn't feel any pain. It was thanks to the low probability of invalidating physical attacks option that was attached to Tiramet's Shoulderguards. It was the moment when the drake's tail became useless.

Kurararara!

What were these items? The Korean representatives felt like this was what the drake was shouting.

'If I was the drake, I would feel like dying.'

'Me too.'

'I would feel like cursing him now.'

On the other hand, Grid rushed into the gap caused by the drake recovering its tail and was once again beating it up. The drake's tail was powerful and fast, but was vulnerable after the gap was revealed. Grid was thoroughly taking advantage of this.

Kieeeeek!

The drake screamed as its health fell below 50%. It felt danger. Then the changes begun.

[The drake's survival instinct has kicked in!]

[The drake's heart is beating faster!]

[The drake's body is burning!]

[The drake's defense and resistance drops, while its speed, attack power and magic power is greatly increased!]

"Wow."

The drake was surrounded by flames and looked like a volcano. A volcano floating in the sky! The pressure was so great that it made Grid's chest tremble.

Kwaang!

The drake narrowed the distance to Grid. It was a speed that was above Grid, who had 2,000 agility. Grid borrowed the power of the Slaughterer's Eye Patch, but still couldn't fully capture the drake's movements. It flapped its wings once and the drake's foreleg hit Grid's nose, making his face distort with pain.

[You have suffered 9,300 damage.]

[You have suffered 1,710 damage.]

It hurt. His armor increased physical resistance and Tiramet's Belt reduced damage by 10%, but he still lost one-seventh of his health from that blow. There was also additional fire damage.

'The level difference can't be ignored.'

Grid dismissed the drake's strength as nothing more than level. The other representatives would've been outraged if they heard this. Why? Flying monsters had the advantage of being able to fly in the sky, so they were originally supposed to have low stats.

Despite being a flying monster, the drake was superior in all aspects of attack, magic, defense and resistance, so it was really abnormal. Zibal had raided 20 named bosses and even he found it to be one of the strongest. The experts currently relaying the situation expressed their fear of the superior species, calling the drake unbalanced.

But Grid didn't think so.

The Yatan Servants, Malacus and Neberius. Pope Drevigo and pope candidate Pascal. The great demon Hell Gao and Braham's golems. Vampire Earl Elfin Stone and Vampire Viscount Tiramet. Piaro and Kraugel...

The drake wasn't particularly special compared to the absurd enemies that Grid had fought. A top species? They were just mass produced anyway. They were different from enemies where only one existed. And Grid was the poster child of unbalanced.

"Blackening."

Kakiing.

Grid's skin turned pale and the whites of his eyes became black. At the same time, there was a gaze of demonic energy around him.

[Your black magic power has increased.]

[You don't have any black magic power. It will be replaced with demonic power.]

[While Blackening is activated, your species will change to half-demon.]

[As a half demon, your maximum health is reduced by 50%. Your attack power, magic power and agility will increased by 20% each.]

[All attacks will be converted to the black magic attribute.]

He constantly allowed the drake's attacks and lost half of health. Anyway, his maximum health would be reduced by 50% if he used Blackening, so it was good timing.

'From now on, it's dangerous to allow an attack.'

The drake's tail whipped and Grid wore Doran's Ring while thinking. Grid tried to counterattack by using Quick Movements to evade the attack and aim for the gap, but the drake blocked it by launching a breath. It was evidence that the drake was capable of learning. The drake might have less intelligence than a wyvern, but it wasn't a fool.

The tail was no longer the drake's weakness.

'Learning faster than me...'

It wasn't just fast, but several times faster. Now Grid was dumber than a monster. The drake swung its forelegs at the frustrated Grid. It was ridiculously small compared to the huge body size, but its strength was powerful. The claws were harder than steel and the speed was like a jab from a world boxing champion.

However, it wasn't enough for Grid who had used Blackening and Quick Movements. Grid avoided the drake's attack by borrowing the power of the Slaughterer's Eye Patch and triggered Blacksmith's Rage, instantly boosting his attack power and attack speed. Then he once again hit the drake.

Kiyaaaaaah!

The drake suffered a great deal of damage compared to before. It was the result of its resistance and defense weakening after its health fell below 50%. But the drake didn't back down. Despite the blood pouring down from it, the drake cried out in a berserk manner, shooting a breath while flapping its wings at the same time.

"...!"

Flames filled Grid's vision. His body failed to withstand the strong wind pressure generated by the drake and he fell to the ground. A great crisis! The drake descended and aimed at Grid's upper body!

It was like a meteor falling towards Grid, so everyone in the world sensed it. Grid would fail the raid. This meant there was actually a higher chance of Grid succeeding in the raid. Grid's main feature was to overturn people's expectations!

Chapter 437

The drake descended and tried to pin down Grid's body.

The commentators foresaw the worst.

