Overgeared 541

Chapter 541

"Overgeared...?"

It was an unfamiliar word to Sua and the Red Phoenix members. As they were feeling puzzled, the fused armored needle howled.

"Kiyaaaaah~!"

The fused armored needle had taken many lives with overwhelming strength. Today its position was the opposite. Grid was the hunter. For him who was aiming to be at the top of two billion users, the fused armored needle was nothing more than a mass of experience.

"You're weak."

Grid laughed at the fused armored needle. The fact that he had been hit by the silver thread had long since disappeared from his memories.

Puk!Seokeok!Puk.

Grid's Failure cut and stabbed at the armored needle. The increased 20% attack damage in the darkness caused the +9 Failure to be overwhelming.

Puhahahak!

The blood of the fused armored needle rose like a fountain. Grid couldn't tolerate being hit by that much blood. He tried to avoid as much blood as possible while blocking the rest with the God Hands.

Chiiiik!

The blood that came into contact with the God Hands evaporated and disappeared.

"Kukukuk!"

The smile didn't leave Grid's face as he looked at the fused armored needle through the gap in the golden fingers.

'This game is truly about items.'

The armored needle and silver thread. It was weaker than expected, but think about it. What if Grid didn't have Lantier's Cloak? Grid would've suffered several times the damage and he would be in a great crisis. The armored needle was very strong when handling dozens of silver threads. It was only helpless in front of Grid.

"Kyaaaak!"

The two armored needles connected by the silver thread roared and inflated its muscles. Then the silver threads shot at Grid again. Exactly 27 threads tangled towards as one, turning into a drill that aimed at Grid's heart.

'It's a really flexible weapon.'

It could be used as a spider web to defend or a drill to attack. The more he looked, the crazier it was. Grid was filled with greed and counterattacked just before the silver thread pierced him.

"Revolve."

Jjeejeeeong!

The timing of using the counterattack was inevitable because Grid's control abilities improved greatly after going against the top rankers in the National Competition.

Peeok!

The orbit of the silver thread was reversed by Failure and penetrated the head of the fused armored needle.

[The double fused armored needle has been defeated.]

[259,504,141 experience has been acquired.]

[A silver thread has been acquired.]

[Your level has risen.]

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

[Six points have been forcibly invested into intelligence due to the influence of the second class, Legendary Great Magician.]

"Sigh..."

Grid checked his health status. During the battle, it was inevitable that he would allow some strikes from the silver thread. But this was largely neutralized by the increased defense and resistance of his items. But it still wasn't an easy battle. In order to defeat six armored needles, Grid summoned Randy, Noe, and the God Hands, and used almost all of his skills. It was a matter of using all his effort.

Thanks to his level up, Grid's stamina was fully recovered. However, his mental state was quite tired. He hoped he could relax while his skill cooldown times came back. He sat down and opened his inventory. It was to check the loot he acquired. There were rotten leather, rotten bones, etc. Nothing was of value except for two silver threads.

[Silver Thread]

Attack Power: 100~????

Durability: 1,000/1,000

Fragments of silver armor that have been shaped in the blood vessels of the armored needles for many years.

Unlike ordinary silver thread that only has a thin coating of silver, this is made of pure silver. It also contains the powerful magic power of the armored needle.

Depending on the skill level of the user, it can be used in various ways due to its different forms.

* It is classified as a secondary weapon.

Conditions of Use: Secondary Weapons Mastery Advanced Level 5. More than 2,000 dexterity.

- * The silver thread can be shot quickly if you have more than 2,000 dexterity.
- * If you have more than 2,500 dexterity, you can twist 5 or less strands of silver thread together to create the desired shape.
- * If you have more than 3,000 dexterity, you can twist 10 or less strands of silver thread together to create the desired shape.
- * If you have more than 4,000 dexterity, the speed at which you can control the silver thread is doubled.
- * If you have more than 4,000 dexterity, you can twist 20 or less...

...

* The silver thread can be used as a material for making items. However, a craftsman level blacksmithing skill is required.

Weight: 5

The minimum damage was very low while the maximum damage seemed to have no limit. A little while ago, he saw the attack of the fused armored needle that twisted together 27 strands of silver thread.

'Amazing... However, it's rare for people to learn Secondary Weapons Mastery and the advanced level probably hasn't appeared yet.'

It was 10 meters long. At this point, it was a secondary weapon that probably only Grid could use.

'I need to raise my dexterity...'

Grid grasped the two strands of silver thread with his fingers. Irene would be delighted if he gained more dexterity... Sua approached him as he was seriously thinking.

"Are your wounds okay?"

Grid laughed at her worry.

"As you can see, I'm strong."

The wounds caused by the silver thread were already healing. It was a tremendous recovery speed. Was it due to his high stamina stat? That was just the basics. The reason for Grid's fast recovery speed was the God Hands. To be precise, it was the effect of Goddess Rebecca's Blessing attached to the pavranium. The blessing of Goddess Rebecca increased Grid's health recovery rate by 300%. This was a basic element that made up Grid's strength.

'This man...'

Sua's gaze towards Grid became more favorable. He didn't lose composure despite facing six armored needles and there was also his strong body. He was the blacksmith capable of restoring the Red Phoenix Bow and was virtuous enough to get the title of Pangea's Duke of Virtue.

She couldn't help feeling favorable towards him. Of course, it wasn't a crush, but pure respect. Sua had a type of rational personality.

'Indeed, he's a daoist?'

Daoist. It was a state of a half-god that only those who cultivated daoism could reach. They were known to enjoy eternal life in Shangri-La and had mysterious powers. It was likely that Grid was a daoist.

"Hum hum."

Grid suddenly coughed. His face was red due to the beautiful Sua gazing at him. He looked around the area in a desire to hide it. Sua was convinced when she saw it.

'He isn't a daoist.'

A daoist wouldn't be like this. If Grid was a daoist, then he wouldn't feel embarrassed about the opposite sex. In the first place, Grid's force was overwhelming and beyond mysterious. It was a different existence from a daoist.

'It's different from the yangbans...'

Of course, Grid wasn't a yangban. It was unimaginable to most people, but the yangbans were trash who treated ordinary humans as insignificant beings. If Grid was a yangban, he would've watched as Sua and the Red Phoenix members died.

'In the first place, he wouldn't have wanted the silver thread if he was a yangban.'

This meant that Grid was an ordinary person.

'A regular person... Ah.'

Sua was deep in thought and belatedly realized something. Grid was burdened by her gaze.

"I was rude. I'm sorry."

Grid waved his hand at the bowing Sua.

"There's no need to be sorry. Was the silver thread originally this hard to obtain?"

He killed six armored needles and only got two strands of silver thread. In order to use it directly as a weapon or as a material for items, Grid wanted to secure a large quantity. Sua belatedly noticed the silver thread in Grid's hands and was shocked.

"You got silver thread...!?"

Originally, it was very hard to obtain the silver thread. It was because the moment the armored needles died, the silver thread in their blood vessels would disappear in an instant due to corrosion. In the four years since Han Seokbong organized the dungeon expedition team, only seven silver threads had been obtained.

"You must be really lucky to obtain two silver threads."

Sua was delighted. Grid realized that the drop rate for the silver thread was the worst based on her reaction and stood up.

"What's the size of this dungeon?"

"We haven't been able to measure it. The Red Phoenix group hasn't gone into the depths before."

The Red Phoenix group wasn't as strong as Grid. They went into the dungeon every day, but could only kill two or three armored needles at best.

"Our goal is to go to the end of the dungeon to investigate the cause behind the armored needles and destroy them. But unlike our hearts, we're at a standstill every day."

"..."

"We still have pride. The residents of Pangea can enjoy a happy life because we're able to stop the advance of the armored needles."

Beautiful. Sua was pretty inside and out.

'Although she's a bit of a pervert...'

At that moment.

[A quest has been created.]

[Subjugate the Armored Needles (1)]

Difficulty: S

There are a large number of armored needles in the dungeon beneath Pangea Castle.

Bring peace to Pangea by repelling those who can threaten Pangea at any time.

Quest Clear Conditions: Kill 10 armored needles.

Quest Reward: Affinity with the Red Phoenix group will rise. Five silver thread.

'The armored needles are strong.'

Grid hadn't known that a monster hunting quest could be classified with a S-grade difficulty. The armored needles were truly strong. They had over 6 million health and their defense was twice as high as ordinary monsters. In addition, their swordsmanship was excellent, they had the irregularity of the silver thread and also their hot blood as a weapon.

Grid expected that an ordinary level 300 player wouldn't be able to go one on one with the armored needle. However, Grid was much stronger than the armored needles.

"Okay. Then I'll clear away as many armored needles as possible."

He had to gain the compensation of five silver threads. Grid's motivation was burning as he started to move inside the cave. Then Sua cried out,

"Why are you putting yourself in danger by running forward? Why are you struggling for other people?"

Grid shrugged at her sincere worry.

"I just want the silver thread. And I like you because you're pretty."

"...Ah?"

Grid spoke bluntly but the result was huge. Sua's face turned red. She was called the flower of Pangea. A person who wasn't affected when handsome men whispered sweet words to her was blushing? Grid didn't know what a big deal it was. Grid was focused on the footsteps of the armored needles that he heard.

'I'm starting.'

Pahat!

Grid threw the silver thread in the direction that the armored needle was approaching. It was very difficult to shoot the silver thread quickly. However, it was a simple thing for Grid who had over 3,000 dexterity.

Pepeok!

"Kyaaaak!"

The armored needle screamed as it was pierced by the silver thread that Grid threw and sped up its approach. Grid recovered the silver thread and shot it again.

[You have dealt 930 damage to the target.]

[You have dealt 370 damage to the target.]

The damage was terrible. The damage was minimal and in the hundreds, so the armored needle received little damage. But Grid wasn't shaken. Throwing the silver thread didn't consume resources, meaning it wasn't a burden.

'What if I twist them together?'

Sururuk.

Grid moved his hands at a tremendous speed. The two strands of silver thread were joined together, becoming thicker with one pointed end.

'...Isn't he good at this?'

That man, was there anything he couldn't do?

'...Oh, he's good at everything?'

Anything here was omitted.

Peeok!

As Sua's imagination headed in a strange direction, the arrow shaped silver thread shot by Grid dealt over 2,000 damage to the armored needle.

'Now I know.'

Grid was completely satisfied. He became more and more desperate to secure a large amount of silver thread and swung Failure at the armored needles.

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[You have defeated an armored needle.]

[121,599,800 experience has been acquired.]

[Number of armored needles killed: 2/10]

'This is delicious hunting.'

The experience given by the armored needle was more than two times higher than that of the true blood vampires. Compared to the junior vampires in the cities, they gave 30 times more experience. Thanks to that, Grid reached level 322 and was rapidly gaining experience.

But it was difficult to recognize Pangea Castle's dungeon as an ideal hunting ground. It was because the armored needles didn't often appear.

"It's like Sua said."

Armored needles were monsters who acted on their own. The first encounter with six of them was a special case. The Red Phoenix group were filled with a sense of security at infrequently encountering one armored needle, while Grid felt large regret.

'It would be good if they constantly respawned two at a time.'

He wanted to acquire a lot of silver thread. Grid felt impatient and anxious. If he combined all his titles, Grid's dexterity was exactly 3,723. He could control a maximum of 10 silver threads, meaning he wasn't satisfied with just two. He wanted to maximize his abilities by securing eight more silver threads quickly.

"Hrmm."

They walked around for 10 minutes and only encountered two armored needles. From the other side of the passage, the sound of slow footsteps was heard again. Grid tried something new against it. Just as the armored needles restrained Noe and the God Hands, he tied up with armored needles using the two silver threads. The name...

"Needle Binding!"

It was a somewhat familiar name. But this wasn't a playful name. It was a name that Grid came up with after serious thinking.

Hwiririk!

The silver thread rotated and tightly tied up the body of the armored needle. The waist and both arms were firmly tied up. It was a scene that showed how great Grid's dexterity was.

'Okay! I did it properly!'

A smile of satisfaction appeared on Grid's face. But his smile didn't last long.

"Eh?"

"Uwaaaaah!"

The armored needle exerted its strength and the silver thread was released?

'The binding is too weak.'

Two silver threads didn't have enough strength. It wasn't just the armored needles. Most monsters above level 200 would shake off the binding of two silver threads.

'There must be at least 10 strands for binding.'

Grid recalled the silver threads while thinking this and twisted the two strands into one. Then he shot it like an arrow. It took two seconds to control the two strands of silver thread. It meant it would take around 10 seconds to control 10 strands of silver thread. Grid felt the need to raise his dexterity to 4,000 points. If his dexterity reached 4,000, the control rate of the silver threads would double.

