

Solo Leveling

Art · DUBU (REDICE STUDIO)

Original Novel · Chugong

Story · h-goon

85

JUST AS ESIL HAD WARNED ME, THE DIFFICULTY LEVEL GREW EXPONENTIALLY HIGHER STARTING WITH THE 90TH FLOOR.

THERE WERE MANY MORE MONSTERS GUARDING THE CASTLE, AND ALL RANKED HIGHER THAN THE DEMONS I HAD BATTLED ON THE LOWER FLOORS.

EVEN THOUGH I INCREASED MY INTELLIGENCE STAT, THE BATTLES HAVE TAKEN A HUGE TOLL ON MY MANA...

...BECAUSE MY SHADOW SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY DESTROYED AND REGENERATED.

REGENERATED.


97TH FLOOR

THAT DOESN'T MEAN
I GOT PAST THE 90TH
FLOOR DUE TO PURE
LUCK, THOUGH.

[LEVEL: 90]

HE
DEFEATED THE RICADO
CLAN, WHICH IS THE FIFTH
MOST POWERFUL CLAN, AND
WENT ON TO DEFEAT THE
FOURTH MOST POWERFUL
CLAN, PEITOS, AS
WELL...

ARE ALL HUMANS
AS STRONG AS YOU,
J...JINWOO?



UH... THERE
ARE MAYBE
ONE OR TWO
OTHERS.

GO GUNHEE
AND CHA HAE-IN.
THEY DEFINITELY FELT
STRONGER THAN THE
OTHER S-RANKS.

JUST BASED ON THE
AURA THEY EXUDED, IT
SEEMED LIKE CHA HAE-IN
WAS A FEW TIERS HIGHER
THAN CHOI JONG-IN,
WHO'S KNOWN AS "THE
ULTIMATE HUNTER."