『 Grid is in trouble. The drake is too fast and Grid's posture is off. He can't avoid it. 』

『 He can't use a skill because he is falling like this. Pagma's Swordsmanship is a skill that can only be activated by moving his legs. Now that I look at it, Pagma's Swordsmanship is a skill that is limited in many ways. 』

『 Why didn't Grid use Revolve? If he countered the drake's attack, wouldn't he be able to take the lead in the battle more efficiently? 』

『 He didn't use it because he couldn't. Is it so easy to get the right timing for the counterattack? It was more luck than skill that he succeeded in countering Bondre's spell. Originally, a counterattack is very hard to use. Is there anyone in the world who can freely do it except for Kraugel? 』

There was no one who ignored Grid. They all acknowledged Grid's skill. But looking at it from a realistic perspective, the drake was stronger than Grid and fought well, so it was natural for Grid to be defeated.

"Grid!"

Yura, Peak Sword, and the other Korean representatives urgently cried out. They somehow wished to save Grid from the plunging drake. But except for Peak Sword's attack, the drake wasn't hurt and its momentum didn't decrease. Peak Sword's attack was relatively strong, but it wasn't enough to change aggro.

In the end.

Kurarararara!

The drake surrounded by fire was on the verge of seizing Grid. The drake seemed to be laughing. It revealed its fierce fangs as it got closer, but Grid was smiling rather than looking frightened.

"You can't kill me."

Grid said something meaningful the moment it happened.

Puok!

A trident came flying and struck the back of the drake's neck.

Kieeeeeeeek-!

The drake was shocked by the sudden attack, but it wasn't at a level to stop its anger towards Grid. It ignored the trident in its neck and attacked Grid. But the drake couldn't reach Grid. It was because the rope attached to the trident pulled the drake's neck backwards.

It was the trident of the Dragon Harpoon. Who could use a weapon with such absurd usage conditions except for Grid?

The God Hands. Since it reproduced Grid's hands, all items can be worn without restrictions. A fraudulent item that could use weapons and magic! While Grid was fighting the drake, they repaired the harpoon and combined items. They flew towards Grid and handed him a sword.

It combined a blue shark-like sword and the long crescent shaped sword.

[Failure + Efficient Hunting Sword (Combined)]

Rating: Legendary (Transcendent)

Durability: Infinite

Attack Power: 1,500~2,180 Attack Power: 120

* Agility +100

* There is a certain probability of blocking the enemy's attacks.

* There is a certain probability of activating the '5 Joint Attacks' skill.

* There is a high probability of activating the 'Cutting' skill.

* Deals an addition 40% damage to monsters.

* Increases critical rate by 60% when attacking monsters.

* The chance of a monster dropping items when killed is increased by 30%.

* There will be a fear effect if the enemy is more than 15 levels lower than the user.

* Attack power +30% in dark places.

A weapon that maximizes the merits of the legendary rated 'Failure' and 'Efficient Hunting Sword' after being combined by the legendary blacksmith G.

Conditions of Use: Pagma's Descendant

* The combination time is 2 minutes.

* This item can't be traded.

Grid had made two Efficient Hunting Swords, not one. The reason he made more than one was because he wanted a legendary rating. In the end, he failed and only got a unique rating. Still, it wasn't bad for Grid.

Kurararara!

As the drake was floundering from the Dragon Harpoon, Grid replaced the Largest Gloves with the Holy Light Gloves. The sun set behind him as he grabbed the new weapon. It was one of the reasons why Grid didn't use Item Combination from the beginning. Grid wanted to maximize the option effect of Failure by calculating when the sun would set after the drake appeared. It was called looking at the big picture.

"Now die and leave your materials. Leather, bones, teeth, claws, heart, eyeballs, everything."

At this moment, Grid didn't recognize the drake as an enemy. It was only seen as prey.

Taack!

Grid stepped forward with dark energy around him, making him look cruelly beautiful.

Kuwaaah!

The drake was exposed due to the Dragon Harpoon and panicked. It roared pathetically and struggled, but it couldn't escape because a God Hand kept hammering at the pillar. The combination of the Dragon Harpoon, Dragon Hammer, and God Hands could truly be called overgeared. If the durability of the harpoon was infinite then the target could be bound forever.

"Hiyah!"

Grid aimed precisely at the sparkling dot on the drake's head that he saw with the Slaughterer's Eye Patch. The second reason why Grid didn't use Item Combination from the beginning! It was to create a weakness to maximize the power of Item Combination, and this weakness was the forehead that had been continuously struck!

"Pinnacle Kill."

In the darkness, the strongest skill left Grid's sword. It was an extreme stab that contained killing intent.

[Critical!]

[The weak spot has been attacked! Further damage will be dealt!!]

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

[Failure + Efficient Hunting Sword (Combined) option effect is activated, causing the skill '5 Joint Attacks' to be generated.]

