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\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 4</h1>  
  
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<p>Chapter 4</p>  
<p>4. The Three Commandments</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo shouted towards the Hunters.</p>  
<p>“Everyone!”</p>  
<p>The Hunters’ gazes turned to Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>He looked around at them and spoke.</p>  
<p>“Bow to the Divine Statue!”</p>  
<p>The Hunters tilted their heads in confusion.</p>  
<p>“Bow...?”</p>  
<p>“You’re telling us to bow to the Divine Statue?”</p>  
<p>The Hunters, who had been exchanging wary glances, soon began to hurl curses at Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>“What the hell... what are you talking about!”</p>  
<p>“Are you kidding me, saying something like that in this situation?”</p>  
<p>“Have you already lost your mind, Sung Jin-Woo?”</p>  
<p>Mr. Kim’s face turned red as he snorted angrily.</p>  
<p>“I must’ve been completely wrong about you, Mr. Sung! If I could move right now, I’d smack your mouth first!”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo bit his lower lip.</p>  
<p>Six of their comrades had already been killed by that Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>It was only natural that he’d be cursed at for telling them to bow to such a thing.</p>  
<p>He could fully understand the Hunters’ feelings.</p>  
<p>‘And the most important thing is...’</p>  
<p>He had no logical basis for his words.</p>  
<p>It was just a hunch.</p>  
<p>It was the only way he could explain it.</p>  
<p>But then...</p>  
<p>“I’ll do it.”</p>  
<p>The voice came from behind Jin-Woo.</p>  
<p>Everyone’s gaze shifted towards the source.</p>  
<p>It was Mr. Song, who could be considered their leader.</p>  
<p>“Mr. Song...?”</p>  
<p>“You’re telling us to bow to that damn Divine Statue?”</p>  
<p>While the other Hunters were bewildered, Mr. Song looked into Jin-Woo’s eyes.</p>  
<p>“You’ve figured something out, haven’t you?”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo nodded.</p>  
<p>“Is it just a hunch again?”</p>  
<p>“...Yes. For now.”</p>  
<p>“Alright.”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s hunch had saved 11 of them earlier.</p>  
<p>Now, with Mr. Joo’s death, there were 10 left.</p>  
<p>But if it’s Jin-Woo’s hunch, isn’t it worth trusting once more?</p>  
<p>That’s what Mr. Song thought.</p>  
<p>As Mr. Song prostrated himself towards the Divine Statue, the atmosphere became solemn.</p>  
<p>“Are they really doing this?”</p>  
<p>Seizing the moment, Jin-Woo raised his voice with urgency.</p>  
<p>“Please, everyone! Prostrate yourselves before the Divine Statue. There might still be a way for us to survive!”</p>  
<p>To survive.</p>  
<p>To get out alive.</p>  
<p>The impact of those words was immense.</p>  
<p>‘Survive?’</p>  
<p>‘Can we really get out of here?’</p>  
<p>‘With just a single bow?’</p>  
<p>The hesitant Hunters began to prostrate themselves one by one.</p>  
<p>In the form of a bow.</p>  
<p>One by one, the number increased.</p>  
<p>Even Mr. Kim, who had been grumbling, eventually bowed his head to the Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>But there was no change in the Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>Its two eyes still glowed with that eerie red light.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo felt his heart sink.</p>  
<p>‘Was I wrong?’</p>  
<p>Suddenly, Jin-Woo’s gaze turned to Joo-Hee beside him.</p>  
<p>Joo-Hee, who was trembling with her head buried in her hands, could hardly be said to be bowing properly, even with the most generous interpretation.</p>  
<p>‘Maybe...’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo gently grabbed Joo-Hee’s wrist.</p>  
<p>Startled, Joo-Hee looked up like a frightened cat.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo silently nodded.</p>  
<p>Only then did Joo-Hee relax her grip.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo slowly guided her to change her posture.</p>  
<p>‘That’s it.’</p>  
<p>Now, only one person remained.</p>  
<p>Himself.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo also knelt towards the Divine Statue, placed both palms on the ground, and slowly lowered his head.</p>  
<p>Then, the change began.</p>  
<p>“Huh? Huh?”</p>  
<p>The Hunters who noticed the change started to exclaim.</p>  
<p>“The Divine Statue! Look at the Divine Statue!”</p>  
<p>“The eyes!”</p>  
<p>The glowing red light in the Divine Statue’s eyes began to fade gradually.</p>  
<p>“What? Is this really working?”</p>  
<p>Soon, the red light completely disappeared.</p>  
<p>“Ohhh-!”</p>  
<p>The Hunters cheered.</p>  