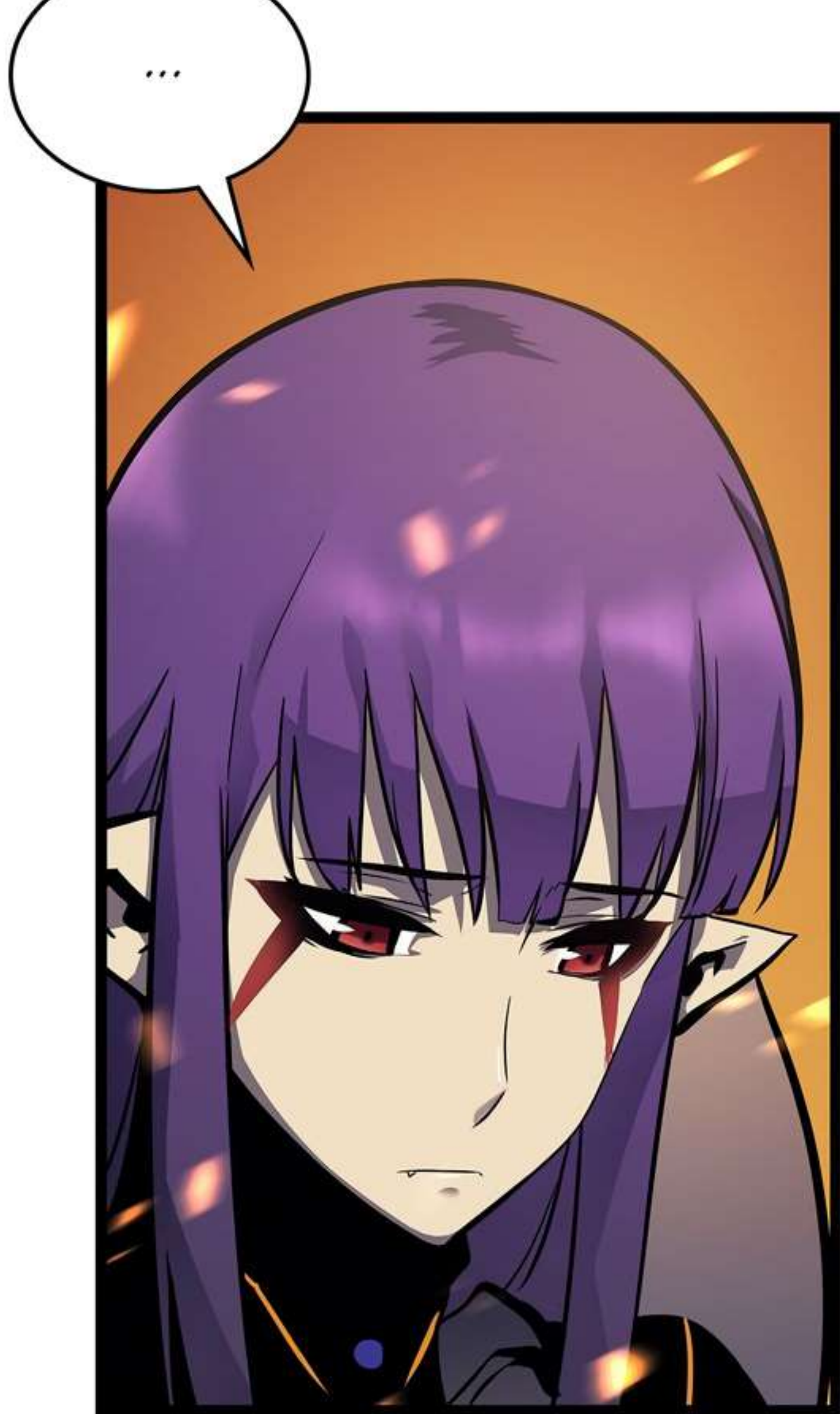
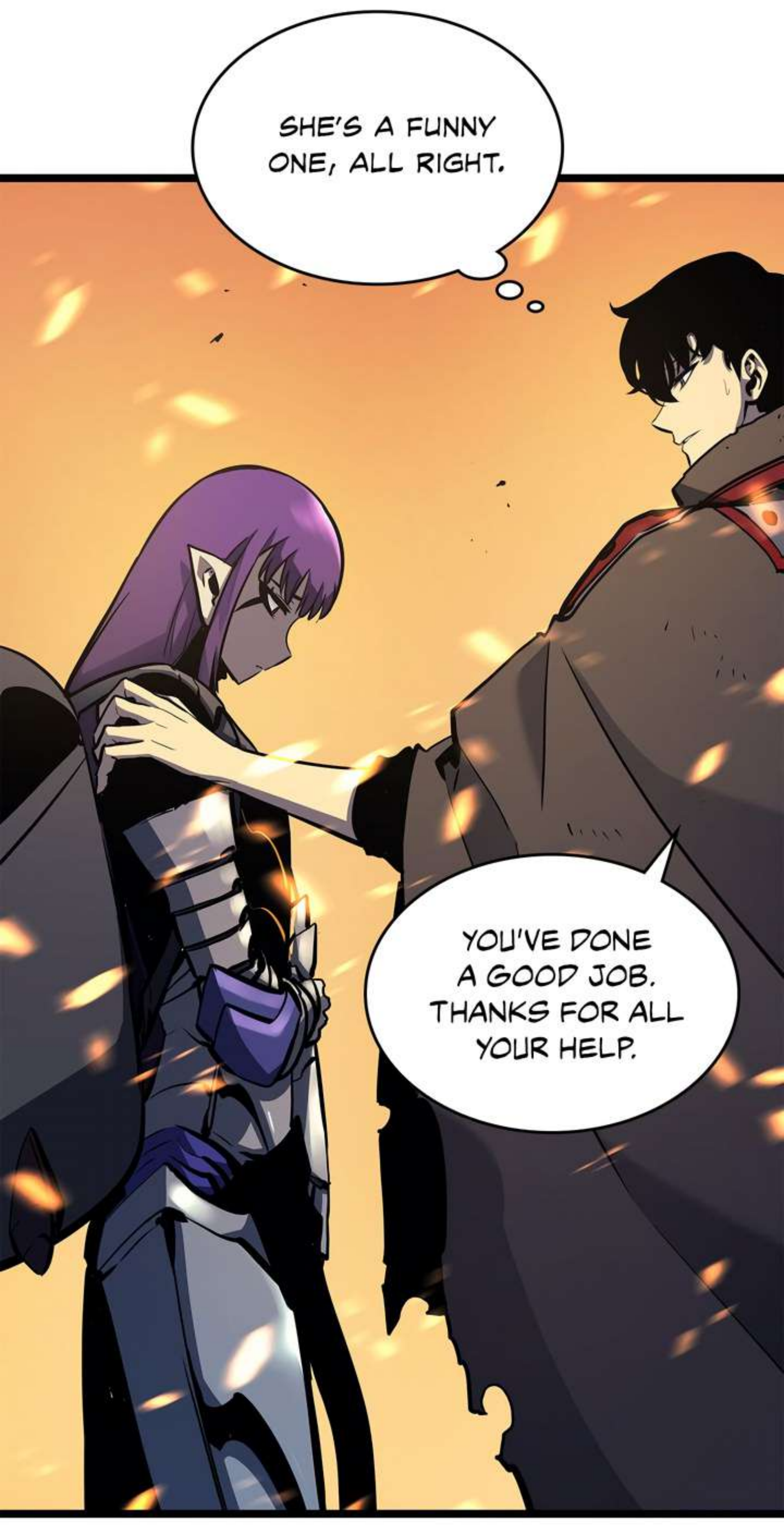
IN OTHER WORDS,
THERE'S A DIFFERENCE
IN STRENGTH AMONG
S-RANKS.

IN FACT, THE
DIFFERENCE MAY BE
EVEN GREATER THAN THE
DIFFERENCE AMONG OTHER
RANKS, SINCE THE MANA
LEVELS OF S-RANKS CAN'T
BE MEASURED.

