

Overgeared 451

Chapter 451

Hao was confused.

'It can be dangerous to have my judgment impaired in this state.'

Hao made a brilliant decision and leapt back, opening a wide distance from Grid. He was worried about the possibility of Grid catching up and dealing a counterattack. Hao thought about it after securing a safe distance.

'He pulled out a new weapon in one second?'

It was simple to swap to new items. First open the inventory, reach inside the inventory that was created in the air and think of the 'desired item.' However, it took at least 2.5 seconds to complete this sequence. This was also based on high rankers.

The time it took to open the inventory and reach inside was around 1 second, then it took around 1.5 seconds to clearly recall the item they wanted. A player with very high concentration could shorten that time to 2 seconds, but to do it in 1 second?

It was impossible. Yet Grid did it.

'What did he do?'

Hao couldn't understand it and touched on something sensitive.

"A bug?"

It was a ridiculous question for anyone who knew the game. Satisfy was famous for never having a bug since it opened. Grid stared serenely into Hao's shaky gaze and laughed.

"I have been stupid since I was young."

No matter how hard he studied, he couldn't do better than others. He couldn't even maintain an average score. In particular, he always got less than 30 points on tests in subjects where he had to understand formulas. There were times when he didn't even get one point.

"Thus, I was obsessed with simple memorization. Every day, memorize, memorize, and memorize..."

As a result, he was able to receive 80 points for subjects with simple memorization. He barely succeeded in enrolling in university, a place described as 'where those with money can enter.' But it was very difficult for him to follow the university classes.

"Then the virtual reality game was released and I committed to it."

However, his lack of talent grabbed his ankles even in the game. Grid played Satisfy all day, but couldn't reach an average player. He became debt-ridden instead of making money.

"I was stupid and kept hunting the same mobs. While others were hunting 10 or 20 of one mob, I was hunting thousands. But what was the point of that? My level and items didn't develop and I couldn't pay the capsule fee, forcing me to finally find construction jobs."

He tried hard at first. But what did it matter?

"I couldn't learn skills because I lacked comprehension."

Thus, he focused on simple tasks. Shovelling, carrying materials, cleaning, and so on.

"I was always bored."

Study, gaming, and work. He couldn't do anything other than simple tasks, making him feel ashamed and not enjoy it. But he didn't give up. He complained about his lacking talent and just wanted to be average. He didn't want to be ignored by people anymore!

The result that Grid obtained? Indomitable tenacity. Once the goal was set, Grid focused on it without giving up to the end. In other words, Grid's concentration was greatly disciplined and this was steadily proven after he changed to Pagma's Descendant. Every time he made an item, he hammered for many hours and didn't give up when facing various trials.

"Therefore, I think my concentration is better than others."

Grid spoke casually, but his concentration was already beyond the category of a human. He was about to summon the inventory and think about the item he wanted at the same time. It was also in the middle of combat. Of course, this wasn't easy.

It happened since he fought his clone in the Behen Archipelago. He was inspired after seeing the clone swap items as needed and steadily practiced.

"Well, this is the power of effort."

"...?"

Hao couldn't understand any of what he just heard. Grid's words were too ridiculous. Because he was an idiot, he tried hard and gained a concentration that exceeded humans?

'Isn't that more of a genius than an idiot?'

There weren't many people who could overcome their limitations with effort alone. Hao saw Grid as a genius. It was absurd that Grid was so obtuse. On the other hand, Grid was conscious of the camera.

"Indeed, the diamond class capsule from the Comet Group is great. As soon as I thought about it, all systems reacted and the inventory was opened immediately. I was able to escape from the crisis thanks to this."

"..."

PPL even in the midst of this?

'Stop being so ridiculous!'

Hao looked at Grid who picked up Iyarugt from the ground with renewed killing intent.

"Yes, it doesn't matter if you are an idiot or a genius. Anyway, I'll be the winner! I'll show you my real skills!"

Jjejeok!

Jjejejeok!

Hao screamed as his skin split apart and red scales started to emerge. It was the step to transform into a draconian. A pair of huge wings emerged from the back of his body, grabbing the attention of the viewers.

『 The power of a draconian is finally being used! 』

『 Hao is very strong in this state. He beat Katz, one of the strong winning PvP candidates, and fought against Damian for a while. 』

Hao's eyes turned completely gold and fangs were revealed as he opened his mouth. Then he fired flames at Grid.

Peeng!

Grid avoided it. Triple Layers reduced the damage of physical attacks, but a breath was filled with magic power.

“How long can you last?”

Hao flapped his wings and approached Grid, who was bending back to avoid the breath! The speed was lightning fast as he waved his hands.

Jjejeong!Jjejeok!

There was a reason he threw away a sword after turning into a draconian. Hao's sharp claws, which were stronger than a sword, struck Grid's Triple Layers.

[You have suffered 3,230 damage.]

[You have suffered 3,260 damage.]

[The experience of Tiramet's Belt has increased by 0.3%!]

‘Amazing!’

The more Grid was hit, the more thrilled he felt. He wondered how many times he had such happy moments in his life! The commentators and viewers were alarmed as they saw Grid smiling while being wounded.

‘Smiling during this...’

Was Grid a pervert? There was also the time he was hit by the flail during the siege, causing speculation to grow.

“Can you feel the difference?”

Hao shouted. As he kept hitting Grid, Hao was convinced that the class difference between himself and Grid was like the difference between the sky and the earth. Grid's health had already fallen to almost

half. Hao's attack speed after throwing away his sword was so fast that the speed of Grid's health loss accelerated.

Chwaack!

"...!"

Hao's sharp claws cut at Grid's chest. Grid was hit hard by the critical, but he wasn't the one surprised. It was because Hao's claws were caught on Triple Layers and wouldn't move!

[The draconian's claws have been bound to this armor!]

[The draconian's claws have been forcibly pulled out!]

[The durability of the draconian's claws has decreased by 3!]

'How absurd...!'

After transforming into a draconian, his claws had a durability of 10. Repairing them wasn't possible and they would be destroyed when the durability was low. It took a day for them to grow back. But Hao had never experienced the durability of his claws falling.

A half dragon's claws were very hard. His claws were always fine when hunting golem based monsters or attacking a high ranker's weapons.

'This is huge armor...'

Hao was astonished by Grid's items as he rotated in the air and the heel of his foot precisely struck Grid's jaw. At this moment, Grid's health gauge dropped to one-third. Hao believed that Grid would use the God Hands and Blackening and started attacking more fiercely. He fired breaths and swung his claws.

On the other hand, Grid didn't even counterattack. He could only block or avoid attacks. Nevertheless, he allowed most attacks, showing how good Hao's control skills were. The commentators were embarrassed by this one-sided battle.

『 I knew that Hao was the counter to Grid, but this... 』

『 I didn't realize the level difference was so big. 』

『 Now Grid is just holding on. 』

"Blackening."

Peeok!

"Use it!"

Peeeeok!

"It won't succeed!"

Kwa kwang!

Hao's momentum rose as the one-sided violence continued. Grid kept being hit, hit, and hit. Hao confirmed that Grid's health was down to a quarter and prepared the final blow.

"This is the end."

20 minutes had passed since the match started. He couldn't keep his promise to beat Grid in 10 minutes. Hao was very sorry, but what could he do? Grid's defense and health were ridiculously excellent! But this was the end. He dealt the ending blow.

"Dragon Claws."

Kiiing.

Hao's claws grew longer. In other words, the draconian's claws became harder and sharper. At this moment, Hao's claws were strong enough to match a real dragon's claws.

"Die!"

The moment when Hao's claws moved from left to right and hit Grid. Grid stepped backwards and used Pagma's Swordsmanship, Revolve. The commentators and viewers regarded it as Grid's last hurrah. Nobody imagined that Grid, who hadn't been able to resist until now, would be able to get the right timing.

However, a chill went down Hao's spine. The timing of Grid's counterattack was too perfect!

Jjeejeeong!

"Kuaaaaack!"

Hao screamed and shed blood.

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 25,600 damage to the target.]

[You have recovered 1,280 health thanks to Elfin Stone's Ring!]

In a single strike, Hao's health was reduced by almost half while Grid recovered his health. Grid, who moved back and blocked the chain thrown by Hao with Lantier's cloak, secretly put on Doran's Ring and provoked Hao.

"The next 40 minutes. Can you endure?"

"You bastard...!"

The cooldown time for any counterattack skill was long. In addition, few users had two or more counterattack skills. The duration of Dragon Claws wasn't over yet, so Hao swiped at Grid's face.

[Critical!]

[You have dealt 12,590 damage to the target.]

'That's it!'

It felt like Grid's defense had decreased suddenly, but it was a good sign. There was no need to worry. This would give him a chance to win again. Hao smiled with satisfaction. But that smile didn't last long.

[The target has recovered 18,885 health.]

"What?"

What effect was this? Hao looked like he had seen a ghost as he stepped back. Grid looked at him and lifted Lantier's Cloak, which he had wrapped around himself to defend against the chain. The armor revealed was the Holy Light Armor, not Triple Layers. The defense was lower than Triple Layers, but it was the armor with the ridiculous option of increasing the effect of recovery skills by 300%.

"Come again."

After the synergy of the Holy Light Armor and Doran's Ring was revealed, Grid replaced it with Triple Layers again. Hao looked at him grimly and came to a simple conclusion.

"I give up."

It was a shocking declaration. The 1.4 billion Chinese people supporting Hao were frustrated and doubted their ears. But the person who was even more frustrated than the Chinese...

"Why?"

It was Grid.

"There are still 40 minutes left! Why?!!"

On this day. One of Grid's hidden sides was exposed to the world. It didn't bode well.

Chapter 452

'He can restore 150% of the damage done?'

'It must be a one-time thing.'

Everyone in the world was paying attention to Grid. The players who were participating in PvP right now, as well as the healers who didn't participate in the National Competition.

Grid. He combined top class power with the best blacksmithing skill, and was also capable of exercising a tremendous force as head of Overgeared. There were countless forces in the world who hadn't yet proven to be overwhelming, but were watched with vigilance. This was a great chance to analyze Grid's strengths and weaknesses, so people focused on Grid, especially Kraugel.

'Grid...'

If Kraugel thought about his mother, he hoped that Grid wouldn't reach the finals. But his heart wanted the opposite result. He wanted to compete with Grid. He wanted to fight, enjoy, and develop with Grid.

'...A selfish greed.'

Kraugel painfully repressed his heart and left the waiting room. It was to prepare for the second round that would start in 30 minutes.

Boo!

Boooooo!

