

Chapter 3: Imperial Capital Chaos

The darkness in Tidu was deep.

Thanks to scientific civilization, the neatly arranged streets of the Imperial City are illuminated by gas streetlights. Even so, there are still back streets that people can't see.

Even for a continuously developing imperial capital, it was still a long way to go before the darkness was completely expelled.

In the darkness of the imperial capital, Misha walked silently.

This darkness is where Misha was born and raised.

Instead of fear, there is a sense of peace of mind and comfort. That is, the female named Misha.

In the days following Yuuki's report, Misha lurked and hid while busy preparing for the coup.

Currently, the Imperial Army is on an expedition. In such a situation, it would be very dangerous for Misha to go out as an entourage member. The death penalty would be imposed if they were considered to be fleeing in advance, which in fact they are.

However, Misha appeared to be a straight face with no fear in her face.

From Misha's attitude, it could be clearly seen that she was confident that she knew the darkness of the Imperial Capital like the back of her hand.

After all, Misha was mostly engaged in behind-the-scenes work and had excellent fighting skills. While not as good as Vega and Damrada, Misha's ability to use her mind is the real deal.

Intelligence gathering is her forte, and she boasts of being able to outsmart the Dark Ministry of the Kingdom of Dwargon and the spies of Blumund. It was because of this that Misha felt able to completely hide it from the Imperial Intelligence Agency.

In fact, surviving in the empire to this day is her tangible result. As usual, Misha walks towards her destination.

But to do so seems like a defeat.

Although Misha hadn't been careless, a man appeared to block the way.

The man's name was Tatsuya Kondo.

He is a member of the Imperial Intelligence Service and is known as the "intelligence-feeding weirdo".

Although not revealed, Damrada's true identity is feared to be the head of the Imperial Emperor's Order of the Near Guard. At the very least, an opponent that Misha could never beat.

"Where are you going in the middle of the night?”

Kondo's icy voice rang out.

Misha inwardly smacked her lips and answered with a smile on her face.

"Aha! It's Lieutenant Kondo! Lieutenant Kondo is the only one. Are you still working this late?”

Regardless of what was inside first, Misha made an unhurried counterattack on the surface. However, the current situation is undoubtedly the worst.

In this huge imperial capital, it's surprising to find such a remote place to stab…no wonder he’s a weirdo. The fight is not won, and the guards can't even buy time.

Kondo, who suddenly appeared in front of her, seemed to be acting alone. But even that wasn't promising, and Misha struggled to find a way to escape the occasion.

"You're a staff officer with the head of the Calgurio army, aren't you, Misha? Why return to the Imperial Capital during a combat operation?”

In an extremely serious tone, Kondo asked Misha.

"You scared me, Lieutenant Kondo! In fact, I returned to the Imperial Capital on the secret order of Sir Calgurio.”

Anyway, let's just muddle through, Misha replied like this. At the same time, look around without care.

The narrow alley was silent. That's a good thing, but the problem is that the escort's breath is gone too.

Has he been disposed of? I didn't even notice the aura of battle, what a difference in strength there is…

Just for a moment, Misha grasped the situation.

Even without having met directly, it was impossible for Kondo not to know Misha. It wasn't clear how Kondo felt about Misha, but it would undoubtedly be difficult to break through this scene with just flowery words. Without much nonsense to dispose of the escort, it should be safe to assume that the deception is no longer working.

So judgmental was Misha, who decided to ask for help from Damrada, who was scheduled to meet.

Suddenly, a nasty thought crossed her mind.

Why is my position exposed? Although Lord Yuuki decided to trust Damrada, but is he really trustworthy?

The place of the appointment was designated by Damrada, and today's consultation was on the preparation of the liaison on the contents of tomorrow's confidential meeting with demon lord, Rimuru.

Not good, this is too bad. There is a possibility of betrayal in Damrada—no, don't think that. Not to mention the judgement of Lord Yuuki, I also have a kindness for Damrada.

Misha and Damrada, had a long correspondence of over twenty years. As a fellow leader of the "Big Three", the leader of the secret society, Misha knows Damrada better than Yuuki. It was because of this that Misha was even more confused.

Damrada was a calm and sensible man, and judging by the information that came out of his mouth, one could assume that there was no reason to betray Misha and them.

It wasn't that she wanted to believe that, but rather, she listened to Yuuki's instructions before she approved. In that case, now is not the time to be confused, but to trust the companions even in the end.

Misha settled her mind and stared at Kondo.

"Thank you, Great Majesty Rudra, for allowing me the good fortune to meet you here.”

“Oh?"

"Lieutenant, right? Dispose of those who are hunting me. It would be difficult for me to deal with so many opponents on my own.”

"I see. You want to go on like this.”

"Ara, am I under suspicion? I came back from that hell desperately in order to convey the information in my hands.”

Misha continues to perform dutifully.

She flirtatiously approached Kondo and leaned into his arms.

Misha's best trick is to use her "womanly" charm to enchant men.

The specific method of implementation is to influence the other party's thinking through the use of the

"perfume spell" and the illusionary magic "charmed" at the same time, and to stimulate the other party's instincts while hindering thinking, and eventually make him a captive of Misha.

And then increase their dependence on Misha by overlapping their bodies and minds more deeply. In this way, it is tantamount to dominating the other party.

With a couple of clinches in the clinch with Calgurio, it's reached the stage where it's not even close to completing the cage.

Not only Calgurio, but many men fell for Misha's trick. For Misha, who is undefeated so far, that's the strongest ace.

Even an opponent who is far from superior in strength will fall in the face of carnal lust. So convinced, Misha wrapped her soft hands around Kondo.

Pressing her ample chest against Kondo's, showing off her charm, then peeking at Kondo's reaction.

Suddenly, Kondo's breath went slack.

Misha faintly smiled.

Oh, great. It looks hardcore, but Kondo is a man too.

The effect is better than expected, in which case there's always a way.

"Nah, let's go somewhere better? A quieter room than this one, huh?”

Bringing her lips close to Kondo's ear, she murmured softly. In response, Kondo's right hand moved, and Misha heard him mutter a 'Got it'.

It seems to work. The best result is to rendezvous with Damrada at the destination. If not, find a way to make him my prisoner by the skin of my hand…

It was the last thought in Misha's mind.

There was a crisp bang.

Misha fell limp, bright red blood spilling from the left side of her head, soaking the ground.

In Kondo's hand, he held the large Southern-style automatic pistol that he had drawn at an unknown time, and by looking at the nitrous smoke coming from the muzzle, he knew that it was the murderous weapon that pierced Misha's temple.

Kondo's expression didn't change, retracting the pistol as if nothing had happened.

The intelligence has been extracted.

With the unique skill "Reader", you can read the mind of the contacted person.

Whether it was Misha's intentions, or Yuuki's attempts, or even the end of an expedition to the Imperial Army. It doesn't take even a second to read the whole thing.

Despite reading such a significant piece of information, his expression remained unchanged.

Just bored talking to the darkness.

"Coup d'état, stupid. Are you still going to claim that you didn't betray His Majesty when you did this?"

In the darkness that should have gone unanswered, a man staggered into view. Instead of answering Kondo's questioning, he approached the fallen Misha.

It was Damrada who came.

"Kondo, there's no need to kill her, is there? This person can still be useful to His Majesty if she is trained properly.”

"No, the probability is zero. This woman's strength is at most 37th in the sequence, but if she can make it to the dozenth position, it's possible that she can't be of use to His Majesty.”

‘I deliberately acted defenseless, but she couldn't even break through my defenses’ Kondo said coldly.

Damrada sniffed and shrugged.

If Kondo had said that then it would have been correct, so he didn't retort anymore either.

It's just that, in the face of his former partner, Misha, his heart is inevitably complicated.

Damrada knelt beside Misha and covered his hand over the left side of the body's head. The soft light blocked the wounds of the remains, pressing back the eyes that had flown out of Misha's head and closing the eyelids.

Finally, wiped the stain off her face and did something to retrieve what little beauty there was.

Damrada did not have the power to resurrect the dead, but at least something could be done to put her to rest.

"No sense in it. Leave it alone and the body will be disposed of before dawn. Answer my question faster than that.”

"I'm not like you. I can't be separated.”

“Naive.”

"You're the one who's weird. So young, but why do you want to completely stifle your feelings?”

"I have no feelings, that's all.”

"How can…"

"I have seen hell, and it was His Majesty Rudra who saved me from it. If you become an enemy, I will not forgive you.”

"I am His Majesty's faithful slave and can never betray.”

"It's hard to say. And don't forget, you've also fallen for my trick. If you want to be trusted, prove it by your actions.”

After saying that, Kondo also left without looking back.

Damrada took one look at Misha's body and left the place as well.

It's a long night in Tidu.

What should be done, is not done.

After that…

Through the hands of the Intelligence Service, Misha's body was disposed of without leaving a trace.

The darkness of Tidu was deep, burying all events without a trace.

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At Yuuki's instruction, Kagali immediately acted.

Meticulous preparation is essential for a coup d'état.

On the same day the order was issued, and in a few days important people gathered from all over the world.

Nearly thirty subordinates flocked to the mansion in the Yuuki Imperial City.

This time, it was the people who had sworn absolute allegiance to Yuuki.

Almost half of the subordinates had already gathered here, except for those like Vega who had infiltrated other legions that could not participate.

Plans for the coup have been in constant preparation since before. The people gathered here were waiting for Yuuki's speech with the feeling that it was finally this time.

The entire team is a group of people with some strength.

Relying on their own strengths, they rose to prominence in the army.

Loyalty to Emperor Rudra has been non-existent from the beginning. There are even those who are excited by the revolution they will bring to this country.

Visitors from the Otherworld.

Interracial with an alien race.

Subjects who repeatedly conduct inhumane experiments in pursuit of power.

A first-class adventurer nurtured by Yuuki.

There were also the slave warriors that Damrada had collected and the monsters that Misha had protected.

What they believe in is violence.

That is, the values of this hybrid legion.

Step up the huge duplex staircase with a large room for meetings.

Estimating the time when the whole group was seated in their chairs, Yuuki came in with Kagali.

