

## **Chapter 116 - vs. Unoke's Demon King ①**

Ten days after I added Sarah as subordinate.

Kaede, who had headed out to investigate, came back to me to file a report.

"Nn, found the Demon King you searched for, milord." (Kaede)

"What kind of Demon King is it?" (Shion)

"A hot-blooded Beast Demon King." (Kaede)

"Did I give you such a specification?" (Shion)

"Hot-blooded, but strong." (Kaede)

"What's his location?" (Shion)

Kaede points at a place on the map of the prefecture spread out between us.  
Unoke City, huh...? It's close to the Domain Chloe's team is currently invading.

"How many sectors does that Demon King's Domain possess?" (Shion)

"One. Can meet him right away." (Kaede)

"Hmm? What do you mean?" (Shion)

"Hot-blooded, so will jump at invaders right away." (Kaede)

"You're saying the Demon King himself will rush out to defend if the Domain is invaded?" (Shion)

Kaede nods and says, "Nn," in response.

"Do you know the level of that hot-blooded Demon King?" (Shion)

"Can leave outside, so above 10." (Kaede)

"What? One sector in his Domain despite being above level 10?" (Shion)

"Hot-blooded, so no subordinates except for doggies." (Kaede)

Doggies? So wolves, right? Don't tell me, he spent all BP on **【Body】**?

"Kaede, did you see him?" (Shion)

"Nn." (Kaede)

"What kind of items did he wear?" (Shion)

"White cloth and blue pants." (Kaede)

White cloth and blue pants? T-shirt and jeans? Meaning, his Alchemy is E?

He did well to have survived so long...

Going by Kaede's information, the Demon King in question has Creation and Alchemy at their initial values. There are few humans actively putting efforts into invading, and Demon Kings aiming to expand their Domains in the Unoke area. Having said that, it's impossible for him to have zero invasion experience. Humans are always looking for Domains to target in order to regain as much land as possible, and in case of Demon Kings, they always search for chances to expand their Domains. A Domain that hasn't been ever invaded...that would maybe be limited to a pitiful Domain surrounded by me.

This might be someone to pick up. If there are causes for concern...it'd probably be that the enemy isn't smart. As far as I heard, he's a muscle-brain. I wonder, how should I make him accept a «Surrender»?

As for situations I can think of...

"Kaede. Me or that Demon King — who's stronger?" (Shion)

The one looking like the most likely option would be the situation where he challenges me to an one-on-one, and yields once I win.

"Nn, if it's night, milord...I think." (Kaede)

"You believe I will definitely win at night?" (Shion)

"Nn. Because the combat samples were weak humans, definite answer impossible." (Kaede)

The Demon King discovered by Kaede is very likely a good personnel you don't find often. I guess I will gather information for the sake of removing all reasons of concern.

I turn one dhampir into a bloodkin, and assign a living mail and a werewolf as his subordinates. The CP consumption accompanying the creation of a bloodkin is a serious blow, but I decide to regard it as a necessary sacrifice, and have them move out to investigate the enemy's movements.



The dhampir bloodkin arrived at the Domain in Unoke while leading his subordinates.

According to Kaede, the internal structure of the Domain ruled by the hot-blooded Demon King is a rural landscape with fields and houses lining up that hasn't any Domain Creation applied to it at all.

"Oh? You're checking out a comrade candidate for Sarah-jou?"

He holds the position of supreme commander of the defenses, but Yataro, who doesn't know what to do with his spare time during peaceful times, calls out to me.

"It's a Body-specialized Beast Demon King." (Shion)

"In other words, a candidate for **【Attacker (Close Combat)】**, right?" (Yataro)

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

Yataro peeks at the live stream shown on my smartphone while narrowing his eyes.

"Uh? Judging from appearance...it's a dhampir I'm not familiar with. Did you create it for the inspection?" (Yataro)

"After all it's necessary to have him *《Surrender》* for the sake of turning him into a bloodkin." (Shion)

"Hmm...In short, you're saying this dhampir is a disposable pawn for the sake of obtaining information about the enemy?" (Yataro)

"Correct." (Shion)

Yataro's expression turns grim.

Hmm? Yataro was the type of guy who cherishes subordinates to such an extent? Did feelings of sympathy towards subordinates well up in him after he became one himself?

"Shion, do you have a moment?" (Yataro)

"What is it?" (Shion)

"Isn't this dhampir a bloodkin?" (Yataro)

"He can't leave the Domain unless he's a bloodkin." (Shion)

"Did you know? The CP necessary to turn a subordinate into a bloodkin, and the CP necessary to use *《Random Creation》* is the same!" (Yataro)

My previous worries have been completely unfounded. Yataro remains true to his nature. Afterwards I ignored Yataro's fervent speech about the necessity of *《Random Creation》*, turning my focus towards my smartphone's display.

"...In other words, random is life! In that case, dedicating our fate to the goddess of luck is——" (Yataro)

——Shut up!

I forcibly shut Yataro's mouth, who has continued to kick up a fuss, and concentrate on my smartphone.

