

## **Chapter 181 - It seems to be the Recapture Battle 2**

The black armor, which had several thin, black chains dangle from the area around its waist towards the ground with a jingling, readying its halberd was a display of a competent warrior's masterly stance showing no gaps whatsoever.

A halberd is a weapon possessing some weight, and looks as though an ax and a spear have been glued together.

Naturally it requires quite the physical strength to handle it. In human armies it's almost never used. At times you could catch sight of ornamented halberds during ceremonies and such.

However, the halberd of the black armor doesn't have even a single useless ornament added to it. Even Renya's group could grasp from their distant place that it was a mass of metal completely catered towards practical use.

"It's the enemy! Attack!"

The dragonoid soldiers were puzzled how to deal with the sudden appearance of the enemy, but once ordered, they reacted quickly.

They swiftly drew their swords and started deploy so as to surround the black armor.

The chains of the black armor, which watched all of this as if glaring at them, swiftly crawled across the ground like snakes targeting their prey, and twined themselves around the legs of the soldiers trying to encircle the armor.

Those, who noticed them, were able to leap back or repel the chains with their swords, but several soldiers, who didn't notice the chains, had their legs caught and were pulled towards the black armor.

Those dragonoid soldiers tried to escape from their restraint by struggling.

The black armor slowly lifted its foot above those squirming soldiers, and trampled down on their bodies while fully relying on its own weight.

The weight of an armor with a height of 3 meters was in a range that couldn't be handled by a human at all, but that doesn't mean it weighs several tons either.

However, the soldiers' bodies that were stepped on by the armor were very easily crushed without showing any kind of resistance.

Once the armor's feet firmly stepped on the ground, a faint ground shaking and an explosion-like impact were audibly transmitted to the surroundings.

The blood, which scattered from the trampled and crushed bodies, clung to the armor's surface, but immediately vanished as if being sucked up by the armor itself. The crushed bodies dried up completely as if being completely absorbed by the foot that stepped on the ground by piercing through those bodies, turned into dust within several seconds, and disappeared.

Even the soldiers, who weren't stepped on, were drawn towards the black armor, transformed into a mummy-like state at the instant they touched its surface, and disappeared completely after crumbling in little time.

"Pay attention to the chains! This guy...eats people!" (Albert)

Albert cautioned them, but the armor's attacks weren't limited to just its chains.

The armor lightly raises the halberd, which has a length of several meters and is longer than the armor is tall, over its head.

Once the armor swung down that halberd, which might have a weight of several hundred kilograms, one of the soldiers, who wasn't given a chance to evade, was cut right in half starting with the crown

of his head. The blade deeply pried into the ground where the soldier had been standing while raising a cloud of dust.

In front of its speed and weight, armor bore absolutely no meaning.

One sweeping attack of the overturned blade cut several soldiers apart at their waist, causing fountains of blood to gush out.

Their corpses shed blood immediately after being cut, but just like the soldiers, who were entwined by the chains and stepped on, they immediately changed into a mummy-like state, and transformed into dust.

"What are you doing!? Isn't there just one enemy!? Surround it thoroughly and bring it down!"  
(Linus)

Linus angrily shouts, but as expected, the dragonoid soldiers simply can't make a move due to the slashing speed and power they were shown moments ago.

"What are you doing, Albert!? You bastard should take the vanguard as hero!" (Linus)

Being ordered, Albert faintly grits his teeth, but in the end he has no means to disobey that order, and thus charges at the black armor after readying his katana.

Albert evaded another sweeping attack of the halberd supposed to intercept him by barely managing to jump high enough, and immediately accelerated even further by using the halberd's blade as scaffold.

Aiming for Albert, who's assaulting with his katana directly from the front, countless chains assail him, trying to twine themselves around his body, but Albert keeps running while weaving his way through the openings, evading some of the chains, repelling some with his katana, and changing his direction in midair by using the chains as footing.

Even as the chain attacks are evaded, the black armor's movements don't stop.

Turning over the halberd's blade after its sideways sweep, the armor attacks him from the opposite direction while aiming for Albert's neck. Albert dodges this as well by lowering his stance. The instant the blade passed over his head, he sharply steps in, draws close, and slashes at the armor's defenseless torso.

Albert, who heard the shrill sound of metal clashing against metal, kicked the torso of the armor before it could adjust its posture, and used the recoil to widely leap backwards.

"Sorcery, fire!"

Seeing how Albert widened the combat distance, the dragonoid soldiers released the prepared spells as ordered.

Bright red flames bloomed across the armor's entire body alongside sounds of explosions.

"Fire without any breaks! We're going to kill that guy by grilling him to death!" (Linus)

Linus vigorously gives his order due to the good opportunity of the previous spells having apparently hit directly.