"Ah, everybody, we're all here.”

In his usual cheerful tone, Yuuki greeted with a smile.

"Tomorrow, we are scheduled to have a meeting with the demon lord, Rimuru. Already Misha has been told to call Damrada, the details will wait until Damrada arrives.”

On hearing this statement, the room erupted.

"Aren't I the only one waiting to do it?”

"The Demon Lord Rimuru is too cunning to be careless. Can you believe it?”

"No, wait. That said, it's still war, right? As a party to the war, there is no way that Rimuru the monster king himself would have taken the time to come here.”

Various statements came from all corners of the venue.

Yuuki's smile deepened.

"The Imperial Army has been overwhelmed. It's said that Rimuru killed all the 940,000 Imperial troops that attacked?”

"How can that be!?”

"Too soon. Even counting the movement time, contact with the enemy is only a few days…"

Hearing these incredible words, the whole room erupted into a tizzy.

Yuuki smiled and gestured for everyone to be quiet.

"To overthrow an empire, combat power is necessary. So I decided to join forces with Rimuru-san.”

Hearing this, although it was difficult to accept, people who showed understanding for Yuuki began to appear. Shrewdly, they began to care about whether this information was trustworthy.

"Did you bring this information from Lady Misha?”

There are people in the venue who belong to the "Big Three", so they know about Misha traveling with the army.

"Exactly. If I hadn't become an ally beforehand, I think Misha would have been killed too.”

“Misha-sama?"

"How could you do that…?”

Although Misha works behind the scenes, she is well known. The name "Big Three" is not for posturing.

It is precisely because those present are powerhouses that the companions are given due credit.

People who never valued poor strength, in this strange sense, had a deep trust in Yuuki.

"So it is. In that case, I'm in favor of an alliance. Although I'm unhappy with the concealment so far, the boss has its own considerations, right?: "We haven't considered it yet, but we lost to Guy and were forced to make a promise.:

"Guy? Could it be, Guy Crimson!?”

"Fighting the Dark Emperor?" "Even the boss is a mess!”

"No way. I'm glad you survived.”

Although it caused a stir in another sense, Yuuki silenced everyone.

"There was a lot more to say, but there wasn't enough time. I promise I'll give a full account afterwards, so bear with me for now. Instead of that, it would be better to discuss the consultations for tomorrow's meeting and what operational action should be taken.”

The official battle strength remaining in Tidu was the Intelligence Service and the New Corps.

The upper echelon of intelligence might be a threat, but the grassroots group doesn't have to count as a fighting force at all.

The new regiment, though numbering as many as 100,000, was too weak to be a threat, only slightly troublesome in numbers.

There are also 20,000 resident guards who act as police, but are not a match for the military ministry in terms of equipment. The disparity in force between the military and the police is akin to making adults the opponents of children. At best, it only serves to stall the pace.

However, the Emperor's ace, the Emperor's Knights of the Near Guard, was still the strongest battle force.

"There are guards in the Intelligence Bureau. So strictly speaking, the only people who should really be on guard are the close guards.”

"Indeed. To be able to stand out in a sequence snatching battle, the up-and-comer is really strong.”

"Hey, hey, boasting about it. Aren't there traitors like you among the guards?”

"Well. I only believe in power, but not in loyalty to an emperor who only shows off his power.”

The man laughed as he said this.

There were people of their own among the near-guards, and by once again perceiving this fact, the congregation understood what an advantageous position they were in.

The man who created this atmosphere was slightly short in stature but had a very unruly attitude.

His name is Arios.

Although they are "otherworldly", they are not summons, they are lost.

"So, will Demon Lord Rimuru's reinforcements make it tomorrow?”

The dark-haired maiden asked to Yuuki.

The ancient city dance dress—she was also a visitor. An ordinary Japanese girl high school student summoned to this world.

The ancient city was picked up by Free Combination Chief Handsome Yuuki, who had received various assistance. Because of this layer, she trusted and looked up to Yuuki.

"Yeah. It would have taken a lot of time to bring the army over, no matter how much time it took to get there. If it comes from the air, let's say it doesn’t, it doesn't really come, does it?”

As if to overshadow the ancient city's questioning, a big muscular man spoke up.

His name was Tolneod and he was originally a slave fighter. Would have been enslaved to death as a mining slave if not fetched by Damrada.

Tolneod was integrated into the army, educated, and learned about the joys of learning. As a result, he was more knowledgeable than he appeared to be and served in a staff role in the hybrid corps.

"Flying magic is extremely psychologically draining. There may be no problem with the Demon Lord, the underlying monsters may not be able to fly over.”

Agreeing with Tolneod was a short, teenage girl.

The name is Aria. Both wizards and heavy warriors.

At odds with appearing to be of age, being a disciple of Gedora's teacher but having undergone transformative surgery himself is a very distinctive character.

Tolneod replied breathlessly to Aria.

"Not that. Even if there was no large army left behind, a surveillance net was spread out over the Imperial Capital. If a large army presses down from the air, it will be noticed at a distance.”

Accidentally pointing out the error, Aria was blushing with shyness. Aria is a rare acute child among wizards, with a poorly considered side.

"All right, all right, all right, all right. A different perspective can be obtained by analyzing the situation through various perspectives.”

Yuuki quickly interjected, pulling the issue back on track.

"I've been contacted by Rimuru-san through Gedora-sensei, and there will only be a few people coming tomorrow.”

The contact with Rimuru was made in a hidden "magic call" from Gedora. Even if tapped by Imperial Intelligence, trying to decipher it is impossible because the content is encrypted.

Gedora has only conveyed a few key points, and it has yet to be decided who exactly will come.

Rimuru is sure to come, so what about the escort?

It seems that Rimuru-san also sees no point in demonstrating against Rudra. It's still more about quality than quantity, and the ones that come will definitely only be executives.

According to Yuuki's preconceptions, it would be about ten people at most.

"This, to underestimate the Empire? Or, are you playing with us as allies?”

Twisting her soft body, the slender beauty tossed her head crookedly in question.

This is more of a mouthful than a question. A woman of natural origin is a warrior named Olca.

Contrary to appearances, it is the xenophobe who hides several special skills.

"Olca, that's not true. As mentioned earlier, preparing a large army is a lot of work and doing anything will take up a lot of time. That's why it's better to let a few elite people act.”

This time, it's Tolneod who narrates.

Yuuki smiled due to the trouble saved.

"That's what it is. Therefore, it is necessary to set our side of the line.”

Rimuru only brought the elite, and the question on this side was who to deal with whom.

“Rimuru-san’s thoughts, I plan to hear them at tomorrow's talks. So, it is necessary to sort out our own thoughts first. Like, what to do with Emperor Rudra and such.”

Yuuki's statement was extremely arrogant, not thinking about defeat at all, but looking to the future of victory.

It is an anomaly to be negotiating the treatment of the emperor when the coup has not yet succeeded.

However, no one has pointed this out.

Even Tolneod, who had the property of spitting, put on a grinning face and waited for Yuuki to speak.

The Dwarf Kingdom is already aware of the situation, so the hybrid legions now in formation will be able to march towards the Imperial Capital without any worries. If it's just the remnants of the Imperial Capital's battle power, it's not easy to win?

"It's true, the only threat is to the guards.”

“Yeah."

Yuuki always responded with a smile.

In fact, he knew the real threat was someone else.

The "Marshal" is an unknown being.

Furthermore, if you consider the significance of Guy keeping Yuuki alive…

This time, how will Rimuru-san act? He’s clearly a pacifist who hates to initiate attacks on other countries…

Perhaps it's to spare the fallout, but in any case, it's hard to imagine that's the only reason.

Yuuki then put together the pieces of intelligence and began to organize his thoughts. Thus, he saw the figure of Guy behind Rimuru.

If that was the case, then there were monsters in the empire that could be Guy’s opponents, Yuuki concluded.

"Depending on the circumstances, it may be necessary to kill the emperor, right?”

"Too much of a hurry, Arios.”

"Yeah, it's not good to take exclusive credit.”

The assembled people got excited and even began to have people threaten to kill the Emperor.

Yuuki thought that it was too soon to discuss the treatment of the Emperor, but he also thought that it was good that everyone was full of blood and vitality.

In fact, talk about what to do with Emperor Rudra is also to be had tomorrow.

Gedora opposed the killing, and Damrada dedicated his loyalty to Emperor Rudra. Yuuki believes that since these two are important collaborators, they should try to avoid arousing their resentment.

Before worrying about these issues, the object of Guy's vigilance was the high probability of Emperor Rudra. If so, reckless provocation is undoubtedly suicidal.

There's no need to force yourself to do what's in the fire, the emperor will just give it to Rimuru-san.

Thus, Yuuki made a conclusion.

Detailed consultations will not take place until Damrada is reached, but a rough draft is already available.

The hybrid regiments are used to suppress the Imperial capital.

The near-guards, who were in the way, were met by the multitude present.

The people here who had been chosen by Yuuki were no less powerful than the knights of the near guard. Not as good as the top runners, but with a numerical advantage.

If one person is challenged by several people, this degree of poor strength can be subverted.

As for monsters like Rudra and the "Marshal", it would be better to leave it to Rimuru, who had come to the war on purpose. That's presumably what Rimuru intended and should have accepted the proposal.

Tidu's defense, no matter where it came from, would not receive reinforcements.

Of the three major legions, the Mecha Legion was destroyed by Rimuru.

The Magic Beast Legion was in the distant air, and even if they came with all their might after knowing the situation, it would all be over by then.

The last of the hybrid legions also defected.

The plan proceeds to such an extent that one can already say that the General.

No need to rush, victory is close at hand.

It should have been, but Yuuki always had a sense of unease about seeing what was missing.

What is it that you're missing…?

"I've kept you waiting.”

A heavy, calm voice resounded in the atmospheric venue.

The people who heard this voice were as tight as if cold water had been poured over them.

"At last, Damrada.”

The man, Damrada, arrived at the venue.

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Instead of wearing the usual merchant's clothes for disguise, Damrada wore a rare Imperial uniform.

