**Chapter 254: Elder Lich Subjugation Battle (5)**

"Di-did you take care of it!"

I was slightly startled by Jeremy's mumbling and looked at him, no, her.

'She saw Nuer's binding magic and Ellie's flare magic?'

Their magic flew toward Elder Lich at a speed that the worthless trash Jeremy in my memories wouldn't even have noticed.

Indeed, level 44.

Thanks to the blessing of increased experience gained from losing her 2cm clit dick, looking at just the simple level, she was higher than me. She must have gone through a lot of growth too.

Having just been rescued, she spoke with overflowing hope, but that monster isn't such an easy opponent.

"Not yet."

No sooner had my words ended than the magical aftershock subsided, and the Elder Lich moved.

As the thick dust cleared, the lord of the 19th floor sitting on the tombstone throne revealed himself.

"N-not even a scratch..."

As Jeremy said, Elder Lich's bone fragments weren't even singed, nor did his skeletal body burn to ash.

Even the high-quality robe covering his grotesque skeletal body was intact.

Black, sticky magical energy rose from the skeleton's eyes and heart.

Just before he was hit by Nuer and Ellie's magic, I saw him barely managing to create a barrier with that magical energy to counter it.

Indeed, it was skill befitting a monster who had made it to the 19th floor and built up his forces by controlling explorers like his slaves. Along with this admiration, thoughts like 'for a cunning monster bastard, he's fucking tough' coexisted in my mind.

But such thoughts didn't last long.

-Kwaaang!

Opposite from where I was, on the right side of the swamp cemetery cluster.

Along with the thunderous sound caused by my party members and Amel's party, the noise of battle could be heard.

We had to make choices and focus.

Even though we came to the 19th floor as quickly as possible, because the expedition members were captured and turned into undead, there appeared to be roughly hundreds of undead near the mountain of corpses, and we couldn't fight all those undead.

The answer derived from this was a feint operation.

"Kuaak! Shit! There are so fucking many of these bastards!!!"

Jubeel cursed from the rear while wielding her sword wrapped in sword energy and holy power, displaying her quick sword technique.

"Flare! One more ready!"

"Your magic should be used when the undead are clustered! I'll cluster the undead first, so keep it stocked!"

Ellie and Nuer, protected in the center of the party, each chanted magic while repeatedly gathering and annihilating the undead.

"Denshi! Two slipped through!"

"Kut, already handled them! Next!"

Rubia blocked the wave of undead with her shield at the front, and Denshi cut down undead targeting the magicians who broke through Rubia with holy power-wrapped daggers while occasionally shooting crossbow bolts to assist everyone's battle from range.

Even though there were occasionally undead mixed in that handled magi, the holy power engraved on party members' equipment with Hope's help made even monsters handling magi no different from other undead.

Not just my party, but Amel's party continued to fight hard too.

"Pururururuk!"

"I shall send you all to Earth God's side!!! Go and regret being born and repent for your sins!!!"

The horse beastman Kentarina swung a huge crescent blade while wearing undead armor made by Amel Drexia, and Paladin Beer riding on Kentarina's saddle also wielded holy sword energy while cutting down enemies.

"Tteurtteu tteurutta!"

"Hi-hiek! Don't come! Wind Cutter!"

The slime Aldente neutralized enemies by enveloping them, and Fusilini, though trembling, shot down enemies one by one with wind magic.

"Pa-Paladin Beer! The Paladin of the Eden Temple branch!"

"Is that Dark Elf Nuer? Why are her clothes like that...?"

"Is that important right now?! The temple and adventurer union came to rescue us!!"

"Since the union has stepped up, even if it was someone behind Elder Lich, they won't be able to touch us!"

"We-we're saved! Finally saved!"

The expressions of the expedition members, who until just now seemed to be only waiting for their death day, brightened rapidly.

But the situation wasn't so optimistic.

"Jeremy."

"Ah, yes!"

After I broke the collars chained to Jeremy's arms and legs with my axe, the quick-witted one took care of the other expedition members while breaking their handcuffs.

"We'll fight too!"

"Those bastards. I'll kill them as many times as the number of whip marks they carved into my body!"

Even with their exhausted bodies, they burned with intense hostility and anger, each grabbing their stolen equipment while burning with fighting spirit.

