# 110 - 7th Rank (7)

KWA-AAAAAA-!!!

A deafening roar swept through the surroundings. The already broken mountain shattered further, and flames and lightning surged from all directions. Each time a bolt of overwhelming energy struck somewhere, that part vanished as if it had never existed.

The brightness was so intense that even opening his eyes was a struggle. He could tell from a distance that something was happening in this area.

“Asel!!”

Zervil shouted, forcing his vaporized mouth to regenerate as he took on dozens, hundreds of lightning strikes.

“You realized your Uniqueness, right?!!”

Asel did not respond. Instead, he looked up at the sky and coughed up blood.

Zervil was right. Asel had realized his Uniqueness.

It was a problem that didn’t require serious contemplation from the beginning. He just hadn’t grasped it yet; once he got inspired, it wasn’t difficult to understand. It was enough to envision the desired outcome and grasp it with his hands.

The supreme magic Asel had just unleashed was proof of that.

Originally, supreme magic was only permitted to those who achieved the 8th rank and realized their Imagery. Asel had succeeded in bringing it into reality through the Mana and talent absorbed from Ena, along with the newly awakened Uniqueness.

“If anything had gone even slightly wrong, I would have been the one lying down. The moment the magic failed to activate, my body would have burst like a balloon.”

But that didn’t happen, and the supreme magic was activated, leaving Asel standing here intact. The greatest factor in that outcome was, of course, his Uniqueness.

“Domination and Affinity…”

At the moment death approached, he absorbed the Mana of the grand sorcerer and, based on the inspiration gained from fighting the grand sorcerer, created and chose his Uniqueness: Domination.

Not only could he forcibly seize the ownership of the Mana of the target he touched, but he also possessed the power of a tyrant that allowed him to manifest any desired magic.

And in stark contrast to that Domination was another Uniqueness: Affinity. A benevolent power beloved by spiritual beings or nature, sensitive to the Mana that exists in this world.

Thanks to awakening two completely different Uniquenesses simultaneously, Asel was able to manifest the forbidden supreme magic here. Although the conditions were quite messy, the result was still as expected. That was enough.

However, Asel did not feel joy despite stepping into the realm of impossibility. There were still matters to attend to. He squeezed out the nearly depleted Mana in his body to manipulate the electrical signals and walked toward Zervil.

KWA-AAAAAAANG!!!

Even amidst all this, lightning continued to fall. Unless Asel collected it, the dark blue thunderclouds would exist forever, pouring down lightning like rain. It was a feat possible because it was magic that interfered with phenomena, just like Ena’s supreme magic.

“Zervil.”

Fortunately, the roaring noise did not bother Asel much.

He knelt beside Zervil, who was face down and continuously being struck by lightning.

“I realized my Uniqueness, just as you said. And in a few seconds, your body will break apart.”

“Hmm… You’re right. I was already struggling to hold on.”

Despite being struck by lightning hundreds of times, which would vaporize an ordinary sorcerer with just one hit, Zervil was still intact. If he truly wanted to retaliate now, there would be no way to stop him.

Yet, Asel did not retreat, even while being cautious.

There was something he needed to confirm.

“It’s time to keep your promise. Where is the Master?”

“...Just a moment. But isn’t this ending a bit too easy for me?”

“What do you mean?”

“I mean, the picture I wanted was you, almost dead, miraculously realizing your Uniqueness and rising to the 7th rank! Fighting desperately against me, proving your own power with your Uniqueness leading the way! But what is this? You just suddenly awakened and started using supreme magic. This is absurd. Are you on your second life or something?”

“You’re talking nonsense.”

Asel grabbed Zervil’s neck, which was repeatedly turning to ash and regenerating, and crushed it forcefully. Zervil let out a squeak and rolled his head.

“Don’t crush my head! This is surprisingly dizzying!”

“Shut up and tell me where the Master is and what’s happening. Fulfill your promise.”

“Ugh, how annoying.”

Zervil scratched his severed head with his remaining hand, muttering. Asel’s face twisted in anger.

“You bastard.”

“Ugh. The drug’s effect is wearing off. My cognitive abilities are deteriorating. I need someone to supply the drug to my main body, but I’ve sent everyone to the academy… Ah! My head, my head is getting stupid!”

“Say it before that!”

Asel couldn’t hold back and shouted. Blood surged from his mouth due to the recoil, but it wasn’t a big problem for Asel, who had blocked the pain.

“Um. The current situation of The Beginning.”

Fortunately, Zervil seemed to regain his senses and turned his head slightly toward Asel, grinning.

“I don’t know the exact location. It’s probably a small Labyrinth near the Magic Kingdom, but I’m not sure. The problem is the enemies that The Beginning has to face.”

“...Enemies?”

“Yes. One of them is someone you know. Virsia.”

“...What?”

Asel’s face stiffened slightly at the mention of the familiar name of an ill-fated connection. Regardless, Zervil continued speaking.

Perhaps time was truly running out, as his words came out rapidly like a machine gun.

“The other one is a lunatic known as the Saint of Parasites, who is trying to use The Beginning as a sacrifice to resurrect the demon sealed in the small Labyrinth. But looking at the current situation, it seems he has succeeded halfway and failed halfway. To succeed, he would need to kill The Beginning cleanly, but it doesn’t seem like that’s the case.”

“...”

“I think they probably either imprisoned him or drained most of his power. If it’s the latter, he would have managed to escape, and if it’s the former… Virsia and the Saint would probably execute him after recovering their bodies. Virsia needs The Beginning dead to seize the throne.”

“...Damn it.”

Asel muttered with a twisted face.

To think the family matter he mentioned was related to Virsia. He had never imagined it. He had some suspicions, but he hadn’t been certain. The price for that uncertainty had come back to him. He wiped his face with his remaining hand and looked down at Zervil.

“Is this reliable information?”

“Ugh. My body is breaking. It’s breaking!!!”

“...Zervil?”

“Give me drugs! Just one, and I, Zervil, will become your loyal bastard! Please!”

“...”

Asel looked down at Zervil, who began to thrash around, sighed deeply, and stood up. At that moment, Zervil’s convulsing body swelled roundly and then burst with a pop.

Fortunately, the impact of the explosion was very small. Even being right next to it, the aftermath didn’t reach him.

“...Huh.”

Asel wiped away the red fragments that might have been flesh from his mouth and opened his mouth, gazing at the myriad of lightning gathering around him.

“Good job.”

As soon as he spoke, the sea of lightning that covered the sky vanished as if it were a lie. Asel turned his body, feeling a strange sensation as the weather returned to a normal day.

Even after defeating the grand sorcerer, he didn’t feel particularly good. It was true that he had achieved significant growth, but he couldn’t shake off the feeling that he had relied on Zervil’s help during the process.

Moreover, having indirectly heard news of Ena, he had no time to bask in the afterglow of victory. His mind was filled with worries and concerns for Ena.

“The small Labyrinth near the Magic Kingdom. If I take a carriage from here, I’ll have to wait at least another month. Even if I ask the Leader, considering the time it takes for the Messenger bird to fly, it’ll be at least a few days to a few weeks.”

In either case, it was impossible to match the timing. During the wait, something could happen to Ena.

Then, what should he do? Should he send a Messenger bird to the Master?

Just as Asel thought and took a step forward.

“...!”

His body lost its balance and crumbled. Asel felt a sudden dizziness, faintness, and high fever, and frowned.

He had momentarily forgotten because the pain was blocked, but Asel’s body was in real-time rushing toward death.

He had neglected to pay attention for a moment because he expelled the Foul energy that was corrupting his organs through the bracelet, but Asel’s body had problems beyond just the organs.

A shattered eyeball. A severed wrist. Organs that wouldn’t regenerate. Internal bleeding. Multiple fractures. Excessive bleeding, etc.

He had countless wounds that could lead to death at any moment. He covered his face with his hand, forcing his blurry vision to focus, and exhaled deeply.

“...If I feel pain, I might be able to stay conscious.”

A thought that arose momentarily. Asel hesitated for a moment, then gritted his teeth and released the pain block.

At that moment, the suppressed pain surged forth, crushing Asel’s brain.

“...!”

The pain exceeded the limit, and Asel’s mouth opened wide.

“GUAAAAAAAH!!!!”

It felt like his whole body was burning. The pain in his organs was excruciating, and the shattered pieces of his ankle pressed on his nerves, creating an impulse to want to cut off his entire leg. The wrist he had used to staunch the bleeding was experiencing phantom pain as well.

If he had felt it from the beginning, he might have been able to endure it, but forcing it down and then releasing it all at once left no time for adaptation.

“Ugh...! Ugh...!”

He bit down on his shirt tightly and gasped for breath while lying face down. The Foul energy that invaded his nerves still existed, so his body wouldn’t obey him.

The moment he tried to move his arm, the broken ankle moved, causing horrific pain.

‘What should I do?’

He struggled with the pain while trying to think of a way to survive. But… no suitable answers came to mind.

It was impossible for Asel to do anything alone right now. If he had any Mana left, he would have somehow called for help from the surroundings, but he was completely drained from using supreme magic. The Mana exhaustion was gnawing away at Asel’s body.

‘...Is this how I die?’

His vision grew increasingly blurry. He gritted his teeth and tried to rise, but the more he did, the more his consciousness scattered. Memories of good times flashed by like a panorama. Asel let out a hollow laugh and buried his head in the nitrogen-rich soil.

“...Damn.”

At that moment, when he couldn’t see any hope no matter where he looked and cursed.

“...! Found you!”

From afar, he heard someone’s voice. Asel somehow managed to move his head to see the owner of the voice.

“Asel!”

It was the clergy and academy officials. As soon as Asel recognized their faces, he let out a final gasp.

Immediately afterward, the tension released, and his consciousness abruptly cut off.

# 111 - Post-Processing

A grand cathedral established within the academy grounds. A place where those dispatched by the order stay and appear for treatment whenever there are academy tasks or duels.

Naturally, there are patient rooms and operating rooms inside. Since they can heal any wound in no time, the patient rooms are often empty, but today was an exception.

The day after Zervil's attack. Those exposed to his foul energy or injured in battles with corpses lie on the beds, convulsing madly.

“It’s the foul energy of a high sorcerer! It’s on a different level than mediocre corpse sorcerers! You can’t just pour holy power mindlessly and expect to heal!”

“Bring all the remaining painkillers and stimulants at once. Priest Fiolle, you need to closely observe the patients' conditions and continuously suppress the foul energy.”

“Yes, Sister.”

“Where on earth has the Saint Candidate gone?!”

“She went into the operating room!”

“Damn it. Has the surgery that started yesterday still not finished?”

“They say it’s a high sorcerer’s surgery, and it’s proving to be quite difficult. Apparently, she has a unique constitution, so the anesthesia isn’t working well…”

“Oh, dear God!”

The sounds of patients’ moans and the voices of clergy erupt from all directions. It’s an extremely alien scene for what is usually a quiet cathedral.

“…”

Friede covered her bandaged left eye with her hand and let out a long sigh.

The headless corpse that called itself Katarina. She had fought with her and sustained injuries. Though not deep, it was enough to cause issues with her vision.

Fortunately, she had received treatment and was recovering, but it was still difficult to open her eyes. This was because Zervil's foul energy had not completely dissipated.

A horrific foul energy that even the holy power of the clergy and the mana of elves struggled to erase completely.

Friede clenched her teeth and lowered her head deeply.

‘What right does a girl who can’t even handle one of his corpses have to be the headmaster?’

Friede's face twisted with self-loathing.

Zervil, who openly attacked a place swarming with guests from outside. The incompetent headmaster who couldn’t properly stop him and was struggling with just one corpse.

The fact that the corpse had once been a powerful archmage was of little concern to the guests. What mattered was that the headmaster had failed to fulfill her role.

Despite the many injuries, there were no casualties, solely due to Zervil's will. For reasons unknown, he had attacked the academy without killing anyone.

Thanks to that, there were hardly any people openly blaming or looking down on Friede, but that didn’t erase her incompetence.

In fact, objectively speaking, Friede had done her best.

Some criminals, including Zervil, were already classified as natural disasters beyond the realm of humanity. No matter where or how they appeared to commit slaughter, it was practically impossible to stop them. All one could do was hope they disappeared quickly.

That’s what a target for extermination on the continent is. If not dealt with quickly, one could hardly imagine how many victims there would be, so they had to be publicly declared enemies and eliminated as quickly as possible.

In the wake of their rampage, only sympathy and consolation remain. Very few blame those who couldn’t respond.

