

Chapter 76 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ⑩

—Chloe, Blue, Hope, Silver, Noire, Rouge. Take your respective subordinates and head for the 【Return Terminal】!

I order Chloe's party to move to the 【Return Terminal】 which I have set up ahead of a 【Transfer Array】.

With this Chloe's party will move towards the Domain's entrance — outside the Domain to bypass the enemy. It will become possible to annihilate the enemies, who are firing silver arrows, from behind.

I think it would be the best if we pull the enemy's attention this way until Chloe's party starts their surprise attack.

"All members, fall back! Retreat to the covers in the rear!" (Shion)

The living mails form up into one line, and retreated one step at a time while holding their shields at the ready. Rina's party and I sprinted towards the many screens set up in the back while avoiding the falling rain of silver arrows.

—Those capable of ranged attacks, return fire! All others standby behind the covers!

After giving an order to my subordinates, I also return fire with magic while hiding behind a cover.

—《Dark Arrow》!

The ones to be pitied now were Alyssa's subordinates who stood at the front line. From the front our spells, and from the rear a rain of silver arrows by their allies. Even when they tried to launch suicide attacks, the living mails, blocking the path in front of us, didn't tolerate it.

One goblin and pixie after the other fell to the ground with silver arrows growing out of their backs. Once the force of the silver arrow rain gradually weakened down, new enemy forces showed up.

"Victory for Demon King Alyssa!"

""""&%\$#!""""

A huge goblin — a goblin general, whose whole body was covered by a silver armor marched at the head of a big army of goblins entirely clad in silver.

—All hands, intercept the advancing enemies!

—Iron, protect me!

Giving Rina's group, who had secluded themselves behind covers, the order to charge, I order Iron, who has the highest defense power, to protect me.

My current CP is 3100, huh?

While hiding behind the cover, I launch 《Subordinate Creation》, and create three living mails.

Next I alchemize 『Mithril Armors』 and 『Mithril Shields』 and give them to the living mails. It's an impromptu measure, but it will strengthen my protection.

As I hide in the shadows of Iron and the three living mails, I continue retaliating with magic, but the enemies are desperate, too. Attacks with arrows and spells from the rear that don't cause friendly fire anymore. Do-or-die attacks by the goblins that wore silver equipment. The bloodkin such as Rina were fine, but the losses among the nameless subordinates had definitely increased.

Our side's 3rd platoon and below also resisted by throwing in their remaining forces one after the other.

Arrows and spells fired from the respective rears intersect. Screams and angry roars fly about.

Allies and enemies are killed. The area had transformed into pandemonium.

Slowly the number of living mails at the front is getting dangerously low.

—Guy, gather the equipment that has dropped to the ground!

I create living mails with 《Subordinate Creation》, and give them the equipment picked up by Guy.

In this situation living mails are clearly set as consumable goods. I order the living mails to protect their allies by betting their own lives, and send them to the front in succession.

I use 《Subordinate Creation》, retaliate with magic, and check the situation over at the Domain's entrance with my smartphone.

Not yet... Still not... A little bit longer...

While checking the smartphone once every ten seconds, I aim for the right timing.

—!

The chance has come.

Deep at the rear of the enemy — at the entrance area, only the monsters deployed for ranged attacks were left behind. All monsters specialized on close combat have moved to the front line.

—Chloe! Start the surprise attack!

"All hands! Charge!" (Shion)

I order Rina and the other, who had fought back until now without crossing the defense line set up by the living mails, to charge. Simultaneously Chloe's group executed a surprise attack from behind the enemy.

The spells and arrows, which had been hurled over from the rear, stop. All of Rina's group start attacking the enemies who were obstructed by the living mails at the front line.

—《Dark Induction》!

I induce the thoughts of the goblin general, who wielded his silver ax at the forefront, causing him to attack a nearby goblin. At the moment when the goblin general, who had killed the goblin, lowered his eyes on the ax in his hands in confusion, the Whip of Hades unleashed by Layla tightened around his neck, Vajira swung by Red hit his face, and Rina cut off the head of the screaming goblin general with Dáinsleif.

