

Chapter 5: The Truth of the Emperor

Damrada is inside one of the eight gates.

Thinking about why things are the way they are.

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The status quo is dire.

Yuuki fell into the hands of Emperor Rudra, and his companions were similarly deprived of their freedom. Since Rudra ordered them to be taken care of, the position of Damrada could not be defied.

Now, from Rudra came other orders.

After handing over the responsibility of taking care of Yuuki to someone else, he boarded the Emperor's flagship.

And then the air showdown began.

The real "Marshal" is Velgrynd, and only the first six people in the sequence are informed of this.

It cannot be outsourced.

This is an absolute order, and for Damrada, who is often required to leave the country, such important secrets even require a memory operation.

 Yes, I made a pact with the lord, that’s—

Seeing the gesture that "Marshal" Velgrynd had changed into, Damrada remembered the incident. In the meantime, all sorts of memories have clearly revived.

The most important pact with Rudra is still remembered, but the reason for making it cannot be remembered.

 So, what to do…?

There's no time to fret.

 The Demon Lord Rimuru, seen not too long ago, seemed so kind that he didn't feel like much of a threat. He had thought that after Rimuru had been captured by the foreign space created by Velgrynd, he should have been unable to hinder Veldora's capture battle.

Indeed, success dominated Veldora, and the situation thus began to turn in Rudra's favor.

But none of those things mattered to Damrada.

Not only that, but for Rudra as well…

Thoughts began to clear up like clouds turning to light, and Damrada pondered what would be best for Rudra.

However, before he could come up with an answer, Demon Lord Rimuru made his move.

With a fury like never seen before.

Why would one think he wouldn't pose a threat? Damrada simply wanted to question himself.

Judging by the fact of breaking free of the seal of Velgrynd, there was no doubt that it was fraught with threats.

But there is more to it than that.

From the moment he saw Rimuru appear, Damrada realized that he was still too naive in his opinion.

Rimuru glanced at Damrada with his eyes that glittered with golden light, a look that was unmistakably cold, almost as if there was no need to see Damrada and others as enemies.

Kondo responded immediately, but the attack didn't work.

‘—Is that all? Then there would be no need for vigilance at all. Put off the treatment of you, fear not, and don't be killed before I am your opponent—’

Rimuru's eyes looked like they were talking.

Could it be that to Rimuru, Damrada and the others have been treated as if they were dead? Even Emperor Rudra was no exception, and Damrada couldn't help but feel that everyone would be killed if this continued.

What are the conditions for tactical victory in these situations for Rimuru?

The needs to meet both of these conditions.

I. Reclaiming Veldora.

II. Elimination of the aggressor.

Veldora is an ally of Demon Lord Rimuru, and taking away the free will to be Veldora is something that Rimuru would never approve of.

Having come to this place means having made the consciousness of having Velgrynd as an opponent.

The direction of this win is an unknown in Damrada's eyes.

 An unattainable pinnacle matchup is not something that Damrada can extrapolate.

Next, it was about eliminating the invaders.

He had heard that Rimuru was a pacifist, but must not mistake that for non-resistanceism. The few invasions that have occurred in the past have all been repelled.

It's not a very good technique.

With the assistance of Veldora, the Land of Monsters won back-to-back battles.

The Empire's aggression was something that Rimuru would never tolerate.

The time for bargaining is over, and it is conceivable that the only remaining recourse is to massacre all the Imperial soldiers.

At this point, there is no point in talking about strategic strategy, only fighting to the last option.

There was no wartime agreement between the two, and even surrender was no guarantee that they would be spared.

The empire had set a trap, and had lost its credibility, and all the windows of negotiation had been closed.

 I should have been more serious about stopping His Majesty.

Damrada was equally proud of the Empire's war power.

Excessive faith in one's own strength, thinking that one will not encounter defeat, can arbitrarily determine the terms of victory.

Show the enemy the majesty of the empire, defeat the enemy completely, lose the will to rebel before annexing it. Make a big blood change in the leadership, or turn the current leadership into puppets who can do whatever they want as long as they win the war. The Empire has always expanded in this way, but this time there was a major miscalculation.

Even Emperor Rudra could not guarantee that there would be no problems if the forces of the evenly matched opponents clashed with each other.

It was only natural that Damrada would feel melancholy.

That said, what really bothers Damrada is still about his own pact with Rudra.

Rimuru no doubt intends to kill Rudra.

What bothers Damrada is how he should act if things turn out that way.

For Damrada, there was a desire to keep his pact with Rudra no matter what, but that was ultimately because Damrada wanted to do it with his own hands.

However, it's hard to win with Rimuru as an opponent…

Damrada's war analysis of the battle.

 The flagship was wrapped in horrible magic, and those who survived guarded the eight gates.