As expected of explorers who made it to the 19th floor, their mental fortitude was quite good. Their hostility quickly recovered and was directed at the undead they had raised.

Since there was no reason to refuse help, I nodded and gave Jeremy a look. It meant to control them as she saw fit.

And, I also shared words that would give strength.

"Anya. She was resurrected as a Dullahan."

"......!"

"So don't die."

"...Becoming an undead isn't a complete resurrection. Until we completely revive Anya, we can't die!"

Jeremy grinned and jumped into the battlefield with the expedition members who still had strength to fight.

But the number of undead showed no signs of decreasing at all.

Headless siren undead, crocodile undead with severed tails, poison jellyfish undead crawling while writhing their burst tentacles, bone wolf undead forcibly raised with bone fragments - all sorts of numerous monsters came flooding in like zombie hordes.

"Now it's your turn, Balkan."

Amel Drexia, who was following behind to support the expedition members by raising her undead, spoke to me.

"Can you do it?"

She asked anxiously.

Originally, I planned to face Elder Lich and the undead together with party members, but the situation was more urgent than expected.

No matter how superhuman adventurers are, against that much quantity, unless you have immortal-like stamina, there's no answer.

The victory needs to be settled quickly.

So how can we achieve victory?

I answered her words in a calm voice.

"I have to manage somehow."

Amel Drexia, the necromancer, guaranteed that if I cut down Elder Lich, those countless undead would also lose their souls and disappear.

So while my party members risk their lives buying time, I cut off Elder Lich's neck.

Superior holy power vouched for by Serif, the saint of the Earth Mother cult, and one who can handle sword energy to enhance that power.

Only I can cut down Elder Lich.

Taking a deep breath, I looked up at Elder Lich before me.

Still noble but seemingly very angry, Elder Lich looked down at me while spewing black magi in streams from his throne.

Facing him, I instinctively felt something.

[It's a monster with the magi of Sloth.]

I could tell without hearing Bunny's words.

The chimera monster I saw in the 16th floor relic storage had the same magi as that one wafted from Elder Lich, and now I could feel it too.

This Elder Lich had less magi than the chimera monster, but had power that was qualitatively more complete.

Moreover, unlike the chimera monster that acted on instinct like a beast, clear intelligence could be glimpsed in the Elder Lich before my eyes.

‘Can I kill him?'

I struck down the doubt that suddenly rose in my chest with my axe and buried it down in the abyss below.

What's needed now isn't self-doubt but certainty.

Only intense certainty was needed - that I would surely achieve victory and behead him.

Every time I saw the black magi that Elder Lich leaked, the blessing of radiance that had become part of me by now vibrated intensely.

Feeling a thrilling sensation similar to tension, or perhaps ecstasy, I gripped my axe.

-Kiiiiiing!

As the blessing of radiance and sword energy instantly wrapped around the extra-large axe, it scattered sharp killing intent in all directions.

-Srururuk.

Instead of wailing and thrashing about obscenely like other monsters, the mouthless Elder Lich reached his hand toward me with a noble hand gesture.

At the same time, thick magi spewed from all directions covered the surroundings like fog.

Having established his domain with magi, the Elder Lich began the first attack.

-Kwak! Kwaduk!!!

Hands and tentacles extended from below the swamp.

Siren undead and jellyfish undead reached out their arms and poisonous tentacles to grab my ankles.

-Seogek!!!

The moment Elder Lich reached out his hand, my sharp perception had already detected the surprise attack.

After lightly chopping down the two undead with my axe, I rushed at the Elder Lich.

The distance was closed in an instant, and I swung my axe wrapped in radiant light.

-Kuduududududuk!

An intense resistance appeared at the edge of the axe blade.

The magi that the Elder Lich scattered in the air blocked the advance of my axe blade as if it had physical force.

-Kiiiiiing!

Gritting my teeth, I drew up more of the blessing of radiance.

As my breathing became rough, the axe blade that had seemed frozen in the air until just now gradually began to advance forward.

Noticing the anomaly, Elder Lich widened the gap again while simultaneously beginning to move the undead that were facing my party members to pull them toward me.

This cheap and sneaky bastard.

Cursing, I pulled out my artifact axe.