At this moment, Yuuki felt at odds.

"Where's Misha?”

“Dead."

The venue went silent for an instant.

Anyone who had felt the strain, went into a clinical state. Those present had experienced many cultivation fields and were sensitive to this aura.

"What do you mean, Damrada?”

"Literally. Just a moment ago, Misha was killed by Kondo.”

Hearing that, Yuuki felt the lump that had been lingering in his heart disappear.

Seems to be missing something, that sense of unease.

Finally came to realize its true nature.

Yuuki and Damrada's relationship, though not long, involved a lot of ground. The two of them have conspired together in countless, unspeakable evil deeds.

The Dark Mother of Darkness, who was able to bring down the underworld that ruled the Empire, was also able to do so with the assistance of Damrada. There was also the "Big Three", a secret association that was formed later, and Damrada has been very active as a subordinate.

Yuuki had thought so, but now it seemed that he had misunderstood.

All of it, all of it, is being pushed according to the Empire's ideas.

The people summoned by Damrada occupy the central organization, which is the "triumvirate" of secret associations.

The purpose is to screen the able and the incompetent. To spread intelligence networks around the world to identify and attract talented people.

Protecting the lost is also part of the equation.

This is not something that has happened recently. Long ago, the era of the Mother of Darkness began, and the same thing has been happening over and over again.

In this way, wouldn't it be possible to say that Yuuki was also one of the people who was discovered by Damrada.

Find the strong ones and pull into their own side. It was Yuuki who caught the eye of Damrada, who acted according to this purpose.

It would be too conspicuous to leave Damrada to his own devices.

Yuuki is nothing more than a sacrifice chosen to be a shield.

That is, he was going to use him, but instead he used him.

That being said, it does not mean that Damrada has betrayed.

Damrada's loyalty is real.

In order for the paranoid Yuuki to believe this, Damrada was in fact being manipulated by someone, too.

Thinking it over, Yuuki sighed heavily.

“I feel pretty cheated. When did it start?”

"What the…? What's this about?”

Damrada asked indifferently.

It was the same tone as before, but Yuuki sensed a certain decisive difference.

He was not pretending to be confused, but was sincerely unable to understand what Yuuki was saying.

This also means that Damrada has no self-consciousness of being manipulated himself.

It's no wonder you don't notice. It's precisely because I'm not self-conscious that I won't be exposed.

Thinking this way, while thinking back to the last time.

Damrada, at that time, asserted that he did not betray. It was possible to sense that he was speaking from the heart, in fact, it was possible that something had been done after that.

If one trusts one's instincts, then Damrada's manipulation should be the closest thing one can get.

By the way, the person who decided to trust Damrada was exactly me. I'm not going to say much about that at this point, what's important is the purpose of the guy who sent Damrada here.

Someone has manipulated Damrada, and Yuuki has determined this in his mind. If one thinks on the basis of this, one would infer that one is in a very serious situation today.

During the time it took to deal with Damrada here, their encircling net against Yuuki should have been complete.

Yuuki fell into contemplation.

Next to him, Kagali also began to quietly analyze the situation.

However, the bloodthirsty young people gathered at the venue were enraged by Damrada's attitude.

"Damrada, you're being rude to Lord Yuuki!”

Aria condemned.

Then Tolneod, confronted him.

"Damrada, you, what are you thinking? Are you saying that you're going to betray us?”

Damrada replied lightly.

"Betrayal? Saying strange things. My loyalty is unwavering and is dedicated to His Majesty Emperor Rudra from the beginning to the end.”

"Che, that's betrayal!”

Arios said fiercely.

Damrada was known for his greed for money and was looked down upon by a section of his peers.

There are even people who talk bad behind his back and say he would do betrayals for money.

It is precisely because Damrada is such that in this case, more people are angry first than are surprised.

The first to act was Tolneod.

One hand grabbed Damrada by the neck, threateningly.

"Don't pretend! I was picked up by you. You are the one who said that instead of dying as a mine slave, one should live for the greater good. I, however, am always grateful to you. But why are you doing this— Goo!”

Tolneod's actions were actually sheltering Damrada. Get your own hands on the results before anyone else makes a move.

However, it was nosy for Damrada.

Damrada gently reversed his grip on Tolneod's wrist, manipulating the flow of power and in turn restraining Tolneod.

"Oh Tolneod, remember what I said?”

Damrada's eyes were cold, and the calmer Tolneod only felt a chill in his heart.

"What, what?”

Tolneod, who answered with a squeeze of his wrist.

"For the sake of righteousness, one must be strong. I taught you that, didn't I? You're getting power, that's all?”

All of the power coming together to one point, Tolneod's wrist crunched.

And then it was just that—crushed.”

"I, my wrist, in a flash…"

Tolneod groaned, rubbing his wrists as he closed the distance with Damrada. Remove the usual recovery medication and administer the treatment.

Damrada didn't pursue Tolneod, standing leisurely.

There is not a hint of breakage.

In a world of magical creatures where even a broken bone can be cured in a flash, you can't be careless until you've completely rendered your opponent powerless. Without such an understanding, one cannot survive in this world.

Looking at Damrada, Yuuki narrowed his eyes.

He knew that Damrada was strong.

It is not surprising that Damrada is a "single digit" superior to the people gathered in this room.

The important thing is that there is no dowsing ability.

And, also, to see how far he's been manipulated.

In the end, it's a question of whether or not my 'ability blocking' can be lifted.

Depending on the situation, Damrada may have to be killed.

Yuuki deliberately didn't try to stop his companions in order to see through this.

"Are you the Emperor's dog? I thought I was just a money grubber, but I was completely fooled.

However, breaking in alone and revealing your identity doesn't seem like the kind of stupidity you would do if you were a coward.”

Arios shouted, and with that, the situation changed.

"That's right, Damrada yo. You have been gracious to me, so I, will kill you without feeling the pain.”

Tolneod, who showed his true colors, challenged Damrada with all his might this time.

"Too slow.”

Tolneod gripped the war club hanging around his waist with both hands and swung it down with all his might, but Damrada drilled through with ease.

Burrowing into Tolneod's arms in a natural motion, the palm of his hand pushed out gently.

At odds with the lightness of the movement, the heavy blows hit Tolneod.

Spiral penetration break—a technique to force the refined fighting qi into the opponent's body.

Has a directional, penetrating fighting aura that can penetrate weapons and muscles, destroying objects from within. Its power was proportional to the amount of fighting qi, and if it was a spiral penetration break refined by Damrada, it would become a sure-fire hit that surpassed the power of the tank gun.



Tolneod couldn't take it anymore.

“Goo!"

Tolneod spat blood and crouched in place.

Trying to stand up, but can't get the legs to work. That's for sure, the blow just moments ago damaged Tolneod's guts.

"How, how is it possible…you are so strong…”

"Whew, oops, oops, oops. To judge people by their appearance is a pride and arrogance unique to the strong. Does it mean that by hiring you as an escort, you mistakenly think you are stronger?”

“Hmm."

"I told you to be strong and not look down on humans. Even if you don't rely on ability, you'll get stronger with exercise. Just like me.”

Darmada speaks up and throws a spinning back kick to the back of the head.

The attacker, who was aiming at Damrada from behind, did not react at all to the kick and was killed instantly by a cracked skull.

Easily killed was Arios, one of the strongmen recognized by Yuuki.

Arios has the unique skill of "Killer", and has acquired the characteristics of "Silent Movement" and

"Presence Concealment", which are suitable for assassination, and is a special skill structure for killing, and its strength is considered to be commensurate with the 44th position of the sequence.

What was thought to be a man-to-man battle was Arios' true calling, and instead it was buried dryly by Damrada.

"It is not possible to rely on one's ability alone like this, but it is one's own body and spirit that one can rely on in critical moments. If you ask me, you are of no use at all.”

Damrada's words were sharp.

People who hadn't been ridiculed by the Battle Skill Instructors immediately became angry upon hearing this. It was almost like teaching a weak tone that made anger well up in one's heart.

The whole crew's faces suddenly changed, and they unleashed their killing intent on Damrada.

In the midst of that, Yuuki continued to calmly analyze the situation.

A conclusion was then drawn.

Sure. Damrada did not betray, was manipulated by someone. Arios is the closer guard, maybe the Emperor's man. Not killing Tolneod, but laying a dead hand on Arios is proof. That is to say, there is still a vestige of free consciousness, but the inability to do what is detrimental to the dominant, this state, right?

To be able to manipulate Damrada must be a very powerful dominant force. But still, Damrada drilled a hole and tried to convey the status quo to Yuuki.

Based on this judgment, Yuuki came up with the best answer.

"Hey, all hands on deck! Now start the evacuation and transfer! You will be given full command to Kagali, and you will rendezvous with the Hybrid Legion.”

"Boss, why run away, execute the traitor, and then rise straight up…"

"No way.”

Aria’s proposal was flatly rejected by Yuuki.

He smiled as usual and looked around at the whole staff with a serious look.

"Damrada's purpose is to buy time. That's why it's so long on exposition, because that's what's allowed, right?”

"Permission granted?"

Kagali asked.

Yuuki nodded his head in affirmation.

"Yes. Damrada did not betray. Rather, he’s being manipulated by someone. And then that guy, he's going to kill us all here.”

The crowd reacted to Yuuki's words, but the effect of allowing the companions to retrieve their cool judgment had been achieved. Suppressing his killing intent on Damrada, he focused his gaze on the adjutant, Kagali.

Kagali's judgment was the same as Yuuki's.

The instinctive alarm bells kept going off and on, and Kagali understood that she was in a crisis situation. When Yuuki gave instructions, she immediately understood what she should do.

The situation was urgent, and now was not the time to oppose Yuuki's instructions, and Kagali acted.

"Give up here and head for the Hybrid Legion field camp.”

"But what about Yuuki-sama?”

"Don't mind me. I don't think Damrada will let us escape, so I have to be his opponent.”

‘Go for it’—Yuuki takes his back to the full mount and clinches up with Damrada.

“Go."

“Understood!"

Everyone is aware of what they should be doing.

