

Chapter 186 - It seems to be the End of the Recapture Battle

In the end, the battle between the black and the silver armor came to end without taking much time.

When it was balanced out, the battle had developed into a stalemate, but after apparently receiving deep damage from Renya's slash while unable to recover from it, the black armor gradually couldn't deal with Kurz's attacks, and its condition declined immediately as if connected to the barrier's complete destruction stemming from a few cracks.

Unable to rally any longer from that deteriorated situation, its chains were one-sidedly cut and beaten down, and the attacks that started to reach the black armor's main body drove it towards destruction by continuously piling up damage on its armor parts. The broken armor parts were devoured by the snakes, and by reusing that as strength for the snakes, the speed of the black armor's destruction accelerated even further.

Thus, at the time when Renya got close to Kurz while slowly floating on his air seat just like Son Goku on his cloud, the black armor had turned into a wreckage with the black chains, which had been stuffed inside, having vanished except for some fragments that were scattered all over. Only something like a black mist surrounded the remains of the armor and the chains.

"Good job. That was amazing, Kurz." Renya praised him.

Kurz peeked his face out of the opened armor's chest part, and looked up to Renya, who was floating in the air, while showing a smile that was appropriate for his age.

"It's thanks to you having weakened it, Margrave-sama~!" Kurz answered brightly.

"That was only possible because you had carried me. You did well. Nice, Kurz." Once Renya caressed Kurz's head after lowering the altitude of his air seat, Kurz narrowed his eyes happily.

Seemingly having judged that the battle had already finished, Kurz gathered the black mist once at the shoulders of his silver armor. The two beastmen priestesses appeared from within, and started to clap their hands while sitting on Kurz's shoulders, looking small and quiet.

"Kurz-sama, amazing~" Tsubaki applauded.

"Kurz-sama, you did your best~" Botan joined in.

Renya watched with a somewhat warm and snug mood how Kurz became bashful while blushing after being praised by the two.

The needles that had protruded out of the ground in the surroundings lost their shape as if being slowly undone, and went back into the ground, returning it to its original flat surface. Given that Renya himself hadn't done anything, he thought that Emil had likely cast a cancel spell. The rear guard unit of the dragonoid army, which waited for the needles to completely disappear as they had hesitated to advance with the needles as obstacles, began to rescue their friendly troops that were still breathing while shouting loudly.

It looked like quite a few soldiers had been completely sucked dry until turning into dust, but

adding to the fact that the dragonoids possessed a high resilience to begin with, the number of surviving soldiers appeared to be at a reasonably high level because too many of them had fallen into the trap, resulting in the dragonoid army avoiding a complete annihilation.

Even so, the exhaustion that befell the soldiers who fell into the trap wasn't anything to scoff at. Those that had been saved all lost consciousness as they had no strength left in their bodies. 'Among them there will be likely soldiers that are going to die even if they are now still breathing,' Renya took a little breath.

"So Margrave-sama, what are we going to do about this?" Kurz's voice brought Renya's consciousness back to reality as he had started to consider that he should probably give a prayer since everyone will ascend to heaven once they die.

Once he looked at Kurz, Renya noticed that Kurz was looking in his direction while pointing at the remains of the armor which was still leaking a black mist.

"That is?" Renya asked.

"Somehow, that's not tasty. It feels like you will be pulled in if you touch it." Kurz answered with a really disgusted face while poking it every now and then with the tip of his armored foot.

Unable to get too close to it as he was still floating on his air seat, Renya lowered his altitude just a bit and after closing in on the remains, which Kurz was kicking, he used <Manipulation> with a parallel activation of the spell. When he tried to grab those remains, Renya's expression changed due to the weird sensation.

The hand-like object created out of sorcery vanished as if being completely absorbed the instant it touched those remains. Moreover, although the spell effect itself had disappeared, the sensation of Renya's mana being drained still continued. Once Renya canceled the spell in a hurry, he raised the altitude of his air seat slightly, distancing himself from the remains.

"Margrave-sama? What's wrong?" Kurz asked, puzzled.

"What the heck is this? It's sucking out my mana...?" At first Renya anticipated that the black armor might return to its previous shape after recovering once again by absorbing mana from its surroundings. However, once he continued his observation for a while, it looked as if it was about to vanish with its size continuously decreasing, albeit only very, very slowly.

He saw that it looked as if it was about to disappear, but as it couldn't readily do so because there was some kind of obstacle or it being caught in something, it seemed to become gradually smaller at an irritatingly slow pace.

"For heaven's sake, just what is this thing? Margrave-sama, do you have an idea?" Kurz inquired of Renya.

"I don't, but...somehow it feels really bad." Renya replied due to the sensation that lacked any reason, and lifted up the katana in his hand.