But… but still…

“…Huh.”

Friede decided to stop blaming herself for the moment and slowly lifted her head.

It wasn’t the time to be lost in self-loathing. First, she needed to manage the situation.

After splashing her face with cold water, she grabbed a passing nun and asked.

“Sister.”

“Yes?”

“Do you happen to know when Asel’s surgery will be finished?”

“Ah… I’m not sure.”

The nun looked at the two men and five women sitting in front of the operating room since yesterday and replied.

“They say the situation is a bit… serious.”

“Continuously check the heartbeat. The moment it shows any sign of irregularity, let me know immediately.”

“Yes.”

“Everyone else, focus on restoring the organs. Half of you will work on relieving the foul energy, while the rest concentrate on keeping him alive.”

“Yes, High Priest.”

The cold air unique to the operating room brushed against his cheeks. The High Priest cut open Asel’s chest, who lay on the operating table, with a knife imbued with severing magic. At the same time, Zervil's foul energy surged up like a liquid.

‘Even after spending a whole day relieving the foul energy, this much is still left?’

What kind of horrific sorcerer was he that the energy wouldn’t disappear no matter how much they tried to erase it? The High Priest clicked his tongue and began to make incisions in the decaying Asel’s liver and stomach.

It wasn’t easy. If he were an ordinary person, just bringing the knife close would have resulted in the organs being severed, but Asel’s mana was automatically responding to external interference by deploying a shield, even in unconsciousness.

Thanks to that, the High Priest could only touch the organs after cutting through all the shields. Even then, they would regenerate after a short time, making it maddening for the surgeon.

The surgery had already exceeded 24 hours. The presence outside was becoming increasingly intense, and those inside the operating room were already exhausted. The High Priest, who was performing the surgery, felt the same.

But he couldn’t stop the surgery.

‘I’m the only one here with medical knowledge. I have to finish this somehow.’

The moment he gave up, Asel would die.

As a servant of the divine, it was unthinkable to abandon a life he could save. Perhaps the other clergy shared similar thoughts, as they were all exhausted but forced themselves to channel their holy power to shake off their fatigue.

“Internal bleeding has occurred again. I will restore it.”

“The anesthesia isn’t circulating in the body. It seems the mana is forcibly dismantling it, and it appears he’s developing an immunity. We might need to call someone who can use sleep magic…”

“The electrical signals inside the body are being adjusted with tiny jolts. It seems to have drastically increased the regenerative ability, but due to the remaining foul energy, it’s not showing any effect. We need to focus more manpower on relieving the foul energy.”

Reports came in from all directions. The High Priest wiped the sweat from his brow and issued appropriate instructions.

“…High Priest.”

At that moment, the Saint Candidate, who had been silent until now, called out to the High Priest. He turned his head slightly to look at her.

“Yes, Lady Irene.”

“…Is surgery always this difficult? When I practiced in the Holy Kingdom, it didn’t seem to take this long…”

“The higher the level of mana or aura, the more difficult the surgery becomes.”

The High Priest didn’t show irritation at the Saint Candidate’s question. Instead, while cutting through Asel’s shields, he answered in a calm voice.

“The first reason is that the medicine doesn’t work well, and the second reason is that it’s difficult to harm the body. No matter how much holy power is infused into the knife, it’s a very difficult task to ‘dismantle’ a superhuman who can annihilate a city and face a great army.”

“…”

“However… this sorcerer has taken it a step further. While being transported, the mana that had been completely empty suddenly recovered, and not only did he start to spit out the foul energy accumulated inside his body, but when he extended the knife, he also wrapped his organs in shields.”

“…Even though he’s unconscious?”

The High Priest nodded. He left a portion of the half-rotten liver and completely incised it, pouring in holy power for recovery.

…Zzzzz.

The High Priest let out a long breath as he looked down at the liver that had begun to grow back.

This task had consumed five hours.

“An unconscious sorcerer usually cannot use any magic. But this young sorcerer is unconsciously deploying magic to defend his body. It’s the first time I’ve seen such a case in my life. Perhaps all archmages are like this.”

“…An archmage?”

Irene asked, her eyes wide.

“He was clearly still at the 6th tier, wasn’t he?”

“He’s a sorcerer who uses extreme-tier magic. It doesn’t make sense that he’s at the 6th tier.”

However, the High Priest dismissed her words in a firm voice.

“As you know, Lady Irene, only those at the 8th tier can use extreme-tier magic. Below that, it’s impossible to use extreme-tier magic.”

“…But.”

“That’s the logical conclusion. More importantly, Lady Irene.”

The High Priest looked down at the small sparks rising from inside Asel’s body and spoke quietly.

“How far has the restoration of the severed hand progressed? I’ve seen the bones, blood vessels, and nerves being regenerated.”

“Ah, we’re currently regenerating the muscles. However, the progress is slow due to the mana causing a rejection reaction.”

“Since the situation is similar elsewhere, there’s no need to worry too much. Please continue to work hard.”

“Yes.”

The High Priest turned away from Irene and wiped the blood off his clothes as he gazed at Asel’s empty left eye.

“The eyes are the most sensitive organs, so we’ll postpone their regeneration until the very end. For now, focus on restoring the organs necessary for sustaining life, and once you finish with the organs you’re responsible for, please move on to the others.”

“High Priest!”

At that moment, one of the priests continuously administering anesthesia to Asel shouted.

“The sorcerer’s missing eye has begun to absorb holy power!”

“…Sir!”

“…”

“Ena!”

“…!”

Ena opened her eyes wide at the voice calling her name.

The first thing that came into her view was the wooden ceiling. Five candles hanging beneath it illuminated the room, and the flames flickered in the breeze coming from the slightly open window.

The wind carried a mix of ash and the smell of blood. And faintly, the scent of flowers wafted through.

The scent of forget-me-nots that she had grown tired of during her time in the Magic Kingdom.

With that scent, Ena realized that this place was the territory of the fallen Magic Kingdom. Perhaps it was one of the few intact houses that Yuphia had used as a base.

“…Yuphia.”

Ena struggled to rise, calling her name in a cracked voice.

But her body had already reached its limit due to the aftermath of the battle. Even the slightest movement sent her muscles and nerves screaming in agony.

The pain was unlike anything she had felt since becoming an archmage. Even moving a single finger felt like her entire arm was being severed, causing her to grimace and lie back down. Yuphia, wiping her body with a towel, spoke up.

“You’ve finally woken up. It’s already been a day since you fainted.”

“…A day?”

“Yes. You went down into the mini-labyrinth and returned bleeding profusely; I can’t even describe how shocked I was.”

Yuphia tossed the towel stained with blood, pus, and sweat into a bucket and let out a deep sigh.

“What on earth… happened?”

“…”

Ena paused for a moment, then closed her eyes slightly and muttered.

“I fought with the Saint and Virsia.”

“…”

“I nearly killed both of them, but I couldn’t stop their consciousness from activating. Somehow, I managed to twist their consciousness and trap them in the mini-labyrinth to escape…”

She looked up at the ceiling with vacant eyes.

“My tier has dropped.”

“…What?”

Yuphia’s eyes widened in surprise at the unexpected answer. Ena forced her unmoving arm to move and covered her eyes with her hand.

“I’m no longer an archmage.”

“…What do you mean—”

“5th tier? No, more like 4th tier? Anyway, my level has dropped to that extent. Because of the consciousness, I lost everything else in the mini-labyrinth.”

“Is that really true?”

“Yeah.”

Ena exhaled deeply and let her arm fall weakly.

“I shattered the growing demon’s ego, erased the Saint’s soul, and blew apart Virsia’s lower half. Thanks to that, I bought some time.”

“…Did you do all that by yourself?”

“Yeah. I know. I was a bit lacking.”

…Could that even be called lacking?

Yuphia briefly entertained that question, but her mind snapped back to attention at Ena’s next words.

“Anyway. For now, both the demon and the two are incapacitated. But if their goal was to steal my tier through consciousness from the beginning, and if that’s meant to accelerate the demon’s growth…”

“…”

“I have to re-enter as quickly as possible to reclaim my tier and completely destroy the demon’s mind.”

As soon as Ena finished speaking, Yuphia replied with a serious expression.

“I will dispatch an extermination team. When should we set the timeframe?”

“It’s useless to dispatch them.”

“…I understand that you think our Holy Kingdom’s strength is lacking in your eyes. But if it’s related to the demon, we can’t just sit back—”

“No, that’s not it.”

Ena spoke in a voice laced with a sigh.

“The moment their consciousness activated, the entrance to the mini-labyrinth closed. It won’t open again until at least winter. Even if it does, it will only allow one-sided entry.”

“…I see.”

“If we force it open, the demon’s mind, which we’ve just shattered, will awaken forcibly. Then there will be no turning back.”

“…So what you’re saying is.”

Yuphia looked down at Ena with a worried expression.

“You’ll have to remain in a weakened state until at least winter?”

“…That’s how it turned out.”

“Oh, dear God.”

“It can’t be helped. I have no choice but to pay the price for buying even a little time.”

Ena said that and groaned as she propped herself up against the wall.

“I’m not completely unable to use magic. The knowledge is still in my head.”

“…But.”

“Enough. Let’s stop this conversation here. I’ll leave the reports to the Holy Kingdom and Wiheim to you. I think I need to rest for a while.”

“…Understood. You should rest well today, and tomorrow I’ll accompany you to your residence in Wiheim. As for transforming your body with lightning…”

“I can’t. My uniqueness and imagery haven’t disappeared, but if I use the mana in my current body for thunder transformation, that part will evaporate entirely. I can’t withstand the power of lightning in the first place.”

“I understand.”

Yuphia nodded and poured a glass of water for Ena. Ena thanked her and slowly drank the water.

At that moment, Yuphia seemed to recall something and took out a small piece of stationery from her pocket.

“By the way, a letter arrived from the Aurora Magic Tower. It seems to be related to your disciple.”

“Asel and the tower? That’s not a combination that fits well. Hand it over.”

Ena said that, unable to wipe the smile off her face.

The moment the name disciple came up, her face brightened. Yuphia handed the letter to Ena with a wry smile at her affection for her disciple.

Ena trembled as she opened the letter with shaking hands, her lips twitching.

She read the contents.

There weren’t many lines written. But it was enough to wipe the expression off Ena’s face.

[I’m planning to hold an engagement ceremony between my disciple and your disciple, Ena.]

[If you have a good time, could you let me know?]

[Angelina.]

Szzzz!!!

Ena tore the letter and threw it to the floor. At Yuphia’s moment of surprise at her sudden action.

“Yuphia.”

Ena’s voice was filled with killing intent.

“Go to the academy, not Wiheim.”

“Excuse me? Why there…?”

At Yuphia’s question, Ena smirked.

“I think I need to give my disciple some education.”

# 113 - Lightning of Purity

"You're saying I was unconscious for a month?"

Asel asked, swallowing the apple Evelyn had peeled for him. Evelyn nodded with a gloomy expression.

"It's already May, Asel. It's almost early summer."

"...I didn't realize I'd been out for so long."

Asel scratched his cheek and turned his head towards the wide-open window.

Grace and Evelyn had adamantly kept the window open, claiming that his body odor would disappear if they didn't, but with a single gesture from Asel, the window swung open without any resistance. The scent of trees, unique to early summer, wafted in.

The breeze that blew in was much warmer than before he had lost consciousness. The colorful trees had already turned into a uniform green, and huge clouds drifted leisurely across the sky.

No matter how you looked at it, it was the image of early summer. Just before he had fainted, spring hadn't even fully faded yet. He woke up, and the season had changed.

Asel sighed and flopped back down.

"If it's May... isn't it midterm season?"

"That's right. It's already underway."

"Even with that mess, it doesn't seem like they've taken any temporary leave."

"Because there were no casualties. There were many injuries, but everyone received treatment. The academy grounds themselves suffered almost no damage, and most people lost consciousness with Zervil's appearance, so they don't remember the situation properly. Even the VIPs who were there are keeping quiet."

During Zervil's attack, the people who fought against the corpses he controlled were all individuals with considerable power. And they knew very well how extraordinary Zervil was. They also knew that it was a miracle that there was almost no damage.

So, they're just moving on. There may be some who can't, but Asel didn't need to worry about that. It was the academy's job to handle it.

What was important was that a second temporary leave wasn't declared.

'The fact that the first leave was declared must have been largely due to the three casualties.'

The three people who participated in the group project with Gorsel. They were all brutally murdered and returned to the earth.

