

## **Chapter 84 - vs. Demon King Alyssa ⑱**

I swiftly operated my smartphone and checked the entrances of my sectors one by one.  
Found her!

I discovered Alyssa and five monsters at the entrance of the 27th sector.

I continued observing the appearance of Alyssa which was reflected on my smartphone's display.

"Master, is it fine for us to not go intercept her?" (Chloe)

Within the tense atmosphere ever since the invader alert rang...Chloe called out to me as I was silently gazing at the smartphone.

"Calm down. It's too early." (Shion)

"B-But...the enemy has already invaded our territory!" (Chloe)

Chloe probably wants to avenge Silver and Hope as fast as possible. I can perceive the impatience seeping out of her voice.

"We will meet the enemy tomorrow. Restore your energy for now." (Shion)

"——!?! Why!?!?" (Chloe)

"Between Alyssa's forces or the 12 of us here right now, who's stronger?" (Shion)

"It's us!" (Chloe)

Once I threw a question at Chloe with a slow drawl as if admonishing her, Chloe answered with a strong voice full of intent.

"Correct. That's why we're going to wait until tomorrow." (Shion)

"W-Why!?! If we can win, we should get rid of that trash right away!" (Chloe)

"You call them trash, but that trash is strong, right? It would also be alright to face them now and here, but...can you defeat them without letting them get away?" (Shion)

"T-That is..." (Chloe)

Chloe hesitated to answer my question.

Their current location is too close to the entrance. In order to defeat them without fail...it's necessary to lure Alyssa deep into the domain. That's the reason why we will wait until tomorrow.

"Don't waste your breath if you understand,...and rest up. Understood?" (Shion)

"Yes." (Chloe)

Our current location has been connected with all sectors through **【Transfer Arrays】**. However, the

place it's connected to is the fifth floor of every sector. I pinpointed the fifth floor as the place to kill Alyssa from the very start.



Thirty hours after Alyssa started her invasion.

Alyssa had arrived at the fifth floor. I, who had been checking on her, transferred to the fifth floor of the 27th sector together with my subordinates.

I lied in wait for Alyssa at the stage I had prepared. The wait took three hours. Alyssa's group appeared in a wide space with countless rocks scattered as screens.

"Oh my? I thought everyone had run away and hidden, but...you're going to continue your useless resistance?" (Alyssa)

"Shut up! The ones who have been driven to the wall after running away and hiding are you guys, aren't you!?" (Chloe)

Standing at the vanguard, Chloe replied with an enraged voice to the provocation of Alyssa, who was laughing scornfully.

"Oh my? There's a cheeky brat among them? Mmh~? I have seen you somewhere...ah! I remember! You are that one, aren't you? The dark elf who abandoned her comrades and ran away, right?" (Alyssa)

Alyssa provoked Chloe with a smile and a composed attitude.

"Y-You biiiiiiiiiiiiitch!" (Chloe)

"This time it's 1, 2, 3...10 people in total? Looking closely, the dark elf and the ogres that ran away with you are here as well. I wonder, how many of you can survive this time? How many comrades are you going to sacrifice before escaping? Or rather, you guys didn't go to my Domain together with that human? Ah!? Were you possibly left behind because you're too wea——" (Alyssa)

Chloe shot an arrow at Alyssa, who happily provoked Chloe even further, in anger. However, before the arrow could reach Alyssa, the goblin general in front blocked it with his shield, and the arrow fell to the ground with a dry sound.

"Listen to people until the end...bah, whatever. Die! ——《Wind Arrow》!" (Alyssa)

With the many wind arrows fired by Alyssa as signal, the enemy started to move all at once. Chloe and the others readied their weapons in accordance, and started to move as well.

Right now — the curtain of the final battle against Alyssa has been raised.

Chloe and the others dealt in pairs with one enemy each as I had ordered. Even if a one on one would be even, a two on one should definitely give them the advantage, but...my subordinates were forced into a tough struggle because of the precise support magic fired by Alyssa.

"Hohoho! Unsightly! How very unsightly! I wonder what your master is doing? Is he trembling in

the deepest part of his Domain?" (Alyssa)

Alyssa continued to unleash powerful spells while laughing loudly.