"Enlargement."

With a small chant, the enlarged artifact hand axe transformed into an extra-large axe comparable in size to Bunny.

Squeezing the dragon's heart blessing, I drew up the magic power pooled in my heart even deeper.

As I pumped up the well containing refined magic power, the sword energy wrapped around the twin axes greedily absorbed the magic power and began to increase in size.

Focusing on that, the undead had already reached before me.

A troll undead riding a bone wolf undead.

I swung my axe vertically at that troll undead wearing crude magi armor.

-Seogek!

The troll undead cut in half along with the bone wolf was bisected at once.

Behind the split body separating with sticky blood and mucus stretching like legs, countless hordes of undead could be seen, along with Elder Lich preparing a chant while gathering magi behind them.

"Haha."

A laugh was heard from somewhere.

Along with the sense of crisis recognizing that things were fucked, a voice tinged with strange ecstasy.

While hearing that familiar voice, I swung my axe horizontally again.

-Jjeok! Seogek!! Jjeojjeok!!!

Each time I swung the axe in my right hand horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, the magic power of cold cut, froze, and shattered the surroundings repeatedly.

Along with thin resistance, a heavy sensation of cutting flesh and muscle was felt at my fingertips with each swing, making my breathing quicken and head hot.

Ah. It's been a while since I felt this sensation.

The sensation of falling into selflessness, purely cutting down only my enemies.

My head became lighter with each swing of the axe and the reward was certain.

As my level started rising bit by bit, I continued the precarious balance game while investing all the stats that followed in body reinforcement.

Then at that moment.

-Puuuuuk!!

Along with a chilling sound, strength instantly drained from my body and only my abdomen felt hot.

In the extremely heightened concentration, I felt it without seeing. Something had pierced through my armor.

It was the tentacle of a poison jellyfish wrapped in magi like sword energy.

-Wagrajak!

Immediately opening the mouth hole of my helmet, I poured medicine and recovery potion bottles from my waist and crushed them with my teeth.

There was no time to suck the bottles elegantly like sucking nipples.

Along with sharp glass shredding the inside of my mouth, thick blood scent numbed my taste and smell.

Due to the adrenaline already filling my head, I couldn't feel the pain. Without leisure to see the recovery, I moved my body again.

After embedding its poison tentacle in my abs along with the armor, I made eye contact with the poison jellyfish undead that was just struggling, unable to pull out again.

-Seogek!

Thanks to eating the antidote despite being hit by the poison tentacle, my arm could move well enough to swing the axe.

While keeping my eyes fixed on the enemies, I ate another potion.

The recovery power given by the potion didn't just apply to injuries. As stamina was forcibly raised, it granted me untiring strength.

After emptying two potion bottles in succession, my vision gradually turned red.

Feeling minor side effects, I jumped into enemy lines again to approach Elder Lich.

I delete unnecessary information one by one since the ability to perceive the vast battlefield isn't needed.

What I need is the shortest path to cut off Elder Lich's neck.

I cut off the necks of the undead blocking that path forward. Occasionally undead with explorers' bodies approached too, but the axe didn't stop.

There was no time to feel sorry, and I couldn't stop at all.

Even rough breathing and heartbeat disappear without a trace.

Swing the axe countless times, and cut down countless enemies.

How many dozens, hundreds of times had I swung the axe? At last Elder Lich's figure appeared.

Beyond my reddened vision, Elder Lich who had completed a palm-sized sphere above his left hand of only bones looked at me.

I felt it instinctively.

If I touch that sphere into which the Elder Lich had poured all his magi, I won't be able to endure it as I am now.

My magic power had already hit bottom and I can't create magic armor strong enough to block that—

-Kwaduk!

That thought was cut off right after seeing the bolt that appeared while destroying Elder Lich's left arm.

In this battlefield right now, there's only one person who could shoot a crossbow bolt.

"Master!!! Now!!!"

The Elder Lich with his skull-like face showing confusion twisted his body along with the sphere.

It seemed like a final struggle, but it was already too late.

-Kwadudududududuk!

Because my axe was already cutting off his neck.

The Elder Lich's head cut off along with his robe flew through the air.

The black magi dwelling in Elder Lich's eyes was swallowed by the light of radiance.