At the time, he thought it was unfortunate, but now it was different.

It was clear that Gorsel had directly kidnapped or killed the three people to use them in the ritual. The fact that he pretended to be a kind and pure human on the outside was disgusting.

'Come to think of it, I was supposed to meet Gorsel again as a black magician after the sparring match. Things have gotten quite tangled.'

Still, Gorsel was easy to manipulate, so it wasn't a big problem. Asel nodded to himself, thinking that.

"Speaking of midterms."

Then, Grace answered, fiddling with Asel's left hand.

"The written exams are all over, and the Knight Department's practical exams are done too. The midterms will be over as soon as we take the Magic Department's practical exam this week."

"What?"

Asel raised his head sharply and asked with a surprised expression.

The midterms were coming to an end. It was like a bolt from the blue for Asel, who hadn't even taken the written exams yet. He had intended to maintain high grades until graduation, but he had unintentionally missed the exams themselves.

This was no different from having to give up his top student position. He had diligently attended classes and thoroughly prepared for the practical exams, but it had all gone to waste. It was inevitable that his expression would darken.

Grace looked at Asel's face as if she found it cute and opened her mouth.

"Don't worry. Asel, you've been exempted."

"Exempted?"

"Yeah. There was a big incident, and you were chosen as the top contributor in stopping Zervil. You'll probably be the top student of the entire freshman class this semester, regardless of the midterms."

"...That's a bit concerning in itself. Isn't it a structure that's bound to cause backlash?"

If the top student was already decided regardless of the exam results, who would bother taking the exams seriously? Everyone would inevitably be dissatisfied with the results and protest.

But Grace chuckled as if to tell him not to worry, and poked Asel's cheek with her finger. Evelyn was staring at her with a cold gaze from across the room, but Grace only had eyes for Asel at the moment.

"People who saw the lightning strike from the sky that day will never be able to argue."

"......"

"They might get electrocuted if they provoke you."

"...I don't particularly intend to do that."

"I know. But your master's reputation isn't good. Everyone naturally thinks you have a similar personality. There's already a rumor going around that you're half-crazy about magic."

"...Hoo."

"It's common in this field for someone who's been calm to suddenly go crazy as they rise in rank. So, no one will say anything to you."

Grace said that, then noticed Evelyn's gaze, which seemed to pierce through her, and broke out in a cold sweat. Asel ignored her and stared at the ceiling.

'I'm still holding the top student position. It's not bad, but it doesn't feel refreshing to be receiving bows while lying down.'

Of course, he had no intention of refusing the top student position. Rejecting someone's kindness out of courtesy was something that could never happen in the society of magicians. Asel had thoroughly adhered to this rule as a magician.

This time was no exception.

"More importantly, Asel. How's your condition? Does anything hurt? Are you hungry or dizzy?"

Evelyn asked, looking at Asel, who was lost in thought. Asel chuckled and nodded.

"I'm fine. The priests must be skilled, because there's nothing particularly uncomfortable. I'm just a little hungry."

"Really? Should I go buy some bread from outside?"

"Please get soft bread. We've eaten too much hard, moldy bread."

Evelyn chuckled at Asel's jest and winked at Grace.

"Grace, could you go to the market for us siblings?"

"Soft bread. Understood. Evelyn, is there anything you'd like to eat?"

Grace got up from her seat without the slightest hesitation.

Asel was taken aback by her excessively humble attitude, considering she was a member of a ducal family, but Evelyn handed her a pouch of gold coins and smiled.

"Anything the same as Asel is enough for me."

"Confirmed. However, I will not accept the money. I will take care of it with the money I have."

"Oh my. Is that alright? I'd feel so bad..."

"It's fine. I don't mind spending money for Evelyn and Asel at all. Then, I'll be right back."

Grace bowed to Evelyn and left the sickroom with a happy expression. Asel stared at her retreating figure and let out a hollow laugh.

"...Evelyn, did you get some dirt on Grace or something?"

"No? But she seems to want to be on good terms with me. I thought she'd be scary when I first met her because she was a noble, but not really now?"

"...What on earth happened while I was unconscious?"

Asel sighed and placed his hand on Evelyn's head, who was grinning.

"You don't usually boss her around like that, do you?"

"No! I just wanted to be alone with you... Grace actually skipped her class today to be here. I was supposed to have you all to myself."

"What do you mean, 'all to yourself'? I'm not your possession."

"I don't know!"

Evelyn shouted and jumped onto Asel's bed. Then, she wriggled into Asel's blanket.

They were so close that they could feel each other's breath. Evelyn smiled and hugged Asel tightly. Asel supported her head as he was used to.

"Doesn't this remind you of the old days?"

"Are you talking about when we slept in the stable smelling manure, or when we lived in the slums' sewer?"

"Both. Haa, now that I think about it, we had a hard life."

Evelyn chuckled and muttered. Asel also smiled.

"We wouldn't be like this now if it weren't for Master."

"That's right. I probably would have died that day I caught a cold."

"I wouldn't have been okay either."

If Ena hadn't arrived in time that day, Asel would have been kidnapped by Zervil and used as a research material. Even if he had managed to escape, he would have been heartbroken to see Evelyn's skeletal corpse.

Thinking about it that way, the fact that Ena came into their lives was a great stroke of luck.

"......!"

Asel thought so, then suddenly sat up and looked down at Evelyn, realizing something.

"Speaking of Master. Has Master returned to Wiheim recently? Has any news come?"

He had learned from Zervil that Ena was in the Small Labyrinth, but that was already a month ago.

It wasn't a long time, but it was enough time for Ena's whereabouts to change. So, Asel asked Evelyn, who could be called Ena's closest confidante, if there had been any recent news related to Ena.

Asel had a month-long gap. It wouldn't be strange if something had happened to Ena during that time.

Asel remembered the sight of Ena's Mana disappearing in real time. If that meant that something had happened to Ena, no one knew how much the situation had worsened in the month since then.

So, news was desperately needed. There was a saying that no news was good news, but Asel only wanted information related to Ena. Even if it was bad, he had to find even the smallest trace of her.

"Um... It's been quite a while since Ena returned to the mansion. It's been several months already. Hailey hasn't sent any news of her return either, so it seems like she's still living outside."

"......"

In the end, it meant the same as no news. Asel's face was about to crumple, but then.

"But news did come."

"......!"

His eyes widened. Asel grabbed Evelyn's shoulders and asked urgently.

"What news?"

He had made a fuss about the academy midterms, but anyway, Ena and Evelyn were Asel's top priorities.

If something had happened to Ena, Asel was planning to leave the academy and set out to find Ena immediately.

He had also achieved a rise in rank, which he didn't want. He didn't have to worry about not being able to help her like before.

'It might be insufficient, but I can't just stay here.'

Time was of the essence. He hadn't even been awake for a day, but as long as he could move, there was no reason to hesitate.

Asel thought so and stared at Evelyn's slowly opening lips.

"She said she's coming to the academy?"

"What."

And an unexpected answer came back.

"She kept sending you letters, so I sent a reply saying you were unconscious. Then she said she'd come as quickly as possible."

"......"

"And she kept asking about an engagement? Did you get engaged to someone, Asel?"

Evelyn asked with a sharp look, but that wasn't important now.

"She's coming to the academy? When is she scheduled to arrive?"

"She said she's coming by carriage, so probably today?"

"...She's coming by carriage? Why isn't she riding lightning?"

"I don't know. More importantly, what's this about an engagement?"

"Is it tonight, or during the day?"

"She'll probably be here soon? So what's this about an engagement?"

"She's coming soon?"

"Hey."

Asel forcibly pushed down Evelyn's head as she tried to sit up.

"Ugek!"

She screamed, but Asel didn't care and made a serious expression.

The news that Ena was coming to the academy was good news in itself. It meant she was safe. But from the moment Evelyn told Ena that Asel was unconscious, it wasn't good news for the academy.

The academy didn't have the strength to stop her now. It was already struggling with just Zervil, and if Ena was thrown in here, the academy would be completely destroyed.

"Academy destruction season 2 is not allowed...!"

Asel hurriedly threw off his patient gown and changed into his academy uniform.

Then, he immediately headed towards the bridgehead leading into the academy. The nuns he encountered along the way were startled and told him that he needed to rest more, but Asel politely refused their words and left the cathedral.

"Oh, Asel?"

He ran into Grace, who was coming with a bag of bread. She tilted her head, watching Asel rush out.

"Where are you going all of a sudden? You still need to rest."

"I'll be back soon. Thanks for the bread."

Asel took a small piece of bread from the bag and put it in his mouth, then lightly stroked Grace's hair. Then, while Grace was stuttering, he immediately jumped into the air.

He manifested the Levitation Formula all over his body. A flight magic that consumed an overwhelmingly high amount of Mana compared to other spells. But it wasn't a big problem for Asel, who had realized Uniqueness and achieved a rise in rank. Mana depletion would only occur after several more hours in this state.

'It seems I've been diligently recovering Mana for a month. My Mana capacity has more than doubled compared to before.'

Perhaps absorbing divine power had made a significant contribution to the overall Mana capacity.

In any case, it was a welcome matter. Asel chuckled and sparked electricity between his fingers.

Lightning Transformation, which Ena used as easily as breathing. If the basic requirement for its use was realizing Uniqueness, then there was nothing Asel couldn't do now.

It was a Formula he had seen countless times by her side. It wasn't difficult to recall.

Fzzzt.

Asel's entire body was enveloped in dark blue lightning. Immediately after, an omnipotence that felt like he was running through time enveloped his entire body.

Unlike the Formula that transformed the body into lightning to attack, this was a high-speed magic focused solely on movement. Asel curled up the corners of his lips, seeing the flapping of a flying insect in the sky.

Fzzzzzzzt!!

He tore through the sky as it was. Lightning Transformation, which could only be used with an overwhelming amount of Mana and Uniqueness. Asel perfectly executed the technique, relying solely on his senses, even though most people usually suffered injuries during their first attempt because they couldn't stabilize their bodies.

"I hear thunder somewhere. Is it going to rain?"

"Oh, oh! Over there! Lightning is passing by!"

"Uh... Asel? It doesn't look like natural lightning, no matter how you look at it?"

"Shouldn't we call Asel by a different name now?"

Voices were heard from below, but Asel's mind was fixed on the silent carriage that had begun to enter the bridgehead. He chuckled as he saw the familiar snow-white-haired girl peeking out from the carriage window.

KWA-AAAAANG!!

Asel's body crashed down like lightning at the entrance to the academy. The guard, who was guarding the entrance with a stern gaze, was startled and turned to look at him.

"Wh-what is it? Are you an academy student?"

"I'm Asel, a freshman. There's someone I need to meet."

"Ah, even so, you must follow the procedure. Instructions have been given to strengthen security due to the recent incident... Wait, Asel?"

The guard widened his eyes and muttered.

"Are you perhaps the Thunderbolt himself?""

"...Who's the Thunderbolt?"

The moment Asel frowned and asked back.

"Asel."

In the distance, Ena, who had gotten out of the carriage, ran towards Asel. Asel smiled brightly at Ena's appearance, which was no different from before, and opened his arms.

"Master."

"My disciple...!"

Ena didn't bother refusing Asel's kindness and hugged him. Yupia, who got out of the carriage late, and the guard stared at the two in disbelief, but both Asel and Ena were people who didn't care about other people's gazes.

The two hugged for a long time, then slowly distanced themselves and stared at each other's faces.

"I heard you fainted. I heard everything from Evelyn."

"Um... I did, but I'm fine now. As you just saw, I can use Lightning Transformation too."

"You broke through the 7th Circle?"

Ena's eyes twinkled as she asked. Asel chuckled and nodded.

"I broke through thanks to you."

"Thanks to me?"

"Yes. You know that mountain where you personally destroyed it and left magic behind, Master? I received a lot of help from that magic while fighting Zervil."

"Ah... I see. That's a relief."

Ena smiled gently and wrapped her arms around Asel's neck. Asel slightly lowered his upper body to make her comfortable.

"...What's with that expression? Are you a teenage girl?"

"Then you're not hurt anywhere, right? Can I check?"

Ena asked, neatly ignoring Yuffia's muttering voice from behind. Asel gave a short nod to Yuffia, who seemed close to Ena, and then answered.

"You may do so as much as you like."

"Okay. Let's do that in the bedroom tonight."

"More importantly, Master. While fighting Zervil, your magic suddenly disappeared. Did something happen to you?"

Asel asked with a serious expression.