"Hey? Demon King Shion? Are you watching? if you don't partic——" (Alyssa)

"You called?" (Shion)

I released 《Darkness Veil》, and stabbed Gáebolg through the wing growing on Alyssa's back from behind.

"——!?" (Alyssa)

Alyssa widened her eyes with a shocked expression, and hurriedly distanced herself once she spotted me.

"Hey, wait a minute. I was called by you, so don't run away, okay?" (Shion)

I smiled as if retaliating for just now.

"Y-You bastard...w-where..." (Alyssa)

"Mmh? Over there." (Shion)

I answered while pointing a finger at a rock behind me. I had hidden on the battlefield from the start. I lurked while concealing myself with 《Darkness Veil》. I stayed dormant until Alyssa separated from her five monsters.

"Now then...let's kill each other!? ——《Darkness Arrow》!" (Shion)

I fired darkness arrows at Alyssa instead of a greeting.

"Kuh!? You one-digit-level trash, don't get cooooooocky! ——《Wind Shield》!" (Alyssa)

Alyssa blocked the darkness arrows by deploying a wind shield.

"Hah! Even you were a one digit until just recently, weren't you!?" (Shion)

I sprinted towards Alyssa and quickly pushed out Gáebolg.

"——!?! T-This power...are you bastard really a one digit!?" (Alyssa)

Alyssa tried to repel Gáebolg with her wand, but being overpowered, her body was grazed by Gáebolg.

"I wonder? ——《Early-Summer Rain Thrust》!" (Shion)

A rain of consecutive thrusts visited Alyssa in the next breath. As Alyssa suffered countless lacerations on her body, she tried to withdraw to the back.

As if I'll let you!

But, I drew close to Alyssa at the same speed as her lowered speed.

After becoming a Demon King, it was something I knew after experiencing many battles. Combat distance is extremely important in a battle. Depending on your favored weapon and your combat style...the combat distance differs for each person. If we're only talking about handling my weapon, I fall short in comparison to Rina. Leave alone Rina, I might fall behind all my subordinates such as Layla or Chloe.

However, I overwhelm Rina in the middle and long range.

In short, even if the skill is lacking, it's possible to win against an opponent if you can dominate the combat distance and boast an absolute power.

Going by that logic, Alyssa's strong combat distance is long range. Hence, as long as I fight while always closing in on her, it will definitely lead to victory.

I steadily piled up damage against Alyssa while maintaining my best combat distance.

"S-Such a...my...my dream is—— kyaa!?" (Alyssa)

One arrow stabbed the back of the staggering Alyssa.

Once I looked around me, all of Alyssa's subordinates had fallen, and my subordinates were surrounding Alyssa.

Checkmate.

"W-Wait...right! Make me a kin! I will trust you! If you trust me as well...you can turn me into your kin, right!?" (Alyssa)

Seeing the situation around her, Alyssa begged for her life while smiling meekly, seemingly having resigned herself.

"Trust...? Come to think of it, the method to create kin was different depending on the race, wasn't it?" (Shion)

I thought back on the information about each race's method of kin creation, which I had heard about from Kanon a while ago.

Alyssa as bloodkin, huh...? It might not be bad as an option.

"Is it your wish to become my bloodkin?" (Shion)

"Y-Yes! I desire to become your kin!!" (Alyssa)

Once I addressed Alyssa after releasing my combat stance, she appealed to me frantically.  
——《Blood Chalice》!

"Very well. Then drink this." (Shion)

I offered the created chalice of blood to Alyssa.

"Y-Yes. If I drink this...——《High——" (Alyssa)

"——《Earth Javelin》!" (Kanon)



Suddenly the body of Alyssa, who had tossed the chalice away and shouted with naked bloodthirst, was pierced by a spear that grew out of the ground.

"Shion-san! You mustn't! That person's eyes...you can't believe her!!" (Kanon)

"...Kanon?" (Shion)

Standing by in the rear, Kanon had apparently noticed Alyssa's true feelings and attacked her.

"S-Such a...p-ple-...p-please...o-one mor——" (Alyssa)

"——《Dark Night Tempest》!" (Shion)

Alyssa, who begged for her life once more while vomiting blood, was engulfed by a devastating storm of darkness.

"A-...Aah...s-something like..." (Alyssa)

"You had your chance." (Shion)

I looked in contempt at Alyssa who died inside the storm of darkness.