Renya, who had raised the blade in front of his face, began to slowly pour mana into the katana. Just as during the time of the body strengthening, he imagined something like fine, complicated circuits

inside the katana, and let the mana flow into those.

Although he had imagined cells in the case of his body and thought about providing mana to each and every single one of those, he performed a strengthening of the katana by moving the metal molecules that should be forming the katana this time. Of course there was no way for him to truly provide mana to all molecules. No matter how much Renya's ability might stand out, it's not like he could carry out something so far removed from common sense. To the bitter end it was just an image.

And although it was just an image, the concept that metals were composed of small elements that couldn't be seen with the naked eye didn't exist in this world. Renya was about the only person who could manipulate mana by using such an image.

The spell, which was based on an image no one ever used, naturally turned into a spell no one ever used.



"Margrave-sama...what's that? Somehow it's scary, okay?" Kurz asked with a slightly trembling voice while looking at Renya's katana.

The katana, which Renya kept completely still, began to emit something like small, black electrical

discharges all over its blade, and the atmosphere around it glistened like a heat haze.

Renya didn't answer. He simply stared at the katana in his hand.

While Kurz withdrew several steps due to unconsciously feeling an abnormal aura, Renya's body, who sat on the transparent air seat, lost its support and fell with some kind of rupturing sound. Kurz, who comprehended that the scaffold that had been maintained by Renya's sorcery broke down for some kind of reason, simply watched as Renya softly landed on the ground without being thrown off balance.

The two beastmen priestesses, who sat on Kurz's shoulders, curled up their bodies and clung to Kurz's shoulder and helmet, seemingly feeling frightened by Renya's unusual aura.

Without minding the reactions around him, Renya switched his hold on the katana from just his right hand to both hands. From a seigan stance, he slowly shifted towards a hassou style[efn_note]Check http://art49.photozou.jp/pub/808/2999808/photo/222061981_624.v1597089614.jpg to get an idea. And a short description by Jahrik: The "roof" guard may also be placed over the (generally right side) shoulder rather than over the head. The hilt can be above or in front of the collar, but not down in front of the chest. Note the blade is neither angled behind the head, nor held horizontal, nor resting on the shoulder. Some armors prevent holding the weapon above the head, hence the side version. More stable than held above the head, the position still permits a variety of threats and counters. This position easily turns around into ox or drops down to plow.[/efn_note] while pulling back his right foot. From that point, he changed his stance further by bending his left knee a bit while slightly lowering his left shoulder.

Lightning that should originally strike down from the sky was released from his Renya's blade, who had temporarily stopped moving completely, was emitted with a rumbling sound towards the sky after having changed into a pitch black color.

The heat haze-like fluctuation covered Renya's entire body and the ground started to vibrate with such an intensity that the soldiers who were busy saving their injured comrade noticed it while being a distance away from Renya's group.

Due to the density of the charged mana, Kurz hurriedly stored back the two priestesses inside his black mist again. He himself also retreated back into his armor after closing the opened part while trying to get away as far as possible. That was owed to him guessing that the damage caused to the surroundings and the target would be enormous, no matter what kind of action Renya took, considering the amount of mana charged into the katana.



However, Kurz's response was a bit too late.

Kicking the ground with the left foot which he had positioned in front, Renya widely stepped in with his right foot, which he had pulled back before, and while distorting the atmosphere, he thoroughly thrust his katana, which was clad by lightning that was piercing the sky, at the black armor's remains alongside a loud, spirited scream.

In that moment Kurz tightly closed his eyes and gave up on most things. It was a thrust technique that had been unleashed with this much mana converged into the katana.

'The thrust's destination will likely not be pretty to look at due to the damage by the outrageous power. Even I, who don't have anything that could be called a protection while being right next to it, don't know whether I will be blasted far away by just the aftermath. Even if it develops into the worst possible outcome, I will at least somehow protect the two priestesses sheltered inside me,' Kurz heroically hardened his resolve, but no matter how long he waited, the expected shockwave didn't come. Realizing that, Kurz slightly opened his tightly shut eyes. The armor, which stored Kurz's body, was extremely big in comparison to Kurz's physique. For that reason, the helmet, which should originally contain a head, was filled with the black mist manipulated by Kurz. Since Kurz's own head was at the height of the armor's torso part, he couldn't grasp the situation outside by just opening his eyes. Accordingly Kurz aligned his vision with the black mist as always, peeking outside through the gaps in the helmet.

What unfolded in front of him wasn't the scenery he had expected. Just as he had seen before closing his eyes, the remains of the battlefield spread out. The dragonoid soldiers stared this way thinking that something outrageous might have happened as they didn't know just what exactly took place from their distant location.

Renya wasn't moving while still in the stance of having unleashed his thrust, but after a short time he returned to his normal position while pulling back his katana. Even though nothing was clinging to his blade, he sharply swung his katana once as if shaking something off, and then sheathed it back into its scabbard.