I THINK I MIGHT'VE BEEN
ON THE SAME LEVEL AS
MR. GO IN THE PAST, BUT
NOW THAT I'VE CLIMBED
ALL THE WAY UP HERE,
THINGS MIGHT BE
DIFFERENT.

YOU
CAN GO BACK
DOWNSTAIRS







NO, I'M GOING
WITH YOU.



I WANT TO
SEE...

...WHAT YOU
CAN ACHIEVE.



[YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE 98TH FLOOR.]

INCHEON
INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT



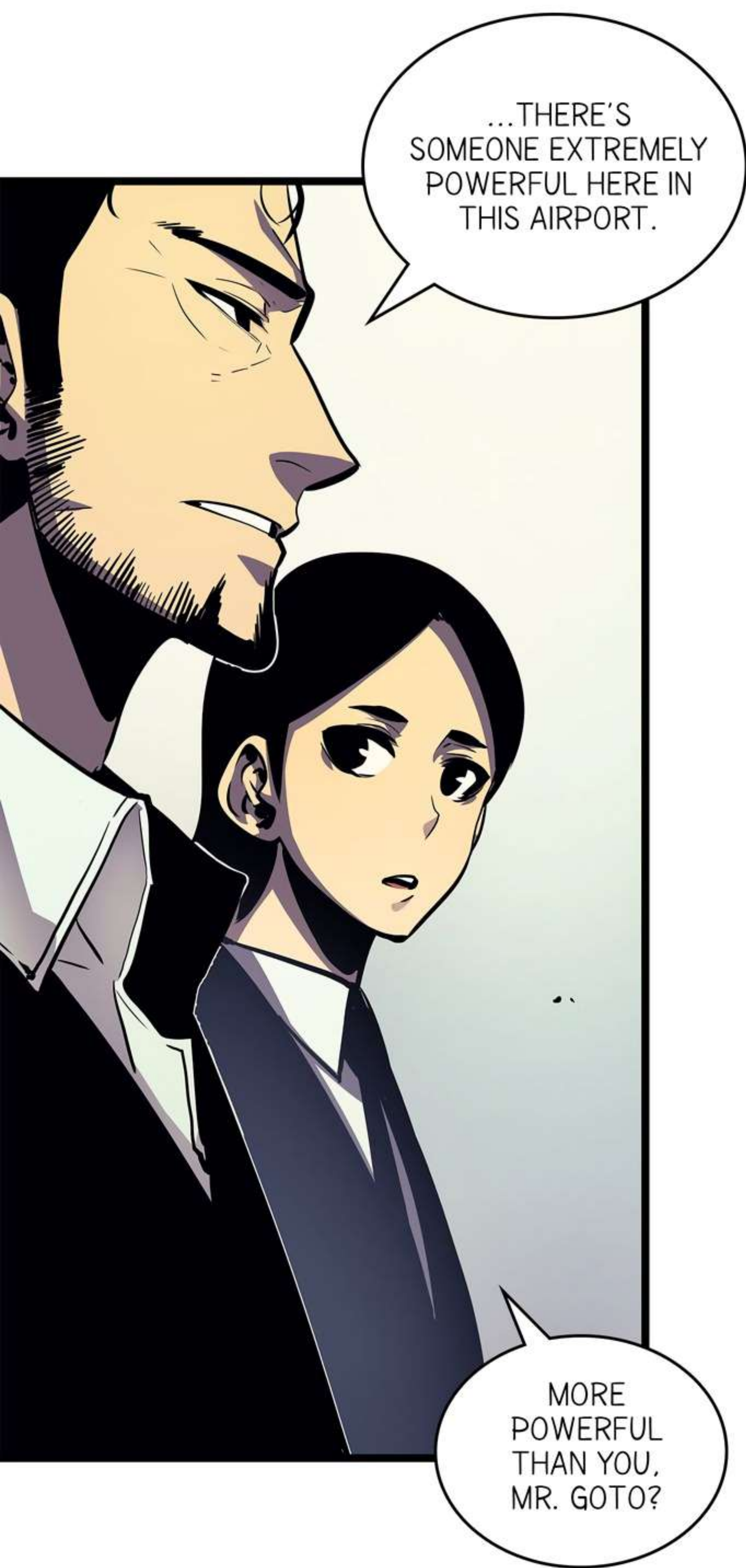
WHAT'S
WITH ALL THE
COMMOTION?*

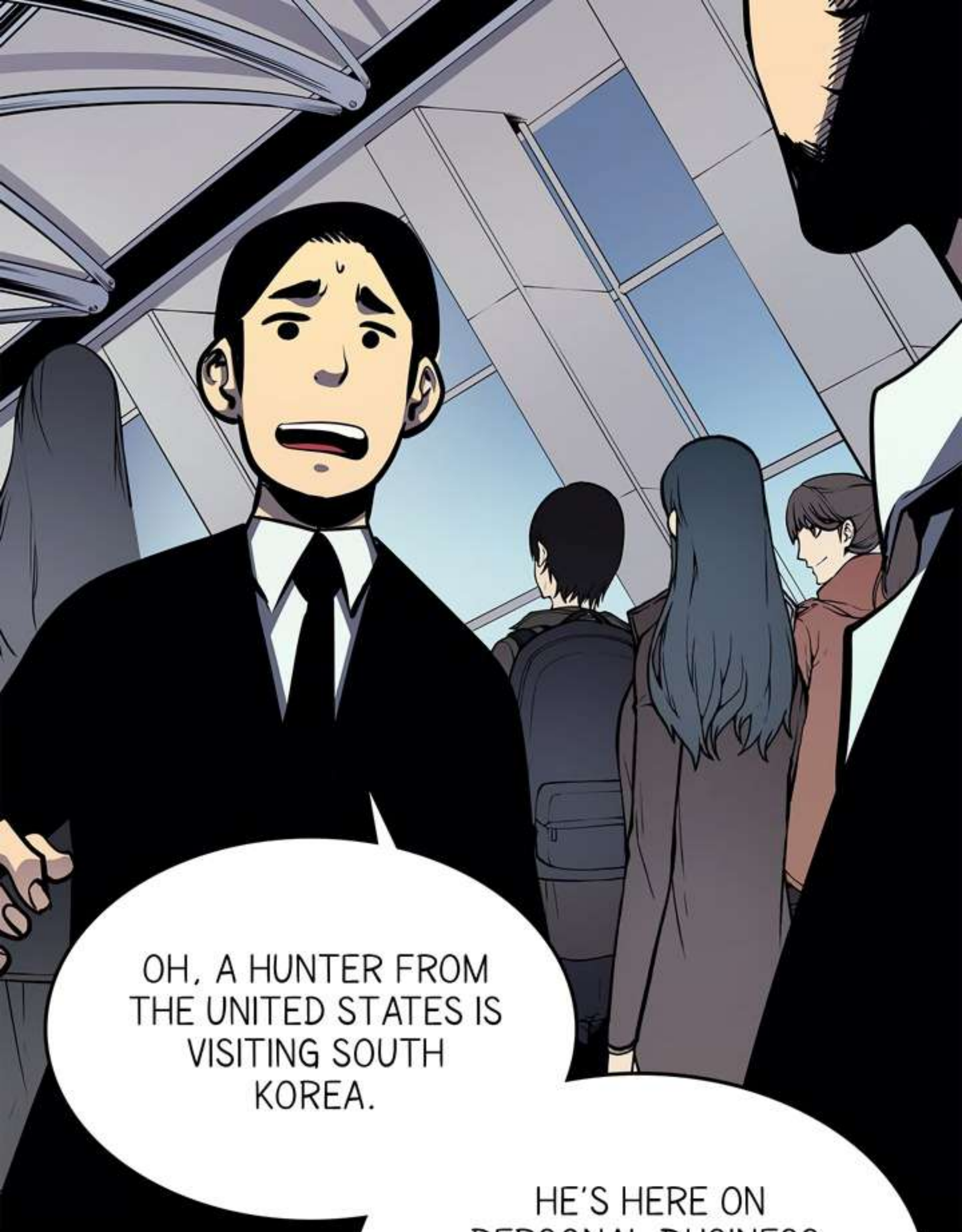


S-RANK HUNTER
GOTO RYUJI



*The speakers are talking in Japanese.





OH, A HUNTER FROM
THE UNITED STATES IS
VISITING SOUTH
KOREA.

HE'S HERE ON
PERSONAL BUSINESS,
THOUGH, SO THERE'S
NO NEED TO BE
CONCERNED.



AN AMERICAN
HUNTER...?

I WONDER IF
HE HAS ANYTHING
TO DO WITH THE
RECENT EVENTS.

