

## **Chapter 180 - It seems to be the Recapture Battle of the Dragonoid's Capital**

The infantrymen, who got off the chariots, started to form up ranks in a hurry. The horses, which were mounted by the cavalry up until this point, were gathered around the chariots which were parked in one place, and a part of the soldiers, who rode those horses, changed into light equipment after dismounting the horses while joining the ranks of the infantrymen.

"I suppose they won't use their horses." (Shion)

Shion who had stopped her horse in a place slightly away from the dragonoids, mutters while watching the state of affairs.

Except for a part of the cavalymen, who had marched together with the chariots so far, the majority apparently dismounted their horses and were treated as infantry.

"It's likely because cavalry is meaningless in taking on a wall."

What's demanded of cavalry is charging force and mobility. In a siege battle and city combat like this infantry plays the important part.

Linus seems to be well aware of that, too. He has divided the cavalry for the journey and for the case it becomes a field battle. He doesn't plan to make use of the cavalry in a situation where the enemy is completely secluding inside the city as it's happening now.

"He's an unexpectedly mediocre general?" (Croire)

Renya smiled wryly at Croire's impression.

"That's no praise, you know?" (Renya)

"No, seeing as it wouldn't be odd for him to be a foolish general going by his appearance, treating him as an average person is a compliment." (Croire)

Croire's point is that she might give him a zero evaluation rather than a minus evaluation, but Renya couldn't believe at all that Linus would be delighted over hearing this assessment.

"What worries me more than that is the question how they are going to surpass that wall with nothing but infantry?" (Rona)

Rona questions while tilting her head to the side in confusion.

"What about cutting through it?" (Renya)

"Only you are capable of doing something like that." (Rona)

Rona scornfully glares at Renya who makes such a careless remark.

"Even the heroes should be capable of that much, no?" (Renya)

"I can't do it. After all this is my specialized weapon." (Grün)

Grün draws his two katana, and drops them back into their scabbards, which are hanging at the left and right of his waist, after turning the hilts around on his palms.

"I can't do it either. You can't cut a wall with a katana, can you?"

Turning into the direction of the voice's owner, Renya reveals a questioning look. At the end of Renya's sight of line was Albert who was wondering whether he said anything weird while grasping the reins atop his horse.

"Why are you over there?" (Renya)

"Eh? For better or worse I'm a hero." (Albert)

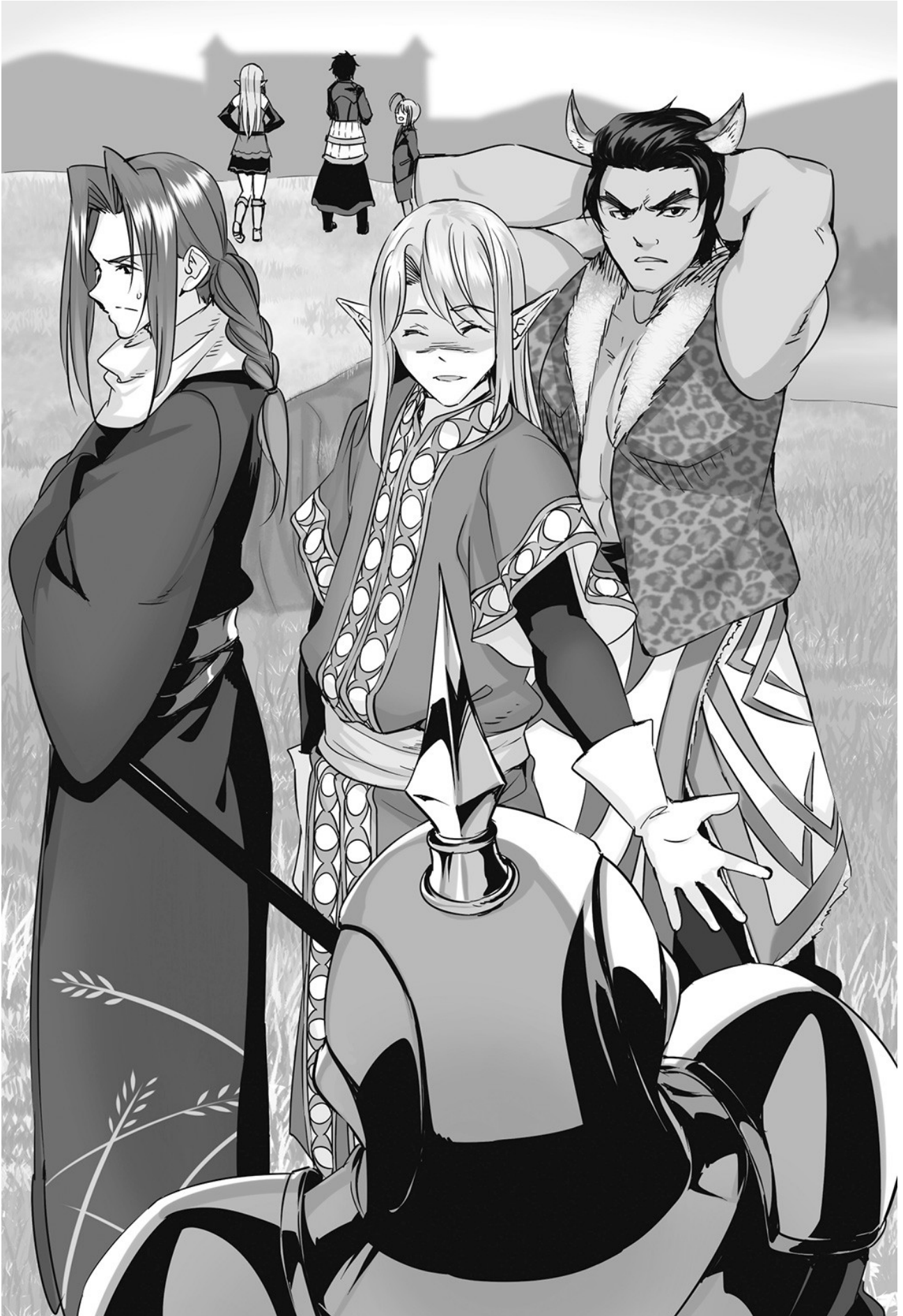
"The dragonoid's hero, right? You were skilfully recruited, weren't you?"

