# 48

\*\*CHAPTER START\*\*  
  
<h1>Solo Leveling - Chapter 48</h1>  
  
---  
  
<p>Chapter 48</p>  
  
<p>\*Whoosh-!\*</p>  
  
<p>The door to the Boss Room opened.</p>  
  
<p>Inside, it was dark.</p>  
  
<p>Even with Jin-Woo’s vision enhanced by his Senses Stat, he could barely see an inch ahead.</p>  
  
<p>The only thing visible was the ground beneath his feet.</p>  
  
<p>The floor was neatly paved with stone slabs.</p>  
  
<p>The tightly connected gray stone slabs gave off a cold and chilly feeling, regardless of the actual temperature.</p>  
  
<p>The moment he stepped onto the stone slabs—</p>  
  
<p>\*Whoosh-whoosh-!\*</p>  
  
<p>Countless torches hanging on the walls suddenly lit up, illuminating the interior.</p>  
  
<p>‘Just like the Underground Temple.’</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo remained on guard.</p>  
  
<p>He cautiously walked forward, surveying his surroundings.</p>  
  
<p>On both sides, massive pillars stood in rows, and at the very back, deep within, there was a high throne.</p>  
  
<p>‘It’s like…’</p>  
  
<p>It reminded him of a royal audience chamber straight out of a movie.</p>  
  
<p>Though the scale was vastly different.</p>  
  
<p>After taking a few steps, the door behind him slammed shut with a loud noise.</p>  
  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo briefly glanced back but wasn’t panicked. He had already expected this.</p>  
  
<p>He turned forward and continued walking.</p>  
  
<p>‘…I can feel a strong presence.’</p>  
  
<p>He had a strong premonition that he needed to reach the throne to complete the Job Change Quest.</p>  
  
<p>And his premonitions had rarely been wrong.</p>  
  
<p>But then.</p>  
  
<p>About ten steps away, a figure hidden between the pillars slowly stepped forward, blocking his path.</p>  
  
<p>\*Step, step.\*</p>  
  
<p>\*Click.\*</p>  
  
<p>The figure stopped and turned toward him.</p>  
  
<p>\*Gulp.\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo swallowed hard.</p>  
  
<p>The fact that this was the boss was evident just by the crimson name floating above its head.</p>  
  
<p>[Knight Commander, Blood Red Igris]</p>  
  
<p>It was a knight clad in red armor.</p>  
  
<p>Like the other knights, its entire body was encased in armor, but unlike those who appeared sluggish, this one seemed incredibly agile.</p>  
  
<p>The most noticeable piece of equipment was its helmet.</p>  
  
<p>The long red mane flowing from the top of the helmet to the back resembled a horse’s tail, making it highly distinctive.</p>  
  
<p>As Jin-Woo examined the helmet, he noticed something else.</p>  
  
<p>‘It… has eyes?’</p>  
  
<p>Or rather, where eyes should be, there was a silver glow. The two beams of light felt cold, like mechanical rays.</p>  
  
<p>That cold gaze turned toward him.</p>  
  
<p>The hairs on the back of his neck stood up.</p>  
  
<p>‘So, the source of that strong presence was this guy…’</p>  
  
<p>Perhaps defeating this knight was the objective of the Job Change Quest.</p>  
  
<p>If so, he needed to be even more cautious.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo raised his fists, closely watching Igris’s movements.</p>  
  
<p>‘The dagger won’t work anyway.’</p>  
  
<p>What he needed to defeat a knight was impact.</p>  
  
<p>Raw strength.</p>  
  
<p>‘…’</p>  
  
<p>Igris, who had been silently observing Jin-Woo, suddenly removed its red cloak.</p>  
  
<p>\*Swish.\*</p>  
  
<p>The cloak fell to the ground.</p>  
  
<p>‘What’s this?’</p>  
  
<p>The knight’s odd behavior didn’t end there.</p>  
  
<p>It then proceeded to drop the longsword at its side and the two daggers on its back, one by one, onto the ground.</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>The metallic sound of weapons hitting the stone slabs echoed loudly throughout the silent Boss Room.</p>  
  
<p>After discarding all its weapons, Igris clenched its fists, mimicking Jin-Woo’s stance and assuming a fighting posture.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
  
