Solo Leveling

ART · DUBU REDICE
ORIGINAL NOVEL · CHUGONG
STORY · H-GOON

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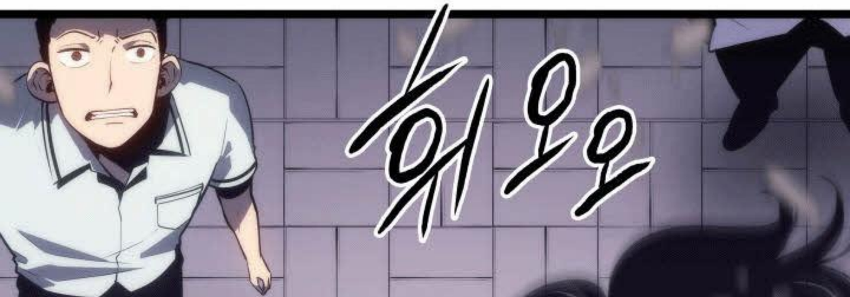
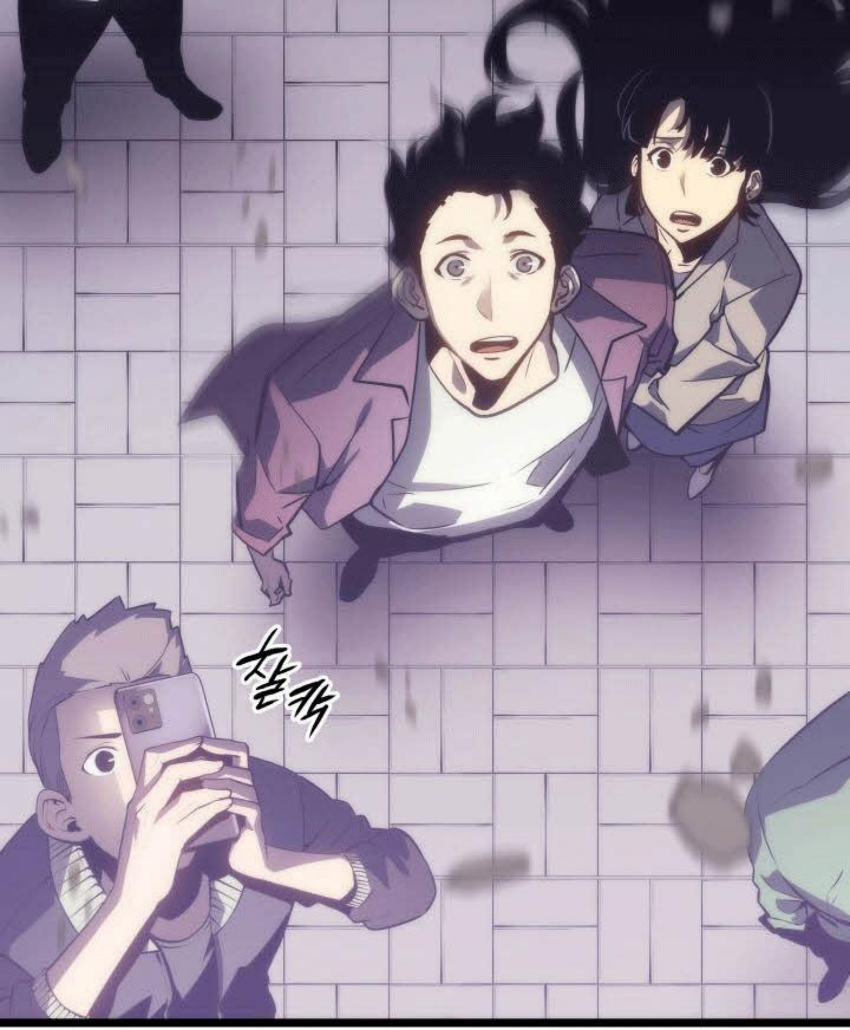
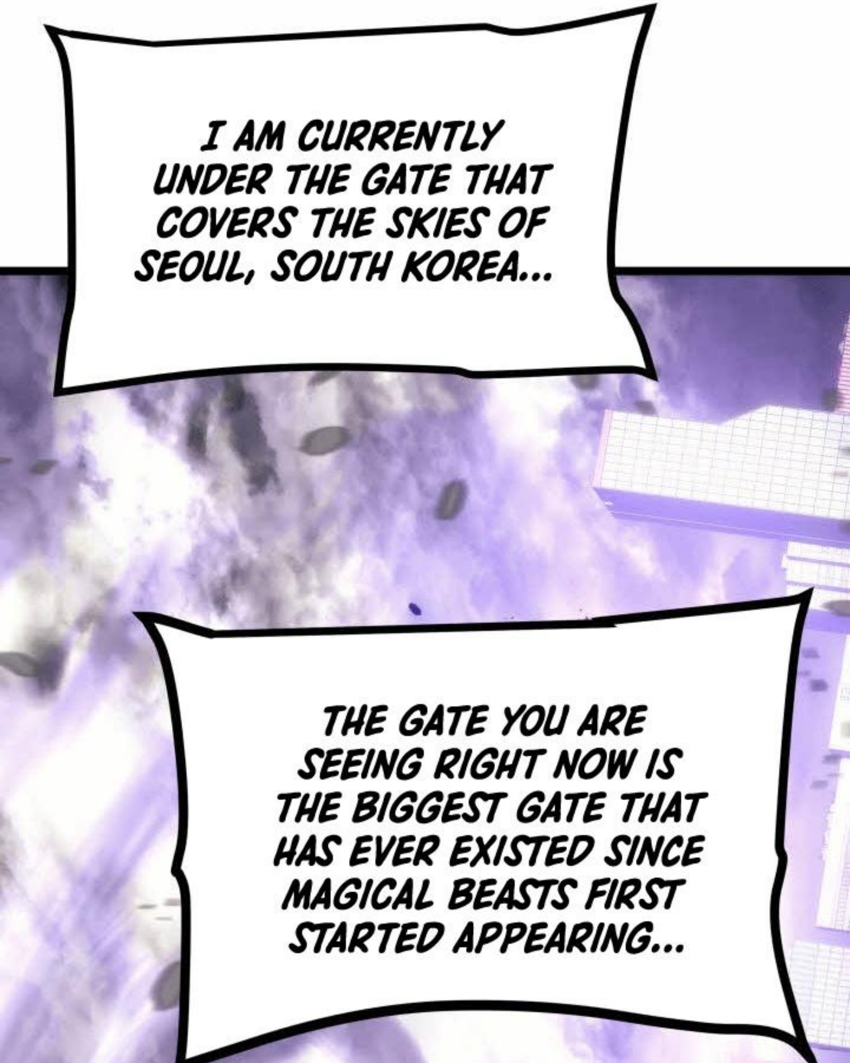
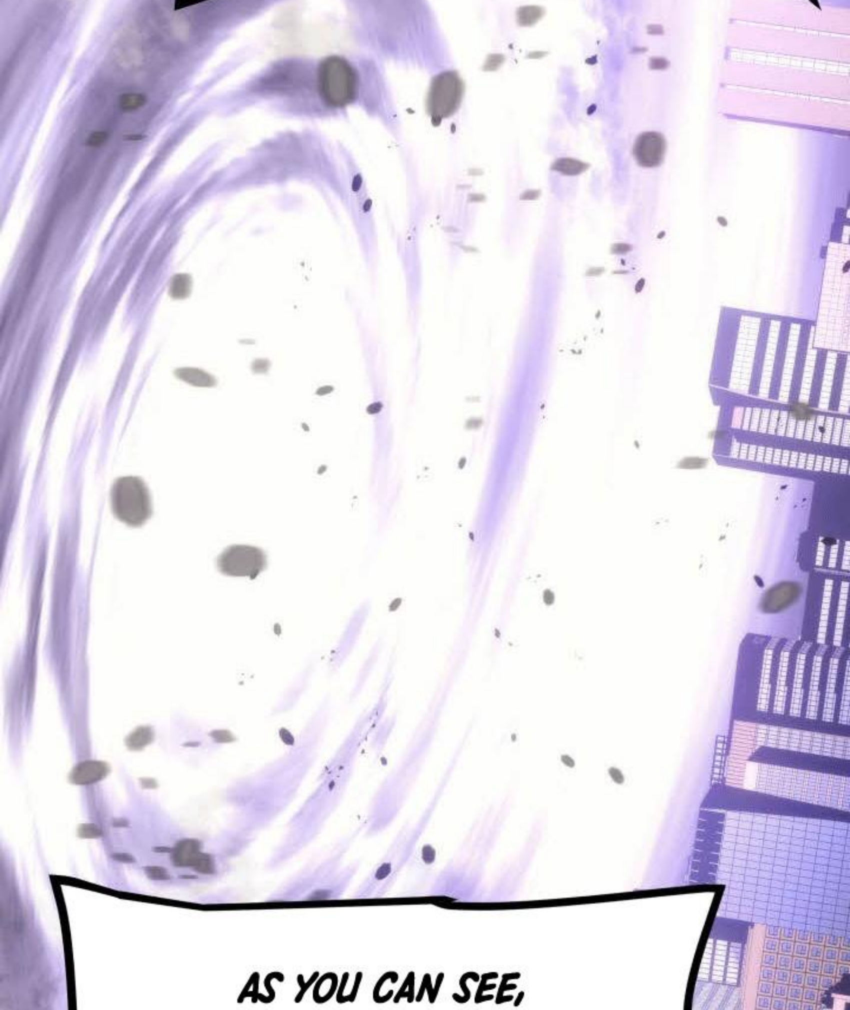
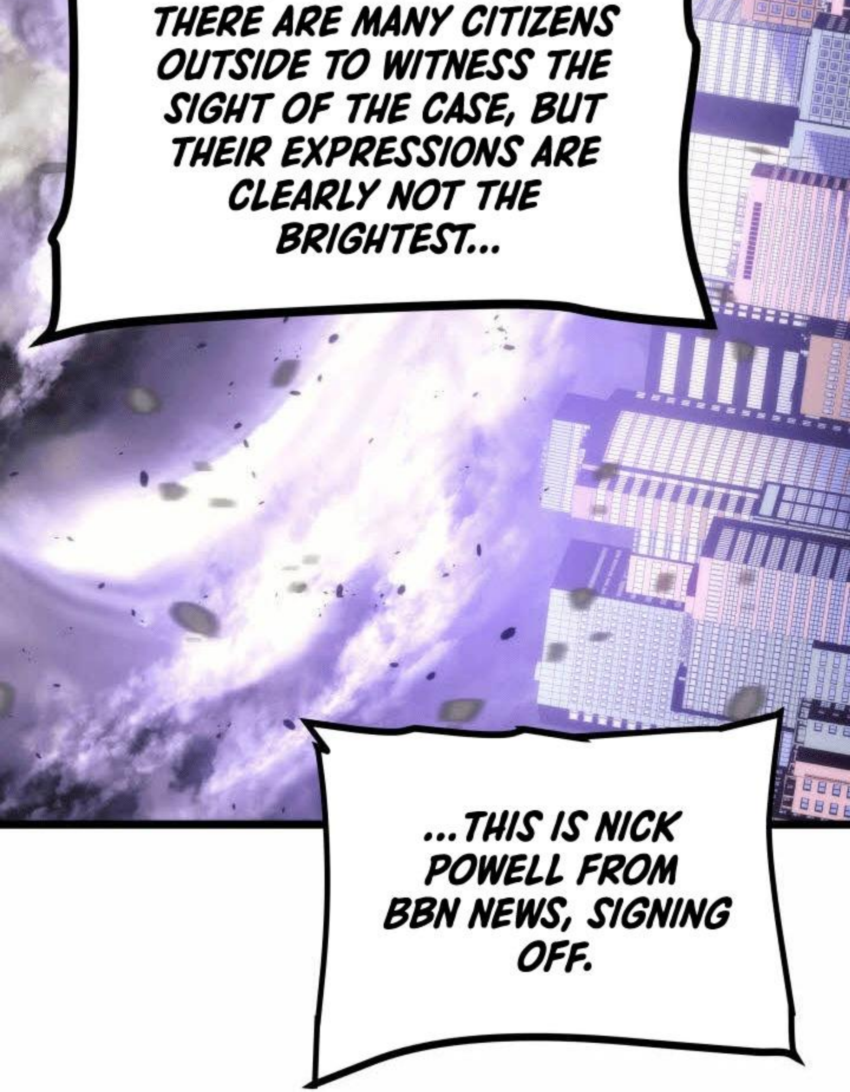




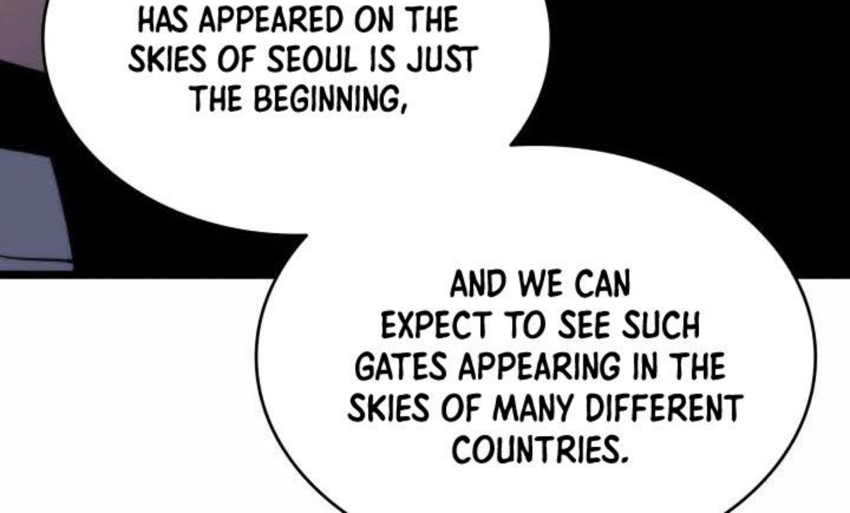

I AM CURRENTLY UNDER THE GATE THAT COVERS THE SKIES OF SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA...
THE GATE YOU ARE SEEING RIGHT NOW IS THE BIGGEST GATE THAT HAS EVER EXISTED SINCE MAGICAL BEASTS FIRST STARTED APPEARING...

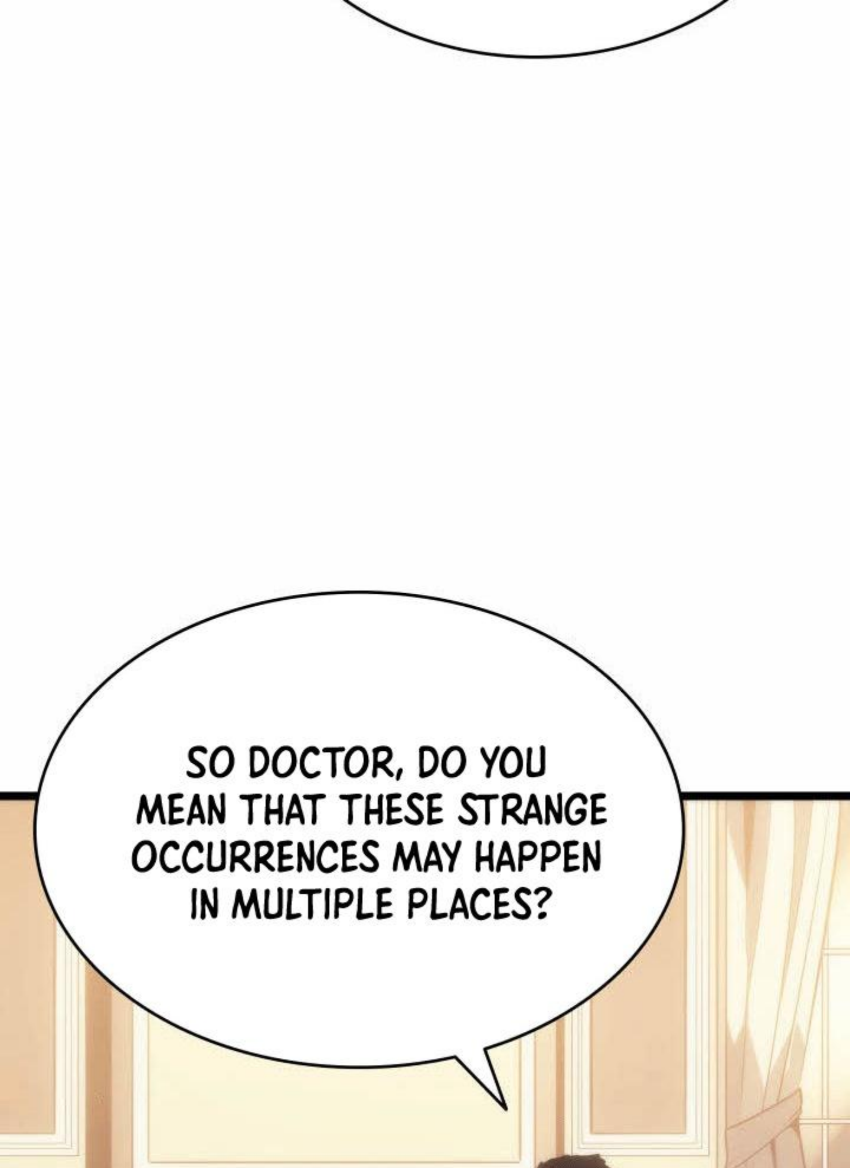

AS YOU CAN SEE,

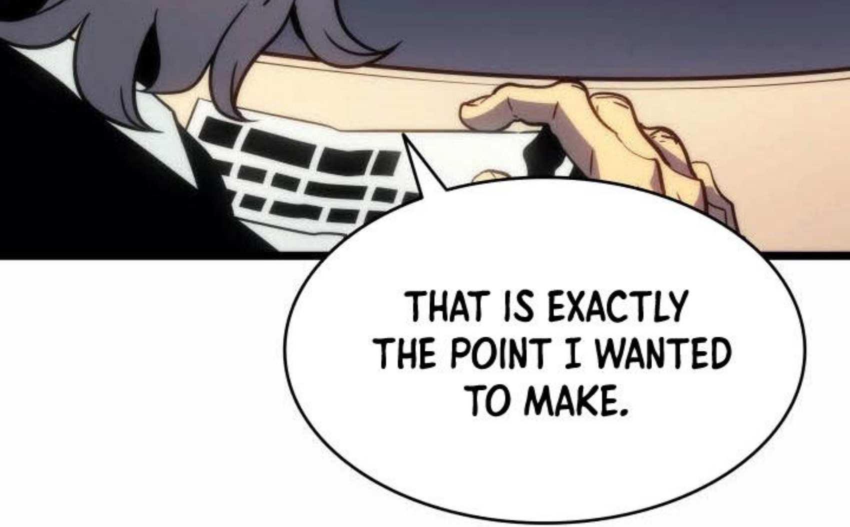

THERE ARE MANY CITIZENS OUTSIDE TO WITNESS THE SIGHT OF THE CASE, BUT THEIR EXPRESSIONS ARE CLEARLY NOT THE BRIGHTEST...
...THIS IS NICK POWELL FROM BBN NEWS, SIGNING OFF.