Although Albert is a hero, he belongs to the dragonoids. Because of that Renya clearly thought he would simply be taken along by Linus and forced to join the battle of the army forming ranks in front of their eyes. As result Renya ended up being surprised by Albert still having stayed behind.

"The heroes are a set with all four, thus I gave him a warning to not recruit him on his own devices without even listening to our opinion." (Lepard)

Lepard explains to the curious Renya.

Grün, who was smiling brightly next to him, whispered something outrageous.



"At the moment I asked him 'Do you want us to turn into your enemies by taking him away without our approval?', he became so pale that it was actually funny." (Grün)

"You lot, what are you intimidating an ordinary person for?"

"What are you saying, Margrave-dono? The commander of an army is no ordinary person."

Grün protests with an expression which makes it obvious that he considers Renya's words to be unthinkable.

If seen with the eyes of a hero, there might be no visible difference between an ordinary person, an ordinary soldier, or a general, Renya believes, but that apparently doesn't apply to Grün.

"Titles are important. Even if they are useless." (Grün)

"Both of you, sister and brother, sure have nice personalities." (Renya)

"That person is our parent after all." (Grün)

Grün showed a smile that would make anyone of the opposite gender immediately fall for him, but unfortunately the target of his smile is the sour looking Renya.

Renya, who was reminded of the elven emperor's face thanks to the line 'That person is our parent', shook his head as if trying to shake off the mental image.

"Don't make me remember that...it urges the wish in me to reconsider my association with you guys." (Renya)

"That's no good." (Grün)

"I guess it's necessary to get rid of 'that' as soon as possible..." (Croire)

Croire plainly voiced out a cruel line that would have likely gotten her arrested instantly on the elven continent if she had muttered it publicly, and to top it off, she said so with a serious face. Renya had the feeling that she had been a little bit more of an elvish girl at the time he had met her, but once he realizes that she had been tainted by various things without him even noticing, he actually begins to feel the cruelty of the stream of time.

"You're certainly not thinking that you don't have any responsibility in this, are you?" (Shion)

Seemingly having read what Renya was thinking by intuition, Shion retorts, but Renya takes no notice of that by pretending to be busy with being absorbed in his own thoughts.

Croire looked at Renya, completely changed away from her serious expression, and laughed.

"Let's get back to the main topic." (Rona)

With something equivalent to a light cough, Rona begins to speak after drawing everyone's attention once.

"The infantrymen are all present, but they don't have any equipment to overtake the wall. There's no sign of them having brought along battering rams or ladders either. Just what the heck are they

planning to do?" (Rona)

"If it was me, I would jump over the wall..." (Grün)

While curbing her eyebrows with her fingers due to Grün's reply,

"I consider it very likely that they plan to tear it down with sorcery." (Albert)

Seemingly perceiving that there's no point for the talks to continuously getting derailed, Albert stated his conclusion.

