

Chapter 73 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ⑦

——Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep! Beep!

An unfamiliar electronic sound plays from the smartphone in my hand.

——?

The announcement sound for a level-up, the invasion alarm, the announcement sound when we took a **【True Core】**...it's an intense electric sound different to all of these sounds.

In order to ascertain the true identity of the sound, I look at the screen of my smartphone.

——!?

Looking at the characters displayed on the screen, I was extremely confused.

Hah? Eh? What? What does that mean!?

The characters displayed on my smartphone — 『You were given a 《Proclamation of War》 by Demon King Alyssa』.

Proclamation of War? I understand the meaning of the words. It has a meaning as if announcing to your opponent "We're going to war from now on!", right? In reality, Alyssa and I are in a certain way in a state of war. The problem is——

Why is the smartphone — the system announcing that?

Once I look closely, I notice that the color of the characters of 《Proclamation of War》 are different than the color of the other characters. What that means is...

I tap 《Proclamation of War》.

『

Once you carry out a 《Proclamation of War》, the proclaimer and the receiver stop suffering attacks from third parties.

- The effect of 《Proclamation of War》 lasts for 720 hours.
- If the receiver steals more than half of the proclaimer's sectors, the stolen sectors and half of the receiver's sectors are liberated towards **【Law】** as penalty.[efn_note]The author used the reverse here, aka "If the proclaimer steals more than half of the receiver's sectors...", but that makes no sense as penalty since the proclaimer is supposed to be the one getting punished, not the receiver. It's also negated below by Shion, so I suspect the author made a mistake here.[/efn_note]
- While the effect of 《Proclamation of War》 lasts, all special effects on the proclaimer's side and the receiver's side vanish.
- During the 《Proclamation of War》, the proclaimer won't recover any CP at all.
- At the moment when the proclaimer usurped more than half of the receiver's sectors, it becomes possible to cancel the 《Proclamation of War》 state arbitrarily.
- Once the 《Proclamation of War》 is enacted, another 《Proclamation of War》 can't be enforced for 720 hours after the end of the previous 《Proclamation of War》.
- The proclaimer and the receiver gain a 《Pseudo-Peace》 for one hour after the 《Proclamation of War》.
- A 《Proclamation of War》 can only be enacted against an opponent excelling in level or number of sectors.

』

I carefully read the explanation displayed on the screen.

In short, I guess that means Alyssa came to challenge me to a one on one match. As might be

expected of a fairly daring attack tactic, 《Proclamation of War》 has quite the huge demerits for the side starting it.

After going through the explanation, I focused my attention the most on two points.

First, the disappearance of special effect. In other words, it meant that the 【Monster Restriction】 imposed on my Domain will vanish. Even the number of invaders, which had been restricted until now, was abolished. You can definitely call this: plunging into a state of war.

The other one, the 《Pseudo-Peace》 which has been granted for just one hour after the 《Proclamation of War》.