~♪

The dry, electronic melody informing me of a level up resounded within the space where all enemies had perished.

## **Chapter 85 - Level Up ③**

The battle against Alyssa came to an end. Without a doubt Alyssa had been the most formidable enemy since I became a Demon King. The things I was able to gain were big, but so were the things I lost.

I lost many subordinates and items. I lost precious subordinates — Hope and Silver who were nurtured under my personal care. And I ended up consuming the BP which I had stored while anticipating the long term strategy.

Oops, indulging in sentimentality is still too early, isn't it?

All Demon Kings in Kanezawa were destroyed, but the Demon Kings of Kenpoku[efn\_note]Term for the northern prefectures of Japan[/efn\_note] — Kahoku and Suzu if I turn my focus north, the Demon Kings of Toyama if I turn my focus east, the Demon Kings of Hakusan and Komatsu if I turn south...and otherwise the lands ruled by the humans in Kanezawa are still remaining in big numbers.

It was a situation that made it indispensable to refine my future strategy in order to survive.

And even besides that; there's the confirmation of the level up, the reconstruction of the Domain...a heap of things I have to do.

But, there's one thing I should check before all that.

"Kanon." (Shion)

"...Yes." (Kanon)

I called out to Kanon who looked at me meekly.

"Why couldn't you trust Alyssa...no, knew that she would betray me?" (Shion)

"It was her eyes." (Kanon)

Kanon answered with a serious tone, different from usual.

In the end I was saved by her, but the timing of the spell unleashed by Kanon made no sense to me. If she hadn't started preparing since before Alyssa's betrayal, she wouldn't have been in time. That means Kanon was about to attack before Alyssa's betrayal.

"Eyes?" (Shion)

"Yes. Since my memories were taken away, I can't recall things about others, but...it was etched into my mind that I can't trust people who had those eyes — the same eyes as Alyssa." (Kanon)

Listening to Kanon's reply, I remembered Alyssa's eyes...as well as her expression and tone.

I see...I ended up comprehending Kanon's words. At first Alyssa overflowed with confidence. And, as soon as death approached her, she switched to a menial attitude.

I wonder, where did I see eyes like those? Since I have also lost the memories of the people before becoming a Demon King, I couldn't recall it precisely. However, somehow I'm remembering...owners of those eyes belong to the followers of riajuu who are the top caste. It's the eyes of those deluding themselves to be strong by abiding to those stronger than them and belonging to their group. It's the eyes of those who constantly throw their own will overboard, bully the weak, and obey the strong like opportunists.

Kanon was probably someone at the lower stratum of the caste in peaceful Japan before becoming a Demon King? Blah, I guess I'm in no position to find fault with others either...

To be honest, I wanted to get Alyssa as subordinate. Speaking of the future strategy, you could even say that it was necessary to make her a subordinate. Having said that, I guess I mustn't turn everyone into a subordinate as long as they are just strong.

I recalled a certain game I was addicted to before becoming a Demon King. It was a simulation game where you managed a soccer team. That game's interesting and vexing component was the existence of a data called compatibility between players. You couldn't win if you gathered players indiscriminately while focusing only on their abilities. The players would quarrel among each other. Back then I grumbled, "At least let me build a dream team inside a game, damn it!", but even in the game it would fail if the compatibility was bad.

What will happen in the real world then, where the subordinates even harbor complicated feelings? The answer is probably ruin.

Considering it like that, it was probably not fated for Alyssa to become my subordinate. I think at the moment I welcomed Kanon as subordinate, the flag for Alyssa to become my subordinate vanished.

After understanding my own feelings, I called out to Kanon.

"Kanon..." (Shion)

"Y-Yes..." (Kanon)

Kanon answered my call with a trembling voice.

"Thank you for your help." (Shion)

"...Eh!? Y-Y-Yes! You're welcome!" (Kanon)

Even though she was at first bewildered, Kanon replied to my words of gratitude with a smile in the end.



This settled the matters regarding Kanon's actions. Now I can put the things I have to do in order with refreshed feelings.

First I got to really grasp the current situation.

In order to check the sectors that can be attacked by enemies and confirm my remaining combat forces in the remaining time of the 《Pseudo-Peace》, I started the app of the 【World Salvation Project】.