The crowd was booing. Amidst the booing, Chinese curses could be heard.

"Ni chi fan le ma!" (<https://hinative.com/en-US/questions/4621545>)

That was 100% a Korean. In any case, the crowd couldn't hide their anger towards Hao. There were even people throwing rubbish.

"Why did you give up!?"

After logging out, Grid refused the interview from the host and ran up to Hao. Why would he give up after beating up Grid for 20 minutes? It was obvious slapping and hitting! It didn't feel like Grid had won. Above all, Grid wanted to fight longer to reduce the cooldown of Assimilation and gain item experience.

Peek!

Hao, whose face was hit by a plastic bottle thrown by a Chinese audience member, turned towards Grid. His eyes were clear as he looked at Grid, no signs of anger, resentment, or regret anywhere.

"It's foolish to cling to a losing fight."

Things would've been different if it wasn't official. Hao would've fought against Grid without giving up to the last minute. He would 'learn.' But this was the National Competition. All types of people were watching the battle and there was great risk in revealing all his skills.

"I have been fighting you for 20 minutes, but my attitude from the start was the problem. I am ashamed that I didn't recognize your skills."

Grid was above him. Hao realized the truth and humbly bowed his head.

"I am in awe of you."

Think about it. Why did Grid call himself dull-witted? Then Hao looked back. Grid's past. All the information on him. Then Hao was able to come to a conclusion. Grid had reached this position because of his hard work. Other rankers had the weapon of 'innate talent.'

"...You are special."

Hao's passion was lit. The next person since Kraugel. It was also the complete opposite to Kraugel.

'The genius Kraugel was the sky from the beginning.'

The dull-witted Grid was a tower. He stacked the stones piece by piece and headed towards the sky. Hao had no choice but to feel awe. However, there was one thing that worried him.

"Don't let it fall."

A tower would eventually collapse at some point. The more height that was accumulated, the riskier it was. If Grid met a disaster that couldn't be overcome with effort, it was doubtful that he could escape from the impact. Hao didn't know if Grid would admit defeat or give up.

'I don't know who I should be worried about right now.'

Hao smiled and turned his back to Grid.

"If Grid breaks the sky, I will have to serve Grid."

Laue's strong words once again rang in his mind. This time, Hao was no longer offended.

32 participants entered the second round. Among them were the strongest candidates: Russia's Kraugel, Canada's Chris, Japan's Damian and Katz, the United States' Skull, Spain's Pon, and Britain's Regas.

『 And there is the Korean Grid. 』

『 Hey... I didn't expect China's Hao to be eliminated in the first round. It was also a forfeit? It's an unheard of incident. 』

『 Grid's ability to grow and recover transcended Hao's expectations. No matter how hard Grid is beaten, he is like a zombie and his attack power even becomes stronger? 』

『 But Hao still gave up too easily. Maybe Hao's stamina was too weak 』

The second round started while the commentators were talking. The contents of the matches weren't bad. It was a situation where each of the winning candidates beat the opponent to advance to the next round.

Kraugel effortlessly won without allowing a single attack. Skull was doing his best in the belief that he would lead the United States to victory. Katz was intoxicated by his own strength. Pon won while dreaming about being the best spearman. It happened when the ratings started to drop slightly due to there being no big surprises.

『 It's finally here! 』

『 The 15th match in the second round! 』

"Waaahhhhhhh!"

The somewhat quiet atmosphere of the Stade de France National Stadium changed drastically. The ratings of the international broadcasts rose sharply. It was a glimpse of how high the interest in the 15th match was.

『 The main characters of the match that everyone has been waiting for! 』

『 Damian and Regas! Regas and Damian! 』

The first user pope, Damian. He specialized in the sword and magic, had overwhelming tanking power and buff power, in addition to his recovery power. He boasted the perfect combat balance and was comparable to Kraugel and Grid. Regas also couldn't be ignored.

He was the strongest since the days when the Overgeared Guild was the Tzedakah Guild. He was the idol of all martial artists in the world for a long time and attracted attention as the only 'Asura' class.

『 Isn't the Asura class really tricky? 』

『 It is said to have the highest difficulty among the 3rd advancement classes. I would rather get a hidden class than the Asura. 』

『 There is speculation that the Asura 4th advancement class will be linked to a hidden class. Due to this, many martial artists haven't switched to a third advancement class and are focused on the Asura class quest. 』

『 The strength of an Asura is amazing... Each skill has an abnormally high accuracy and every hit adds combo damage. 』

『 There is an additional aspect that when fighting the enemy, it deals extra lightning damage. 』

『 But it is questionable if he can link a combo with Damian... 』

Nobody could predict the winner. Damian and Regas greeted each other onstage.

"It feels strange to meet you in a place like this."

"Yes."

The two smiling men. They were usually very good friends. Damian liked Regas, who never despised him for being an otaku, while Regas was just friendly to people. But their eyes changed the moment they received the signal to start the battle.

"Divine Protection, Incarnation of Light, Goddess' Blessing."

From the beginning, Damian used buffs that increased his attack power, defense, all stats, and pulled out a shield. It was because it wasn't possible to deal with Regas in a no buffs state.

"Great! Hahat!"

Damian was surrounded by a gold and silver aura that gave off a brilliant radiance. Regas couldn't find a gap and rushed wildly towards him. Kraugel, who returned to the waiting room and watched the match, was rarely amazed.

'Isn't this too hasty?'

If the opponent used buffs, you should buy time until the buffs ended. Especially if the opponent was someone strong like Damian. Kraugel couldn't understand why Regas attempted a frontal match against Damian. Even he thought it was too difficult to touch Damian in a full buffed condition.

It was as he expected. Regas rushed wildly and received a counterattack. Damian's shield absorbed the damage and unleashed a fast and elaborate attack. An Asura had the worst defense and it was lightly shattered.

'...It can't be.'

Regas countered against Damian's shield, allowing attacks and not worrying about his rapidly dropping health gauge. His attack speed was slowly but surely getting faster. But the only person who detected this was Kraugel. In fact, even Damian didn't notice the slight change in Regas and before he knew it, he allowed a strong counterattack.

"Cough!"

Damian didn't have time to raise a shield as he was hit in the stomach, causing him to fall towards the ground. His face was then hit by Regas' ruthless knee.

"Kkuk!"

The damage of the second strike was different from the first. The second blow was more painful. The third blow would be even more painful.

'I can't allow him to achieve a combo...!'

Damian hurriedly lifted his shield. The timing and angle was perfect to block Regas' fist. Just before Regas' fist was blocked by the big, square shield.

Peeok!

"Keok!"

Damian coughed up blood again. He was struck by Regas' kick!

'When did he kick...?'

Regas could freely move his arms and legs with no time difference? No one was surprised by Regas' skills.

『 Regas, who defeated the 3rd ranked Chris in the National Competition last year and played a nice match with Grid...! He has further evolved! 』

『 He has good control skills comparable to Hao, and has transcended the existence of a martial artist. I can only feel admiration. 』

Would Regas win this time? As everyone was carefully guessing, Regas' next attack struck Damian's chin.

"Wow..."

The crowd exclaimed. The more combos that were linked, the more damage that Regas dealt. Damian's health gauge was noticeably reduced. But Damian was a pope.

"Goddess' Breath."

An absolute recovery skill. The most powerful healing skill that restored 100% of his health, and 70% of his party member's health.

"Goddess' Protection."

Peeeeeeong!

A shield that negated the enemy's attack once, it completely stopped Regas' combo. Then Damian used an aggressive skill.

"Goddess' Wrath."

Puaaaaaaaah!

A gleam of light struck Regas.

『 The winner is Damian!! 』

Damian vs Regas was the most intense match in the first and second round. The two men fought for 31 minutes and 20 seconds, putting on a show that thrilled the spectators and viewers. The commentators couldn't express the richness and depth of the confrontation.

Perhaps that was why? The people of the world couldn't emerge from the afterglow. They couldn't focus on anything that the host was saying on stage. But it was only for a short moment.

Grid and Chris. The moment that the two big names were mentioned by the host, people concentrated their attention on the stage again.

Chapter 453

『 I must admit that Chris' name value is the highest. But he lost to Regas in last year's National Competition. I don't think he is Grid's opponent. 』

『 Isn't this year's Chris different from last year? At this point, Chris is stronger than Regas. Regas couldn't beat Seuron, while Chris won over Seuron. 』

『 During the past year, Chris seems to have pushed his strength of 'offensive power' to the limit. If there is anyone who can crush Grid and Damian's powerful defense, it's Chris. 』

『 His strength is clear, as well as his weakness. Chris would have invested most of his stats into strength to increase his attack power, which would make his health very low. He won't be able to withstand Grid's attacks. He needs to knock down Grid before he falls first. 』

『 Putting aside the strength state, doesn't the stamina stat also increase health? Chris is third on the unified rankings. He should have survival skills due to the know-how and knowledge he accumulated. Chris' ability with the greatsword is also unparalleled. 』

Who would win if Grid and Chris fought? The commentators and experts couldn't easily predict the game. The international broadcasters used real-time ARS to make money, the match between Grid and Chris ending up at 6:4. Grid was slightly ahead.

On the other hand, Grid and Chris were waging a fierce war of nerves on the stage.

“You enhanced that weapon to +9. Don’t you have good luck?”

“It’s the power of money, rather than luck. Haven’t you made a lot of money from the Comet Group? Why didn’t you enhance your weapon before the match started? Grid’s Greatsword seems much better than the one-handed sword you are using now.”

“...It isn’t a problem that can be solved by pouring in money.”

For Grid who was dominated by bad luck, Grid’s Greatsword was a cursed weapon. He put his name on it, making the enhancement probability really bad. Grid pledged to change the name of the Grid Set.

‘Well, I have enhanced Iyarugt to +9, so let’s be satisfied with this.’

Iyarugt had been enhanced to +9 in preparation for the National Competition and had showed off a powerful performance. The problem was that it was insufficient compared to the legendary rated Grid’s Greatsword.

‘+9 Grid’s Greatsword...’

The base attack power of 1,440 would reach 2,500 after reaching +9.

It had a chance to block the enemy’s attacks, do 3 Joint Attacks, deal 30% increase in cutting damage, 20% increase in skill damage, increased attack power in dark places, activate a critical after hitting the target five times and if a skill was connected within 0.5 seconds after 3 Joint Attacks, additional damage would be dealt.

It was a weapon with all types of brilliant and overwhelming options. How much would it hurt? A chill went down Grid’s spine as he imagined it.

‘...Not even Triple Layers can endure it.’