[Failure + Efficient Hunting Sword (Combined) option effect is activated, causing the skill 'Cutting' to be generated.]

[You have dealt 21,300,590 damage to the target.]

[A player has dealt 20 million damage in one blow for the first time!]

[Title: 'Death in One Shot' has been acquired.]

[The passive '30% increase in critical strike damage' will always be applied.]

[The savage drake has died and returned to the soil.]

[Your level has risen.]

[The party leader 'Grid' has acquired drake fangs (2).]

[The party leader 'Grid' has acquired drake claws (4).]

[The party leader 'Grid' has acquired drake scales (6).]

[The party leader 'Grid' has acquired drake bones (10).]

[The party leader 'Grid' has acquired a drake heart (1).]

Kuuuuuung!

The drake's body collapsed. It had almost half its health remaining, but it died in a single blow.

"..."

The commentators were at a loss for words. It was impossible for them to describe the current situation to the viewers. The spectators in the stadium and the viewers around the world had their mouths open like a carp. It was the same with the Korean representatives.

But the South Korean representatives were surprised for a different reason.

'When did he set the item drops to the leader setting?'

No one knew. This meant that everyone was concentrating on Grid's battle. They hadn't even realized the God Hands had been hammering in a corner.

[The savage drake has died and returned to the soil.]

14 minutes after the start of the drake raid, the US team succeeded.

"Okay!"

"We have the gold medal!"

The US representatives cheered. They might lose first place to Russia, so they were glad and proud about having won a valuable gold medal. On the other hand, Lauel's expression wasn't good.

'It is like this despite the fact that I didn't cooperate properly.'

Lauel hadn't given many comments in the operational meeting before the raid. The reason was that he 'wasn't a professional when it came to raids,' but Lauel took this passive stance because he didn't want the US to win the gold medal. He stayed silent despite knowing various methods to block the drake's flight.

The problem was that Zibal's raid abilities were too excellent. Zibal completed a strategy to capture the drake in real time, utilizing the strengths of his team members and leading the raid to success. As a result, the drake was raided in only 14 minutes and 33 seconds, making the US team sure that they had won the gold medal.

'20 minutes... No, if only it was 18 minutes.'

Grid might've caught the drake first. Lauel thought it was a pity and logged out. Zibal also logged out with a bright expression.

'I have finally proven that I'm not a punching bag.'

He was only weak in PvP. Otherwise, he was top class. He was excellent in all other areas, especially raids. Zibal confidently exited the capsule and waited for the crowd's cheers.

But the reaction was marginal. Only a small amount of applause was heard intermittently.

'Are they too surprised?'

They were speechless because the US team defeated the strong drake too quickly. Zibal's shoulder's shook as he couldn't contain his laughter. He was waiting. There would be the call stating that the US won the gold medal! However...

『 At 14 minutes and 33 seconds, the US has succeeded in raiding the drake and won the silver medal! 』

"What?"

The US team couldn't believe their ears. Lauel was the same. Their gazes was confused as they turned to the scoreboard. It stated the record of the team that raided the drake before the US.

South Korea: 8 minutes and 59 seconds.

"...?"

This was ridiculous! It might be possible for Japan with Damian's buffs, but South Korea took down the drake in 9 minutes? Grid, Peak Sword, and the other weak representatives succeeded?

"It must be a hoax!"

Zibal shouted with a red face. The record of the Korean team was so unacceptable that suspicions of manipulation naturally arose. Then the electric signboard changed to the Korean team... No, it was the highlight video of Grid's raid.

"..."

The mouths of the US representatives fell open as they saw the footage. It seemed like their jaws would completely fall off.

"Hahat! Puhahahat!"

Only Lauel's cheerful laughter could be heard.

Chapter 438

Hwaruruk!

The darkness of the world was split apart by a huge spark of light. A great flare! Just like a candle on the verge of being blown out, the injured drake was surrounded by flames.

Kwaaaaah!

The presence of dragon's blood in its body was weak. The pressure of the drake's roar was enormous. It showed off its presence as a superior species that human beings couldn't afford to look up to. But the drake was just a trivial existence to the man facing him.

The man flew up and wielded his blue greatsword without any signs of nervousness.

Seokeok!

A blue light in the darkness, like the Milky Way. The drake's huge head was split in two and flames flew all over the place.

Hwuduk.

Hwaduuk.

The black haired man with a blue greatsword that split the drake in half with one blow. The man with the wreckage of the drake pouring on him, his name was Grid. He confirmed that the drake had turned to grey and turned his gaze to the camera, opening his mouth.

"Comet Group."

What was with the Comet Group? Grid only spoke two words. But that alone was enough. At this moment, the hundreds of millions of viewers focused on Grid discovered the Comet Group. Whether it was positive or negative, the Comet Group enjoyed astronomical advertising thanks to Grid's words!

"Amazing...!"

