

Chapter 164 - It seems to be a Dog Fight together with Rubydra

<Have you decided what you're going to do?> (Rubydra)

Being urged on by Rubydra, Renya matches his eye line with hers.

Rubydra chose a big detour at the moment she saw the city, which is their destination, already being in the midst of battle, and even more so in a disadvantageous situation, effectively postponing any approach for the moment.

"What I'm going to do, you ask?" (Renya)

<Move forward or turn back.> (Rubydra)

Rubydra herself doesn't expect that the overall progress of the battle will make a drastic turn with her, Renya and Shion joining the battle.

That's because she's aware that she's not that much of an aberrant existence, no matter how much of a high-ranking dragon species she might be. But, having said that, that didn't mean that she had as much of a farsightedness to choose an obedient retreat after having seen the scene of her brethren fighting in front of her eyes.

Hence she tried to leave the decision to the humans riding on her back, but Renya's reply came over his lips very readily.

"There was the option of turning back?" (Renya)

<So you were serious about going ahead to annihilate the enemies...> (Rubydra)

Even her astonished telepathic thought caused no change in Renya's expression.

"Since it's an enemy I encounter for the first time, it's important to give it a try first." (Renya)

"Renya...I feel like your thinking resembles that of the beastmen." (Shion)

There's a fed-up voice coming from behind him, but Renya ignores it decisively.

'Anyway, since we are lacking information about the enemy, it's necessary to gather some while trying to fight them once,' Renya judged.

'As for just escaping, we can likely do that anytime.

<If that's your decision, I will try plunging into them once. Do you guys have any means of attack?> (Rubydra)

Rubydra asked while altering the flight course towards above the city. Thanks to that, Renya suddenly realizes that he doesn't possess any overly effective means to launch an attack.

The katana is too short, making it unsuitable for slashing at flying dragons.

If he could have freely launched a sword flash like Yuuki, whom he fought before, it might have been fine to use that, but although Renya used it once, it's not like he can command it at will.

"Now that you mention it, I don't have very many projectile weapons on me." (Renya)

"Is the sword flash which you used in the battle against the hero no good?" (Shion)

"I can't really control that. If it's fine to disregard any damage to the surroundings, I will use it, but..." (Renya)

The biggest problem lies in his inability to adjust its strength. If he unleashes one slash after the other at full power, the aftermath and stray slashes will not only devastatingly damage his targets, but also the surrounding environment.

<You can at least use the fire-based spell <Fire Lance>, can't you?> (Rubydra) *(T/N: Bad idea, Ruby-chan, very bad idea. Don't give him any strange ideas!)*

Rubydra's flight path had already turned in the direction of the city. The evil dragons, which apparently noticed the new dragon, caution each other by crying and start getting ready for interception.

While feeling disappointed that a surprise attack has apparently become impossible, Renya answered Rubydra's question.

"I can only use <Small Fire Ball> among the fire-based spells." (Renya)

<I will send an image through the connected path, so memorize it!> (Rubydra)

'Isn't it enough with <Roaring Lightning> or <Lightning Bolt>?' Renya wonders, but faster than he can ask this, a single image was sent to Renya through the path that supplies Rubydra with mana. After connecting to some kind of picture inside Renya's head, the image vanishes promptly.

<You can cast chantlessly, can't you? As you've become able to use <Fire Lance> now, take care of the covering fire please!> (Rubydra)

As they are steadily approaching the city, the figures of dragons flying around in the sky can be seen more clearly.

Those were violet dragons boasting of huge builds which were not inferior in the least compared to Rubydra and Emedra.

Sporadically there are some dragons mixed in among the flock that have an even bigger build than Emedra.

<Start attacking!> (Rubydra)

There was an indication of mana gathering in Rubydra's mouth.

The clump of mana, which shone white at first, transforms into a red flame that emits heat after having Rubydra's attribute added to it.

While cutting through the evil dragons that are flying around above the city, Rubydra spit out the amassed fire breath at the dragons just as she passes them.

Rather than a flame, it's a crimson beam attack that even resembled a laser in Renya's eyes.

One dragon that was slightly late in dodging among the evil dragons, who are taking evasive maneuvers, is pierced by that crimson flash, blowing up into a blaze in no time.

While tightly clinging to Renya's back due to the vibrations and thunderous roar that immediately assailed the vicinity, Shion takes a look back over her shoulder at the evil dragon that received the attack, and is assaulted by a feeling of disbelief.

Even though it was hit by flames that produced a shock strong enough to make the atmosphere tremble, the part of the evil dragon, which was directly hit, was only injured to the extent of having been gouged out a bit.