She looked fine on the outside, but there was a good chance that something was wrong with her hierarchy or Mana Core. Otherwise, there was no way that her ultimate magic, which was like a symbol of a great mage, would have disappeared without the mage's will.

"...Ah."

Ena pursed her lips as if Asel's words had hit her right on the mark, then buried her face in his chest and answered quietly.

"...Asel, I can't be your master anymore."

"...? What does that mean?"

"I'm now a 4th Circle mage."

"...Excuse me?"

The moment Asel opened his eyes wide and asked back.

"I've become weak. I'm sorry."

Ena answered, hugging Asel's body tightly.

Author's Note

I was going to split it up due to a failure to adjust the volume, but I just uploaded it as one chapter.

The length of each chapter is getting longer these days. Personally, I feel the need to shorten it a bit.

Anyway!

Thank you for reading today, and have a good day everyone!

# 114 - Pure Lightning (2)

The hierarchy of wizards is not easily diminished.

The Mana Engine, or Core Reactor as it is also called, exists not in the body of the sorcerer but in their mind. Therefore, it cannot be struck by ordinary physical force.

It is not an easy task even for sorcerers who manipulate the mind. Wizards are those who have built their own worlds within their hearts, separate from this one. This is true for warriors as well. They always resist external erosion with a solid Mental Barrier.

Ordinary sorcerers cannot breach this barrier. Only high-ranking wizards, such as archmages, or master-level warriors can 'slightly' touch the minds of those weaker than themselves.

The efficiency is atrocious.

Inducing mental confusion or madness is a different story from completely dismantling the mental framework and rendering a person disabled. To diminish a hierarchy, a part of the mind or soul must literally be chipped away through external interference.

"Not exactly."

However, Ena's testimony provided a completely different answer.

"The Demon Resurrection Ritual. With that power, the hierarchies of everyone within the Labyrinth were temporarily 'stolen.'"

"......"

"And most of that power is made up of my own hierarchy."

Ena ignited a pure white current between her fingers.

Crackle.

It was undoubtedly a pure lightning bolt. But while Asel could sense the Imagery and Uniqueness within it, he did not feel threatened. It was weak enough that he could devour it anytime he wanted.

"Fortunately, I haven't completely lost the ability to use magic. The Uniqueness and Imagery remain intact. But the moment I try to manifest a Formula, my magic simply turns into a lump of Mana."

"Sounds like you're saying you're at the level of a low-ranking hierarchy sorcerer."

"That's right."

Ena nodded as she bit into a piece of apple that Evelyn had sliced for her while sitting in Asel's lap.

"My Mana amount is just at the level of a low-ranking sorcerer. High-level magic is out of the question."

"Are you saying you've dropped to the level of an average one-person wizard?"

"Exactly. I'm at the fourth hierarchy. I don't have to worry about starving to death, but it's just the right position to get killed if I act recklessly."

The lower a wizard's hierarchy, the more arrogant they tend to be. This is because they are ignorant of the world. Like a frog in a well, they become intoxicated by the idea of being a proper wizard after merely training, believing that everything in the world is beneath them.

They belittle warriors as ignorant, dismiss priests as mere pray-ers, and look down on sorcerers as those wishing for suicide. They even fail to regard other wizards with respect. This was due to their delusion that the knowledge and wisdom they had realized were the only truths.

Naturally, they end up dying recklessly. This was the reason for the chaotic perception among wizards.

But Ena is an exception.

"Even though I've become a fourth hierarchy, I can still kill most wizards. Seventh hierarchy... might be difficult, but everything below that is a joke."

"Hmm."

"I have the knowledge and experience I've built up until now. There's no way I would struggle against those who haven't even lived a hundred years."

"Hehe, you seem to be getting arrogant already?"

[Silence.]

"Ugh!!"

Ena sealed Evelyn's mouth, turning her body to face Asel. Asel coughed awkwardly, avoiding her gaze.

There was no particular reason for it; it was simply that a certain part was stimulated due to her twisting her waist while sitting in his lap. However, Ena seemed oblivious to that, resting her head against Asel's chest.

"Still, if you, as an Electromancer, lend me your Mana, it might be possible to regain some of my abilities."

"......Ahem. I can share as much Mana as you need."

Asel adjusted his position slightly and replied.

"But I don't know how to do that. Are you saying I should create an external storage device and inject Mana into it?"

As is well known, the Mana of wizards has different properties. If one carelessly transfers it to another, they would repel each other, causing the wizard's body to burst like a balloon. It's similar to forcing a blood transfusion between incompatible blood types.

In Asel's case, he could easily steal someone else's Mana. But that was because he was an unusual case.

Even if they were wizards of the same type, wanting to receive Mana from someone else was tantamount to declaring a wish for suicide.

However, it seemed Ena had a method.

"Asel, do you know my background?"

"......You're from the royal family of the Magic Kingdom. Am I correct?"

"That's right."

Ena smiled bitterly and closed her eyes.

"Since we bear the name of the Magic Kingdom, our royal family possesses various knowledge related to magic. Most of it has sunk, but some remains in my head."

"......"

"One of those is the ability to receive Mana without any risk."

"......Oh."

Asel's face lit up with interest.

"What's the method?"

"......It's a bit inappropriate to talk about it here."

Ena blushed and glanced at Evelyn, who was standing beside her. Then, she wriggled her waist and said, "I'll tell you tonight."

"Ugh."

At that moment, Grace, who had been quietly munching on bread, reacted.

"Your, your expression! What was that expression just now? You looked like a bitch in heat!"

"......Grace. No matter what, you shouldn't use that expression in front of my master—"

"Wake up, Asel! You're going to get eaten! This is strange! My instincts are screaming!"

"......What are you imagining?"

Asel sighed deeply and tapped Ena's shoulder.

"Are you filled with too many lewd thoughts in your head?"

"No! There are things only women can understand!"

"This is maddening. Didn't you just call me a newborn in front of my master? I haven't even lived half as long as you, so do you think my master would see me as anything but a child? What's the age difference?"

It was a joke. It wasn't serious. Given the situation, he had just blurted it out. He wanted to tease Ena, who seemed sensitive about her age.

It was unfortunate that her hierarchy had diminished, but that didn't mean they could remain gloomy forever. It was time to lighten the mood.

And... the only time he could legally torment Ena, who would usually retaliate immediately if teased, was now. So he had to make the most of it.

Asel felt Ena's trembling shoulders and burst into silent laughter.

"To my master, I'm just a newborn. Right, master?"

"......"

Instead of answering, Ena looked up at Asel with a blank expression. Her reaction was more frightening than he had expected, causing Asel's eyes to widen momentarily as Ena leaned in and whispered in his ear.

"Do you like teasing me?"

"......"

"Let's find out together tonight how I feel about you."

"Oh my, damn."

Evelyn cursed upon hearing Ena's mutter.

At that moment, someone knocked on Asel's door.

"I've come from the academy. May I enter?"

Nice timing. Asel sought Ena's permission, carefully set her down on the bed, and went to greet the guest who had come to visit.

When he opened the door, a plump academy official offered a brief bow to Asel.

"Nice to meet you, Asel. Are you feeling well?"

"Yes, I'm fine. But what brings you here?"

"I have a message from the dean."

"Friede?"

Ena tilted her head in response. The official then turned to Ena with courtesy before speaking.

"The dean wishes to meet with you and Asel."

"Welcome to the academy, Ena."

On the top floor of the academy's main building, in the lavish dean's office.

Friede poured tea into the cups of Ena and Asel, who were seated across from her, and began the conversation. Asel offered a brief expression of thanks before starting to sip his tea, while Ena tilted her head with a disinterested expression.

"Why did you call us out of the blue?"

"There are various reasons. But before that, how about we lighten the atmosphere a bit?"

Friede smiled vaguely. However, Ena's expression remained unchanged.

"Get to the point."

"......Your straightforwardness is still as it was. I think it's time to be serious."

"If you don't speak, I'm leaving."

"Alright, alright."

Friede ultimately raised her hands in a pitiful manner, wearing a wry smile.

Ena raised an eyebrow at her oddly gloomy demeanor, but Friede did not pick up on that. Instead, she looked at Asel with a serious gaze and began to speak.

"First of all, Asel, I am personally and officially grateful and sorry to you. You single-handedly held off Zervil, so we feel quite guilty..."

"It's fine. It seems like they came here because of me in the first place."

"Still, being sorry is being sorry. As a form of compensation, I will not charge you for anything during your time at the academy. Your name has been engraved in the academy's computing device, so you won't need to pay for anything you do within the academy."

"Oh......"

"Not only that, but I will also arrange for a decent elixir for you. If you want, I can send you to tour the Magic Tower, and I can also give you tickets to access the Great Forest of the elves. Feel free to ask for anything."

"That's quite generous."

Asel replied with a rather surprised expression. Friede waved her hand dismissively and slightly bent her upper body.

"I personally think this is insufficient. So when you become a second-year student, I plan to provide even more support. Rejections will be on my end, so you just have to accept."

"These are things you should have done earlier."

Ena interjected in a plain tone.

"No matter how much Zervil attacked the academy for Asel, failing to stop it is a sign of incompetence. Especially since the problem was solved not by the academy but by Asel himself... If I had known it would turn out like this, I shouldn't have sent him to the academy."

"......Ena, you tend to talk a lot when it comes to matters related to Asel."

Friede responded with a somewhat displeased expression. Ena narrowed her eyes sharply for a moment, and Friede cleared her throat and nodded.

"Honestly, that's true. Our recent actions have been severely incompetent. It would be too much to say that the Sword Demon, which symbolizes the academy's military power, was absent."

"......"

"As you know, I didn't sit in the dean's position because of military power. I was pushed into this position because I built the curriculum, methods, and systems necessary for the establishment of the academy. But... now I feel a sense of pride and responsibility in this position."

Clink.

Ena shot a look at Friede as if urging her to continue. Friede continued with a serious expression.

"So, even if it means drastically consuming the academy's overall budget, I plan to strengthen security. Professors will directly participate in cleaning up the trash on campus, and I also intend to actively hire new staff and professors."

"Hmm......"

"And I will also accelerate the training I had put on hold. So that I won't fall short of being a dean."

As Friede spoke, her eyes were both hollow and filled with determination. She must have undergone many changes in her feelings due to Zervil's attack.

'Even if Zervil is an outlier, being seriously outmatched as an archmage must have shocked her.'

Asel thought this while sipping his tea when suddenly...

"......So, Ena. I have a favor to ask."

Friede cautiously opened her mouth while looking at the expressionless Ena. Ena wiped the tea that had splashed on Asel's mouth and replied.

"What is it?"

"Are you not considering a position as a professor at the academy?"

The sudden bombshell dropped.

Asel froze with the teacup in hand, and Ena's face twisted in disbelief as she responded.

"......What?"

# 115 - Pure Lightning (3)

The position of an academy professor is quite a prestigious one. It is no coincidence that several professors from the academy have held major positions in the empire. Being recognized for one’s abilities and having the experience of educating someone is a significant advantage wherever one goes.

However, becoming a professor is a challenging task. It is not easy to be outstanding enough in a specific field to teach someone. Just looking at the professors of the academy's combat department, each of them has made a name for themselves somewhere.

Despite individual differences, none of them were weak. Zervil might be an exceptional case, but they were all individuals deserving of respect wherever they went.

Ena was no different.

“I don’t want to.”

But Ena had no intention of becoming an academy professor.

“Why should I teach those little brats? One student, Asel, is enough for me.”

“Hmm.”

“And teaching a bunch of eager but foolish students isn’t my style. There will be plenty of them who won’t even understand my theories, so what am I supposed to teach?”

She intertwined her fingers with Asel’s empty hand and slowly lifted it.

“If all the kids at the academy had talent like Asel, I’d consider it. At least it would be enjoyable to teach.”

“...That’s impossible. Asel’s talent is extraordinarily exceptional. It’s unlikely that anyone with similar talent will appear for several centuries to come.”

“Of course. Who’s his master?”

Friede couldn’t help but smile wryly at the momentary pride on Ena’s face.

It seemed that her affection for Asel was growing day by day. It was even questionable whether that was truly affection for a student.

She thought it wasn’t an urgent matter and brushed it aside.

“If you don’t want to be a professor, how about taking a position as an external advisor? You can teach only when you want to, and you don’t have to do anything else in the meantime. But you’ll still enjoy the benefits.”

“I’m not really keen on that. Why are you trying to hire me in the first place?”

Ena tilted her head with a disinterested expression.