Can this be called a toss-up or not?

Damrada could only think that they themselves had made an extremely outrageous mistake.

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And then, now.

"Long time no see?”

In front of Damrada's eyes was a pleasantly smiling maiden.

This maiden, who exudes fearsome power, is truly the strongest corner of the world, one of the seven pillars of demons, the “primordials.”

Her "name" is Ultima, a subordinate of the Demon Lord Rimuru.

"Not only to make the primordial his own men, but to give them strength…”

Up close, it's even scarier.

The terror of the Blessing of the Dead, both the precision and the prowess became so over the top that it was enough to show that the demons had indeed evolved.

Ignoring the spying on him by outsiders, Rimuru unreasonably opened the huge demon summoning door and then acted like something to the summoned minions.

The Empire didn't have time to look into the matter, but Ultima told him the answer.

Ultima laughed out happily.

"Ahahahaha, did you really notice that? Yes, Lord Rimuru has given us strength, and now we're in great shape!”

Contrary to the very happy Ultima, the words seemed like a nightmare to Damrada.

Granting the power to a Primordial—although one could have expected it, it was not something that an ordinary demon lord could do.

Even that Guy Crimson, the "primordials" amongst his men, did not evolve. Thinking this way, one could understand how abnormal what Demon Lord Rimuru had done was.

Even so, Damrada had no intention of losing. In order to fulfill the pact with Rudra, it was necessary to go all out to challenge this demon named Ultima.

"I don't always aim for the most reasonable path, even if I choose a thorny path, as long as the result achieves my goal.”

 Damrada stopped agonizing.

Even after seeing Ultima, who had displayed overwhelming strength, she still posed without fear.

"Well, it's time for a fight.”

"It's natural. As His Majesty's knight, I will make my power fully known to you.”

"That's something to look forward to, so let's get started!"

Thus begins the battle between the "single digit" sequence of the rank two Damrada and the "Pain Lord" Ultima.

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 Ultima revealed a shallow snort and observed Damrada.

The incredible power of being human was felt in Damrada and stood out even among the saints.

The stance was unbroken and even made it feel like the win might have been impossible without evolution.

 It's that one, isn't it? It feels like it can match Hinata's. That person is like the natural enemy of a magic creature, and this person gives the impression of purely honing his skills in person-to-person, this type is really tricky.

As far as Ultima knows, opponents who hone their skills are tricky. Hakurou is a good example of being able to deal with a variety of situations with a thousand different skills.

The ability to apply it flexibly is the secret of its power, and that is precisely what has nothing to do with those higher beings.

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The so-called demons, in contrast to people, possess an overwhelmingly powerful higher existence.

It even takes only the liberation of magic to be able to become an attack.

The existence located at one of the pinnacle of the demon race is Ultima. Since her birth, she has been familiar with the use of magic—perfect magical domination.

There is no need for effort.

Just think about it and it can be realized, that is magic, there is no adversary in front of that all-powerful absolute power.

The only ones who could possibly outperform themselves were superlative beings of the same class, such as the Primordial or the Dragon Race, and until recently Ultima had believed so.

However, this perception is wrong.

 It was during the battle with Velgrynd that Ultima realized this mistake.

Faced with the overwhelmingly high level presence of Velgrynd, Ultima and others fought as hard as they could and succeeded in knocking out one of her Other Bodies, albeit with only 10% of her original strength.

On the flip side, one more thing learned is that if you get the use of power wrong, you lose to an opponent who is weaker than you.

A lot was also learned in the battles that followed.

The True Dragon Race, which is already the strongest in existence, has shown its advanced magical skills, and as a result, the Ultima, a race that prides itself on magic, is overwhelmed by magic.

Why it could, during the battle Ultima hadn't understood, but could now.

The secret lies in attaching an ultimate skill to magic.

 The use of an ultimate skill increases the accuracy of the magic, so we can't win.

The power of the magic released by Velgrynd out of control, then Ultima had to do her best just to cope.

There was nothing more humiliating to Carrera than for the opponent to be more skilled at making the magic she was best at.

Yes, it's humiliating.

At the same time, she was lucky.

She got the chance to experience combat while still surviving without suffering a decisive defeat.

Combining the effects of the skill with the magic, the power would grow exponentially, something that Ultima had never thought of all along. The experience gained through that battle had made her aware of more possibilities.

 It's true that we both have high basic skills, but then again, relying too much on basic skills is also a problem. If one puts in more effort to refine, one can become even stronger!

As one of the strongest, Ultima had never aspired to gain power so far, yet this time, she hoped to become even stronger.

How strong can a strong person who is already invincible become if he still strives to study and accumulate experience to move up to a higher level?

The answer is either Velgrynd or Guy Crimson.