"If you exclude the demons, we are the strongest in regards to power and mana on this world. If we rely on numbers, it's possible to destroy this wall with the current amount of soldiers, even if it might be the capital's wall." (Albert)

"Is that something to be praised with "As expected of dragonoids?"" (Renya)

Once asked by Renya, Albert immediately denied that.

"It's a wall that can be taken down by you yourself, right Margrave-dono?" (Albert)

"Well, yeah..." (Renya)

Renya searches the knowledge inside his head while replying.

The sorcery knowledge he received from Emedra covers a fairly wide range. Renya himself hadn't been able to fully grasp all of it yet, but even so he understood that lots of water sorcery, earth sorcery which he hadn't touched at all so far, and fire sorcery, where he had only been able to use elementary spells until now, had been crammed into his head.

If you add Renya's huge mana to those spells, it's obvious that he can erase something at the level of a city wall.

'Even if I didn't use those spells, I will probably be able to handle the wall somehow with a shot of <Roaring Lightning>,' Renya judges.

You can say that's the very reason why he didn't harbor any doubts like Rona.

'Even if it didn't work out with 10,000 troops, something like a wall will likely collapse if it's hit by some kind of sorcery cast by around 1,000 people,' he believed.

But, Renya is immediately shown that his thoughts were wrong.

"It has started."

Once he turns his eyes towards the battlefield upon Rona's comment, he can see how the dragonoid army, which has formed up in neat ranks, started to cast some kind of spells while advancing towards the wall.

Since there was quite a bit of distance between the army and the place where Renya and the others were waiting, Renya didn't grasp what kind of spells they were chanting, but once the casting time had passed after a little while, countless spells were released towards the city's wall from within the army that continued to advance.

Although they were different in sizes, all of them were fire-based spells.

Renya, who thought it might have been ridiculous if they had mixed in spells of the opposing attribute and thus offset each other, closely watched the uniform, crimson attacks, and clicked his

tongue slightly.

"Margrave-dono...I don't know what you had expected, but please stay peacefu..." (Albert)

"I won't do anything." (Renya)

"Then it's fine." (Albert)

While watching Albert leave, Renya thought, 'If I did something like secretly adding water-based sorcery into that magic attack, even Albert would probably get angry.'

Something like casting sorcery without chanting, with a parallel activation and moreover from a distant place was a piece of cake for Renya now that he had been given the dragons' sorcery knowledge.

If he felt like it, he could offset all the sorcery attacks of the dragonoid's army with sorcery of the opposing attribute, but no matter how irritating the commander might be, he's restraining himself as it's nothing praiseworthy to sabotage one's allies, even if he were to succeed without it being found as his doing.

Albert somewhat guessed Renya's thoughts and called out to him.

"Rather than that, it's a fairly flashy attack, and yet...it looks like it's not working?"

The countless spells fired by the army crash into the city's wall, spread shocks and explosions, and bloom into bright red flowers.

The fierceness was so strong that it caused the ground at the feet of Renya's group, who's standing by in the back of the army, to shake, but there was no sign of the wall itself being destroyed by those attacks.

Certainly, it seems as if the attacks are hitting, and the impacts and heat is transmitted to the wall as well, but as far as it's visible from Renya's position, there's no indication of the wall collapsing, breaking, or burning at all.

"Renya, you don't really think that the walls protecting important cities such as the capital city - even if it's human or beastmen cities - are simple stone walls, do you?" (Emil)

Emil says while bringing her horse close to Shion's which Renya is riding.

"Since the country will perish if that place falls, it's only natural to apply various countermeasures to the wall protecting it, right?" (Emil)

"That means it has been given some kind of defense against sorcery attacks?" (Renya)

"Obviously. To say nothing of this being the dragonoid country, you know? There's no way that they, who are boasting that they are far more superior than humans and beastmen, haven't applied defense and reinforcement sorcery to the wall of their capital, is there?" (Emil)

"That's something that commander called Linus knows as well, right?" (Renya)

"Probably. Isn't he thinking that he can somehow overcome this wall with a brute force approach?" (Emil)

The soldiers of the dragonoid army attack the wall by firing one spell after the other while keeping a casting rotation going.

To Renya it looks like they are doing it quite leisurely, but even without going as far as looking at their faces, it was obvious that they were taking this very serious.