What if he could control 10 silver threads in 5 seconds? The strongest system next to the pavranium would be born.

'The only thing lacking is the throwing speed of the silver threads.'

In the end, the silver thread was still just thread. It was very light. There was a clear limit to the speed at which Grid could throw it. It would be less effective against agile opponents.

'In order to take advantage of the silver thread as a weapon, it would be better to put a blade at the end. Or I can set up a trap on the battlefield to take advantage of it.'

Dugun dugun!

Grid grew considerably in the process of devising how to use the silver thread. He suddenly realized it. His development potential had grown exponentially since earning the silver thread.

'If my current self fought against Kraugel at the National Competition, I would've 100% won.'

He was sure of it. The problem was that Kraugel was also getting stronger. Kraugel obtained the Sword Saint class that was described as the strongest combat class. Grid wasn't sure how powerful Kraugel was now after dominating with a normal class.

"...Ah, I think my pride is hurt."

He was lagging behind a normal class, despite having a legendary class? At the time, he thought it was natural due to his lack of talent. But now it was very shameful.

'I need to wash away my mistakes.'

Grid's motivation shot up. His passion for forging ahead of Kraugel filled his heart.

"Light?"

Grid, Sua, and the Red Phoenix members finally recovered their normal vision when they reached deep inside the dungeon. The walls of the dungeon had the characteristics of sucking in light. Now jade covered the wall, letting out a soft light that illuminated the interior.

"There was a place like this in the dungeon?"

It had already been four years since the Red Phoenix group started the dungeon expedition. But in the meantime, they had never entered so deeply into the dungeon. They always returned after fighting a few armored needles at the entrance. But today was different.

Grid took the lead and killed any armored needles that appeared, allowing those who followed him to enter deeply into the castle's dungeon. Thanks to him, they were able to find themselves in a beautiful space surrounded by jade. They quickly started searching inside. There was a clear lake and precious herbs were naturally growing.

"The temperature is just right. It's a place where people can live if they have food."

"But what about these four passages? Won't we be completely isolated if the armored needles attack us from all four passages?"

"Um... That's right."

What was this place? Some of the members who were searching found something immersed in the clear lake.

"What is this? Heok! This!"

"Treasure chest! Treasure chest!"

As with any dungeon, treasure chests often appeared in Pangea Castle's dungeon. But the probability was extremely low. In the last four years, the Red Phoenix group found no more than 10 treasure chests. Now a treasure chest was situated deep in a clear lake, like it didn't want to be found. Grid showed great interest in it.

"Will it contain gold?"

It was three hours after entering the castle's dungeon. Grid laughed brightly at the treasure box despite not being able to hunt a few prey. The Red Phoenix members stopped him as he reached out for the treasure chest.

"It can be dangerous."

"Last year, a colleague opened a treasure chest found in this dungeon and was poisoned."

Their words were the truth. There was a 50% chance that a treasure chest in the dungeon would be a trap.

"Then are you just going to leave it without opening it?"

The Red Phoenix members shook their heads at Grid's words.

"That isn't it. I'm just afraid that your life will be in danger."

"Leave it to us. Grid can't be hurt."

Grid was clearing the armored needles on behalf of the Red Phoenix members. It was for his own reasons. But as a result, he was a great help to the Red Phoenix members and Pangea. The Red Phoenix wanted to repay the favor to Grid.

Gulp.

The Red Phoenix members pulled out the treasure chest from the lake and gulped. They were concerned about being poisoned or seriously injured when opening the treasure chest. They didn't want to risk Grid getting hurt.

Clink!

The member's hands shook and he grimaced. The Red Phoenix member eventually overcame his fear and opened the lid of the treasure chest. No, he tried to open it.

"Huh? It didn't open?"

"Is this locked?"

The tension of the Red Phoenix group was released for a moment. The solemn atmosphere somewhat brightened.

"Isn't it rare for locked treasure chests to contain traps?"

"That's right. It's usually filled with treasures."

"Ah...! Let's give this to Grid!"

They wouldn't have made it here without Grid. The ownership of the treasure chest naturally belonged to Grid. The Red Phoenix group politely handed the treasure box to Grid.

"There is a locksmith in Pangea. He can probably unlock this box within a week."

"It will cost quite a bit of money, since certain skills are required."

"Yes."

Grid received the chest and frowned.

[This chest contains special magic. The weight is incredible.]

[Your weight gauge has been exceeded. Movement speed will decrease by 80%.]

""

His stamina being reduced to this level meant it was impossible to continue the armored needle quest. Grid still had to hunt three more armored needles, so this treasure chest would just be a burden. But Grid didn't care. He had a universal key!

Clink!

Grid took out a black key and unlocked it at once. It was extremely easy. He just put the key in the lock, twisted it, and it was unlocked. Sua and the Red Phoenix members were shocked at the absurd sight.

'Unlocking a dungeon treasure chest at once?'

'What is this situation?'

'Grid is really proficient... Was he born under a lucky star?'

Sua didn't know why her face was red. It was at that moment.

[The trap box has been opened!]

[Poisonous smoke has covered you!]

[You have suffered 4,883 damage.]

[You have been poisoned!]

[Your head is spinning around!]

[You can't move your lower body!]

[You will lose 4,500 health per second!]

[You have resisted.]

[A mysterious figure appears!]

[A quest has been created...]

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"G-Grid!"

Sua and the Red Phoenix members were startled. It was because the poison emitted from the box was similar to the one that affected their colleague last year. Grid inhaled a lot of it and definitely wouldn't be safe. The Red Phoenix members were surprised by the sudden situation, but Sua responded calmly and promptly.

"Go to Grid and give him an antidote. Then escape from this place with Grid!"

At that moment.

"Who are you?"

Someone's voice was heard.

"Kyaooooh!"

Armored needles poured in from the four passages. There were eight of them. A middle aged man appeared behind Grid while the group was surrounded. Sua and the Red Phoenix members recognized him instantly. It was impossible not to recognize him.

"Arube!"

In the past, he was the closest aide for Han Seokbong. He was supposedly murdered by the evil daoist priest who attacked Pangea two years ago, only to be hiding deep in the dungeon. He was the master of the armored needles!

"You... You betrayed father."

Sua was a smart girl. As a matter of fact, she sensed that Arube was behind the invasion two years ago.

Arube smiled slyly. "Indeed, the anger of Pangea's flower is beautiful. Okay, I will make you into a jiangshi. After death, you will serve me forever."

"You! How dare you insult the young lady!"

The enraged Red Phoenix members pulled out their weapons and Arube smiled.

Ttang!Ttang!

"It has been seven years since I found the armored needles sleeping here. It was three years faster than Lord Han Seokbong. In the meantime, I have steadily tamed the armored needles, and they are now my faithful servants. You can't lay one finger on my body. Before you reach me, you will be turned into minced meat by the silver threads."

"Ugh..."

The Red Phoenix members flinched. They had forgotten about it due to their anger at Arube's sudden appearance, but Arube had summoned eight armored needles. It was the worst situation.

Ttang!Ttang!

Arube was filled with joy as he watched the frightened Red Phoenix members. He wrapped his arms around his chest as his face flushed.

"Kukuk...! This is so exciting. Now you will know. I have dreamed of this moment since I happened to discover the armored needles seven years ago. The day that I can have Pangea and Sua in my hands!"

"Crazy... Crazy traitor!"

The Red Phoenix members realized that Aruba wasn't sane. They became desperate. They didn't know if Grid dying behind them was okay. They would die here today.

Ttang!Ttang!

""

By the way, what was that sound? Why did they keep hearing the sound of hammering? Arube belatedly became aware of it, while Sua and the Red Phoenix members looked behind them. Then they became surprised.

"G-Grid?"

Grid was poisoned when opening the box. The person who was dying was currently squatting in front of an anvil.

"?????"

Question marks appeared over the heads of Sua and the Red Phoenix members.

"Is he crazy?"

Arube discovered Grid and frowned. He was very unhappy about a blacksmith ruining the historic moment.

"Not knowing the current situation and hammering... Are you crazy?"

Grid responded after Arube asked again.

"Yes, I'm not normal."

Ttaang~!

Item Combination.

It had the disadvantage of being hard to use during battle due to the long usage time, but it produced overwhelming results once successful. Grid successfully combined the +9 Failure and +8 Grid's Greatsword before commanding the God Hands.

"Item Transformation, Failure,"

Kiiiing.

The four golden hands turned into golden shark-like greatswords. Soon after.

Kwa kwa kwang!

Since it was reproduced by pavranium, the four golden Failures exceeded the power of the original and pierced the bodies of the armored needles. The blood of the armored needles scattered in all directions, threatening Sua and the Red Phoenix members.

"Linked Kill Wave."

Ku kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa!

There was a storm of energy that overtook Arube.

"Uh... Huh?"

Arube couldn't recognize the situation properly and reflexively shrunk back. Grid faced him and expressed thanks.

"Thanks for the new quest."

Grid felt confident as soon as he learned about the contents of the SS grade quest.

Chapter 544

[Location of the Red Phoenix Bow]

Difficulty Level: SS

Arube, known to be murdered by the evil daoist priest, was actually alive.

Arube is part of the group of a master daoist priests.

The monsters were invited by the master priest, and now Pangea is isolated.

Arube is now planning to occupy Pangea with his fully controlled army of armored needles.

Find the whereabouts of the Red Phoenix Bow that was stolen by Arube and the evil daoist priest!

Arube has a strong desire to survive and will give you a lot of information!

Quest Clear Conditions: The capture or death of Arube.

Quest Clear Rewards:

- 1. Succeed in capturing Arube Your character experience will increase by 30% and the quest 'Location of the Red Phoenix Bow' will link to the next part.
- 2. Arube's death Your character will gain two levels and the quest 'Location of the Red Phoenix Bow' will disappear.

'Amazing...'

Shortly after being poisoned. Grid was thrilled when he checked the new quest. The story of Arube and the daoist priest was found because he met Idan and completed the 'Find the Traces of the Great Hero!' quest. He was able to enter the dungeon because he had a relationship with White and won the blacksmithing competition. Then there was a trap box unexpectedly found in the dungeon.

The 'Location of the Red Phoenix Bow' quest was created the moment Grid's actions came to a conclusion. It was presumed that if he completed the linked quest, he could acquire the original Red Phoenix Bow. The original Red Phoenix Bow? 'Of course' it was the strongest bow at present.

It was said that Grid's Red Phoenix Bow (Reproduction) was beyond the original, but the work had inherent limitations. The limits of a reproduction? The maximum rating was legendary. On the other hand, the original Red Phoenix Bow had at least a minimum rating of legendary and it could presumably go beyond that. It was inevitable that the reproduction of the Red Phoenix Bow was weaker than the original. This was the absolute system of the game.

What if unlike Grid's expectations, the original was weaker than the reproduction? It didn't undermine the value of the original. It was because the original had the Red Phoenix Breath.

[Red Phoenix's Breath]

A blessing of the Red Phoenix.

It will increase fire resistance by 30%.

It can be used to infuse items with the powerful aura of the Red Phoenix.

However, it can be attached to items with a strong fire attribute.

Weight: 2

It was the reward Grid earned in exchange for restoring the Red Phoenix Bow. If he obtained this one, he would have two. Grid's fire resistance would be 60% just having it and if he used it as an item making material, he could double the power of the Red Phoenix Bow. He knew how strong the Red Phoenix Bow was. It wasn't easy to judge unless someone experienced it themselves.

"Kuk...! Kukuk!"

The pleased Grid was quick to act. Arube appeared with the armored needles and made fun of Sua and the Red Phoenix members.

"Item Combination."

Ttang!Ttang!Ttang!

Grid took out the portable furnace and started work with the God Hands. Fire was instantly produced using the white phosphorus wood. Then he laid Failure and Grid's Greatsword side by side on the anvil, hitting them with a hammer. The four Mjolnirs increased the speed of blacksmithing skills, boosting the speed of Item Combination. At the end of this work.

"Is he crazy? Not knowing the current situation and hammering... Are you crazy?"

Arube belatedly noticed Grid and cursed.

"Linked Kill Wave."

Grid swung Failure + Grid's Greatsword.

Kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa kwa!

A named NPC was strong. In particular, Arube was able to control the armored needles. Grid judged that he would be stronger than the armored needles. Grid carefully calculated as the storm of energy covered Arube.