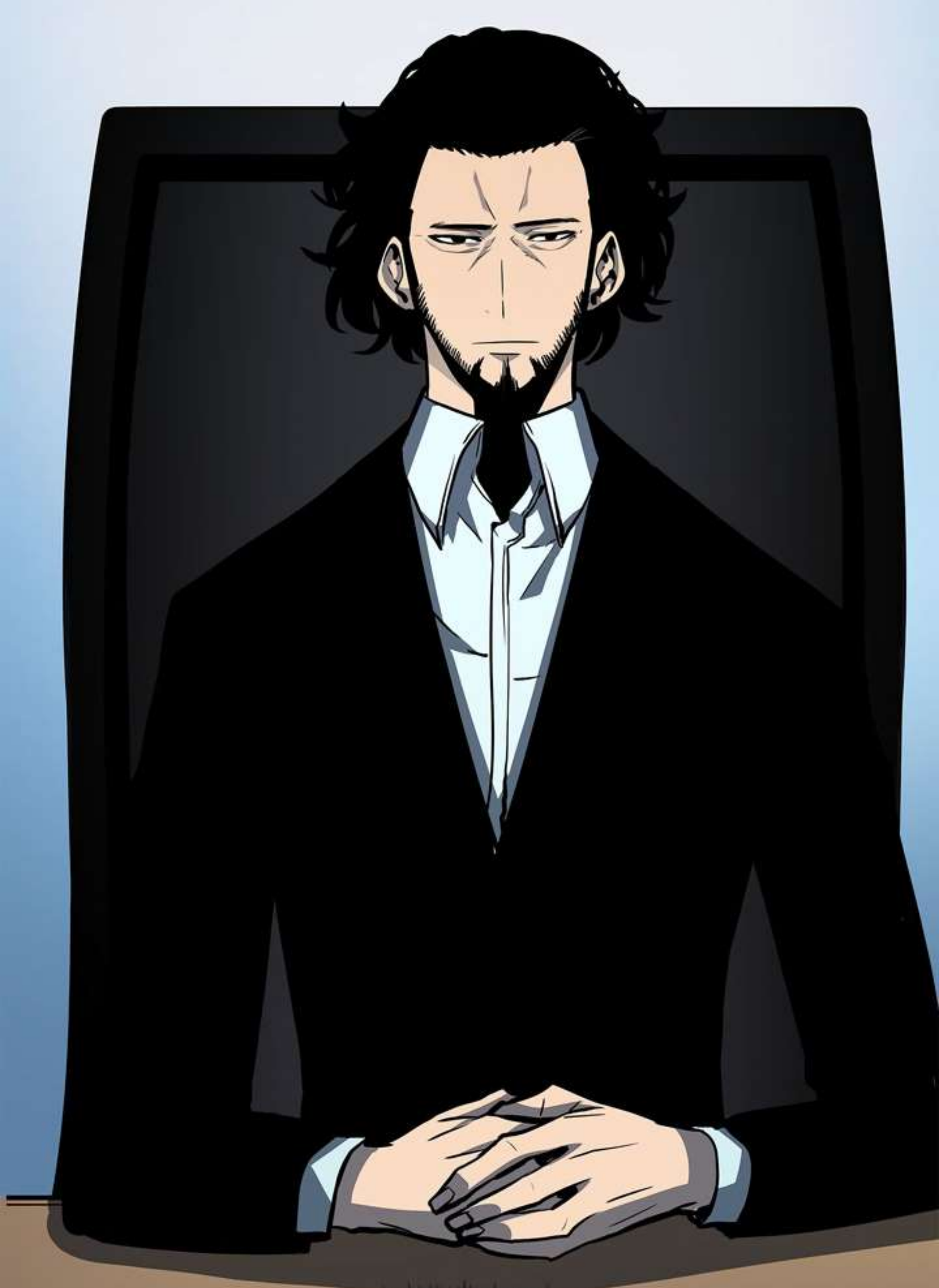
THIS WAY,
PLEASE.



SO THIS
MAN IS...



...GOTO RYUJI,



THE ONLY HUNTER IN
ASIA THAT CAN STAND
ON EQUAL FOOTING
WITH LIU ZHIGANG.



HE IS NO
ORDINARY MAN,
THAT'S FOR
SURE.



THERE ARE CURRENTLY
21 S-RANK HUNTERS IN JAPAN,
AND 11 OF THEM ARE MEMBERS
OF THE SAME GUILD AS GOTO
RYUJI, THE BLADE GUILD.



拔劍

UNLIKE SOUTH KOREA,
WHERE THERE ARE FIVE
MAJOR GUILDS COMPETING
AGAINST EACH OTHER, A
SINGLE GUILD HOLDS ALL
THE POWER IN JAPAN.

EVERYONE KNOWS THAT
GOTO RYUJI'S GUILD IS THE
SECOND LARGEST IN ASIA.
THE LARGEST IS A
CHINESE GUILD.

HELLO, MY NAME IS HANEKAWA AND I AM MR. GOTO'S INTERPRETER.



I WILL BE RELAYING MR. GOTO'S WORDS TO YOU.

DUE TO THE RECENT DISASTROUS EVENTS, WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION THAT JEJU ISLAND CAN NO LONGER BE NEGLECTED.



THAT SAID, WE PLEDGE TO GIVE KOREA OUR FULL SUPPORT.

THEIR FULL SUPPORT?