The employees of the Comet Group watched the broadcast in real time and rose from their seats, clapping. In particular, the chairman felt like dancing. Thanks to Grid's words, the Comet Group built global awareness and took a step to becoming a global company. He was so grateful that he wanted to introduce his granddaughter to him.

On this day. Grid's professional attitude as he didn't forget about PPL became the basis of capitalist society.

The waiting room of the US team.

"That is pure luck!"

Zibal shouted angrily as he saw Grid's raid video from the beginning. He didn't say it was due to items. He acknowledged that Grid had the excellent ability to utilize his items. But there were parts he couldn't admit. It was Grid's nonsense attack power that wiped out half of the drake's health with one blow.

"There was clearly a critical attack, as well as the options of his items and title being triggered!"

It meant that all the potential of the items had been pulled to the extremes. This was a phenomenon that was impossible, equivalent to the luck of winning the lottery. Zibal was in denial.

"That... That damn bastard has been blessed by the god of games...!"

He said this because he didn't know how unlucky Grid normally was. Lauel laughed silently as he heard.

'If Grid was truly blessed by the god of games, by now all of his items would have the legendary rank.'

The value of legendary items compared to unique items varied by dozens or even hundreds of times. To Lauel, a legendary blacksmith who couldn't produce legendary rate items was the most unfortunate person in the world. The occasional good luck kicked in, but the cumulative bad luck made Lauel think.

'How many countries did you sell in your past life...?'

No, maybe he was a demon who destroyed the world.

'Then you and I must've been enemies of the past. Well, it's good. The ghosts of the past life are born again with a connection to the present life.'

It happened when Lauel was thinking about his past life.

『 Oh my! Thailand didn't give up to the end, but eventually failed in the raid! 』

『 Of the 32 countries participating, only 23 succeeded in the raid. 』

The raid event ended. The final ranking was South Korea 1st, US 2nd, and Japan 3rd.

'None of the countries that the Overgeared members belong to failed the raid.'

It was beneficial since the Overgeared members would acquire the items dropped by the drake. In fact, Lauel couldn't imagine that Yura and Peak Sword didn't get any benefits as he headed to the press conference.

"Did you make the harpoon set that restrained the drake?"

"How did you come up with the idea of creating such a large secondary weapon? Coming up with repair tools to overcome the limitations of secondary weapons, I'm impressed. Do you mind showing the production process for that harpoon set?"

"What are the God Hands? Let the public see the options of the God Hands!"

"How much power is gained when two swords are combined?"

"You killed the drake when it had 48% of its health left. The experts predict that Grid did approximately 20 million damage. Is this true?"

"When the drake's health was at 50%, the high ranking players found that they lost one-fourth of their health every time they were hit by the drake, but you only lost one-tenth of your health. Can you disclose the approximate level of your defense and health?"

“What is the principle behind Blackening? It is the power of an artifact?”

At the press conference, representatives of Korea, the US, and Japan were all gathered. But the hundreds of reporters only asked Grid questions. It was testament to the fact that the world’s attention was focused on Grid. Grid couldn’t reveal his own abilities, so he kept stating ‘No comment.’

"As of today, the team events are over and there are only four individual events left. One of them is the blacksmith production game. Grid, you declared that you won’t participate in the blacksmith production game. Is that declaration still valid?"

What if? If he really won three gold medals in the individual events, it was a situation where South Korea would be looking at first place. It was common sense that Grid would participate in an event where he was likely to win a gold medal, and the most likely event for Grid to win a gold medal was the blacksmith production game.

The Korean reporters wanted Grid to change his mind and declare that he would participate in the blacksmith production game. But Grid thought differently.

"I’m not going to participate in the blacksmith game."

No, why? The moment that the reporters were going to tear their tongues out at Grid’s stubbornness. One of the US representatives, the 1st ranked blacksmith, Panmir suddenly opened his mouth.

“Grid, are you avoiding me because you are afraid?”

It was an obvious provocation. At this moment, the hearts of the US representatives and the people were crying out. They were surprised at Panmir’s foolishness in allowing Grid to take the gold medal by making him participate in the blacksmith game.

But Panmir had his own pride as a blacksmith. He had no doubts that he was a much better blacksmith than Grid, who got a legendary class and would’ve obtained good items without any effort.

"If you’re a man, try it. Don’t run away like last year."

Panmir wanted to prove himself. He improved his blacksmithing abilities from the beginning to now. His accumulated effort and passion! Thus, he continued to provoke Grid.

“I will reveal to the world that you are just a legend in name!”

"..."

Panmir was a middle-aged man with grey hair. He was an older person, so Grid just listened at first. But it was impossible any longer. A legend in name?

"This is outrageous."

Suuk.

Grid turned from the front towards the direction of the US team. The side profile of his high nose and sharp jaw gave off a masculine charm that females liked.

Snap snap!

There was the sound of camera shutters snapping in unison.

Gulp!

