**Chapter 260: The Power of Sloth (3)**

Sacred power and demonic energy mixed together.

That power, which seemed to straddle between good and evil yet leaned slightly toward evil energy, shone within the Demon of Sloth's embrace.

[???'s blessing responds to the fragment of the Demon of Sloth.]

The mass of power handed over by the Demon of Sloth began to change as it resonated with my blessing.

According to Bunny's mention, perhaps it was because of her past...betraying other demons while being a demon herself, along with the Earth Mother Goddess.

Unlike Bunny who was purely condensed with demonic energy, the Demon of Sloth's power, mixed with sacred power and demonic energy, began to split gradually.

The fragment of sloth, which was emitting a faint black color, divided into two streams while drawing the form of yin and yang.

Eventually, the once-unified fragment of sloth separated into pure white sacred power and pitch-black demonic energy.

Like filtering dirt and water from sewage, the complexly intertwined demonic energy and sacred power were separated into their respective forces.

"What is this?"

"...That's what I want to ask. How did you separate this?"

The Demon of Sloth also looked at her own energies that had split before her eyes with a bewildered expression.

It seemed quite different from what she had expected.

"You've removed only the drawbacks of my authority."

"Drawbacks, you say?"

"Demonic power comes with risks. Just as using the power of gluttony makes you feel endless hunger, my power needs such risks too. For example..."

I looked at her separated fragments while listening to the Demon of Sloth's explanation.

[◆ Authority of Sloth]

— You gain severe lethargy and fatigue. This is a permanent penalty that cannot be recovered.

— You gain power in exchange for diligence.

— Stamina-20, Wisdom+10, Finesse+10

If a status window had appeared, the Authority of Sloth that would have been displayed like this, after being divided by the question mark blessing, became:

[◆ Authority of Sloth]

— You have gained power.

— Wisdom+5, Finesse +5

I suppose you could say it changed like this.

"Our power stems from intense desires and cravings. Taking myself as an example, every time I handle power, fatigue increases, making me endlessly crave rest."

That wouldn't do.

What's the point of training to better control the body, conditioning to become stronger, entering the labyrinth and pushing the body every day?

If one falls into lethargy and craving for rest, they cannot leap forward for the future.

Even the purpose of heading to the depths of the labyrinth to save my younger sister would become hazy, making one stagnate and become obsolete by settling for the present.

"But your power isolated the desire that inevitably follows when handling my power, so that you won't be corrupted by being swallowed by desire."

[◆ ???'s Blessing]

– ???

– Stamina+10 Strength+10 Agility+10

At her words, I opened the status window to check the blessing that caused this strange phenomenon.

The first blessing I had, the one that had been with me since I first fell into this rough world and became my greatest strength.

The blessing that could be said to have made who I am today...

'Was it trying to protect me?'

"......"

In silence, I reached out toward the power before me with the sacred power refined by the question mark blessing.

-Kwak!

The moment I grabbed it, changes immediately appeared and something began seeping into me.

It was a sensation different from the blessings and curses obtained from leaving the labyrinth.

If blessings and curses felt like they were suddenly bestowed, this felt more like regaining something nostalgic.

If I had to compare, it felt more similar to the miracles used by the priests of the Earth Mother Goddess's order than to blessings?

It feels similar to the Stigmata of Patience as well.

I opened the status window to check the changes in detail.

[◆ ???'s Blessing]

– ???

- Partially recovered the authority of [Diligence].

– Stamina+10 Strength+10 Agility+10 Wisdom+5 Finesse+5

Changes appeared in the question mark blessing. Wisdom and Finesse each increased by 5, for a total of 10.

It was additional stats equivalent to almost 5 level-ups. Moreover,

"Diligence...?"

"Ugh."

[Hiek.]

The moment they heard that word, both the Demon of Sloth and Bunny simultaneously grimaced and their complexions hardened.

"What's wrong?"

"...That's what I want to ask. How did you separate this?"

The Demon of Sloth also looked at her own energies that had split before her with a bewildered expression.

It seemed quite different from what she had expected.

"Since I was sealed in that power. Ugh. After I went through the trouble of betraying them, they could have sealed me more gently..."

[Crazy bitch. That crazy bitch. That psychopath who handled the Seven Great Authorities alone...how the hell is she called the Earth Mother Goddess...? This must be historical distortion.]

The demons, clearly far from good, began to have fits and slandered the Earth Mother Goddess at the mention of the fragment of diligence.

The Demon of Sloth was somewhat okay, but Bunny's eyes were slightly bloodshot.

Just looking at her, strong hostility and desire for revenge against the Earth Mother Goddess were gushing out.

Though I didn't know exactly what the fragment of diligence was, seeing the demons having fits like PTSD-stricken soldiers made it clear that it was at least beneficial to me.

Looking at the details of the authority of diligence, that power was somewhat abstract.

[Diligence]

- The authority of diligence dwells within you.

- You gain resistance to the temptation and desire of sloth.

'Does this mean I won't become lazy?'

Sloth doesn't stop at just lounging around lazily.

It makes one neglect efforts for improvement, and even puts off what must be done, making one voluntarily give up a future that could certainly have been obtained.

Resistance to the sin of sloth that makes people rot by making them forget the comfort of warm blankets and cozy beds, the fear and terror of failure, and completely give up.

[Diligence] was the power to protect oneself and others from such sloth.

Though I'd need to learn more about its detailed usage, just obtaining a power that gives positive effects made an inexplicable motivation well up inside me.

But one question remained.

'A change occurred within the question mark blessing.'

[◆ Blessing of Hard Fight]

[◆ Blessing of Radiance]

[◆ Blessing of Time of Judgment]

[◆ Blessing of Dragon's Heart]

[◆ Succubus's Curse]

No additional blessings or curses were added.