""""#&%\$!?""""

A part of the goblins that had lost their leader, the goblin general, fell into panic.

—《Dark Arrow》!

Arrows of darkness pour down on the noisy goblins. Acting in concert, the arrows delivered the final blow to the goblins that survived my comrades' attacks.

"Don't relax on the attacks! Advance!" (Shion)

I push up the front line while encouraging my subordinates. Chloe's party is carrying out a surprise attack against the enemy's big army with a mere 24 people. I wanted to join up with them at an early stage in order to prevent them being annihilated in the worst case.

Once I check the surrounding situation...there are no silver enemies.

After confirming that my natural enemies had been wiped out, I also grabbed Gáebolg and ran up to the front line.

Once I proceeded while exterminating goblins and pixies by swinging Gáebolg, I spotted a group that's caught in an intense battle.

"Chloe! Is everyone safe!?" (Shion)

"——!?! I'm unworthy of such kind words! Everyone is safe!" (Chloe)

Chloe answer with a trembling voice.

"Annihilate the remaining enemies!" (Shion)

——However, turn a blind eye to the individuals believed to be kin.

I order my subordinates with both words and thoughts. With only words, there would be a possibility that my intention could be read by Alyssa.

"Kuh! Retreat! Retreat ~ssu!"

"Retreat! We're withdrawing!"

"Withdraw! We're falling back!"

The goblins and pixies speaking human language call for a retreat and take flight.

——Kill as many as possible, except for the kin!

We worked hard at the extermination of the monsters besides the ones speaking in human language — the kin.



30 minutes later.

All hostile forced have disappeared from the 28th sector.

The losses in the first large-scaled battle were big. I lost many nameless subordinates. However, Alyssa's losses are probably bigger than ours.

As for the strategy, you could call it a passable outcome.

"Shion, can I ask one thing?" (Rina)

"What's up?" (Shion)

As I was thinking about our plans from now on while looking at the battlefield which was littered with a great number of corpses, Rina called out to me.

"Why did you ignore the enemy's kin?" (Rina)

"For the sake of exterminating the enemy's forces." (Shion)

"——? I don't get it." (Rina)

Rina cocks her head in puzzlement due to my reply.

"Are you understanding this time's event?" (Shion)

"《Proclamation of War》, right? I heard about it from Kanon." (Rina)

"Did you hear about the penalty for the Demon King who started the 《Proclamation of War》?" (Shion)

"No, Kanon didn't go into the details." (Rina)

I see. I suppose Kanon saw no need to explain it to Rina.

"Umm, the Demon King, who started the 《Proclamation of War》, won't recover any CP during the 《Proclamation of War》." (Shion)

"I see." (Rina)

"In other words, they can't create new kin." (Shion)

"Makes sense." (Rina)

"If there are no kin, the monsters can't leave outside their Domain, right?" (Shion)

"That's true...——! I got it." (Rina)

Finally Rina understood what I wanted to tell her.

"If we repel the enemy while letting the kin alive, they will bring new monsters along. During the 《Proclamation of War》 Alyssa doesn't recover any CP. Hence, once we annihilate the enemies..." (Shion)

"It will make the invasion simple." (Rina)

"That's how it is." (Shion)

It's unknown how many kin Alyssa has created. Going even further, the number of subordinates under her control is unknown, too. However, if there are no kin, they can't invade into my Domain. It's simple, the danger level of killing the enemies while defending is lower than killing them while invading.

And then, six hours later.

As if responding to my request, Alyssa's subordinates invaded into my Domain once again.

Chapter 77 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ㊦

Tenth day after the 《Proclamation of War》 by Demon King Alyssa.

The number of invading enemies has visibly decreased. It seemed as though the enemy's forces would soon hit rock bottom.