“Setting aside the fact that I’m a capable talent, what’s the reason for wanting to appoint a witch council magician to the academy? You know we have little interest in worldly affairs.”

Friede was a long-lived elf who had lived for several hundred years. Naturally, she was well aware of how the Witch Council was formed and the tendencies of most of its members.

About five centuries ago, there was a time when witch hunts were rampant across the continent.

It wasn’t about hunting magicians. It was about hunting ‘witches’ who used peculiar magic that had never been heard of before.

Thus, a simple organization of magicians studying magic, made up of various races, was branded as heretical overnight. They had no choice but to unite to survive.

That was the origin story of the Witch Council. Over time, their magic was recognized by academic societies, but the wounds they had suffered were too deep to heal. Therefore, they formed the Witch Council as an independent group, free from any constraints.

This was also why they were particularly closed off compared to other magicians.

Friede, who was listening to news from humans in the Great Forest at the time, had heard rumors about them.

“The reason I’ve rejected all the advances from the empire and other countries is not only because I want to uphold the principles of the Witch Council, but also because I don’t want to get involved in troublesome matters.”

“......”

“The moment I get involved with the academy, the aftermath is obvious. The emperor will be noisy, claiming that I’ve become part of the empire, and other countries will interrogate me to see if that’s true.”

“I can manage to block that much.”

“Really?”

Ena scoffed and crossed her legs.

“Then let’s return to the first question.”

“Hmm......”

“Why do you want to recruit me so badly?”

“I want to become stronger.”

This time, the answer came immediately. Asel, who had been quietly listening to their conversation, widened his eyes, and Ena frowned slightly.

“......What did you say?”

“I said I want to become stronger. I realized how powerless I am because of the recent incident.”

Friede smiled bitterly as she poured herself more tea.

“With my current strength, it’s difficult to defend the academy. I’m acutely aware of that fact.”

“......”

“That’s why, as I said, I’m thinking of starting my training again. And I thought it would be good to have your help with that.”

“......My help?”

“You’re the strongest combat magician in the field. Attending your lectures would surely provide inspiration and knowledge. That’s why I asked.”

“......Hmm.”

“Other magicians feel the same. If you teach, and professors and students attend the classes together, the overall defensive capability of the academy will clearly increase. They’re all individuals who have made names for themselves elsewhere, so they should be able to fully understand your lectures.”

Friede’s eyes were filled with longing as she spoke. Ena stared at her eyes for a moment, then sighed deeply, leaning her head on Asel’s shoulder as if tired.

Asel gently brushed aside her flowing hair.

“I understand.”

Ena rubbed her face against Asel’s shoulder and spoke.

“But I still don’t feel like it.”

“......I see.”

Friede nodded, wearing a wry smile at Ena’s refusal.

“That’s the second rejection already. At this point, I have no choice but to give up. Still... I do have one thing I’m curious about.”

She continued speaking and turned to look at Asel.

“Asel, what do you think?”

“Excuse me?”

Asel blinked in surprise as the topic suddenly turned to him. Friede smiled gently and poured tea into his empty cup.

“I’m curious about what you think about Ena coming to the academy. Personally, as your master, I’d like to know.”

“Ah... I’d love it if you became a professor at the academy! I’d get to see you every day.”

“Hmm.”

“Since I’ve been spending a lot of time apart since you came to the academy. There are still three and a half years left until graduation, and if I’m only going to see you during breaks, it would be better to see you here too—”

“Friede.”

At that moment, Ena interrupted Asel’s words and spoke with a serious expression.

“I want to be an external advisor.”

“......Huh?”

“I’ve changed my mind. I think it would be good to do it. Yes, I should contribute to the academy. It’s where the future of the continent gathers.”

“......Didn’t you just say that the students here were lacking?”

“When did I say that?”

Ena asked back with a blank expression.

Friede let out a chuckle at her shameless attitude.

But since the opportunity had arisen, it shouldn’t be missed. Friede immediately got up from her seat and fetched a labor contract. Ena quickly skimmed through the contract on the spot.

“Currently, there are no accommodations available for the remaining staff, so you’ll probably have to find a separate place to stay for the time being. Given the circumstances, it can’t be helped. I’ll cover the costs, so choose comfortably.”

“Can’t I stay in Asel’s dorm?”

“......Even if you’re teacher and student, it’s not appropriate for grown men and women to sleep in the same room—”

“I’ll teach three times a week.”

“That shouldn’t be a problem. Do as you please.”

Friede burst into a hearty laugh and brought out a seal. After reading the contract, Ena nodded and signed her name with her mana.

Thus, Ena became an external advisor to the academy.

The salary was the highest in the industry. Classes were at her discretion. She could freely use the powers enjoyed by professors and even the dean, and she could choose not to attend academic meetings or events if she didn’t want to. Additionally, she was satisfied with the condition of living with her student for three and a half years.

“......What about my will?”

Asel’s will was not included in the contract at all.

“Have you lost your hierarchy?”

“I didn’t lose it; it was taken from me. I’ll go retrieve it again when winter comes.”

“Still, doesn’t that mean you’ve weakened?”

“......”

Instead of answering Friede’s question, Ena narrowed her eyes. Friede chuckled at the sight.

“Then... does that mean you can’t resist my magic right now?”

“Don’t, you little brat. If you don’t want to die later.”

“I don’t want to.”

“Well... ack!”

Ena let out a cute scream as a sudden chill brushed down her spine.

[Beep beep!]

At the same time, an ice spirit resembling a fox emerged from Ena’s clothes. The fox elegantly smiled and jumped onto Ena’s shoulder before suddenly throwing itself into Asel’s arms. Asel caught the fox with a puzzled expression.

“......It’s a spirit.”

“The magic I mainly handle is Spirit Spell. That child is the first one I contracted with. She may look cute, but she’s a high-ranking spirit.”

“A high-ranking spirit... doesn’t that mean she’s at the seventh hierarchy? I’ve heard that even meeting one is difficult, let alone contracting with one...”

“I was lucky.”

[Beep beep!]

At Friede’s words, the spirit stood on its hind legs and placed its front paws on its waist. The sight was so cute that Asel couldn’t help but smile and pet the fox.

“It seems to have a personality that follows people well.”

“No, that’s not it. It just seems to like you.”

Friede smiled softly as she lifted her teacup.

“She just said she wanted to kiss your face a little while ago.”

“......”

“If she were just a bit younger... oh, I shouldn’t say that.”

The moment Friede let that slip, Ena grabbed the fox by the scruff of its neck and threw it toward Friede. The rough handling made the fox scream, and Friede hurriedly caught the spirit.

“No, Ena...! Where would this cute child have a place to hold on while you do this...!”

“Just take care of that furball properly. If this happens again, I’ll invade the spirit realm.”

“But... you’re weak.”

“......Huh. I never thought I’d have to kill a little brat with my own hands.”

A white current of electricity flared between Ena’s fingers. Friede burst into laughter at the sight.

“Ha ha. I understand, I understand. I was just joking. I apologize.”

“......”

“And even though it’s unfortunate that you’ve weakened, it’s not to the point of being disappointing, so don’t worry. What we want in the first place is your knowledge, not your lightning.”

“......Okay. I understand.”

Ena sighed deeply and poked Asel’s thigh with her finger.

That was her way of saying it was time to leave.

“I’ll go. I’ll take on the role of external advisor after Asel returns to the academy, so keep that in mind.”

“Is there any need to discuss that? More importantly, what are you planning to do about your belongings? Are you going to visit Wiheim?”

“No, I’ll ask Hailey to bring them.”

Hailey.

Asel smiled wryly at the familiar name he hadn’t heard in a while. Ena put on the coat she had briefly set aside, took Asel’s hand, and stood up.

“Then I’m off.”

“Take care. Next time we meet, let’s have a drink together.”

Instead of answering, Ena left the dean’s office with Asel. Even as she pulled him along, Asel bowed his head slightly to Friede. Friede waved her hand at him with a faint smile.

Ena didn’t have much luggage. Just a few clothes and a few magical artifacts. Thanks to that, moving to Asel’s dorm took only a few minutes.

Asel also moved his resting place from the hospital to the dorm. Although the clergy tried to dissuade him, Asel’s condition was already normal. While he understood their concern, there was no need to stay there.

Thus, he returned to a place he could call ‘home.’ Evelyn was also planning to stay there until she returned to Wiheim. So, she brought a bed into the lab as well. The existing bedding wasn’t enough for three people to sleep on.

“The room is small, but it’s not bad! Ena, don’t you think so too?”

Evelyn looked around Asel’s dorm and asked. Ena, wearing only Asel’s shirt, which she had worn during her stay, nodded.

“Yeah. By the way, Evelyn, what time are you going to sleep tonight?”

“Me? I think I’ll go to bed soon after dinner. I’m a bit tired today.”

“Hmm. That’s a relief.”

“What’s so relieving, Ena?”

“......”

“Ena?”

Evelyn prepared dinner herself. A simple steak made from ingredients bought at the store.

Thanks to her improved cooking skills from playing the maid, the steak turned out quite delicious.

After dinner, they sat in the living room and shared simple updates about their lives. After a while, Evelyn was the first to say she was sleepy and shuffled into the bedroom. Asel left her with a warning not to press the button next to the bed and returned to the living room.

Time passed again. Asel and Ena, who remained in the living room, were chatting when suddenly the conversation came to an abrupt halt.

“......Master?”

Ena was staring at Asel without responding.

It was 11 PM.

A time when most people would be asleep.

“......Ah, Asel.”

Ena, who had been silent, swallowed and opened her mouth.

“Do you trust me?”

# 117 - Merging Lightning (2)

The atmosphere was flowing strangely. A subtly sticky and hot air wrapped around Ena and Asel's bodies. Surely the blowing wind should be cold, but only heat flowed from the two's mouths.

"......"

Ena felt a heavy weight slowly pushing against her instep. Although she had no experience, it wasn't difficult for Ena, who had knowledge, to deduce the identity of the weight. She instinctively pecked at Asel's neck while gently moving her foot.

"......Ugh."

She was clearly being stimulated through her pants, but perhaps because the situation was strange, her head throbbed and rang. It felt like her lust was ignited.

"......Master."

Asel took a long breath and opened his mouth. Ena blankly stared at the red marks left on Asel's neck, then met his gaze with hazy eyes.

"Are you really alright with this?"

The same question she had asked just a few minutes ago. But both Asel and Ena realized that this was the last question between them. The last step to climb before achieving a development in their relationship.

Ena saw the desire rising in Asel's eyes. She felt his erection, almost bursting and piercing through his pants. She heard the sound of his heartbeat, pulsing at a similar speed to her own.

The skin in contact was hard. And warm at the same time. His soft yet sharp eyes were curved like a beast about to devour Ena. Meeting that gaze, Ena felt like prey in front of a predator.

But there was no sense of shrinking back. No sense of intimidation. No anxiety, no fear.

Only immense affection and lust swirled around.

"Asel."

Therefore, there was only one answer.

"I love you."

That word was the signal flare. Asel slightly lifted Ena's body to adjust her position, and brought her face directly in front of his.

Due to the extreme height difference, it would normally be impossible to face each other directly. At a distance where only each other's features were visible, Asel kissed Ena.

"......Huuup."

A simple kiss that didn't share breath or use tongues. A form not much different from when Ena had initiated it first.

But this kiss lasted quite a while. Each other's breath heated their cheeks and philtrums, and the sensation of their soft lips was deeply engraved in their minds.

Their eyes were reflected in each other's half-open eyes. Embarrassing and shy, but the soaring affection accelerated their movements.

"......Ha-up."

Ena was the first to part her lips. She gently bit Asel's lower lip while still rubbing his crotch with one foot. Then, she shyly stuck out her short tongue and licked it timidly.

Asel, who had been quite nervous, burst into laughter at that cat-like gesture.

"......Pffft!"

"......Hyaek?! Why, why are you laughing......?"

Ena shrieked and asked as Asel's body shook. Asel hugged her back and replied.

"Master, is this perhaps your first kiss?"

"......Why, why? It is......"

"I thought so."

"......Eek! I know I'm clumsy! But, but I even mustered the courage to use my tongue......! Bel said that kisses without tongue are just pecks……!"

"Ah, I didn't mean to tease you. I just thought it was cute."

Asel laughed out loud and kissed Ena's forehead. Ena made a pouty face and bit Asel's shoulder.

"Th, then what about you. Have you ever kissed anyone?"

"I haven't either."