I had roughly expected this since the sensation was different from receiving blessings and curses, but the power of diligence entered into the question mark blessing as if being subordinated.

'Why did the power that the Earth Mother Goddess handled enter the question mark blessing...?'

No matter how much I pondered, there were only abundant speculations without any clear answers.

I had one more question to ask the fragment of the Earth Mother Goddess at the fountain on the 20th floor.

All questions could be resolved one by one as we progressed through the labyrinth.

[So. What are you going to do with this?]

At Bunny's voice, I turned my head to see the demonic energy that had been separated from the power given by the Demon of Sloth.

Bunny, who had already approached close to the demonic energy, was wiping her mouth while drooling, all while watching my reaction.

She had an expression like wanting to steal snacks behind the owner's back but hesitating because of feeling guilty.

[Seeing how you deliberately separated it, it seems you weren't planning to eat this...]

"Somehow that sounds like you're asking for it?"

[......!!]

Hit right on the mark by that response, Bunny who momentarily held her breath hurriedly rolled her eyes and continued with excuses.

[Ah, no. That...Hmph! Do you think I would eat such trash-like demonic energy?! Such things aren't worth putting in my mouth even if someone offers them! I, who was one of the great seven demons, have no reason to covet such crude demonic energy!]

Despite shouting like that, Bunny's gaze remained fixed directly on the demonic energy of sloth.

'Of course.'

The demonic energy directly handed over by the Demon of Sloth contained power incomparably greater than any demonic energy Bunny had eaten so far.

It made the soul stone of the chimera monster she ate before look ridiculous, and was high-purity demonic energy that could even make that Eldritch seem like nothing.

There was reason enough for Bunny, who could recover power by consuming demonic energy, to not take her eyes off it.

"Really? Then there's nothing we can do. I was going to give what's left to you."

[Eh.]

At my words, Bunny turned back to look at me with a dumbfounded expression as if asking, ‘really?’

I answered while laughing inside at that stunned expression.

"Even though it's separated from the sacred power, it's still power received as payment for the contract so it would be a waste to return it. But since it's such high-purity demonic energy, there's no way it could help me, who has sacred power, and it's hard to store and handle it separately."

[......]

"So considering your help with the Elder Lich too. I was going to give it to you as a gesture of working well together in the future...but if you don't want it, can't be helped."

[I, I didn't say I didn't want it!!]

Bunny hastily withdrew her previous words and hugged the demonic energy.

But unlike when I grabbed the sacred power, the demonic energy wasn't absorbed by Bunny. It just remained held in her hands, probably because the Demon of Sloth hadn't permitted it.

"Bring it here."

[......]

At my words, Bunny approached with the demonic energy in her hands, looking a bit more docile.

I took the demonic energy Bunny handed over. But I didn't absorb it.

"Kneel."

[...ugh...]

A hint of hesitation appeared on Bunny's expression at the calm command.

Bunny had already knelt and even given fellatio service with her mouth pussy.

Though there was nothing to be hesitant about anymore, the reason she was hesitating like this was probably because the Demon of Sloth had been staring this way since a while ago.

"Could you close your eyes for a moment?"

"Ah, uh, uh... okay......"

The Demon of Sloth, who had been staring at Bunny and me with strangely excited eyes, hurriedly nodded and squeezed her eyes shut.

-Swoosh.

With the gaze of the interferer gone, Bunny who had been slightly hesitating knelt before me with a more comfortable expression.

"Open your mouth."

At that short command, Bunny squeezed her eyes shut and carefully opened her mouth.

'This is a kind of test.'

Going forward, we'll encounter various monsters and enemies through various incidents, and among them, we'll surely face beings possessing powerful demonic energy.

To face such beings, both I and my weapon, Bunny, must become stronger.

But Bunny is none other than the Demon of Gluttony, and the biggest reason Bunny obediently follows my words is because the restraint created by the Blessing of Radiance is suppressing her.

But as Bunny continues to recover her power, that restraint will eventually break.

I felt it again seeing Bunny's resistance this time.

Bunny must become a weapon that faithfully follows my words even when this restraint breaks someday.

So this is like fastening the first button for submission.

"Stick out your tongue."

Bunny's fists clenched tightly, making her veins pop out.

Though some anxiety rose at her appearance that seemed to be asking just how far I would go, soon the smile in my heart grew deeper.

Baeeeee—

Bunny on her knees stuck out her red tongue as long as possible.

Her eyes showed embarrassment and awkwardness as if asking if this was good enough.

Bunny, who had a big appetite, also had a lot of saliva.

The saliva that naturally flowed out from continuously sticking out her tongue dripped down between her bunny girl milk tanks.

After watching that sight for a moment, I grabbed Bunny's tongue with my thumb and index finger.

[...! Euugh...!!!]

Every time her tongue was kneaded and she protested with clumsy pronunciation, I looked down at Bunny whose nipples were getting erect again and whose pussy was leaking bit by bit.

After feeling the wet and hot sensation of her tongue for a while, I stopped my hand again.

Then with my hand covered in saliva, I took out the demonic energy and placed it on Bunny's tongue.

[Mmph...]

Even though it was already placed on her tongue and she just needed to swallow, Bunny exhaled hot breaths and waited for my words.

"Want to swallow?"

-Nod nod.

Bunny, who carefully just nodded her head while sticking out her tongue, looked up at me with desperate eyes.

I spoke to her, who showed an expression as if just waiting for her master's permission.

"Swallow."

-Gulp.

In the Demon of Sloth's space, the sound of swallowing saliva rang out loudly.

At the same time.

-Clank!

One of the restraints constricting Bunny was torn off.