——!?

Looking at the line displayed on the smartphone's screen, I was surprised.

『You reached level 10. Please choose a race to evolve.』

It's the second time I see this line. However, at the first time of its appearance I was level 3.

For real...? I sigh unintentionally.

Honestly, the evolution is very welcome. However, based on this app's specification, I can't check the other information provided by this app as long as I don't choose my evolution path.

Checking the remaining time of the 《Pseudo-Peace》, confirming the remaining combat forces, reconstructing the domains stolen from Alyssa...in order to carry out all of these, it's necessary to decide the race to evolve into.

Even though I want to decide such a grave matter after careful deliberation...

Even while I'm troubled, the CP, which I recovered fully due to the level up, is overflowing. The remaining time of the 《Pseudo-Peace》 is also trickling down by the moment.

I operate my smartphone, advancing to the next screen.

『

Please choose one of the following races:

Demon King (Vampire Lord)

Demon King (Vampire Noble)

Demon King (Vampire Elder)

Demon King (Daylight Vampire)

Demon King (Nightmare Vampire)

』

All of them are vampires, eh...? If you have used kanji so far, then stick to that rule. I complained to the Mastermind who likely created the 『World Salvation Project』. [efn\_note]All races for the Demon Kings so far had been written in kanji. This time they are all written in katakana[/efn\_note] In times of need, ask Google-chan...

"Kanon!" (Shion)

"Yeees!" (Kanon)

Once I yelled out loudly the name of Google-chan, Kanon flew over to me in a hurry.

"I became level 10." (Shion)

"Ah! Congratulations." (Kanon)

"Thanks! Gah, not that, it's the evolution." (Shion)

"Oh!? Come to think of it, it looks like you will evolve once your level becomes 10." (Kanon)

"See. Therefore, tell me the information about the evolution paths." (Shion)

I got straight to the point even while being somewhat irritated at Kanon who answered in a nonchalant manner.

"Eh?" (Kanon)

"Eh?" (Shion)

I returned the same word to the surprised Kanon.

"Don't tell me...you have no information about the evolution options?" (Shion)

"N-No..." (Kanon)

Useless... This Google-chan is useless...I clicked my tongue reflexively.

"B-But...although I don't have information about the races to evolve for a vampire type, I know them if it's for fairy types." (Kanon)

"The information of the fairy type's evolution options is...well, whatever. Tell me." (Shion)

Since it might serve as reference, I decided to listen to the fairy type's evolution races even while being disappointed by Kanon's reply.

"Umm, that is...there are five races which a Fairy Demon King can choose for their evolution at level 10... It's the Body-specialized 『Goblin Lord』, the superior allrounder 『Titania』, the Mana-specialized 『Oberon』, 『Dullahan』 which possesses an undead attribute, and 『Fairy』 which is strong at nature magic." (Kanon)

I pondered about the information from Kanon in my head.

Umm, in other words...the evolution options are Body specialization, raising the abilities on the whole, Mana specialization, variation species, and Special specialization?

If I apply those rules——

It turns into Vampire Lord = Body specialization, Vampire Noble = high-ranking species, Vampire Elder = Mana specialization, Daylight Vampire = variation species, and Nightmare Vampire = Special specialization?

If I guess from their names——

Lord = ruler, master. Noble...what the hell is noble? [efn\_note]It's katakana...spelled as noburu. The kanji for noble would normally be pronounced kizoku[/efn\_note]

"Kanon! Look up the words I'm telling you from now on!" (Shion)

"Yees!" (Kanon)

As result of having Kanon look them up——

Noble = noble, Elder = old person, Daylight = sunlight, Nightmare = nightmare.[efn\_note]This is how it'd look in Japanese: Noburu = kizoku, Eruda = nenchousha, Deiraito = nikkou, Naitomea = akumu...localizes kind of badly since Western languages don't have two or more written languages[/efn\_note]

In that case...Lord, Noble, Elder are specialized builds of the types predicted before, daylight vampire is a variation species not weakening even when basked in sunlight, and nightmare is...nightmare? Guessing by a Special specialized build, it would be about raising the abilities within darkness even further, I think?

All of them are attractive evolution paths.

The decision I finally reached after wracking my brain over it is——