

## **Chapter 190 - It seems to be a Sequel**

The news that Margrave Kunugi of the Trident Principality took possession of all four heroes spread throughout the world at an astounding rate.

There were various reactions. The ones with the weakest reaction were the beastmen, although the opinions were divided on whether that was owed to them being relatively estranged to such information or a race-typical trait.

For better or worse, it was about Lepard, a prince of one of the four tribes. Moreover it was directly related to the fact that Kaede, who held a considerably high position among the priestesses and who attended to Lepard, had been seized as well, but the beastmen merely reacted by saying, "Well if they want to come back, they will just do so, right?"

However, since a strong request to take care of Lepard and Kaede as well as the two priestesses attached to Kurz by all means had been delivered to Renya's place although he hadn't informed his surroundings, it meant that the beastmen weren't completely indifferent to this whole affair, but you could still say that they at least didn't show any outward reaction that could be called such.

The ones with the second weakest reaction were the elves.

Their side seemed to be only preoccupied with the attitude of Croire, who ended up sticking to Renya, rather than their hero, Grün. As for their inquiries about her welfare, it went as far as them coming for a courtesy visit through the transfer gate every three days.

But then again, because Croire herself was wandering around while sticking to Renya, she loitered around her and there, not staying in Klinge all that much.

However, given that the elves would obtain quite a bit of information whenever she came to Klinge, the elven emperor seemed to have approved of that.

But, because they extensively investigated only Croire, Renya had been worried whether Grün would feel offended by that, but as a matter of fact, the elves, who came for Croire's courtesy visit, checked up on Grün's safety as well, albeit secretly, before returning to their home country.

Given that Grün had a very difficult standing, or rather, personal history, it was apparently complicated to worry or check up on him too openly.

Due to the elven emissaries gathering information on Grün without fail despite that, Renya got a better opinion of the elven emperor, although just a wee bit.

The humans' reaction could be called extremely divergent.

Most of the countries didn't show almost any reaction to this information. Or rather, they tacitly took it for granted without speaking up or making any moves as they apparently were reluctant to provoke Renya's interest by showing a reaction.

The Trident Principality didn't announce an official view, but there was a plausible rumor going around that the archduchess always brushed aside other nobles with nothing but the same old response each time the nobles demanded the archduchess to give her opinion on this matter.

At the beginning the nobles apparently pressed the archduchess for answers with a fairly threatening attitude, but they gradually lost momentum due to the pressure of the archduchess' smile, and before long they didn't raise their voices any longer, just to finally return to their own territories as if running away while murmuring apologies.

Renya admired her for sticking to her ways.

The one raising their voices loudly without having learned their lesson were the authorities of the church.

They loudly kicked up a fuss that the human hero originally belonged to the church, and that it was treason against all humanity for a single noble like Renya to monopolize the human hero.

Upon the information that Margrave Kunugi ought to swiftly return the human hero to the church if he really had any intention to obey the human laws and that he should fight against the evil together

with all humanity in accordance with the church's ideology, Renya felt a light headache and dizziness, reflexively cursing the gods. It resulted in him immediately being told to stop by the little goddess via a hotline.

Renya couldn't check whether it was true or false, but the beings equal to gods in the world, where Renya and the others currently resided, were apparently afflicted by Renya's curse and fainted. 'Although the incidents in the Holy Kingdom caused considerable traumas to a part of the humans, it looks like those people, who haven't seen it personally on-site, didn't perceive it as that much of a threat,' Renya sighed. Renya, who wondered whether he should do as told by the other party for a change, requested Emil to head together with Kurz towards the Holy Kingdom, where the headquarters of the church was located, as driver for the car which she had used previously. Seeing the car off which raced away with a roar in the direction of the Holy Kingdom, Renya's group held a meeting with all of Klinge to make bets how many days it would actually take for the two to come back. By dragging the residents into it as well, it turned into a festival merrymaking. His own bet was on approximately four to five days, opposed to bets ranging from one week to ten days.

At the time when Emil and Kurz returned to Klinge in the evening of the next day, they were greeted by great booing of all the residents as there hadn't been a big winner among them.

"Margrave-sama!? Did I do something bad!?" Kurz asked in panic.

"No...ah, well, probably you did something bad to a part of the people, I think. Whether you like it or not..." Renya answered.

It wasn't as though they directed terrible ill will at him, but Kurz, who had never experienced such a situation, leaped on Renya's knees as he was sitting on a chair after returning to Renya's castle, grabbed Renya's collar, and became teary eyed while shaking Renya back and forth. As he was shaken while not knowing what he should tell Kurz, Renya rocked his upper body back and forth, but froze upon Emil's comment who had entered Renya's room, following after Kurz.

"Slandered for no reason...a storm of angry insults...being blamed...how truly nice..." Emil raved about the booing.

""There's a pervert here!"" Kurz, who clung to Renya with a pale face, and Renya, who reflexively restrained Kurz, insulted Emil, who stood stock still while pressing her hands against her cheeks and having an entranced expression for some reason, at the same time.



Emil turned an even stronger entranced look at Renya and Kurz after being insulted by them.

"Gimme more." Emil whispered.

"Margrave-sama!? Margrave-sama!? That, what's that!?" Kurz yelled.

"Don't look at it, Kurz. That's a being which is bad for your mental health. You will be contaminated." Renya replied with a serious look.