Whether Damrada betrayed or not, such things no longer matter. Looking at Yuuki's back, everyone had come to this realization.

Being strong, they all understood that the thing to do now was not to argue, but to fight for survival.

Aria carried the fallen Tolneod.

The petite maiden carrying the large man on her back was comical but no one laughed at them. Users of healing magic heal Tolneod on the side and join the back row of the team together.

Then it just disappeared into the night in such an orderly fashion.

A few minutes later.

In the spacious conference room, only Yuuki and Damrada remain.

"It's too late to run away, you're always light at the last minute. Yuuki-sama underestimated the Intelligence Bureau too much.”

"Maybe. But if you try to struggle, maybe you'll find a way to live?”

"Ridiculous, this is no child's play.”

"Of course, I've always meant it.”

"Is it a dream like conquering the world?”

"Of course! And, you do the same, don't you?”

Hearing this, Damrada smiled.

Yes, that's right, smiling like that from the bottom of your heart with satisfaction.

Yuuki Kagurazaka, a good host for Damrada.

While one can tell that he can't get rid of childish, childish thoughts, there is a cold side to it.

Very calculating, not to get bored with Damrada.

It is for this reason that Damrada believes in Yuuki.

It was only then that he noticed that his current self, was being manipulated by Kondo.

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Damrada's loyalty to Emperor Rudra is real. Although Yuuki is also recognized, it is no better than Rudra.

After all, these don't even need to be compared.

Emperor Rudra meant all to Damrada.

Damrada, on the other hand, acted as agreed with Rudra. Fulfilling the covenant is what Damrada bets his life to achieve.

Damrada has been involved with Rudra for longer than Kondo. It was therefore impossible to deny that Damrada was careless enough to assume that Kondo would not strike out at himself.

Damrada understood that he was being viewed with suspicion, and was therefore wary, but Kondo seemed to be more dangerous than Damrada had thought. Having ended his parting with Misha, Damrada's will was dictated by Kondo.

It was not understood what method he used, but Damrada could not be undone no matter what means he used. Damrada's consciousness and actions were thus fully grasped by Kondo.

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Kondo, I didn't think you could manipulate even me. While knowing that the guy's caution was deep to the bone, I didn't expect it to go this far. Still, as expected of Lord Yuuki.

Since it couldn't be lifted on its own, the only hope left was to rely on Yuuki. But this has to be done with attention to the situation Damrada is in, which is very difficult.

Whoever looks at it will feel that Damrada has betrayed. The attempt to gain trust in such a situation was so strong that Damrada himself almost gave up.

However, Yuuki noticed it.

Damrada was moved by this fact while saying what he had been allowed to say by Kondo.

"Lord Yuuki, let's show you the strength of the Sequence Two, the deputy commander of the Imperial Emperor's Knights of the Near Guard."

This domination is permissive and Damrada's movements are restricted. In this case, Damrada communicated as much information as possible to Yuuki.

Self-reporting is one of them.

As long as Yuuki knows all the information he can give, it will come in handy in the future. Damrada was so convinced that he intended to entrust the future to Yuuki.

When Yuuki-sama kills me, it'll be over. The agreement with Lord Rudra, Yuuki-sama will also fulfill it, right? Too bad I can't see it for myself…

The will of Damrada will surely be inherited by Yuuki. For in order to achieve Yuuki's ambition, it is necessary to complete Damrada's goal.

Damrada did not hold out too high expectations.

"Don't worry. There's a lot of work to be done, and I'll save you.”

"Ha ha ha! Saying such naive things won't defeat me.”

The pleasure that rushes up from the heart, even when manipulated, cannot be removed. Damrada does as he pleases and releases this emotion…

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More than thirty warriors ran wildly through the streets of the imperial capital.

Following Yuuki's orders, Kagali and the others attempted to escape from the Imperial Capital by night with the aim of reuniting with the Hybrid Legion.

The camping site for the mixed legions is near the Empire's border with the Kingdom of Dwargon, five hundred kilometers southwest of the Imperial capital, a distance that would take more than ten days if one were a traveling merchant.

The people of Magic High can move between designated cities in an instant by using the 'teleportation gates' that have been set up all over the Imperial Capital, a gift that comes with excellent magic technology.

However, it was not possible for a hundred people to use it at the same time, and the 'portal' was usually heavily guarded as an important facility. Even in the dead of night like this, it was easy to foresee what would happen in a fight.

Kagali doesn't hesitate to choose the path she once took.

She judged that instead of making a scene here, it was better to straighten out the war effort first.

In this group, everyone is a superhuman beyond the rank of regulars. With a few hours of non-stop running, you should reach your destination.

"Is Lady Kagali all right?”

"Well, no problem. Thank you for your concern, Tear."

Kagali thanked Tear, the masked maiden who ran beside her.

Kagali was the original Demon Lord, and after losing to Demon Lord Leon, remained in a mental body state for decades at a loss. At the time, Kagali was not a spiritual being—the Demon Lord Kazaream had done his best just to remain self-aware.

Crossing over that past, the blessing of Yuuki had finally gained artificial flesh. Then the workout went smoothly and became powerful.

Therefore, she now possessed a fighting ability that could rival that of the higher monsters. In this group of strongmen, too, they are by no means left behind.

"Yeah? That's good. At times like this, it would be nice if Laplace was around…”

"Yes, if Laplace had been there, he would have defeated Damrada.

"Oooh, oooh, oooh, boss is strong too. Sure to get the win, back to us!”

“Yes!"

"Well, that is to say.”

Although Kagali replied with a smile of affirmation, she felt a growing anxiety inside. The alarm bells had been ringing since just now, and Kagali's unease was gradually increasing.

—not good. It's not good.

This instinct, I don't know how many lives it saved her. Therefore, even though Kagali had no basis, she began to think about what measures she should take to get out of the situation.

Then, turning their eyes to their most trusted companions, Tear and Footman.

"Call Laplace.”

“Huh?"

"Tell him to come right back.”

Tear and Footman might be able to have a conversation through 'chanting'. No matter how far apart, the clowns are closely connected.

"Laplace was sent as a messenger…”

"It's okay, come on!”

The alarm bells that only Kagali could hear grew louder.

That meant there was no time left, and after making that judgment, Kagali ignored Tear and gave a second order.

"All hands, split up from here on out! Act according to your own judgment, survival first…?"

With the aim of reuniting with the Hybrid Legion, the last words were not spoken, and she understood it was too late.

"That's amazing. I thought I'd completely eliminated my aura, thanks to you for noticing.”

The man in military uniform said so while emerging from the darkness.

It's Lieutenant Kondo.

It wasn't just Kondo, from the rooftops of the buildings across the street, people kept jumping down wordlessly.

The number is about 50.

Yet, every one of them could feel the overwhelming breath.

"The Imperial Emperor's Order of the Near Guard…”

"Yes. Don't be needlessly resistant, surrender. In this way, the honor of dying for His Majesty the Emperor is given to you.”

"Yeah, you admit it. Lieutenant Kondo, you are the head of the Imperial Emperor's Order of the Near Guard.”

Even after being identified, Kondo was still expressionless.

Neither negative nor positive, but it was enough for Kagali.

Kagali and there rest gathered while guarding the knights who surrounded them. At this point, fighting is inevitable.

The near-guard knights were fully armed in legendary gear. Even with equal strength, the gap in equipment is still too great.

Despite being at an overwhelming disadvantage, none of Yuuki's men would give up lightly at a time like this.

"Ha, come on, come on. It's a good way to save time.”

"Yes. Let's see what I can do with a close guard!”

Tolneod, who was still dying a moment ago, spoke up and Aria followed suit.

A person with extraordinary strength should look like he or she should, but he or she will not simply give up.

And among them, Kagali desperately analyzed the situation.

The odds of all surviving are infinitely close to zero. The goal of the tactical victory at this stage is to get more companions to converge with the hybrid legions.

For this, time needs to be bought.

Before Yuuki defeated Damrada.

Before Laplace rushed back to help.

Buy valuable time. Kagali realizes that this is what she is meant to do.

Well, what would have happened if one of them had made it?

Thinking aside, Kagali took a step towards Kondo.

"Ho-ho? Are you going to be my opponent?”

"Yeah. Let me confirm the strength of the Chief Near Guard.”

Saying so, but Kagali was well aware that she was nowhere near as strong as Kondo. Kagali's purpose was to make herself the bait.

Winning is impossible, at best, to buy time…

Kagali concentrated and posed towards Kondo.

Kondo, on the other hand, didn't look at Kagali and looked around at the battle and sighed helplessly.

"I don't like to do useless work, and I'm not going to stall for time with you. You have to understand that you can't win a war with spiritual will.”

"Well, maybe? With prayer, miracles can happen.”

"Hum, ridiculous. The original Demon Lord talks in his sleep.”

Hearing that, Kagali smacked her tongue.

Only a few of his companions knew that his original identity was that of a demon lord, and Kondo revealed it easily. That is, this level of intelligence was nothing more than trivial to him.

"You're really being underestimated."

"No, I don't think so. Let me tell you something, I reckon your intention is to rendezvous with the Mixed Legion, but it won't work. Just a moment ago, His Majesty the Emperor had personally organized a crusading army to march.”

"What did you say?”

It was an extraordinary state of affairs for the emperor to go on an expedition.

But what Kagali cared about was the word crusade army.

"Of course, it's only the strong who matter. First of all, whether or not one swears loyalty to His Majesty Rudra, a mongrel that doesn't even have the possibility of evolution is not going to come in handy.”

"What does this mean…?”

"Can't you understand? You have survived until now only because you still have the possibility of evolution, all in the plans of His Majesty Rudra.

"Nonsense! Are you trying to say that our plans have all been seen through!?”

Kagali got emotional.

Kondo said with a bored sweep of Kagali.

"Stupid question. Do you think you can fool me in the Imperial Capital?”

Inside Kagali, a dim fire of anger flared.

The name of the fire, Shame.

With her unique skill as a 'planner', Kagali has been making all kinds of plans and getting them executed successfully. Despite the successive failures of the plan because of Rimuru, it was Kagali's pride to be Yuuki's partner and to be Yuuki's strategist.

