**Chapter 193: Grand Fountain (6)**

[Welcome.]

I looked at her, who greeted me in the pure white world.

The figure wrapped in light.

The being who had some connection with Nam So-eun, my younger sister.

According to Sloth, a fragment of the Earth Mother Goddess.

Although her body enveloped in dazzling light was still hard to see clearly, the lines seemed quite different from before.

Following the silhouette of light were vulgar milk tanks and large hips.

From her, who had been emanating sacred energy, came the scent of a lewd female.

'Is it because of the avatar that Sloth said she gave?'

Since that was the only thing that had changed, it probably was.

'Then was the fragment of the Earth Mother Goddess I've been seeing until now flat-chested?'

Probably so.

It was sad that despite being called the Earth Mother Goddess, she had such small breasts.

[To think you've already come up to the 15th floor. Amazing-]

Her calm voice speaking stopped, and her gaze followed mine to her body.

"...Hnngh."

-Fwaaaash!

The intensity of light emanating from her body increased after she let out a small moan.

It was hard to even make out her body's silhouette.

I slightly furrowed my brows at the feeling of having the sun right in front of me.

[Th-that moment just now... forget it.]

"Pardon?"

[Th-the thing you saw earlier!]

She shouted quietly and mumbled anxiously.

[Just one day. For the first time in decades, just one day...After resisting the tremendous temptation to properly rest for just one day, why at that moment...! Ughhhh...!]

She seemed to be talking about sleeping stretched out on the sofa.

[A-anyway. Forget it.]

"Yes. I will certainly forget the sight of the Earth Mother Goddess's fragment scratching her belly with hands that were eating potato chips while sleeping stretched out."

[......!!!]

Though I said that, that scene wouldn't easily be erased from my mind. It was quite shocking after all.

'...What is this?'

For some reason, a smile formed on my lips.

Should I say it reminds me of old times?

Memories with my younger sister come to mind.

The sight of her suppressing her anger while not knowing what to do at small pranks.

Seeing her not completely disliking it despite that, emotions stir.

The surprised look I saw just earlier too.

The warm touch I felt before too.

When I'm with this being, memories of the past that were gradually becoming stained amidst the hardships of the labyrinth city rise to the surface.

I couldn't tell whether this was remembering pleasant memories of the past, or falling into anxiety from being unable to let go of lingering attachments.

[...Did you hear that I'm part of the Earth Mother Goddess from the demon of Sloth?]

"Yes. Wasn't that your intention?"

I tilted my head at her reaction that seemed like she didn't want this fact to be discovered.

The moment she opened her eyes on the sofa, she sent me to where the demon of Sloth was sealed.

I thought it was definitely an action with some intention.

[...Y-yeah? J-just, know only that much for now.]

Seeing her speaking slowly, it didn't seem to be entirely so.

'Could it be, it was a mistake made while half-asleep?'

I wanted to believe that wasn't the case.

"By the way, this place seems a bit different from when we met on the 10th floor..."

Not just her body, but the space of the fountain on the 15th floor was also quite different from the 10th or 5th floors.

It wasn't bound like a birdcage, and felt spacious like a free space.

[This is where I made a peace treaty with the demon of Sloth. It's safer than other floors. So, there's a bit more freedom.]

A peace treaty. Come to think of it, Sloth said something like that too.

"Is that also why no monsters appear on the 15th floor?"

[It's not completely unrelated. By the way... you made a contract?]

I felt her gaze looking at my chest area.

The feeling of having my heart dissected and opened up. The place that aches whenever I make a contract with a demon.

"Yes. I made a contract to receive part of her power if I fulfill the Demon of Sloth's request."

[...A demon's power is dangerous. It will endlessly tempt and torment people.]

Strong power comes with strong risks, it was a natural principle.

Having experienced almost losing my sanity occasionally due to the incubus' curse, I could deeply relate to her words.

"Still, I have things I must do."

However, even knowing the dangers, there are things that must be done.

In this world power is everything.

Because I need to reach the deepest part of the labyrinth, which is survival of the fittest itself.

[...I'm sorry.]

"Pardon?"

I opened my eyes wide at the sudden apology.

Why would she apologize when I'm the one making my way through the labyrinth?

[...Mmm. Nothing. More importantly, if you plan to handle a demon's power, there's something that must be done.]

"Something that must be done?"

She nodded and emitted light from her hand.

My eyes naturally went to that light which felt similar to the Blessing of Radiance whenever I saw it.

"I want you to hone and refine more precisely the grace I gave you."

-A Blessed One, is it?

I recalled the first words the Demon of Sloth said to me.

The Earth Mother Goddess whom the Earth Mother Church follows. Grace. Dazzling light. The Blessing of Radiance bearing divine power.

"Could it be...?"

Was it not mere coincidence that I obtained the Blessing of Radiance in the labyrinth?

[Not just the grace, but everything you've gained while walking your journey until now.]

What exactly is this being, the Earth Mother Goddess?

Why exactly does she reach out and offer advice to me, and no one else?

...Why exactly.

Why do I think of my disappeared younger sister whenever I see this being?

-Fwaaaash!