In the first place, the gaps in Triple Layers was unlikely to do any damage to a greatsword. The blade was wide and thick, so the barbs in the gaps wouldn’t work properly.

‘Maybe this time, it’s better to abandon the idea of raising the belt’s experience.’

Grid decided that in order to avoid as much damage as possible, he would fight aggressively and focus on acquiring experience for just Iyarugt and Elfin Stone’s Ring. At the same time, the host announced the start of the match. In order to take advantage of the slow speed of a greatsword, Grid immediately used Link to maximize the quick attack speed of the one-handed Iyarugt. There was no way for Chris to cope.

Pit!

Pipipipit!

Dozens of energy blades were created and shot towards Chris. Grid imagined Chris shedding blood all over his body. But that didn’t happen.

“Hoop!”

It was because Chris swung his greatsword in a circle and deflected all the strikes. Grid clicked his tongue. Chris's swordsmanship was perfect. It used the shortest path while the range was very large, making it easy to cover for the slow speed.

'Truly great.'

Grid felt a lot of emotions as he watched Chris throughout the National Competition. It was envy. Grid treated his greatsword as his main weapon before he got Iyarugt, so he cherished Chris' swordsmanship.

'I also want to be like that.'

'I will become like that.'

He really didn't know how many times he thought this.

Chaaeng!

Chris deflected the dozens of strikes of Link and counterattacked, striking with the greatsword. Iyarugt blocked it, but Grid was pushed back by the force.

'This bastard, don't tell me...'

Was Chris' strength higher than Grid's? It was an unpleasant experience for Grid to be pushed back, since he always had an edge when it came to strength.

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

Chris continued the momentum. He repeatedly twisted his waist and linked a second, third, fourth and fifth attack. Every time the swords collided, the repulsive force slightly increased Chris' attack speed. And every time Grid defended against an attack coming from the left and right, he received a shock and moved backwards.

[The durability of Iyarugt has decreased by 4!]

[The experience of Iyarugt has increased by 0.1%!]

The notification windows appeared, but Grid didn't seem happy. It was because it was impossible to confront Chris' successive attacks.

Jjejeong!

In the end, Grid couldn't bear the weight of Chris' attack and was bounced back. Chris' greatsword was already heading towards him at a right angle.

Seokeok!

Grid's chest was cut from the bottom to the top. Grid was astonished.

[You have suffered 4,977 damage.]

'Isn't he better than expected?'

He had expected Chris' attack power to be one step higher than Hao. However, he didn't know it would be this much. Chris dealt 5,000 damage in one basic blow, making him feel like a boss monster.

"Magic Missile."

Grid maintained his composure, summoning four God Hands and firing Magic Missiles at the same time.

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Grid aimed at the gap while Chris' body was being hit and used the footwork of Kill. Chris didn't block or avoid them. To be precise...

Chris' choice was hitting them.

"100 ton Sword!"

'This skill...!'

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Puok!

As Chris used his skill, Grid's Kill touched his chest. Grid suffered 10,000 damage while Chris suffered 17,000 damage. Grid's skill damage was higher, but Chris' weapon was stronger. The difference in damage came from their defense. Grid also had a slight recovery in health thanks to Elfin Stone's Ring.

However, Chris didn't shrink back. He already aimed his greatsword again towards Grid's tattered chest. Grid thought that it was best not to confront him head on, so he defended against the attack with the God Hands and used Pinnacle in the gap.

This was a mistake. Chris's second class, Tyrant, had a number of ways to boost his strength stat, one of which was to absorb some of the strength stats of 'all beings' in a 5 meter radius!

"Huff!"

The unique rated 'God Hands' received 30% of their master's strength and dexterity! Chris took away the strength of the God Hands and Grid, sweeping his greatsword through the battlefield. Then.

Jjeejeeong!

The four God Hands were unable to withstand Chris' blow and stiffened. Then just before Grid completed Pinnacle, Chris' greatsword struck him.

[You have been hit by a lethal blow!]

[The skill Pinnacle has been cancelled!]

[You have suffered 8,900 damage.]

'Crazy!'

It became more painful! Grid was once again surprised by Chris' crazy attack power and used Revolve for Chris' next strike. But the effect was minimal. It was because Chris struck it. Chris hit the reflected Revolve and was able to avoid a fatal blow.

'What was that?'

Grid was dumbfounded.

'He thought to use the momentum?'

Ssik.

Chris smiled. Grid realized something.

'A fake!'

Jjejeong!Jjang!

Kwang!

Chris' onslaught was very intimidating and Grid rushed to defend with Iyarugt. The red black and blue black lights intertwined, causing a wonderful exploding effect that made the viewers feel ecstatic.

"Grid is being pushed...?"

"It doesn't look like Grid can endure. Chris' attack power is so high that an average player would stiffen every time they defended."

"Then it is safe to say that Chris' attacks have a 100% chance of inducing an abnormal status?"

"Really strong... He was strong from the beginning, but now more than ever."

"Was he hiding his skills?"

Chris was underestimated. The spectators and viewers belatedly realized that Grid could be defeated.

"This is enough."

The different in strength and the weapon's attack power meant that Grid would keep being pushed back. He decided this couldn't continue and pulled out a means to overturn the situation. Blackening? That wasn't enough.

Teong!

Grid recalled Iyarugt after clashing with Chris' greatsword and pulled out the +9 Failure. It was a lightning fast item swap.

"What are you doing Grid? Pulling out a weapon used in the National Competition last year! Surely you aren't giving up?"

Chris didn't stop attacking Grid despite his misunderstanding. The number of attacks increased and Chris was about to invoke the Tyrant's Pleasure passive. Grid blocked the incoming Chris.

Kwa kwang!

The result of the collision between the shark-like +9 Failure and the +9 Grid's Greatsword.

"...!"

Chris was pushed back! Grid stayed firmly in place while Chris shook slightly. It was a completely reversed situation. Grid laughed at Chris, who had a disbelieving expression on his face.

"It is too bad for you, but Failure is the strongest."

The +9 Failure had a maximum attack power of 3,682. It was at least 1,000 points higher than the +9 Grid's Greatsword.

Chapter 454

Chris faltered from the shock caused by the exchange between him and Grid. His upper body was shaking as he blocked the continuous attacks from Grid. It meant he was being pushed when it came to power.

'Chris is being pushed back in a battle of strength?'

The waiting room assigned to the participants for the third round. Kraugel was surprised as he sat alone and watched the confrontation between Grid and Chris. He didn't think a player that could beat Chris when it came to strength existed. It was natural when he thought about it.

'Chris has a unique strength stat.'

None of them could win against Chris with strength, even Kraugel. Yet Grid won.

'The more I know, the more amazing he is...'

Every person had a different depth and that depth had a limit. As a person was more and more exposed, their foundations would eventually be revealed. But Grid was the opposite. New and wonderful things were discovered about him every time.

Kraugel was thrilled.

"Maybe..."

Was it possible for Grid to clear the 'Beat Baal's Contractor' quest first? Agnus. Grid might be the only one who could go against the monster that was growing rapidly right now.

Of course.

"That is a story for a distant future."

Had Grid ever met Agnus? Kraugel was suddenly curious.

A general greatsword design had a linear structure. Due to that, a greatsword had a unique wild charm. However, Grid's blue greatsword was thin like a shark's fin and there were curved details in every part of the sword. It was more three dimensional and beautiful. If a common greatsword was Rambo X, Grid's greatsword was PeXri! It was even more powerful. At first glance, it was better than Grid's Greatsword.

"Why is the name Failure?"

Chris was pushed in attack power.

Jjejeong!Jjang!

Chris's eyes were shaking sharply as he gradually stepped back while defending against Grid's attacks. There was a big psychological impact.

'I can't be like Kraugel.'

Chris knew he wasn't perfect, so he dug into one path. It was the path he was most confident in, attack power. He didn't know about anything else, but he promised to be good with attack power. After receiving the Tyrant second class and Grid's Greatsword, he was confident he had achieved his goal.

But reality was different. He was pushed by Grid's items.

"What is that weapon? Why is a greatsword you made more than a year ago better than Grid's Greatsword?"

Chris had the best knowledge about greatswords. Based on his knowledge and experience, the blue greatsword Grid was currently using was the strongest weapon. Grid explained to the confused Chris.

"Failure is the origin of Grid's Greatsword. Strictly speaking, Grid's Greatsword is the mass produced version of Failure."

"What...?"

Grid's Greatsword, believed to be the most powerful weapon just two minutes ago, was just a mass produced weapon? Chris gritted his teeth.

"I see. This is why you didn't strengthen Grid's Greatsword to +9. There is no reason to invest a lot of money into mass production items."

Chris asked him to make the best weapon, but it was actually a mass produced one...

It felt like a scam. The back of his head was tingling. Grid panicked as he saw the betrayal in Chris' eyes.

"There seems to be a misunderstanding. Grid's Greatsword is actually better than Failure. The options of Grid's Greatsword are far superior. Failure is only better when it comes to attack power."

"The most important thing when it comes to a weapon is attack power!"

Chaaeng!

The two people kept swinging their swords while they were having a conversation. There was a burst of energy whenever Failure hit Chris' greatsword.

"...Well, maybe that's true. It has high attack power."

But Failure was still a failure. There was no player able to meet the conditions of use, so it couldn't be commercialized.

'But Chris...'

Wouldn't he be able to use Failure in around a year?

'At that time, I will be using a much better weapon.'

A sense of superiority. It was enough to make him feel excited. A wide smile spread on Grid's face. For him who lived a life of defeat and frustration, this feeling of superiority was a very nice and happy feeling. But he wasn't stupid. He had a duty to try his best to knock Chris down.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Jjejeong!Jjang!

Grid started his sword dance. As he moved forward while slashing horizontally, his waist slightly twisted.

"Linked Kill."

It was different from one year ago. Other people had grown like him and were strong. Thus, Grid felt a greater bliss. Once he knocked down a true powerhouse, his value would rise!

Peeng!

It was like a cannon being fired. Chris' response to the fearsome energy blade was simple and ignorant. It was to stop it. This was an inevitable choice. Grid's attack speed was so fast that Chris couldn't avoid it with his low agility. In addition, Grid's agility was over 2,000 points.

"Smash!"

Peeeeeeong!

The moment that the unique class skill 'Tyrant's Destruction' hit Linked Kill, a huge shockwave occurred. It was like an earthquake. The huge rectangular stage shook so much that it wouldn't be strange if it collapsed right now.

"The attack power of the two people... How high is it?"

The commentators and viewers were amazed as they commented on Grid and Chris' unparalleled destructive power.

"200 ton Sword!"