Asel replied while placing his hand on Ena's cheek. As he leaned in, Ena also swallowed hard and immediately responded.

"So I want to leave you with a good first experience."

"......Me too."

Ena whispered as she brought her lips to Asel's slightly parted lips.

"I want to fill all my experiences with you."

Their lips met again. Asel's tongue slipped between her parted lips, and Ena hesitated for a moment before timidly touching Asel's tongue with the tip of her own. At the same time, Ena's Mana slowly began to rise.

It was only a very small amount. Since the amount of Mana that could be received varied depending on the amount of fluid held in the mouth, it was necessary to be more proactive in order to use proper magic.

It wasn't something she needed to consciously think about. Even if no one told her to, Ena was willing to accept everything from Asel.

"He-up...... Chuuup......"

Ena weakly wrapped her tongue around his. At best, it was only a slight wrap around the tip because her tongue was naturally short, but that was enough for Ena.

Hot breaths bloomed. Each other's saliva flowed into their mouths, and saliva that couldn't be swallowed dripped down. Asel was below and Ena was above, so Asel was swallowing more saliva.

"Haa......"

"......Chok, chureup."

A faint moan escaped Ena's lips every time her tongue moved. The moment Asel's tongue brushed against her teeth and scraped her palate, a tingling pleasure tickled her brain. Naturally, her toes curled and her thighs tensed. Her love juice dripped between her underwear.

"......Huuup!"

A long, drawn-out kiss. A moment of drinking each other's saliva, caressing their mouths, and fulfilling their desires.

Asel reached out towards Ena's small breasts. At the same time, Asel's fingers brushed past the tips of her breasts.

'......Wait a moment.'

He had touched them through her clothes, but he had definitely touched her nipples. Asel wondered if he was mistaken, so he lightly pinched the part that caught on his hand.

"Heeeueuk!"

At that moment, Ena bent her back and trembled her chin. A hollow laugh escaped Asel's lips.

"......Are you perhaps only wearing underwear on the bottom?"

"......I don't know."

Instead of answering, Ena roughly explored Asel's mouth again. Asel responded to her more proactive movements, while thinking as he pressed down on Ena's pink nipples.

It seemed that Master had made up her mind.

Come to think of it, it was strange. It wasn't possible that someone like Ena would have her combat power drastically reduced just because she lacked Mana. In the first place, hadn't she said that she could win against anyone below the 7th Circle?

And yet, she was trying to share affection with a man for Mana that she could only hold for a few days, even though there was no urgent battle. It was impossible unless there was a personal desire.

In other words, it meant that Ena had a personal desire.

The desire to share affection with the person she loved.

Mana and everything else were just excuses. Asel had realized it at some point, but thinking about it again made his head feel hot. He wanted to roughly explore the woman in front of him.

......Was there any reason to hold back?

In the first place, this situation itself was created under Ena's initiative. And it was what she wanted, and what Asel wanted.

If so.

"......Hieuk!"

Asel no longer hesitated and slipped his hand into Ena's shirt and rubbed her breasts. Breasts that were neither too small nor too big, just the right size. Asel grabbed the chin of Ena, who was moaning with burning eyes, and forced a kiss.

"......! Hegeuk, Ah, Asel, chuuup, wait a moment......! Heaek......!"

Instead of answering, Asel pinched the tips of her breasts. Pain became pleasure and dyed Ena's brain pink.

A tongue caressing her mouth and a hand rubbing her breasts. Ena couldn't resist either. In the first place, she didn't feel the need to.

Every time Asel's tongue roughly explored her tongue and his large hand crushed her breasts, pressing and pinching her nipples, Ena felt waves of extreme pleasure. Her back trembled, and the focus in her eyes was gradually blurring.

This was dangerous. A pleasure even greater than the climax she had reached by comforting herself was engulfing her brain. If she was swept away like this, a stream of water would surely gush out from her vulva.

She had to avoid that at least, for the sake of her own dignity.

A counterattack, a counterattack was needed.

And so, she instinctively reached out with her trembling hand. One hand was hugging him as if she didn't want to be separated from Asel's body, and the other hand went down and began to loosen Asel's belt.

Crack!!

It wouldn't come undone easily, so she just smashed it.

With a thud, the belt that had been weakly cut off fell to the side, and Ena carefully began to take off his pants, avoiding the erection that seemed to pierce through Asel's pants.

She unbuttoned it, untied the string, and released the pants. She slightly lowered them as Asel lifted his waist.

The underwear that was revealed. Ena groped for Asel's underwear and completely took it off as well. In the process, Asel's penis and her hand touched.

Flinch.

Ena paused for a moment at the sudden heat and slippery sensation, but soon began to move her hand again.

Due to the height difference, she could only lower the underwear to the upper part of his thighs. But that was enough to take out Asel's penis.

"......Chureup, ha-up, heeuek...... Asel......"

Ena called his name in a plaintive voice, then looked up with her eyes to ask if it was okay to touch it. Asel gently smiled and rubbed her breasts.

It was an expression of permission. Ena somehow calmed her vibrating waist, stopped kissing, and turned her gaze back to stare at Asel's penis.

"Eh."

Then she made a foolish sound. It was because his penis was much bigger than she had expected.

"Why, why is it so big. Make it a little smaller......"

"It's your fault for being so lewd, Master. Why is your body so sensitive when you're a virgin?"

"......Uuu."

Instead of answering, Ena measured the size of Asel's penis and checked how far it would go in.

It was quite a thing in terms of both thickness and length. Ena realized that the moment it went all the way in, it would reach above her navel, and her eyes trembled.

"Are, are all men this big? Aren't, aren't women all dying during sex?"

"......It's not that bad, is it?"

"It is that bad!"

Ena made a uuu sound and poked Asel's penis with her finger. Then the red tip twitched.

"Hyaek! I, it moved......!"

"......"

"B, but the more I look at it, the more it seems okay......"

Ena wiped the saliva from Asel's mouth and sucked it in. Then she crawled between Asel's legs and took her place.

"......Sniff sniff."

She brought her nose slightly to the glans and smelled it. Asel was horrified, but Ena didn't dislike it, but rather made her eyes hazy and leaned in even more.

The succubus blood flowing through her veins didn't feel any repulsion to the unique scent of men, but rather aroused her. Without realizing it, Ena stuck out her tongue and touched the shaft of his penis.

"......Haaak!"

At the same time, a sense of fulfillment ran through her entire body. Ena bowed her head and trembled all over. Asel watched the scene and slowly raised his upper body.

"Master."

"U, uh......"

Ena, who barely came to her senses at Asel's voice, raised her head. Asel smiled bitterly and stroked her hair. Ena closed one eye like a cat and rubbed her head against his touch.

Asel opened his mouth.

"Th... there is a way to reduce the size a little."

"Re, really?"

"Yes. Once you cum, the size tends to shrink slightly."

"Cum?"

Ena tilted her head.

"What?"

"......I mean, semen."

"......Ah."

Ena's cheeks turned even redder. Asel's penis twitched greatly once. The glans brushed past Ena's cheek with a thud.

"U, um...... Se, semen, I see......"

"......Yes. If it feels too overwhelming, I'll cum once by myself firstㅡ"

"N, no. Isn't this because of me?"

Ena took a breath and leaned her body forward slightly.

Ena's face was located directly below Asel's penis.

"S, so I'll take responsibility and do it to the end."

"......I won't stop you. I'm also quite excited."

"Yeah...... I'm glad you said that."

Ena smiled innocently and then swallowed hard and asked.

"S, so? What should I do? I, I don't know how to serve a man well...... I don't even know how semen comes out of a penis......"

"Let's start by changing the honorifics. From now on, would you like to call it 'jaji'?"

"......Uuu. That's a vulgar word. Do I really have to call it that......?"

"It's more exciting that way. As I said, I'm at my limit right now."

"......Okay."

Ena answered and then pursed her lips and carefully opened her mouth.

"D, disciple's jaji...... What should I do?"

"......Huuu."

Disciple's jaji. She was going one step further on her own without being told to.

Asel exhaled the heat that was making his head hot and then looked down at Ena's blue eyes and said.

"Would you like to stroke it with your hands first?"

"W, with my hands?"

Asel nodded. Ena hesitated for a moment and then carefully grabbed Asel's jaji with both hands. A jaji so huge that her small hands couldn't even cover it all.

Ena held the shaft in her hands for a moment and then slowly began to move back and forth.

Tsureup, tsureup, tsueup.

The Cowper's fluid flowing from the glans became a lubricant and made the movement smooth. Ena's breathing became increasingly rough each time a lewd sound echoed.

"Haa...... Haa...... Haa......"

The hot breath flowing from her mouth fell onto Asel's glans. At the same time, Ena's hand stroked the glans.

"Ugh."

A tingling pleasure made Asel's lips let out a suppressed moan. Thanks to that, Ena instinctively realized that the glans was Asel's weak point. She also found out that the area below the glans where the tendons were attached was especially weak.

"......Huuu."

Ena pursed her lips, breathed on Asel's urethral opening, and said.

"......Are you going to cum?"

She didn't wait for an answer. Ena immediately stroked the glans intensively with one hand and rubbed the shaft up and down with the other. When the Cowper's fluid dried up in the middle, she even supplemented the lubricant by spitting directly on it.

"Beeh......"

"Kuek!"

The falling saliva covered the entire jaji. White foam rose every time Ena's hand moved, and Asel's face gradually changed to an anxious one. Ena subtly smelled the jaji and stared intently at Asel's face.

Seeing the person she loved feeling pleasure from her service brought satisfaction and fulfillment just by looking at it.

And so, when the love juice dripped from under Ena's underwear and soaked the sofa seat, and when the underwear could no longer do its job.

"I think I'm going to cum......!"

Asel muttered through gritted teeth. Ena instinctively put Asel's glans in her mouth and quickly stroked the shaft with both hands. She stimulated the entire glans with her tongue and poked the hole.

"Eueuk!"

At that moment, a pure white semen spurted out of the hole. Ena's eyes widened as if she was surprised by the gushing semen, but she didn't take her mouth off the glans. Rather, she puffed out her cheeks and filled her mouth with semen.

A slightly salty taste spread throughout her mouth. It was a taste that could be disgusting, but if she thought of it as the seed of the person she loved, of Asel, she didn't feel any repulsion at all. Rather, it felt like a delicacy.

"Uuup......"

Some of the semen that she couldn't hold in her mouth spurted out and soiled her face and clothes. Even in the midst of that, semen continued to flow into her mouth.

She couldn't spit it out. Only by drinking it could she prevent Mana from being wasted outside.

Ena justified herself in that way and began to gulp down the semen that was flowing in.

And so, her throat bobbed several times.

"Huu......"

Asel, who had finished cumming, stroked the hair of Ena, who had semen in her mouth, as if he was proud of her. Ena enjoyed the touch and spat out the glans.

In the process, some of the semen still in her mouth leaked out between her lips. Ena wiped it away with her finger and sucked it in.

Asel watched her and gave a bitter smile.

"Thank you for your hard work, Master. Now, spit out everything in your mouth..."

Asel's words trailed off. Suddenly, Ena opened her mouth and showed Asel the milky white liquid contained within.

It wasn't an action based on knowledge.

It was an act driven by the instinctive thought that Asel would be happier if she did this.

"Hah..."

Ena looked up at the speechless Asel and swirled the milky white liquid in her mouth with her tongue. Then, with her mouth open, she began to swallow it down.

In a few seconds, nothing was left in her mouth. Only her rosy tongue and pearly white teeth remained.

Ena, still smiling awkwardly at the silent Asel, opened her mouth.

"Well, I enjoyed the meal...?"

Ena's words and actions instinctively stimulated his lust. She brought his cock to her cheek, her expression seemingly questioning whether she was doing it right.

Asel chuckled dryly and covered his mouth with one hand.

His cock, which he was sure had already ejaculated once, throbbed again.

Author's Note

Thank you for your support, Minseong\_442! I will work harder to live up to your encouragement!

Fortunately, I've clawed my way back from hiatus.

However, I don't feel like this is a satisfying piece of writing, whether it's because I wrote it while tired, or because it's an adult chapter, which isn't my specialty.

Still, I hope the readers found it arousing. I sincerely hope so.

There will be about two to three more adult chapters, including this one. I hope you enjoy reading them.

I'll stop here and go rest.

I hope everyone has a good day, a happy day.

# 118 - The Mixed Lightning (3)

"Ah, Asel..."

Ena poked Asel's twitching penis with her finger and looked up at him with a flustered expression.