<p>‘Is this guy…’</p>  
  
<p>Planning to fight me hand-to-hand because I’m going unarmed?</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo bit his lower lip.</p>  
  
<p>‘…I’m being underestimated.’</p>  
  
<p>His mind grew colder as his emotions flared.</p>  
  
<p>The calmer his mind became, the hotter his heart burned.</p>  
  
<p>As his heartbeat quickened, Jin-Woo’s eyes sharpened with determination.</p>  
  
<p>‘Come at me.’</p>  
  
<p>As if reading his thoughts, Igris charged straight at him.</p>  
  
<p>\*Tap, tap, tap, tap!\*</p>  
  
<p>Its speed was unimaginable for someone clad in armor.</p>  
  
<p>‘The speed reduction penalty from armor only applies if Strength is below 80.’</p>  
  
<p>This guy’s Strength was at least 80 or higher!</p>  
  
<p>Judging from its movements, its Agility was on par with a high-rank Hunter.</p>  
  
<p>When Igris got close, it leaped into the air.</p>  
  
<p>\*Tap!\*</p>  
  
<p>Its knee aimed straight for Jin-Woo’s face.</p>  
  
<p>‘It’s fast!’</p>  
  
<p>But Jin-Woo had already entered combat mode, his movements accelerated as well.</p>  
  
<p>He leaned back almost 90 degrees, dodging Igris’s attack.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo straightened up.</p>  
  
<p>Unlike the other knights who would stagger back after a charge, Igris landed neatly on the ground.</p>  
  
<p>\*Thud!\*</p>  
  
<p>There was no time to admire its clean movements.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo quickly closed the distance and aimed a diagonal kick at Igris’s face before it could fully turn around.</p>  
  
<p>But even in an unstable position, Igris moved its arm with precision.</p>  
  
<p>\*Bam!\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo’s right leg was easily blocked by Igris’s left hand.</p>  
  
<p>‘How can this be?!’</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
  
<p>With one leg immobilized, Igris’s fist flew straight toward him.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whoosh-!\*</p>  
  
<p>Instinctively, Jin-Woo raised both arms to guard, but the impact was overwhelming.</p>  
  
<p>\*Boom!\*</p>  
  
<p>His guard broke, and his body was sent flying.</p>  
  
<p>“What?!”</p>  
  
<p>A cry of shock escaped Jin-Woo’s lips.</p>  
  
<p>But it quickly turned into a groan.</p>  
  
<p>“…?”</p>  
  
<p>Before he knew it, Igris was right in front of him.</p>  
  
<p>With no time to react, Igris’s left fist slammed hard into the side of Jin-Woo’s face.</p>  
  
<p>\*Bam!\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo was slammed into the ground, bounced off from the impact, and rolled several times before barely managing to get up.</p>  
  
<p>\*Riiing-\*</p>  
  
<p>A ringing sound filled his ears.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo shook his head violently a couple of times.</p>  
  
<p>The ringing subsided somewhat.</p>  
  
<p>But a bigger problem was approaching. In his blurred vision, he saw Igris walking toward him.</p>  
  
<p>\*Step, step.\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo widened his eyes and focused strength into his legs.</p>  
  
<p>Eventually, Igris stopped right in front of him.</p>  
  
<p>That’s when the brawl began.</p>  
  
<p>Igris didn’t dodge Jin-Woo’s attacks.</p>  
  
<p>It took the hits head-on and retaliated.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whack!\*</p>  
  
<p>Igris’s head tilted slightly to the side.</p>  
  
<p>But before Jin-Woo could regain his stance, a sharp counterattack came back.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whack!\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo’s body staggered.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whack!\*</p>  
  
<p>This time, Igris was pushed back a step.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whack!\*</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo, struck in the abdomen, bent over like a broken hinge.</p>  
  
<p>“Ugh!”</p>  
  
<p>Blood surged up his throat.</p>  
  
<p>‘This is ridiculous…!’</p>  
  
<p>Currently, Jin-Woo’s total Physical Damage Reduction stat was over 30%.</p>  
  
<p>Yet every hit from Igris felt like being hammered down.</p>  
  
<p>Meanwhile, his own attacks barely seemed to deal any damage.</p>  
  
<p>The exchange didn’t last long.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whack!\*</p>  
  