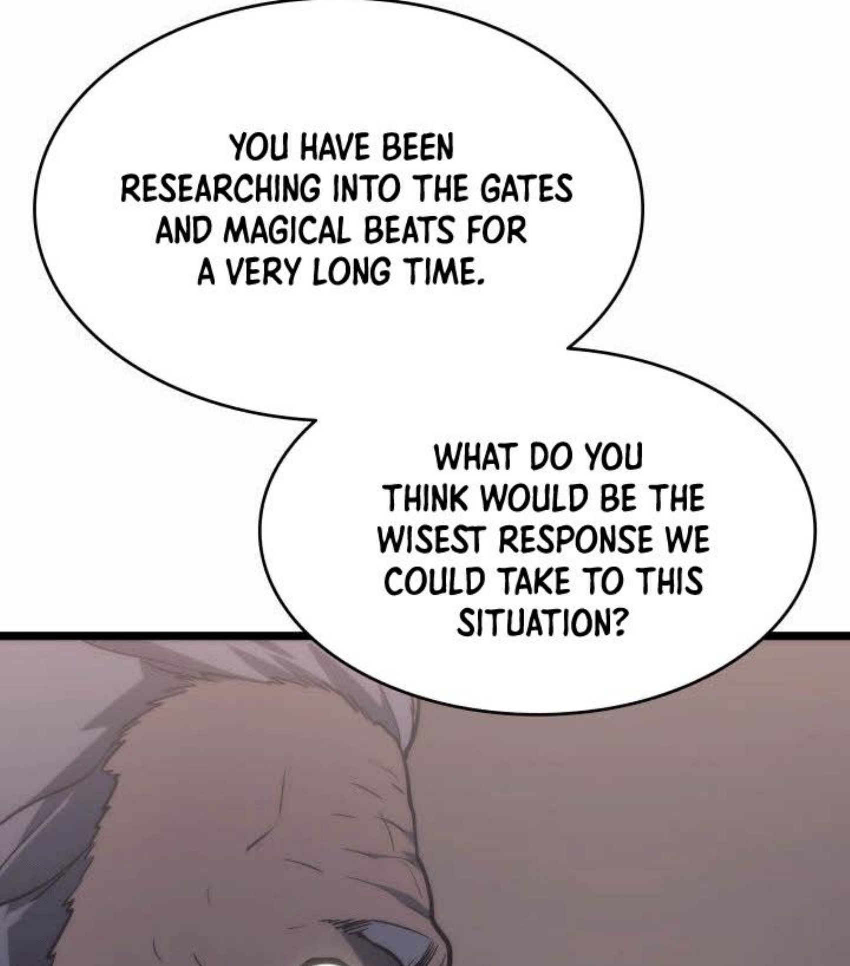
I HAVE BEEN WARNING ABOUT THE ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF MAGICAL POWER THAT WAS GATHERING ON THE SKIES, SINCE A FEW DAYS AGO.

THE GATE THAT


HAS APPEARED ON THE SKIES OF SEOUL IS JUST THE BEGINNING,
AND WE CAN EXPECT TO SEE SUCH GATES APPEARING IN THE SKIES OF MANY DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.


SO DOCTOR, DO YOU MEAN THAT THESE STRANGE OCCURRENCES MAY HAPPEN IN MULTIPLE PLACES?


THAT IS EXACTLY THE POINT I WANTED TO MAKE.


YOU HAVE BEEN RESEARCHING INTO THE GATES AND MAGICAL BEATS FOR A VERY LONG TIME.
WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE WISEST RESPONSE WE COULD TAKE TO THIS SITUATION?

……

PRAY.

THAT THIS HAPPENING WON'T END AS A TRAGEDY.

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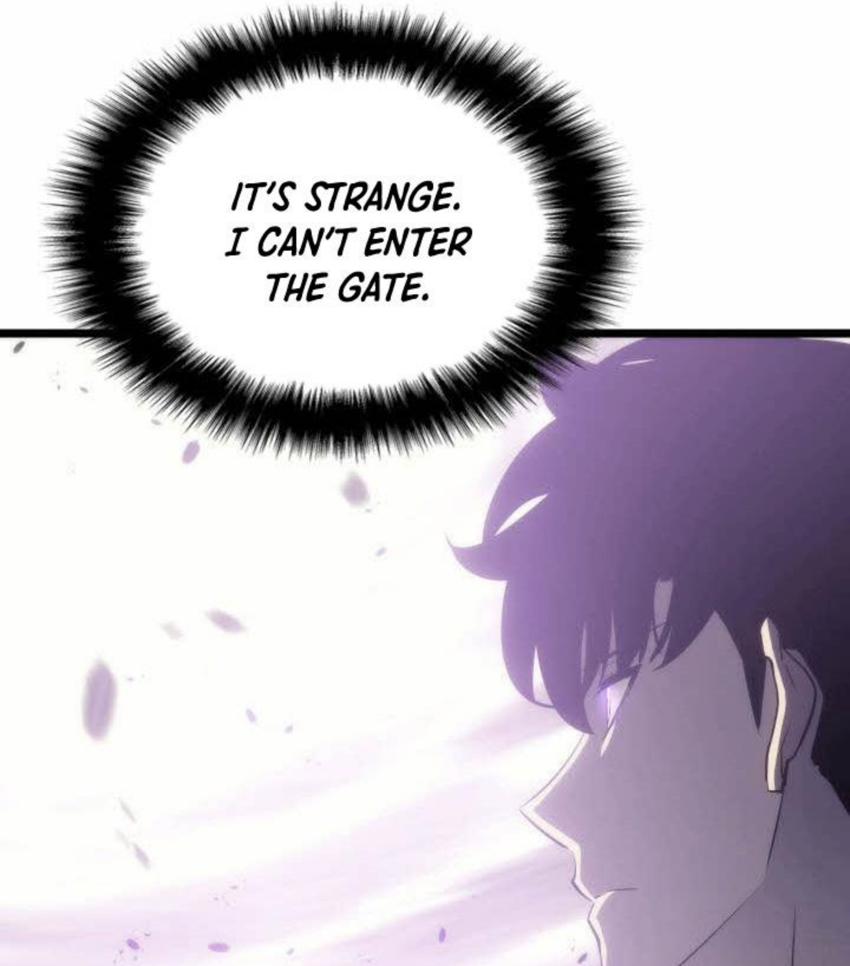
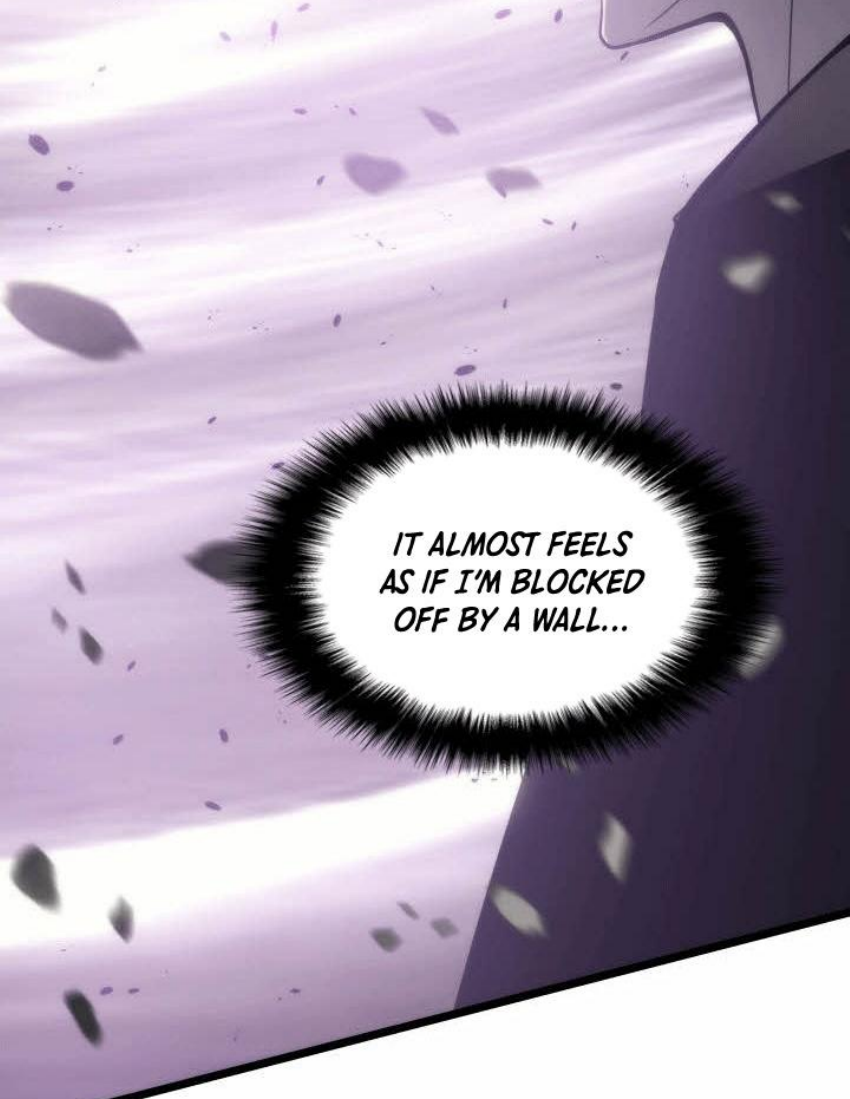
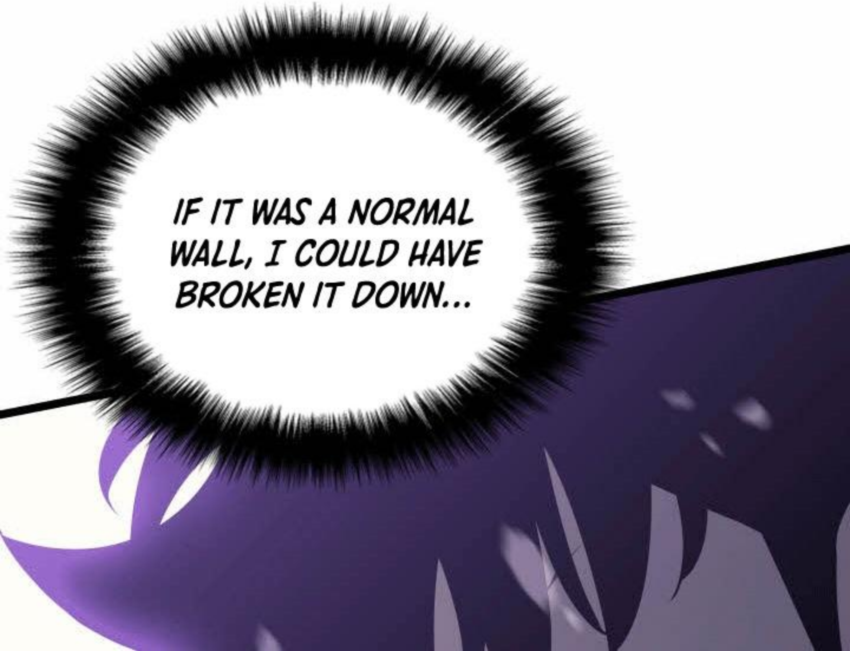
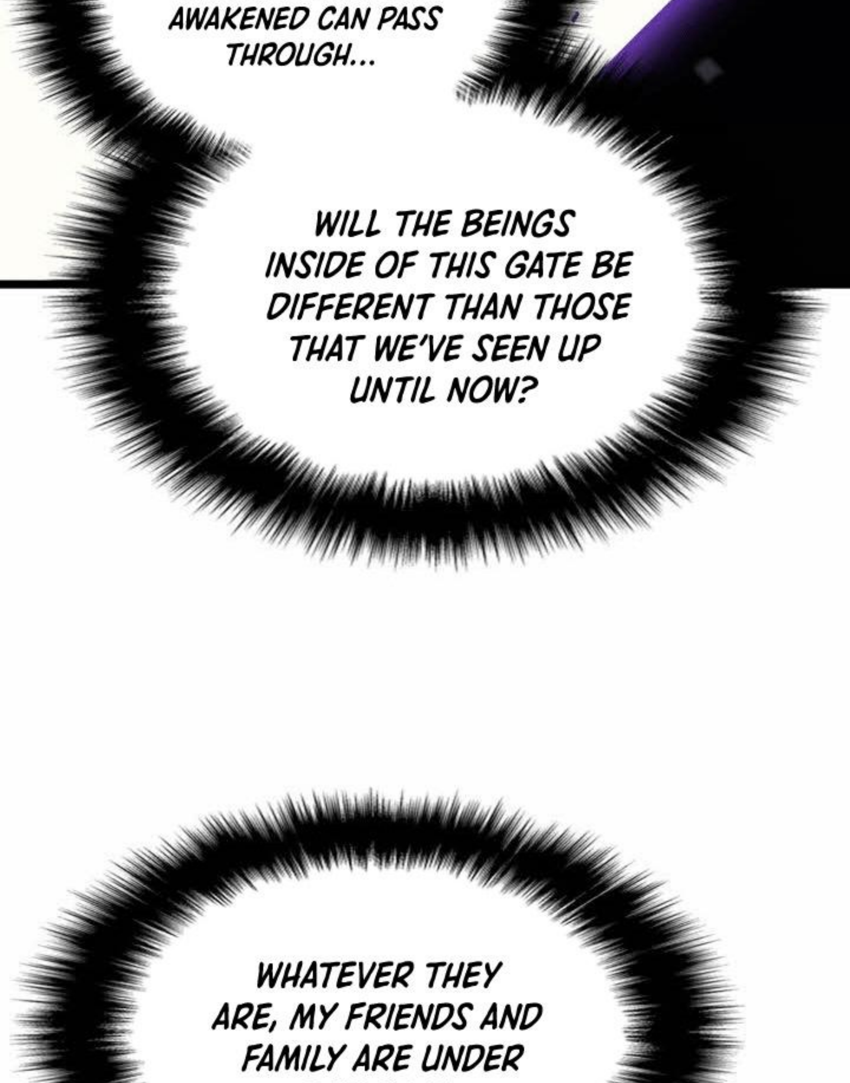
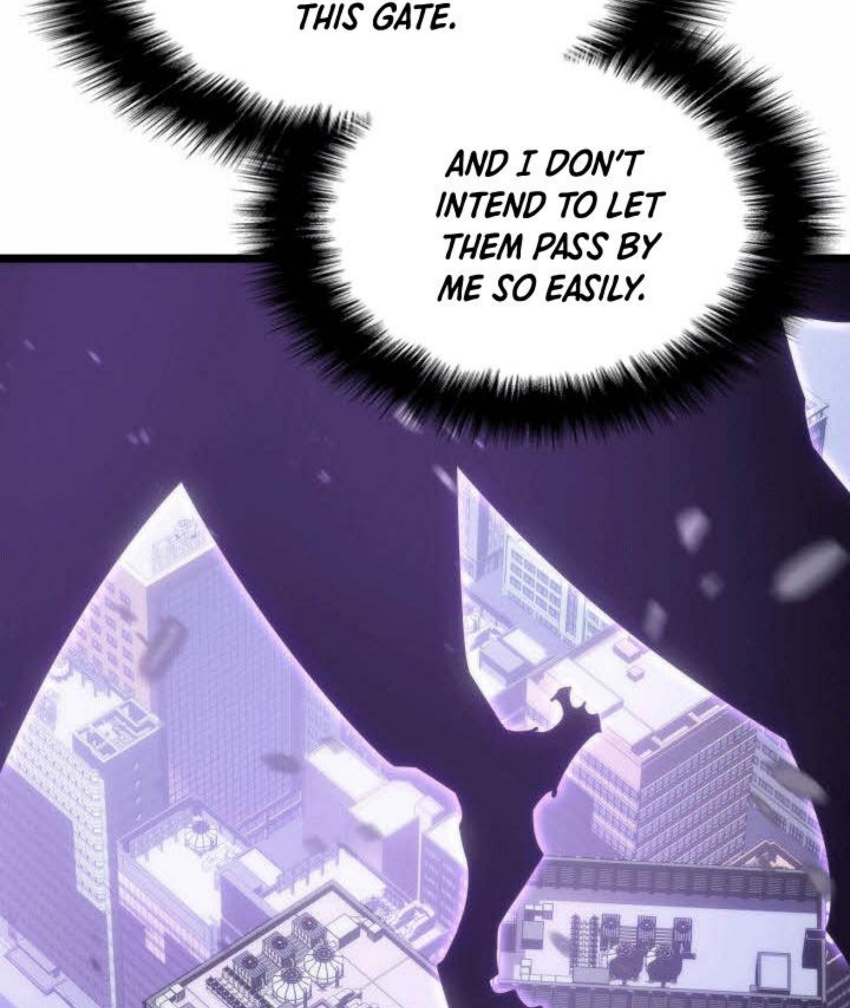

IT'S STRANGE. I CAN'T ENTER THE GATE.

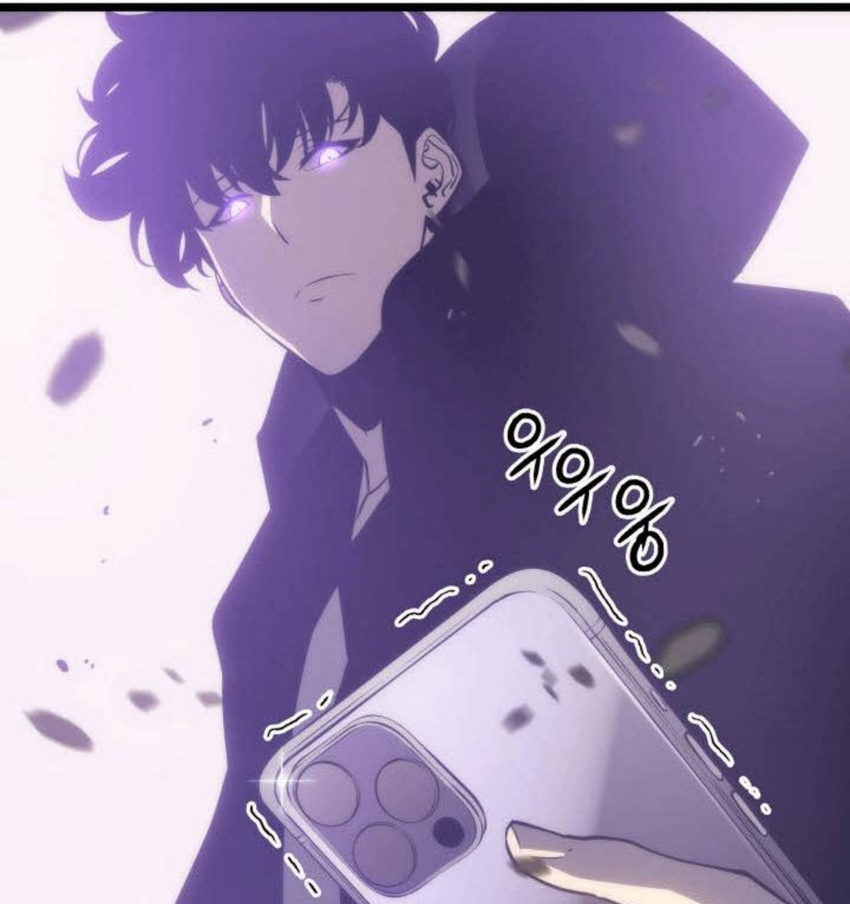

IT ALMOST FEELS AS IF I'M BLOCKED OFF BY A WALL...


IF IT WAS A NORMAL WALL, I COULD HAVE BROKEN IT DOWN...