"You think they're going to come today as well?" (Shion)

"Hmm, I wonder? Yesterday we definitely killed a hundred of them, didn't we?" (Kanon)

"We did." (Shion)

By what we can confirm, the number of Alyssa's surviving kin is down to 12. If they use their LP capacity to the limit, they can probably come while bringing more than 100 monster subordinates along. I can't believe that Alyssa is frugal with sending her forces this late in the game.

"Are we going to start the counterattack any time now?" (Kanon)

"Yes. But, I'd like to be invaded once more, if possible..." (Shion)

——Beeeeeep!

Were my prayers passed on? The electronic sound informing about an enemy invasion played back on my smartphone.

Once I checked the situation at the entrance of the 26th sector, which got attacked, on the smartphone's live stream, I saw around 50 monsters alongside the familiar kin.

"Oh? This time their composition is different from usual, isn't it?" (Shion)

Usually it was an army centered around goblins which heavily relied on numbers, but this time many high-ranking monsters such as goblin generals and high pixies are mixed in as well. Did Alyssa run out of CP? There's not a single monster wearing silver equipment as countermeasure against me.

"Did she gather the monsters protecting each sector?" (Kanon)

"I wonder. Either way, it means Alyssa is already at her wit's end." (Shion)

Because the subordinates were already used to it, they are about to head to the entrance of the 26th sector while holding their respective weapons as the same time as the invasion alert resounded.

"Chloe." (Shion)

"Yes!" (Chloe)

I call Chloe, who carried her beloved bow — Ichival, to halt.

"Chloe, your unit is to wait here for orders." (Shion)

"Certainly!" (Chloe)

"A break ~ssu!?" (Blue)

Once I order Chloe's unit to remain on standby, only Blue raises his voice in delight.

"This time we're going to completely annihilate the invading enemies!" (Shion)

""""Yes!""""

I guess it's about time to have the kin, who I let live so far, exit the stage.
I went through the 【Transfer Array】 together with my highly motivated subordinates and headed to the entrance of the 26th sector.



At the entrance area of the 26th sector, the living mails, who have been continuing the defense for 24 hours already, and the invaders had already started a fierce battle.
I suppose the enemy gave up on numbers and came challenging with quality.
Let's overwhelm them with the power of numbers then.
This time I mobilized all forces from the start. I haven't set up anything shrewd like a first or second corps. I deployed all gathered forces against the roughly 60 enemies in total together with the kin under Alyssa's control.
Giant bats unleash their ultrasonic waves while circling in the sky. Countless arrows and spells rain down on the invaders from the rear. On the ground a large crowd of wolves toys around with the enemies in groups. Countless ghouls advance on the enemy.
And, Rina's group finished off the enemies, which were preoccupied with the wolves and ghouls that are blocking their movements, one at a time.
We excel in individual strength and also in numbers. Moreover, in this situation, where we even have the locational advantage, the enemies were dying away slowly while being at their wit's end. I really wonder whether my level won't go up... While hiding behind a living mail, I thrust Gáebolg at the enemy in front of me.
The chances to earn experience points in such large amounts and yet safely are rare.
I looked at the continuously decreasing forces of the enemy and continued to wield Gáebolg while harboring complicated feeling of relief and loneliness.
Once the number of enemies dropped below 20, including the kin...

"Withdraw! Withdraw! Retreat!"

The enemy shouts their standard line and begins to escape.
Usually I tolerated this escape, but——
——Chloe! Use the 【Return Terminal】 and go around to the entrance! Don't let a single enemy get away!
——Don't let a single enemy get away!
At the same time as I order Chloe's unit, which was on standby, to pursuit, I order the wolf groups that excel at speed to confine the enemy.

"——!?! You pesky puppies!"

The enemy shouts in impatience at our battle formation that doesn't allow any escape, different from until now.
You will learn it if you experienced it once, but killing a fleeing enemy is fairly difficult. It's fine if you at least surround them or go around and cut in, but purely chasing after them from behind and attacking has a high degree of difficulty.
For that reason I set aside chasing by myself and chose pursuing through magic.
——《Dark Arrow》!