What scoop would they obtain? As the reporters watched Grid and Panmir, Grid finally opened his mouth.

“Let me show you the difference between you and I.”

“...!”

It was the moment when the showdown that the people of the world desired, excluding the US, was achieved.

‘Good!’

Lauel, the US representative, formed a fist underneath the table. Lauel’s gaze moved further, to where Kraugel was standing alone at the back of the wall.

‘Congratulations, Kraugel.’

There was hope to obtain the precious medicine for his mother.

The theme of the blacksmith production game was to make a longsword. It wasn’t a special sword. It was an ordinary sword with a level limit of 300. It was a game where the participants would all receive the same production method and materials.

This was the biggest reason why Grid didn’t want to participate in the blacksmith production game. In the end, the production relied on luck! Grid was the icon of bad luck, so he wanted to avoid any game involving a gamble.

[Ordinary Longsword]

Rating: Normal ~ Legendary

“...It will be embarrassing if I make a normal item.”

In the case of items created by Grid himself, the minimum rating was from epic~ unique, while ordinary production methods started from normal~rare. Grid was afraid of the worst, but he soon controlled his mind.

‘I have produced more than 3,000 longswords.’

Longswords were weapons with excellent balance. It was the weapon with the highest demand, so Grid had a lot of experience making longswords.

Reidan’s 1,000 soldiers... No, it was almost 2,000 soldiers now. Grid had been steadily making longswords to distribute to them.

To be honest, he could make a longsword with his eyes closed. Grid believed in his experience and know-how.

'Let me prove it.'

He was a legendary blacksmith and he never once neglected that role. Grid worked harder than anyone else because he knew he wasn't lucky, so his pride wasn't any lower than Panmir's.

"Login."

Grid headed towards the capsule as soon as he returned to the hotel and connected to Satisfy. First, he wanted to verify the information of the items dropped by the drake.

Chapter 439

"Panmir, are you crazy? Why did you do that?"

"We have to say farewell to being the strongest country in Satisfy this year. The US will miss out on first place because of idiots like you."

After the press conference, the US representatives gathered in one place. The atmosphere was the worst. They all blamed Panmir except for Lauel. It wouldn't be strange if curses emerged. But Panmir didn't shrink back. He didn't even feel sorry. He opened his mouth with a serious expression.

"I have been working as a blacksmith since Satisfy opened. From the moment I log in until I log out, I keep hitting the anvil with my hammer."

He used the same materials and production methods, but did research and used techniques to create better items. Panmir had really trained his skills over the years.

"Most people think that the result when making items relies purely on luck, but that isn't true. It also depends on techniques and devotion. Zibal, don't you know? The fact that I have invested 8 hours to create just one item."

'Grid takes at least 20 hours to make an item, sometimes it's two days...'

Speaking like this when it was only 8 hours! Lauel thought while Zibal nodded.

"I know it. Panmir, your working time is twice as long as an ordinary blacksmith."

"Why do you think that is?"

"...?"

The dissatisfied American representatives started to show interest. Panmir confirmed the calm atmosphere and explained in earnest.

"I stick to manual labor."

"Manual labor?"

"In fact, making an item is simple. Open the design of the item you want to make, register the necessary materials, click the 'Production' button and the hammering will start automatically."

This was how most blacksmiths made items. Depending on the item, it would take a minimum of 5 minutes to a maximum of 6 hours. If the time spent was too little, it was likely that defective products

would be born. However, since a long investment time didn't necessarily result in a high rated item, the average time of blacksmiths was three hours.

"But I don't use the production system. I tap the hammer directly and make the item as best as I can. This is manual labor."

"What are the benefits?"

"The probability of a high item rating and additional options will increase. Most blacksmiths who do manual labor like me become rankers. It's clearly something that not anyone can do. How easy is it to concentrate and work for hours on one item? It's a harsh job that consumes stamina."

Panmir continued.

"Grid is Pagma's Descendant and from the moment he changed classes, he learned the finest blacksmithing skills. He just has to press the production button and he will easily be able to mass produce rare and epic items. If he's lucky, maybe he can create unique and legendary items. What does he know about effort? He will never know about manual labor. Even if he knew, he wouldn't use it when he can take the easy method."

This was the point.

"Grid only relies on luck and is different from me. In tomorrow's game, Grid will rely on luck while I will show my techniques."

Tomorrow, Grid would simply create top rated items by clicking on the production button as usual. Maybe he could make a legendary item. On the other hand, no matter how much effort and skill Panmir used, he was stuck with epic and unique rated items.

But Panmir wasn't shaken. He believed that the epic~unique item he made with all his effort would have a better performance than the 'name only' legendary items that Grid would create.

Skull, who had been listening to the confident Panmir, spoke a negative opinion.

"In the end, Satisfy is a game. It's obvious that the dexterity stat and blacksmithing skill level will have a big impact on the outcome. Systematically, there is more grounds for defeat than victory. I don't understand why you are so confident."