BUT TO
THINK THIS IS A WALL
THAT NOT EVEN THE


AWAKENED CAN PASS THROUGH...
WILL THE BEINGS INSIDE OF THIS GATE BE DIFFERENT THAN THOSE THAT WE'VE SEEN UP UNTIL NOW?
WHATEVER THEY ARE, MY FRIENDS AND FAMILY ARE UNDER


THIS GATE.
AND I DON'T INTEND TO LET THEM PASS BY ME SO EASILY.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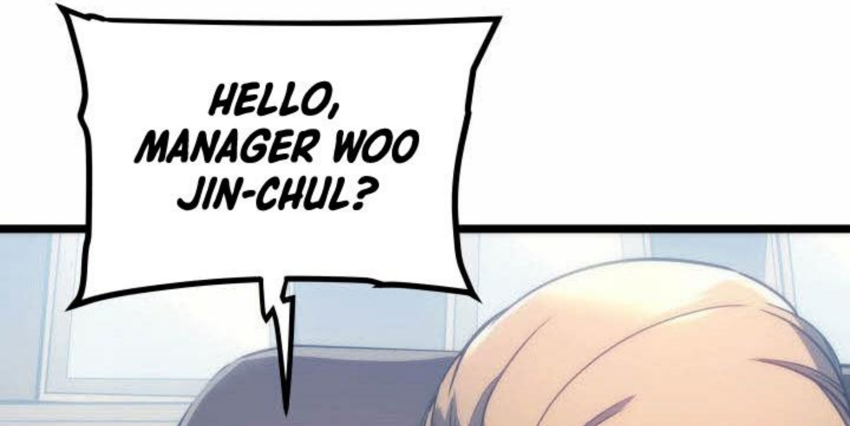
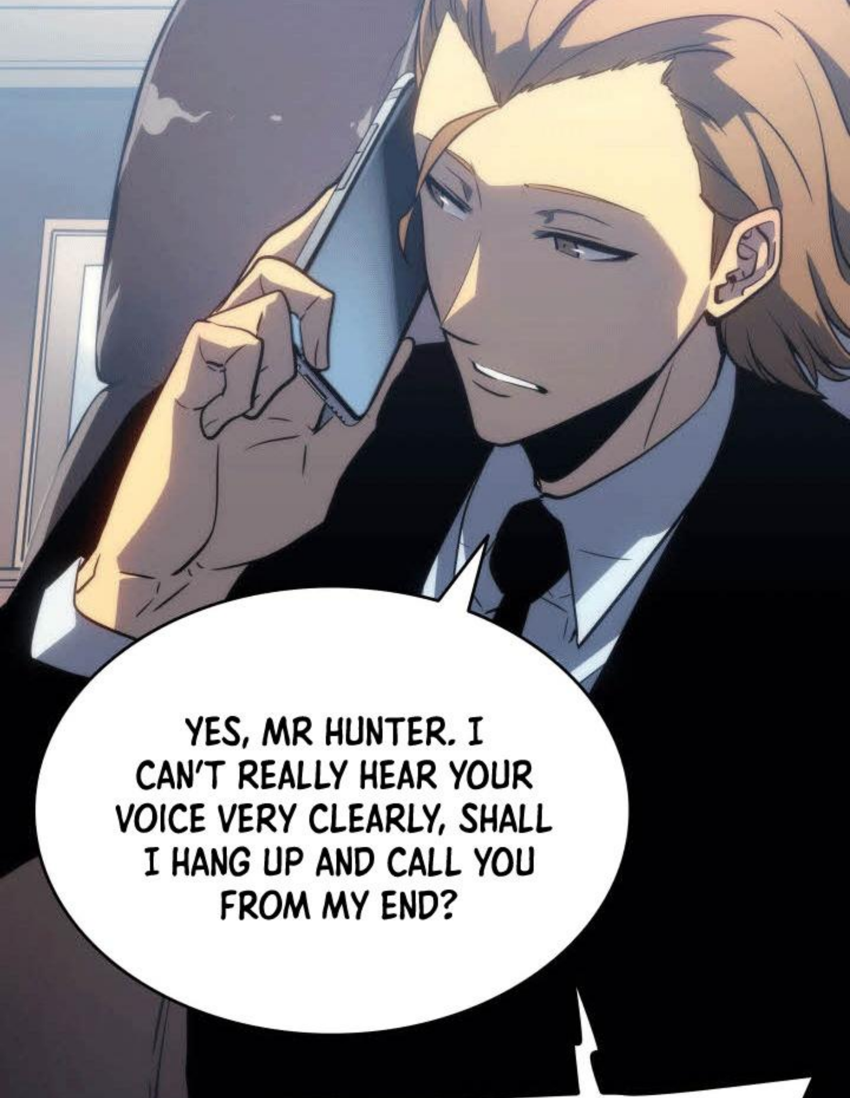
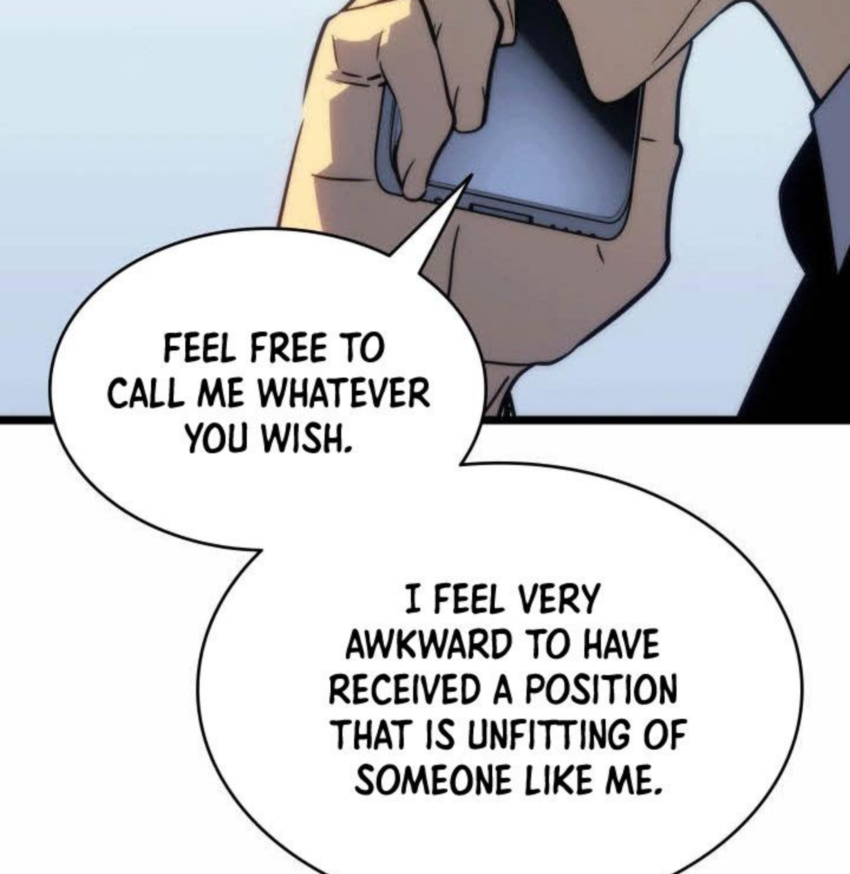
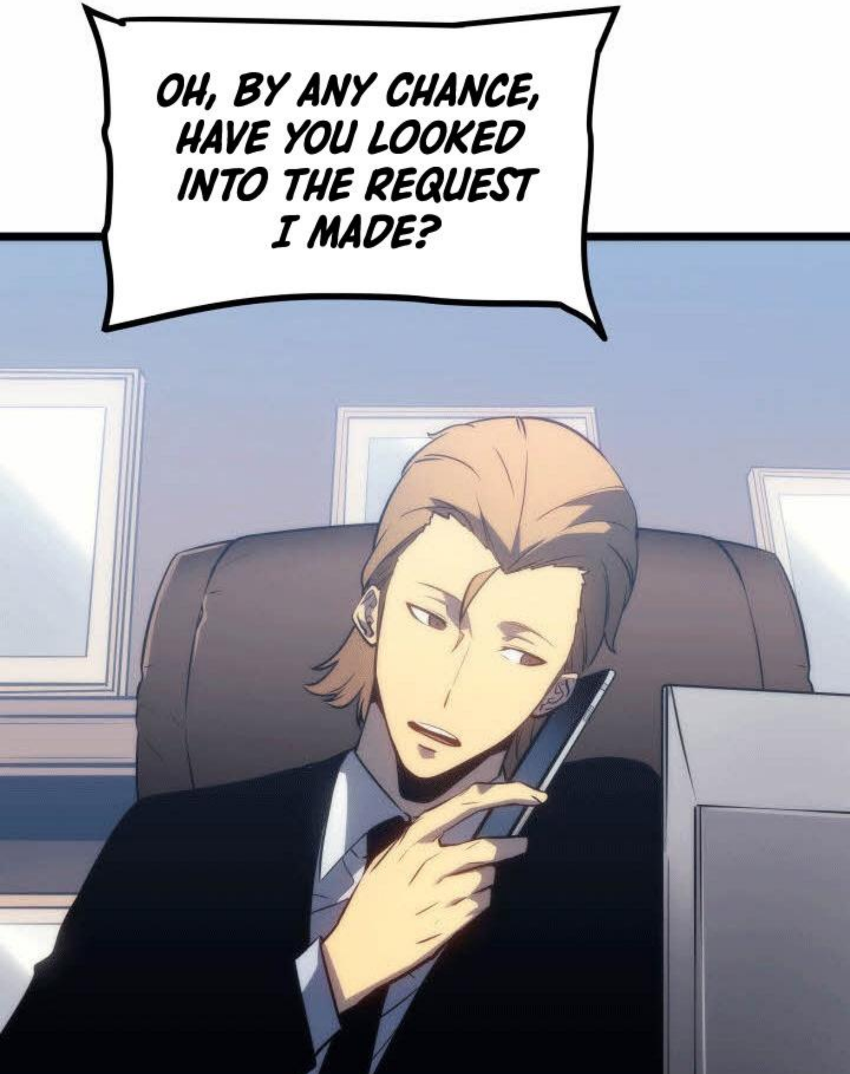

HELLO, MANAGER WOO JIN-CHUL?

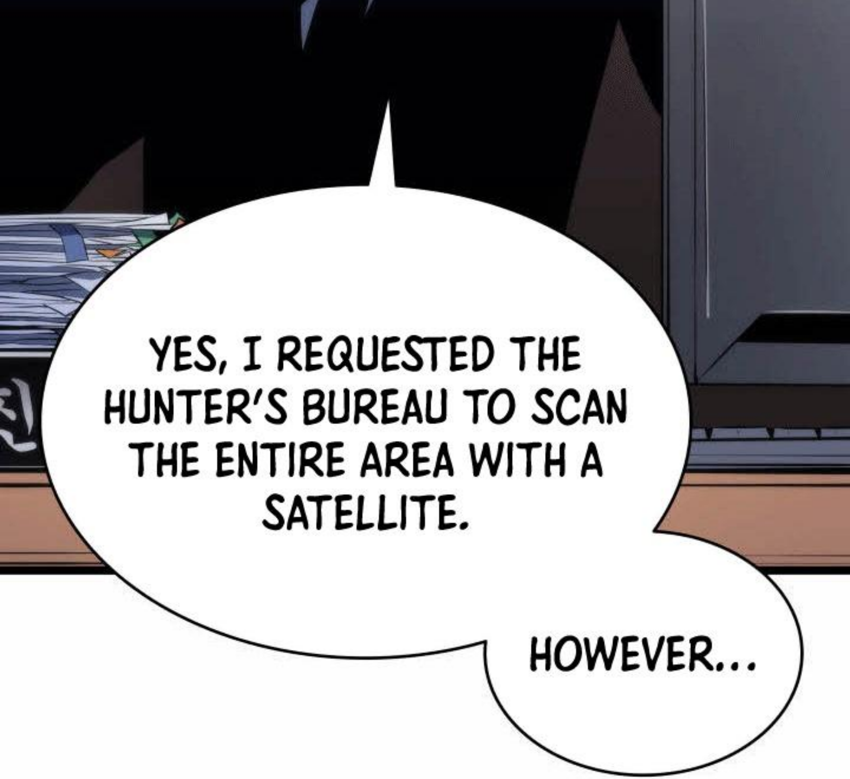

YES, MR HUNTER. I CAN'T REALLY HEAR YOUR VOICE VERY CLEARLY, SHALL I HANG UP AND CALL YOU FROM MY END?

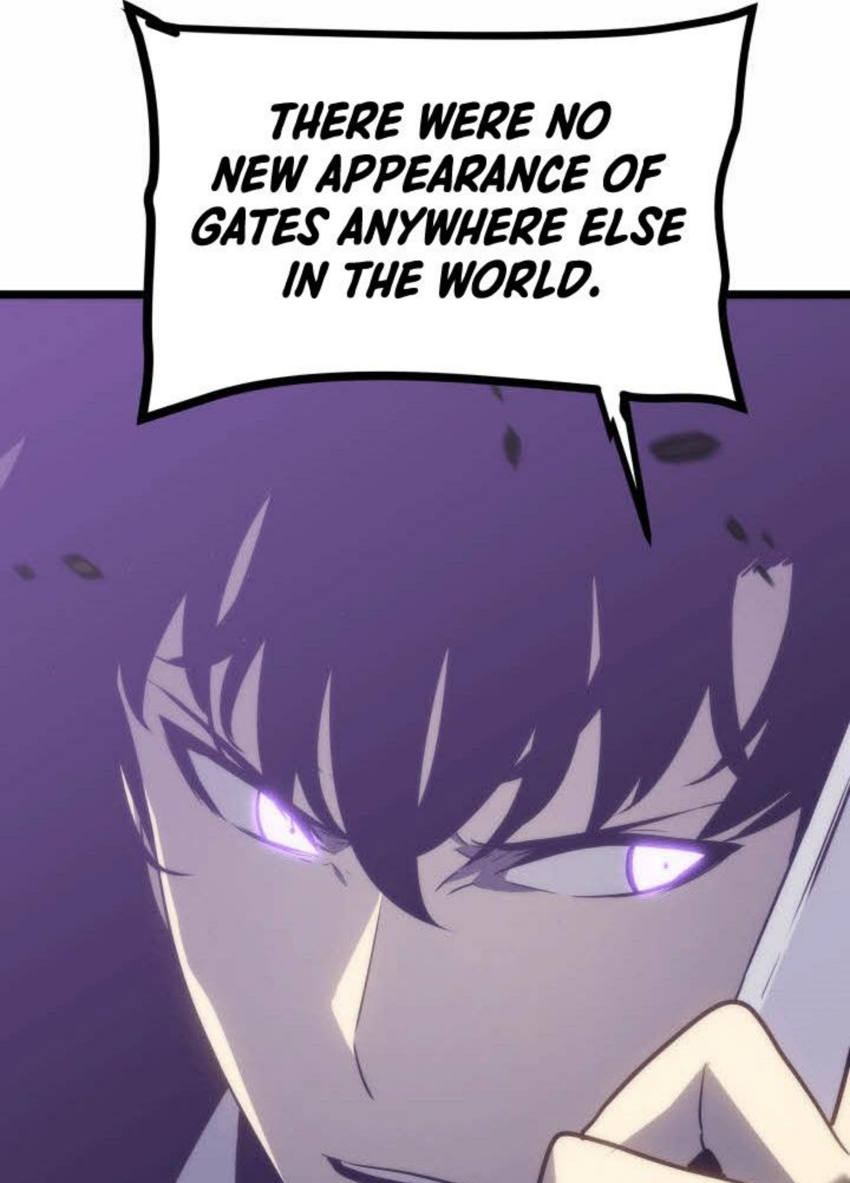
THERE IS NO NEED. IT'S BECAUSE I'M CURRENTLY HIGH UP IN THE AIR.
AND I SHOULD CALL YOU CHAIRMAN WOO JIN-CHUL

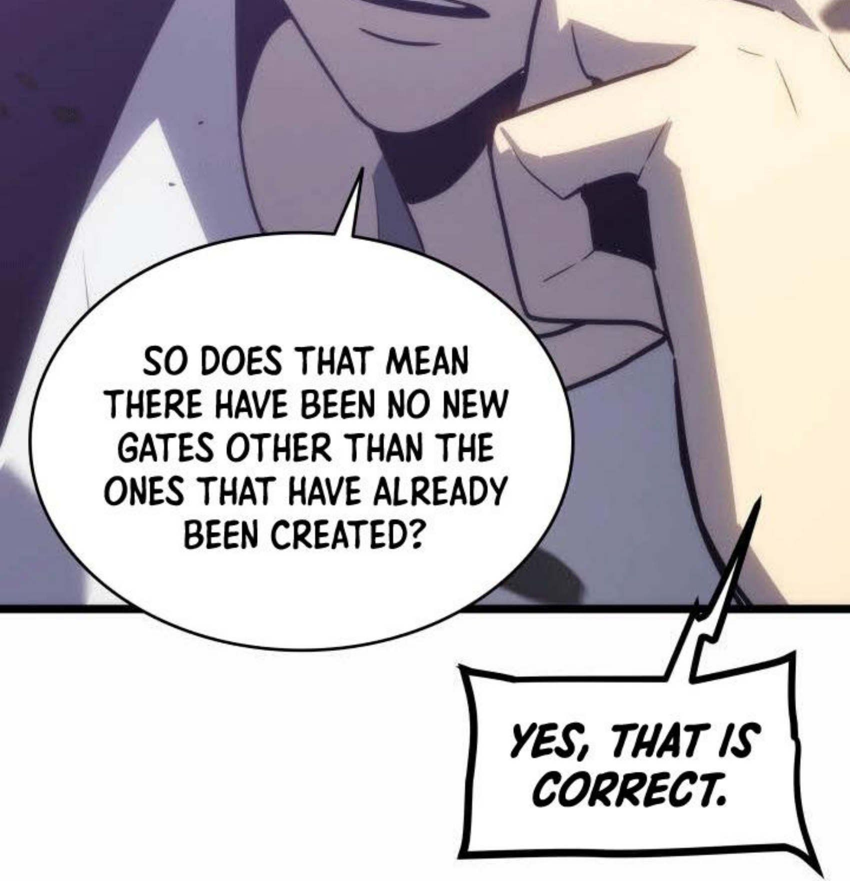
FROM NOW ON.


FEEL FREE TO CALL ME WHATEVER YOU WISH.
I FEEL VERY AWKWARD TO HAVE RECEIVED A POSITION THAT IS UNFITTING OF SOMEONE LIKE ME.


OH, BY ANY CHANCE, HAVE YOU LOOKED INTO THE REQUEST I MADE?


YES, I REQUESTED THE HUNTER'S BUREAU TO SCAN THE ENTIRE AREA WITH A SATELLITE.
HOWEVER...

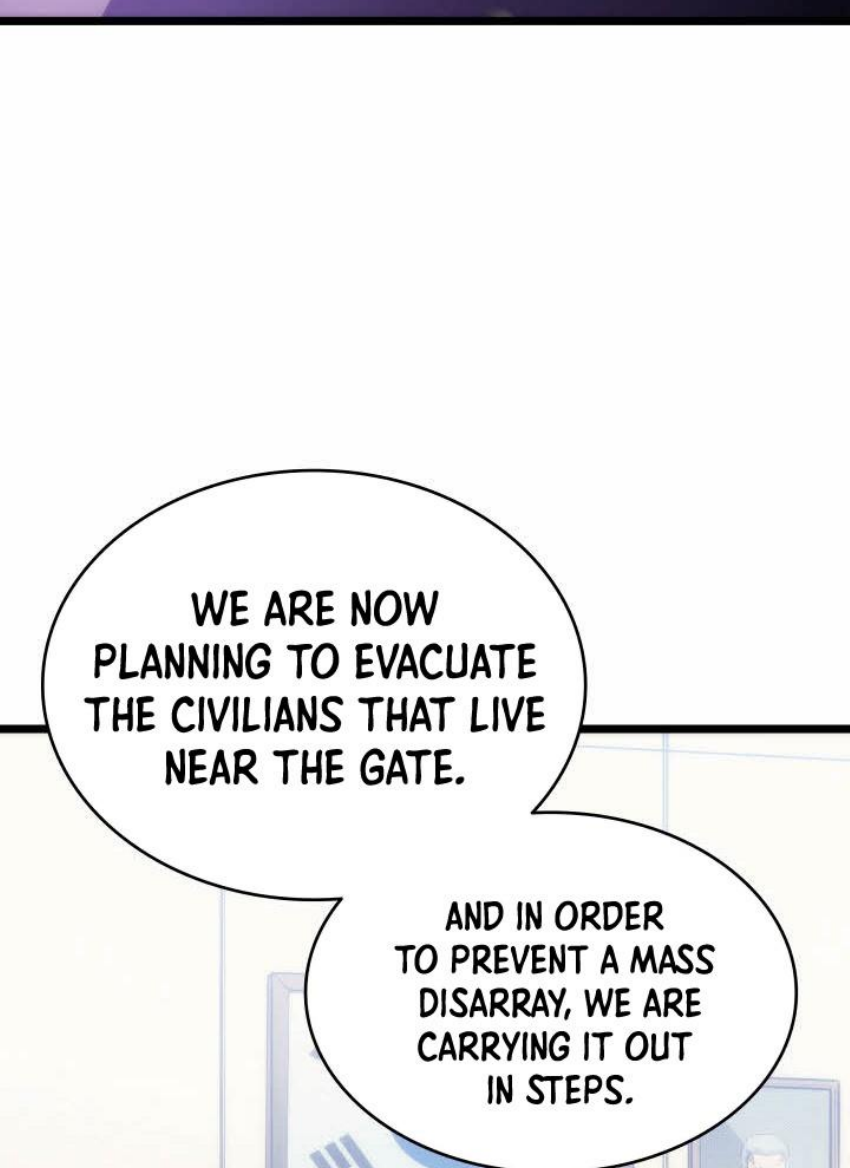

THERE WERE NO NEW APPEARANCE OF GATES ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.