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

The second blow of Linked Kill collided with Chris' skill, causing a roar. The cloaks that Chris and Grid were wearing shook like they were caught in a typhoon.

"God Hands!"

Grid shouted as the third consecutive Linked Kill shot forward. The God Hands reacted immediately, attacking Chris with their weapons. Chris endured the pain and used 300 ton Sword, cancelling out the third Linked Kill.

"Kuk...!"

Grid groaned. He was overwhelmed by Chris from the moment that 200 ton Sword was used. It was difficult to endure the 300 ton Sword.

[The durability of Failure has decreased by 20.]

'Enormous damage!'

Grid admired Chris, while Chris' appreciation of Grid was more than that.

'Great mountain...!'

Chris realized it from the beginning. He couldn't break Grid down. But he didn't feel frustrated. Chris enjoyed it. It was an overwhelming experience to fight someone in a contest of strength, making his blood become heated up.

"1,000 ton Sword!"

The ultimate destructive attack was used in response to the fourth Linked Kill. The momentum was above the level of Kill. Indeed, the ultimate skill of the third advancement class had as much power as a legendary skill.

"This is crazy...!"

Should Grid use Blackening? Grid's face paled as he prepared for the shock.

Kwaaaaang!

The 1,000 ton Sword literally tore through the 4th Linked Kill and struck Grid's chest.

[You have suffered 25,900 damage.]

[The durability of Triple Layers has decreased by 55!]

[The durability of the Thick Helmet has decreased by 21.]

[The durability of the Largest Gloves has decreased by 15!]

[The durability of the Shiny Leggings has decreased by 34!]

"Kuak!"

It was the moment when the explosive synergy between the passive skill 'Defense Penetration' and the passive skill of the unique second class, 'Additional damage is dealt in proportion to the target's defense' was displayed. Grid couldn't avoid huge damage despite being equipped with armor that decreased physical damage.

Grid's body was bloody, but he showed signs of life.

"This is interesting... Would I have died if 3 Joint Attacks was activated? Yes, let's see who will fall first."

An eye for an eye! This was it! He would repay the damage that he received. It happened when Grid corrected his posture and was about to use Pagma's Swordsmanship, Pinnacle Kill.

『 Chris has been defeated! 』

"...?"

Chris turned to grey. Throughout his exchange with Grid, he kept being hit by the God Hands and eventually ran out of health.

“...Ah.”

Grid was in a bad mood. He won, but it didn't seem like he won.

“Couldn't you have died after one more strike?”

It was unfair that he was beaten up so much and couldn't repay it. Contrary to the upset Grid, Chris had a refreshed expression on his face. He competed in a frontal match without any deception. He might've lost, but it felt pleasant.

“Let's fight again if there is another chance.”

“...”

Chris smiled and extended his hand for a handshake. Grid stared at him like an eagle and eventually laughed.

“Let's hang out one day.”

It was a refreshing feeling.

The waiting room for the round of 8 contestants.

Katz was with a surprising person.

It was Lauel.

“Should I tell you the way to beat Grid now?”

Lauel asked as soon as the confrontation between Grid and Chris was over. Katz snorted.

“I can beat him simply because I am stronger.”

“...You're reliable. But if you want to increase the odds, you should keep my advice in mind.”

Lauel started to explain. Lauel was more familiar with Grid than anyone else, and he was now giving this information to Katz. Katz asked doubtfully after listening to the explanation.

“Aren't you exposing too much of Grid's weaknesses? What if I later become Grid's enemy?”

Lauel shrugged.

“You want Grid's items, so the possibility of you becoming hostile to him is very low...”

That was a secondary reason. Lauel really believed in Grid.

“Grid is growing right at this moment. It's too quick for others to imagine. He will sooner or later overcome the weaknesses that you currently know.”

“...”

Katz got an impression of Damian around Lael. It was the appearance of a Grid worshipper.

Chapter 456

-Wow...To think that someone could win over Chris with strength...I get serious goosebumps when looking at Grid;;

-Truly God Grid.He had the worst luck, but still advanced to the 3rd round.

-He's on a different level. He's the first and only one to obtain a legendary class ㅎㅎ

-Isn't it funny when you think about it?He was beaten up, but won... — —;;

-Really? I think he was hit more often than he dealt damage.In particular, he barely managed to hit Hao.

-Grid looks like the loser...

-What if?

-If Grid really wins gold in PvP, South Korea will be first in the rankings.

No matter his appearance, Grid was actually a winner. There was the atmosphere of a festival in South Korea. Who would've imagined that one of the weakest countries in Satisfy could possibly be first in the rankings? It was thanks to Grid, who caused the people of South Korea to go wild.

"God Grid! God Grid! God Grid!"

Dream ★ come true!

Grid's name was chanted in every house and various media outlets praised Grid's activities. People got together to talk about Grid and even top stars who represented South Korea were supporting Grid on their social medias. The number of members for Grid's fan club exceeded the members of Noe's fan club for the first time since its establishment.

It was a level of popularity equivalent to Park Chanho, Park Seri, Park Jisung, and Kim Yuna, who raised the status of the country in the past and received great love and respect from the people.

"Our Youngwoo is great!"

Grid's parents were busy receiving congratulatory calls from their cousins and other acquaintances. They felt proud of their son, who could reach his current position with his own strength.

However, Grid wasn't excited. The attitude of the press could easily be changed at any time, and the mindset of the public changed accordingly. Grid already knew this through experience. Wasn't it during the blacksmithing game? The Korean media criticized him as soon as Grid made a normal item.

'The reaction of the people is meaningless.'

Grid didn't want a short lived popularity. His goal was to achieve a more complete and steadfast reputation. Shin Youngwoo wanted to make sure that nobody could ever ignore him again.

'In order to achieve that wish.'

He needed to win in PvP. It was the fastest way.

The 3rd round.

There were no surprises regarding the results of the first to sixth matches. Kraugel won in the first match and Skull won in the third match as experts predicted. But no one could easily predict the winner of the seventh match.

Pon vs Katz.

The strongest players representing Spain and Japan! Pon was always mentioned as the top three in Overgeared, while Katz was a Blood Warrior and showed great strength. It was difficult to say who was stronger.

'I will fight Grid.'

Pon gazed at Katz with wild eyes. He resembled Regas. He pursued the ultimate peak, and wouldn't allow anything irrational to interfere in the process. A man who wanted fair growth, fights, and results. It was the reason why Lael didn't tell Pon about his plans to recruit Kraugel. If Pon knew Lael's plan, he would've been uncooperative and mad.

'Pon, please lose to Katz.'

In the end, Lael could only hope.

'Please don't let Katz be defeated.'

Pon wasn't capable of beating Grid. No, not just him, but all of the Overgeared members. Grid was a person who constantly made items that could minimize the disadvantages of the Overgeared members. Therefore, he clearly grasped their strength and weaknesses! If Pon won against Katz and advanced to the fourth round, Grid was sure to advance to the semi-finals.

Thus, Lael hoped for Katz to win.

'Katz is the one who has a chance against Grid.'

Other people didn't know it, but Lael knew. The reason why Grid had allowed a large number of hits during his matches!

'The reason...'

He wanted to increase the level of his items.

'This is an opportunity for Katz.'

A Blood Warrior became more powerful as more blood was shed. If Grid was fatally wounded and Katz survived the immortal passive...!

『 The 7th match of the 3rd round! Pon against Katz! Katz against Pon! It has started! 』

Lauel watched as Pon and Katz climbed onto the stage. It was only when 'riding' that Pon could reveal the true power of a spear knight. Katz watched Pon's hair blowing as he rode a white horse and thought.

'The Overgeared members are handsome or beautiful.'

There were exceptions such as Grid, Vantner, and Toon, but the proportion of beautiful people was very high. It was enough to make him wonder if the guild members were accepted due to their face.

'...Should I get plastic surgery?'

Katz was seriously hoping to join Overgeared. The reason was simple. He also wanted items. But he needed to prove himself before joining Overgeared.

'My own strength!'

Kwarururung!

Hundreds of blood vessels started appearing on Katz' plain sword. It was the moment when a Blood Warrior's vampire sword revealed its disgusting appearance. Katz watched Pon as he was surrounded by a bloody light.

'I have to be careful with Mach Spear and Rail Spear.'

Lauel had told Katz the strategy for Pon as well as Grid. Katz himself repeatedly studied Pon's combat videos dozens of times.

'It is impossible to react when those two skills are activated. But it's easy to tell, since they use a unique motion. I can aim for that gap and strike.'

His first priority was to increase his stats. The moment that Katz stepped forward.

Pajik!

"Rail Spear!"

"...!"

Pon immediately triggered his strongest skill. It was without any preparatory actions!

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

"Kuack!"

What was this? Katz felt confused as he was struck in the heart and received a fatal wound. He was in a 'stunned' condition and the metal shock was too great. Pon explained.

"The power of items."

[Pon's Draw]

Pon was helpless during the Tiramet raid. It was a special one-time use spear that he commissioned from Grid to overcome his weakness. It had less attack power and durability than a normal spear, but it was easy to use and maximized the passive skill 'Shortening the skill motion when riding' of a spear knight.

The biggest disadvantage was that it was a one-time consumable. The necessary materials were also difficult to obtain, making it virtually impossible to make several. This was the first time Pon used the item.

Ching!

In the wake of Rail Spear, Pon took out a new spear and rushed over. He ran on the stage and aimed Mach Spear at Katz' neck, who was still in the stunned state. In order to maximize the characteristics of a Blood Warrior, Katz didn't wear heavy armor and turned to grey.

『 K-Katz has been logged out! 』

"Waaaaaaaaaaaah!"

5 seconds. Pon secured a win in only 5 seconds. The combination of the overwhelming attack power of a spear knight and Grid's item led to an unexpected variable. Hao, who was well aware of Katz' strength after facing him in the target processing event, couldn't help feeling appalled.

'The Overgeared Guild... Crazy.'

The reason Pon could win so easily as that he pulled out a trump card. It wouldn't work so easily on players in the future. Pon had exposed a large amount of his power to win this showdown. The resulting storm could someday grab Pon on the ankle.

'Was it worth it to win this match? He can't win a gold medal anyway.'

No matter what the users thought, the atmosphere of the National Competition increased because of this confrontation. The heat of the Stade de France National Stadium rose like an active volcano.

『 A shocking result!! 』

『 It reminds me of Grid from last year! 』

Lauel gritted his teeth as the host's excited voices were heard.

'Making an item like that and not reporting it to me... No, he kept it a secret because it's such an item.'

It was a good move.

'Now the only one left is Damian...'