Kondo, on the other hand, scoffed at that.

"How could a human…?”

"You mean, Yuuki Kagurazaka, right?”

A strong rage washed over her, and Kagali's eyes seemed to go blank. Still, she could see that it was Kondo's ploy. If you let your anger run wild, you will lose battles that you could have won.

The evidence is that Footman, not knowing if he was provoked by Kagali's anger, lost his sanity and attacked Kondo as he had. In the Clown Troupe, Footman, who prides himself on having the highest attack power, unleashed a great magic bomb, completely unconcerned that the streets would be destroyed.

Kondo ducked out of the way easily, but an alarm went off on the street side, feeling like it was going to cause a big commotion. At this rate, not only the close guards, but also the guardsmen and the watching crowds would flock to the scene.

When this became the case, there was no need for Kagali and others to worry about it, as long as someone was in the way, it was considered an enemy to rule out. Kondo they should be well aware of these things too.

But why would Kondo allow such a thing to happen?

That was Kagali's query.

Settle down and think calmly. This guy, just trying to piss me off…

Since she saw through Kondo's attempt, she would just have to accompany him. Thinking so, Kagali suppressed her anger. At this point, a wave of unease came up as if she had missed something.

Wait…? Damrada was manipulated by someone. If this is Kondo’s—

It wasn't just Footman, Tear had joined the war. A surprising amount of fighting is taking place between the surrounding Konoha and Yuuki's companions.

Kondo, on the other hand, was completely unfazed by the situation.

At unknown times, Kondo's right hand gripped a pistol and his left hand held a knife, coping with the onslaught. Facing Footman and Tear, the two majins who were able to override the Demon Lord, they still maintained a stoic attitude.

Although Kondo was predicted to be a formidable foe, the reality was beyond prediction.

Undoubtedly stronger than Damrada, Kagali reacquainted herself with the horrors of Kondo.

Kondo simply held the gun and showed no signs of wanting to shoot, using the knife alone to simultaneously oppose Footman and Tear.

That knife, in Kagali's opinion, was also a famous knife. In fact, what Kagali didn't know was that the construction of the knife was called a naval taija-type military knife, and the key blade was engraved with a beautiful blade that was so beautiful that one couldn't help but look at it. This is a family heirloom passed down from generation to generation by the Kondo family, not a bargain for the layman to hold.

Rightfully so, this knife is not a weapon that can be wielded with one hand. Kondo, on the other hand, held the hilt of the knife with his left hand and swung it with one hand. This was not some special genre, and a clear-eyed person could tell at a glance that he hadn't played up to his original strength.

This man is dangerous. Taking those two as opponents, but not moving the real thing at all…But why?

It would have been more serious if the intention was to kill. So you didn't do it, did you really see any value in using us? So it's true…

Then, Kagali came up with the answer.

Shouted.

"Be careful! Kondo may use some means to manipulate people.”

"Hm, exactly."

Thought Kondo would deny it, but dryly admitted it. It gave Kagali the creeps.

How dare this man expose himself? No, since we already doubt it, there is no point in denying it.

Expressing affirmation will, on the contrary, increase our vigilance. But, can't figure out why—

Kagali sank suspiciously into a mire of thoughts.

Unable to understand Kondo's thoughts, unable to see what was right to do.

Since you can't win the fight, it's best to follow through with the initial battle of delaying time. She thought so, but couldn't figure out why Kondo would go along with this battle plan.

—No, that's weird! This man said at the outset that he had no intention of stalling with us, and why -

ah! Is that so, it turns out!

It was only at this point that Kagali finally learned the true horror of Kondo. Every line of dialogue makes sense, and Kagali understands that Kondo is completely dictating the course of events by mixing lies into the conversation.

"You're also stalling for time…”

"Did you finally notice? I'm playing this boring time-stretching trick with you.”

“Gah."

"It's not easy to see through with your thinking.

Despite desperately trying to stay calm, Kondo's prodding irritated Kagali.

"Don't just say…”

"Do you know why I'm called an intelligence-feeding freak?"

“……”

"You just said that too, didn't you? I can manipulate people. Then why didn't you think it would be easy to gain the knowledge of the manipulated?”

What's this guy talking about?—Kagali marveled.

If Kondo was lying, it would be too childish and awkward. But if true, it would be tantamount to divulging important secrets. It's hard to imagine that this prudent man would act in a way that would expose the undercard.

"What a pain in the ass. Even for me, it's not like I can see through everything. The original intention was to make contact with you after leaving the outskirts of the city. It's a shame that Tidu suffered damage, but it's not easy for me to stay in a fight like this.”

"Stay strong!”

"Ho, ho, ho, what an underestimation!”

Irritated by Kondo's words, Tear and Footman became agitated. And that's just winning the other side's strategy, another bad move. It was with that understanding that Kagali got anxious.

"Calm down, you two! Don't let the other person's words disturb the mood!”

Kagali shouted, trying to stop the two from storming off.

Kondo boredly skimmed Kagali, then glanced at the pistol again, not knowing what to think, and stowed it in his arms.

"What a pain in the ass. Let me deprive you of your fighting power without killing you. Come on.”

The moment Kondo held the Saber in both hands, the aura changed for one.

It's a scent that's unique to high people.

"Tear, let me do it here. Take it, human!”

The two men's breaths swelled and the people fighting around them stopped fighting as if they were overwhelmed by their Qi.

Kondo took a step forward on his left foot and raised his sword to his right shoulder, posing in a hachioji stance, waiting for the enemy to attack.

Footman, on the other hand, seems to have completely abandoned the defense and adopted the stance of specializing in striking. Letting the whole body cover the fighting aura and transform itself into a giant projectile for the assault.

The chubby figure, however, showed unimaginable agility as Footman rolled agilely. Then, accelerating while taking a leap from the ground, he began bouncing around Kondo, continuing the irregular movement, gradually accelerating.



"Ho-ho, ho, ho, ho. How about, if you can, you try to see what I'm doing!”

Convinced that he had accelerated to his full strength, Forman conjured up his ultimate move to Kondo.

The true face of Footman's power is a unique skill called 'The Increaser'.

The essence of this power is that of increase.

Whether it's volatility, or quality, it can increase at its own will. Accelerating just by jumping, the weight of the self gradually increases and the weight becomes not in keeping with what it looks like. Just drive this momentum into each other and either opponent will be crushed.

"Take it” The angry outbursts fly apart…

With absolute confidence and destructive power, Footman closed in on Kondo. However, Kondo's expression didn't fluctuate and he only made one sword move.

"I'm proud of you for using this ‘thunderbolt.’"

It was only after it was over that the calming voice was heard.

Footman's hands and feet were cut off at a moment's notice, a high-speed trick that no one could see. It would not have been possible to do so without an overwhelming strength gap.

Only the head was still attached to the body, and bright red blood spurted from the broken limb.

Although Footman is not yet dead from this, I'm afraid it will be difficult to continue fighting.

"Your name is Tear, right? I'll bandage the man's arms and legs and stop the bleeding on his head. It'll be a pain in the ass if he dies.”

Kondo said blandly.

That right hand gripped back to the pistol, back to the position it was in at the beginning. Either way, the gesture was a sign that there was no intention of continuing to be their opponent.

"What are you, what are you thinking…?"

"Won't kill you. Especially you, Kagali—no, the original Demon Lord Kazaream. You still have use, so you can't be killed.”

"Stupid, to do something like this and want me to help you?”

"Hmph, no need to ask your permission. I told you, didn't I? I can manipulate people.”

What a hateful man, Kagali stared at Kondo with a hateful look.

Kondo's statement is so irritating that it's clear that he's thinking the right thing, but Kondo's approach makes himself uneasy and wonder if he's thinking the wrong thing. Kondo's every word made Kagali restless.

At this point, the gun Kondo was holding flashed a red light.

Seeing the red light, the corners of Kondo's mouth rose slightly.

That is, a very, very small and unassuming glimmer of a smile. Can this man also laugh, Kagali wondered while the biggest alarm sounded in her heart.

Procrastination…by the way, is this real?

It was too late to realize it until now.

Kagali was disgusted with herself for being played like this, and even so, she was still exploring the best options.

There was no doubt that Kondo had assembled his hand cards, though there was no telling what those hand cards were. There was no escape now, and it was difficult to stall for any more time.

In that case, there is only one recourse.

Kagali's only option was to remove the seedling that might endanger her companion.

That is, suicide.

Kagali is determined to prevent intelligence leaks by dying.

That being said, Kagali, as an Undead Elf Clan, would not perish in the true sense of the word.

Although this flesh will be lost, it can be boarded again with others to gain eternal life.

Footmant and Tear should have sensed Kagali's thoughts as well, they were undead elf clans like Kagali, immortal in the true sense of the word. Three men besieging Kondo at the same time should serve their purpose while keeping Kagali's thoughts from being exposed.

Even with the loss of flesh, one can avoid the worst state of affairs if one can escape completely. That's Kagali's judgment, and the trump card saved for last.

It's a rare time for Yuuki-sama to get his hands on flesh. It's going to take a while to settle down again, but it's better than losing everything. Even though it's dragging Footman and Tear down, I’ll prepare them for tougher flesh next time.

Kagali made her decision.

After that, just trust Laplace to find a way to do something about it.

Kondo is really stronger than expected, and judging by Kagali at this stage, Kondo and Laplace are not on par. No, it's possible that Kondo is slightly stronger.

Even if they succeeded in converging here, there was no way to ensure victory, and it would be really bad strategy to still implicate Laplace in danger under the circumstances, Kagali judged so.

The more worrying thing is how Kondo is manipulating people.

Although it was tempting to wait to see this before running away, it would be dangerous to be too greedy. Kagali shed her confusion and immediately put it into action.

"I'm so underestimated by the humans. Footman, Tear, stop playing with him and give him a taste of my true power as a demon lord!”

Kagali let the demon qi spread all over her body, making a power that went beyond the limits. This temporary flesh would not be able to endure for long, at most for a few minutes if it was messed up like this. But then there's no need to worry about being suspected of suicide.