<p>“The flames are out!”</p>  
<p>“We’re saved!”</p>  
<p>The excited Hunters got up and started shouting wildly.</p>  
<p>Yet, the Divine Statue’s eyes no longer emitted any beams.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo, who had raised his head belatedly, finally let out a sigh of relief.</p>  
<p>“Whew.”</p>  
<p>As expected.</p>  
<p>This room was functioning strictly according to predetermined rules, like a game.</p>  
<p>‘In that case.’</p>  
<p>The game wasn’t over yet.</p>  
<p>There were still two more commandments left.</p>  
<p>Second, praise the God.</p>  
<p>Third, prove your faith.</p>  
<p>Just then...</p>  
<p>\*Rumble rumble rumble BOOM-\*</p>  
<p>A dreadful noise shook the entire room. Jin-Woo’s face stiffened.</p>  
<p>‘Just as I thought.’</p>  
<p>His hunch was correct.</p>  
<p>This wasn’t the end.</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue slowly began to rise with its massive body.</p>  
<p>“Huh? Huh?”</p>  
<p>The Hunters, who had been hugging each other in tears, froze like stones as they realized the anomaly.</p>  
<p>“What... What’s going on? Isn’t it over?”</p>  
<p>“Th-this can’t be!”</p>  
<p>Everyone was at a loss for words, frozen in place.</p>  
<p>Despair began to loom over their faces.</p>  
<p>“Ah... Ahhh...”</p>  
<p>Finally, the Divine Statue stood up completely.</p>  
<p>It glanced around once, then began to move towards the Hunters.</p>  
  
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\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>With every step the Divine Statue took, the ground shook violently.</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>It was so tall that its head seemed to reach the distant ceiling.</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>Even as they were overwhelmed by its size, the distance between them was shrinking.</p>  
<p>“Hey, Mr. Sung! Sung Jin-Woo!”</p>  
<p>“Isn’t there any way?”</p>  
<p>The Hunters, who had just been cursing Jin-Woo, quickly gathered around him in a panic.</p>  
<p>“There’s no way out?”</p>  
<p>“Say something!”</p>  
<p>The grown adults looked like they were about to burst into tears at any moment.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo was their only hope.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo helped Joo-Hee up and began explaining the second commandment.</p>  
<p>“Praise the God. That’s the key.”</p>  
<p>“Ah, that!”</p>  
<p>Mr. Kim acted as if he knew.</p>  
<p>“It was written on the stone tablet earlier, right?”</p>  
<p>“Yes. Worship the God, praise the God, prove your faith. We need to fulfill all three commandments.”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s words came out faster.</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue was already close.</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>Its enormous shadow loomed over the Hunters.</p>  
<p>The Hunters’ complexions turned pale.</p>  
<p>“I’ll do it.”</p>  
<p>A young Hunter who rarely spoke stepped forward.</p>  
<p>“Hey! What are you planning to do?”</p>  
<p>“I was in a church choir. I’m confident in praising.”</p>  
<p>Despite Mr. Kim’s protests, the young man slowly walked towards the Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>He took a deep breath as he looked up at the Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>“Oh Lord, I come to You...”</p>  
<p>A pure voice echoed through the room.</p>  
<p>“Renew me... Pour out Your grace upon me.”</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue stopped in front of him.</p>  
<p>“Ohhh-”</p>  
<p>The Hunters let out a soft gasp.</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue stood still, seemingly entranced by the song.</p>  
<p>All noise in the room disappeared.</p>  
<p>Only the young man’s voice resonated.</p>  
<p>Encouraged, he sang with even more strength.</p>  
<p>“The weaknesses I found within me... They will all fall away by Your love...”</p>  
<p>Among them, only Jin-Woo shuddered with a sense of foreboding.</p>  
<p>‘No... No.’</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo swallowed his words repeatedly.</p>  
<p>This room had its rules.</p>  
<p>Right now, the young man was praising according to the rules of Christianity, not the rules of this room.</p>  
<p>Fortunately, the Divine Statue wasn’t moving, but could this really fulfill the second commandment?</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo shook his head.</p>  
<p>Yet, there was only one reason he didn’t stop the young man: no other way to stop the Divine Statue came to mind.</p>  
<p>Just then!</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>A heavy noise echoed.</p>  
<p>“Ahhhhaaaaah!”</p>  
<p>A female Hunter shrieked.</p>  