'Controlling the undead means he must have a necromancer type class. Even if he's a named NPC, he can't help having low defense and health. Considering the possibility of 3 Joint Attacks activating or a critical attack, I will take control of the match by using Transcended Link after Linked Kill Wave.'

If he linked it with Pinnacle Kill then there was a chance that Arube could die. Failure boasted the strongest attack power. Grid's Greatsword added 20% more skill damage, despite its attack power being less than Failure. The power demonstrated when these two greatswords combined together was terrible.

Grid needed to control himself.

"Uh... Uwaaaack!"

Pepepepeok!

Grid smiled as Arube screamed after being hit by Linked Kill Wave.

'I will soon clear the SS grade quest.'

It was really good! Grid used Transcended Link and immediately attacked Arube again. Suddenly, he stiffened like a stone statue.

"...Eh?"

Arube's health gauge...

"It's gone?"

Yes, gone.

During his freshman days in university. His boiler was turned off because Grid used his living expenses on the gaming fee.

'Why?'

He might be a necromancer, but how could he have such low defense and health? Grid was confused.

"Uhhh..."

[Arube has died.]

Arube's health was depleted by Linked Kill Wave and turned to grey. Then notification windows appeared in front of Grid.

[Necromancer Arube has been defeated.]

[89,005,310 experience has been acquired.]

[You have obtained an unknown mark.]

[Arube's Ring has been acquired.]

[The question 'Location of the Red Phoenix Bow' has been terminated. The linked quests will be destroyed.]

[Your have gained two levels from the quest reward.]

[As someone with a second class, you will receive a level up bonus. 24 stat points have been acquired.]

[12 points have been forcibly invested into intelligence due to the influence of the second class, Legendary Great Magician.]

"...Ah!"

Flop!

Grid sighed and sat down. The Red Phoenix Breath that dwelled in the original Red Phoenix Bow. He lost the only clue to tell him the whereabouts of the precious treasure, causing his mental state to be bruised. The Red Phoenix members approached the grumbling Grid.

"You punished the villain that threatened the young lady and Pangea! You are the hero and savior of Pangea!"

"Grid! Please tell us if you experience any trouble in the future! I will be willing to experience any inconvenience if it's for you!"

"..."

The affinity with the Red Phoenix members had risen a lot. But Grid wasn't pleased at all. He blankly questioned Sua.

"Necromancer? Do they have inherently weak bodies and stamina?"

"That's right. They're as weak as a child. But they usually don't allow hits, because they can summon things several times stronger than them."

"...I see."

"Pangea's Duke of Virtue precisely dug at Arube's gaps. Arube didn't think a blacksmith would attack and couldn't cope with it."

"...Um."

Grid shook off his gloomy mood. He didn't get the best result for the unexpected quest, but he couldn't be frustrated forever.

'Think positively.'

He gained two levels in exchange for defeating Arube. In addition, he obtained the Unknown Mark and Arube's Ring. These were rewards he wouldn't have obtained if he captured Arube.

'Anyway, this is the reward for an SS grade quest. It's possible that these have great value.'

Maybe their value was better than the original Red Phoenix Bow. Of course, this was just a maybe. Grid was filled with hope and was about to use the Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal skill to confirm the information of the Unknown Mark and Arube's Ring.

Pepepepeng!

However, the battle between the God Hands transformed into Failure and armored needle was deepening. In the beginning, the God Hands overwhelmed the armored needles with their power. But they started to be suppressed one by one with the silver thread. Now the armored needles were aiming for Grid and the Red Phoenix members.

"First, I need to take care of these guys."

Grid stopped the appraisal and stared at the armored needles with a fearsome expression. He had targets to vent his anger on.

'I will wipe these guys out before leaving the dungeon.'

It was also time to go eat at Idan's restaurant. Grid wanted to be strong, but his spirit was very pained from eating Idan's food. It was painful and hard. Grid was burning with motivation for various reasons. Sua's white face flushed as she gazed at him.

"Wow... You never get tired."

"...?"

Why was Sua's face suddenly red? Grid didn't want to know. No, he was afraid to know. It was because he sensed he would be corrupted as soon as he understood her mind.

Immediately after taking over the fortified city of Patrian and obtaining Earl Ashur. The Eternal Kingdom named Grid a traitor. Grid was stripped of all authority and status in the kingdom and his territories would be reclaimed.

The first target was naturally Cork Island. It was the judgment of the Eternal Kingdom that Cork wouldn't be as hard to reclaim since it was separate from Reidan, Patrian, and Borneo. But what was this? Two naval divisions had already failed to occupy Cork Island.

Admiral Lebuck was going crazy after receiving the report.

"The distance between Reidan and Cork Island is at least 15 days apart and there are fortresses from our kingdom all along the road. It's impossible for the rebels to support Cork Island. Then how is Cork Island protecting itself from our offensive?"

"There is a lot of food due to the abundant land, and the rebels have arranged elite troops. It's an island, so they know that we'll move the navy."

It was plausible. Lebuck made a decision.

"We need to change the manner of attack."

Tak.

Lebuck pointed to the north of Cork Island on the map. Cork Island was originally a territory of the Eternal Kingdom. Lebuck was completely aware of the geography of the island.

"Once the sun goes down, send the diving rats to this place."

Diving rats. The official unit name was R77. They were the special unit of the Eternal Kingdom's navy. Tonight, they would dive into the sea, enter the outskirts of Cork Island, move through the secret tunnels in the mines, and infiltrate Cork Castle.

"Then cut off the head of the rebel leader. At that time, our fleet will strike at the island."

It had been a few years since the rebels ruled Cork Island. It was unlikely that the rebels would know about the secret tunnels that existed in the Cork Island mines.

"Tomorrow, Cork Island will return to the Eternal Kingdom."

It was a winning strategy that could be developed due to knowing the geography of Cork Island. Lebuck was overflowing with confidence.

Chapter 544

There were surprisingly many players who chose the soldier class. They could receive a stable income and quests from the military, as well as learn new skills according to their rank. Few classes could learn

as many skills as soldiers. Of course, this didn't mean it was the best. There were a lot more disadvantages.

An example was that they had limited freedom. They needed to enter the game at certain times to attend military training. Quests given from superiors had to be unconditionally performed. They had to follow the principles of command and free travel was also impossible.

Therefore, there was a question. Why choose a soldier when playing the game? Was it fun to live a controlled life? How could it be fun? The majority of people saw the soldier class negatively. But some people had different thoughts. There were some people who appreciated the merits of the soldier class.

Most of them were ambitious. It was possible for a soldier to be promoted according to their ability, and they were a class with the possibility to gain a lot of power. The players who chose the soldier class would play a controlled game, but they were patient enough to develop.

In this place.

There was a player in the R77 unit of the Eternal Kingdom's navy. His ID was Soldier. It was a name that spoke of his desire to be a soldier. In reality, he was a soldier of the US army and enjoyed it. He liked the strict rules and control, a type of person who took pleasure from legal killings.

'Grid... Is there any figure more suitable for my promotion?'

Grid became a hero through the golem invasion of Reinhardt. A wonderful politician who revived the deserted ghost town of Reidan. A resourceful person who swallowed up the Tzedakah Guild and Silver Knights Guild. A gifted man who used the media to disturb people around the world and seize Patrian. The only legendary item maker.

Looking at Grid's history, including the National Competition, Soldier couldn't help admiring him. A perfect person. He wasn't a legend for nothing.

Soldier was excited. His achievements would become more noticeable if he defeated a perfect being.

'Grid's rebellion is a great chance for me. I could be promoted a few times in this war.'

He could be promoted to commander in one step.

'First, take care of today. I must contribute to the occupation of Cork Island.'

Splash!

Splash splash!

Deep in the night. The 30 members of R77 jumped from the ship. They dived deep into the sea and avoided the enemy's surveillance network. They were armed with the third-generation magic wetsuits developed by the navy magicians and were getting enough oxygen through that.

Soldier used the Advanced Swimming Mastery Lv. 2 that he thoroughly trained in after being in the navy. His eyes were determined as he dreamt about becoming a war hero.

Cork Island was a place that contained the memories of the Silver Knight Guild. Its actual economic value was the highest among the territories possessed by Overgeared. There were dozens of mines and it was famous as a sightseeing place. As the former master of the Silver Knights Guild, Peak Sword wanted to protect Cork Island. He didn't want to hand it over to the enemy.

Of course, in reality, it was impossible to stand up to the aggression of the Eternal Kingdom. Cork Island was isolated. He couldn't expect to keep it. The number of soldiers was limited to 1,000 and the average level was 150. There were no named knights. It was a territory that couldn't be kept even if Grid was present.

Lauel said it was wiser to give up Cork Island. However, the will of Peak Sword wasn't broken.

"I'm a Korean who inherited the spirit of General Yi Soonshin. I will never give up."

One month. He needed to keep it for just one month. He would tie up the enemy troops as long as possible and collect more taxes from Cork Island for Overgeared. Peak Sword fought with all his might for the past five days. He actively utilized the coastal fortifications that Cork Island's lord had built and sank several ships of the Eternal Navy.

It was thanks to the efforts of the 10 elites from the Silver Knights guild and the soldiers of Cork Island, but Peak Sword's maritime capabilities were also spectacular. In the past, he had a long battle with the Sakura Guild over Cork Island and grew into an excellent naval commander.

"Brother, aren't you overdoing it?"

An Changsal, the second in command of the Silver Knights Guild, was worried about Peak Sword. He was worried since Peak Sword kept fighting while using buff potions.

"Isn't it really hard to earn money? You don't be able to get married if you had no money. What's the point of drinking potions if you're a bachelor for the rest of your life?"

The smart Lauel had warned Peak Sword. It would be difficult to keep Cork Island for more than a week. He refused to believe it at first. However, after experiencing the war directly, Lauel was right. It was impossible to withstand the navy's offensive for more than a week with just An Changsal and the elites of the Silver Knights Guild. The difference in power was too great and there was a limit to their stamina.

"There's also a minimum of breaks and the soldiers are already exhausted. It isn't a bad idea to keep the island, but there's no point if the damage is too big..."

"This isn't useless damage."

Peak Sword cut off An Changsal's words.

"This is for Overgeared."

Peak Sword thought it was worth it if he could reduce the burden on Overgeared by sacrificing himself. He had a duty to do his best in order to repay Grid and Lauel. That's why he would bring out his pickaxe today.

Deep in the night. Peak Sword judged it was impossible for the enemy's fleet to attack in the darkness and rose from his spot.

"I will go to the mines."

"Oh my..." An Changsal clicked his tongue. "Why do you swing the pickaxe every night? You should take a rest when possible."

"There are no good hunting grounds. Rather than raising my level, I need to raise my stamina and persistence. God Grid would've done it. Do you know God Grid?"

Repetitive labor led to a small but steady increase in stats. In particular, Peak Sword liked the feeling of mining. It was pleasurable when minerals emerged when he hit the wall with a pickaxe.

"Everyone else should rest. I'm going."

Peak Sword left his colleagues alone and headed for the mine. It was the mine closest to the coast. The mining rate was low compared to other mines on Cork Island. However, Peak Sword had no choice but to use it. The other mines were too far away from the fortress.

'It's comforting that there's a mine in a position where I can respond immediately to the enemy's invasion.'

Ttang!Ttang!

The dark mine. Peak Sword lit a few torches and started swinging his pickaxe. He hit the solid wall and collected minerals. He wasn't in a hurry. In the first place, the minerals weren't the goal. He needed to raise his stamina. Labor was the only way to increase his stats.

[Your persistence has increased by 1.]

[Your stamina has increased by 1.]

[The Intermediate Mining skill has increased to Lv. 3.]

"Kuk...! Good!"

How fun was this?

Kaaang!Kaaang!

A smile appeared on Peak Sword's face as he kept mining.

Teong!

Teeeeeong!

"...?"

The deepest part of the mine. A faint noise was heard from the end of a tunnel. Peak Sword tilted his head to one side.

"What?"

It was fundamentally different from the sound of wind. There was a sense of weight to it and above all, the sound came from behind the wall.

"...Perhaps?"

Peak Sword's eyes shone brightly.

"Is there a secret dungeon?"

If so, this was a big jackpot. He would receive a great reward in return for finding a new dungeon. He could also use the monsters to deal a big blow to the enemy.

'This is a dungeon located near the battlefield. If I act properly, the mobs can be used against the enemy.'

It was presumed that they wouldn't do that much, but it was enough to have expectations.

Gulp!

Peak Sword was filled with anticipation and tension. He gripped the pickaxe and pointed it at the completely blocked wall.