If Damian lost, Grid would meet Kraugel in the finals. If Grid won, the plan to recruit Kraugel was useless. Lauel's sacrifice of one gold medal would be in vain. Grid and Damian walked onstage as Lauel was nervously biting at his fingernails. The host interviewed the players in order to further enhance the atmosphere.

"Damian, countless people have predicted your victory. Do you have confidence?"

People were aware that Grid had the special Blackening skill. Blackening was a skill that transformed a player into having a dark attribute. It was natural to be vulnerable to Damian, who had the ultimate divine power. However, Damian's answer was unexpected.

"Of course, I'm not confident."

“...?”

Damian surprised the host with his answer. Damian’s absurd remarks didn’t end there.

“Grid is the one who beat Pope Drevigo and Pope Candidate Pascal in a one-man raid! Grid is completely a pope killer, a pope killer! A new pope like me isn’t his opponent!”

“...Huh?”

The host and viewers doubted their ears. The fact that Grid raided Pascal was something that many people could guess. But to raid him alone? No, the problem wasn’t the pope candidate. Former Pope Drevigo! The existence who killed the ruler of tens of millions of followers was Grid?

Grid had been completely obscure at the time, so this was a very shocking truth.

“Grid is an onion...”

Someone muttered. There was nothing more suitable to describe Grid.

Chapter 457

The US representatives who were supporting Skull on one side.

“It’s ridiculous.”

They started to deny Damian’s words. 1 year and 8 months ago, Grid had raided the pope alone? It wasn’t something that could be understood with common sense.

“That’s when the rankers would’ve had their second class.”

“Grid would’ve been around level 200. At the time, Grid wouldn’t have the specs to raid a named boss.”

At the time, the Tzedakah Guild had just raided Malacus and became famous. Considering that Grid was a member of the Tzedakah Guild, it was likely that they raided Pope Drevigo as a guild.

“Damian is a lunatic who calls Grid a ‘god.’ Most of what he says about Grid is a bluff and exaggeration.”

“I agree.”

The US representatives denied reality. Was it possible for one level 200 user to raid a pope? But surprisingly, Zibal believed Damian’s words.

‘It’s certainly possible.’

The pope was a priest. Compared to his level, his combat ability and defense was inevitably low. First, he was a humanoid boss with low health.

‘Grid’s nonsensical items and offensive power can neutralize the pope’s heals, killing him. Of course, that is on the assumption that a one-on-one situation was created.’

The US representatives were buzzing.

‘You are stupid people.’

Lauel made a proud expression because he knew the truth.

'Grid was exactly level 150 when he raided the pope. It's a story that I heard directly from Grid.'

What level 200? Well, Grid was able to raid Pope Drevigo due to Damian's buff, but that wasn't important. Listening to Damian, Grid had actually fought the pope alone.

'Grid is the best.'

Grid had accomplished a unique feat and kept walking forward. Lael once again felt thrilled by Grid.

'I also hope that you win.'

As someone who swore allegiance to Grid and a fan, Lael sincerely hoped so. He wanted to see Grid collapse the sky above the sky above the whole world. However, Lael was a politician. Since he wanted glory for Overgeared and Grid, Lael's reason had a desire for the opposite result.

'...Please.'

There was no one who could win forever. Everyone was supposed to taste frustration. This was life.

'If you are going to taste frustration anyway, wouldn't it be nice to do it at a good timing?'

The Overgeared Guild no longer needed to be afraid if Kraugel successfully joined. The seven guilds? The hidden forces, including the Blood Carnival? They weren't worth anything. The Overgeared Guild would be able to challenge the vampire cities, the East Continent, hell, all types of territories, dragon lairs, and even the Saharan Empire.

Lael imagined it. Grid winning the title of the first user king and his right arm, Kraugel. Then the Overgeared members... It was an ideal composition that would lead to a perfect future.

"Please... Please."

Lael suppressed his personal feelings and focused on reason. He could do this because Grid was the type of person who used frustration as a stepping stone for his efforts. Lael's trust in Grid was absolute.

The mysterious person who killed Pope Drevigo and brought the Rebecca Church into a new phase was Grid? The spectators and viewers who knew the amazing truth was suspicious, but they were also extremely excited. There was a sense of reverence in their eyes as they gazed at Grid.

"Player Grid!"

The host didn't forget his duty in this inflamed atmosphere. Countless questions poured towards Grid.

"Did you really raid Drevigo? Did you get to know Damian in the process? What were the circumstances behind raiding Drevigo? What type of person was Drevigo? Ah! What type of items did Drevigo drop?"

"..."

Grid didn't respond to the host's questions. He had no obligation to answer and his mind was already focused on Damian.

'Damian.'

Since the first day they met, Damian's eyes had always been on Grid. Grid didn't mind. Damian always looked at him with a bright smile and spoke his true heart. Damian might be four years older than Grid, but it felt like watching his younger brother.

"Damian."

"Yes!"

Damian smiled and immediately replied to Grid's call. If Grid demanded his surrender, he would immediately agree. However, Grid didn't hope for an easy victory.

"Do your best."

Grid knew better than anyone that he was still lacking to challenge Kraugel. Grid felt the need to grow, and Damian was strong enough to be the driving force of that growth. Damian might underestimate himself, but Grid highly appreciated Damian's strength.

Damian reminded him of Kraugel. In particular, the nonsense buff that raised accuracy by 80%... It made it impossible to avoid or defend against attacks.

"I will challenge you with all my heart!"

Damian's eyes shone like lanterns. His confidence in Grid was absolute and he was convinced he couldn't beat Grid. He would just try his best.

"Divine Protection, Incarnation of Light, Goddess' Blessing, Light's Blessing, and Divine Favor."

They were skills that were indispensable for the Goddess' Agent class and pope position. The skill names were similar, plain, and didn't have much impact. It was similar to the skills that a priest used. However, the actual strength was absolute.

Flash!

Flash flash!

There were flashes of green, white, and golden light pillars as Damian's attack, defense, and accuracy were increased and a damage neutralizing shield was created. The duration of all buffs was three minutes.

"I can only show the majesty of a pope for three minutes. I still can't reach your toes."

Grid grasped Grid's Greatsword, which had the option to increase skill damage, and activated the Rune of Darkness socketed in the centre of the greatsword.

"You keep on disappointing me whenever you say that."

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

"Blackening."

[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.]

Kuoooooh-!

An ominous black energy appeared around Grid. Lantier's Cloak also turned black.

"Blacksmith's Rage and Quick Movements."

Peeng!

It happened when Grid used all his buffs. Grid, whose skin was whitened from Blackening, suddenly appeared right in front of Damian.

"Continuous Stab."

Peng!

Pepepeng!

It was a rare skill acquired in the reservist training reproduced in the Behen Archipelago! Grid used this multi-hit skill instead of Pagma's Swordsmanship to get rid of Damian's one-time attack neutralization shield. But Damian was in a full buff state.

He reacted perfectly to Grid's move, setting up a square shield to prevent all attacks. A light shone from the side of the shield. It was the moment that Damian exerted his swordsmanship, which he developed from doing field work with Piaro.

Puok!

[You have suffered 9,900 damage.]

Grid suffered terrible damage as he was stabbed in the stomach. Damian exerted the ultimate divine power and also had the attack power buff, so it was impossible for it not hurt. But Grid was calm. He attacked Damian's right wrist that was exposed beyond the shield with Link. Grid had used Link hundreds or thousands of times, so he was used to unfolding the footwork in a minimal space.

Pipipipit!

Jjeejeeong!

Seokeok!

[Goddess' Protection has invalidated the enemy's attack.]

[The absolute shield has disappeared.]

“As expected from Grid...!”

Damian felt admiration as he blocked all of the Link strikes except for one. Grid confirmed the disappearance of the green light around Damian and used Pinnacle Kill, since it would be able to get through Damian’s high defense. Suddenly, Grid had a question.

‘Why did he use the shield in advance?’

If he was Damian, he would use the shield at the right timing to neutralize a skill. Why did he meaninglessly consume it ahead of time...? Grid cancelled the casting of Pinnacle Kill and moved. Damian counterattacked with his shield and shouted with a smile.

“As expected from Grid! You didn’t bite the bait! Goddess’ Wrath!”

Kwa kwa kwa kwang!

Damian and Grid’s swords exchanged blows. At the same time, there were two white flashes from the magic circles behind Damian. The target was naturally Grid. Grid would be hit because he was busy exchanging blows with Damian. But Grid had the God Hands.

Pepeng!

Two God Hands stiffened as they blocked the white flashes, while the other two God Hands fired Magic Missiles and hit Damian’s wrist. Damian’s sword became dull for a moment and Grid used Pinnacle in this gap.

Seokeok!

“Kuk...!”

He was hit in the face and Damian entered a state of ‘blindness.’ It was because blood entered his eyes.

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

Fortunately, the duration of blindness was only two seconds. It only took two seconds. Damian raised the shield and hid behind it like a turtle. Grid moved to the rear and repositioned it by taking advantage of the repulsive force of an attack. This allowed the shield to be lifted. He accurately struck with Kill.

『 ... 』

The commentators of the international broadcasting stations were silent. Since Grid and Damian in full buff state were so fast, few people could understand the battle process and explain it in real time.

Chapter 457

Satisfy’s history was still short. It had been less than two years since e-sports established itself as the most popular culture. The experience of the commentators for the broadcasting stations in each country was poor and there were inevitable limits.

-What are the commentators doing?Why aren’t they explaining the battle?

-Really dumb They should take care of their paycheck.

-Hah...Grid and Damian are so fast that I can't follow them with the eyes.The screen is switching too swiftly;;

-Once the game is finished, the video will be replayed in slow motion...

The viewers around the world started complaining. The commentators could only close their mouths with frustration. At this time, a comment appeared on the Internet.

-Korea's OGC Channel is giving correct commentary.

OGC was the world's first gaming specialty channel. It had a history of being an authentic e-sports broadcasting company. The rich experience and professionalism of the commentators there couldn't be compared to those from other stations. Viewers from all over the world started to flow to OGC's Internet channel.

Then they witnessed an unexpected person. It was Peak Sword. On the OGC channel, the local Peak Sword was acting as a guest commentator.

『 Did you see how God Grid's exquisite skill was used to induce Damian's blindness? But the even more impressive thing was his ability to control the God Hands just previously! I'm sure you know how difficult it is to give four different commands to the God Hands while fighting! This is the class of God Grid! Do you know God Grid? 』

"..."

As expected from a ranker. Peak Sword was able to accurately grasp and explain the contents of the battle, relieving the thirst of the viewers. However, they had to suffer through the terribly biased commentary.