Countless arrows of darkness rain down into the back of the fleeing enemies. Precisely hitting the running enemy was complicated, but several arrows pierced the enemies' backs. I continued firing 《Dark Arrow》 while paying attention to not accidentally shoot my own subordinates.

"Haa haa...a little bit further...we will survive...return to Alyssa-sama..."

"That's impossible ~ssu." (Blue)

Blue's ax, which was swung downward, bisected the face of a goblin braver who arrived at the entrance after escaping our pursuit.

"——Wha-!? W-...Why!?"

"Noooooooo!?"

The enemies, who showed relief on their faces after arriving at the entrance, were plunged into despair by Chloe's group that ambushed them there.

"It's master's order! You're not allowed to let a single one get away!" (Chloe)

Chloe's group readies their weapons, and spreads to the side in order to block the fleeing enemy's path.

"U-U-Uwaaaahh——"

"Hah!"

A goblin fighter, who gave way to despair and raised his weapon above his head, is torn to pieces by the sharp claws of Guy who caught up from behind. The enemy was surrounded by Chloe's group, who closed off their escape route, and Rina's group, who approached from behind, and thus carried out a do-or-die attack, but...they were outnumbered.

In less than ten minutes, all invaders had fallen.



After all invaders had been killed, I granted my subordinates a break of one hour.

"Rina." (Shion)

"What is it?" (Rina)

"This time there's no limit in the number of people invading...how many do you need?" (Shion)

"Let's see... It also depends on the remain forces of the enemy, but it won't be a problem with the usual members." (Rina)

Rina worries for a bit, but decides to go with the usual members in the end.

"It's not really an issue even if you invade while taking more than a hundred along, you know?" (Shion)

"If you wish for me to do that, I will obey, but...it will likely delay the invasion, I think?" (Rina)

"After all?" (Shion)

"It's not simple for a hundred people to keep the same pace. In the first place, they would be inexperienced." (Rina)

"Understood. Invade until the Domain's entrance with a hundred subordinates for starters. From there, you can continue invading with the usual members. The remaining time is 20 days. Can you together with Chloe's unit usurp nine sectors within that time?" (Shion)

"I will do my best." (Rina)

This time the invasion speed is more important than the safety of Rina's party's precious subordinates.

It's not me who will invade. Thus I decided to respect the opinion of Rina who has plenty of experience in invading Domains.

"Rina, Chloe, I leave it to you." (Shion)

"Please do." (Rina)

"Yes! I shall fulfill master's command!" (Chloe)

Kanon and I saw off Rina's and Chloe's parties, as well as 300 subordinates which I had prepared just in case.



It's the tenth day after Rina's and Chloe's parties started their invasion into Alyssa's Domain. The invasion was going well. The nine sectors, which Alyssa used to have, had now decreased to three.

Alyssa probably bet everything on invading my Domain in the first ten days after making a «Proclamation of War». After our side started its invasion, the monsters that should protect the sectors of Alyssa were almost completely missing. I felt fed up with the maze-like, complicated floor design, but otherwise we took control of the sectors without any resistance or anything that could be called one.

Currently Rina's party is clearing the 8th floor, and Chloe's party the 9th floor.

If they keep going at such a pace, two sectors will be added to my Domain before the day is over. I think in three to four days there won't be any Demon King opposing me left in Kanazawa anymore. What bothers me is Alyssa's whereabouts. Is she escaping while repeatedly transferring? If that's the case, everything is working out as desired. If she has secluded herself in the last sector, Rina and Chloe will be able to join up before the battle.

Reducing the risk of Alyssa's death, which was my biggest cause for concern, is a truly joyous event.

As I'm chuckling due to the future heading towards the best outcome...

——Beeeeeeep!

A loud electronic sound reverberated from my smartphone.