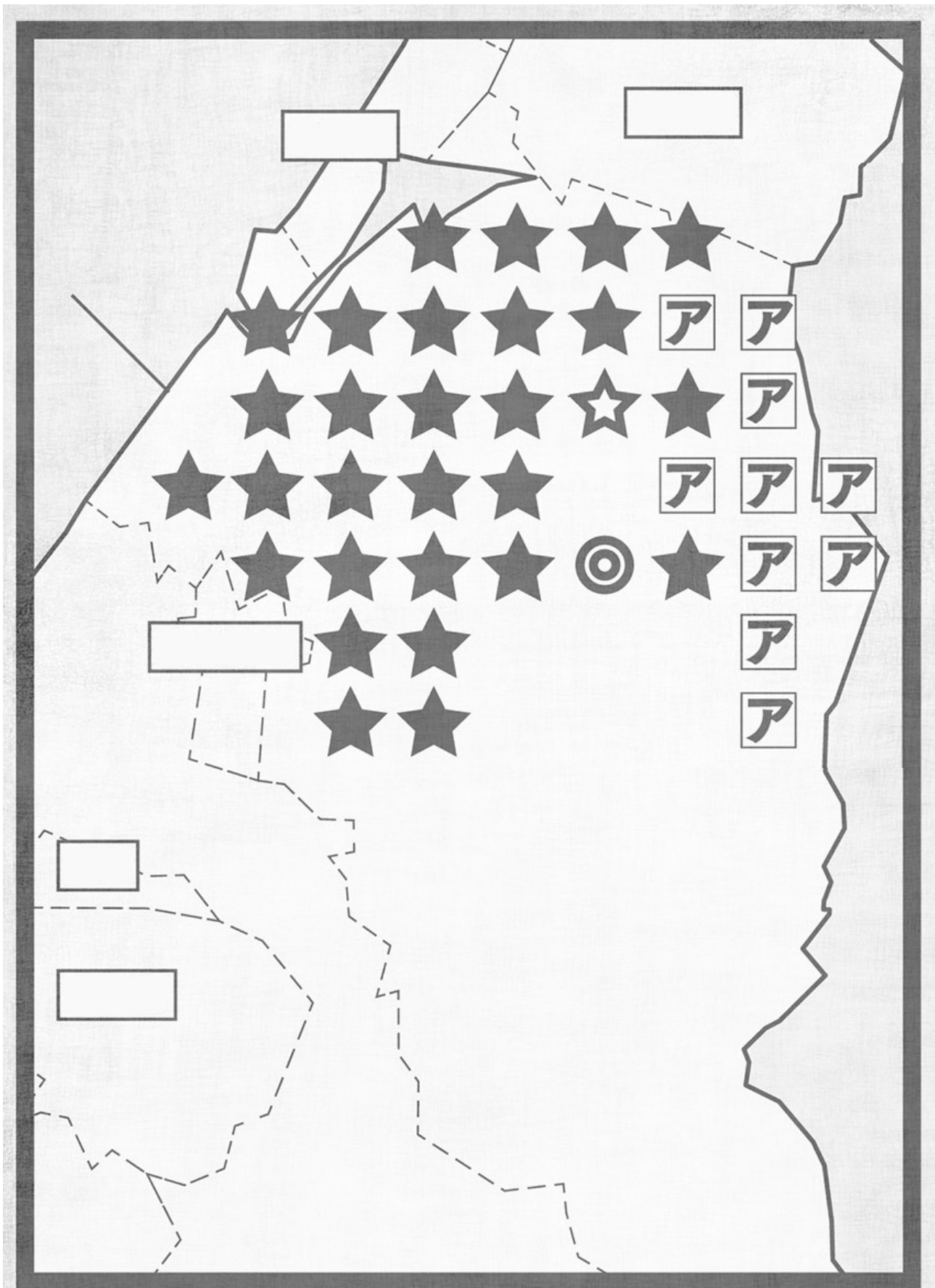
I hurriedly operate my smartphone and check the current status of my Domain.


『Pseudo-Peace (53 minutes left)』.


The time given to me to prepare my defenses is 53 minutes.

Now then...what am I going to do?


I spread the map of Kanezawa and ponder about my defense arrangements.



 First Sector of Shion's Domain

 Sector of Shion's Domain

 Sectors of Alyssa's Domain

 Sectors of Kanta's Domain

 University

There are four of my sectors adjoining to Alyssa's Domain. The number of sectors that can be invaded by making a detour increases, but...it's necessary to cross human land to take the roundabout way. If Alyssa did that for argument's sake, it will probably be good enough to deal with it when it happens as I'm sure that it will be featured on the net news.

That means, I should urgently cope with the four sectors neighboring Alyssa's Domain.

Dividing the subordinates to four places...no, that's no good. If the enemy focuses its forces on one sector, the defense there won't hold out.

Which place will be attacked? No, if I don't abandon the prejudice that they will concentrate their forces on one sector, it's hopeless... There's of course the possibility that the enemy will attack all four sectors at the same time.

The subordinates lining up in front of me are waiting while watching me worrying. Time is trickling away bit-by-bit even as I'm wracking my brain.

——!

Looking at the faces of Rina's and Chloe's parties, and accurately remembering the situation at the time when they invaded Alyssa's Domain, a single plan comes to mind.

Each of the sectors ruled by Alyssa were connected by 【Transfer Arrays】.

Won't I be able to cope with all circumstances if I utilize the same plan?

I operate my smartphone and enter 【Domain Creation】. I connect the place where we are now with the four places that will supposedly get invaded through 【Transfer Arrays】 on the floors of other sectors.

And then I make all the bloodkin around Rina and the subordinate I had wait on standby transfer one after the other.

With this my strongest combat assets are gathered in one place. Next I connect the four sectors that will be supposedly invaded with the place where my forces are gathered through 【Transfer Arrays】.

Now it's possible to timely send in subordinates to any of those four sectors that's under attack.

In the first sector I set up a huge amount of 【Poison Swamps】 and 【Poison Fogs】. Alyssa's subordinates are fairy types. I can expect poison to work against them. If I only deploy living mails, which are immune against poison, the enemy probably won't be able to invade quickly.

In the second sector I set up a large amount of 【Pitfalls】, 【Cesspools】, and obstructions. The aim is to lure the goblins, which are predicted to march in large crowd, into the 【Pitfalls】. I will deploy dark elves, goblin archers and lilim, who excel at range attacks. The objective will be to bring down the goblins that fell into the 【Pitfalls】 with ranged attacks.

The remaining two sectors will be total war. If I unskillfully plant traps, a part of my subordinates such as Rina won't be able to exhibit their full power. I will only set up screening objects that seem to give an edge in defense. We will repel the attacking enemies with individual strength.