Panmir burst out laughing.

"My blacksmith skill is also advanced level 6. I have reached the intermediate level of the dwarf skills learned in Talima. This is why the items I make will have 12% better stats than what is seen on the production method."

Was that all?

"My dexterity has been steadily increasing through manual work and is approaching 1,700. I assure you, my dexterity is much higher than Grid, who doesn't make anything by hand."

'Grid's dexterity is almost 3,000.'

Was it just this? People always evaluated Grid using their own common sense. Lauel couldn't help laughing.

'We can't measure him.'

Grid worked harder than all of them. Unless Panmir realized this, he would always be below Grid.

Lauel shrugged at this thought.

[Drake's Fang]

Classified as a class 2 metal, it's harder than any metal taken from human mines.

It's bigger, less curved, lighter and more elastic than an elephant's ivory. It's less hard than a drake's claws, bones, and scales.

It's ideal as a material for a spear or bow.

Weight: 100

[Drake's Claw]

Classified as a class 2 metal, it's harder than any metal taken from human mines.

A drake's claws are formed by several layers.

Every time five years passes for a drake, another layer of the claws will grow. Thus, it's possible to guess the age of the drake through their claws.

It's the hardest of all the drake's body parts, and is ideal as a solid material for swords or spears.

However, this makes it very difficult to smelt.

Weight: 820

[Drake's Scale]

Classified as a class 2 material, it's harder than any metal taken from human mines.

It's tough and elastic. It's classified as leather rather than metal, and is ideal as material for armor.

Weight: 250

[Drake's Bones]

Classified as a class 2 material, it is harder than any metal taken from human mines.

The next hardest part after the claws.

Although it is used as a material in armor, it is very brittle and has a weak impact surface.

Weight: 300

[Drake's Heart]

A heart with a little bit of dragon's blood flowing in it.

Generates an infinitely small amount of magic power and flames.

Weight: 1,000

Looking at the mines that existed in the human world, there should be mines in the god world and in hell. It was probably how the god mineral adamantium could exist separately.

"It's a jackpot."

Grid's expression was very bright as he verified the information of the materials. Thanks to the two fangs, he could make the best bow and spear! For Grid, who had Bow Mastery and Spear Shot, bows and spears were excellent secondary weapons and worth the investment.

'I will make a spear with the claws. I will keep the scales and bones for now.'

Grid had recently produced Triple Layers, the Largest Gloves, and Lantier's Cloak, so he was satisfied with his own defense. At the very least, he was confident there was no better armor in the National Competition. At this point, making a new armor was no different from a luxury. If a day when he required greater strength arrived, he would use it.

Grid held the drake's heart with a desire to deal with new production methods.

This was the biggest reward from the raid. Grid noted that the heart produced infinite flames.

'If I melt and attach this to a weapon, it will add fire damage every time I attack. If I attach it to armor, it will create a fire to defend and attack the enemy...'

It was a pity that there was only one. Why did a drake have only one heart? It would be good if it had 10 of them!

Khan's smithy. Someone approached Grid who was in front of the furnace. It was Lauel.

"I wish you victory in the production game."

Grid snorted.

"Can't you tell the difference between business and personal matters? Why are you cheering for me?"

The value of the gold medal in the 2nd National Competition was astronomical. They could get the best reward every time they won a gold medal. As a simple example, adamantium was awarded to blacksmiths. Lauel should be praying for the US' victory, for the sake of his own development.

"Well, you doing well will work out better for me in the end."

He swallowed down Kraugel's story again.

"Don't worry about it and do your best. When making an item, please be sure to use manual labor."

"Manual labor? Of course a blacksmith should use manual labor. How else do they make items? What are you saying?"

"...?"

Lauel was surprised by Grid's reaction. He thought for a moment before asking cautiously.

"Do you know about the production button?"

"Production button? What's that?"

"..."

Indeed. The legendary blacksmith Grid seemed to be carrying a penalty that he didn't know about. He didn't benefit from the production system. Grid had been Pagma's Descendant for over two years and he handcrafted everything individually, even if it was one arrow.

'This is why he works for so long.'

Lauel glanced at Grid.

"What? Why are you looking at me like that?"

"Just... Have strength."

Grid felt bad for some reason.

The National Competition's 17th day.

It was the day when the blacksmith production game was on. There was a total of 23 participants. Originally, the attention of the people should be divided between the 1st ranked Panmir and the 2nd ranked Stein. Now it was directed only towards Grid.

How great was the item made by a legendary blacksmith? The items Grid made were limited and weren't circulated in the market, so people's curiosity and expectations were amplified to the peak.

『 The time limit to produce an item is 8 hours! Blacksmiths, please only use the production method and materials you were given! 』

It was prohibited to add additional materials or to modify the design. This was a game to show pure skills under the same conditions.