In the world instantly dyed in warm light, I desperately reached out towards her who seemed like she could be grabbed right away.

Whoosh-

My hand passed through her futilely.

No matter how much I struggled, I couldn't reach her.

[It's okay.]

However,

[...We can meet again.]

The voice I barely heard gave me hope.

[So, see you again. ■■]

At the same time as I felt the soft sensation that touched and left my forehead along with a small warmth.

The world was dyed in light.

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It's cozy.

A warm, soft yet firm pleasant sensation.

It was a somewhat familiar sensation.

Having my neck squeezed by these thighs, and receiving a lap pillow like this after losing consciousness.

"...Are you awake?"

When I opened my eyes at the familiar voice, a woman with a familiar face was looking down at me.

"...Master?"

"Yes. My disciple. You slept for quite a long time."

My body twitched at the hand patting my head.

Looking around, it was a place I'd never seen before.

Starlight from the night sky shone through the tall trees.

It was night. I thought I'd return right after falling asleep momentarily, but quite some time had passed.

'When I only met the fragment of Earth Mother Goddess it was instant, is it because I met the Demon of Sloth too?'

I couldn't know. But for now, the fact that time had passed was more important.

"Why...no, more importantly where is...?"

"This is the forest on the outskirts of the 15th floor. A place where I sometimes come to organize my thoughts."

"Then why am I here?"

I clearly told Grumpy to take care of things and entered the fountain.

At my words, Idelbert pulled something out from beside her.

A damp shopping bag, and a cat tail anal plug and thick large black anal beads that popped out through the torn bottom of the shopping bag caught my eye.

"When you were at the grand fountain with things like these, the church paladins were trying to rush at you, foaming at the mouth."

I could roughly picture the situation.

The Earth Mother Church that stays away from vulgar things.

Unlike someone who was injured while leaking lots of breast milk, they couldn't stand the sight of some perfectly fine man entering the grand fountain while holding lots of heinous adult products.

Seeing trouble arise, Shuding probably called Idelbert or something.

"Still, your slave follows you well. She fought quite well against the paladins...no. Hmph. Of course a female should protect her male after receiving his seed like that. Hmph."

Idelbert tried to praise Grumpy but stopped.

The black cat tail swaying like a whip hitting the ground and the snorts being blown out heavily were fierce.

"Then...has the situation been resolved well?"

"Yes. I spoke to them directly so don't worry about it."

"Ah...thank you."

"Enough. What thanks."

Though speaking as if it was nothing, there was a slight hint of laughter in Idelbert's voice.

The tail that was fiercely hitting the ground swayed gently for a moment.

Perhaps Shuding explained things well?

It seemed she had gotten over being upset a little.

"I heard from Shuding. That you were trying to give me these?"

"...It was out of consideration for you, Master."

"Heh. Crazy disciple. The more I see you, it seems you have a screw loose somewhere in your head."

"Do you dislike it?"

"Hmph. When did I say I dislike it?"

Idelbert carefully brought the anal beads and plug to her chest as if someone might take them away.

"...Well, I'll use them we...ugh. Damn. Damn it!"

-Thump. Thump thump!

Idelbert thumped my head.

Not a serious punch, just slightly stinging.

By Idelbert's standards, it was probably a meow meow punch with barely any strength.

Indeed, saying she'll use them well in this situation was a bit much.

"If you don't know how to use them, I'll help you later."

"...Eek. Wh-what?!!"

I smiled bitterly while looking at Idelbert who was greatly flustered.

And with my head resting on her lap, I blankly looked up at the night sky.

Though no ceiling was visible in the wide open night sky, I felt trapped here.

15th floor.

Only the 15th floor?

"Master."

"Wh-what?"

"I...want to become stronger."

"......"

Empty emotions were contained in the words I uttered.

"I want to become much stronger than now, and reach the end of the labyrinth."

"......"

I want to set foot in that place that even you barely reached.

"......"

Idelbert who had been hesitating while clenching her fist for a moment.

-Thwack!

"Ugh...!"

Flicked my forehead.

When I blankly looked up, she was looking down at me with one corner of her mouth raised in a smirk.

"A guy who says he wants to become stronger is lying around blankly wallowing in self-pity?"

"Ah, no this is..."

"Kekek. Follow me. This master will train her dull disciple properly."

She suddenly got up, grabbed my wrist and led me under the night sky.

Seeing the smile that had settled on her lips by now, I followed her while smiling bitterly.

“...?”

But, the direction we were going was a bit strange.

Not towards the mansion, but some forest path.

Something blue rippled in the distance.

That which had become very familiar by now.

"Master. Why is there a portal...?"

"Yes. I know. You said you want to become stronger?"

"Pardon?"

Well, that's true but. This is a bit too sudden-

-Grip!

Idelbert, who firmly grabbed my hand, ran towards the portal at tremendous speed.

"M-Master?!!!"

"Hold on tight, disciple!!"

"Y-you're crazy!!! Kugh!"

-Fwaaaaaaash!

Along with the floating sensation unique to portals, my vision changed instantly.

I'm setting foot on the 16th floor for the first time.