'A hidden place would have great value.'

Peak Sword eagerly wanted to see it! He tightened his grip on the pickaxe. Then he took the familiar stance of drawing a sword. It was to enjoy the class bonus effect when using a weapon or tool from the drawing attention. In addition, it was to imitate Piaro, who combined farming and swordsmanship.

"Draw Sword."

Surung!

The pickaxe that Grid made. It had a different durability and attack power from normal pickaxes and could be used as a weapon.

"Fang."

Paaaat!

It was like a ray of light was shot from Peak Sword's fingertips.

Kurururung!

The wall that was Peak Sword's target suddenly fell down by itself? And...

"Eh?"

From behind the collapsed wall, a strange man appeared. The ID was Soldier. It was a player like Peak Sword.

"?????"

"?????"

A moment of time. Peak Sword and Soldier's eyes met and the same question appeared in their minds.

'Who?'

It was only a short amount of time. Peak Sword and Soldier understood the current situation but Peak Sword's pickaxe hit Soldier first.

Puok!

"Kuk... Keeoook!"

What the hell was this? A miner with coal covered his face. Why was a person mining in this critical wartime situation and why was he mining in front of the secret tunnel?

"D...Dammit."

A person who was going to become a powerful figure in the Eternal Kingdom's army was going to die here?

Stagger.

Soldier's confusion was maximized as he stumbled. Blood flowed from his forehead where the pickaxe hit and he slowly turned to grey. Drawing the sword. It took a long time to activate and recover, but the attack power alone was worthy of being among the top.

This wasn't an ordinary pickaxe, and the power of the skill cast through Grid's pickaxe was incredibly strong. It was enough to knock out the level 250 Soldier, who was within the top 10,000 rankings. Peak Sword's overwhelming presence gave the opponent a sense of resistance.

"You... What are you?"

The R77 squad members were confused when their colleague was murdered in front of their eyes. Peak Sword grasped the situation late and replied.

"Swo... No, a miner. An ordinary miner of Cork Island."

"What?"

Coincidences might've overlapped, but their ace soldier had died in a single blow. The R77 members knew that the miner in front of them was less likely to be an ordinary miner. However, it was hard to deny that he was a miner.

Clink!

On the other hand, Peak Sword recovered the bloody pickaxe and took an attack posture again. Of course, this time he used a sword instead of a pickaxe. The R77 members shouted when they saw him place a hand on the sheath.

"This isn't a joke!"

It was already too late. The R77 troop members. They gave time to Peak Sword.

"Annihilate."

Ku kwa kwa kwa! Ku kwa kwa kwa!

The R77 unit under the command of the Navy. The greatest elite troops who built up a lot of fighting abilities in all types of wars were now wiped out. It was a rare event that would make the navy rush around frantically.

Chapter 545

[Grid's Pickaxe]

Rating: Unique

Durability: 117/180 Attack Power: 233

* 20% increase in mining speed.

* 10% increase in attack power.

* Shape conversion is possible.

A tool with long blades extending on both sides.

A pickaxe made by the legendary blacksmith Grid.

At first glance, it is no different from a normal pickaxe. But there are obvious differences.

The blades on both sides can be folded as needed and half the hilt is made of a blade.

It can be used as a sword.

However, since it is far from the ideal sword form, it isn't recommended to be used with bad skills.

Conditions of Use: Mining or Farming skill. Advanced Mastery Level 1. 1,200 strength.

Weight: 880

In fact, Peak Sword hadn't understood it when he received this pickaxe. Shouldn't a tool be faithful to its original role? Why did Grid make the pickaxe a weapon? Wouldn't it be better to have a separate blade instead of a pickaxe? Peak Sword wondered what this was about. It was still an unknown world.

Due to the peculiar form of the pickaxe, Peak Sword was able to use his style of swordsmanship and eventually destroyed the forces who secretly infiltrated Cork Island. He took the momentum and destroyed the R77 troops.

[Your level has risen.]

[You have neutralized the Eternal Navy's covert operation.]

[A signal flare has been found on the dead enemy's body. It can be used to disturb the enemy.]

"God Grid... You're the best."

Grid made the pickaxe a weapon because he foresaw what would happen today. Peak Sword was thrilled by Grid's foresight and respected him even more. The real reason why Grid made the pickaxe a weapon? It was purely for Piaro, but Peak Sword interpreted it this way.

Skin that was golden from the sunlight. Red hair that was intense as blazing flames and lustrous lips. She was the best beauty of South America, Jishuka. She stood on the high walls of Patrian and looked down at the battlefield.

"The players' participation rate is increasing every day."

The Eternal Kingdom had named Grid and the Overgeared members as traitors. The players in the Eternal Kingdom received a tsunami of quests.

Defeat Grid. Defeat Overgeared. Occupy Bairan. Occupy Reidan. Occupy Patrian. Capture Grid's family, etc.

The quests that threatened Grid and the Overgeared members promised huge rewards for the players. The players naturally wouldn't refuse the quest. They coveted their rewards, and it was their natural obligation as people of the Eternal Kingdom to suppress the rebellion.

That's right. The players were immersed. Life as a citizen of Eternal. They weren't just playing games, they existed as heroes of 'another world.' An overwhelming sense of immersion. This was the true attraction of a virtual reality game.

"Why?"

Jishuka swallowed her saliva. There were too many enemies. In fact, the 10,000 soldiers of the Eternal Kingdom wasn't a big problem. Their average level was 160. They couldn't be a threat to the elites of the Overgeared members. But the players were a problem. There were thousands of players, including high level rankers. The large variety of classes was diverse and the risk factors were huge.

Jishuka laughed at the nervous Toban.

"What are you doing?"

Kkirik!

Jishuka drew her bow and aimed at the army.

Hwaruruk!

Flames sparked at the end of the arrow.

"Sweep them all away. Should we show any mercy to dogs who dare to bare their teeth at us?"

"...No, what?"

In this situation, why wasn't this woman scared? Toban was surprised when he saw that Jishuka didn't shrink back.

Kuwaaaaaang!

The fire arrows crossed the battlefield and struck the middle of the enemies, causing a powerful explosion. Dozens of people died in an instant. The players of the Eternal Kingdom turned white.

"Red flames archer... It's true that they're fraudulent when it comes to sieges."

"How can we break that arrow bombardment?"

In just a few seconds. The fire arrows shot by Jishuka consecutively flew through the sky. The battlefield became a sea of fire. It was truly huge firepower. It was a power optimized for mass destruction. Both the Eternal Kingdom and Overgeared members were amazed by Jishuka's power, but Jishuka herself felt regretful.

'I can't display my power with this bow.'

It was a bow she commissioned from Grid. She hadn't been able to replace it, despite being 22 levels beyond it. It was because there was no good alternative. From the standpoint of Jishuka, this bow had a lower limit than her level and wasn't satisfactory.

'Marquis Steim is more cautious than necessary.'

Reidan.

Lauel had a headache. What was the biggest reason for occupying Patrian? It was to connect Reidan to the north and gain Marquis Steim's support. But unexpectedly, Marquis Steim was just watching the situation. He wouldn't side with Grid if it was unlikely Grid would become the king.

'He isn't nervous, despite Irene being in Reidan.'

Marquis Steim loved his daughter. In addition, Irene was Marquis Steim's only heir and Grid was Irene's husband. Lauel expected that Marquis Steim would naturally take Grid's side in this war. Grid becoming king would make his daughter a queen and his grandchild a prince.

But Marquis Steim was a more cautious person than Lauel expected. He knew how to distinguish between business and personal matters and didn't cling to his bloodline. If he made the wrong choice, the millions of people in the north would be affected. It was obvious that Marquis Steim was worried about their safety and aiming for a more certain choice.

"Well... I don't blame him."

Lauel understood and respected Marquis Steim's choice. It was good to see a noble that cared for the people. Still, he couldn't help feeling frustrated.

'I appreciate the fact that your political accomplishments that have revived the north. But your ankle is caught by the people and you can't be used as a tool.'

He wasn't a person who could be assigned to a key position when the kingdom was founded later. Lauel decided and opened the list of rankers. It was a habit. In his view, it should be the default to monitor the level of the high rankers.

"...Eh?"

Lauel was looking at the list of rankings to determine the level of the forces that could potentially be hostile to Grid. He doubted his eyes. Grid had been level 322 just three hours ago and he was now 324.

"W-What?"

Grid's level had been rising rapidly in the East Continent. He was about to enter 15th place on the unified rankings. But no matter how fast he was, gaining two levels in just three hours?

"9th rank on the list? Grid, what the hell are you doing?"

He wondered if Grid was bugged. Lauel laughed as he anticipated the reaction of the media, only to suddenly feel anxious.

'Maybe he'll come back to the West Continent much sooner than expected?'

Would Grid return before the project to make Grid a king be complete?

""

In the darkness. Faker breathed as he watched Irene and Lord. He focused on protecting them from any threats. But Faker soon came to realize something. There was no need for his protection.

'Potato?'

Irene was reading a book with Lord in her arms. On the wall above where she was sitting, a worker bringing potatoes to the soldiers accidentally dropped one potato. It was the famous rainbow potato. The potato fell quickly towards Irene's head and Faker prepared to move.

"Ahat."

Lord, laughing in Irene's arms, suddenly pulled out a dagger and threw it towards the sky. It was so fast and stealthy that Irene didn't even realize Lord had thrown it.

Peeok!

Faker made a bemused expression as the potato hit by Lord's dagger split in half.

'My protection... It isn't necessary.'

It wasn't just due to Lord's excellent abilities. There were 200 girls in the vicinity of Irene and Lord. Faker realized that they had also taken out their weapons to protect Irene from the potato. There was also Kasim, king of shadows, hidden in Lord's shadow.

"...Both of them will be safe in Reidan."

Faker had nothing to do. He wondered if there was anything more pointless than protecting the safest people in the world.

[You have succeeded in killing 10 armored needles.]

[The quest 'Subjugate the Armored Needles (1)' has been cleared.]

[Affinity with the Red Phoenix group has risen and 5 silver threads have been acquired.]

[Affinity with the Red Phoenix has risen to the peak.]

[The quest 'Subjugate the Armored Needles (2) has been created.]

[Subjugate the Armored Needles (2)]

Difficulty: S

There are a large number of armored needles in the dungeon beneath Pangea Castle.

Bring peace to Pangea by repelling those who can threaten Pangea at any time.

Quest Clear Conditions: Kill 20 armored needles.

Quest Clear Reward: 5 silver thread.

He had only obtained two silver threads from defeating 10 armored needles. The drop rate for the silver thread was the worst. Grid judged that the most realistic way to acquire the silver thread was to complete the quests.

'But giving out five threads for killing 20...'

The appearance rate of the armored needles was too low. It would take a long time if he wanted to hunt 20.

'It might take two days if I'm unlucky.'

Grid sighed and left the dungeon with the Red Phoenix group.

"Ohh! Pangea's Duke of Virtue! You're safe!"

"Grid!"

In front of the well. Half a day had passed since Grid entered the dungeon but White and Han Seokbong were still waiting. They were quite worried about Grid. Sua explained the whole story. She spoke about how Grid defeated the armored needles with overwhelming strength and condemned Arube.

The liking in Han Seokbong's gaze towards Grid increased.

"You really went through a lot of trouble, Pangea's Duke of Virtue. You were a big help. Now, you must be exhausted and hungry. I have prepared delicacies that can only be enjoyed in Pangea for Pangea's Duke of Virtue."

[Lord Han Seokbong is feeling more favorable towards you.]

[There is a place for you to stay in Pangea Castle. It is a place with hot springs for stamina recovery.]

[All facilities of Pangea Castle are available free of charge and you will be served a meal whenever you want.]

"Delicacies..."

Grid gulped because he was starved. The thought of delicious food stimulated his appetite. But Grid was always rewarded for his effort and patience. He barely suppressed his appetite.

"The meal... I will eat outside."

He had to go to Idan's restaurant. It was important to secure stats, even if he experienced food poisoning. Grid swallowed his tears and left the castle. He walked with unmotivated footsteps and pulled out the Unknown Mark and Arube's Ring.

'I shouldn't expect much... Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal."

It was time to acknowledge that most of Grid's predictions always went the opposite way.

Chapter 546

Capture or kill Arube?

If 100 players were given the 'Location of the Red Phoenix Bow' quest, 100 out of 100 would've chosen to capture Arube. It was natural. Capturing Arube would allow them to win the Red Phoenix Bow. Wasn't it strongest battle gear? People wouldn't be foolish enough to kill Arube just for a rise in level.