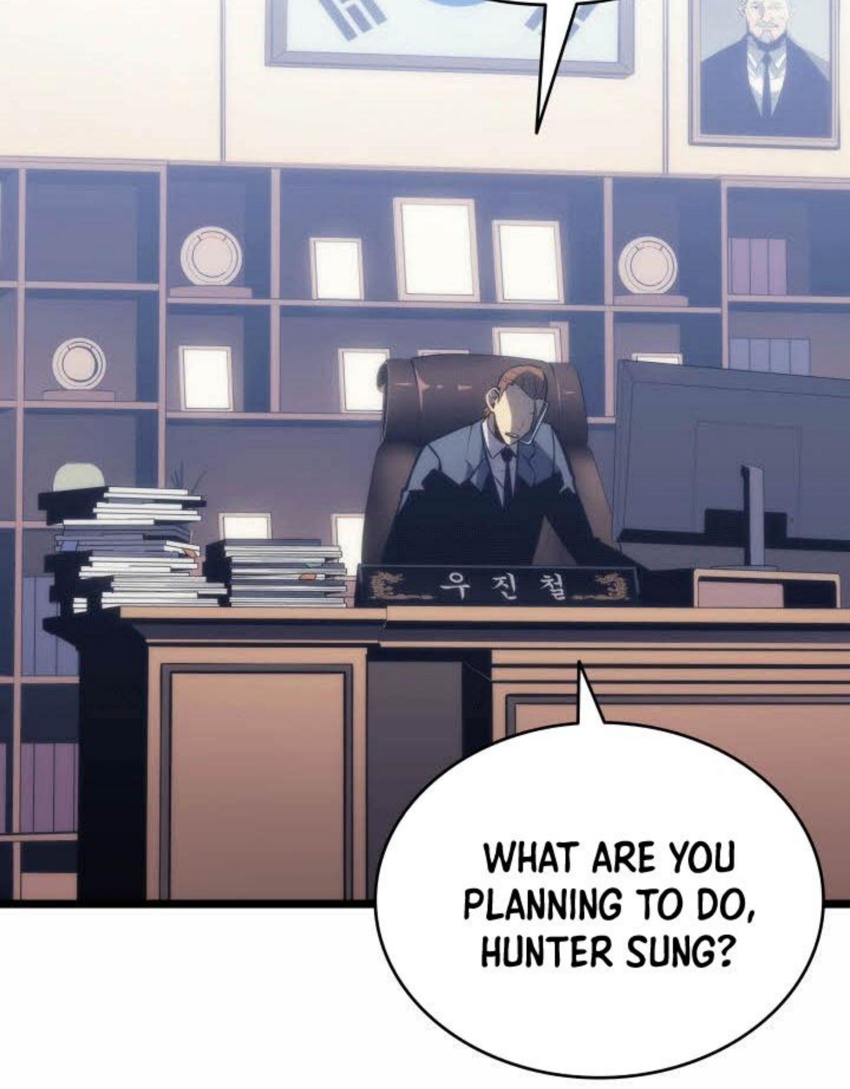

SO DOES THAT MEAN THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW GATES OTHER THAN THE ONES THAT HAVE ALREADY BEEN CREATED?
YES, THAT IS CORRECT.

IT'S BEEN 3 HOURS
SINCE THE APPEARANCE OF
THE GIGANTIC GATE.

AND WHAT ARE THE ODDS
THAT NO NEW GATES HAVE STARTED
APPEARING ACROSS THE GLOBE
COINCIDENTALLY IN THOSE
3 HOURS?

...IT'S NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE.


WE ARE NOW PLANNING TO EVACUATE THE CIVILIANS THAT LIVE NEAR THE GATE.
AND IN ORDER TO PREVENT A MASS DISARRAY, WE ARE CARRYING IT OUT IN STEPS.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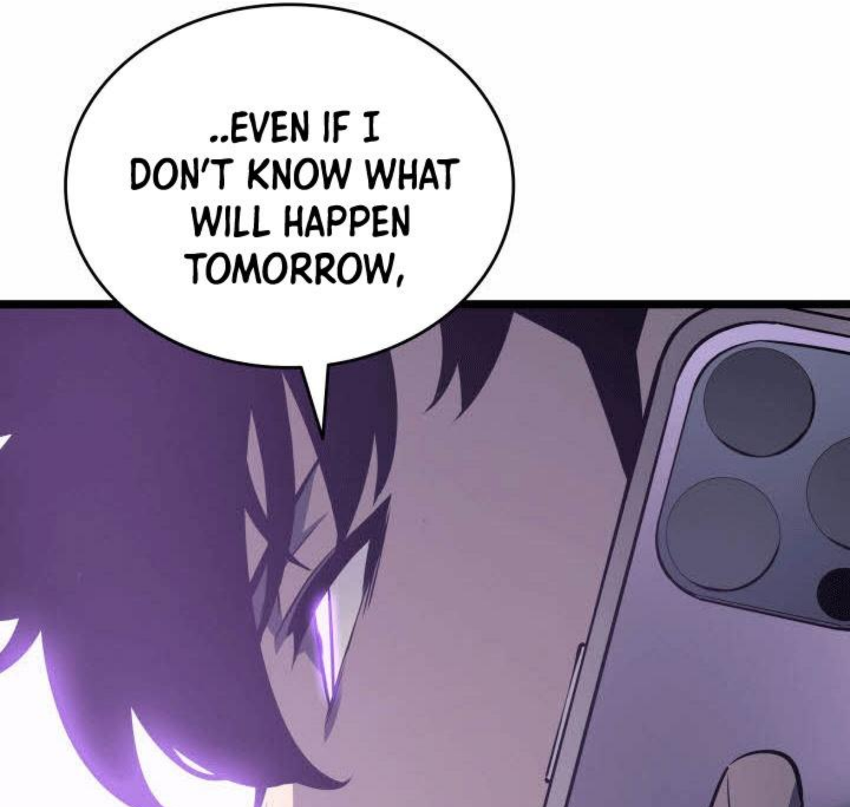
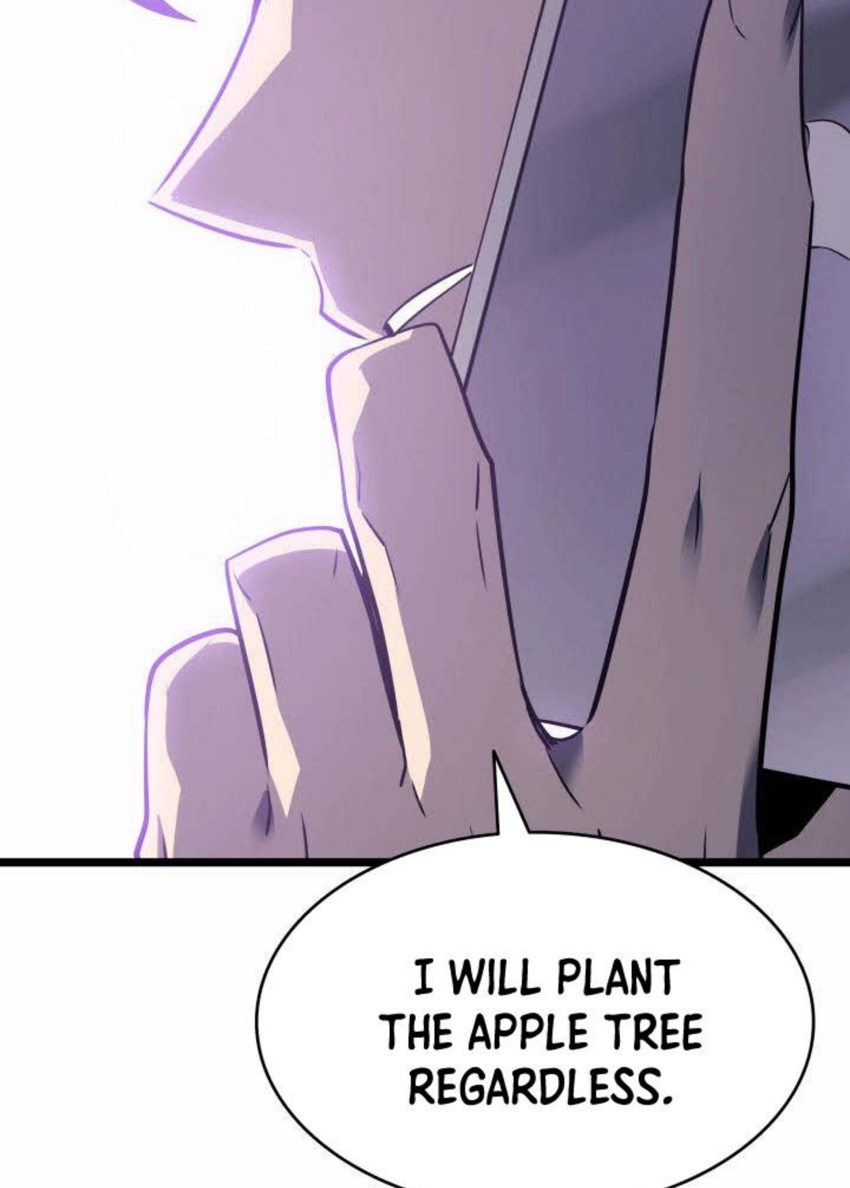
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO, HUNTER SUNG?


..EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN TOMORROW,


I WILL PLANT THE APPLE TREE REGARDLESS.

HUNTER ASSOCIATION GYMNASIUM

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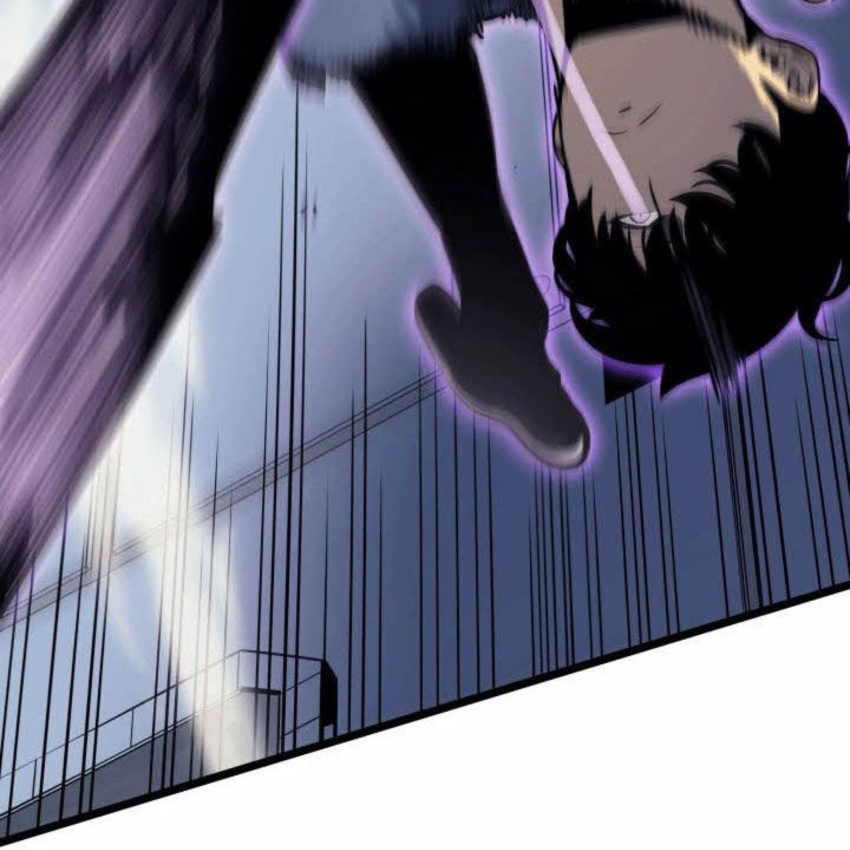

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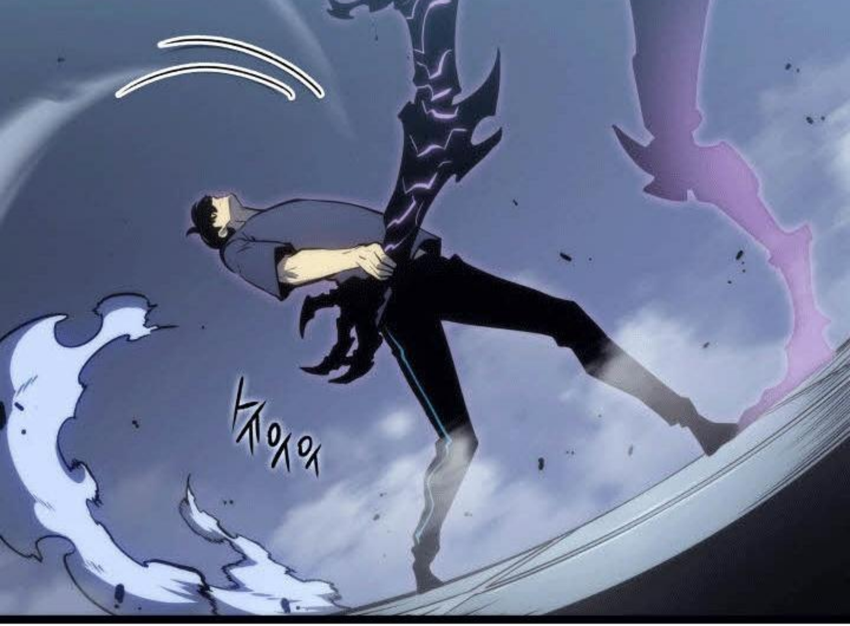
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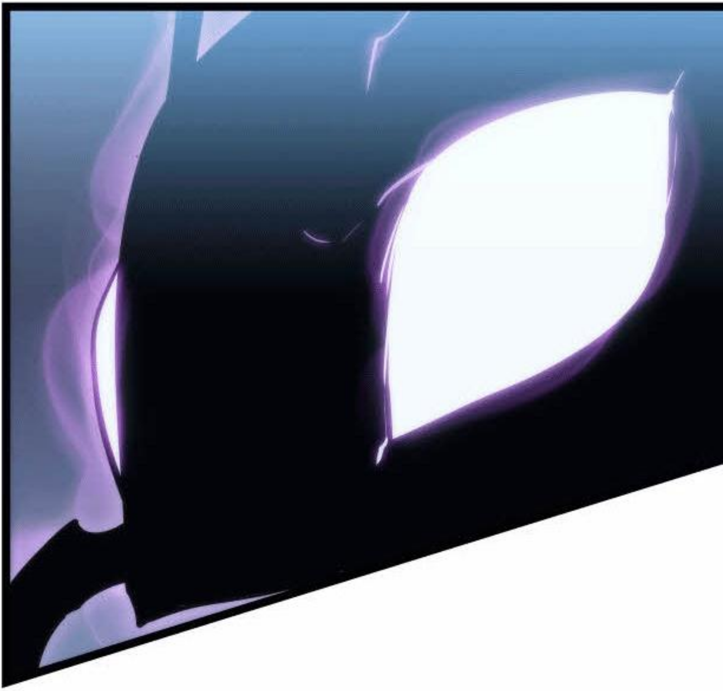
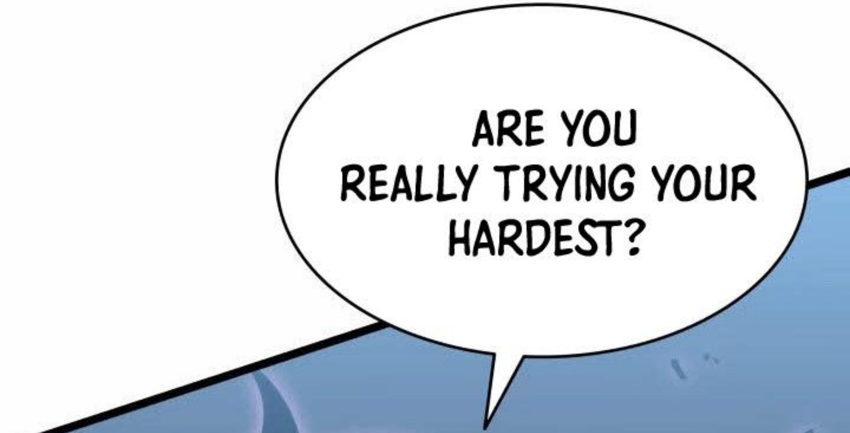
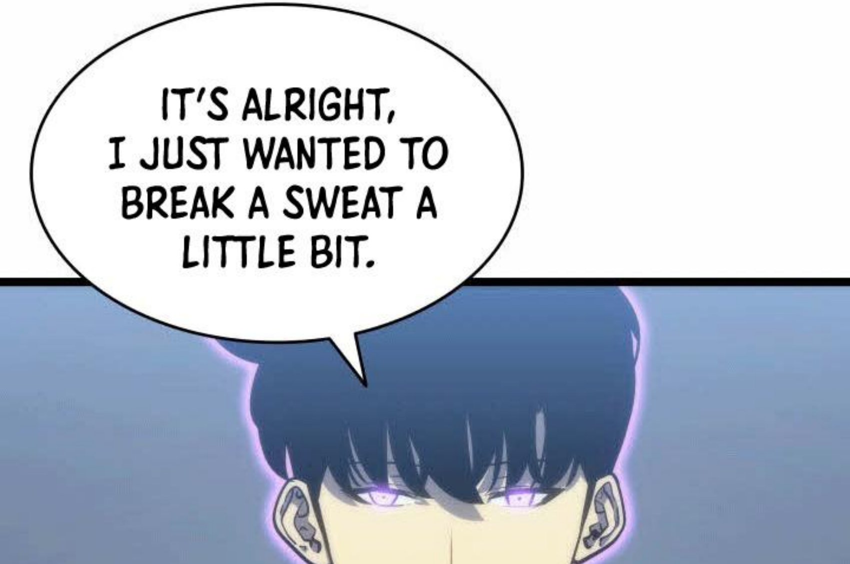
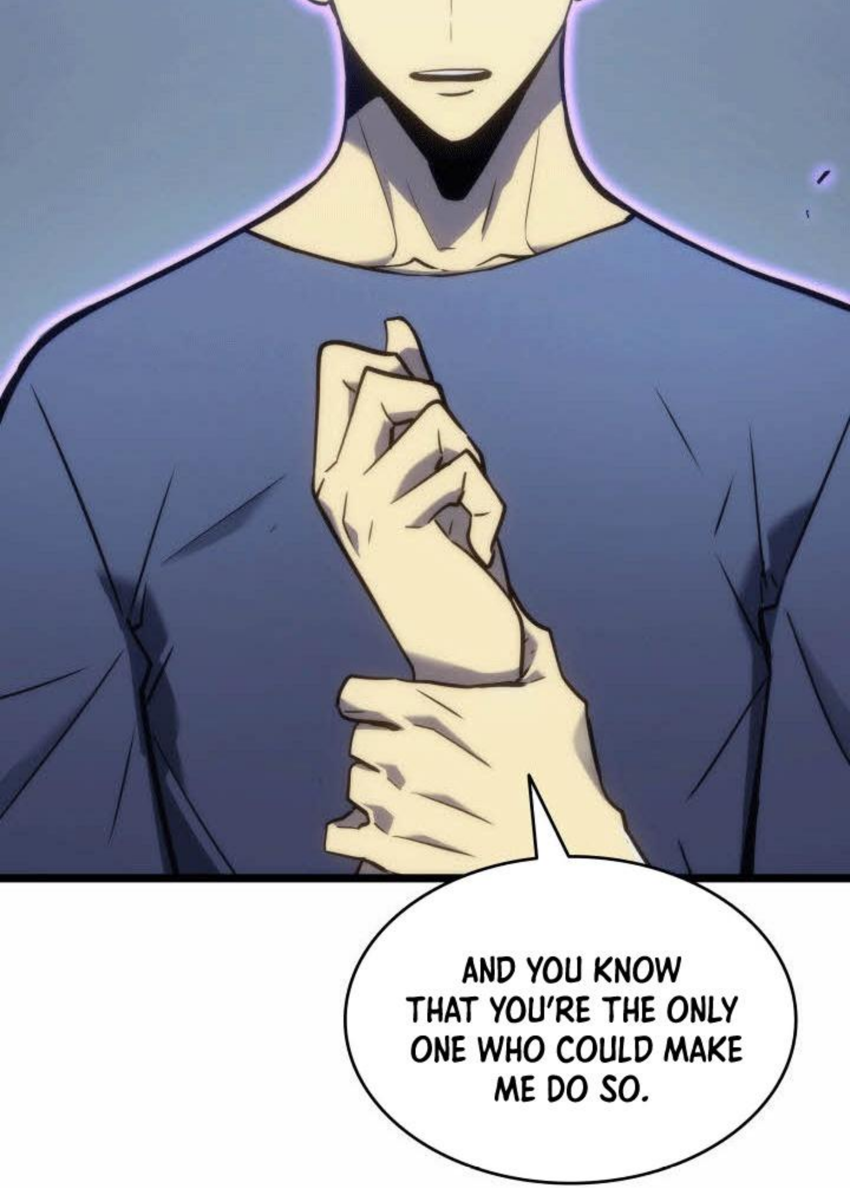