Due to the continuous barrage of fire spells, it looked as if the advance of the black armor had come to a halt.



But, only Albert, who had actually slashed at the armor, guessed that there's no way for such spells to be able to hinder that black armor's advance.

The katana used by Albert is one of the hero equipment pieces also used by Lepard and Grün.

This katana, which had the inscription "Roaring Dragon" carved into it, possesses a performance outstripping common weapons by far, just like the other hero equipment pieces.

To be precise, this katana owns an ability specialized towards slashing attacks. Among the dragonoids it's dubbed as blade that can cut everything, but that blade glided off the black armor's surface while causing a metallic sound.

In other words, it wasn't able to sever the armor's armor plates and cut into it.

Albert is a powerful man to the extent that he was chosen as hero from among the dragonoids. Even he himself had the confidence of not losing out to anyone else if it comes to katana techniques.

The fact that he couldn't inflict anything worthy to be called a cut on the surface of the armor as outcome of slashing at it with the hero weapon while combining his techniques and his power as hero caused Albert to feel a shiver.

Without guessing Albert's inner thoughts, the dragonoid soldiers are firing one spell after the other at the armor that stopped moving.

At the time when an optimistic mood started to spread among the soldiers, who thought that they might be able to overcome the armor and defeat it if it keeps going like this, due to the armor continuing to eat without even avoiding the spells launched at it, the armor moved.

In defiance of the spells exploding on the armor's surface, the armor brandishes its halberd in a big motion from the right to the left with a carefreeness as if swatting annoying flies away.

With just that one motion the spells, which were continuously fired by the soldiers, were scattered in all directions extremely easily.

"Haa?" (Linus)

"Shit! Linus-dono! Evade!" (Albert)

Due to the reality of all spells being erased with just one swing while causing a thunderous roar, all soldiers including Linus were taken aback and stopped moving for an instant.

As if thrusting itself into that instant, the black armor, which fixed its hold on the halberd to a two-handed grip, started to charge with a force that raised a cloud of dust at its feet.

That huge mass charging vigorously turned into a black spearhead piercing into the dragonoid's army.

Without being even given the time to evade, the soldiers standing in the way of the armor's charge were sent flying, squashed, trampled, and turned into lumps of meat. Those, who were unluckily touched by the halberd's blade first, had their flesh and iron penetrated all together, and blew up into a crimson splatter.

The time when Linus realized that it was him who was targeted by the blade of the black armor, which plunged forward as if there didn't exist anything capable of blocking it, was after the blade's point had already been thrust out, aiming for his chest.

"As if I'd let you do that!" (Albert)

Even Albert didn't understand to the end whether it was the difference in physical strength or weight of the slash released by himself in order to somehow make the blade's point trail off-track, but unable to shake the halberd's trajectory even the slightest bit, the halberd at once pierced through the composed defense spells cast by Linus, turning Albert's action meaningless.

Without losing its force at all, the blow of the black armor, which seized Linus' chest, scattered his

upper body half with a force as if making it explode, extinguishing his life.

The horse he had mounted toppled over after receiving the aftermath of the attack, and several soldiers, who were on the other side, got involved as well. The halberd's blade, which was swung as if shaking off the little amounts of blood and flesh clinging to it, bisected several more soldiers in one go, scattering additional blood and flesh.

In addition to their attacks not connecting at all, no matter how many they unleashed, they had lost their commander all too quickly.

Due to the armor's appearance, which even ignored their hero's attack as if it was of no significance, it didn't require that much time for fear to spread among the dragonoid soldiers.

Once a single soldier turned his back on the armor, it caused a chain reaction.

There was a considerable number of soldiers who continued to confront the armor while keeping their morale, but quite a number of soldiers discarded their weapons. Once they switched towards escaping while screaming and exposing their backs to the black armor, that place stopped being a battlefield and turned into nothing more than a hunting ground.

"If it's a hunting ground...you have to create a fence, right?" (Renya)

At the end of Renya's line of sight, the black armor released a violet radiance.

That radiance moves along the armor's surface like a liquid, crosses over to the ground from its feet, and rapidly extends from there while drawing some kind of complicated figure.

"Kurz! Aim at that place!" (Renya)

Jumping down from his horse, Kurz covers his body in a black mist.

The two eyes faintly shining through the loophole of Kurz' helmet, who had changed into his silver armor in an instant, targeted the place where Renya was looking.

The violet light, which was encroaching along the ground meanwhile, has widely spread, continuing to draw some kind of figure.

Its expansion progressed at a considerable speed while covering the entire battlefield.