Kurz hurriedly cut the alignment of vision, opened the torso armor part again, peeked out with his head, and frantically looked around. It was an action triggered by his belief that it was impossible for nothing to happen after a thrust charged with so much mana being released, but from what he could see, the surrounding area hadn't changed almost at all from the time before he dove inside his armor.

The only change between before and after Renya's thrust Kurz found after looking around for a short while was the complete disappearance of the black armor, which had been half eaten by Kurz, and the black mist that had drifted around it. Seeing that, Kurz comprehended that Renya's attack solely served the purpose of erasing the black armor's remains. However, even if he understood that part, it's not like he also comprehended the reason for there to be absolutely no damage to the surroundings as an after-effect of Renya's attack.

The fact that no unnecessary damage had been caused to the vicinity was an auspicious event, but as it was an unbelievable reality as well, Kurz turned an imploring gaze at Renya while being confused in his mind.

"Well, even if you look at me like that..." Renya said.

"I mean, Margrave-sama...even though you attacked, it's only those yucky remains that vanished. That's weird, definitely!" Kurz exclaimed.

"What is it that you want to say?" Renya asked back.

"If it went as usual, the ground at the thrust's destination would be completely whittled down and gone, the dragonoid army would have been totally dragged into it and blown away, or the buildings on the other side of that hole in the city's wall would be completely destroyed...ah, it hurts! Margrave-sama, it really hurts. I'm sorry. I will reflect." Kurz, who had insisted on that while pushing out his upper body from within the armor, had his head directly grabbed in an eagle hold by Renya, who came close in silence, and immediately went into an apology modus.

Renya started to silently grind Kurz's head.

"Margrave-sama!? Margrave-sama~!? Margrave-sa~ma~!?" Kurz whined.

"Say Kurz...somehow that way of phrasing sounds as though I'm destroying something unrelated without discrimination every time, doesn't it?" Renya squeezed out.

"Huh? You weren't aware of that, Margrave-sama? Ah, it's a lie. Sorry, Margrave-sama!?"

While constraining the head of Kurz, who continued to scream, with his right hand, Renya thought back on the phenomenon he had caused just now.

In reality he believed that he might have caused damage not only to his target, the remains of the black armor, but also to the surroundings on the other side, if he had unleashed that thrust just now without holding back, even without having it pointed out by Kurz.

The reason why he didn't stop the attack nevertheless was because he believed - by intuition not logic - that it was wrong to rely on those remains to vanish at their own pace. Because it was an action stemming from his intuition and not some reason, he intended to obediently resign himself to the blame that might come afterwards.

However, as if betraying those feelings of Renya, the thrust didn't have almost any effect on the vicinity, scattering only the black armor's remains.

Because Renya adjusted his attack, Kurz apparently thought that it was unlike the usual Renya, but the reality was slightly different.

Renya had unleashed his attack without holding back almost at all as always. Hence the result should have been as always too, but the reason why it hadn't turned out like that was right in front of Renya's eyes. Those remains had absorbed all of Renya's attack's power as if sucking it up. Renya panicked for an instant thinking that it would revive after this, but those remains soundlessly crumbled and vanished, seemingly unable to withstand the power once they absorbed Renya's attack.

Renya inclined his head in confusion, wondering what this was all about.

In the end it intended to revive by absorbing Renya's mana just as he thought, but although it could

be considered that it had destroyed itself by taking in more mana than within its permissible range, investigating it properly had become impossible since the remains had already completely disappeared.

Renya ended up thinking that he should probably have blown the remains after investigating them in detail, but he immediately denied that thought on his own accord.

'The aura I felt from those remains wasn't anything decent, no matter how I think about it. I had to erase it from this spot as soon as possible,' Renya felt by instinct.

Reason or intuition; if he were to be asked which he believed, Renya was the type to believe in his intuition if he had to make a choice. With just that, he believed that his attack just now wasn't wrong.

"Margrave-sama, Kurz-sama's face has become ghastly pale!" Tsubaki screamed

"Margrave-sama, Kurz-sama is convulsing!" Botan added.

Renya, who returned to reality due to his right wrist being lightly grabbed, released Kurz's head in panic after seeing Tsubaki and Botan, who had appeared left and right of him, placing their hands on his wrist with quite frantic looks as Kurz had fainted in Renya's eagle hold. He had apparently put unintentionally too much strength into his hand while in the middle of his brooding.

While watching the two priestesses that started to desperately nurse Kurz who wouldn't wake up while still showing the whites of his eyes, Renya harbored a somewhat dislocated impression that even Kurz would go down after receiving damage, and decided to shelve his worries about the remains he had scattered moments ago for the time being.