'Anyway, it's a game of luck.'

Grid grumbled as he stood in front of the furnace. The other blacksmiths were the same.

'Grid, you're a legendary blacksmith who can easily make items. Your skills are fundamentally different from mine.'

'Can you imagine doing physical labor like hammering for 8 hours straight?'

'We will show you the power of manual work!'

Before the host announced the start of the match. The blacksmiths standing before the furnaces and holding hammers in their hands gazed at Grid heatedly. But Grid wasn't conscious of their gaze.

'Make an item in 8 hours? Why is the time limit so short? Isn't this bad?'

Grid was more familiar with hard labor than anyone else. The other blacksmiths would be shocked if they knew what he was thinking.

Chapter 440

『 The time limit to produce an item is 8 hours! Blacksmiths, please only use the production method and materials you were given! 』

The National Competition's 17th day.

The blacksmith production game began. Originally, this was a minor event. But after Grid announced his intention to participate, the situation reversed. It attracted attention comparable to the team events. The blacksmiths participating in the event felt gratitude towards Grid.

'Thanks to Grid, our value has been raised.'

'Thank you for sacrificing yourself for us!'

What if the people watching around the world saw the brilliant work of the advanced blacksmiths that made an item better than a legendary blacksmith? The blacksmith's reputation would surely soar into the sky. Each item they produced would become a premium and the value would skyrocket.

The eyes of the blacksmiths heated up as they planned to make Grid a sacrifice. Most of them believed themselves to be 'craftsman,' so they were very proud and didn't feel any fear towards Grid. Grid relied on his class, while they had technique.

On the other hand, Grid was looking at the production method and materials common to all participants.

[Production Method: Longsword]

Rating: Normal ~ Legendary

An ordinary longsword.

A distinct disadvantage is that anyone can use it easily and comfortably.

User Restriction: Level 300 or higher. Intermedia Sword Mastery level 7. 1,500 strength.

The making of the longsword was plain and simple, without anything special. It was good that it was simple. Grid had produced thousands of longswords, so he could make it with his eyes closed. However, Grid wasn't careless. The element that had a greatest effect on the result of an item was luck!

What would happen if he carefully made a longsword? There was a possibility that the result would be a normal sword due to his bad luck. Grid had experienced this thousands of times already!

'It would be different if I could change the production method.'

Grid had accumulated experience and knowledge by making thousands of items. He used that experience and knowledge to change the production method. Grid's true skill that no one else could do was minimizing the disadvantages of a production method with his own interpretation and highlighting the advantages.

But this time, the rule was to follow the production method. Therefore, Grid couldn't show off this skill. He was shaking with nerves.

'This is the organizer's manipulation...'

It was clear that the rule was made to purely control him. Due to that, the legendary blacksmith had to feel tension against blacksmiths who hadn't even reached the ranks of a craftsman. The world was unfair.

"Hahh, shi...these evil people. Does it make sense to give a legendary blacksmith a penalty every time?"

Grid barely suppressed his urge to curse. A boy came near him as fire started burning in the furnace. It was a pleasant looking boy with a bright smile.

His ID was Steng. He was 2nd on the blacksmith rankings.

"Grid, it's been a long time!"

"I agree."

It was already 2 years. When Irene had just been appointed as ruler of Winston, Grid participated in the auction at the lord's castle and briefly met Steng.

"I was so surprised when I learned later that you were a legendary blacksmith! It's a truly delightful and glorious memory!"

"I remember... Are you still training under the NPC?"

Steng was a very bright boy. His positive energy was overflowing, making Grid like him. Steng shook his head at Grid's question.

"I have been independent since last year and now I'm operating a smithy alone."

"You're running a smithy alone?"

"Yes! I direct the production and circulation of items so that I can provide consumers with quality items at a reasonable price. I'm also making a higher profit!"

It wasn't going through an auction house or merchants, so there was less of a burden from sale commissions.

'Is this good?'

Running a smithy was pleasurable in many ways for a blacksmith. If Grid hadn't joined up with the Tzedakah Guild, he might be running a smithy now.

"Do you make a lot of money?"

He estimated that Steng was around 18 years old. Based on the fact that he was British, he might already have a license.

'With these looks and driving a supercar, he can change lovers every week...!'

Grid had a bias towards good looking people, making him feel envious. Steng scratched his head and shrugged.

“Hehet... I can support my grandmother and my sister on behalf of my deceased parents. I’m always happy and thankful for this fact.”

“...”

Somehow, Grid felt like he hadn’t grown up yet. As soon as he made a fortune and cleared his debts, Grid bought a 800 million won car! He coughed while the temperature of the furnace reached the ideal level. Steng watched Grid pouring in iron ore and clapped with admiration.

“Amazing! Your ability to adjust the fire is spectacular!”

Apart from Grid, the other blacksmiths hadn’t been able to start smelting iron ore yet. Adjusting the furnace to the desired temperature was simple and easy for him.