"As expected, huh? Kurz, pull him in!" (Renya)

"Roger, Margrave-sama." (Kurz)

Countless black snakes released from behind Kurz traveled across the battlefield.

Those black snakes, which traveled towards something indicated by Renya, touched the lines of violet light that had started to cover the battlefield's ground, and suddenly returned into their original misty state.

That, which had returned being mist, melted into the atmosphere without being brought back and vanished.

At the same time Kurz, who was manipulating those, raised a small, painful voice.

"Kurz, pull them back!" (Renya)

"It's fine...it's fine, Margrave-sama." (Kurz)

Even while looking slightly pained, Kurz manipulated the remaining snakes so that they wouldn't touch the violet, shining lines. Even though he lost several more snakes, the last set of snakes arrived at the target, and succeeded in twining themselves around it.

"I caught him, Margrave-sama!" (Kurz)

"Good, reel him in!" (Renya)

Raising a spirited voice, the silver armor grasped the torsos of several snakes, which were extending from its body, all at once, and pulled them in with all its might.

Renya didn't know whether those snakes had a consciousness or a sense of pain, but what was dragged out of the dragonoid army as if fishing for something with a pole in such a careless pulling manner that it made Renya worry that it must be painful for the snakes if they are treated in such way, was Albert.

The snakes made sure to partly force along Albert, who looked as if he was shouting or something like that, while sealing his limbs, as they delivered his body to Renya's group.

And, just at the moment when Albert's body had been dragged at the feet of Renya's and Shion's horse, the violet light finished covering the entire battlefield.

The battlefield was surrounded by a wall of violet light, obviously rising in that instant, blocking the soldiers' escape path.

At the same time needles in various sizes with metallic lusters protruded out of the ground.

The big ones stabbed the soldiers' bodies all over, and the small ones wounded their soles by penetrating the soldiers' boots from below.

The ones who died from those attack were still the luckier fellows.

Those, who didn't lose their lives as they had only been injured, staggered due to the pain or fell to the ground while seizing their feet.

Naturally countless needles awaited them at their staggering or falling destinations.

Anyone could come up with what would happen if they were to fall down at those places.

Even those, who got through this without falling down, immediately realized that they had fallen into a situation where they had to anticipate to suffer the same fate as their comrades sooner or later.

That's because they couldn't pass through the wall of violet light covering the whole battlefield to leave towards the outside.

Those, who directly bumped into the wall, were flicked off and thrown on top of the countless needles. Even those, who didn't do so, had their bodies injured all over by the successively appearing needles, went down on their knees after eventually running out of strength, and screamed while placing both hands on the ground.

The blood, which flowed out each time they were wounded, trickled down on the ground and was continuously absorbed by the shining lines. Before long it was sucked up by the black armor, the root of those lines.

"In addition to a barrier to prevent escape, the absorption of mana and vitality with blood as intermediary...it sure is doing something nasty there." (Emil)

Emil mutters in admiration.

If Renya were to possess detailed knowledge about the defense mechanism of Klinge, it would have been an opportunity for him to retort with "You're doing something similar as well, aren't you?", but unfortunately he didn't know about the defense details drawn up by Emil and Frau, albeit being the one ruling the city.

Incidentally, if Renya were to blame Emil in such a way, Emil would plainly respond like this: "Those are two different stories."

As a matter of fact, if Emil had a say in this, she would claim that the act carried out in front of her eyes right now was completely different to what had been set up in Klinge.

The item referred to as "Simple Hell Furnace" in Klinge is basically a system to collect mana and amplify it through the bodies of the living beings inside the furnace by passing the mana throughout the furnace's interior.

On the other hand, this trap, which completely caught the dragonoid's army, is something that only continues to extract the strength of the creatures within.

In other words, Klinge's system is something that can be used for a long time if it's used properly, but the trap prepared by the demon army loses its usefulness as soon as it sucked up everything that could be absorbed, leaving only dust behind. That means, the design idea behind this trap was something completely different in Emil's eyes.

Of course, from the standpoint of the living creatures caught within, there was no doubt that either system would result in a horrible destiny, though.

"I wonder, from just where did that black armor get such an idea?" (Emil)

"Somehow I have a hunch that the main culprits are basically you and Frau..."

"It's just your imagination, Renya. Even Frau and me wouldn't readily build something so awful."  
(Emil)

There are situations where a nice lie sounds more pleasant to the ears than the harsh truth. Even Emil knew that they couldn't keep hiding that furnace's mechanism indefinitely despite it being absolutely necessary for Klinge's defense.

'But, by chance Renya might order its removal if he should ever find out about it.

'In that case delaying the time for Renya to learn of it as much as possible is the only thing I should do here', Emil decided in her mind, confronting Renya's suspecting look with a very natural smile.