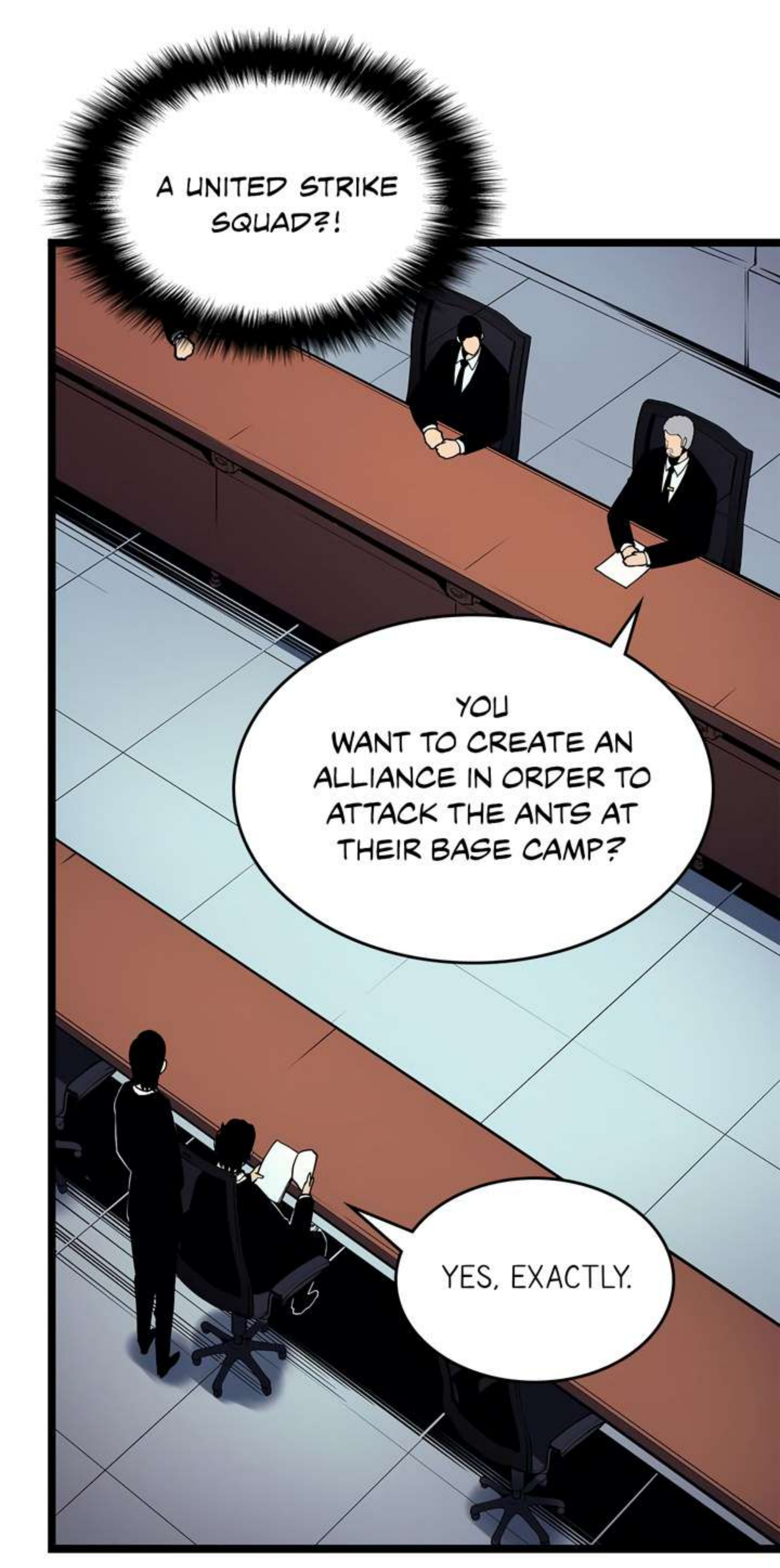




LET ME GET
STRAIGHT TO THE
POINT. THE REASON
I'VE COME HERE IS
BECAUSE...



...I WANT TO FORM A
UNITED STRIKE SQUAD
COMPOSED OF ONLY OUR
TOP-RANKING HUNTERS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK
ABOUT THIS IDEA?



A UNITED STRIKE
SQUAD?!

YOU
WANT TO CREATE AN
ALLIANCE IN ORDER TO
ATTACK THE ANTS AT
THEIR BASE CAMP?

YES, EXACTLY.

I KNOW
THAT JAPAN'S
TOP HUNTERS ARE
EXTRAORDINARY.

HOWEVER,
ATTACKING JEJU ISLAND,
THE HEART OF THEIR
COLONY, IS JUST TOO
DANGEROUS.

AS WE ARE DEALING
WITH AN S-RANK GATE,
WE'VE PREPARED A
STRATEGY.

STEP


THESE ARE THE
FILES DOCUMENTING
THE DATA WE'VE
GATHERED ON
THE ANTS.

EVERY SINGLE ANT
RIVALS THE STRENGTH OF
A HIGH-RANKING HUNTER.
HOWEVER, THEY POSSESS
A FATAL WEAKNESS.




A SHORT
LIFESPAN.

THE ANTS ARE ONLY
CAPABLE OF LIVING
FOR ONE YEAR.



THEREFORE, IF WE CAN
JUST KILL THEIR QUEEN,
ALL OF THE ANTS ON
JEJU ISLAND WILL DIE
WITHIN A YEAR.



WE JUST HAVE TO
ELIMINATE THEIR
QUEEN, HUH...?

IT CERTAINLY SOUNDS LIKE
A MORE REALISTIC PLAN
THAN EXTERMINATING THE
ENTIRE COLONY.

BUT IN REALITY, TRYING
TO KILL THE QUEEN WILL
BE AS HARD AS TRYING
TO DEFEAT THOUSANDS
OF ANTS.

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT
THE ANTS WILL DIE FOR
THEIR QUEEN?