<p>As the Divine Statue raised its foot, the young Hunter was crushed beneath it, his body horrifically exposed.</p>  
<p>Other Hunters screamed.</p>  
<p>“Ahhhhh!”</p>  
<p>“Waaaah!”</p>  
<p>The previously expressionless face of the Divine Statue twisted with anger.</p>  
<p>“It’s mad!”</p>  
<p>“Run!”</p>  
<p>The Hunters quickly distanced themselves from the Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>“Ahhhhaaaaah!”</p>  
<p>However, the female Hunter, who had just witnessed the young Hunter being crushed, had already lost her senses and couldn’t move, screaming incessantly.</p>  
<p>“Dammit...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo, who was carrying Joo-Hee and running, turned back to save her.</p>  
<p>But Mr. Song stopped him.</p>  
<p>“Mr. Song...?”</p>  
<p>“It’s already too late.”</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue struck the female Hunter with its palm, as if swatting a fly.</p>  
<p>\*Crash!\*</p>  
<p>“Ugh...”</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo turned away.</p>  
<p>The horrific sight was unbearable.</p>  
<p>“We don’t have time for this. Are you just going to let her die too?”</p>  
<p>Mr. Song’s words snapped Jin-Woo back to reality.</p>  
<p>It was true.</p>  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
<p>“Waaaah!”</p>  
<p>\*Thud! Thud!\*</p>  
<p>“Save me!”</p>  
<p>The Divine Statue wasn’t walking anymore.</p>  
<p>It was running around, indiscriminately crushing people underfoot.</p>  
<p>With each step, the entire room shook.</p>  
<p>\*Thud! Thud!\*</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo gritted his teeth and began to run.</p>  
<p>Joo-Hee clung to him, her eyes tightly shut.</p>  
<p>“Scatter!”</p>  
<p>“Yes!”</p>  
<p>Thinking it would be safer to separate, Jin-Woo and Mr. Song also moved apart.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo ran towards a corner to escape the rampaging Divine Statue.</p>  
<p>But a Hunter had already run there faster than him.</p>  
<p>It was Mr. Park.</p>  
<p>Mr. Park ran with all his might, tears welling up as he thought of his family.</p>  
<p>“Ngh...”</p>  
<p>At home, his wife, who was pregnant with their second child, and his son, who looked just like him, were waiting.</p>  
<p>He couldn’t die here like this.</p>  
<p>Thanks to his desperation, he managed to get farther away from the Divine Statue than the others.</p>  
<p>“Hah, hah.”</p>  
<p>As Mr. Park caught his breath in the corner, Mr. Kim, who was close to him, shouted urgently.</p>  
<p>“Mr. Park!”</p>  
<p>Mr. Park turned at the familiar voice.</p>  
<p>“Yeah?”</p>  
<p>Mr. Kim pointed behind Mr. Park and screamed.</p>  
<p>“Behind you! Look behind you!”</p>  
<p>At that moment, something sharp flashed behind Mr. Park.</p>  
<p>“Huh...?”</p>  
<p>\*Slickk!\*</p>  
<p>Mr. Park was cleanly split in two, from his head down to his groin.</p>  
<p>His body fell in two halves to either side.</p>  
<p>“Mr. Park!”</p>  
<p>The statue that had sliced Mr. Park returned to its original pose, as if nothing had happened, like the Gatekeeper.</p>  
<p>Mr. Kim sobbed as he watched.</p>  
<p>“These damn bastards...!”</p>  
<p>\*Thud! Thud! Thud!\*</p>  
<p>Behind them, the giant statue continued to crush Hunters one by one, and those who ran to escape were attacked by the statues stationed in the corners.</p>  
<p>“Waaaah!”</p>  
<p>“My arm! My arm!”</p>  
<p>The room had turned into a cauldron of fear and chaos.</p>  
<p>“Hah, hah...”</p>  
<p>Cold sweat dripped from Jin-Woo’s forehead.</p>  
<p>His legs were growing heavier.</p>  
<p>His breathing became more labored.</p>  
<p>But Jin-Woo’s mind was filled with only one thought.</p>  
<p>‘Praise the God, praise the God, praise the God.’</p>  
<p>The second commandment echoing in his head.</p>  
<p>The key to solving this puzzle must be in this room.</p>  
<p>Something we can use here!</p>  
<p>But when the Hunters first entered this room, they had searched thoroughly but found no mechanism or tool they could use.</p>  
<p>‘Back then and now, the only things moving are the statues.’</p>  
<p>Wait.</p>  
<p>Something flashed through Jin-Woo’s mind.</p>  
<p>‘Only the statues can move?’</p>  
<p>Aha.</p>  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
<p>“Why didn’t I think of that!”</p>  
<p>If only the statues can move, then the only thing we can use is the statues.</p>  
<p>The statues only move when someone approaches, so we need to use that to our advantage.</p>  
<p>‘Maybe...!’</p>  
<p>Panting heavily, Jin-Woo shouted at the top of his lungs, loud enough to shake the room.</p>  
<p>“Everyone, go towards the statues holding instruments!”</p>  
  
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\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*