‘I think your skills are much worse than mine.’

Grid clicked his tongue. Steng and the other blacksmiths weren’t able to handle the fire as well as Panmir, the 1st ranked blacksmith who talked highly at the press conference. Panmir was so sloppy that he couldn’t be compared to Khan!

‘This is the first ranked blacksmith.’

It was a disgrace to be nervous about dealing with someone with such low techniques. Grid shook his head and started to concentrate on smelting the iron ore. The impurities in the melted iron ore were filtered out, the orange molten iron emerging from the furnace was brilliant and beautiful.

Gawking.

The eyes of the blacksmiths watching Grid widened.

‘How can he draw out molten iron with such high purity?’

‘So quickly...!’

‘The power of his class!’

The blacksmiths admired and denied it. The reason for Grid’s excellent smelting skill wasn’t his experience and techniques, but a skill of his class. However, Steng thought differently as he watched from beside Grid.

‘This is Grid’s pure talent!’

Grid’s movements were of the highest quality. Steng was 2nd on the blacksmith rankings, meaning he could recognize that such movements weren’t possible by relying on the auto production system.

‘Grid is also doing manual labor!’

Steng’s enthusiasm grew. The legendary blacksmith was showing his true abilities, stimulating Steng. He wanted to do his best to compete with Grid and grow more from this experience.

“Grid! I look forward to going against you!”

“In any case, it’s a game of luck.”

Steng smiled cheerfully and also finished smelting his iron ore. Grid felt surprised by the skill that was different from Panmir and other blacksmiths, causing him to tremble as he once again felt the absurdity of the world.

‘This kid... A person who isn’t a legendary blacksmith has such talent!’

It was also important to have innate talent. Life was also about talent.

‘How comfortable would I be if I had a talent?’

As he recalled his past, Grid started hammering like crazy.

Chaaeng!Chaaeng!

“...!”

Steng, who was making a frame for the sword shape prior to forging, was surprised. It was because Grid didn’t put the molten iron into the frame. Rather, he chilled it in water and started hammering at it on the anvil.

‘Going ahead with forging without the shape?’

Pouring the molten iron into the frame was important for the shape. No, it was an essential process. For a longsword like they were making now, the frame was required to balance the shape of the blade. Yet Grid omitted that process! He just held it with tongs and started hammering at it.

‘What? Surely he hasn’t given up on the game?’

Steng lost concentration because of his agitation. He couldn’t focus on the quality of his forging as he stared at Grid. It was because the shape wasn’t made by the frame. Rather, the shape was gradually appearing under Grid’s fingertips.

“Wow...”

Grid’s skill transcended common sense. It was more amazing than any NPC Steng had met during his quests. Steng could indirectly guess how many items Grid had made in the meantime.

‘People have misunderstood!’

Was it that easy to be the best in a field? It was impossible to be the best simply by luck. Thus, Steng couldn’t understand or recognize the prejudice of those who dismissed Grid’s abilities as luck simply because he was a legendary blacksmith. And he was sure of it at this moment.

To reach this place, Grid had been working harder than anyone else! As Stein was feeling thrilled, Grid reheated the steel that was in the shape of a blade and kept forging. This was repeated a few times, increasing the strength of the steel. It was also done three times faster than ordinary blacksmiths.

‘Amazing...! You’re really amazing!’

Steng was convinced.

"Grid, you are a genius who also puts effort in! I respect you!"

"...?"

A genius?

Grid scoffed because it was one of the silliest things he had heard. Grid didn't know. From the moment he overcame his lacking talent, he had already crossed the wall of mediocrity.

"Isn't this surprisingly interesting?"

"It's exciting."

8 hours of making items. People thought it would be boring. Nobody imagined it would be fine to watch blacksmiths hammering in front of a fire for 8 hours. But the situation was different. Despite producing the same items with the same ingredients, the blacksmiths showed different methods of working and it was great to see them working up a sweat in front of hot flames.

The commentator's witty comments during the work also made it not boring. They sat with friends, family, or lovers and 8 hours passed in a flash.

『 The participants have started to complete their items! 』

『 Ohh...! Look at that glistening sword! Amazing! 』

The swords that the 23 blacksmiths made got a close-up in turn. The basic appearance was the same, but each sword was slightly different.

『 Hey! The 1st ranked Panmir and 2nd ranked Steng have made unique rated swords! The other blacksmiths also made epic rated or rare rated swords with added options... Eh? 』

The information of the swords were disclosed to the audience and viewers. The MC who entered the stadium and checked the longswords was confused.

『 L-Legendary blacksmith Grid was the only one who made a normal rated sword...? 』

"Normal?"

The viewers doubted their ears as the camera zoomed in on Grid. Whether he knew it or not.

"Shit..."

Grid's expression distorted and he eventually couldn't resist cursing.

The world was in turmoil.