"To begin with, since a wall protects a city from something like an army, it's expected that it'll be exposed to a great number of attacks, or am I wrong?" (Renya)

"To add to this, I think the demons would normally reinforce the wall a lot more if they occupied that city. I mean, the ones possessing sorcery abilities going beyond that of dragonoids are demons, after all." (Emil)

"If I haven't heard it incorrectly, that sounds as though the wall won't be destroyed at this rate, though?" (Shion)

Shion forces herself into Emil's and Renya's conversation.

Renya and Emil looked at each other, and said the same line after being silent for a moment.

""Shion, you were able to understand the conversation just now.""

"Yeah, since I understand from being looked at with such eyes, I won't give any comment..." (Shion)

"That means..." (Croire)

Croire abruptly raises her voice, obviously having hit upon something.

Even while believing that it must definitely be something good-for-nothing, Shion turns her attention to Croire for the time being.

"...That commander hasn't realized something that even Shion has noticed..." (Croire)

"I wonder, could you stop using me as standard here? ...For starters, the reason why I noticed it is owed to Emil's and Renya's conversation. Doesn't he have any confidants who can give him such advices?" (Shion)

Upon Shion's remark, all present thought the same thing at almost the same time.

"If it's someone with a bit of a brain, they would likely hate it to be assigned as aide to such a commander."

Once Kaede says so as if representing everyone's thoughts, all of them except for Albert nod. Only Albert himself dons an extremely troubled expression, and stoically endures to not shake his head no matter what happens by putting strength into his shoulders.

"So, it looks pointless on a glance, and is actually futile?" (Emil)

Emil asked Renya.

"Should we just let them go on then? Or should we teach them to think of another method?"

"Those guys probably have no intention to believe in what I say. Won't they give up once they run out of mana?" (Renya)

Although the flames scatter and vanish after hitting the wall successively, the heat is still transmitted to the vicinity.

That heat continues to gradually raise the temperature on the battlefield. Even from a distance it was visible that fatigue was starting to appear on the faces of the dragonoid soldiers.

"I think it will take quite a bit of time, though. As there are also many casters that take a break after firing spells in a rapid succession in a three-staged casting rotation, it's unclear when they are going to run out of strength." (Emil)

"They are showing a weird attentiveness at a weird place," Emil laughs.

The dragonoid's army split its infantry into three groups, with each of them being assigned to the three stages of attacking, resting and preparing.

Although the momentary fire power drops due to this, it produces the room for the individual casters to recover their strength by inserting the phases of rest and preparation. As result of that they were able to continue hitting the wall with a fixed fire power over a long period.

"In short, they planned to destroy the wall by wearing down the wall's defense sorcery through a drawn-out battle in the first place, huh?" (Renya)

"That's what I'm thinking." (Emil)

"That's way too careless, isn't it? What are they going to do if they are attacked from within the city?" (Renya)

"They probably intend to cope with that by focusing the fire power in that direction, or by assigning the surplus forces, which are preparing or resting, to that side. At any rate, being able to come up with such a strategy and execute it is all thanks to the high specs of the dragonoids, I think." (Emil)

If it's humans or beastmen, they can't prepare such a number of sorcerers.

In case of the elves, they might be able to prepare such numbers, but they wouldn't be able to cover the weakness of coping with attacks.

It's no exaggeration to say that the dragonoid's physical defense power is similar to gods if compared to elves. The elves have to assign guards to the casters no matter what, otherwise it could turn out terribly in the case of an emergency.

The entire army acting as sorcery fire power and their individual physical defense strength as it's unfolding in front of Renya's group's eyes right now can be called a way of fighting that's only possible for the dragonoids with their high abilities, no matter whether they are sorcerers or warriors.

"In that case it looks like they will destroy the wall sooner or later. Somehow it feels like that heat is transmitted all the way to here where we are watching, though."

The hot air should originally get scattered by the wind without having such a lasting effect on the temperature, but as the fire spells, which continuously struck the wall, endlessly create new hot air, that air is spread into the vicinity, and starts to increase the atmospheric temperature, even with the

temperature falling a bit due to the wind.

That not only started to affect the battlefield, but also the distant place where Renya and the others are.

"I guess we should get away a bit more?"

"You're right...it's extremely unlikely that the wall will be broken anytime soon yet."

Renya didn't expect that those words of Shion would become some kind of trigger.

However, just as he voiced out his thoughts that it will likely be alright for a little while longer, it was also true that it's a frequently occurring phenomenon for it to not turn out like that.

At the moment when Renya and the others tried to move their horses so as to get some distance in order to avoid the hot air, the city's wall, which the dragonoid army frantically continued to attack in an attempt to destroy it, was blown away from the inside.