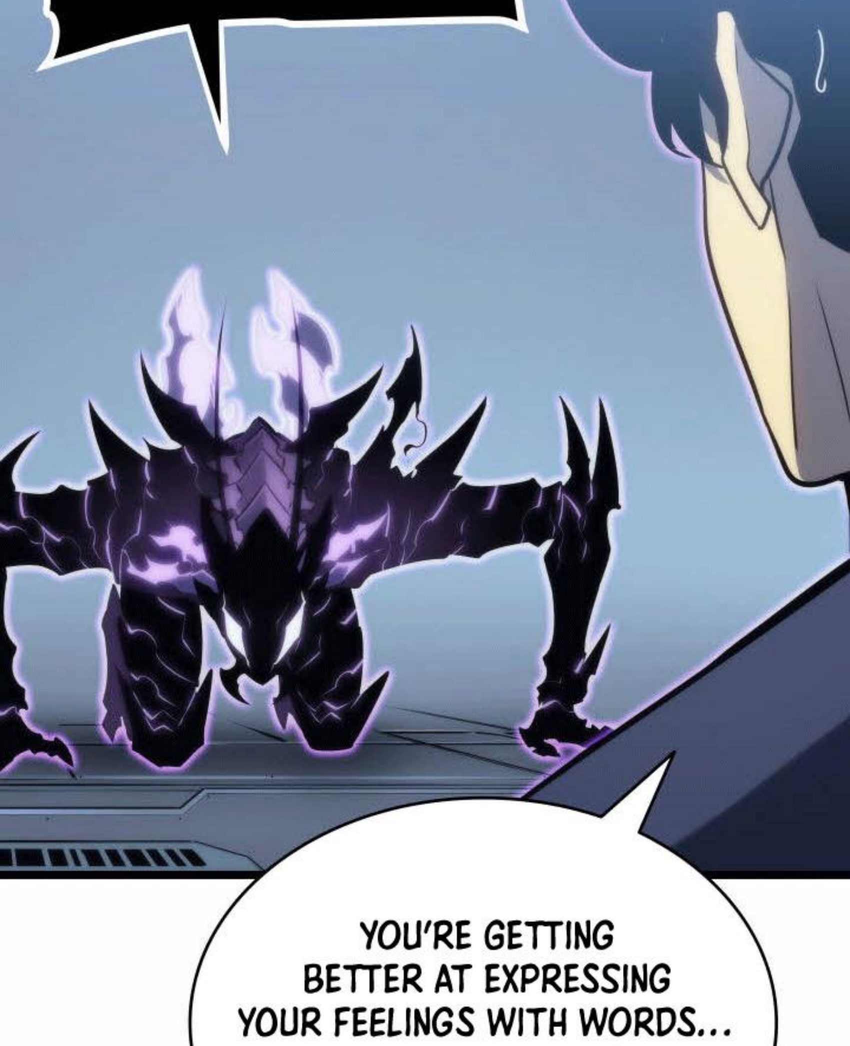

ARE YOU REALLY TRYING YOUR HARDEST?

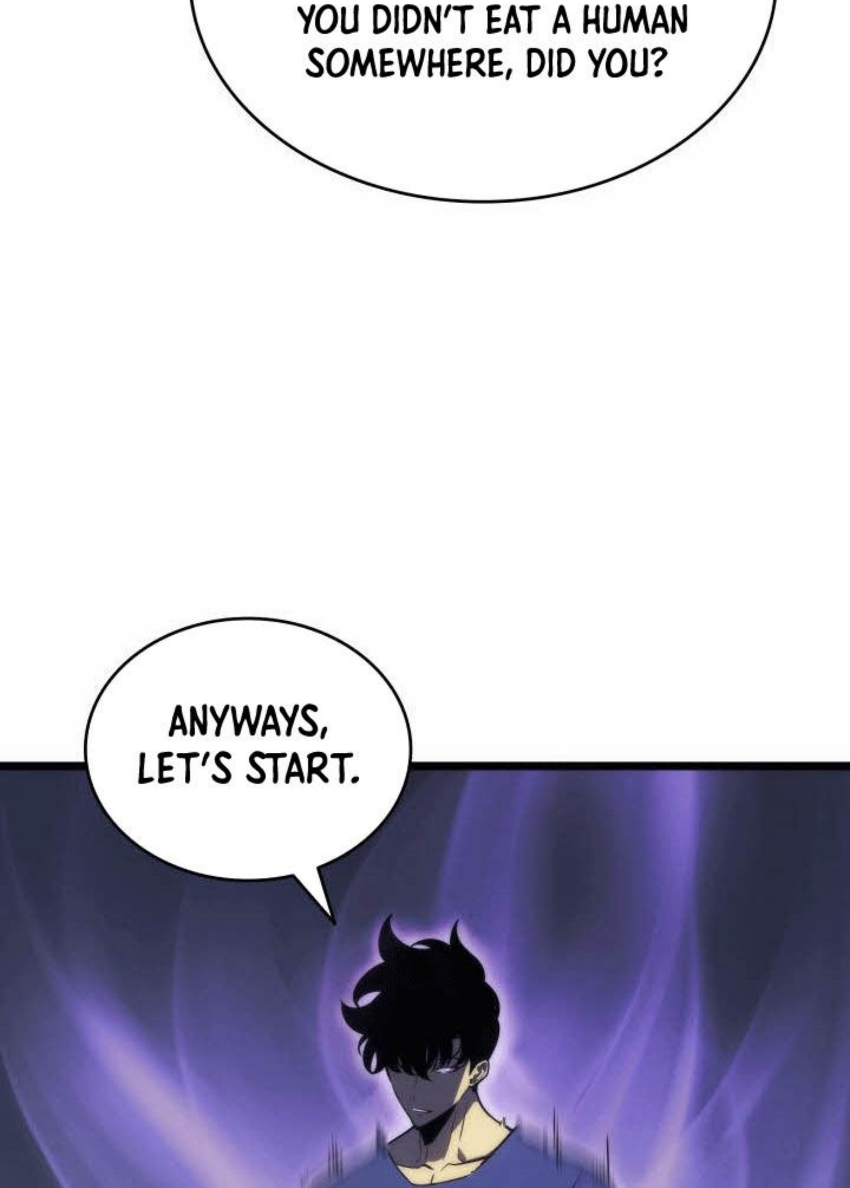
MY KING, I WOULDN'T DARE TO...


IT'S ALRIGHT, I JUST WANTED TO BREAK A SWEAT A LITTLE BIT.


AND YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD MAKE ME DO SO.

Y...YOUR WORDS HAVE FILLED ME WITH DEEP EMOTIONS...!


YOU'RE GETTING BETTER AT EXPRESSING YOUR FEELINGS WITH WORDS...


YOU DIDN'T EAT A HUMAN SOMEWHERE, DID YOU?
ANYWAYS, LET'S START.

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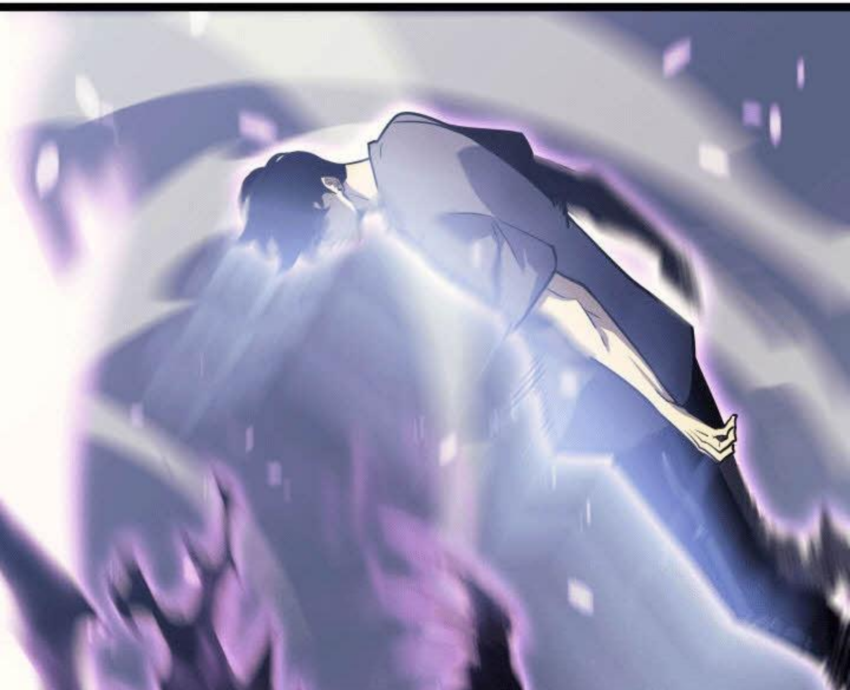
[BERU LV .MAX]
COMMANDER RANK



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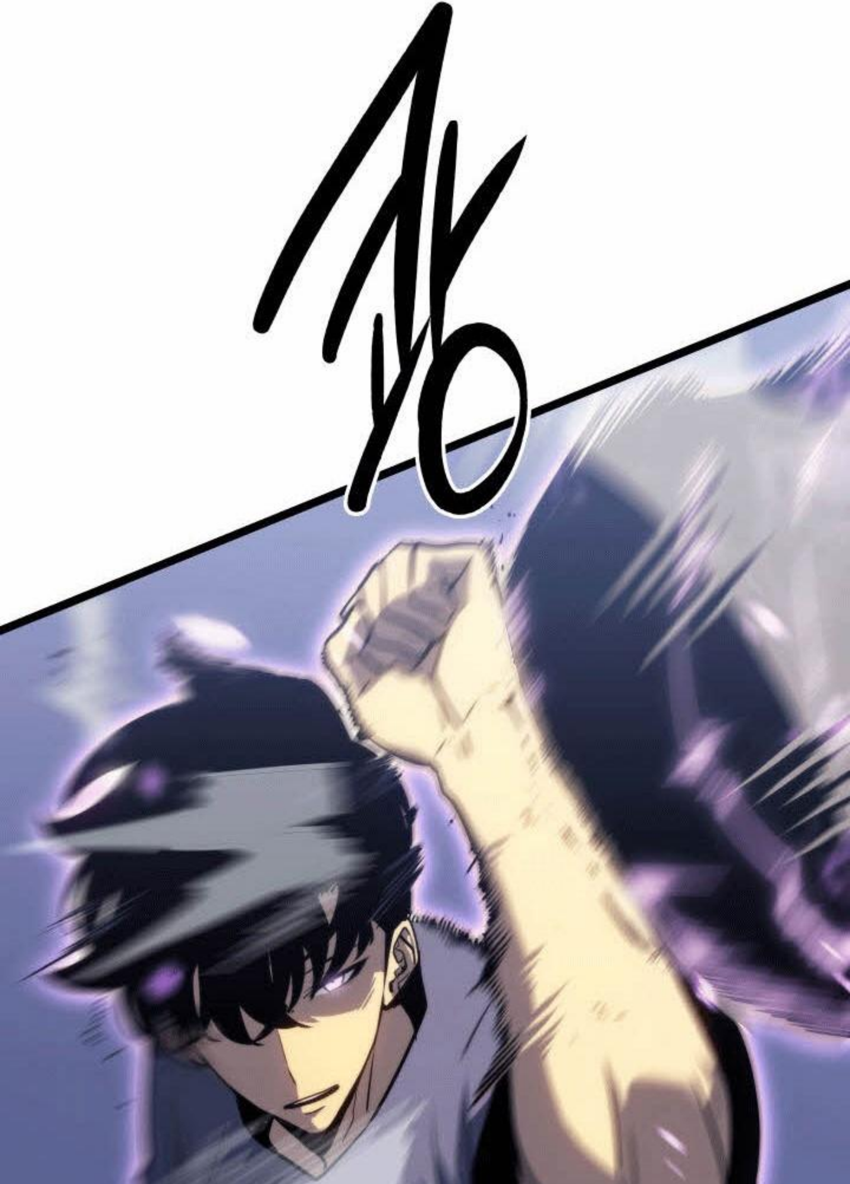
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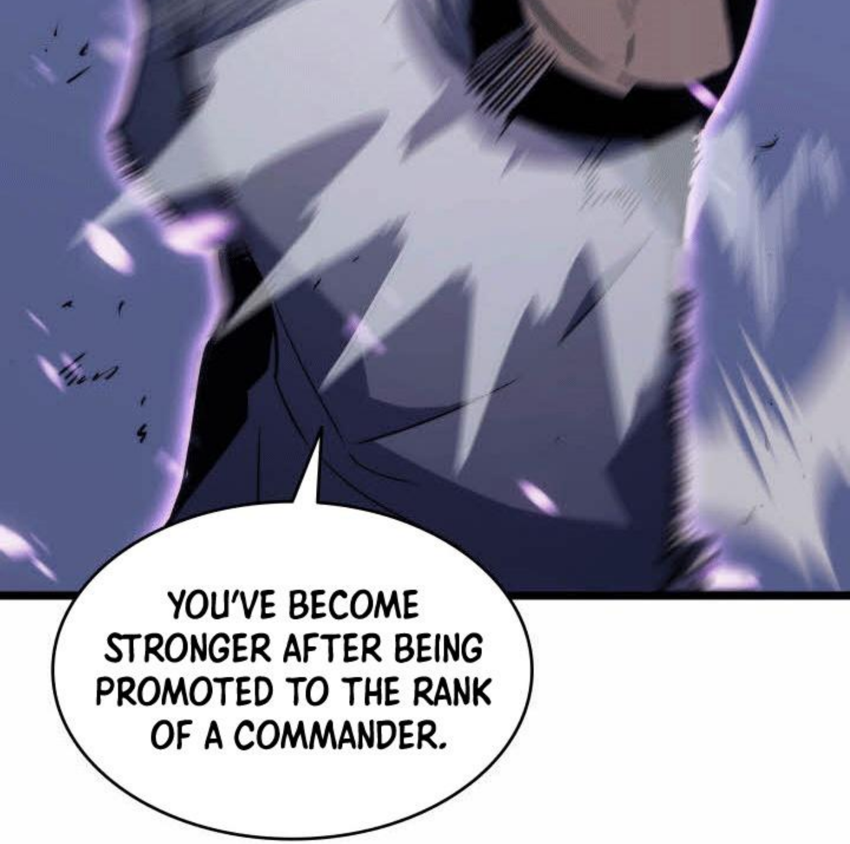
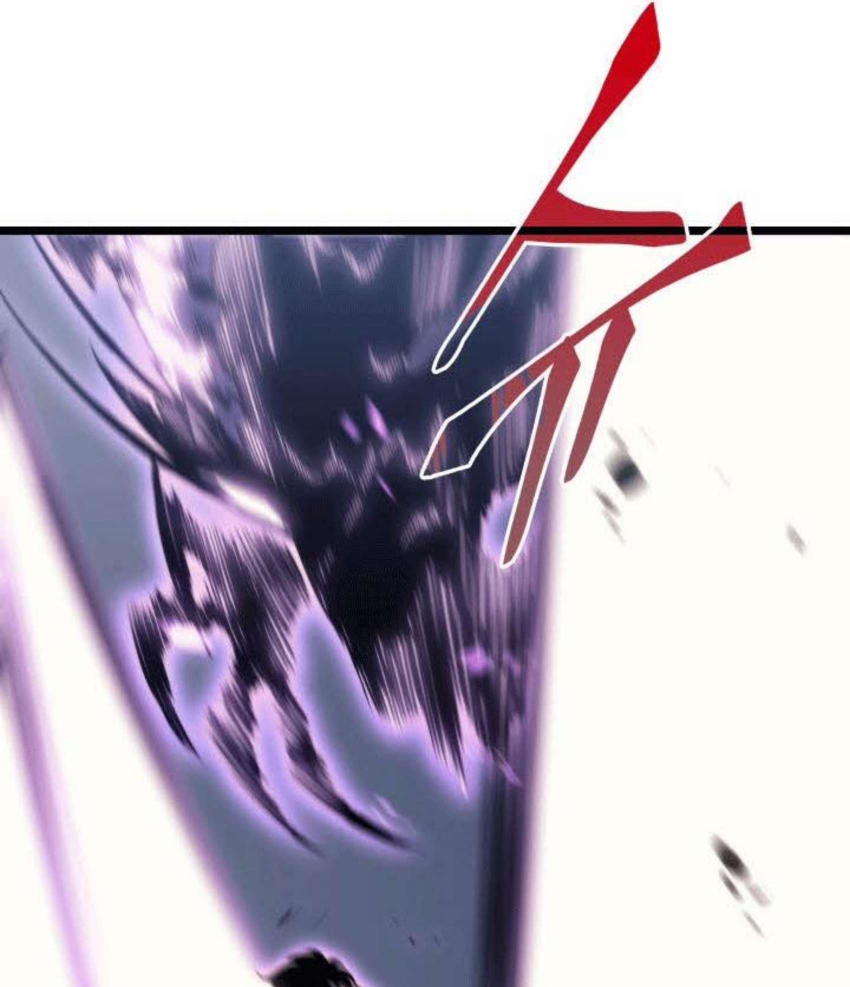

YOU'VE BECOME STRONGER AFTER BEING PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF A COMMANDER.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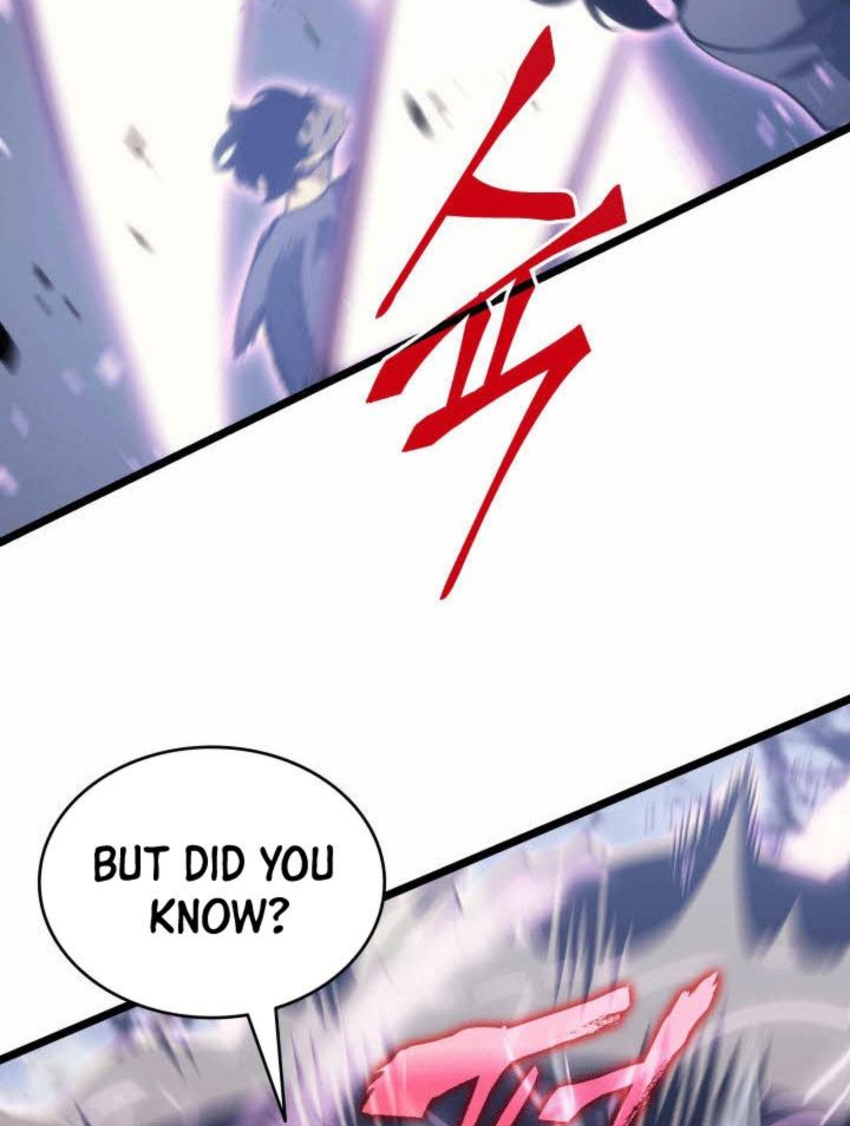
BUT DID YOU KNOW?