OF COURSE, WE'LL HAVE
TO GET PAST THOUSANDS
OF ANTS IN ORDER TO
CAPTURE THEIR
QUEEN.

HOWEVER, WE WON'T
HAVE TO BATTLE THEM IF
WE CAN GET THE ANTS TO
LEAVE THEIR TUNNELS.

IS THAT EVEN
POSSIBLE?

YES, IT HAS
HAPPENED BEFORE.
THREE TIMES TO
BE EXACT.

BACK WHEN
SOUTH KOREAN HUNTERS
ARRIVED ON THE SHORES
OF JEJU TO CARRY OUT A
SEARCH-AND-DESTROY
MISSION,

THE ANTS LEFT
THEIR TUNNELS AND
HEADED TOWARD THE
BATTLEFIELD.

IMPOSSIBLE!!

THE EVENTS HAVE BEEN
CONFIRMED BY OUR MANA
RADARS. PLEASE REFER
TO THE DOCUMENTS
FOR DETAILS.



TEN OF OUR
11 S-RANK HUNTERS,
INCLUDING MYSELF,

ARE PLANNING ON
PARTICIPATING IN THE
JEJU ISLAND RAID.




WE WILL
BE IN CHARGE OF
DISTRACTING THE
ANTS.

PLEASE HAVE SOUTH
KOREA'S TOP-RANKING
HUNTERS DEFEAT
THE QUEEN.


THE REST OF
MY FELLOW GUILD
MEMBERS WILL
ARRIVE SHORTLY.



WHAT THE, 10 S-RANK HUNTERS INCLUDING GOTO RYUJI?!




IF THE 10 S-RANK HUNTERS SUCCESSFULLY CREATE A DIVERSION, ONLY THE QUEEN AND A FEW OF HER GUARDS WILL BE LEFT INSIDE THE TUNNELS.



THIS IS THE PLAN. MY S-RANK HUNTERS WILL FIRST SPLIT UP INTO TEAMS AND ATTACK THE ISLAND FROM ALL DIRECTIONS.


THE ANTS WILL SWARM TOWARD THE SITES OF OUR ATTACKS, WHILE THE QUEEN REMAINS IN THE EMPTY TUNNELS.

THE SOUTH KOREAN S-RANK HUNTERS WILL TAKE A HELICOPTER TO JEJU AND INFILTRATE THE TUNNELS. AFTER DEFEATING THE QUEEN, THEY'LL BOARD THE HELICOPTER AGAIN TO EVACUATE FROM THE ISLAND.