<p>Staggering, Jin-Woo finally fell to his knees.</p>  
  
<p>\*Thud.\*</p>  
  
<p>He tried to get up, but his legs refused to cooperate.</p>  
  
<p>\*Thud.\*</p>  
  
<p>“Ugh…”</p>  
  
<p>Igris, standing before him, stopped its attacks and silently looked down at him.</p>  
  
<p>‘…?’</p>  
  
<p>Ignoring Jin-Woo’s puzzled gaze, Igris reached out toward its sword, which was lying far away.</p>  
  
<p>The sword flew into its hand.</p>  
  
<p>Igris gripped the sword with both hands and walked around to Jin-Woo’s side.</p>  
  
<p>The tip of the sword pointed upward.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo realized Igris’s intention.</p>  
  
<p>‘It’s going to execute me.’</p>  
  
<p>This knight truly lived up to its title as the Knight Commander.</p>  
  
<p>Seeing Jin-Woo not putting up any resistance, Igris prepared to carry out the execution.</p>  
  
<p>But Jin-Woo had no intention of going down quietly.</p>  
  
<p>The sword descended vertically.</p>  
  
<p>\*Whoosh-\*</p>  
  
<p>But Jin-Woo’s left hand, clad in a gauntlet, intercepted the sword.</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>The sound of metal clashing!</p>  
  
<p>The gauntlet he had obtained just before entering the room protected his hand.</p>  
  
<p>\*Gasp!\*</p><p>Igris seemed startled.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo didn’t miss the opportunity and threw a right-handed punch.</p>  
  
<p>As expected, Igris didn’t seem intent on dodging.</p>  
  
<p>‘It’s planning to counterattack again.’</p>  
  
<p>The tactic of trading blows, believing it would come out on top.</p>  
  
<p>But there was something Igris hadn’t accounted for.</p>  
  
<p>‘Kasaka’s Venom Fang!’</p>  
  
<p>\*Swoosh.\*</p>  
  
<p>In an instant, Kasaka’s Venom Fang was summoned into Jin-Woo’s hand.</p>  
  
<p>He plunged the dagger into Igris’s eye.</p>  
  
<p>\*Stab!\*</p>  
  
<p>“Aaaaaaaah!”</p>  
  
<p>An inhuman scream erupted.</p>  
  
<p>Simultaneously, a blinding light surged from Igris’s eye where the dagger had struck.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo got back on his feet.</p>  
  
<p>‘What now?’</p>  
  
<p>Taking out one eye wasn’t enough to turn the tide.</p>  
  
<p>He needed something stronger.</p>  
  
<p>Then, something flashed across his mind.</p>  
  
<p>The devastating attack that had nearly killed him before.</p>  
  
<p>He’d unleash that on Igris.</p>  
  
<p>His body moved before his mind could catch up.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo bent down and wrapped his arms around Igris’s waist.</p>  
  
<p>Then he started running.</p>  
  
<p>“Dash!”</p>  
  
<p>[Movement Speed increased by 40%.]</p>  
  
<p>His legs moved even faster.</p>  
  
<p>The sheer speed made his entire body shake.</p>  
  
<p>‘Yes, like this.’</p>  
  
<p>He’d ram it straight into the wall!</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo didn’t loosen his grip on Igris’s waist, running at full speed toward the wall.</p>  
  
<p>Of course, the impact would also affect him.</p>  
  
<p>But Jin-Woo had one last passive skill.</p>  
  
<p>The distance closed in an instant!</p>  
  
<p>Suddenly, the wall was right in front of them.</p>  
  
<p>\*Crash-!\*</p>  
  
<p>With a deafening explosion, Igris collided with the wall.</p>  
  
<p>At the same time, a system message appeared.</p>  
  
<p>\*Ding!\*</p>  
  
<p>[Health has fallen below 30%. Skill: ‘Tenacity’ has been activated.]</p>  
  
<p>[Damage taken reduced by 50%.]</p>  
  
<p>The entire Boss Room shook from the force of the impact.</p>  
  
<p>“Ugh.”</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo took a step back.</p>  
  