Forman and Tear too, seeing Kagali in this state, understood the battle plan.

"Oooh, oooh, oooh, just losing my arms and legs won't stop me!”

"This girl can go on too! It's been so long since I've been able to show my stuff, my heart is pounding!”

Like matching Kagali, Footman also rounded his body and started jumping. Then Tear, like Kagali, began to liberate the monster aura.

In the center of the imperial capital, the huge demonic aura gradually expanded. If Kondo could make it look like this was a special attack with the intention of going down together, Kagali and their fight would be a success.

However.

Kondo didn't even frown in the face of this situation. Methodically, he stowed his saber and confirmed the status of the pistol.

He said, "I don't think so,” as if I were throwing cold water on Kagali.

"It seems that only the spirit body can survive.”

This statement is impossible to ignore.

The people who knew about Kagali's race were also only Yuuki among their companions. Ultra-secret information that even Damrada didn't know, and then again it should be something that Kondo couldn't know.

"For, why do you know this…?"

"The so-called battle is over before it begins. The total annihilation of the Mecha Legion was due to the negligence of the enemy in gathering intelligence. Doesn't it take failure for granted to storm off without even knowing the right situation? Don't you think so?”

“…….”

"That being said, your men have been a disappointment. They were clearly given the best possible time, but lost to a new Demon Lord who had been installed in the district. It's ridiculous to call it a demon lord too.”

"What did you say?”

"But you guys lost just fine. I also had a basic grasp of what was going on all over there, after all a more interesting existence than Clayman was born.”

"I asked you what that meant—!”

Kagali's anger erupted.

Already no longer considered calming herself down, as the hatred of Lieutenant Kondo had made her forget herself.

Kondo's statement amounted to a confession that it was he who had manipulated Clayman.

Thinking about it this way, Clayman doesn't know when it started and the behavior gradually spiraled out of control. According to Laplace's report, the tendency got bigger decades ago.

Kagali thought it was just caused by the stress of being a Demon Lord, and even thought she was overthinking it. However, if these were caused by Kondo, the situation would be different.

A self-developed battle plan that fails because of human obstruction is intolerable. What's more, the once-favored Clayman, if he also died because he was manipulated by Kondo…

Unforgivable, absolutely unforgivable.

Kagali's anger could no longer be restrained, and Footman, who was particularly sensitive to the emotions of anger, reacted to Kagali's anger by allowing it to increase further.

It turned out, ironically, to be exactly what Kondo had expected.

No, that's what Kondo is all about.

"How naive. In battle, get emotional. It's only because of this level of awareness that it's so easy to fall into the trap."

Kondo said so and pulled the trigger.

“Ah."

Pow!—Kagali popped spasmodically as the sound came softly.

There was no bloodshed.

Because it was a very special bullet that affected not the flesh but the spirit.

Its name is "The Curse Bomb of Domination".

It was a secret treasure bestowed by Emperor Rudra, and one of Kondo's killer weapons.

"The Domination Spell Bomb was given a portion of Rudra's powers, with the effect of dominating and manipulating others. However, one could only dominate one person at a time, and the likelihood of resistance was high for those with strong spiritual powers.”

There is a surplus of bullets on hand, but the usefulness and timing of the bullets need to be carefully considered. Failure to do so would not only expose the hand to the enemy, but also lose a piece.

Those who want to dominate the Demon Lord class need to fire their bullets while the opponent is asleep or in an exuberant state.

After being swept away by lust, or being consumed by negative emotions such as anger or lamentation, you can finally exercise domination by shooting a "domination spell" when the other person is in this state.

"It took some effort, but it was in line with the plan. Kagali, get your companions to abort the act of fighting. After all, you're so careful, you've already carved a spell on the summoner, haven't you?"

"I see, Lord Kondo.”

"Don't call me that. Just call me Lieutenant.”

"Yes, Lieutenant Kondo. Yes, sir.”

Just like that, Kagali fell into Kondo's hands.

Then, as Kondo had expected, the spells were engraved on the souls of all of Yuuki's companions. Tear and Footman, too, were unable to disobey the words of Kagali, the commanding officer.

There are also those who do not have the "spell" engraved on them, but they understand that the situation is unfavorable and that even if their companions kill each other, they will only die for nothing, so it is better not to resist being caught.

The darkness of the Tidu restored calm.

"To hate, hate your own powerlessness. What is called justice is something that exists only in the midst of the multitude and is united by a stronger will, as is the ideal. Your ambition has turned to morning dew in the face of His Majesty Rudra's righteousness, that's all.”

That is, the absolute law of the weak against the strong.

Kondo was well aware of this.

"However, without the awareness of being trampled upon, one is not even qualified to be ambitious.

Therefore, let me remember your remorse.”

Kondo himself was alive with a sense of consciousness, so he wouldn't look down on people like Kagali.

If it is himself who loses, he will face the same fate, which he has learned from his own experience.

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Yuuki and Damrada clinch and engage in a fierce battle.

It's not sure how many times the two have alternated offense and defense.

Facing Damrada with a straight punch to the face, Yuuki unloads with a palm strike. He then tries to reverse Damrada's wrist, but Damrada won't let him, and slashes at Yuuki.

And Yuuki, who expected the handknife, throws a double leg kick while leaning back on his upper body. Damrada, who senses Yuuki's movements, drops back down to his feet and throws a sweeping leg kick—but it seems Yuuki sees that one coming too and leaps forward with a spinning back kick to the side of Damrada's head.

But that leg kick misses.

Damrada has closed the distance and stood up.

Going beyond the human realm and strike back with a refined martial art. The offensive and defensive plays go on and on, and from the sidelines, it seems as if you're watching a well-designed action play, with every move in order.

But at a pace that the eyes of the common man cannot keep up with. Unfortunately there was no audience present, except that it would have been difficult to find a strong man who could appreciate the battle.

A fight between high level fighters based on the flesh of a thousand hammers.

Actually the fight was more than that.

Yuuki tries to communicate with Damrada, using 'chanting' rather than dialogue. Damrada also tried to respond by assisting Yuuki in action.

Several times in the fight, unnecessary physical contact was made in order to exchange information at that moment.

"Really, is it finally connected? I didn't realize that Damrada, even you have acquired an ultimate skill.

It took me so much effort to convey my “thoughts.” Was it already there when you met me?”

"Just a borrowed item. Of course, when I met Lord Yuuki, I already had an ultimate skill.”

‘It didn't come to light because it was barely used’—Damrada rounded up thoughtfully.

And Yuuki could only smile bitterly.

Now that I've awakened my ultimate skills, I realize that there is an absolute "class difference" between those and my unique skills.

And, there is a word in Damrada's answer that cannot be ignored.

"Borrowed item? What does that mean?”

Originally, abilities were acquired by themselves.

Just because there are people with creative abilities like Yuuki doesn't mean you can create something out of nothing. Yuuki simply feeds on his own desires and gains abilities by changing the form of his "soul power". That is why it is impossible to ignore the fact that capacity can be transferred.

Damrada replied.

"As it literally is. My power is nothing but a gift from the Emperor.”

"Is it possible to do such a thing?”

"I understand your doubts, but I'm the witness. You have to understand, it's possible.”

That's what I'm talking about.

Since that's all said and done, Yuuki had to agree.

In this way, the next question arises.

"Is the transfer of that skill for anyone?”

How so, Damrada smiled.

"Ordinary humans, not to mention ultimate skills, can't even be a vessel for unique skills. Just accommodating the powers that be requires a huge amount of energy. Therefore, we must transform our flesh like the otherworldly man.”

"I'm relieved to hear you say that. I thought the emperor was having a great sale on my powers, so I was anxious.”

"Hahaha, it's not happening yet. And it is His Majesty's plan to achieve this goal.”

I see, and Yuuki understood.

"Is that why we collect the strong?”

"Exactly. Humans, too, will evolve at the end of their practice. The race itself changes and becomes

"immortal". Yuuki-sama, who has reached the realm of "saints," knows this too, right?”

"Sort of.”

Yuuki has also experienced that from human beings to "immortals" and then to "saints", it is impossible to achieve this with ordinary cultivation.

Even among the "Top Ten Saints" of the Western countries, the only ones who have reached the

"saints" in the true sense of the word are only Hinata and Sare.

"It is only after man has evolved into an immortal that he has been able to break away from the framework called human communication and become personally connected to the world. Those who have reached this stage will be gathered together to form the Imperial Emperor's Knights of the Near Guard, and under the screening of His Majesty Rudra, it can be said that this is the minimum passing line.”

“‘Centaur' is the minimum pass line?”

"Well, yes. Lord Yuuki had also fought with Guy, so he should be able to understand how powerful he was, right? Even for a "saint," there is no possibility of victory."

"Well, sort of."

Guy's strength was abnormal, and Yuuki, who had actually fought, was well aware of that. A half-dragged powerhouse couldn't even do it against Demon Lord Guy Crimson, right?

"To defeat Guy, awakening an ultimate skill is the minimum requirement.”

"Is this an ultimate skill?”

This is content that Yuuki can also accept.

After acquiring an ultimate skill himself, he felt it even more strongly. Only an ultimate skill can counter an ultimate skill.

"Yes, His Majesty Rudra is well aware of that. Therefore, trials are given to those who have reached the level of "immortals" to promote their further awakening, in order to train them into a vessel capable of giving them ultimate skills.”

"It's a mess. But I'd do the same if I were you.”

"It's a great help to understand so quickly.”

Yuuki and Damrada looked at each other and smiled.

Although it was a topic that normal people couldn't understand, Yuuki saw through the method and it made sense. Once the methodology is established, it will probably be possible to raise a large number of extreme ability awakeners.

It's not a good feeling to be taken one step ahead, but Yuuki thinks it's a good idea to get recognition where it's due. More than that, the specificity of Rudra, which is integral to this approach, is the problem.

"The fact that Rudra can empower others is truly astonishing.”

"This is an example of the greatness of His Majesty Rudra. Those who reach the realm of the Sage, His Majesty Rudra grants the ultimate 'skill of substitution.’”