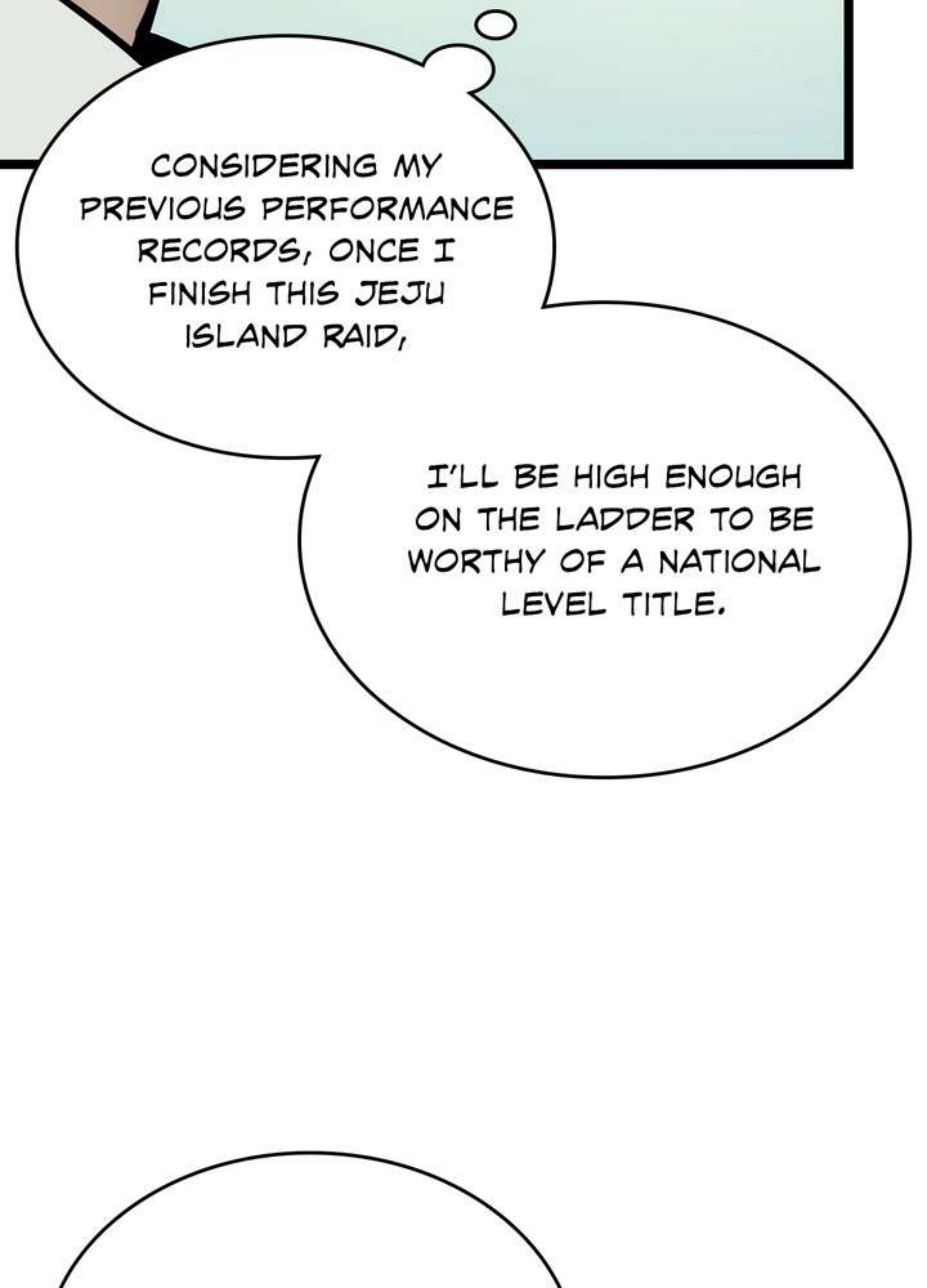


IT CERTAINLY
SOUNDS LIKE A
PLAUSIBLE
PLAN.

BUT WHY IS GOTO RYUJI
WILLING TO MOBILIZE 10 OF
HIS GUILD'S S-RANKS
FOR THIS RAID?!



ALL NATIONAL LEVEL
HUNTERS HAVE RAIDED
S-RANK GATES
BEFORE.



CONSIDERING MY
PREVIOUS PERFORMANCE
RECORDS, ONCE I
FINISH THIS JEJU
ISLAND RAID,

I'LL BE HIGH ENOUGH
ON THE LADDER TO BE
WORTHY OF A NATIONAL
LEVEL TITLE.

OBTAINING A NATIONAL
LEVEL HUNTER TITLE
WILL BE ENOUGH OF A
GAIN FOR JAPAN.

THIS IS AN S-RANK
GATE WE'RE TALKING
ABOUT, SO I'VE
CAREFULLY SELECTED
10 S-RANKS TO
PARTICIPATE.

I MUST
MINIMIZE THE RISK
FACTORS.

THE SOUTH
KOREANS HAVE NO
GOOD REASON TO
DECLINE MY
OFFER.

SIGH

THIS ISN'T THE MOST
RIGHTEOUS WAY OF DOING
THINGS, BUT IN ORDER TO
BECOME A NATIONAL LEVEL
HUNTER, I HAVE NO
OTHER CHOICE.

UNLIKE JAPAN,
THERE ARE ONLY EIGHT
S-RANK HUNTERS IN
KOREA,

AND OUT OF THOSE
EIGHT, ONLY SIX ARE
REALISTICALLY CAPABLE
OF PARTICIPATING IN THE
RAID, AS I AM TOO OLD
AND MIN BYUNG-GU
HAS RETIRED.

FLIP

THIS STRATEGY
WOULD NOT BE
POSSIBLE WITH JUST
THE HUNTERS IN
SOUTH KOREA.

THE REAL QUESTION IS...
ARE WE EVEN CAPABLE OF
DEFEATING THE BOSS OF
AN S-RANK DUNGEON...?

WILL WE
BE ABLE TO
DEFEAT THE
QUEEN?

SUNG JINWOO DEFEATED THE
BOSS OF AN A-RANK GATE ALL
BY HIMSELF, SO IF HE WERE
TO JOIN FORCES WITH THE
OTHER S-RANK HUNTERS, WE
MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE!

THE ANTS
ARE EVOLVING
QUICKLY.

THEIR ENTIRE ARMY
MAY ACQUIRE THE
ABILITY TO TAKE
FLIGHT SOON.

WE
CAN'T AFFORD
TO DELAY ANY
LONGER.

I UNDERSTAND.

ONCE THE DOCUMENTS
HAVE BEEN ASSESSED,
WE'LL SEND YOU A
DETAILED PLAN.







THIS IS THE
100TH FLOOR.







[BARAN, THE DEMON KING]

HE HAS A
REMARKABLE
FORCE!

WILL I BE
ABLE TO...



...DEFEAT THIS
MONSTER?!



BLADE

- ASIA'S SECOND LARGEST GUILD.
- 11 GUILD MEMBERS ARE S-RANK HUNTERS.
- BECAUSE THEY ARE A LARGE GUILD, UPON REQUEST, MEMBERS ARE ALSO DISPATCHED OVERSEAS TO CARRY OUT ASSIGNMENTS.

To Be Continued...

Solo Leveling

D&C
WEBTOON

REDUCE
STUDIO

Translator: JJoelle

Editor: Michelle Kim