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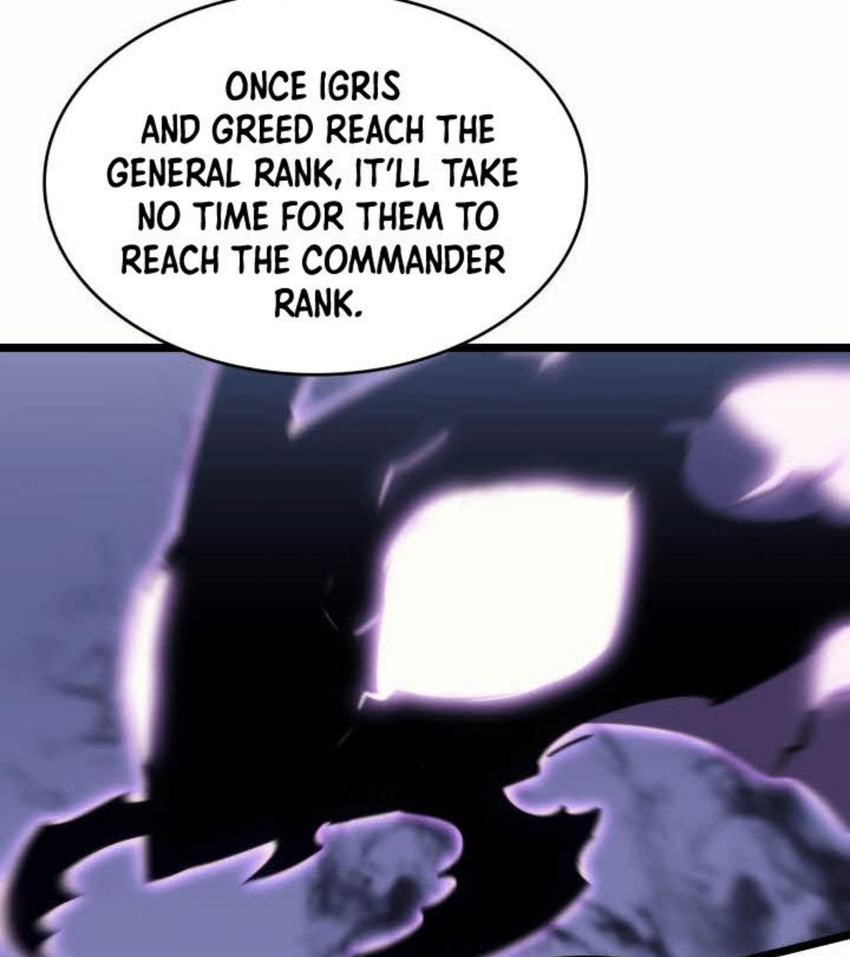
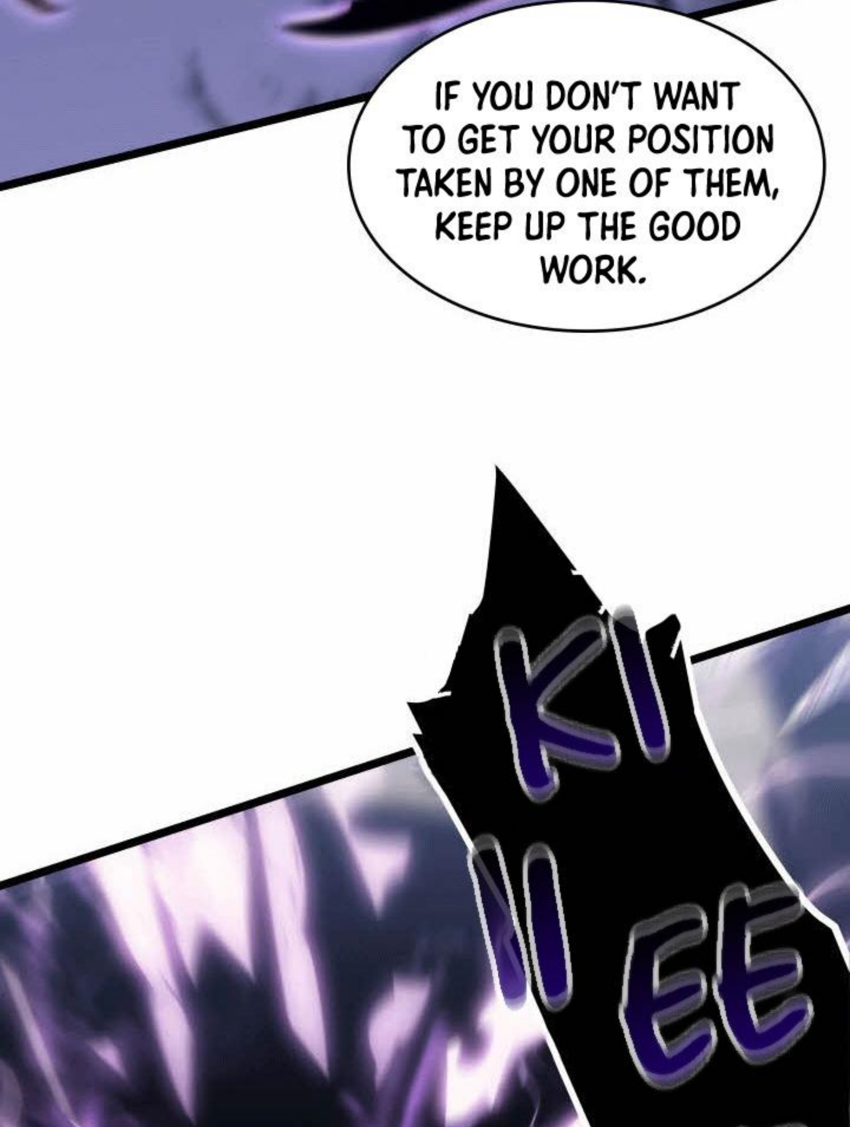
THAT THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE COMMANDER,
IN AN ARMY.


ONCE IGRIS AND GREED REACH THE GENERAL RANK, IT'LL TAKE NO TIME FOR THEM TO REACH THE COMMANDER RANK.


IF YOU DON'T WANT TO GET YOUR POSITION TAKEN BY ONE OF THEM, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
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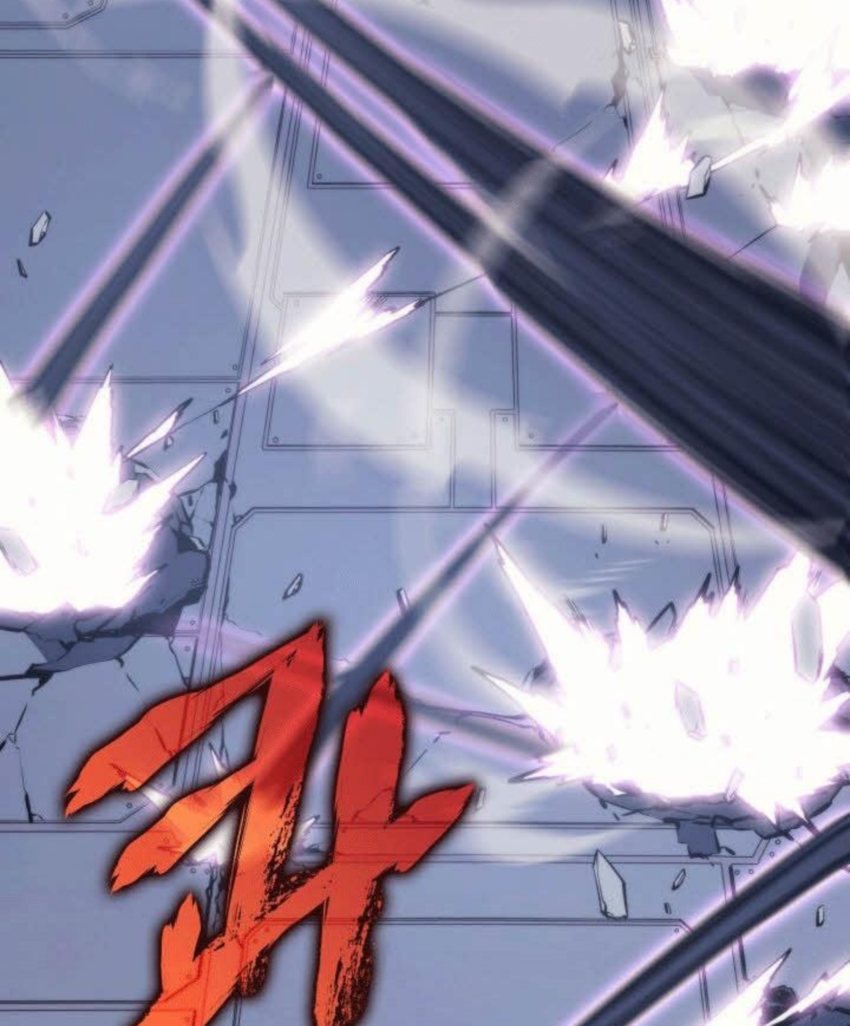
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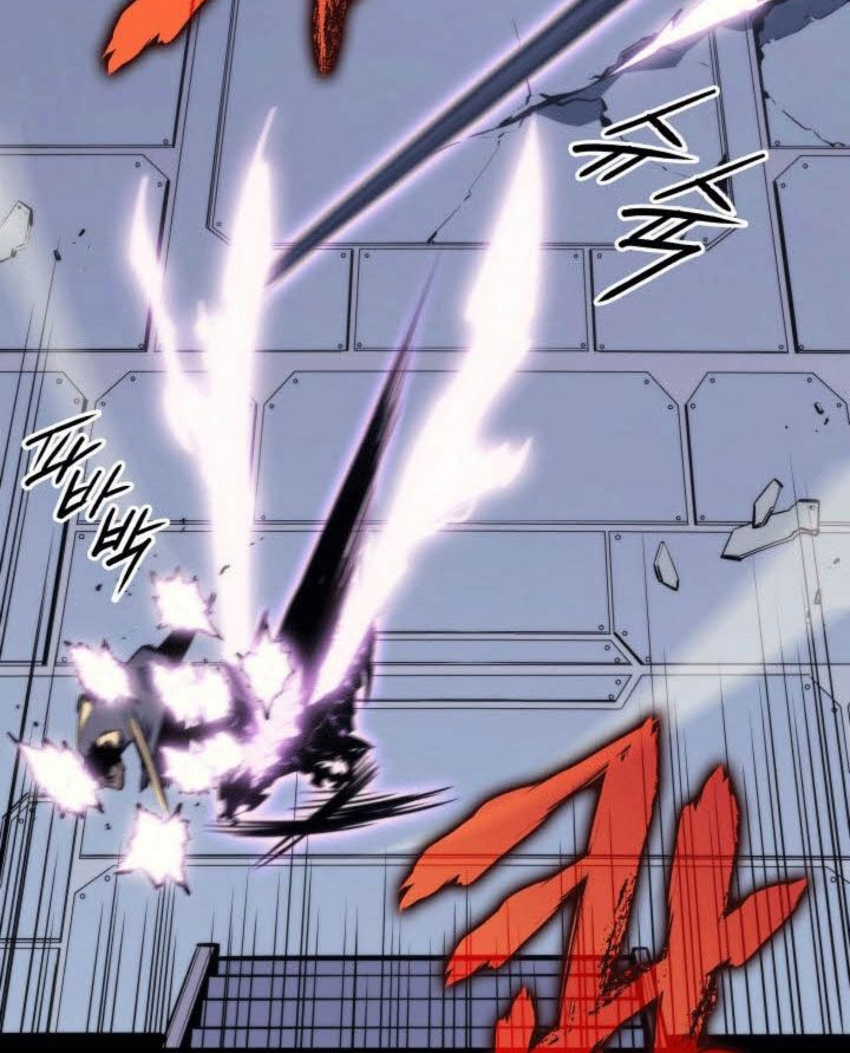
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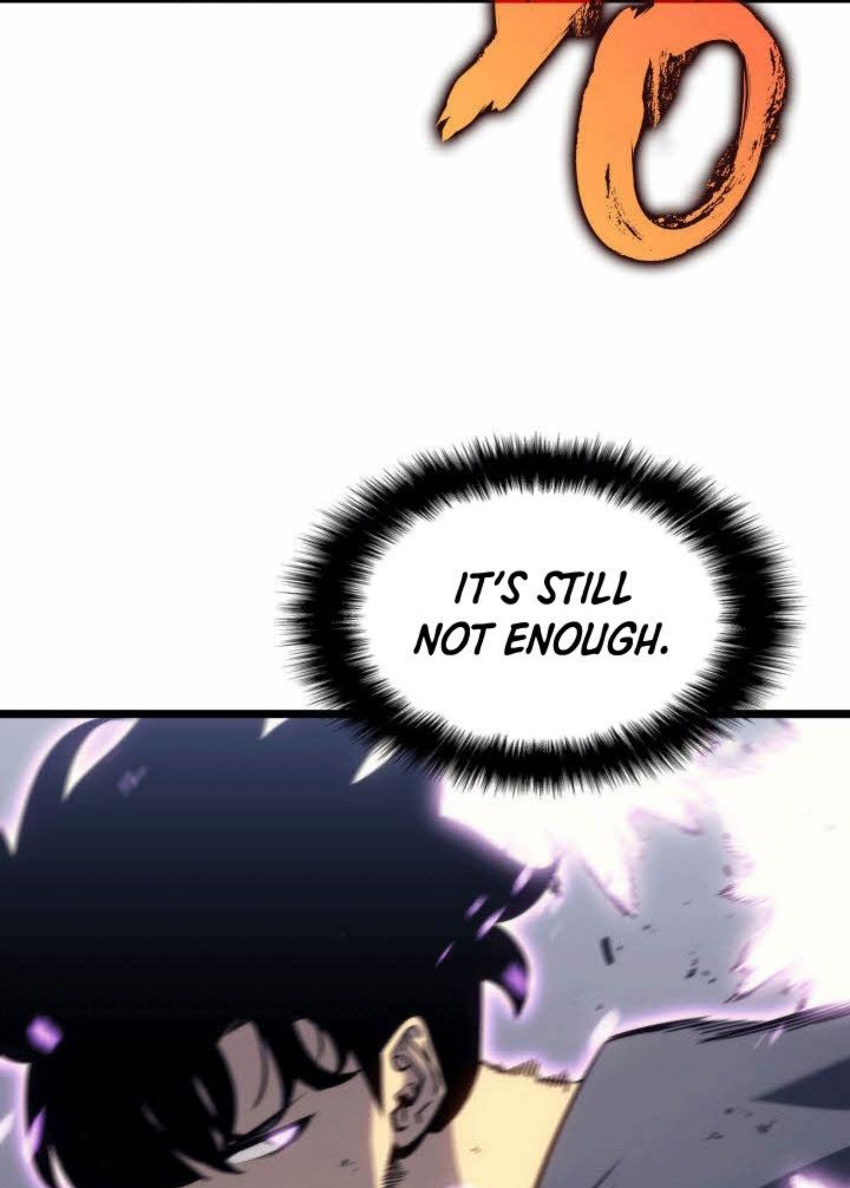
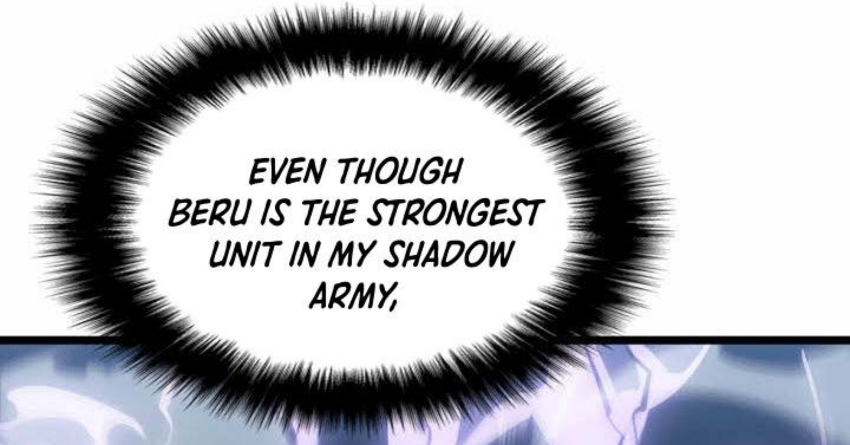
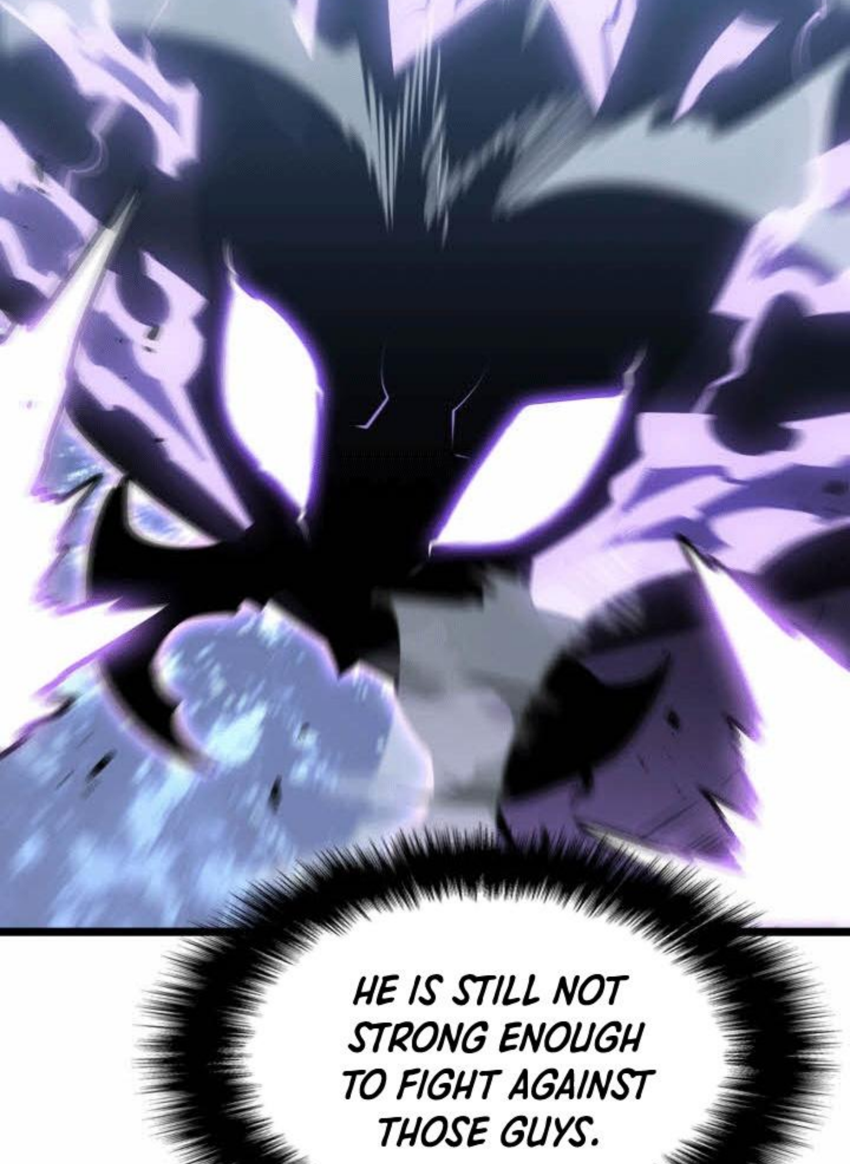

IT'S STILL NOT ENOUGH.


EVEN THOUGH BERU IS THE STRONGEST UNIT IN MY SHADOW ARMY,


HE IS STILL NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT AGAINST THOSE GUYS.