'...I'm a stupid jerk.'

How many of the two billion users would think that being too strong could be a sin? Grid accidentally killed Arube. He got two levels and Arube's items in exchange, but he couldn't help feeling depressed.

"Hah."

Grid's shoulders were slumped as he used the Legendary Blacksmith's Appraisal on the Unknown Mark and Arube's Ring. Grid didn't have high expectations. These were items that wouldn't have been revealed to the world unless Arube was killed. In other words, it was unlikely that the items would be too good.

"Still, he was a named NPC so it wouldn't be garbage... Eh?"

Grid's footsteps stopped as he checked the item details. He was so surprised by the outcome that his body stiffened like a stone statue.

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

[Unknown Mark]

A black sun mark.

The usage is unknown.

[You have discovered a hidden feature in the item!]

[Mark of Evolution]

Rating: Unique

A functional marker developed by the alchemy facility.

If this mark is attached to your body, one of your strength, agility, stamina, or intelligence stats will increase by 200.

User Restriction: Level 200 or higher.

Weight: 0

"Wow."

Grid's mouth dropped open at the unexpected situation. An item that raised his stats when stuck to his body? It was also by 200 points!

"Amazing!"

The item wasn't trash. It actually had tremendous value. Grid was thrilled. But the biggest reason for Grid's pleasure wasn't the value of the mark. It was the glimpse of the possibilities of alchemy. Grid was truly excited by this point.

'Is it possible to someday produce these marks at Reidan's alchemy facility?Rabbit, please prove that your choice isn't wrong.'

Grid prayed earnestly for Rabbit and examined Arube's Ring. Then he sighed.

[Arube's Ring]

Rating: Unique

A ring completed after many experiments by Arube, who wanted to use the abilities of the armored needles.

When worn, five or less strands of silver thread can be twisted together to the desired shape.

Conditions of Use: None.

Weight: 4

"..."

According to the item description of the silver thread, at least 2,500 dexterity was needed to handle five or less silver threads. That's right. In other words, Arube's Ring was an item that increased the wearer's dexterity to 2,500. It was useless for Grid, whose dexterity had already reached 3,700.

"Sigh, giving me this..."

Grid was grumbling while thinking about it. What if an ordinary player got Arube's Ring? By now, they would be jumping with joy. In the first place, Grid was the only one qualified to handle the silver thread freely. From a general point of view, the two items obtained from killing Arube didn't fall significantly compared to the Red Phoenix Bow. It was just Grid who didn't feel all the benefits.

"...No, wait. I think I can use it."

Grid suddenly thought of the Overgeared Skeletons. Skeletons that could wear equipment items, unlike normal skeletons. What would happen if they wore Arube's Ring.

'Won't they support me properly in battle?'

The use of the silver thread was endless. It would be a great help for Grid if the Overgeared Skeletons could use the silver thread to tie up the feet of the enemy for a while. There was no definite limit on the

random damage of the silver thread. The level 1 Overgeared Skeletons wielding the silver thread might deal a blow to level 100 monsters.

The minimum damage was only 100 and this could appear 999 out of 1,000 times. In any case, his expectations for the Overgeared Skeletons rose significantly.

"Kukuk..."

Grid couldn't control the laugh that emerged. He felt so happy that he could fly away. He took advantage of the momentum and took out the Mark of Evolution. It was to increase his stats. He wanted either the intelligence or agility stat. Agility needed to be increased to match the ratio of strength and intelligence allowed Grid to learn more magic from Braham.

'Stamina also isn't bad. An increase in health and defense means my survival ability will increase greatly. The usage of Blackening will also increase.'

It just couldn't be strength. His strength was already overflowing.

'The probability of gaining the desired stat is 75%.'

There was only a 25% chance of being unlucky. Grid believed in the concept of probability as he placed the back sun mark on the back of his hand.

Chiiiik!

"Um."

There was a stinging feeling. Grid frowned, but didn't lose his smile. Agility, stamina, and intelligence.

'Which of the three stats will go up?'

[The Mark of Evolution has been placed.]

[Strength has risen by 200.]

"...Shit."

The smile completely disappeared from the face of the frustrated Grid. No, dammit. There was a 75% chance of getting his desired stats and a 25% chance of getting unwanted stats, then what was this?

"Why is it the 25%?"

Grid was certain that the devil had made the idea of probability.

"Ah... Is this irreversible?"

Strength was the best stat for physical damage dealers. Not only did it increase physical attack power, it also gave a small amount of health. But Grid knew that he would be stronger if he adjusted his strength and agility to a ratio of 1:1. He didn't want to widen the gap between strength and agility.

"Ugh... It would be much better if intelligence rose."

Was there any blacksmith in the world who wanted to raise intelligence? It was sad. Grid became restless and closed his eyes. Then he looked at the information of the mark on the back of his hand. It was to check if he could reapply it.

[Mark of Evolution]

Status: Strength.

200 strength is added.

You can try changing the stat.

However, changing the stats will cause one of your stats to permanently drop by 5.

"…"

One of his stats would drop by 5 points. It was a truly fearsome penalty. This was half the value of an elixir, a number that could be gained by eating at least five of Idan's dishes. Eating Idan's food didn't always raise his stats.

'Why?'

Grid grimaced while sweat flowed down his back. Should he be satisfied with the increase in attack strength, despite the inefficiency? Or should he lost five stat points for a more dramatic increase in attack power? His worries didn't last long.

'Anything would be good apart from strength. It's worth it.'

The odds were 75%. Furthermore, Grid had a lot of different types of stats. There was strength, stamina, intelligence, agility, persistence, composure, indomitable, dignity, insight, courage, charm demonic power, good luck, etc. It was a variety of stats that other people couldn't dream of. It would be profitable if he could get 200 stats he wanted in exchange for losing 5 stats.

'In particular, it will be a great hit if I lose the points from composure or demonic power.'

Composure reduced the probability of entering an abnormal state and the recovery speed from it. Basically, it wasn't a very useful stat for Grid, who was immune to status conditions. In addition, Grid was frightened about what would happen when demonic power became too high.

Grid prayed earnestly. He hoped to gain agility or intelligence in exchange for sacrificing one of these two stats!

"Change mark."

[The location of the mark can be reset.]

Pahat!

The mark of the black sun on Grid's hand rose into the air again. Perhaps if Grid was a person who cared about appearance, he would've attached it to his chest or neck. But Grid wasn't interested in appearance.

'Isn't there a higher chance of increasing intelligence if I stick it to my head?'

Grid thought up this logic and placed the mark in the center of his forehead. At the same time.

[The Mark of Evolution is being reconfigured.]

[5 good luck stats have disappeared.]

[Strength has risen by 200.]

"XX."

He lost his good luck stats that he cherished the most and his strength stat rose again? Grid lost his reason and immediately rearranged the mark again. He pulled the mark off his forehead and slapped it onto his chest. It was just below the collarbone. The dark sun mark seen through the wide collar looked nice.

[The Mark of Evolution is being reconfigured.]

[5 good luck stats have disappeared.]

[Stamina has risen by 200.]

"…"

At level 300, every point in stamina increased health by 25 and defense by 0.9. The 200 rise in stamina gave Grid an extra 5,000 health and good defense, so it certainly wasn't bad. Still, it was less dramatic than the agility stat that increased his combat ability, or the intelligence stat that helped him learn new magic.

Grid was a little sad, but what could he do?

"Let's just be satisfied with this..."

He was too afraid to do it anymore. Grid moved like a beaten man after he lost 10 points in good luck. He arrived in front of Idan's restaurant.

"You came!"

As usual, the restaurant was empty.

Idan welcomed Grid from where he was sitting. The reaction was a lot different from the last time they met.

"You were a blacksmith? You don't know how happy I was when I heard that you won the championship!"

"Idan..."

He was happy that Grid won? Grid, whose heart had become as desolate as the dry desert, felt touched. Despite being a mad chef, Grid was glad to see Idan. This lasted for one second.

"Hahahat! Won't guests come like a tide if I announce that the winner of the smithy competition likes coming to my restaurant?"

"...Give me something to eat."

Grid sat down at a table. Yang Fei approached him with her expressionless face and handed him the citron tea.

"Today's tea is a service. I'm just a poor girl, but I want to congratulate you on your victory. But I will have to starve this evening."

Her expression didn't change despite her words. Grid knew that Yang Fei was responsible for her siblings and felt burdened. But he didn't refuse the free service.

'In any case, I will give her a salary when I bring her with me to the West Continent.'

Grid rationalized it and enjoyed the taste of the free tea. Yang Fei gazed at him and carefully lifted her skirt.

"That... Today my thighs are stiff."

Her pale face became extremely red. Yang Fei was very ashamed. She already knew. Grid's massage wasn't a simple massage.

'This child...'

It was strange how she was actively pursuing this. Maybe Sua would be the same.

'Are the women of the East Continent like this?'

Grid kneaded Yang Fei's white thighs with his fingers. A soft feeling was felt from his fingertips.

"Urgh."

Yang Fei lost strength in her legs and sat down. Grid thought her red ears were cute and started to actively move his hand.

[Affinity with Yang Fei has risen.]

[Affinity with Yang Fei...]

[Dexterity has increased by 1.]

Grid seriously thought that he would never starve to death as long as he had his fingers.

Chapter 547

"Weeeeek!"

Food and shelter. They were the basic elements of human life and a source of human pleasure. It was hard for humans to live when they lacked food and shelter. They were beings that desired a bigger and nicer house, more expensive clothes, and more delicious food.

However, Grid boldly gave up on this. His desire to be stronger was larger than his desire to eat good food. Of course, it wasn't that easy.

"Cough cough! Damn Idan! How can the beef sirloin he cooks taste like shit?"

The bathroom in Idan's restaurant. Grid was tearful and had a runny nose. It was the aftermath of vomiting up the garbage food. The terrible thing was that his stats didn't go up despite eating such trash. Grid felt resentful of this world that was filled with the concept of probability. It was enough to make him tremble.

"But in the end, I'm the one who chose to eat Idan's food... The result might be bad, but I feel no regret about my choice."

He couldn't look serious talking while he was still vomiting. However, Grid had pride in himself. He maintained his patience and perseverance until he got the results he wanted. He was now aware that this wasn't something everyone could do.

"Well... The good news is that my empty stomach is resolved."

His stamina had been restored to normal.

Spit spit. Grid left and headed straight to Pangea Castle. He lay down on the bed in the room assigned to him and logged straight out.

"Ugh... I still feel sick."

Shin Youngwoo's complexion was pale as he left the capsule. The taste of Idan's food was still lingering in his mouth.

"It should be okay if I eat something sweet."

He only gave up on good food in Satisfy. Now he was craving a sweet potato latte. It was warm, soft, and sweet. If he bought one on the way home after a morning jog, all his fatigue would melt away. It was a luxury that he wouldn't have even thought of when he was poor. Now it was nothing for Shin Youngwoo to spend 6,000 won on himself. He donated 3,300 won to Uni X, so how could he hesitate to buy a 6,000 won beverage?

Compare it. Originally, Youngwoo was only stingy with others. He wouldn't have bought a 800 million won car if he was stingy with himself.

"I will go eat."

Youngwoo stretched for a long time in the garden and entered the elevator. Then he headed to the famous cafe chain store on the first floor of the building.

"Welcome."

A panoramic cafe. It was a cozy space comparable to a cafe in the city center. A cafe employee greeted him with a bright smile and Youngwoo ordered a sweet potato latte. He sat at the sunny window seat and made a gentle expression.

'The buildings of the guild members will soon be completed.'

Six high-rise buildings were currently under construction next to Youngwoo's building. They were buildings owned by Yura, Jishuka, Pon, Huroi, and Vantner. Youngwoo felt like a new person. He felt

happy that his former debt-ridden self was now a landlord and that his colleagues were doing well. His heart was happy enough to fill the world.

The employee handed him his drink with a soft smile, before asking with an anxious expression. "I've seen the news. The Overgeared Guild is having a hard time these days. Is it okay?"

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The Overgeared Guild was having a hard time?

'Aren't we doing well?'

Youngwoo was speechless and the employee explained to him.

"I heard from the players that belong to the Eternal Kingdom. I heard that Bairan and Patrian are completely isolated by the enemy. It's so sad. I would've fought for Overgeared if my level was a little higher."

"...The players?"

Youngwoo realized his mistake.

'That bastard Aslan gave quests to kill Overgeared!'

Lauel had said that Overgeared could block any enemy attacks even if Grid wasn't there. Become strong in the East Continent and return. At the time, Grid had obediently nodded.