"Kill."

Puok!

Grid's strike penetrated straight through Damian's full plate armor. Damian confirmed there was 16,000 damage and was thrilled.

"As expected from Grid...! That's amazing! Cough, cough."

Damian coughed up blood while praising Grid. He confirmed his health gauge as soon as the blindness disappeared.

'One quarter of my health disappeared with that blow.'

The unique class Goddess' Agent was strictly classified as a tanker. By default, it boasted high defense and health, especially when the full buff state and additional defense was added. This was the first time Damian experienced receiving more than 10,000 damage from a user.

'Right now, only 50% of PvP damage is applied.'

He was convinced by the damage because the opponent was Grid. Damian laughed and used a healing skill. It wasn't Goddess' Breath, which restored 100% of his health, but Pope's Charity. He only recovered 5,000 health, but this alone was enough to put a strain on Grid.

'There is only Pinnacle Kill.'

Grid was in full buff state. When armed with Grid's Greatsword, he was confident that he could kill a few high rankers with one blow. It didn't matter if PvP damage had been reduced to 50%, he only dealt 16,000 damage? Damian's extraordinarily high defense and healing with a short casting time made him frustrated.

'A unique battle duration...'

Grid's odds might be lowered if they fought for a long time. It was wise to make quick decisions. But there was one thing he had to consider.

'Why did he consume the shield in advance?'

How could the skill that would definitely protect Damian's life be consumed so meaninglessly? But Grid couldn't guess what Damian's intentions were. He just instinctively sensed danger based on his cumulative combat experience.

Chaaeng!

Chaaeng!

It was two seconds or so. The four God Hands were bothering Damian while Grid was thinking. Each of them was armed with a sword. It was all blocked by Damian's shield, but it wasn't meaningless.

[The Sword Mastery of 'God Hand' has risen!]

[The experience of Iyarugt has increased by 0.1%!]

'...I want a long battle.'

Damian's defense abilities were excellent, increasing the experience of the God Hands and Iyarugt. If they fought for a full hour, he might have a chance for Iyarugt's experience to reach 99%. But Grid shook his head.

'It's dangerous.'

What if he lost to Damian because he wanted to raise his item rating? He wouldn't be able to fight against Kraugel, his goal.

Pepeng!Peng!

The battle was entering a new phase. Damian noted that Grid had a high level of physical defense and started to aggressively use magic.

"Holy Cross!"

Damian was originally a paladin, so he didn't have a lot of magic. Apart from Goddess' Wrath, he only had a few basic magic spells. But that alone was sufficient to threaten Grid in the Blackening state. The pope's absolute divine power burned at Grid.

[You have suffered 4,100 damage.]

[You have suffered 3,990 damage.]

"Ack...!"

A burning pain! Grid swung his greatsword after being hit by the magic. It was once again easily blocked with Damian's shield. However, it wasn't bad for Grid. In return for defending against Grid's attack, it allowed the God Hand's strikes to go through!

"Uhhhh..."

Damian groaned as his side was hit. The God Hands had much lower attack power than Grid, but they were armed with the best items, such as Failure and Iyarugt. They dealt excellent damage, so Damian couldn't ignore the God Hands.

'There is a reason why Chris died from the God Hands.'

Damian was convinced and used Pope's Charity when the cooldown ended. Then he became confused.

[2,500 health has been restored.]

"Ah?"

The healing amount was halved. It was due to Iyarugt that one of the God Hands was using. One of Iyarugt's basic options was to 'reduce the target's healing ability by 50% when attacked,' and this was fatal for Damian.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship, Wave."

Kurururung!

As Damian was feeling confused, Grid used the footwork of Wave! Damian was hit and his speed slowed down. For Damian, who was slower than Grid from the start, the slowdown debuff was very painful. Grid's Greatsword moved in a big line. It wasn't a profound sword and there was no reason to be excited.

"Ku....ock!"

Damian failed to defend and tried to counterattack, but he was too slow. Grid avoided the sword and struck again. Blood rose like a fountain at every spot where the blue black sword moved. Damian kept bleeding. At this point, Grid's Rune of Darkness activation only had 10 seconds left.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

He couldn't be passive because he feared the opponent. Grid knew that he needed to sacrifice something to achieve any result.

Kwadududuk!

Grid twisted his arm in a bizarre direction and used a skill.

“Pinnacle Kill.”

The ultimate cutting skill. It boasted a 100% accuracy and the option to ignore defense. The moment that the most powerful skill penetrated Damian’s body.

“Sacred and Inviolable!”

There was a sharp flash of light around Damian’s body and Grid instantly became a rag. It was the effect of a reflection skill.

[You have dealt 40,600 damage to the target.]

[The target has reflected the attack!]

[You have suffered 31,050 damage.]

Reflection skills were different from counterattack skills. Counterattacking returned the attack to the enemy, on the premise of completely protecting the user. On the other hand, reflection skills were triggered when an enemy’s attack hit. The person had to take the damage, so it wasn’t compatible with counterattack skills. However, the advantage was that the difficulty was much lower.

“Kuack!”

“Keok!”

Grid and Damian screamed at the same time. Both were wounded and their health gauges fell sharply. In particular, Grid was on the brink of death. He had less than 100 health left. It was like a miracle that he survived!

-Wow, Grid survived that. ——;;

-He has good luck! □ □;;

It was extremely rare for anyone to know about Grid’s immortal passive. It was only the Overgeared members and Kraugel. The viewers thought that Grid’s survival was purely based on luck. But what was the truth?

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

“Ohhhhhh!”

“Goddess’ Breath.”

Grid decided to fight during the five second window, while Damian set up a square shield and used Heal to slow down his momentum.

[50% of your health has been restored immediately.]

“This...”

The one who spoke was Damian, not Grid. Originally, Goddess' Breath restored 100% of his health, but this was halved due to Iyarugt.

'Dangerous!'

Jjejeong!

The momentum behind Grid's greatsword was terrifying. Damian had no reason to meet it face-to-face, so he used magic.

'Damian will win!'

Everyone in the world was convinced, except for Kraugel and the Overgeared members. It was natural. Grid's health was currently at the bottom! It was obvious he would die when hit by magic and Damian would be the winner. But the result was different from what everyone expected.

'Eh?'

'Why isn't he dead?'

Pepepeng!

Grid flew into the air and pierced through Damian's magic. He didn't die and his sword pierced Damian's heart.

Puok!

"Indeed..."

The second blow.

"You..."

The third blow.

"...Are a god."

Puok!

The fourth blow. It was Linked Kill. Damian had all his abilities returned to normal due to the duration of the buffs being over. He couldn't withstand Linked Kill and turned to grey. His last appearance of giving a thumbs up to Grid gave a strong impression to the Korean people.

"Good work."

Grid was left alone on stage. He landed on the ground and paid homage to Damian. There was a notification window that the rating of Tiramet's Belt had increased.

Chapter 458

[Tiramet's Belt has been upgraded from epic to unique!]

[Tiramet's Belt]

Rating: Unique (Growth)

* Reduce damage received by 10%.

* Stamina +250.

A belt that contains the unique magic power of Vampire Viscount Tiramet. * If this belt grows to a legendary rating, the wearer can summon Vampire Viscount Tiramet.

Weight: 13

'It added 150 points to the stamina stat?'

The third awakening increased health by 25 and defense by 0.9 for each point in stamina. The value of a 250 increase in stamina was tremendous, making Tiramet's Belt a coveted item for everyone, regardless of class. He could even summon Tiramet if it was raised to a legendary level. A powerful monster that even Grid found hard to raid.

'...Then.'

There was one thing Grid wasn't happy about. The 'Tiramet's Power' attached to the Rune of Darkness wasn't triggered.

[Tiramet's Power]

If your health drops below 10%, 30% health will be restored in an instant.

Cooldown Time: 12 hours.

Grid had high expectations for this recovery skill that could overturn the unfavorable battlefield. He always thought of it as a solid insurance. But it was never activated in the critical moments. It was the same when he met Lantier in the Behen Archipelago.

Grid was embarrassed and betrayed. It felt like he met an insurance company that he had to pay huge sums to every month. He felt like it was a scam. The Grid of the past would've suspected a bug or manipulation. But now Grid was different. There was a reason for the phenomena.

'When I met Lantier, the immortal passive was activated... The immortal passive is triggered when I'm about to die. Maybe this is why Tiramet's Power doesn't work.'

In other words, Tiramet's Power didn't restore Grid's health because he was already dead. In order to enjoy the effect of Tiramet's Power, his health needed to fall below 10% and have the immortal passive not be activated.

"Comet Group."

Grid thought this before suddenly looking at the camera and using PPL. Sure enough, he was the model of promoting in the broadcasting industry. Damian received the crowd's applause and cheers as he logged out and greeted Grid.

"I have learned well, Grid. You are my eternal idol."

"Don't exaggerate. Don't you know that the difference between our skills is just one sheet of paper?"

"..."

Damian knew. Grid hadn't used all his power. If Grid had used Pagma's Swordsmanship, Restraint, the match would've been much easier. However, Grid didn't use Restraint.

'It is to maintain my pride. If a pope is defeated too easily, my reputation will plummet.'

Damian interpreted it freely and was thrilled. In fact, Grid hadn't used Restraint because he wanted to raise his item experience a bit more. In addition, high rankers had a high level, stats, and recovery ability. There were also accessories that increased resistance to status conditions. Damian overcame most states in one to three seconds, so the effect of Restraint wasn't absolute.

"I want the pope's term to end quickly so I can serve you."

Damian wanted to free the Rebecca's Daughters during his term and then move to Reidan with Isabel. But that wasn't what Grid wanted.

"No. If you really want to follow me, you shouldn't retire."

"..."

Maybe he would never be able to retire from being a pope? Damian was seriously worried.

『 The fourth round is finally here. The end of the long National Competition is approaching. 』

『 Viewers, please stay on this channel until the last minute. 』

The broadcasters asked in vain. More viewers around the world were focused on OGC's channel. They were fascinated by the biased and precise commentary of Peak Sword.

"Why don't you become a commentator?"

It was a big hit. The OGC director excitedly asked Peak Sword after seeing that the number of viewers was over 100 million.

"I will answer if you occasionally invite me, but I'm a Satisfy player."

"Haha, indeed. You are one of the heroes who represent South Korea."

"...What hero?"

Peak Sword looked sad. It was natural. He was 15th on the unified rankings and one of the strongest in South Korea, but he received the nickname of 'Useless Peak Sword.' He was very frustrated and disappointed that he couldn't win a medal.