Even so, the evil dragon was falling, unable to maintain its flight as the wound was apparently too deep for it to keep staying airborne.

While following its descend with her eyes, Shion mutters in a daze,

"Aren't they way too sturdy...?" (Shion)

<It's our win if they crash!> (Rubydra)

At the moment when Rubydra said, "They will suffer some damage due to the impact of crashing, and we will be able to deal with them later on one way or another since they won't be able to return to the air battle," a white, glittering light penetrates the falling evil dragon.

Ahead of Rubydra's and Shion's eyes, who looked around wondering just what had happened there, the evil dragon, whose entire body trembled with a start at the moment it was pierced by the light, burst into flames as if exploding from within its body a second later.

Its flesh, bones, skin, and scales are jumbled together and turn into pitch-black charcoal. Its appearance of turning into pieces after breaking apart by the wind pressure of falling has apparently shocked the other evil dragons, too. They merely chase the plummeting lumps of charcoal with their eyes, having completely forgotten to attack Rubydra who cuts across them in the meanwhile.

<Eh?> (Rubydra)

"That just now..." (Shion)

While Rubydra and Shion are still unable to understand what exactly happened, only Renya closely stares at his right palm, and then said as if complaining,

"A failure..." (Renya)

"Eh? Renya? What's a failure!?" (Shion)

Renya answers Shion, who grabbed his shoulder from behind and was shaking it lightly, in a mood that could be called not amused,

"I blundered with the power output. This <Fire Lance> thing is unexpectedly difficult.> (Renya)

"That just now was sorcery!?" (Shion)

While fully harboring a feeling of disbelief, Shion raises her voice into something close to a scream, but Renya is doubtful, wondering just why she's so surprised.

Although she doesn't express it in telepathic thoughts, even Rubydra frantically suppressed the desire to scream out like Shion below the two.

The evil dragons are opponents where she has to do her best to injure them reasonably deep with her dragon breath, even if she says that she didn't put all her power into it.

A heat, which pierces through such evil dragon in one blow and furthermore burns its entire body to nothing in an instant, is originally impossible for the <Fire Lance> spell.

To generate a heat that should be impossible would mean to increase the output by consuming a lot

more mana than usual for the spell, but as far as Rubydra knows, the original <Fire Lance> is a spell that releases a crimson burning flame in the shape of a lance. She never heard about it shining in white.

To begin with, it's not like there so many spells exceeding the power of a dragon's breath.

"As Rubydra's breath delivered some damage, I tried unleashing the spell while using her breath as reference..." (Renya)

<No, I'd like you to not come up with spells while referencing to my dragon breath, though.>
(Rubydra)

Rubydra, who went through the evil dragons once while retorting calmly, turns around, preparing to plunge into the enemies once more.

Several breaths are hurled at Rubydra by the evil dragons, who apparently recovered from the shock at last, but those scatter and vanish in front of her as she takes evasive maneuvers as if being blocked by something in the sky.

The evil dragons were forced to watch something unbelievable, but Rubydra realizes that Renya had stopped the enemy attacks with the <Magic Shield> spell in an instant.



But then again she didn't want to believe the reality of dragon breaths being stopped by such a spell. Diving through the remains of the scattered breaths, Rubydra opens her jaw.

This time Rubydra spits out such a strong breath from within that it tears off the wing of an evil dragon in passing.

The evil dragon that falls while spinning after having lost one wing is pierced by yet another white lance.

This time the lance transformed into a pure white flame that causes a blowing as if the lance has pierced the sky.

"The power output is still high..." (Renya)

Renya groans.

He repeatedly cocks his head in contemplation, but no matter how much he pondered about it, he was apparently unable to adjust the power.

"This time half its body has been blown off..." (Shion)

Shion says as she follows the evil dragon with her eyes as it crashes while exposing a hideously burned, pitch-black section of its body.

The other half that had been blown off had been smashed up and turned into charcoal like the first evil dragon.

"I don't understand how to adjust this!" (Renya)

"Even if you tell me that, I will be troubled, however there's one thing I can tell you: it's probably not the sorcery that causes such a power output for that spell, you know?" (Shion)

Shion calmly retorts at Renya, who keeps grumbling, seemingly having composed herself after the initial surprise.

"This spell is unusable!" (Renya)

<What's this human saying while conveniently shelving his own abnormality...> (Rubydra)

Even while complaining, Renya continues to defend against the evil dragons' attacks after sensing them.

The dragon breaths, which normally should never be blocked by a human, are intercepted by an invisible wall, and scatter once again.