<p>Igris, half-buried in the wall, was still alive.</p>  
  
<p>The flames of life within it hadn’t yet been extinguished.</p>  
  
<p>‘…I have to finish this.’</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo pulled Kasaka’s Venom Fang out of Igris’s eye.</p>  
  
<p>Igris’s body twitched in response.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo reversed his grip on the dagger and aimed for Igris’s neck.</p>  
  
<p>‘Vital Strike!’</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>The attack didn’t connect.</p>  
  
<p>Again.</p>  
  
<p>‘Vital Strike!’</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>Sparks flew from the dagger’s tip.</p>  
  
<p>A small dent appeared in the armor protecting Igris’s neck.</p>  
  
<p>Again.</p>  
  
<p>‘Vital Strike!’</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>Again.</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>Again.</p>  
  
<p>\*Clang!\*</p>  
  
<p>And finally.</p>  
  
<p>‘Vital Strike!’</p>  
  
<p>\*Crack!\*</p>  
  
<p>Kasaka’s Venom Fang pierced deep into Igris’s neck.</p>  
  
<p>[Knight Commander, Blood Red Igris has been defeated.]</p>  
  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
  
<p>[You leveled up!]</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo raised both hands in triumph.</p>  
  
<p>As he stepped back, his legs gave out, and he knelt on the ground.</p>  
  
<p>“Huff, huff.”</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo exhaled the breath he’d been holding.</p>  
  
<p>He had barely won.</p>  
  
<p>It had been a close call.</p>  
  
<p>‘But… is the quest over now?’</p>  
  
<p>After catching his breath, Jin-Woo struggled to stand.</p>  
  
<p>He expected the Job Change Quest to end after defeating Igris, but no message appeared.</p>  
  
<p>Looking around, nothing seemed to have changed.</p>  
  
<p>Except for one thing.</p>  
  
<p>A few beams of light began to seep out of Igris’s body.</p>  
  
<p>It was an item drop.</p>  
  
<p>‘I’ll take that for now.’</p>  
  
<p>Who knew what might happen next?</p>  
  
<p>It was wise to collect whatever he could while he had the chance.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo reached out toward the light.</p>  
  
<p>[Item: Crimson Knight’s Helmet] has been discovered. Would you like to acquire it?</p>  
  
<p>[Rune Stone: Dominator’s Touch] has been discovered. Would you like to acquire it?</p>  
  
<p>[Item: Leather Pouch] has been discovered. Would you like to acquire it?</p>  
  
<p>[Item: Instant Return Stone] has been discovered. Would you like to acquire it?</p>  
  
<p>Why so many?</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo was puzzled but couldn’t hide his joy.</p>  
  
<p>‘Acquire all.’</p>  
  
<p>The first to enter his inventory was the Leather Pouch.</p>  
  
<p>[Item: Leather Pouch] has been opened.</p>  
  
<p>[1,500,000 Gold] was found inside.</p>  
  
<p>[1,500,000 Gold] has been acquired.</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo’s eyes widened.</p>  
  
<p>‘The rewards are on a whole different level.’</p>  
  
<p>Clearly, the effort it took to defeat Igris was worth it.</p>  
  
<p>Finding such a massive amount of gold in a pouch he hadn’t even expected was a pleasant surprise.</p>  
  
<p>It was enough to be useful in the shop.</p>  
  
<p>But Jin-Woo’s attention was elsewhere.</p>  
  
<p>If the Leather Pouch, which he hadn’t even hoped for, contained something this valuable, then what about the helmet or the rune stone?</p>  
  
<p>Calming his pounding heart, Jin-Woo checked the helmet’s information.</p>  
  
<p>\*Ding.\*</p>  
  
<p>[Item: Crimson Knight’s Helmet]</p>  
  
<p>Acquisition Difficulty: S</p>  
  
<p>Type: Armor</p>  
  
<p>Physical Damage Reduction +15%</p>  
  
<p>Health +20, Strength +20</p>  
  
<p>“S-rank!”</p>  
  
<p>Jin-Woo let out a cry of joy.</p>  
  
---  
  
\*\*CHAPTER END\*\*