'Let's go into mining as Grid suggested...'

Peak Sword was seriously considering it as the fourth round began.

The process was very fast. The winner of the first match was Kraugel, the second match was the US' Skull and the third match was won by Canada's Dean.

『 Despite PvP damage being reduced by 50%, the match is over in an instant. 』

『 It's because they are high rankers. Thus, their attack power is too strong. On the other hand, there is a limit to their health. In particular, there are skills that apply fixed damage or ignore defense, making the defense system ineffective. Well, it's rare for there to be a long battle because the difference between opponents is clear. 』

『 The fourth match is starting. 』

『 It's the Grid vs Pon match that everyone expected. 』

『 Peak Sword, who do you think will win? 』

The viewers were able to anticipate Peak Sword's answer.

'Naturally, God Grid will win.'

'It is his victory.'

'Will he win in three seconds?'

Peak Sword had greatly favored Grid over Damian. It was possible to say that he made the buzzword 'God Grid.' But surprisingly, Peak Sword's answer was different.

『 Pon is very strong. In particular, the attack speed of Rail Spear and Mach Spear will be hard to handle, even for God Grid. If God Grid is hit by one of those two skills, it might be difficult to win. 』

『 Hoh... Isn't this an unexpected answer? Does this mean that God Grid will lose? 』

Peak Sword denied it.

『 No, why will God Grid lose? It will be hard, but God Grid will win. Do you know God Grid? 』

『 Ah, yes... 』

It went as they expected. People saw Peak Sword was someone who would say that God Grid would win over Kraugel. At this time, the fourth match of this round started. Whatever the result, it would be interesting and fun! The commentators and viewers were filled with intense anticipation as they started on the match.

But surprisingly, the match ended easily. Grid used the four God Hands to immediately restrain the legs of the white horse Pon was riding and it tilted. Due to the impact of losing his mount, Pon's stats fell and he was pushed by Grid's power. It was a battle method that accurately attacked the shortcomings of a spear knight, who had to be 'riding' to use their full power.

"Shit... I could've fought better if I had a pegasus or soul horse."

There was a limit to ordinary horses with no combat ability. Grid reached out a hand to Pon.

"If you buy the diamond class capsule from the Comet Group, you will get a egg that hatches random pets every day as a gift. Maybe a pegasus will hatch from that? Ha. Ha. Ha."

"What? Is there something like that? I should buy the diamond class capsule from the Comet Group right away...!"

"..."

Pon fell for a typical capitalism method. He maximized the effect of Grid's PPL, increasing the appeal of the Comet Group. The Comet Group accepted this very positively. Now there were few people in the world who didn't know about the Comet Group. In South Korea, the birth of another conglomerate after the S.A. Group was about to be born.

'Am I actually incredibly strong?'

As a third advancement class, Dean of Canada was classified as a high ranker. In fact, he worked with Chris and Vantner during the National Competition to make Canada fourth in the rankings. But he made it to the semi-finals of the PvP. This was an unexpected result for Dean, his teammates, and the Canadian people.

'At first, I thought I was just lucky...'

Yes, he thought it was luck when he made it to the round of 16. He never met one of the winning candidates. But this thought changed after he made it to the round of 4. Was there anyone weak among the PvP participants? No. They were all high rankers. Even those who didn't qualify as winning candidates were in the top 0.1%.

Was it possible to reach the semi-finals just by being lucky? Never. There was also a limit to luck. He must have skills as a base. Dean realized it.

'Yes, in fact, I am very strong.'

His confidence grew steadily.

'I am qualified to go to the finals.'

It didn't matter if he didn't attract attention because he wasn't a winning candidate.

'I am strong!'

Dean climbed onto the stage with that firm belief. On the stage, a man with black hair was waiting for him. Grid had sharp eyes, like a beast of prey. A talented person who had defeated a lot of winning candidates to reach the semi-finals. A monster who won four gold medals alone in the National Competition.

But.

'I am also a monster.'

Dean didn't shrink back.

'I am also equal to Grid.'

That's why he was standing on the same stage as Grid.

"Grid... From now on, you will be the basis of my great legend."

'Is he the same as Lael?'

Grid wondered as he looked at Dean.

"Haaap!"

The host announced the start of the match and at the same time, Dean swung a rod at Grid. Then Dean faced a notification window after 10 seconds.

[You have died.]

"..."

He had been lucky. Dean tearfully figured out the truth as he died.

All that was left was the final match between Kraugel and Grid.

Chapter 459

『 Grid's victory!! 』

'This is ridiculous.'

He only struck a few times before Dean died! Grid was astonished.

'How did he reach the semi-finals if he was so weak?'

Currently, Iyarugt had 98.3% experience. It wouldn't be long before the rating increased. Grid's goal was to accumulate as much experience as possible before meeting Kraugel. But Dean was too weak. He only received a few strikes before dying. It was embarrassing because it was unintended.

'I should've adjusted my power.'

Hao, Chris, Damian, and Pon. He lost touch with reality because he only dealt with strong people through the PvP. His mistake was not adjusting his strength for Dean.

"Cough..."

Grid cleared his throat as he logged out. Lael's expression was frustrated as he sat with the US representatives.

'Now everything depends on Kraugel.'

It was correct to say that it returned to the beginning. Without relying on anything else, fighting using his own strength to create the desired result. Kraugel had always been like that.

'Have strength.'

If you want to save your mother. Lael clenched his fists as the match to determine the third place started. It was between Skull, who was defeated by Kraugel, and Dean, who was defeated by Grid. The winner was naturally Skull. Skull had a fierce battle against Kraugel and his skills as the 8th place ranker weren't lacking compared to the other winning candidates.

"Well fought, Skull!"

"I won't forget your performance!"

The Americans in the crowd started to shout Skull's name. Skull, who struggled to the end to make his country first in the rankings, left a big impression on the American people.

"Next year... Next year will be different..."

The image of Skull tearing up as he resented his own helplessness was engraved in their minds. Lael also felt guilty. He deliberately lost in the siege so that he could bring Kraugel to Overgeared. His conscience was pained because he was the reason his country lost first in the overall rankings. But Lael was the chief of staff for Overgeared. It was natural for him to be faithful to that role.

"This is the fate of those who bear a mission... I will pay this price in my next life..."

The hands and feelings of the US representatives curled as Lael spoke in his own language.

The long-awaited PvP finals!

It was the main stage of the National Competition which had been going on for almost a month, so the interest and expectations of the people were very high. Even the elderly had their channels fixed on the Satisfy competition. In particular, Russia and South Korea were in an uproar.

In this match, the first ranked country would be decided. Therefore, there was heated cheering for Grid and Kraugel.

『 I am so proud of Grid. Hasn't South Korea's status in Satisfy increased thanks to Grid? I'm so excited when I see that foreign players can no longer make fun of South Korea on the Internet. 』

『 I never dreamed that South Korea could be ranked first! Thanks to Grid, I'm enjoying watching the National Competition. 』

『 The chicken sales have increased by 2,000% during this period! Grid saved our store that was almost ruined! He is the benefactor of my family! 』

『 My parents are quite old and not interested in Satisfy... These days, they have started to show interest after watching the news about Grid. Thanks to that, I have a capsule at home. Of course, it was purchased from the Comet Group. 』

『 Recently, the Satisfy membership for people over 70 is increasing rapidly. The elderly are saying that Satisfy is like a second life... 』

『 As the stock prices of the S.A. Group and the Comet Group are surging rapidly, South Korea's economic rate is also soaring. Experts call this the 'Grid effect'... 』

『 Recently, the number of Japanese and Chinese tourists have increased rapidly. They are visiting the area on the outskirts of Seoul, where buildings are being constructed under the names of Grid and the Overgeared members. Economists say this is a phenomenon that suggests a new main street. 』

『 The best K-pop group, 'We are Legendary Class' has announced a new song ahead of the PvP finals. The title of the new song is 'God Grid's Praise Song' and the lyrics wishing for Grid to win the National Competition are receiving favorable reviews. Two minutes after its release, it is first place in various real time music sites. Their agency, Urek Entertainment, is confident that the God Grid's Praise Song will enter the Billboard chart as well. 』

『 I received information that top star Song Yekyo, who is loved for her cute appearance and glamorous body, has secretly left for Paris last night. Song-ssi also wrote posts on her SNS supporting Grid. After seeing that Song-sii is going directly to Paris to support Grid, netizens are concerned that Song-ssi will be his conquest after Yura and Jishuka. 』

『 The president said that we should nurture a second and third Grid at a luncheon with representatives of the ruling and opposing parties. Unexpectedly, the members of both parties all agreed. The Satisfy Rankers Training Policy will be brought up in the near future to the parliament... 』

The wavelength generated by Grid was overturning all of South Korea. Grid's parents and his sister Sehee became worried once things became too big. They were worried that the people's excessive interest might put a strain on Grid. There was also the chance that people would stick to Grid and mislead him in the wrong directly.

But there was no need to worry. Grid had already become accustomed to people's attention since he became lord of Reidan. He knew how to manage himself well. Also, when people changed, the environment also changed. Now many talents were gathered around Grid and actively assisting him.

『 Who dares to doubt Grid's abilities after he climbed to the finals by defeated the winning candidates? Grid is the strongest. 』

『 However, that is on the premise of 'after Kraugel.' In the winner's prediction survey that was held again, only 5% expected Grid to win. Almost everyone is confident that Kraugel will win. 』

『 It's unavoidable. Kraugel's undefeated myth is well-known, and the abilities he has shown is beyond Grid. 』

『 One variable is that Grid has an immortal skill. I think the key to this match is Grid's immortal skill 』
"..."

A 30 minute break was given before the finals would take place and Kraugel was in the waiting room. He meditated with his eyes closed, only thinking about his mother.

'Mother.'

The only thing in the world that was irreplaceable. She lost her husband at a young age due to illness and sacrificed her life to raise her son.

'I can sacrifice everything.'

“The effect of this new drug is certain. The clinical trials are done. However, there are no plans for commercialization. Why? Because I know its tremendous value. This medicine will be one of Russia’s powerful bargaining tools. Haha, medicine should be used to heal people? That’s right. However, it’s only the people with value.”

If he wanted it, improve his status in Russia! Kraugel once again thought about the Russian government’s proposal. Then he opened the pendant with a portrait of his mother that he always carried around.

“Mother...”

Kraugel had no memories of a healthy mother. She used her weak body to raise her son alone, becoming a middle-aged woman who suffered from illness. This was a chance to repay all that she had done for him. Yes, this was a unique opportunity.

“...Definitely.”