"Just how am I supposed to reach a level of roasting them well with this spell?" (Renya)

<Just what do you think of sorcery!?!> (Rubydra)

"A somewhat convenient, strange technique." (Renya)

Rubydra hangs her head in a crestfallen manner upon that immediate reply.

Around them the pointlessly released dragon breaths are easily blocked and scattered.

Understanding that the enemy's breaths will never penetrate the sorcery shield deployed by Renya, Rubydra has already stopped evading for the most time. She chases evil dragons with her claws and

fangs, and uses her fire breath as main attack, but it doesn't bear overly much fruit..
With just that both sides' combat abilities should originally struggle for supremacy, but as if wrecking that competition, Renya's hands release fire lances, causing the targeted evil dragons to slowly drop towards the ground while having parts of their bodies turned into charcoal.

"Renya, it's a waste to aim at the head. There's a big magic stone inside a dragon's head." (Shion)

"Something like magic stones now after all the time? For real Shion? If we get back to Klinge, Frau possesses so many of those that it makes me puke. Rather than that, I won't be able to obtain the meat if I blow up their bodies..." (Renya)

<Are you going to eat it!? Hey, you intend to eat evil dragons!?!> (Rubydra)

Rubydra felt like the attitude of the evil dragons surrounding them had become somewhat indecisive, but as she cannot help the feeling of wanting to retort, she cuts into the conversation between Renya and Shion.

<Are you sane!? The other party are evil dragons, you know!?!> (Rubydra)

"However, that doesn't change the fact that they are dragons, right?" (Renya)

"Unless you say that the meat has been contaminated by something, it's normal to eat them, no?" (Shion)

Due to Renya and Shion declaring that with serious expressions, Rubydra thought for the first time in her life since having been born that humans are a scary race.

Rubydra believed humans to be a diminutive, powerless, short lived, irrelevant race, but she was forced to realize that she has to revise that thinking at this point in time now.

But then again, even if you leave out Shion, taking Renya as representative of an image of humans will very likely make humanity raise an objection to spare them from that once they hear about it.

"Hey, you've become negligent with your evasion!" (Renya)

Once Renya raises his voice in order to caution her as he scatters a breath attack, which was on a trajectory of being a direct hit, with a wave of his hand as if swatting a fly, Rubydra returns from her reverie in a hurry, and raises the flight speed.

Several breath attacks vanished in empty space while grazing her tail.

As if returning the favor, the two fire lances released by Renya precisely pierce the foreheads of two evil dragons, which had spit out breath attacks, ending their lives by making their heads alongside the brains in the back of their heads evaporate.

<You didn't defend on purpose, didn't you!?!> (Rubydra)

Rubydra protests while enduring the pain from her tail that comes in waves. Renya snorts at that.

"It's because you're letting your mind wander since you're being protected by me." (Renya)

Rubydra wanted to object with "Who's fault do you think this is?", but as it's a fact that she had actually lost focus, she grits her teeth while unable to rebut Renya.

Feeling uneasy about something noisy in her perception, Rubydra retreated while taking an unreasonable flight path at a quite unreasonable speed.

At the same time a dragon breath, which is remarkably different in power from the ones so far, pierced the space where Rubydra had been just now and swallowed up several of the present evil dragons.

"What was that just now!?"

"There's a really big one. It's just one dragon, though."

Having pointed it out by Renya, Rubydra turned her eyes in the direction from where the breath came, and immediately let a small gasp leak.

The one that flew over there calmly was a violet dragon with a huge body that was more than twice as big as Rubydra's.

Renya wondered whether an opponent at the level of the Four Great Dragons had appeared from the evil dragons' side, but the next thought of Rubydra that was close to a mutter denies that.

<An ancient dragon of the Purple Water Dragon family...for even something like that to come out...> (Rubydra)

"Is it a dangerous opponent?" (Renya)

Renya asks, seemingly perceiving Rubydra's nervousness from the places where he's touching her. While paying attention to the movements of the other evil dragons, Rubydra cannot take her eyes off that huge dragon.

<It's natural that my brethren were hunted down. That one is a much higher ranked dragon than us...> (Rubydra)

"I see, in other words, he's the boss." (Renya)

In contrast to Rubydra, whose voice is tinged with panic, Renya's voice sounded somewhat happy.

"Since he's a formidable opponent, it's inevitable even if the surroundings get a bit damaged, right?" (Renya)

<Just do whatever you want...it's not like I can hold you back anyway.> (Rubydra)

Rubydra, who can't see a future where she's able to stop Renya even if she tells him that it's not inevitable, answered Renya's question with a voice that was full of resignation.