Damrada's ''thoughts' were filled with pride, and one could feel his respect for Emperor Rudra, and Yuuki couldn't help but smile bitterly.

While Damrada still swore loyalty to Yuuki, it was still different from the loyalty dedicated to the Emperor. Even though Yuuki knew that was the case, he still felt that Damrada should hide his respect for the Emperor.

Only, the usual Damrada would never make such a mistake, and this time he did so deliberately, knowing full well.

"So did Rudra start the war to awaken his men?”

"The reasoning is this. The previous battle was thwarted by Veldora and suffered a setback, but the battle was fought that way. A few have evolved into "Immortals", with more battle power to add than to lose.”

Still patient enough, Yuuki felt admiration at the same time as jealousy.

Like this, the two men exchanged 'chanting words' while fighting each other.

Then finally, Yuuki's power broke through Damrada's mental barrier.

"Oh, we did it. I've found it, the core that manipulates your power.”

"That would be great. Can it be lifted?”

"Well, no problem. But will it be exposed to Kondo when it's lifted?”

"I guess we'll be exposed. It's okay.”

"Then let it go in one breath.”

Yuuki and Damrada are not fighting pointlessly.

Damrada knew about Yuuki's 'power blocking', and he believed that this power could lift the

'domination' imposed by Kondo. Yuuki also saw right through Damrada's thoughts, and without anyone else having to say much, had been testing out Damrada's condition.

Yuuki then used the newly awakened power to try to bring Damrada back to his former self—

Yuuki has acquired the ultimate skill "King of Greed" and specializes in seizing it. Just by making contact with the opponent, the ''Life Snatching Palm' could seize energy, and even if it was just a fist fight, it could still accumulate damage on the opponent.

It can be magical or physical, and depending on the opponent, the nature of the energy that can be seized varies. But what remains constant is that the seized energy can be used for itself.

But in the face of Damrada, the "Raider's Palm" did not work.

Damrada's strength was excellent, maintaining his best form even when manipulated by Kondo. It has nothing to do with my own will, and I'm trying my best to hinder Yuuki's actions.

This was made possible by the Emperor's ultimate power to grant 'vicarious power'. From this, the protection of the soul was exerted on Damrada.

No matter what kind of mental attack is ineffective, an absolute mental barrier. No matter what kind of defense can penetrate, absolute physical destruction. Using two opposing forces as twin wings makes Damrada an undefeated presence.

Kondo was able to dominate Damrada because the Emperor had granted the "Domination Spell Bomb"

a higher level than the "Acting Power". If 'vicarious power' had not been a borrowed force, Damrada would not have been dominated.

In order to lift this troublesome 'vicarious right', Yuuki drove the 'ability blockade' to shatter Damrada's mental barrier. That's when the "dominating spell bomb" that was inserted into the "soul" of Damrada was finally discovered.

After confirming with Damrada, Yuuki concentrated his strength in one breath.

"The Palm of Life”

The bottom of Yuki's palm struck Damrada's chest.

This strike was well controlled and only shattered the bullet. It was really straightforward and Damrada was thus restored to freedom.



"That's very helpful, Yuuki-sama.”

"Don't rely too much on others, I'm more worried about Kagali and the others. I'm going over there.

What are you going to do?”

"Allow me to accompany you. I'm going to show up with Demon Lord Rimuru tomorrow anyway, and it's even more dangerous to easily return to Kondo's men if I have to take advantage of the momentum to stage a coup.”

"Indeed, there's no need to hide it.”

Yuuki laughed, and Damrada responded with a smile.

"Let's go then."

“Yes."

Yuuki turned and walked towards the door, and Damrada nodded and followed.

But this moment…

"Why don't you clean up the strangers and just hang around, Damrada? Or, do you really want to betray Lord Rudra?”

Hearing the cold voice, Yuuki tensed and stopped moving.

The real crisis that opens here.

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No sound was made.

Somehow, at some point, she was already standing there.

An overwhelming strongman's breath.

The pale blue hair, stunning the beauty of a celestial being.

What should have been a first meeting, Yuuki was familiar with the beauty's scent.

That was, the breath of the man opposite the imperial curtain.

Known as the "marshal", the figure who sat beside the emperor…

"Eeh, Lord Velgrynd…”

Damrada muttered, and Yuuki listened but felt very loud.

Velgrynd? Don't you mean…?

At this moment, Yuuki realized that his face had become spastic.

This world is known as the strongest "dragon species”—in front of this existence, Yuuki unconsciously compared his own strength.

Hurts my brain. It hadn't felt that way when I saw Veldora before, it wasn't a matter of winning or losing in this subdivision anymore. To go head-to-head with such an opponent would be tantamount to suicide.

Even though Yuuki realized this, he didn't give up.

If it doesn't work on the front, then you can avoid it and play a dirty trick. He guessed that if he made good use of the cards in his hand, the possibility of victory was still high.

"I never thought that His Excellency the Marshal would be the True Dragon Race. That way, we'll know why Guy won't go out in person.”

"Hey, it's rare for a human to not tbe imid in the face of me. You deserve a compliment.”

"Thank you very much. By the way, it would have been nice to leave me alone.”

"I don't care. Only it's not me who's looking for you. It's my dear sir."

Velgrynd finished and took a step back.

It was only then that Yuuki noticed the man's aura.

He couldn’t help but widen his eyes and stare at the figure.

Standing beside Velgrynd was a man in a costume that was almost astronomical in value.

It was a familiar face.

“……Masayuki? No, it's not possible. Are you…?”

‘Exactly the same as Masayuki Honjou’—Yuuki thought to himself, but then noticed a few differences.

The most obvious is the hair color.

The man had brilliant, dazzling blond hair. By contrast, Masayuki just usually dyed his hair blonde, which was supposed to be a Japanese black-teal color.

If you look closely, the eyes are also different.

Masayuki's eyes looked as loose as if they were less rooted, while the man's gaze was as domineering as if he wanted to see through everything. To not tense one's nerves was to be swallowed up by his aura.

In the face of such verve, it is impossible to imagine that they are the same person.

It's a different person, this one

Convinced of this, Yuuki thought of the man's true identity.

Since Velgrynd calls him Dear Sir, there is only one identity.

"The Emperor Rudra?”

"That's right, Yuuki-sama. This is the emperor at the top of the empire, Lord Rudra.”

Answering Yuuki was Damrada, who, as a gesture of no hostility towards Rudra, did not care to get his clothes dirty and knelt down in place.

Yuuki didn't accuse him.

To Damrada, Rudra's importance is above his own, and it is understood, if not stated, that the question is why Rudra is here.

"It's amazing. I didn't think that the noble majesty would come to a place like this, are you idle?”

Yuuki asked as if teasing Rudra.

And Rudra wasn't angry, just extremely natural in his reply.

"Very busy. It's not the time to play around when the win against Guy comes down to the wire.”

The surprise was with Damrada.

He didn't expect Rudra to talk to an inferior, and never expected Velgrynd to tolerate it.

"Hey, then don't be lazy…"

"Don't talk too much, and become his men. Doing so will not deprive you of your will.”

That's the order.

From the distant heavens, commanded the prostrate little man on the ground.

This was the kind of person Yuuki hated the most, but for some reason there was a feeling of being unable to disobey.

Is this, "thought induction"? It's a bit like the "domination" exerted by Mariabell, but it's incomparable in strength.

It's a hateful power, but Yuuki has 'power blocking' and can ignore any command that comes from his power.

It should have been.

Nope! It's not that simple of an empowerment!!

Knees couldn't help but want to bend, and Yuuki understood as he fought.

This is divinely inspired power.

\*\*\*Note: ???? , one meaning divine power and the other meaning transcendent leadership charisma. But in the following, it can be seen that Rudra did not use the ability when speaking, and it can be seen that Yuuki took this innate temperament as a skill and turned it into a divinely taught ability, i.e., the misunderstanding in Yuuki's mind was directly expressed in words. This is a double entendre, so it's up to you to understand whether it's the effect of your ability or your natural temperament.

Even the overbearing, overpowering dominion that can make all things obey.

Yuuki fought tooth and nail to resist.

"Bah, you've got some nerve. I didn't expect this kind of trick when I came up.”

Yuuki exasperatedly spat out a mouthful of spit mingled with blood.

Dominating was his specialty, and being preempted made Yuuki furious.

But that's the right thing to do. Angry feelings are exactly what blocked the evidence of Rudra's domination.

Yuuki flashed a fearless smile and returned Rudra's glance.

However, Rudra looked at Yuuki with a puzzled expression.

"What's wrong? Is it so incredible that your own power doesn't work?”

“No..."

Rudra looked back at Velgrynd with a puzzled look on her face. Then, cackling, Velgrynd replied to Rudra.

"No way, Rudra. This child bathed in your dominance and mistakenly thought he had suffered a mental attack. Be more gentle with him, or he will be broken before he becomes a minister.”

"Don't you think that's a good idea, too?”

"Mmm. There are few people who can talk to you as equals, and it's not because the power differential is hard to grasp.”

Rudra was at a loss for words.

Velgrynd, on the other hand, revels in it.

Yuuki, on the other hand, was furious at the shame of hearing the two’s conversation.

You gotta be kidding me! Don't you see me at all? In that case, let me take away your composure.

After a moment of regaining his composure, Yuuki spoke up.

"All right, I'll take it. Indeed, you are the rulers of this world. But with such power, I cannot conquer the world; I am impotent in my opinion.”

Pick on each other as usual.

And it was Velgrynd who responded.

"How arrogant. Nah, Rudra, really kill him. Even if such a brat was included in the camp, it wouldn't make much difference in terms of coping with Qi's battle prowess. It'll just be unpleasant, won't it?”

In contrast to Velgrynd, Rudra is generous and open-minded.

"Don't say that. Even if it seems insignificant to you, cultivating it can make you a useful pawn.

Besides, isn't it nice to be defiant? Just like the kitten that refuses to get close to people, doesn't it have its cuteness. I like it a lot.”

This, totally considers Yuuki a lowly little person.

Yuuki hummed boredly.