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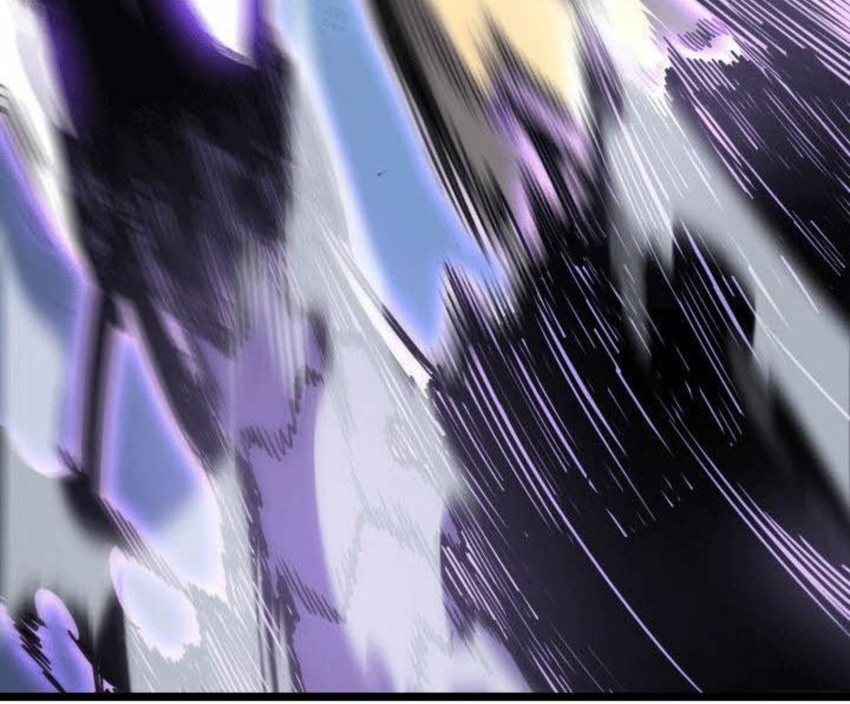

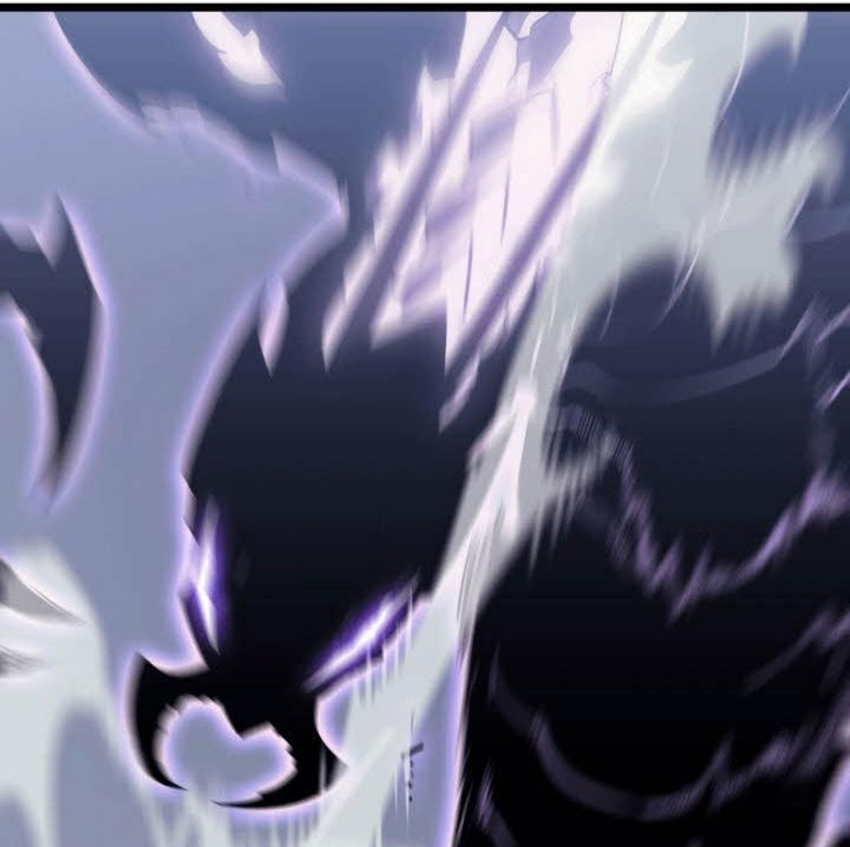

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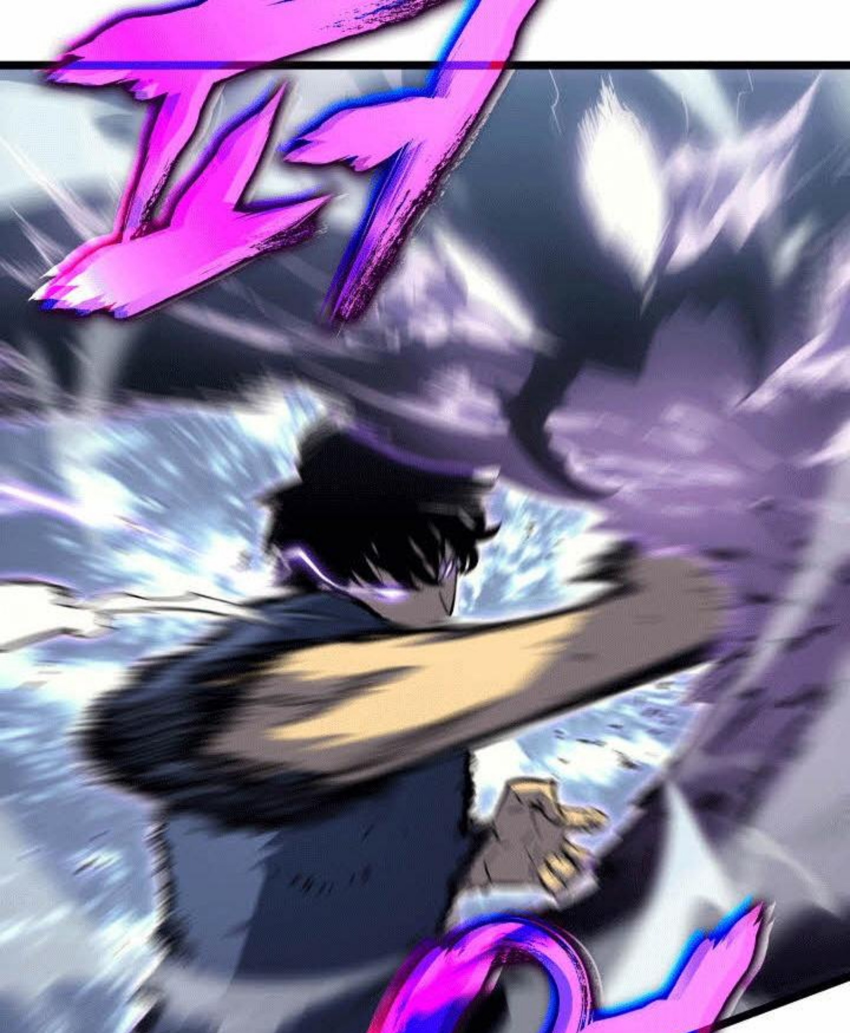

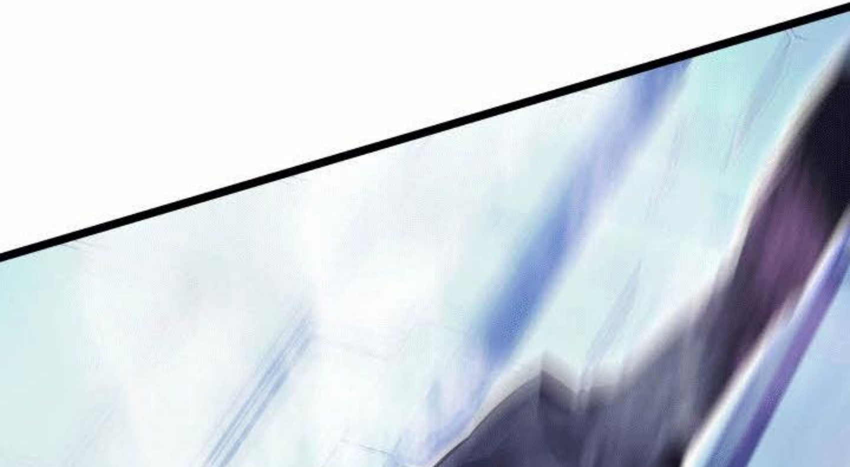

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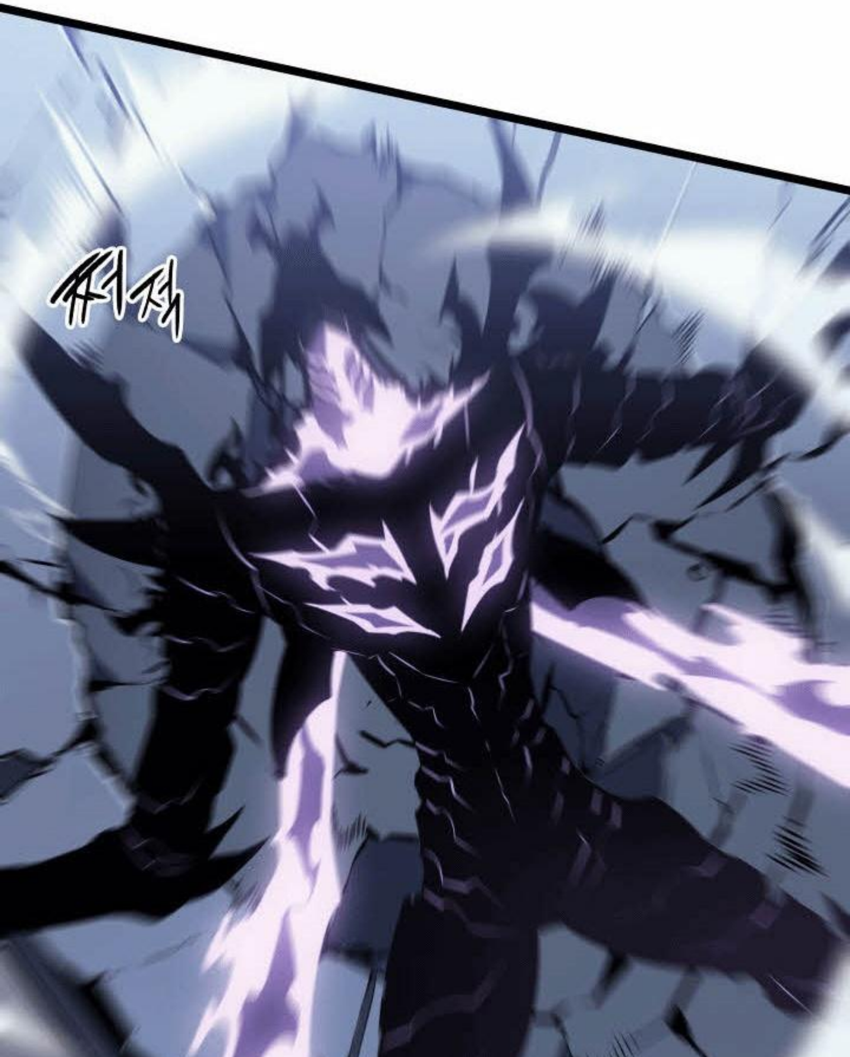
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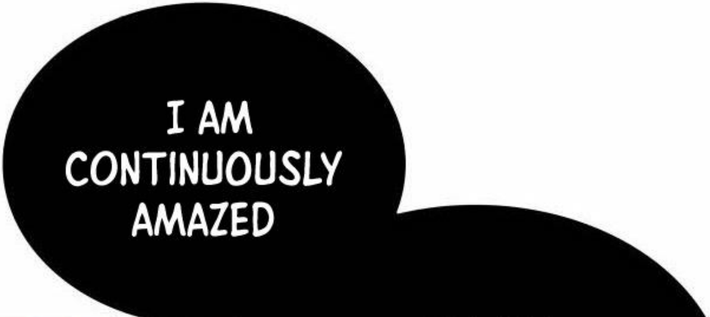
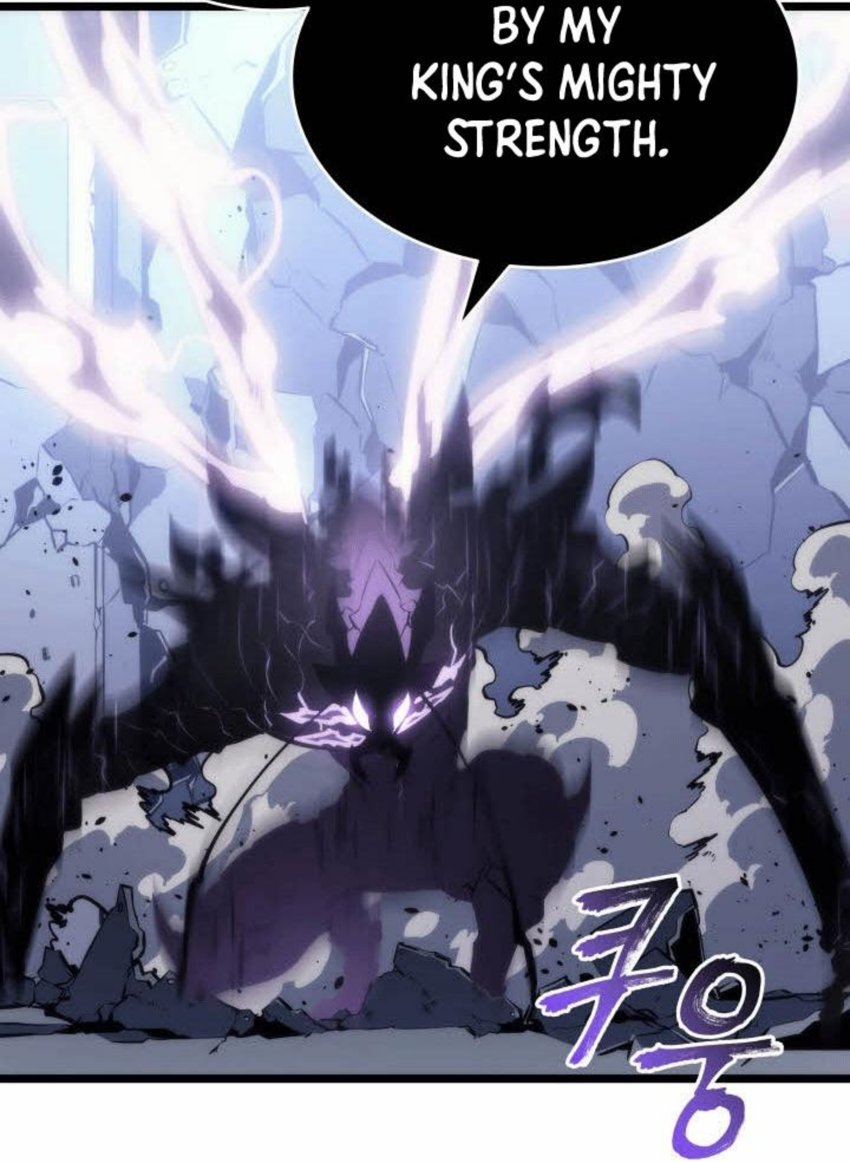
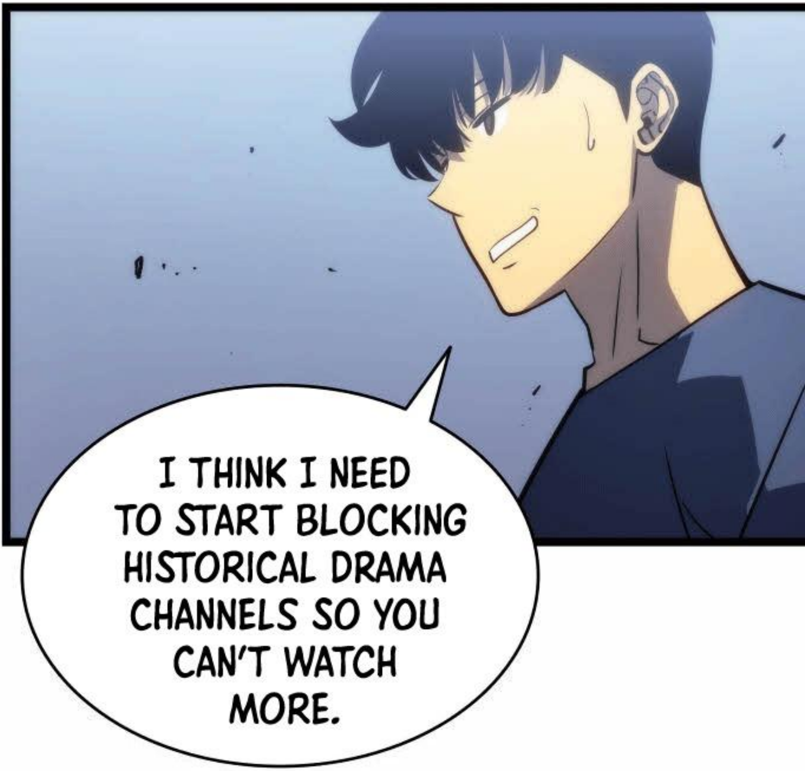
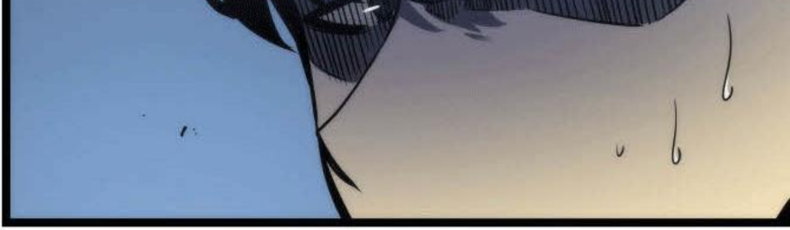

I AM CONTINUOUSLY AMAZED

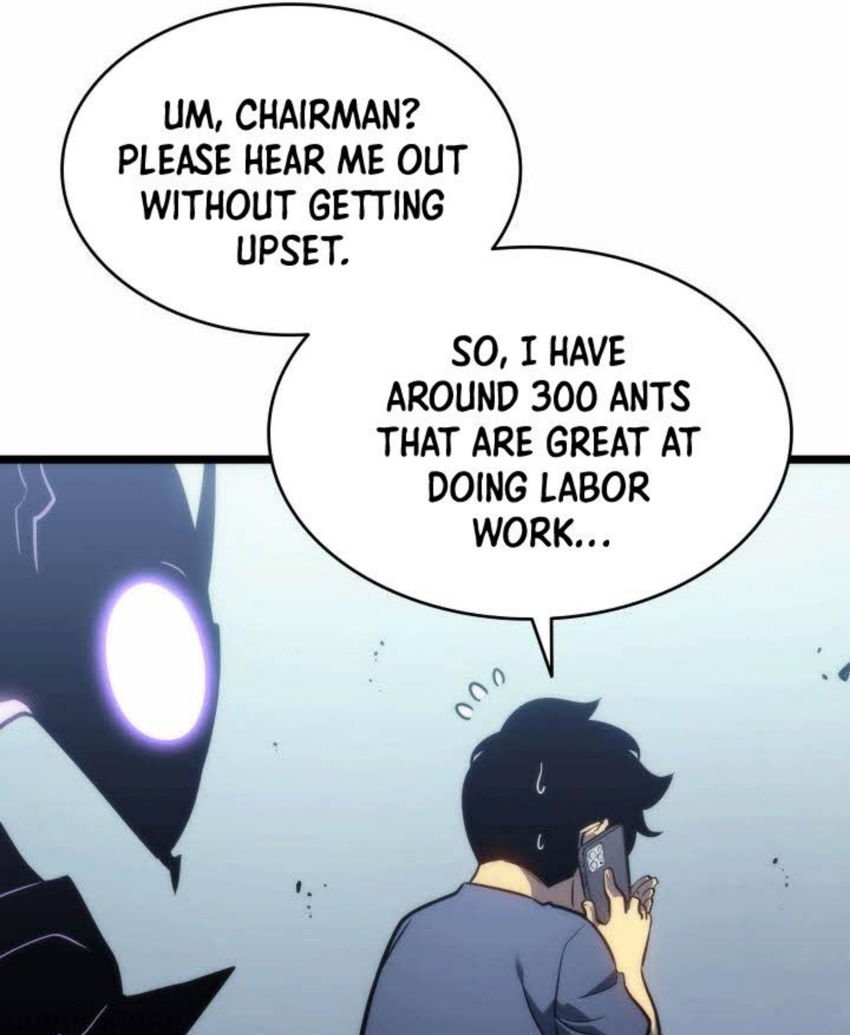

BY MY KING'S MIGHTY STRENGTH.


I THINK I NEED TO START BLOCKING HISTORICAL DRAMA CHANNELS SO YOU CAN'T WATCH MORE.