Moreover, what I should consider is...matters after the defense succeeded.

Alyssa failing in the invasion → half the sectors being liberated; that's the second worst conclusion for me. If Alyssa's CP don't recover during the 【Proclamation of War】...it's a chance allowing me to usurp all of Alyssa's sectors.

The crucial point is identifying the timing for the counterattack.

The number of sectors in Alyssa's Domain is nine. Until the ninth floor, thus...mmh? Wait.

"Kanon!" (Shion)

I shout the name of Google-chan — Kanon loudly.

"Yees." (Kanon)

Google-chan draws near while floating lightly.

"Do you know 《Proclamation of War》?" (Shion)

"Yes. Ah!? Just when I thought it suddenly got hectic, did you receive a 《Proclamation of War》?" (Kanon)

"Tell me the condition allowing one to perform a 《Proclamation of War》." (Shion)

Ignoring Kanon's question I toss my own question at her.

"Yes. Umm, 《Proclamation of War》, a Demon King, who has grown to level 10..." (Kanon)

"Got it. It's enough." (Shion)

"Eh? Eh!? I still haven't explained the conditions!" (Kanon)

The answer I wanted to know left Kanon's mouth early on.

In the first place, why could Alyssa use 《Proclamation of War》?

Going by just the conditions recorded in the system explanation, it's weird that I couldn't use 《Proclamation of War》 at the time of being level 8 against the level 9 Alyssa.

Is a special procedure as with 《Surrender》 necessary then...? —No, the answer was the level. That means Demon King Alyssa is level 10. In other words, her sectors have ten floors.

"Rina." (Shion)

"What?" (Rina)

"How much time do you need to travel a single floor of a sector by foot? You may consider there to be very few enemies." (Shion)

"Let's see. If there are no annoying hindrances...mostly around six hours." (Rina)

"I see." (Shion)

I, who heard what I wanted to know, dive into thinking once again.

Alyssa has nine sectors. They have ten floors, thus... $9 \times 10 \text{ floors} \times 6 \text{ hours} \div 2$ (Rina and Chloe) = 270 hours. Eleven days. Six hours is a rough estimation...in reality it might go a bit faster, but if I deduce the troublesome periods of sleeping time and breaks, it will be plus-minus zero? Just in case I should add two days as reserve, so 13 days.

The effective time of 《Proclamation of War》 is 720 hours, or in other words, 30 days. If I annihilate the enemy that comes invading within 17 days...my victory is set?

I could see the roadmap towards my victory.

『Pseudo-Peace (7 minutes left)』.

All that's left is to wait for Alyssa's invasion.

Chapter 174 - vs Demon King Alyssa ③

——Beeeeeep!

A fierce electronic sound plays on the smartphone — it's a warning about an enemy invasion. The enemy's invasion happens in two places. The 26th sector — the sector where I placed plenty of poison-type traps, and the 28th sector — a sector with no traps.

The enemy numbers are large in both sectors! Numbers? Not like I'm going to count em. There's no doubt about it being more than a hundred. However, they don't exceed a thousand...I can only get such vague estimation.

——First platoon, second platoon, transfer to the 28th sector and attack the enemy.

I give an order to my subordinates on standby, such as Rina and Chloe. The number of subordinates entering the 【Transfer Array】 is roughly 200. The number of subordinates per platoon is 100. In total ten platoons have been deployed. The main combat forces, the bloodkin don't belong to any platoon. I had them continuously head out to intercept for the sake of getting experience points.

There's probably not a chance in a million that the 28th sector will be broken through.

The problem will be the 26th sector.

Together with Kanon I check the state of the defenses on the smartphone in the deepest part of the first sector.

"Fireeeeeee!"

Chloe's vigorous voice resounds from the smartphone. The sound of countless arrows cutting through the wind reverberates.

"Let's go~" (Flora)

Flora's seductive voice resounds through the smartphone. Explosive sounds of countless spells being launched reverberate.

The war progress in the 28th sector was favorable. Cleverly using the obstructions, they are one-sidedly showering the enemies with ranged attacks. As it looks, the turn of the subordinates, who are good at close combat, will need to wait a bit longer.

Next I switch the live stream to the 26th sector.

300 living mails equipped with various armors waited for the enemy inside the poison-laden 26th sector.

The enemy forces struggled very hard against the extending poison swamps, the large quantity of planted poison arrow traps, and the poison mist trigger mines buried in the ground. Even the traps that can be easily avoided if you give out instructions, can't be avoided due to the lack of space if the enemy advances with such a great army. They continuously step on traps as if it's fun to do so.

It's alright up until this point. I don't think that they can pass the 300 living mails all that easily.

Nonetheless, the living mails have a poor killing force, don't they...?