"This... doesn't seem to have gotten any smaller at all...?"

It was as she said. Even after ejaculating once, Asel's penis showed no signs of shrinking, still displaying its impressive size. No, it may have even gotten bigger.

This was completely different from Asel's statement that it would shrink after ejaculating once. Ena swallowed hard and said with a slightly scared expression:

"Wh-what should we do? Should we do it one more time?"

"...I don't think that will be necessary."

Asel replied with a sigh. Just as Ena was about to question his statement, Asel suddenly lifted her up and pulled her into his arms.

A cute scream escaped her lips as she ended up in an awkward position, as if straddling his penis.

"A-Asel...!"

"I think the preparations are done."

Squish.

Asel muttered as he reached for Ena's underwear. The underwear was already sticky with moisture. The moment Asel's fingers brushed against the crevice and protruding tip, Ena's eyes widened and her waist and chin trembled.

"Asel...! W-wait a moment...!"

"I think it's wet enough that we don't even need to loosen it up."

Asel began to remove Ena's underwear using mana threads pulled from his fingertips. Even while doing this, he continued to stimulate her. With one hand he kneaded her breasts, and with the other he gently caressed her genitals.

"Ah. Aah..."

With just that, Ena could no longer endure. Her eyes rolled back for a moment, and love juices gushed out from her vaginal opening. Her thigh muscles tensed, and drool dripped from her open mouth. Her trembling waist showed no signs of calming down.

She had reached climax. Asel smiled slightly as he completely removed her underwear.

What was revealed was a pink slit tightly closed in a straight line. There was no pubic hair. Only the love juices that had thoroughly soaked her genitals and thighs glistened in the moonlight.

The juices that had flowed between the slit formed a puddle on the sofa seat. So much fluid had flowed out that the seat couldn't absorb it all.

Even for someone naturally prone to wetness, this level was excessive. She must have climaxed lightly several times while servicing him until just now.

For a woman who had never even held hands with a man to climax just from giving oral service.

Asel held up his fingers coated in sticky love juices in front of Ena's eyes and whispered in her ear:

"I haven't even properly touched this part yet, but how many times have you climaxed on your own?"

"I-I don't know. I don't know anything...!"

Asel gave a wry smile and firmly pressed his thumb against Ena's clitoris as she whimpered.

The reaction was immediate. The strength left Ena's eyes and her waist began to tremble violently.

Squirt!

Following that, a weak stream of liquid sprayed out. Asel exclaimed in admiration at the stream that flew halfway across the sofa.

"Oh..."

"Haa... haa... D-don't look. Don't look..."

"There's no need to be embarrassed."

Asel smiled gently and lightly kissed Ena's lips. Ena, who had barely regained her senses, responded to the kiss.

Their breaths mingled. Their tongues intertwined once, and a silvery thread connected their parted lips. The thread stretched quite long before finally breaking at some point.

Asel wiped his mouth with the back of his hand and looked down at the genitals thoroughly soaked with love juices.

"Hmm... I think it's about time we can put it in."

"P-put it in...?"

Ena muttered as she glanced down.

"R-really...?"

"If you don't want to, we can stop here."

"..."

"I don't want to force myself on you because of my sexual desires either, Master. Besides, we've already finished transferring the mana, haven't we?"

Asel whispered with a bitter smile. Instead of answering, Ena swallowed and adjusted her position to face him. She sat with her buttocks pressed right against his genitals, in a position as if embracing his waist.

It was the position commonly known as face-to-face sitting. The only difference was that insertion had not yet occurred.

Asel looked down at Ena's expression, which was a mix of tension, fear, excitement, lust, and sulkiness, and gave a small smile.

"What would you like to do? I'll follow your wishes, Master."

"...You're mean."

Ena whispered, lightly bumping her forehead against Asel's chest.

"You're making me say it directly in the end. What a mean disciple."

"..."

"We're going all the way."

Ena raised her head with a determined expression.

"I've already confessed my feelings, do you think I'm going to run away now? You're definitely mine now. Your heart, your body. It's all mine."

One of her hands carefully grasped Asel's penis. Then she adjusted its position to aim towards her genitals. Ena braced her hands on Asel's shoulders and lifted her hips to place the glans at the entrance of her slit.

"Hnng!"

Just that was enough to make Ena's body convulse slightly. She took a moment to steady her breathing and calm her body, then gave Asel a quick kiss and whispered in his ear.

"And now my body is yours too."

Squish.

Ena slowly began to lower her hips. The glans gently pushed into her vagina. Because of the abundance of love juices, Asel's penis slid into her vagina without any resistance, scraping against the walls.

"Ahh!"

Even though it hadn't even reached her hymen yet, Ena cried out at the violent pleasure running up her spine. Her toes curled involuntarily and her head drooped down. Asel patted Ena's back as she writhed in pleasure and exhaled a hot breath.

"You can take it slow."

This was meant for Ena, but also for Asel himself.

Ena wasn't the only one feeling pleasure. Asel too was experiencing intense pleasure from Ena's tightly gripping vagina. He was just not showing it outwardly.

"Haa... haa..."

Eventually, Ena's breathing returned to normal. She gritted her teeth and began to lower her hips again, feeling the saliva she couldn't swallow dripping down her chin.

Squelch...!

The tightly closed vagina was forcibly pushed open and expanded. At that moment, the glans bumped against Ena's hymen with a thud.

Though inexperienced, Ena already knew that intense pain would come when the hymen tore. She had overheard stories of her colleagues' first experiences while living in the Witch Council.

But even knowing pain would come...

'If it's Asel giving it to me.'

She wasn't afraid. She wasn't scared.

Ena cupped Asel's cheeks with her hands, kissed him, and lowered her hips further.

"...Mmph!"

At the same time, her hymen tore. Blood flowed out between her vaginal opening as proof of her deflowering.

However, Ena felt almost no pain. At most, just a slight stinging sensation.

She had worried after hearing her colleague's testimony of feeling like her lower abdomen was being torn apart, but was it actually nothing?

Ena thought this as she parted her lips. Then with a face covered in sweat and saliva, she smiled broadly and said:

"We, we had... sex?"

"Are you not in pain?"

"N-no. I'm fine. There's some blood... but no pain at all. Rather, haa... it, it just feels good."

"I'm glad."

Asel smiled gently and kissed Ena's cheek. Ena asked while forcibly supporting her trembling legs:

"H-how about you? Does it feel good?"

"It's so good I can barely endure it."

"R-really? I feel good?"

"Yes. But... I think it would feel even better if we went all the way in."

Asel exhaled a breath full of ecstasy as he said this. Ena blinked in response.

"All the way...? Isn't it all in already?"

"...Not even half has gone in yet. Actually, only the glans is inside."

"L-liar. It already feels like my stomach is full..."

"I think you've teased me enough, so now I'll start moving too."

Saying that, Asel firmly grasped Ena's buttocks. Ena let out a short scream and instinctively wrapped her legs around Asel's back.

As Ena's body fell following gravity after losing the support of her legs, Asel pulled her hips closer while thrusting his own hips upward.

Splash!

Ena's lower body was already slick with fluids. The moment it collided strongly with Asel's skin, love juices sprayed in all directions with a loud wet sound.

"Ohh!"

At the same time, a strange cry escaped Ena's lips.

Squirt! Splurt!

A strong stream of liquid thoroughly soaked Asel's lower abdomen. She had reached climax from just one strong thrust. And it was a climax so intense her mind went blank.

But this time Asel couldn't tease Ena either. The movements of her vagina, which seemed to be trying to squeeze his entire penis, caused his urge to ejaculate to rapidly surge.

If he let his guard down for a moment, he would ejaculate immediately. It was an amazing sensation. Asel gritted his teeth, trying his best not to ejaculate. He didn't want to cum right after insertion, and he had no intention of ejaculating inside her vagina for now.

"Hoo... ueh...? Haa, haa..."

Fortunately, Ena was just tightly squeezing her vagina from her climax without moving roughly, so it was manageable enough just by staying still.

After regaining his senses to some extent, Asel looked down at Ena's face with its lewd, unfocused expression and slowly began to move his hips.

Squelch squelch squelch.

Matching the sticky and obscene sounds she had never heard before in her life, moans burst from Ena's mouth.

"Ahh! Haa, haah! Hii?!"

Though it still hadn't gone all the way in, there was already no room left inside Ena's vagina. The glans and cervix kissed with a squelching sound each time they met, and the vaginal folds tormented Asel's entire penis as if trying to extort his semen.

"Hik, ugh, oh, eek!"

Now only death throes flowed from Ena's mouth instead of moans.

Every time the penis plunged in to the hilt, she felt as if fireworks were exploding in her head. Her lower abdomen bulged out and sank back in repeatedly in the exact shape of the penis.

"Almost...!"

Asel gritted his teeth at the surging urge to ejaculate that had reached its limit and gave a final push to his movements. Ena bit Asel's shoulder with unfocused eyes and tightened her legs wrapped around his back.

"W-wait...!"

Thanks to this, Asel's plan to pull out just before ejaculating instantly went up in smoke. Asel grabbed Ena's buttocks in panic and tried to lift her up, but Ena's hold didn't loosen.

"Cum... cum..."

"E-Ena, just a moment...!"

"Cum inside...!"

"Kuh!"

The moment she said it. Ena instinctively slammed her hips down hard, and Asel, unable to hold back the rising urge to ejaculate, poured his white fluid into Ena's womb.

"Hii?!"

Ena reached her final climax along with the sensation of hot semen filling her lower abdomen. The stream of liquid that sprayed out hit Asel's abdomen and scattered in all directions.

"Haa... haa... haa...!"

"...Hah."

Some of the semen that couldn't be fully contained flowed out between their joined genitals. Even as she felt her brain being fried from climaxing too much, Ena scooped up the leaking semen with her fingers and sucked it. It was an instinctive action.

Asel looked down at her unfocused pupils and violently trembling body and let out a hollow laugh.

"...What am I supposed to do when you hold on like that at the end? We should use protection no matter what..."

"...Sorry, hic, I'm sorry..."

Ena gasped for breath roughly as she sucked on Asel's neck.

"B-but... today is a safe day for me... We can also prevent pregnancy with magic. There won't be any problems even if you keep cumming inside from now on."

"..."

"So don't worry too much... And even if I do get pregnant, I'll raise the child on my own..."

"No, that's not right."

Asel said with a firm expression.

"I'm not that irresponsible. If you get pregnant, I'll definitely take responsibility. So don't say things like that."

"...Really?"

"Yes."

Asel smiled gently as he kissed Ena's forehead.

"There's not a shred of lie in that."

"...I want about five children."

"..."

Is it really appropriate to say that at this timing, Master?

Asel had that thought for a moment, but seeing Ena's happily smiling face, he just smiled back. Ena grinned broadly and rested her head on Asel's chest, still joined together.

"I'm so happy... I never dreamed I'd be connected to someone like this in my life."

"And with such a young man at that."

"...! D-don't talk about age! Everyone says age doesn't matter in love!"

"It's alright. I'm not someone who cares much about age either."

Asel chuckled and kissed the top of Ena's head.

"But Master, exactly how old are you? I know you're a long-lived species, but I still don't know your exact age."

"...I don't know either. I stopped counting after I passed 200."

"...Oh."

"What's with that reaction? Do you want to die?"

Ena puffed out her cheeks and lightly tapped Asel's chest. Asel smiled and hugged her tightly.

"I'm just joking. I like Ena as a person, that's all."

"...Hmph. I'll let it slide just this once."

Ena said that and hugged Asel back tightly enough to crush him.

"And about calling me Ena... you can do it when we're alone. It's, it's okay during s-sex too."

"..."

“Hearing you talk informally to me… it feels really good. Even when I use honorifics…”

“…Ena.”

“Hiek!”

Asel whispered her name in Ena’s ear, and she shuddered, reaching a light climax.

“D-Don’t…! My body is sensitive right now…!”

“You said it’s okay to talk like this during sex.”

“B-But it’s over now…!”

“Who said it’s over?”

Asel chuckled and grabbed Ena’s buttocks. The moment Ena tilted her head back in surprise at the touch.

“I’m not satisfied yet?”

“……!”

“You said yourself it’s okay to cum inside from now on, right?”

“J-Just a moment…!”

“The night is long.”

Tssgeogeok!

Asel lifted Ena’s buttocks slowly, moving his still-inserted cock. At the same time, a moan escaped Ena’s lips.

“Haa! A-Asel…! I-I’m reaching my limitㅡ”

“You were the one who seduced me first.”