From this point of view, there's no doubt that Diablo, who pursued his interests, was also a super-spec presence.

Forgetting Testarossa for a moment, Ultima and Carrera, who had never made the effort, were really a far cry from the others in this regard.

 Ultima knew that she was the most immature of the Seven Pillars of Primordiality. Even so, it was still possible to fight evenly with Mizari and Rhein……if she fought with all your might, she would feel like she would lose to Testarossa and Carrera.

Testarossa is elegant and perfect.

Being confident and always belittling others is a bad habit of hers.

As for Carrera, it would be more appropriate to call her arrogance inferior.

People who know they can do anything well if they take it seriously always lose interest quickly and leave things behind.

And then, Ultima.

Neither can she operate their magic with the precision of Testarossa, nor does she have as much magic as Carrera, and of the three demons outside of Diablo, Ultima should be considered the weakest.

She is half-baked in every way, and although her own existence is the result of her talent, she has no experience of studying anything with her whole heart.

Thinking of it this way, Ultima and Carrera have a lot of similarities, so the two have been fighting each other for a long time.

Carrera has recently become interested in swordplay.

Ultima was truly envious of this.

However, such thoughts also end today.

Ultima, who had the good fortune to have the opportunity to awaken, gained power as she had prayed for it.

 The one with the most room to grow, is us!

Being able to generate such thoughts, the current Ultima couldn't help but find it a bit ridiculous.

It was all thanks to Rimuru who had become her master.

Why Rimuru was able to do things like that, Ultima didn't know, but those thoughts were irrelevant.

The most important thing is to become a higher being.

Then there's the question of whether or not she can help Rimuru.

Watching the battle of Agera just now, Ultima had been praying, and at the end of that contemplation, an incredible voice was heard.

<<To make this wish come true, I’ll help you a little.>> The next thing to complete is the ultimate skill, the “Poisonous Death King Samael.”

The ability to see through the weaknesses of various living beings and then flexibly use the appropriate state changes to create "poison" is the power of the "King of Poisonous Death,” the ultimate skill.

 Having gained this power, Ultima felt absolutely no possibility of losing.

But, however…

Ultima suddenly remembered.

'Hone yourself and don't rely too much on strength’—that’s what Diablo is always saying.

She thought that Diablo would always have this kind of zero-talk because of his old defeat to Zegion, and always took it as a sarcastic comment from Diablo, who had a bad character.

Actually, it was a misunderstanding on Ultima's part.

It did contain some sarcasm, but really it was mostly for her sake.

Depending on how the strength is used, it can be very different, which was learned from Diablo.

After understanding this, she remembered something Diablo had said before.

 Just relying on the power that has been given won't really make it come into its own—it’s true!

Ultima now, deeply identifies with this statement.

These were the words she had heard when she was first given her name and was now indeed thinking according to them.

 Speaking of which, not to a certain extent, it's true that Diablo wouldn't use the power given by Lord Rimuru, and I originally thought it was just contempt for the enemy, but it turned out to be justified.

‘Then I will do the same’—Ultima wants to take advantage of this opportunity to make it food for her own growth. Damrada is a man who can't afford to be careless and just happens to give it his all.

 Really. If Testarossa finds out he sees us that way, it'll be a big deal. No, it's possible that Testarossa might have fallen for this on purpose, but well, it's a rare opportunity…let’s take advantage of it.

Damrada, though a formidable opponent, was also little more than an opponent to use for practice in Ultima's eyes.

For the first time, she’ll use the ultimate skill of her own desire to achieve victory. In this way, Ultima will no doubt gain growth.

Ultima swore in her heart.

It is not about relying on the innate “power,” but about making perfect use of the "power" that one has been given by one's desire to win the battle.

For this matter…

Not just to look up to, but to also be a helper to Rimuru—Ultima thought so.

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The fighting was extremely intense.

Strength-boosted Ultima launched the attack and Damrada dodged it through his own skill. Sometimes concentrating the entire body's fighting qi directly counteracts the attack.

It's the deft and nimble improvisation that makes Damrada so powerful.

Ultima was frankly impressed by this and found it amusing.

Through the showdown with Damrada, a lot of things were realized.

 So it turns out, so that the action doesn't lose its physical balance, and such an approach seems to work in a fight with Zegion!

Zegion was too powerful to be defeated the moment he got close. It does make sense for Zegion’s approach to be used in real combat, but it's less suitable for training for grappling.

At this point, Damrada is a very fit and good opponent, which is to say the most suitable enemy.

Realizing how much she was favored, Ultima could simply defend herself against any attack with overwhelming magical power, and her own attacks could crush all kinds of enemies with brute force alone.

This situation had been largely understood before, but now it was finally recognized with more realism.

Both began to increase in prowess and the battle became more and more intense.



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