'I didn't expect the players to intervene.'

He was still stupid.

Kkuok!

He jumped out of his seat. He was running to the elevator when he stopped in place. It was because the cafe owner had just brought out a cake that looked good.

"I will eat well."

He couldn't resist a free meal! Youngwoo collected the cake and boarded the elevator. He pressed the button for the penthouse and pulled out his phone.

"...No. He'll just tell me not to worry."

Youngwoo had thought about contacting Lauel. He changed his mind and pulled out a business card from his wallet, calling that number. The call was set at the cost of the receiver. The reason?

"Bunny Bunny? Uh, um... What is turn on the translator in English?"

It was an international call!

Bairan.

The small city adjacent to Winston was originally under the jurisdiction of Marquis Steim. After gaining big achievements in the north, it was given to Jishuka and then Grid. Yura wanted to protect it. Bairan was a territory that Jishuka, a founding member of Overgeared, brought as a gift.

Yura only brought herself to Overgeared. In addition, she wasn't able to do much after that. She just helped in the Tiramet raid. From the standpoint of Overgeared, wasn't she worthless?

'I need to prove my worth.'

It wasn't just a one-dimensional desire to look good for Grid. It was natural to contribute to the organization that she belonged to.

Step.

Yura stepped onto the wall of the small fortress. She pulled out a yellow hair band and tied up her long black hair. The souls of thousands of enemy players watching her flew away for a while. Slim limbs and a perfect face. The proportions of Yura's body were so unrealistic that they wondered if she was made by God.

"Wow... Her face became smaller after her hair was tied up."

"She's better than NPCs. That's a real person?"

"So pretty..."

People from various races exclaimed. Skin that was whiter than snowflakes. The gleaming lips and eyes that charmed anyone who saw them. It was natural for people present to be attracted to her. Pon saw the reactions of the enemies and laughed.

'They've lost their minds. I admire her beauty every time I see her.'

Pon only cared about becoming strong in the game. But in reality, he was a man who couldn't live without women. For him, Yura was a really desirable woman. But he had already given up on Yura. He had no intentions of becoming rivals with Grid.

"According to the report, there are 10,000 enemies. Half of them are players."

On one hand, it was encouraging that the players were incorporated into the army. It was because the kingdom's army system made it easy to send in spies. Of course, it wasn't weak enough to sneak in the Overgeared members. But Pon's personality was moderate and he had a variety of contacts.

"This is interesting. The average level of the kingdom's soldiers is 180, and the players are 140.

"Considering that most of the nearby hunting grounds are low to medium level, it's natural that the players' levels are low. But I didn't expect the level of the kingdom's soldiers to be so high."

"I agree. The average level of the soldiers that are attacking Patrian is only 160. Why did they send this army here instead of Patrian?"

"It's because Bairan is closer to the capital than Patrian. From the kingdom's point of view, it's more convenient to have a base in Bairan."

"I see. Tsk, they wouldn't have dared attack Bairan if Marquis Steim had taken our side. Doesn't he know that he became a marquis thanks to Grid?"

"You have to understand the position of Marquis Steim. His essence is a loyal subject of Eternal. Even if the king killed his brother, it isn't easy to betray him. More than anything else, war is scary. He's afraid his precious people will be swept away by it. I respect his heart."

Yura was a former member of the Yatan Church and familiar with slaughter. She was always covered in the blood of the enemy and got the nickname of Blood Witch. But at that time, she was just acting faithful to her role. Unlike Lauel, she didn't regard people as tools and appreciated Marquis Steim's heart. She knew that a man who cherished his people had value.

'A talented person who is essential for Youngwoo's kingdom.'

They would win the war without putting pressure on Marquis Steim. Yura pledged and pulled out a sword. Yes, it was a sword instead of a gun. It wasn't a bayonet with a blade at the end, but a pure sword that was 1 meter in length. Pon tilted his head to one side.

"A sword? Isn't a Demon Slayer's main weapon a magic engineering gun?"

"The sword can also be used as a primary weapon. A Demon Slayer has the same level of Gun Mastery and Sword Mastery."

The reason she chose a gun was because the former Demon Slayer did so. She thought that a gun was a better weapon than a sword for a Demon Slayer. But she changed her thoughts since the National Competition. She had suffered in close combat since her days as a black magician. She didn't want to be afraid of enemies approaching anymore.

In addition, a crucial reason for her selection of the sword was Grid. Grid couldn't make a gun alone. He needed the help of magic and alchemy. On the other hand, Grid could make a sword alone. Using a sword meant it was easier to receive a weapon from Grid.

Thus, Yura chose the sword. This was a great choice.

Black magician. She formulated and arranged magic with quick responses that were beyond common sense and displayed strong combat capabilities. Her ability to calculate in real time combined with swordsmanship made her as deadly as the thorns on roses.

"Whenever the cooldown time of my basic skills return, I will open the gate and act."

"...Huh?"

"The enemies are level 200. If I go out and kill 100 people, we will be able to win the win if this keeps repeating."

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Her brain resembled Lauel, while her personality was like Grid. Pon was confused by this crazy tactic and tried to stop her.

"No, this won't work no matter how strong you are. Your stamina is a problem, and the fortress..."

He was too late. Yura had already jumped down the wall and ordered the soldiers to open the gate.

Kiiiiik!

"What?"

"Opening the gate themselves?"

"Are they crazy?"

The kingdom's soldiers and players laughed as they watched Bairan's gate opening. They had 10,000 people, while the other side had 2,000. Bairan should be closing themselves up like a turtle, not opening the gate.

"Hahaha! Bairan? You can't fight and now you want to surrender? Keeok!"

They expected to enter with no blood shed. Then the bodies of the excited players started to turn grey one by one.

Peeng!

Peng!Pepepeng!

It was a grey feast of grey-colored pillars rising to the sky. Yura was at the center. Her expression was unchanged while the sword supposed to be for destroying demons was now taking human life. She was a grim reaper that was as beautiful as a goddess.

"The female version of Kraugel?"

Yura used Image Sublimation in the midst of the bombardment of arrow and magic. Pon couldn't help having this thought as he watched Yura moving through the enemies like lightning. She was the former 5th ranked user. She was also a genius, and now she was a legend.

"Crazy... What are these people?"

The fortified city of Patrian.

The players of the Eternal Kingdom turned white. Every time Jishuka fired an arrow, dozens of allies died. Hundreds of soldiers were stopped by Vantner and Toban's shields. Every time the Overgeared members entered the battlefield with Regas in front, the army was ravaged. For the ordinary and low level users who couldn't deal with more one or two soldiers, the Overgeared members were transcendent.

The second day of the war. The high rankers quietly watching the Eternal soldiers and ordinary players shrink back stood at the crossroad of choice. Should they give their strength to the Eternal Kingdom and strike Overgeared as planned, or stand back?

'I would've added my strength if the Eternal Kingdom was a bit stronger.'

'The number of troops isn't high, so I'm reluctant to help out.'

At the start of the game. Most players chose the Saharan Empire as their starting point. The empire had a wide range of infrastructure that made it easier to enjoy the game. The Eternal Kingdom compared to the empire? It was a village located in the north of the continent.

The awareness level was third-rate. As a matter of fact, the number of players belonging to the Eternal Kingdom was small and the quality was low. It happened when the high rankers decided to leave the battlefield.

"Reinforcements have arrived!"

A voice roared out on the battlefield. Everyone's attention naturally turned that way. Then the players of the Eternal Kingdom regained their color.

Jeff, Ralph, and Bubat. The masters of the former Seven Guilds led their guilds to intervene in the war. Bubat, who had the strongest CC and a reputation for being unrivalled on the battlefield, smiled with satisfaction.

"I can't miss an opportunity to mess with Grid."

Bubet wasn't a member of Eternal and hadn't been given the quests to kill Overgeared. But that didn't matter to him. Grid had frustrated him several times in the National Competition and the Reidan invasion, so he only dreamt of revenge.

"Let's go! Wipe out Overgeared!"

"Waaahhhhhhhh!"

The appearance of the powerful army enhanced morale. The high rankers noticed this and also joined the offensive. Jishuka's beautiful face wrinkled.

"The puppies have become dogs."

It was a bit dangerous.

Chapter 548

[Reclaim Borneo]

Level of Difficulty: Varies depending on the competency.

Borneo has been captured by the Overgeared Guild.

Borneo is a fortified city on the border of the Eternal Kingdom and is a vital base for the defense of the Gauss Kingdom.

King Cactus has commanded you.

Recapture Borneo and wipeout the malicious group Overgeared that dared to invade the territory of the Gauss Kingdom. Those who are loyal to the kingdom will gain reasonable rewards!

User Restriction: Level 130 or higher.

Quest Victory Conditions: Recapture Borneo in three days before the food supply runs out.

Quest Victory Reward: 1 level. A 10% increase in experience for all skills. One unique rated weapon and one epic rated armor.

* Additional compensation will be received if you defeat NPCs or players belonging to Overgeared.

"This is great. It's comparable to the rewards for the SS grade quest that I saw on the air."

"This is a war. I covet the rewards, but it isn't possible with the Overgeared members running around."

"In the first place, there aren't any quests with a 100% chance of success."

It was difficult for the Gauss Kingdom to advance into the central part of the continent due to the Eternal Kingdom. This place was more of a frontier than the Eternal Kingdom. There was no reason for players to choose this as their kingdom, so the number of players was very small. It was a kingdom for users who played lightly.

But weren't there less than 400 Overgeared members? Once all the troops were combined, the total number was only 6,000. On the other hand, there were 210,000 Gauss players who exceeded level 130. Even if only 1/10th of them participated in the quest, it was still more than double the Overgeared Guild. There was even information that the Overgeared Guild arranged less than 1,000 troops at Borneo. The restriction that there was only three days worth of food wasn't a hindrance.

'There are a lot of light users, so the participation rate of the quest is likely to fall.'

'But the fact that we have overwhelming numbers doesn't change.'

The Gauss players believed it wouldn't be difficult to recapture Borneo. They thought it would be resolved by pushing forward like a bulldozer. However, reality wasn't that easy.

Puk!Puuoooook!

"Keok!"

"Kyaak!"

A fortified city was called that for a reason. In particular, Borneo was a fortress designed with Great Magician Ashur as the enemy. It boasted solid walls that neutralized the magic bombardment of the Gauss soldiers. In addition, there were the archers of Overgeared placed on the wall.

The NPC archers were level 180.

It was a glimpse of how hard Overgeared had worked to raise their soldiers. In fact, the level of the soldiers wasn't the important issue. There was another fundamental problem and the Gauss players realized it. Why the Overgeared Guild was called overgeared!

"Crazy...! The soldiers' attack power is ridiculously high! Kuaaaak!"

The arrows of the Gauss players and soldiers couldn't penetrate the armor of the Overgeared troops, while the Overgeared arrows easily penetrated their armor. The power of the overgeared soldiers was preposterous. As a general rule, these weren't items that would normally be supplied to soldiers.

It was impossible even for the Saharan Empire. Not only did they need the money to mass produce the items and supply it to the soldiers, they needed a blacksmith with the skills to do so.

"This is Grid's power...!"

The Gauss players felt like they were possessed by a ghost. Grid didn't appear on the battlefield, but his presence was huge.

"Shoot! Continue shooting!"

The soldiers of Overgeared fired the arrows without rest. Under Piaro and Asmophel, they tirelessly built up their skills and stamina as elite soldiers. There was the bravery they learned from Jude and the archery from Jishuka. They didn't shrink back as they aimed the jaffa arrows at the enemy, and combined with Grid's Bow, they showed overwhelming attack power. The arrows pierced the enemy's shields, helmets, and armor without interruption.

The Gauss soldiers couldn't approach Borneo's walls. The river of blood created seized the ankles of the Gauss soldiers like a deep swamp. It was a disaster and they started to lose their numerical superiority.

"Kukukuk! Kuhahahahat!"

A laugh rang out on the battlefield. The river on the ground wriggled in response. It was the advent of Blood Warrior Katz. A class that demonstrated the strength of a legend on a stage with a large amount of blood.

"Be glad to know that the blood of worms like you is helping me. Blood Lane."

Kuooooooh!

The blood on the battlefield started to gradually rise into the sky. It was like a reverse rain. The red 'rain' rose into the air, causing the Gauss soldiers to stiffen with fright.

"Kukukuk! You will all die here today."

Swaaaaaah!

At the same time as Katz' declaration. The red blood in the air poured down on the Gauss soldiers. The battlefield became chaotic. The screams of the soldiers echoed infinitely and the blood they shed became Katz' limbs, causing more casualties. The worst situation was infinitely repeated.