He would be sure to see her healthy smile.

‘Win.’

He absolutely couldn’t fail. Kraugel ate all the poison in his heart and rose from his seat. There was five minutes until the finals started.

“Lael, why don’t you report the truth to Grid? If we explain Kraugel’s situation to Grid, won’t it easily solve the problem? A person’s life is at stake. Grid will choose defeat and Kraugel will join the guild.”

This was Vantner’s opinion. Jishuka answered his foolish question.

“Lael doesn’t want to place strain on Grid.”

The reason that Lael wanted to recruit Kraugel was purely for Grid and Overgeared. In addition, he knew how much Grid had been looking forward to winning against Kraugel. If Grid knew about Kraugel, his dream would be broken and he would receive psychological pressure.

This was contrary to the reason for recruiting Kraugel Lael wished for a natural result that Grid could adapt to.

“Objectively, it’s good to pray for Lael’s wish to come true.”

But Jishuka’s heart was different.

“Grid, win.”

It wasn’t necessary to drag Grid down due to Kraugel’s matters. Jishuka knew how hard Grid worked and she wished for his dream to come true.

『 There are numerous ways to describe this person, but this one will suffice. The peak of two billion users! Kraugel!! 』

"Waaaaahhhh!"

"The sky above the sky! The sky above the sky! The sky above the sky!"

"Show us the dignity of the 1st ranked user!"

The crowd chanted as Kraugel climbed onto the stage. They were fans, regardless of which country they came from. The shouts for Grid were also incredible.

『 The fury of South Korea! The first legendary class! Grid!! 』

"Go Grid!"

"Show me there is no eternal majesty."

"..."

Duguen!Duguen!Duguen!

Grid couldn't hear the loud cheering sound. He could only hear his strong heartbeat. That's right. Grid was nervous. He tried not to show it. He didn't want to look strained in front of someone he considered a rival.

"Kraugel."

Before the host announced the start of the match. Grid faced Kraugel with a solemn gaze and declared.

Chapter 460

"I will obtain the title of the strongest."

A challenge towards the sky! Grid's provocative words heated up the Stade de France National Stadium.

"Grid! Grid! Grid!!"

"Do you think you can win over Kraugel!?"

Some people cheered for Grid and others disparaged him. Most of them were the latter. It meant that Kraugel's popularity was absolute. It was natural. Kraugel was a subject of reverence without anyone daring to feel envious and jealous, making him special in people's hearts.

In the first place, looking at it objectively, Grid wasn't Kraugel's opponent. People saw Grid as someone who couldn't grasp who he was going against. In the midst of this turmoil, Kraugel opened his mouth.

"This time, I won't lose. No, I can never lose."

They were shocking words.

"..."

The crowd instantly fell silent. Everyone shut their mouths and doubted their ears.

'This time I won't lose...?'

'This time...?'

'It can't be!'

Kraugel had already been defeated by Grid? The turmoil disappeared like it was a lie and the match began in silence. The system notification window informed them of the start of the match, rather than the host.

"Pagma's Swordsmanship."

Grid calmed his trembling heart and moved.

"White Light Steps."

Kraugel spoke with a determined expression. The two men with black hair moved at the same time. Every step that Grid took was gorgeous, with a blood red light scattering with every move. Meanwhile, Kraugel was more elegant and covert. He disappeared from Grid's field of view in an instant.

White Light Steps. It was a footwork skill that increased movement speed and improved the ability to adapt to the terrain. It could be applied as a charging or avoidance skill according to the user's proficiency. Under intense sunshine or clear moonlight, it had a stealth function. And right now, the sun was shining down on the stage.

It was a time when Kraugel's abilities were fully exercised.

"Whoa!"

"Disappeared!"

The crowd's eyes widened with surprise. It was surprising to see Kraugel disappear from in front of Grid. Would he now appear like a ghost, dealing a deadly blow to Grid? Everyone was expecting it.

Grid used magic while unfolding his sword dance.

"Magic Detection, Link."

Magic Detection (Enhanced). It was different from normal Magic Detection. Great Magician Braham completely overturned the formula, minimizing the casting time and maximizing the effect. Due to this, Grid grasped Kraugel's position in an instant and fired dozens of energy blades.

Kraugel failed in his surprise attack and went on the defensive.

Chaeng!

Chaeeeeeng!

Fast and strong. Iyarugt's red light and White Fang's white light intertwined several times per second, creating an intense storm of energy. Sparks scattered all over the place, burning some of the stage. The ultimate effects created by two top performers were captivating.

On the other hand, the commentators and even Peak Sword of OGC weren't able to read the movements of Grid and Kraugel.

"This is crazy."

Godly archer Jishuka. Only the player with the highest agility and Hawk Eyes could catch Grid and Kraugel's movements. But she could only see it. It wouldn't be possible for her to respond if she faced them.

"It isn't just fast. The sword's ever changing orbits..."

One of Kraugel's nicknames was Godly Control. It was a nickname given to those who demonstrated control abilities that transcended the human realm. But Grid? Even Jishuka didn't know that Grid's control skills had grown to this point.

'Did he grow again in this National Competition?'

In particular, he faced the strongest people in PvP.

Jjejeong!

After the last strike from Link, Grid and Kraugel were thrown away from each other. The feelings of the two men who stared at each other were completely opposite.

'He's incomparably stronger than before.'

Kraugel was only feeling admiration.

'Crazy... Blocking the skill like that?'

Grid was shocked. Whenever Kraugel encountered Link, he weakened the orbit of Link to his advantageous side, weakening it.

'Is this a person...?'

Indeed, Kraugel was a monster who surpassed Piaro during his peak as a great swordsman at the time when Kraugel competed with Piaro in Reidan. Piaro called Kraugel 'a genius who's eligible to be a sword saint.' There was nothing to be surprised about.

'I can never win in a pure physical fight.' CC needed to be actively utilized.

Grid decided to use Restraint while summoning the God Hands to keep Kraugel in check. While Kraugel was busy dealing with the God Hands, Grid could safely complete Restraint. The plan worked out exactly as he planned. They wielded their swords and launched Magic Missiles, causing Kraugel to waste around 1.5 seconds. In that gap, Grid completed Restraint.

But there was a problem. The moment that the effect of Restraint was activated, one of the ten rings on Kraugel's fingers shone and a shocking message appeared in front of Grid.

[The target has resisted the 'overwhelmed' effect!]

"...Items!"

Yes, the power of items wasn't exclusive to Grid and the Overgeared members. In particular, Kraugel was someone who experienced more adventures and raids than anyone else. He acquired countless items as well as accessories that resisted certain status conditions.

Kraugel rushed towards the upset Grid and swung White Fang. He aimed for the heart using the passive effect of Heart Selection, but Grid had the Slaughterer's Eye Patch and Iyarugt. He didn't easily allow an attack.

Jjejeong!

White Fang and Iyarugt met once again.

[The experience of Iyarugt has increased by 0.1%!]

"Hah...!"

The experience of a unique item went up so much from just one blow? It wasn't just because of Kraugel's swordsmanship. Their level difference also played a large role.

'Anyway, thank you!'

If he could hold on, it was possible that Iyarugt's rating would increase in a matter of minutes and he could reverse the battlefield...

[You have suffered 2,100 damage.]

"...!"

When? Grid's eyes trembled as he was stabbed in the side by a dagger that Kraugel had pulled out. Kraugel continued his offensive with White Fang in one hand and a dagger with a dragon's tail engraved on it in the other.

Jjejeong!

Jjeejeeong!

"Ku....ock!"

Kraugel's swordsmanship became more threatening after he started using two blades. The gap between attacks was minimized and the orbit became more complicated. It was difficult to respond to the attacks that were even more irregular than Regas'.

Grid started to allow attacks.

[You have suffered 1,950 damage.]

[You have suffered 5,130 damage.]

The damage of the dagger wasn't very burdensome thanks to the increased rating of Tiramet's Belt. Grid was also wearing the strongest armor, Triple Layers! The problem was White Fang.

[+9 True White Fang]

Grid was familiar with its power. If he let Kraugel reach the third combo, he couldn't avoid a serious injury. He tried to somehow stop the attack, but failed.

[You have suffered 4,900 damage.]

[Your weakness is exposed!]

[Doran's Ring has been equipped.]

[You were hit by a sharp cut and suffered 12,900 damage!]

[Health has been absorbed due to the option effect of Doran's Ring.]

"Cough...!"

Grid became covered with wounds and coughed up blood. The crowd and viewers reacted to the sight.

"The fierce battle became one-sided in an instant..."

"Grid is better than I thought, but it's over now."

"Indeed! The sky above the sky won't lose to Grid!"

Originally, strength was relative. Grid had shown excellence in the past, but he was shabby in front of the 'peak.' That's right. Now people were overlooking him. Grid was a person who couldn't be measured!

"Haaap!"

Grid allowed Kraugel to strike him and reached into the air. One of the God Hands flew to him and handed him Grid's Greatsword.

[The +8 Grid's Greatsword has been equipped as a secondary weapon.]

[Only 50% of the weapon's attack power is applied due to the double wielding penalty.]

[Grid's Greatsword has increased attack power by 30% and skill damage by 20%.]

Grid also specialized in double wielding. He faced Kraugel while holding Iyarugt in his right hand and Grid's Greatsword in his left hand. Kraugel became tense.

'This attack speed with a greatsword...'

How high was Grid's agility? In addition, the blue-black greatsword didn't seem to have an attack speed drop penalty.

Jjejeong!

"Hup...!"

Kraugel's body was pushed by the offensive power and flew through the air. He couldn't withstand it when Grid pushed with strength. This was a chance for Grid. As Kraugel was unable to control his body properly, Grid used Pagma's Swordsmanship, Pinnacle Kill.

A targeted skill that couldn't be avoided, Pinnacle Kill. Kraugel discovered that it contained a mighty power that made defense insignificant, so he tried to use a counterattack.

'I can't let this hit.'

The power was too strong. Unlike Grid, Kraugel's counterattack skill was ordinary and it was overwhelmed by the attack power of Pinnacle Kill. Should he use Super Sensitivity? Kraugel couldn't because it was highly likely this would be a prolonged battle against Grid.

In the end, Kraugel's choice was a kick at close range.

"Jajinmori."

Peeeeeeong!

The 'charged' kick precisely struck Grid's abdomen. However, Grid wasn't pushed away and safely used Pinnacle Kill. Kraugel's expressions twisted. It was because his kick had been blocked by a God Hand.

Seokeok!

A powerful stab penetrated Kraugel's abdomen.

Puok!

The red rain pouring down from the sky shocked the world.