Tcheolpeok!

He thrust his cock in all the way again. Ena threw her head back, shuddering.

“♥!!”

“You have to take responsibility until the end.”

And so, the second round began.

1 AM.

“Heuek! Heeok! Eueuk…! Haaang?!”

“You’re still going. Isn’t your body too lewd?”

“T-That’s…! Eugeuk! Too much… Heeok!”

“You say that, but every time I’m rough, your pussy gets tighter.”

“……Hieut!”

“Master, you like being tormented more than I thought. I’ll cater to your tastes.”

“Hek, ot, eugeuk…!”

“So, spread your legs wider.”

3 AM.

“Jjuup, heeup… Beeee… Tureureup….”

“……You don’t have to clean it up like that. Where did you even learn this?”

“Bell… Tureureup, said that if I do this, men like it, woobub, she told me. Jjuup.”

“……Bell-nim, as far as I know, has never dated a man.”

“That’s right… Heeup.”

“Hmm… Ah, I think I’m about to come. Now spitㅡ Euek?! E-Ena? Suddenly it’s too deep…!”

“Uk, ok, ek, hek, oop, kek!”

“Euek!”

“Woobub?! Eueup……♥”

5 AM.

“……Hek, uk, ok.”

“Ena? Master?”

“……Ek.”

“……Did you lose consciousness?”

“…….”

“Huu…! This is the last one. Let’s finish this.”

“……Ahne, ahne ssajyeoyadae… Ouek!”

“……Ha. You’re still conscious. I’m coming.”

“!! Heeek……♥”

Morning dawned.

A Word from the Author (Author’s Note)

Sex.

Ena and Asel’s first experience ended like this. I hope the readers enjoyed it. I apologize for the excessive length.

Now it’s time to continue the story. I’ll try to move quickly.

I hope everyone reading this has a happy day, and I’ll take my leave now.

Thank you for reading today.

( ◉o◉)⊃━☆

# 119 - Golden Barley Top

Asel regained his senses, and already a month had passed. The season had fully entered summer. The hot air filled the streets, and mirages rose from the meadows beyond the bridge.

The grass and trees visible from the window were lush. The fields under the sky, devoid of Ena's magic, were filled with workers mobilized for the park's construction.

"Move the bench over there. The dirt path will be taken care of by the wizards. Don't worry about it."

"Hmph. Of course. Let's make a hill over here too."

"Is there any doubt?"

Reliable personnel often accompanying the construction. Among them were several Earth Mages.

Earth Mages could make a greater impact in construction and restoration sites than in combat. They had joined the site once again without fail.

Though not affiliated with the Magic Tower, these freelance Earth Mages had a certain reputation. The dean and the second-year students would surely be satisfied with the results.

"Have you been waiting long?"

At that moment, Angelica approached Asel, who was gazing out the window. Asel smiled gently and shook his head.

"No, I haven't been here long either."

"That's a relief then."

Angelica replied as she sat on the sofa opposite Asel, holding a luxuriously wrapped potion.

The academy grounds of the Aurora Magic Tower. The management office on the top floor, visited due to a sudden summons.

After exchanging various pleasantries with Asel, whom she hadn't seen in a while, Angelica got straight to the point.

"Do you remember the potion I mentioned last time? I brought it."

About two months ago, after the duel with Ermina, Angelica had promised Asel a potion as a reward for the duel.

The potion was kept in the Magic Tower's treasury. Naturally, Angelica couldn't just take it out whenever she wanted. Legal procedures had to be followed, and justification was needed. After handling all that, quite a bit of time had passed. It had already been two months.

Still, she received it sooner than expected. Asel accepted the potion from Angelica with an intrigued expression.

"The Tears of the Star Sea. As I explained before, it helps increase the amount of Mana you possess."

"Mm."

"However, the more Mana you already have, the lower the efficiency. So, it probably won't have a significant effect on you, being a seventh-tier mage."

"Still, it should be helpful, right?"

"That is true."

"Then that's fine."

Asel smiled and tucked the potion into his pocket. It was a potion of a suitable size that fit snugly.

The two continued to exchange casual conversation afterward, mostly about magic and Celine.

Celine was now on the verge of reaching the sixth tier. However, she was struggling against a wall. Climbing a tier with the help of others is often unstable, so ultimately, it was a wall she had to overcome on her own. Still, giving a few pieces of advice was acceptable. Asel had already given her advice several times.

Even so, the advice from a mage who had easily surpassed tiers was not of much help to Celine. Instead, she often scolded him for being a nuisance.

It was quite unfair. Asel chuckled softly and took a sip of tea.

"By the way, Asel."

At that moment, Angelica opened her mouth, gazing at Asel's bandaged neck.

"Isn't your wound already healed? Why the bandage…?"

"Oh."

Asel awkwardly laughed and scratched at the bandaged neck.

"My cat at home keeps leaving marks."

Starting from June, the academy's schedule becomes tight. This is because all the final events to wrap up the first semester are handled at once before summer vacation. Right away, there is a second assignment in mid-June, and finals are scheduled for the last month.

Most students spend this time very busily. It was only natural, as they had to prepare for exams and pay attention to assignments.

Unlike the first assignment, the second assignment is an individual project rather than a group one. However, it was difficult to consider it a completely individual project.

The city of mercenaries, Horkenheim. The second assignment for the academy involved receiving a request there and handling it with other mercenaries. Since the clients were specifically selected for academy students, it wasn't too dangerous, but it wasn't completely safe either.

The academy's policy was to create an environment similar to real combat to gain experience, so there was no avoiding it.

However, due to several unfortunate incidents that had occurred in the same year, the selection of requests was carried out not by the city but directly by the academy professors, who considered various irregularities. They even formed temporary alliances with mercenary groups known for their integrity.

Thanks to this, academy students no longer had to worry about the mercenaries they were working with turning on them. They could just smile and do their work.

Asel was no exception.

On the first day he arrived in Horkenheim, he temporarily joined a mercenary group selected directly by the academy and participated in their request as a mage.

It goes without saying that mages are rare talents in the mercenary industry. Among them, those who do not panic in combat are even fewer, and those who are accustomed to battle are even rarer.

As a result, Asel received a warm welcome from the mercenary group. By the first skill test, there were already those who trusted him. The title he was given also contributed to that trust.

"It is an honor to meet you, Lord Thunderclap. The seventh-tier Electromancer who follows in the footsteps of The Beginning. I had heard stories, but I never expected you to be an academy student."

"Is that so?"

"Yes. It's only common sense, isn't it? A seventh-tier mage who is outstanding enough to earn a title—why would they enroll in the academy? Perhaps if they were a professor…"

"I understand."

Asel bitterly smiled and agreed with the mercenary's words.

Honestly, it was true. Asel himself found it quite bizarre that he was stuck in the academy.

A seventh-tier Electromancer would be an exceptional talent anywhere. Just by striking down lightning on the battlefield, he could accomplish more than one person’s worth of work.

However, Asel was determined to graduate from the academy first. He had no intention of dropping out until he understood the precise meaning of the words shown to him by the Demon of Possibility.

Moreover, wasn't Ena already part of the academy? He had no plans to abandon her and run away.

Anyway.

The request being handled by the mercenary group was to hunt a swarm of wyverns. It was a simple task of dealing with the wyverns that had settled in a mountain range not far from Horkenheim.

Since they flew in the sky, most mercenaries wouldn't even glance at them, but with a mage present, the story changed.

The mage included in the request was Asel and a wandering mage named Bolang. His specialty was ice magic, and he was at the third tier.

"I'll do anything you say! Just tell me!"

As expected in a society of mages where hierarchy is determined solely by tier, Bolang did not act cocky and immediately bowed his head to Asel. Of course, there had been a dispute during their first meeting when he said, "What kind of seventh-tier mage are you, looking so young?" But after a few reprimands, he became obedient.

However, Bolang's cooperation didn't provide much help to Asel. Asel pushed away Bolang, who was flattering him, with telekinesis and looked at the swarm of wyverns flying in the sky.

There were easily more than twenty wyverns. Asel narrowed his eyes for a moment to assess the situation and then flicked his fingers from bottom to top.

At the same time, dark blue currents of electricity crackled around his body.

[Ascending Thunder]

Kwahhhh!!

A massive bolt of lightning shot up from below. The lightning, fired at a speed similar to that of light, turned the bodies of the wyverns flying like flies into ashes. Only the head of the one that looked like the leader remained, falling down below.

"Is this enough?"

Asel asked the mercenaries while kicking the fallen head with his foot.

The mercenaries could do nothing but dumbly nod their heads.

Thus, Asel's second assignment came to an end.

All that remained before the vacation was the final exams.

A week had passed since Asel returned to the academy after completing the second assignment. Students who had not yet resolved their assignments were still staying in Horkenheim, so the academy was quite empty overall. There were hardly any people on the streets.

There were no classes during the assignment period. Thanks to that, Asel was able to spend a day like a weekend even though it was a weekday.

Ena and Evelyn were the same. As soon as Ena mentioned she would continue staying here, Evelyn declared they would live together and was currently engrossed in magical engineering in Asel's laboratory. Ena was still wandering around in a shirt.

"Ugh…."

However, recently, she had been seen often holding her waist. Knowing the reason, Asel could only cough lightly and turn his head away.

Having been tormented all night, Ena plopped down beside him with a grumble.

"I'm in pain."

"……."

"My throat hurts, and my muscles ache. My waist feels like it's broken, and every time I move, my lower abdomen feels like it's sloshing."

"……Ugh."

"I wish someone would take care of me. Is there no disciple who can do that?"

"……."

At her sharp remark, Asel let out a deep sigh.

"……Come here. I'll give you a massage."

"Really? That's not necessary."

"Are you sure you don't want it?"

"Just start with my thighs."

Ena quickly placed her white legs on Asel's lap. Asel smiled wryly as he began to massage her thighs. Every time his hands moved, they left imprints on her pale skin.

"……Huh."

Before long, a strange moan escaped Ena's lips. Asel reflexively turned to her, and Ena gazed at him with longing eyes. In that moment, as the two stared at each other without saying a word.

"Asel!!!"

The tightly closed door of the laboratory burst open, and Evelyn, dressed in a maid outfit, rushed out. Asel hurriedly removed Ena's legs and stood up.

"Uh, uh. Why are you calling?"

"I'm missing a few materials needed for the production!"

Fortunately, Evelyn did not notice the subtle atmosphere flowing between the two.

She squeezed between Asel and Ena, looking up at Asel with a pitiful expression.

"I'm currently making gloves that absorb shock and release it again, you know? I've already completed the blueprints, but I'm short on the leather of shadow predators and the conductive metal for Mana!"

"Didn't you buy some last time?"

"All of them went into failures…."

"……."

"I can really succeed this time! It's possible! Really possible!"

"……Huh."

Asel sighed deeply and looked down at Evelyn with cold eyes. At that gaze, Evelyn flinched.

"……Why, what. You, you! Who told you to look at me like that! How did I raise you!"

"Didn't the materials already cost over 25 gold?"

"Engineering always costs a lot of money."

As Evelyn said that while glancing at Asel, she suddenly started mimicking a cat and rubbed her head against his shoulder.

"Meow! Sister's cat needs more materials! I need more money!"

"……."

"Meow… meow…."

"……."

"……Unworthy Evelyn, I ask this of you."

"How much do you need?"

"5, 50 gold?"

"Get out."

"Meow!"

Asel immediately grabbed the collar of Evelyn's outfit and lifted her up. Evelyn struggled violently, screaming.

"Domestic violence! This is domestic violence!"

"Isn't it more violent to ask for 50 gold?"

"Evelyn the cat needs more money! I promise to give it to my beloved little brother first when I make the gloves!"

"Your speech has gone completely mad."

Asel looked up at Evelyn with a blank expression.

"Atone with death."

"Uwaaaah!!"

As the screams of Evelyn and the laughter of Ena echoed behind him, the moment Asel burst open the dormitory door, someone's face suddenly came to his mind.

Now that he thought about it, there was someone who could sell materials a bit cheaper. Moreover, it was someone who was also walking the path of magical engineering like Evelyn.

'It feels like I haven't seen her face in quite a while. Should I go visit her?'

Asel thought of Saya's face and burst into a smile. Evelyn looked down at him, flailing her arms and legs.

"Don't smile wickedly! I'm going to die from anxiety!"

A word from the author (Author's note)

Thank you, Ymoon, for your support! As you said it’s a good work, I will strive even harder!