The key Rudra was unfazed and there was no point in provoking. In that case, the only way to speak is with strength.

Since Velgrynd was present, it couldn't take much time. The first move was the strongest attack, and even Velgrynd was suppressed in one fell swoop. After deciding, Yuuki set up a pose.

"I have no interest in submitting to someone weaker than myself when you said you'd become your servant. If you want me to obey, you have to show proportionality!”

Yuuki shouted and began to move.

No more crap.

The acting is also pointless.

The "King of Greed", the research pole power, will restore the original size of his own desires to power.

Yuuki took it for granted that the power he had taken from Mariabell could awaken him to his greed.

Because of this, Yuuki had no doubt that he was the strongest one who had acquired the power of the great sin system, the 'King of Greed'.

Who's it going to be?

No need to think, from the beginning there was only the single option of Rudra.

Dominate Rudra and then hold Velgrynd hostage. Cross this crisis and it will turn into a blessing.

It's this tough way of thinking that has been the driving force behind Yuuki's success so far. This time too, it will be a victory and a big step forward. That's all Yuuki could think about, and he ran at a brisk pace.

Pulling in close enough to be just a few punches away from the opponent.

In the blink of an eye, Yuuki tried to touch Rudra with his hand.

The right hand unleashes one of the powers of the 'King of Greed', 'Sucking Life', and at the same time uses the 'Power to Block'. In this way, a vicious attack could be formed across the opponent's boundaries.

This was the original use of the 'Death Snatching Palm', which was different from Damrada's time, and Yuuki attacked with an aura that didn't matter if he killed his opponent.

If Rudra is dead, then focusing on Velgrynd again is. With two strong enemies, escape is also difficult, but if there is only one, there is always a way.

If Rudra survives, then the next step is to make a real attack with your left hand.

The effect exerted on the left hand is 'worrying', stimulating the other person's feelings, a terrible power that even memory can affect.

It is a more sinister, more powerful force of domination than the "desires" of Mariabell.

With this two-stage attack continuum, Yuuki was intent on killing a way out alive. However, the idea was easily crushed.

"You won't be able to do anything to Rudra in front of me.”

With a speed that even Yuuki, who had raised his physical abilities to the limit, couldn't see, Velgrynd stepped forward. Then easily pops Yuuki's right hand out of the way.

Yuuki was stunned.

While it was surprising that the right hand palm strike was defended, what was even more impactful than that was the energy flowing in from Velgrynd.

It was enough to make Yuuki vomit blood in rushing waves. The mere moment of the encounter, the huge monster element that exceeded the capacity limit, eroded Yuuki's body.

Sensing the danger in this instant, Yuuki forcefully twisted his body to pull away. If the reaction had been a little bit slower, Yuuki's body would have been completely destroyed, right?

It wasn't that Velgrynd had done anything, rather the opposite, nothing but remove Yuuki's hand.

Even so, Yuuki was wounded, but the reason was that he had exploded himself, only because he had seized a huge amount of energy that he could not fully control through the 'Life Grabbing Palm'.

With tears and nosebleeds while spitting blood, Yuuki thought so.

How, maybe. So simple it's more than I can handle! Now my limit is enough to hold a dozen elves, and it overflows in an instant.

As if complaining to the gods, Yuuki grumbled.

The dreaded Velgrynd.

It was obvious that so much energy had been taken away, but it didn't hurt, it didn't matter. That is, in the face of Yuuki's attack, there wasn't even a need for defense.

‘There's no way out of this’—Yuuki realized.

Damn, the power differential is surprisingly large, and it's no wonder it doesn't put me in the eye.

This is undoubtedly on the same level as Guy. Yuuki understands this, and only now does he know the height of the world.

It was precisely because of the awakening of ultimate skills that this desperate rank gap was understood.

To go on the offensive yourself is an act of suicide.

In that case, one can only wait and see what the enemy does.

"Don't be such a jerk. Wouldn't it be a pleasure to have me out there, answering your wish to know about my Power?”

"What a bad habit, Rudra. If you get hurt, it'll be boring. Leave it to me.”

"Oh, that's not acceptable. Right?”

This is provocation.

This kind of practice, which is like taking away a good show from him, made it impossible for Yuuki to keep quiet.

"Hahahaha, you're a good man. If I had accepted reality, I would have lost. But ah, I'm not going to give up easily, don't think I'll simply surrender.”

Yuuki knew that this was just a case of not giving in, but he still tried his best. Now that it is understood that no matter what you can't win against Velgrynd, then all that can hold on to is your own reserve. Even if you die as a result, you have to carry out your own capriciousness in the end.

Yuuki glared at Rudra.

Facing the sight of Yuuki, Rudra smiled amusingly.

"Sure enough, let me be your opponent. That being said, I am the best at 'domination'. If you can bear it, you're a winner. You can go wherever you want.”

Hearing this pleading offer, Yuuki narrowed his eyes.

Rudra's words were serious.

In all seriousness, it didn't matter even if Yuuki got away with it.

Yuuki didn't see through Rudra's intentions, but in fact Rudra was thinking very simply. After accumulating this experience, Yuuki will gain even more power, right? On that basis, it would be good to negotiate with Yuuki once again and bring Yuuki into the camp.

Rudra's broad-mindedness was not the same as Yuuki's.

That's why Yuuki is creeped out about Rudra and at the same time angry at being belittled.

Good at domination? The same goes for me on this one. I’ll bet everything on this power—the king of Greed.

Rudra looked at Yuuki amusingly, inwardly rejoicing at the long overdue match.

If Yuuki is able to bear his own 'domination', it may lead to the consequences of raising tigers to cause trouble. But even with that possibility in mind, Rudra still opted for a showdown.

If it falls short here, it means that my supremacy was only that great.

Rudra didn't bother to think about failure.

It would also be a pleasure if Yuuki pretended to be submissive. A pawn in such a tame hand is what a ruler of the world should look like, and Rudra is full of confidence.

Velgrynd had been together with Rudra for a long time, and what the other was thinking could be understood without words.

That's how you know that admonition is useless too.

"I know. If you lose, I will avenge you."

Saying so, Velgrynd stepped back.

"No need to worry.”

Rudra smiled bitterly and stepped forward.

Then, Yuuki also forcefully pulled the body that was emitting a sad cry to stand up.

"That's funny, you guys. It's also understandable why Guy judged you guys as game disrupting clowns on the board.”

“…why would you know this?”

"Hey, it's called the Moderate Clown Troupe, right? A moment ago, a report was received from Tatsuya that the chairman of Clown Troupe had also fallen into my hands. I'll tell you this, too. Now that we know all your information, challenge me with this mentality.”

Tatsuya, also known as Lt. Kondo. Rudra used some means to get in touch with Kondo, and by this time, reports were received that Kagali had surrendered.

Understanding that, Yuuki sighed—it was bad.

That is, even Yuuki's peculiar physique, the conversation during the fight with Guy, it all leaked.

Yuuki told someone who could be trusted that he had awakened his ultimate power. The loyal Damrada seems to have kept it a secret, but there's no point in it at this point.

Kagali was Yuuki's partner and rightfully shared the secret.

Really, this is hurting my brain. Are my hand cards all exposed…?

Yuuki thought in his heart that there was nothing he could do, and even had the idea of simply abandoning it all. But pride does not allow itself to be held back.

More importantly…

Wasn't Kagali dead? Rudra seems to be the one who dominates the power of the system, and it seems that Kondo is using a power that mimics Rudra's. In that case, rather than running away, just— Yuuki formulated the battle in a flash.

Although the success rate is very low, the mood is a little more relaxed compared to a challenge with no calculations at all.

"Thank you so much for taking care of me. But your submissiveness will be fatal!”

"It's okay. The rule of thumb is that a victory over a fully committed opponent is a complete victory. So you, too, give it your all without remorse.”

After saying that, Rudra took a step further forward.

Unarmed and in a unique pose.

Rudra was originally a swordsman, as evidenced by the Taishin that hung around his waist, but only intended to exercise the power of 'domination', just as he had declared to Yuuki earlier.

Yuuki had seen right through Rudra's character.

It's not like a dominant person should have the frank personality to face a fight sincerely to the right.

It is because of this that it is easy to see through.

Honestly, it's impossible to win decently. Even if there's a chance of getting rid of Rudra, there's still Velgrynd. Since I can't escape from here, all I can do is invalidate Rudra's 'domination', right?

No, Rudra had expected that.

On this basis, there is an overwhelming confidence to dominate him.

In this way, all Yuuki can do is—

"Come on, Rudra!”

Yuuki bet everything on the mere possibility.

“Hegemony—unleash the power!”

With Rudra, Yuuki's movement, the distance between him and Yuuki was pulled to zero in a flash. The

"domination of the King" was then launched.

The essence of the ultimate power, the 'King of Justice', which enables anyone to submit to the power of Rudra.

Unlike the imitation loaned to Kondo, there is no limit and the power varies greatly.

Even for ultimate skills, there is a "rank" gap. It was impossible for Yuuki, who had just awakened, to defy this power.

Rudra stood from grace.

Yuuki fell in place.

The win and the loss look clear at a glance, but the outcome is unknown.

"Is it really okay not to kill him? This kind of guy just pretends to be obedient and then bites back when he's inattentive, right?”

"That's okay, that's where the fun is. If he can resist my domination, then as a reward, I’ll just let him go.”

Contrary to that statement, Rudra's confidence was unshaken.

Convinced of his absolute 'domination', he did not doubt victory in the slightest.

"That's good.”

The winner, Rudra, smiled fearlessly.

Then, turning his gaze to Damrada, who had melted into air in the corner of the room, he spoke affectionately.

"Forgive me, Damrada. Now, don't let you get in my way yet.”

"All is as His Majesty would have it…"

Just so, the two understood each other.

"When that man wakes up, you take care of him.”

“Understood."

As if satisfied with Damrada's answer, Rudra left with Velgrynd.

The purge was just beginning.

Now that the Emperor has acted, it means that times are about to change.

Tidu, too, was not immune to intense unrest.

That day.

The sky was tinted bright red late at night, and scarlet rain fell incessantly, enveloping the night.