"Kukuk! Kuhahahahahat!"

Unlike the Eternal Kingdom that had to disperse troops to Bairan and Patrian, the Gauss Kingdom was able to concentrate on Borneo. Unfortunately, they met the demon king of blood and their first advance failed. But they were just the vanguard. The second reconnaissance army would arrive in two days, and it had more numbers and quality than the first army. The scary thing was that the second army included Soul Predator Seuron.

Like Katz, he was an existence that showed absolute power in the battlefield.

"I have to pay back Grid."

Pepepepeng!

Seuron made dozens of soul spears by capturing the souls of the dead on the battlefield and massacred the Overgeared soldiers on the wall.

"That Lauel... He told me to last at least four days?"

The smile had disappeared from Katz' face.

"Do you see? This is the biggest war since Satisfy opened!"

A battlefield where thousands of soldiers and NPCs were dying and killing each other. The scene of the carnage taken from the sky was more fierce and exciting than any raid image. The viewers' blood was boiling with excitement, rather than shrinking back at the horrors of war.

Think about it! What other game in the world could recreate such a war? Before Satisfy opened, the mmorpg L.T.S. had only 2,000 participants in a war.

- -Patrian Fortress is amazing...There are 15,000 people fighting;;
- -Borneo has 20,000 people ¬¬
- -Lim Cheolho had repeatedly said this.
- -Satisfy isn't a game, but another world. Therefore, there are no limitations.
- -The implementation of virtual reality didn't make sense in the first place.Lim Cheolho seems to be an alien.

The viewers were boiling with excitement. They were grateful to be born in an age where they could play Satisfy. They were envious of the Overgeared members who led thousands of soldiers and struggled for supremacy. They wanted to stand with the Overgeared members. Then...

- -Why isn't Grid visible?
- -I saw that a few days ago, he gained two levels in a few hours. It's either a bug or he's performing a great quest.
- -Wow...Leaving the guild members alone on the battlefield while raising his level —;;
- -Or was there a mishap?

Public opinion was running wild.

As the Overgeared Guild gradually weakened on the third day of the war, there were various speculations about why Grid didn't show up. Grid was garbage, Grid quit Satisfy, Grid had been kicked out of Overgeared, there was a traffic accident, etc.

Most of them leapt to conclusions. It was the same for the media. The second and third tier media outlets were more interested in getting attention than reporting facts. They wrote speculative articles without knowing the facts.

I I suspect that Grid is trapped somewhere.

A few days ago, wasn't there an accident in Gangnam XXX where a supercar hit a pole? There are rumors that Grid is the owner of that supercar...

Grid probably ran away. The Overgeared Guild is currently blocking the enemy by emphasizing the strength of an individual, but how long can this last? The Overgeared Guild will fall in a day or two. They will lose all their troops and territories, becoming broke. Grid probably knows there's no hope and ran away alone...

The media were originally masters of aggravation. They poked at all sorts of things, creating a big issue and spreading it to the world. The defense of the three Overgeared territories was of great interest to the world and the related broadcasts secured high ratings.

And at that time.

[Everyone, can you hear me?]

The fortified city of Patrian. The world's best gaming BJ, Bunny Bunny appeared on a wyvern.

Lalalalala~

It was the most powerful and brilliant fire wyvern. As he shouted loudly and the wyvern shot out a breath, the people struggling on the battlefield and the broadcasting cameras naturally paid attention to him. The satisfied Bunny Bunny opened his mouth. His cry was amplified throughout the battlefield.

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m I\hspace{-.1em}I}$ This is a message from Grid! I will kill anyone who hasn't retreated when I arrive in one minute! ${
m I\hspace{-.1em}I}$

Was there anyone who wasn't ready to die in a war? It wasn't normal to retreat just because of a threat.

"Hah, it's so funny."

"An arrogant bastard! If he can kill us, come and kill!"

"Kill me! Then I will resurrect and come back!"

The players of the Eternal Kingdom didn't shrink back. It was already known that even a strong person couldn't overturn a war with the power of an individual. Just look at Jishuka. She massacred thousands of soldiers since the war started and was now losing momentum. Her stamina was exhausted and the number of arrows she shot was significantly decreased.

Grid would be the same. Everyone thought this, while Bunny Bunny laughed happily on the wyvern.

'Good, good. This wouldn't be a broadcast if you retreat so easily.'

Endure and endure. Then they would be slaughtered by Grid, increasing the number of viewers. Bunny Bunny started counting down.

You have 30 seconds.

"Bah! Let him come!"

20 seconds.

"How can Grid handle all of us alone?"

10 seconds.

9 seconds, 8 seconds, 7 seconds, 6 seconds...

The battlefield became silent as it reached 5 seconds. The Eternal players who were talking a while ago gulped hard. They had no doubt that they could handle Grid, but there would be huge sacrifices. And finally.

[0 seconds! Now God Grid will emerge!]

The moment Bunny Bunny mentioned Grid's appearance. The ratings of Bunny Bunny's broadcast and all broadcasts reached the peak. People had high expectations. Grid would descend like a storm and wipe out his enemies! However...

"...Not coming?"

r ... 1

Grid didn't appear and Bunny Bunny turned into a shepherd boy. At the same time, in Pangea on the East Continent.

"How do I go back?"

Grid became frustrated because he didn't know how to return to the West Continent.

Chapter 549

A return scroll.

It was an everyday supply for anyone who played Satisfy. If certain conditions were met, the player would move to the return point that they set. This was also the resurrection point. Grid also had return scrolls, since it was a routine consumable that everyone would use.

Grid's resurrection point was Reidan. Not long ago, he tried to change the point to Pangea. However, he stopped, since he realized his path to return to Reidan would disappear. That's right. In other words, Grid had the idea that he could return to Reidan (West Continent) whenever he used the return scroll.

This was natural from Grid's point of view. But that conviction caused him grief.

[The Return Scroll doesn't work. Intercontinental movement isn't possible with the formula in this scroll.]

"...What's this?"

Intercontinental movement was impossible! It was enough to cause Grid confusion.

"Eh... Um."

Grid made a blank expression. There was only one recurring phrase in his head.

XX!

One day ago in reality. Therefore, three days ago in game time, Grid called Bunny Bunny and spoke to him. Grid would return to the West Continent as soon as he cleared a quest, so announce his appearance to the world at the time he set. He wanted everyone's attention to be concentrate on him. As always, Grid would impress the world by appearing in a dramatic moment.

Finally, the promised time arrived. Grid finished the Subjugate the Armored Needles (2) quest and acquired five more silver thread. He was completely ready to act in the world. He would condemn the enemies who dared to invade his territory and attack his precious colleagues.

But what was this?

"The return scroll doesn't work!"

Grid started sweating while Braham became angry at him.

'How did you come to the East Continent? Wasn't it because of an intercontinental movement scroll? It is natural that an intercontinental movement scroll would be needed to return.'

"...Intercontinental movement scroll? Where do I get that?"

'The sage who handed you the scroll to the East Continent.'

"…"

Grid thought back. It was the time when he received the East Continent Movement Scroll from Sticks. Sticks had looked shocked when Grid used the scroll as soon as he received it. Now he knew why.

'He was embarrassed when I left without a scroll to return to the West Continent...'

'…'

"…"

It was a situation where they had nothing to say. Grid sighed. He resented his own impatience.

'I should always be calm and cautious instead of making constant mistakes...!'

He was a pathetic person! Grid was pulling at his hair when Braham spoke.

'It's true that you are pathetic, but should you blame yourself? Anyone can make a mistake unless they are a dragon or a god. It's the same for the great demons or geniuses.'

"...Are you comforting me right now?"

Braham, whose ego was as high as the sky, was comforting others? Grid doubted his ears and Braham raised his voice.

'W-What! That's not it! Find a way to get out of this current situation instead of being self-defeating! It's frustrating to watch!'

"Ah, yes... I don't have time to do this."

Now wasn't the time to lose his soul. Overgeared was limited in numbers while the enemies were infinite. The Overgeared members would reach their limit and have all their territory taken. Grid had to find a way to return to the West Continent quickly. He soon figured out how. In fact, it wasn't difficult.

"Isn't it just a simple phone call?"

Communication between the East Continent and West Continent was impossible. Grid was unable to send whispers to players on the West Continent and the summoning knights skill was also blocked. Grid logged out. Then he made an international call to Lauel.

-Master, I'm honored that you have contacted me. But I'm still in the game and am quite busy. I really don't have time.

"..."

-I won't forget my sin today until my life ends and my bones decay. I will be punished for the rest of my life.

Lauel tried his best to learn Korean but was speaking nonsense. Grid frowned at the words.

"If you're busy, then I'll speak quickly. I want you to take a West Continent Movement Scroll from Sticks and come to pick me up."

-Huh?Surely you didn't leave without a scroll to return to the West Continent?

"I did."

-Kukuk!Oh dear, oh dear.Lord is truly great.It's unusual for someone to escape from the worthless prison called common sense.

"...Just hang up quickly, connect to the game and come to pick me up."

-I'm sorry, but that's impossible.

"What? Ah, it makes sense since you're in the middle of a war. If you're busy, then send someone else on your behalf."

-No.I'm your servant.I won't break your orders in any situation.It's just impossible to go to the East Continent because Sticks isn't present.

What was he saying?

"What do you mean? Where is Sticks?"

-Sticks not only has a vast knowledge, he has excellent magic abilities. So I asked him for a few favors.

"What favor?"

-I asked him to take command of the UI Clan, including Princess Hwarin, to attack the rear of the Eternal army and then go to Siren.

The UI Clan. A minority that Grid had rescued from the empire in the past. They had excellent magical talent, especially the royal family. If Sticks led them then their talents would sublimate to another level. Grid was able to guess half of Lauel's intention. But he couldn't understand the other half.

"Why do you want them to go to Siren afterwards?"

-It's to call someone who is farming in the sea.

There was only one person Grid knew who was farming in the sea.

"Piaro?"

-Yes.

One of the biggest differences between a player and NPC was the ability to whisper. NPCs weren't able to whisper. In order to communicate with them, they had to use old-fashioned means such as letters or magic communication devices. Siren wasn't a developed city. Grid was convinced about the reason why Lauel asked Sticks to call Piaro.

"The most efficient method is to have Sticks use teleportation to bring Piaro as soon as possible... But won't Siren be in danger if Piaro leaves?"

In the first place, the reason why he left Piaro in Siren wasn't simply due to farming. It was to protect Siren from Blood Carnival. Lauel's peculiar laugh was heard by the concerned Grid.

-Kuk...!Kukuk!Aren't you becoming gentler?Lord, let me remind you of why we have to protect Siren.

"It's to safeguard the treaty..."

-I'm sorry to interrupt you, but why did we ally with Siren in the first place?

"It's for the sake of our development."

-That's right. How can we care about Siren when we are on the verge of destruction?

"…"

-We can't worry about Siren's well-being right now. The water clan of Siren will join us in this war to help. Just as we have an obligation to protect their territory, they have an obligation to defend our territory.

That's right. But wasn't it very hard to mobilize the water clan that still hadn't recovered from the war? The more worrisome part...

"Lauel, haven't you been planning to be hostile to Eternal long before the alliance with Siren? Then Siren was a victim from the beginning?"

-I can't say that they will be a victim.I'm not planning to use them as simple arrows, but an army.The number of human casualties will be higher.In addition, there's no guarantee that Blood Carnival will invade Siren again.

"Hrmm... Yes."

Grid couldn't denounce or deny Lauel's words. In the first place, he gave Lauel all authority because he trusted Lauel. Based on the need to protect Overgeared, Lauel's plans and ideas were justified. Lauel said goodbye.

-I have been gone for four minutes. This will lead to a confusion in the command system. I have to return to the game.

"Yes, you worked hard. Please send Sticks to me as soon as possible. Tell him to come to the White Hammer smithy in Pangea."

-Yes, he will probably arrive in 5 days.

The call ended. The conclusion?

"Bunny Bunny... I'm sorry for making you a liar..."

Grid's return to the West Continent was a failure. The current Grid didn't have the means to help his colleagues who were undergoing the greatest crisis since Overgeared were formed. He couldn't help feeling nervous.

"Always be calm and careful."

Grid calmed his mind as much as possible.

First of all, he connected to the Internet and watched the war videos in order to grasp the power of his teammates from the point of view of a blacksmith.