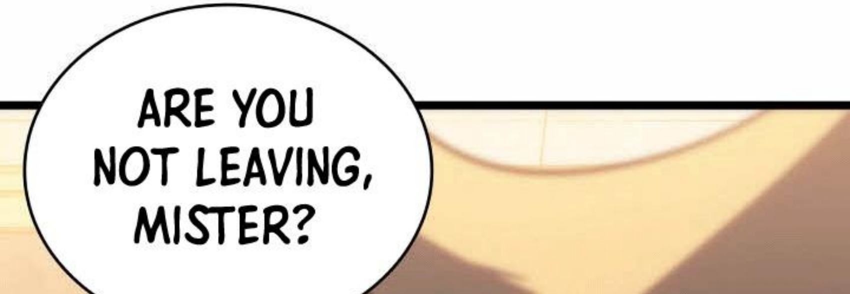
…….

SO NOW THAT THE TEST IS OVER,
I SHOULD START CLEANING THIS PLACE UP...

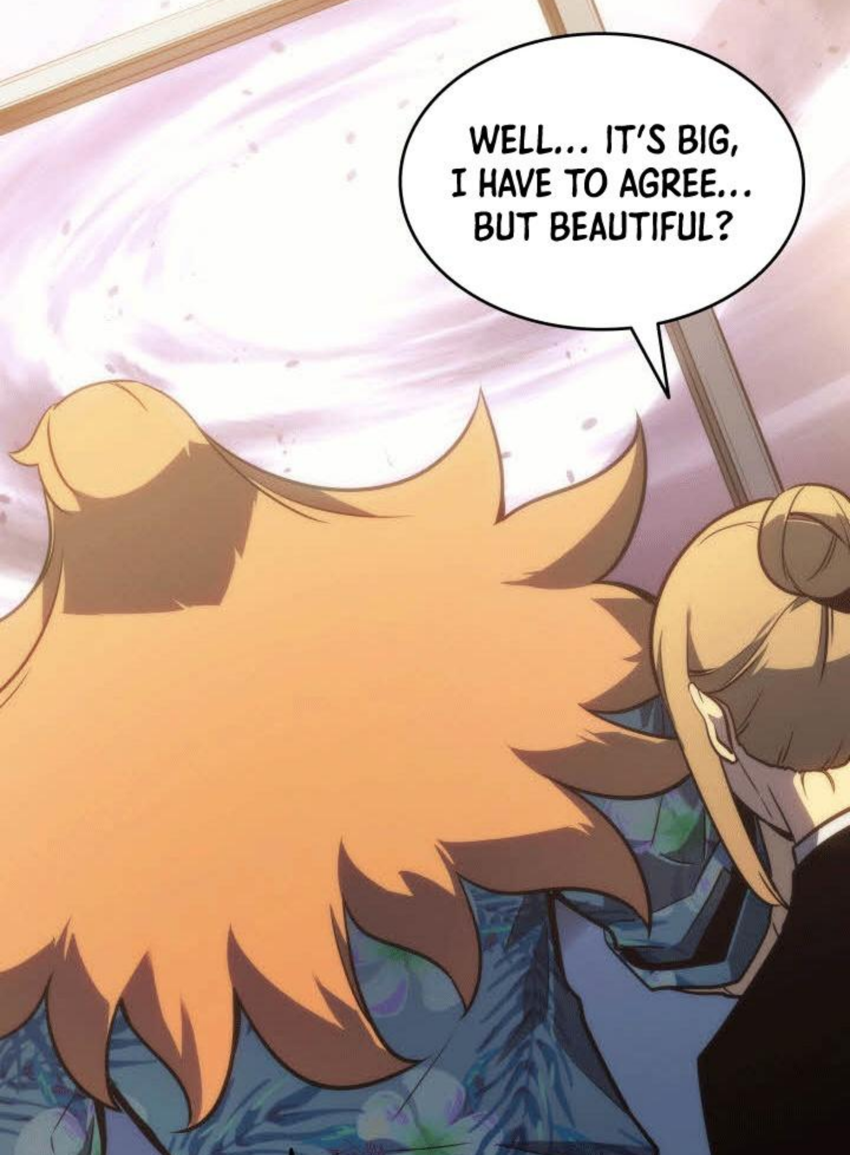


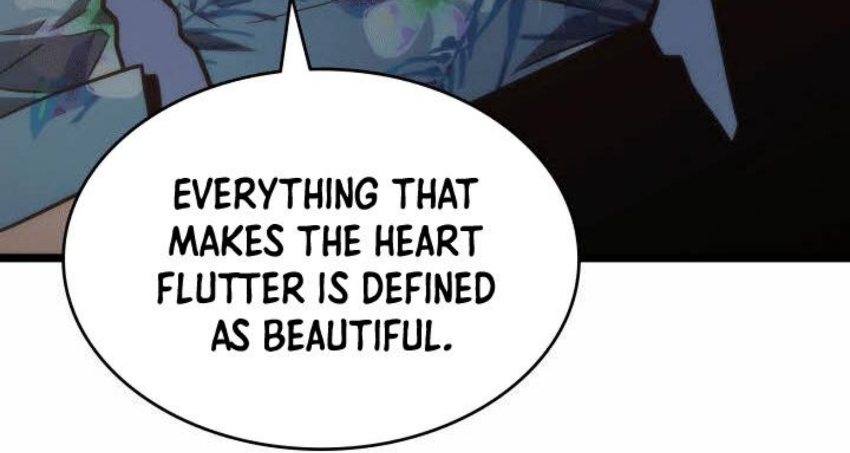

UM, CHAIRMAN? PLEASE HEAR ME OUT WITHOUT GETTING UPSET.
SO, I HAVE AROUND 300 ANTS THAT ARE GREAT AT DOING LABOR WORK...

ONE HOTEL IN SEOUL


ARE YOU NOT LEAVING, MISTER?

HOW COULD I? LEAVING BEHIND SOMETHING SO BIG AND BEAUTIFUL?

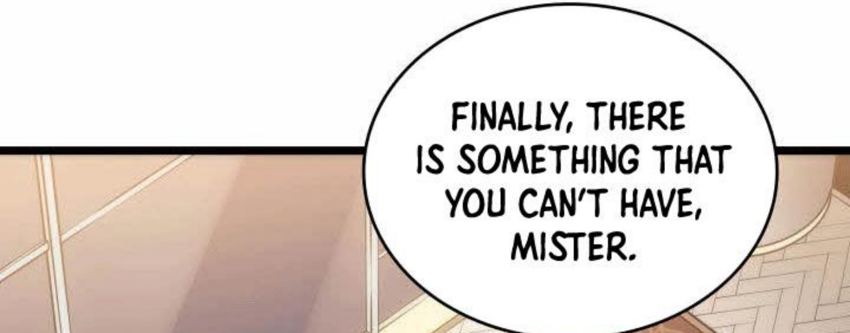

WELL… IT'S BIG,
I HAVE TO AGREE…
BUT BEAUTIFUL?

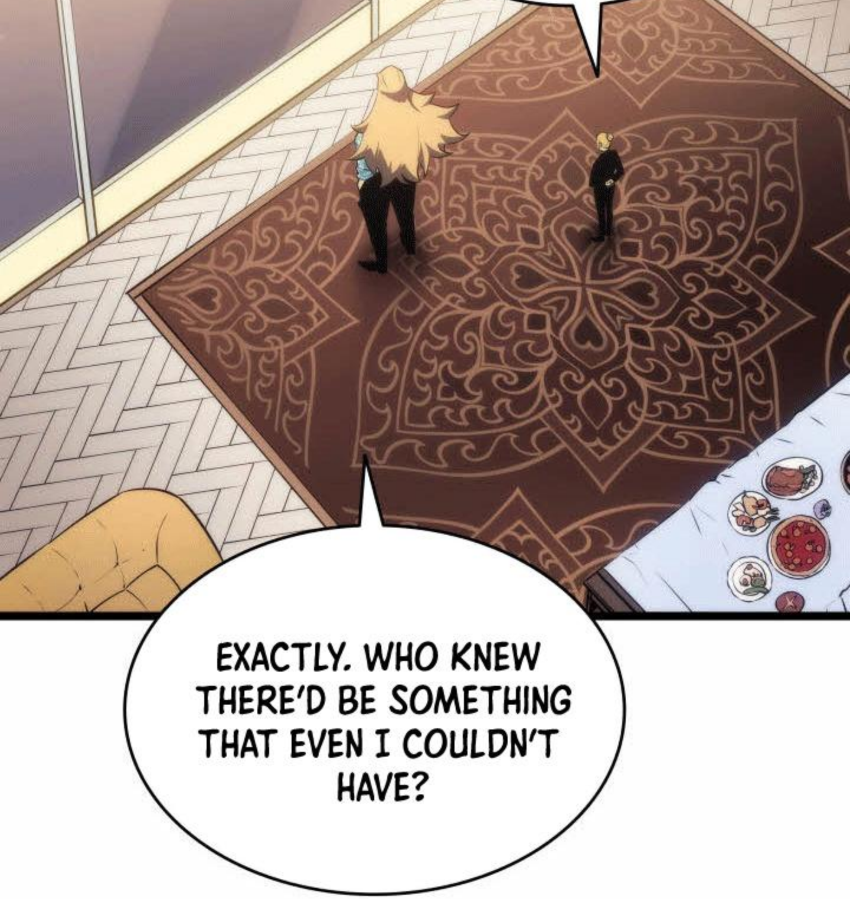

EVERYTHING THAT MAKES THE HEART FLUTTER IS DEFINED AS BEAUTIFUL.

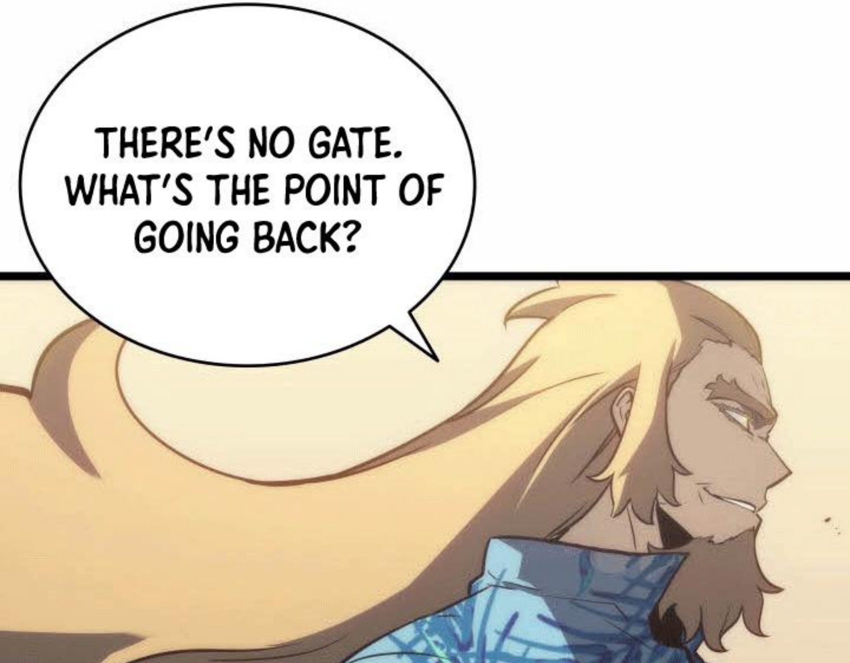
THE FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON, THE ENORMOUS GATE, HUNTER SUNG JIN-WOO'S STRENGTH; THEY ARE ALL BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

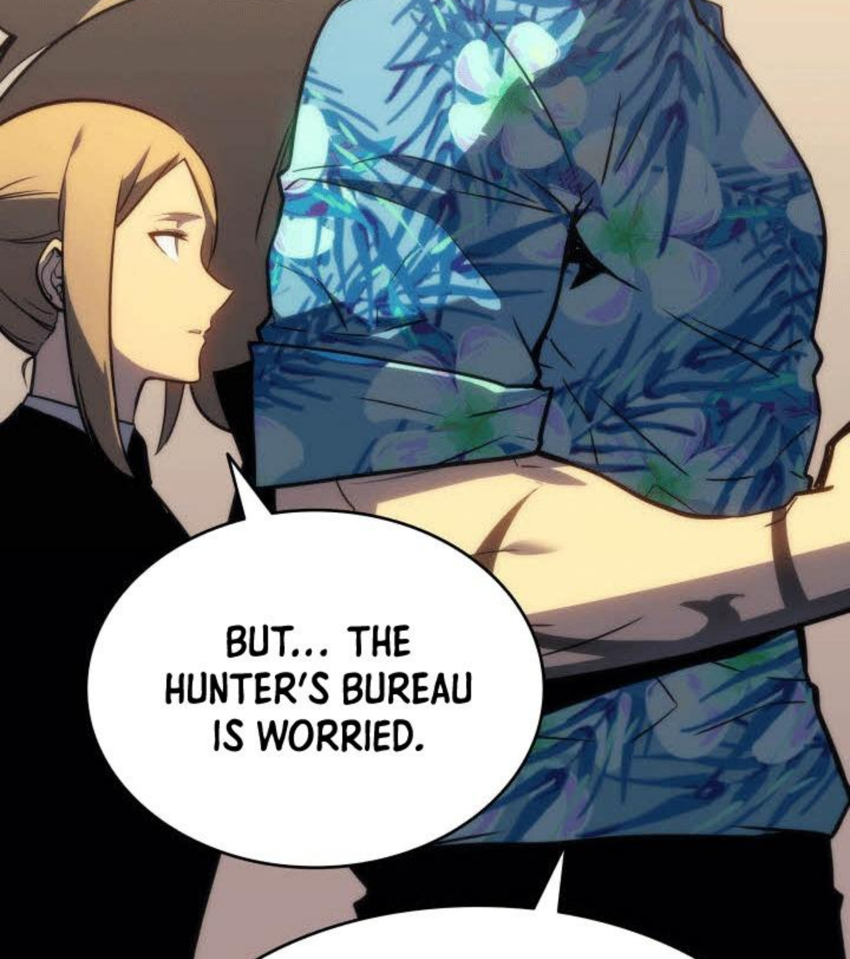
THAT IS WHY I WANTED...

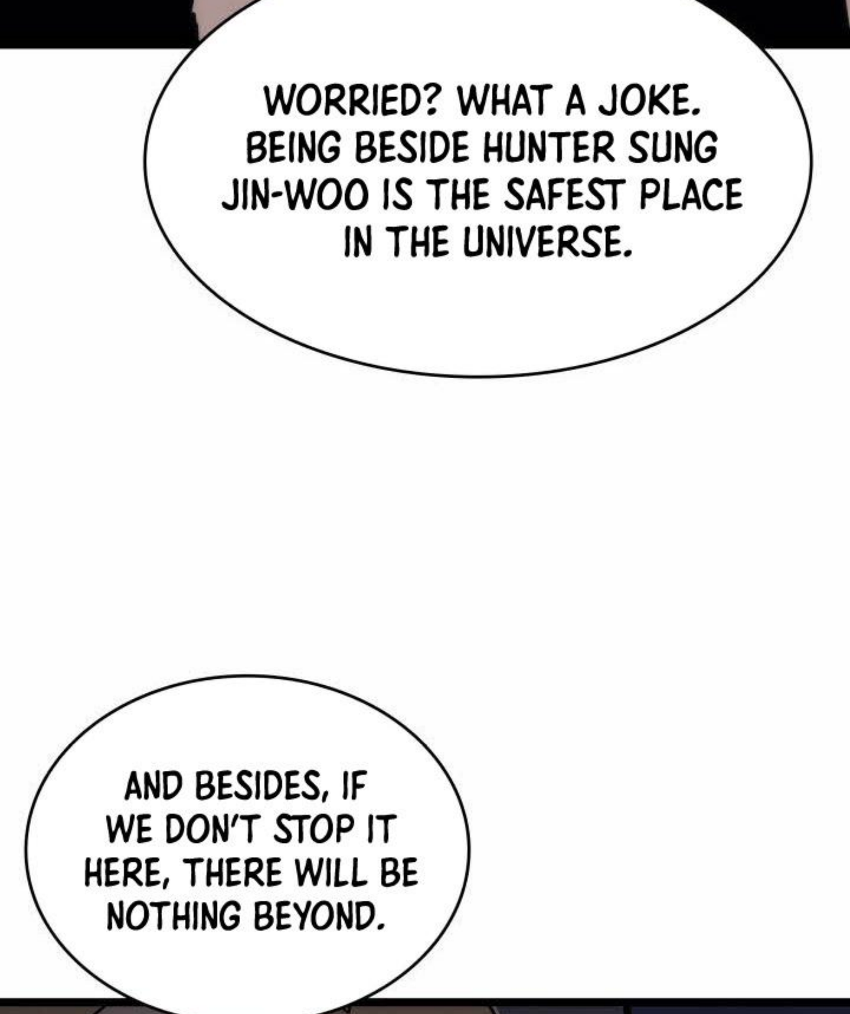
... EVERY LAST THING THAT COULD BE THOUGHT OF AS BEAUTIFUL.


FINALLY, THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU CAN'T HAVE, MISTER.

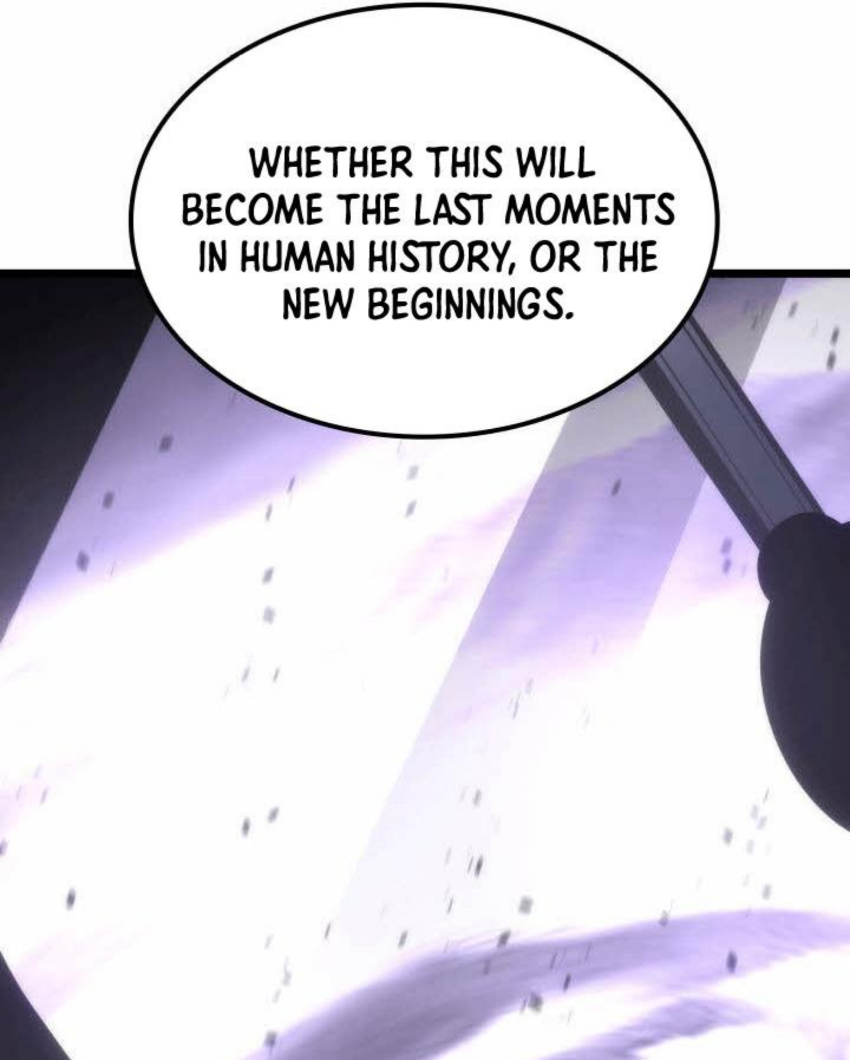

EXACTLY. WHO KNEW THERE'D BE SOMETHING THAT EVEN I COULDN'T HAVE?


THERE'S NO GATE. WHAT'S THE POINT OF GOING BACK?


BUT... THE HUNTER'S BUREAU IS WORRIED.


WORRIED? WHAT A JOKE. BEING BESIDE HUNTER SUNG JIN-WOO IS THE SAFEST PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE.
AND BESIDES, IF WE DON'T STOP IT HERE, THERE WILL BE NOTHING BEYOND.

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO KNOW.


WHETHER THIS WILL BECOME THE LAST MOMENTS IN HUMAN HISTORY, OR THE NEW BEGINNINGS.