It's the best lineup as harassment defense, but if it comes to repelling an enemy...the poison will become a hindrance even if I send in reinforcements. It has developed into a questionable situation.

For the time being there's a safety zone where the poison doesn't reach, but...the explanation is complicated, or rather, it's unclear whether my subordinates will comprehend how to get there.

Those guys, even if they encounter poison, they will plunge into it without care...

I guess the best option is — for me to go.

"Kanon." (Shion)

"Yes?" (Kanon)

"We're going to sortie." (Shion)

"Yes...wha-? Eh? Me too——" (Kanon)

——《Transfer B》.

Together with the puzzled-looking Kanon, I transferred to the 26th sector.



First floor, 26th sector. I transferred to a spot that's a bit away from the frontline.

"Hyaaa!?" (Kanon)

Kanon leaks a small scream after the transfer finished.

"Now then, I'm going to explain the strategy." (Shion)

"High-handed—— Kyaa!? W-Why!?" (Kanon)

I send a calm look at Kanon who raises hell while rolling up her skirt.

"Did you calm down?" (Shion)

"Eh?" (Kanon)

"The strategy is to ceaselessly fire spells. That's all. By the way, don't leave the area designated by me." (Shion)

I tell Kanon, who looks surprised, the strategy.

"Oops, I must replenish the combat forces before going to the front line." (Shion)

I create 30 lilims. I order them to not go in front of me.

"Let's go." (Shion)

I took Kanon and the 30 lilims along, and moved to the front line that's overflowing with poison and defended by living mails.

"Ooh..." (Shion)

"If you see it live, it sure is terrifying." (Kanon)

Poison mist wraps the visual field in a faint green. Numerous spells are repeatedly fired from the rear. Goblins who march on while stepping over the corpses of their brethren. The clashing sounds of metals reverberate as the enemy charges into the living mails that stand side by side in one line. Wafting air. Clashing monsters. Reverberating sounds — what's unfolding in front of my eyes is unmistakably a gruesome battlefield.

I draw a line on the ground using Gáebolg.

"Don't advance beyond this line." (Shion)

The poison's valid range extends on the other side of the line. Given that the location is quite far away from the poison's origin, the effect is weak, but it's not harmless.

With me at the head, Kanon and the 30 lilims line up next to each other behind the line.

"There's no need to aim. Just be careful to not hit the living mails." (Shion)

"Yes." (Kanon)

""""Yees~""""

There's such a large amount of enemies that they clog up the pathway. Hitting is simple even without targeting.

——《Dark Arrow》!

I shoot the darkness arrows into the sky in order to avoid the living mails. The arrows draw a parabola and rain down on the other side of the living mails — on the enemies.

"——《Earth Javelin》!" (Kanon)

Once the floating Kanon swings her wand, lumps of earth with pointed tips rise from the ground and skewer the goblins.

""""——《Fire Arrow》!""""

Imitating me, the lilim group shoots fire arrows into the sky. Many arrows pour down on the enemies.

Hyuuu! How delicious! To earn experience points so easily...it's a real treat.

This situation of earning experience points by firing spells from a safe area that protected by a wall of living mails forming several layers was a satisfactory situation to make me pump out adrenaline. I continued firing spells. Once I ran out of stamina, I checked the progress in the 28th sector on my smartphone. I kept going with such routine that transformed into work halfway.



Three hours after I joined the defense together with Kanon.

Countless groups of goblins surge forward from the entrance. The enemy's momentum didn't abate so far.

Good grief, I created many subordinates... Well, it's fine since I'm nicely gaining experience points, though.

Several living mails ended up being destroyed, but there were still a lot living mails between me and the enemy.

Mmh?

The rear guard goblins were goblin archers? Several arrows pass over the wall of living mails and come flying at me.

A living mail waiting nearby readies its shield in order to protect me and receives the arrows. I casually turn my eyes towards an arrow that fell to the ground alongside a dry, sharp clang.

——!?

The arrow on the ground — shone in silver.

A silver arrow — in short, one of the special offensive items against me.

I draw back to the safety zone in the rear, and check the enemies that came as reinforcement as rear guards in the area around the entrance of the sector by operating my smartphone.

Tsk!?

Watching the enemies displayed on my smartphone — a group of enemies holding silver-shining weapons, I click my tongue.

Alyssa is no fool either. If she investigates a bit, she will easily learn that her enemy — Demon King Shion is a vampire type. If she investigates even further, it's plain to find out that silver-made weapons are a weakness of vampire-type Demon Kings.

Shit...that bitch is completely focusing on me alone.

The easiest method for Alyssa to stage a reversal is to defeat me.

Conversely, even I had planned to kill Alyssa with concentrated attacks at maximum priority if she were to nonchalantly appear on the front line.

Withdrawing here is fine, but...what should I do?

I was pressed to choose the action I ought to take.