"Aww, jeez, you two. Isn't that simply enjoying a bad situation after experiencing being blamed from all directions? Haauu." Emil leaked a coquettish sigh.

While caressing the back of Kurz, who was clinging to Renya with his body trembling as if scared of something, Renya thought, "This one is also up to her usual gimmicks[efn\_note]The "also" here stems from the same kanji being used when Renya admired the archduchess for sticking to her own ways. The kanji compound can be used with a positive or negative connotation depending on the context.[/efn\_note]," and asked Emil, "Well, I got no interest to comment on your tastes anyway. What about the actual issue?"

"Perfect. We gave them a proper education. Well, to the extent that they likely won't talk about handing over Kurz a second time. I will later give you a written report, okay?" Emil answered.

The written report about the details what happened in the time from Emil's and Kurz' departure from Klinge to their return for the sake of explaining the circumstances to Renya later on went down in history as written record of the Holy Church's destruction, and was left behind as prohibited document in the Trident Principality's archive as most important document pertaining that incident.

Because of the gruesomeness of the contents and the detailed depictions, it resulted in it being handed down for a long time as evil work said to even induce a mental disorder for its reader, but that was yet another story.

Due to this incident, the church lost its authority, and the big organization, which held influence across the entire human continent until then, easily collapsed to the level of being one of the assorted local religious groups. In exchange, it resulted in a the religious group of a new doctrine that originated from the Trident Principality rising to power, but this was also a story of a distant future, and nothing Renya knew of at this time.

The one showing the most extreme reaction among the four races were the dragonoids.

This was only understandable.

Although Renya's group was certainly the ones who rendered the most distinguished service of repelling the invading demon forces, they were at the same time great criminals for having abducted the dragonoids' hero.

They immediately sent out a directive for Renya to personally report to the Witenagemot and for immediately returning the hero Albert in the name of the dragonoids' Witenagemot, but Renya ignored this.

On the contrary, he demanded the dissolution of the Witenagemot as compensation for the food and material support to the dragonoids who had been ruined by the war.

The Witenagemot flew into a rage at this, and promptly discussed an invasion into the Kunugi Margraviate, but seeing as it was almost impossible to come and go between the continents as long one couldn't use the transfer devices, and given that the dragonoids themselves hadn't actively connected that many transfer gates to other continents, they had no military position to send in

soldiers even if they wanted to.

Moreover, no one saw any value in trying to pick a fight with Renya's party, which took on the demon army that drove the dragonoid army to destruction, won against them, and recaptured the dragonoids' capital, at this point in time while the dragonoids's army itself was weakened by having suffered heavy losses in the war against the demon army.

In addition, with Renya, who supplied plenty of food and materials to the common dragonoids who became impoverished after getting burned by the wartime fires, as an opponent, neither the soldiers nor the citizens had any intention to force a battle.

Thus, the members of the Witenagemot, who were getting heated up, were arrested by soldiers with fed-up faces, put under house arrest, and removed from power. The representatives of the organization consisting of those who were elected, the newly inaugurated dragonoid government, officially entrusted hero Albert to Renya.

"Isn't this...what you would normally call a revolution or similar?" Albert felt dumbfounded by the quickness of the change in the state of affairs.

The Witenagemot until now was a hereditary organization and there hadn't been any change in the families ruling it for a long time, but since it suddenly turned into a democratic state that would choose the people's representative through elections, it wasn't unreasonable for him to be surprised either.

"Complete strangers that can protect and feed the people being more popular than statesmen who can't do the same is always the same anywhere." Renya lightly shrugged his shoulders while saying so.

It was unlikely for the dragonoid citizens, who had been living under the complete control of the Witenagemot so far, to suddenly have woken up to democracy and elections. It was the opinion of future historians that someone should have pulled the strings behind the scenes, but no written documents about who might have been that mastermind existed anywhere.

It was one of those historic events where only the ones concerned knew the truth.

It was a situation that didn't lack uproars and reforms taking place all over the world, but in contrast to that, the demons suddenly stopped moving no sooner than they had failed in invading the dragonoid continent.

Even the movements of the monsters inside the Miasma Forest, which had become more active temporarily, had quieted down, and it didn't look as though they mobilized as organized troops, as far as visible from outside.

The incidents of a few monsters sporadically attacking villages close to the boundary lines between the Miasma Forest and the continents was the same as ever, but it returned to the same frequency as before the increase in activity.

This resulted in various theories circulating, wondering whether some kind of problem had occurred on the demon's side, and especially the demon king's side, but as there was no actual method to find out the truth, all of it remained at the level of theories and assumptions.

Since there was no means to obtain information about the demon territory in the first place, nothing could be done about this either.

Extremely optimistic theories about the demon king's death were popular, but everyone regarded those as nothing but wishful thinking, and the people spent their days driven by the unexpressed anxiety that it might actually be a situation similar to a calm before a storm.

"Since we just have to think about it when the demons come, I think it's a waste of time to worry

what to do when they come." Renya voiced out such a carefree opinion.

Only Klinge with Renya at its helm continued working normally[efn\_note]Same kanji compound as with the archduchess and Emil above, but this time in its original meaning and not the one popular on the net[/efn\_note] at all times as the rest of the world felt worried, albeit faintly and vaguely. That state continued for a short while.