'Yura changed her main weapon. It's a good thing. I can finally make her a weapon. Pon is still using the armor I made five months ago? He isn't as lucky as me. Regas will soon reach the limit of the gauntlets' durability because he blocks the items with his hand...'

Overall, the equipment status of the Overgeared members was poor. It was the result of Grid concentrating on personal growth for a while.

"Among them, the one in the most urgent need of a new item is..."

Grid watched the video of Patrian. In the video, the beautiful woman with golden skin was struggling. Grid closely observed the bow she was using.

"Jishuka, I will start with you."

Tak tak.

Grid stood up. He entered the capsule and headed to the White Hammer smithy as soon as he connected to Satisfy. The blacksmiths of the White Hammer smithy actively welcomed the hero who helped them win the competition. They had all the requirements needed to help Grid produce an item.

Ttang!Ttang!

The furnace swallowed up the white phosphorus wood. Grid squatted in front of the heat, hammering at the anvil without stopping. It was the Red Phoenix Breath, which looked like a ruby.

'This can be attached to an item...'

Grid thought that it seemed possible to refine the ruby so that it burned more strongly. He thought that the stronger the breath was, the stronger the Red Phoenix Bow would be. Therefore, Grid challenged smelting the Red Phoenix Breath. But the breath was the essence of the Red Phoenix. It was difficult to handle it completely with the techniques of a legend. This smelting operation was the hardest thing Grid had done since becoming Pagma's Descendant. He spent at least four days hammering at the anvil.

Any normal person would reach the end of their patience. But Grid was filled with strong ambition.

'It's an honor to work with the finest materials.'

Ttang!Ttang!

The sound of Grid's hammering return the atmosphere of the White Hammer smithy to its peak.

Chapter 550

"This is embarrassing."

In the spacious fields of Reidan, farmer and Aura Master Hurent was impatiently waiting for Piaro to return. He grew nervous during trainingbecause he received the news that Overgeared was in the midst of a massive war. From his point of view, the news was like a lightning bolt out of the blue. He was worried that his valuable training ground would be ruined in the midst of the messy war.

"It has been busy in the last few weeks... They were preparing for war."

Piaro taught Hurent to understand himself (?) and forgive (?) after he tried to invade Reidan. The training course he made according to Piaro's suggested method was valuable. He was proud every time he saw grains and vegetables sprout in the land that he cleared, and his heart pounded when he saw people happily eating them...

"No, this isn't it."

Why was he thinking about this? Hurent shook his head and denied his heart. But the fields were his training grounds and he wanted to keep them. He believed that showing the intact fields to Piaro would be a way to repay the favor. But how? The method was obvious.

"I have no choice but to fight."

Hurent opened a map of the Eternal Kingdom. He looked at Reinhardt in the east, Bairan in the north, Patrian in the south, and Reidan in the west.

'They have to pass through Patrian in order to advance from Reinhardt to Reidan.'

Reidan and Reinhardt weren't able to get to each other apart from through Reidan. The areas around Patrian were blocked by mountains or hills.

'This is deliberately designed terrain.'

It was easy to deduce. To the west of Reidan and the south of Patrian was the Saharan Empire and Gauss Kingdom respectively. In other words, Patrian was a fortress designed to defend the kingdom from foreign powers. Eternal chose Patrian's position in order to intercept the Saharan Empire or Gauss Kingdom if they ever invaded.

'Patrian is a natural fortress. But now it's been taken by Grid?'

It would be painful for Eternal. In order to get rid of the rebel Grid, they needed to reclaim Patrian. But it wasn't an easy fortress to capture.

'It will be difficult to attack a fortress that is built as a means to stop the invasion of two nations. Eternal will concentrate on Bairan.'

It was best to attack Patrian from the north and the east simultaneously. They needed to occupy Bairan in order to do this. Hurent was convinced that Eternal's top priority would be the occupation of Bairan.

"Then I will protect Bairan."

Hurent decided to defend the fields of Reidan and immediately left Reidan. He once dreamt of becoming a sword saint. However, after realizing the value of aura, he pursued the ultimate path of an Aura Master. He was incomparably stronger than he was during the 1st National Competition and now he was moving for Overgeared.

This was a variable that even the genius Lauel couldn't think of.

Eternal's navy sent the R77 unit to infiltrate Cork Island through a secret tunnel. They believed that the elite forces of R77 would do a great job. After assassinating the enemy commander and paralyzing the command system, the navy would gain a foothold for victory.

But the atmosphere was terrible. Originally, the flares should've appeared four hours ago. However, the set time had passed and there was no news. Cork Island in front of them was uncomfortably quiet.

"Did they fail the mission?"

Someone couldn't help asking. It was Navy Admiral Lebuck. The staff members flinched and started to give their opinion.

"Until four days ago, only the king knew that there was a secret tunnel on Cork Island. It is absolutely impossible for the rebels to deal with the infiltration of the R77 unit."

"It is a fact that R77 landed safely on Cork Island. They will be performing their mission as scheduled. But there are always variable that will delay the time."

Lebuck frowned.

"Isn't there a possibility for R77 to be caught after they landed on the island?"

"Admiral, R77's covert nature is the best in the navy. It is unlikely that they would be discovered."

"Wait a little longer. Good news will surely come."

"...Hrmm."

Lebuck decided not to fret any longer. Combining all the factors, including the abilities of R77 and the use of the secret tunnels, the probability of the R77 unit failing was almost zero. Then he was rewarded for his faith.

Peeeeeong!

"Ohhh!"

The promised signal appeared from Cork Island. The color of the signal flare was blue. It was the signal that indicated the leader of the enemy was destroyed and they should go.

Lebuck ordered the entire fleet. "Don't damage the island, since it will soon be our property again! Stop ranged bombardment and move forward! Land and show the enemies the full force of our strength!"

The resistance of the enemy would be low after losing their commander. The artillery and magic shot from the coastal fortifications weren't threatening at all. It would be a vain resistance!

"Full landing!"

"Assault! Assault!!"

The navy ships arrived on the coast and the soldiers poured out at once. The soldiers' morale was sky high from the assuredness of their victory. Peak Sword laughed from the fortress as he confirmed their appearance.

"The blue signal that you told me was correct. I was a little suspicious."

"I have already committed myself to Overgeared. I have no desire to lie."

"That is a very good attitude. Keep this attitude for the rest of your life and learn from God Grid."

"Thank you for giving me a chance."

Soldier who was killed by Peak Sword. As soon as he resurrected, he came to Cork Island and expressed his intention to surrender. Why did he risk his career in the navy? It was because he realized there was no future in the Eternal Kingdom.

Two nights before. Soldier was thrilled after infiltrating through the secret tunnel. Once he saw Peak Sword waiting in front of the secret tunnel, he realized that the intelligence network of Overgeared was above the Eternal Kingdom. Soldier was convinced. The winner of this war would be Overgeared, not Eternal. Immediately after the war ended, Overgeared would develop into a national unit.

He made a decision. He would serve Grid and Overgeared, becoming a great success in that kingdom.

'A perfect opportunity to be a founding contributor. The chance fell down from the sky.'

Soldier would succeed in the new country.

On the other hand, Peak Sword was also excited.

'I waited for my stamina to fully recover before launching the signal and succeeded in making the weak navy land at my feet. Maybe...'

Was he going to break everyone's expectations and succeed in defending Cork Island? It was a big jackpot.

"Hoh?"

The second army that appeared to reclaim Borneo contained Seuron. He was amazed after attacking the Overgeared troops on the wall with his soul spears. The archers he thought were going to die were still alive?

'They have 20% of their health left?'

Like any other game, Satisfy showed a disparity in strength depending on the level difference. It was virtually impossible for a level 100~200 user to survive the skill attack of a level 300 user. Katz was able to massacre the Borneo army using this fact.

Objectively, Seuron's attack was superior to Katz, but the Overgeared members didn't die. Who was Seuron? A unique class specialized in combat. His skill damage coefficient was so high that it couldn't be compared with normal skills. But the lowly soldiers survived his skill?

"How is this possible?"

"If the soldiers' bodies are this durable, how strong are the knights?"

The Gauss players were buzzing. Their fear of the Overgeared troops started to grow out of control. However, Seuron was delighted.

'Truly the Overgeared Guild... Even the soldiers are overgeared.'

Seuron wasn't part of Gauss. He didn't have any obligations to enter the war and wouldn't even get rewards. It was because he wanted to pay Grid back for his frustration during the Reidan invasion and National Competition. He fought in this war in the hopes of damaging Grid.

'Grid, I wonder how you raised the soldiers so well.'

He became more motivated. What if he slaughtered Grid's soldiers and took away all their items?

"That Grid would become quite angry, right? Kulkul let's play once."

Seokeok!

Seuron wielded his sword. The +9 Wisdom Sword. A one-handed sword that increased the wearer's strength and intelligence simultaneously. It had compatibility with the Brutal Heavy Sword and he used it during the 2nd National Competition. It wasn't lacking compared to Grid's production items and it was in the same class as Kraugel's True White Fang.

Furthermore, Seuron had a passive skill where 'if he attacked a person or monster with his weapon, he would absorb some of the soul of the target and increase his weapon's power.'

"Kuaaaaak!"

"W-What is this? Keeok!"

The Gauss players and soldiers were killed. They were confused because Seuron, who they thought was a friend, started attacking them.

Seokeok!

Puk puk!Puok!

All of a sudden, Seuron swung his sword and then the Gauss soldiers and players turned to grey. The unexpected sight made the world shocked.

-What is with Seuron?

-Why is he killing his allies when he is fighting to defeat the Overgeared members?

The expression 'ally' wasn't correct. Seuron wasn't part of the Gauss Kingdom. Strictly speaking, he was a third party unrelated to the war. Seuron only entered the war in the first place because of an individual grudge, not in order to help Gauss.

"S-Seuron, you! Kuaack!"

7th on the unified rankings. A unique class specialized in combat. In addition, Seuron had powerful items. His sudden surprise attack wasn't something that the Gauss army could respond to. The soldiers and players were all helpless. Seuron laughed at the Gauss players who were staring at him with angry and confused eyes.

"The weak people like you should be honored to have a chance to help me."

Paang!

Papapapang!

The Wisdom Sword started to resonate. Seuron exploited the souls from the many dead bodies on the battlefield and formed soul spears. It was the soul spears he had used before. But this time it was a little different and had significantly high magic damage.

Pepepepeok!

The soul spears once again hit the Overgeared archers on the walls. The momentum was much better than before. The vast majority of viewers watching the war were expecting the collapse of the archers. But Katz overturned their prediction.

"Blood Shield."

Kuwaaaaaang!

Just as Seuron seized the soul from corpses, Katz grabbed their blood to form a red shield and defend against the soul bombardment. It was the moment with those who exerted the greatest power on the battlefield, the Soul Predator and Blood Warrior, clashed.

Who would win? Everyone in the world showed great interest and expected a wonderful battle. But Seuron dismissed Katz.

"An epic class can't be compared to mine. You are several levels below me. Isn't that right?"

"...What?"

In fact, Katz had been nervous since Seuron appeared. He was exhausted from obstructing the advance of tens of thousands of soldiers for the past three days. At this time, he encountered a strong man he couldn't compete with. Yes, Katz recognized Seuron as an opponent. However, Seuron dismissed him and this hurt Katz' pride that he was famous for.

He gritted his teeth and showed his temper. "You beggar."

"What? Beggar?"

A high ranker was called a beggar? Seuron laughed as he doubted his ears.

"Calling me a beggar. It isn't realistic... You are at the level of a kindergarten student."

Seuron snorted. Katz looked down at him from the wall and opened his mouth. He shouted in a voice that was loud enough for everyone on the battlefield to hear.

"I will give one billion yen to everyone who injures that beggar's body. It will be 100 billion yen for anyone who kills him."

"...?"

1 billion yen? 100 billion yen? If it wasn't Katz saying this, everyone listening would've laughed. But who was Katz? He was the son of a top conglomerate in Japan. His family's collection of assets ranked as one of the top 10 in the world. Even oil-rich Middle Easterns would envy him. The weight of the 1 billion and 100 billion yen that emerged from his mouth wasn't light.

-I am connecting to the game now.

-Forming a party to go and attack Seuron.

The ratings for the war broadcasts started to fall sharply. Most viewers stopped watching and started to access the game. The situation on the battlefield wasn't too different. The Gauss players, who were already hostile to Seuron, started pointing their swords at him. Seuron was forced to tense against such a huge number.

"This crazy guy...!"

Seuron gulped while Katz laughed at the sight from the war.

"You should know that you are X in front of money."

A problem that couldn't be solved by just being overgeared was solved with money.