"Oh? What unusual invaders."

A largely built man, who's overflowing with a feeling of wildness and wears casual clothing consisting of a t-shirt and jeans, is shown on the display of my smartphone playing back the dhampir's point of view.

"Hmm? Can't talk? Ya guys...ain't no humans, are ya?"

The man reveals a ferocious smile, obviously taunting the dhampir.

"My name is Decoy Shion! Our great Demon King Shio——"

"Haah!?! Don't know anyone like dat!"

——!?

The display on my smartphone — the dhampir's sight reflects the sky for an instant, then the scenery keeps changing.

Was he hit?

——Living mail! Protect Decoy!

——Werewolf! Start attacking!

The living mail and werewolf start moving in accordance to my orders.

"Hah! Nice! Your movement's are truly nice!"

The man continues to dodge the swift chain claw attacks unleashed by the werewolf by freely using taijutsu while smiling.

"Saaay? Ain't that tail in da way?"

Once the man drives his fist into the werewolf's abdomen, he circles around behind the werewolf, who rolls his body over, casually grabs its tail, and tosses the werewolf just like that.

"——Kyan!?"

The werewolf cries pathetically as it's slapped on the ground.

"Kyan!, ya say? Ya the same as the doggies over here?"

The man laughs loudly, quickly closes in on the collapsed werewolf, and hammers his heel against the werewolf's head.

"Mmh~. Ya gotta increase yer weight a bit. The weight of a blow...bah, guess ya can't hear me anymore."

The man laughs bitterly while looking bored.

——Living mail, harden your defense!

——Decoy, continue attacking with magic from behind the living mail!

There's absolutely no chance for the dhampir, who had survived, and the living mail to win. I give them orders for the sake of getting as much information about the enemy as possible.

"All dat's left is the armor lad and the frail one over there? Can ya entertain me a bit more than the doggy just now?"

While cracking his knuckles, the man turns to the dhampir and living mail with a wild smile. Kicking the ground, he closes the distance between him and the living mail in an instant.

"Come on!"

Alongside a yell, he hammers his fist against the shield held up by the living mail. I can hear a violent impact sound, unbelievable for a clash between fist and shield.

"Tsk! Tough..."

The man jumps widely back, and looks at his fist.

"Hah! Be delighted! I will show ya my true form! My name is Demon King — Takaharu! Uooooooooohhh!"

The largely built man — Demon King Takaharu flashes a savage smile, and roars towards the sky. Once he's wrapped up by light, his body transforms.

"Ha ha ha! It's been a while since I last fought in this form!" (Takaharu)

Takaharu lets his mane flutter as he laughs loudly while opening his beast-like mouth with its sharp fangs.

Lion?

Immediately after I express my honest impression about Takaharu's true form as it's shown on the smartphone's display, the screen blacks out.

## **Chapter 117 - vs. Unoke's Demon King ②**

"Did you watch, Kanon?" (Shion)

"Yes... Since it blacked out all of a sudden, further details remain unclear." (Kanon)

I called out to Kanon who was watching my smartphone's screen close to me.

"What's that guy's true identity?"

"It's just a guess, but...I think he's a **【Beast King】**." (Kanon)

"**【Beast King】**?" (Shion)

Beast king...the literal translation would be something like beast ruler, huh?

"It's one of the species available as evolution for a Demon King (Beast)." (Kanon)

"What's its traits?" (Shion)

"Umm, it's not just my knowledge, but takes also information obtained from 『Laplace』 into account, so I can't guarantee its accuracy, but is that fine with you?" (Kanon)

"I don't mind." (Shion)

After learning about the existence of 『Laplace』, a greater part of Kanon's identity collapsed. However, without getting dispirited, Kanon enhanced her own knowledge by reading through 『Laplace』.

"【Beast King】 is a Body specialized species. Demon King (Beast) has another Body-specialized species called 【Beast Lord】, however the distinct difference between those two is — the combat style." (Kanon)

"Combat style?" (Shion)

"Yes. 【Beast Lord】 is the final evolution level of a kobold. On the other hand, 【Beast King】 seems to have the trait of fighting with one's own body, using 《Beastification》."

"《Beastification》?"

"Yep. It's a special ability with a feel of drastically enhancing the special ability learned by Hope-san before. Its biggest characteristics are the sharp claws growing at the hands, and a body hair that turns as hard as steel covering the body. In addition, they also own sharp fangs...they appear to be strong at a combat style that doesn't rely on weapons." (Kanon)

"What a troublesome opponent... Any weak points?" (Shion)

"Their weak point is durability, I'd say? Although they can harden their body hair, the hair's sturdiness seems to be at the level of a C rank item. ...Though, that's information from 『Laplace』..." (Kanon)

The more I hear...the less I feel like I can win in an one-on-one. Theoretically, our Body ranks are the same at night. Although he'll be covered with tough body hair and sharp claws, I might win out when wearing a full set of B rank items. However, it looks like I'm very inferior when it comes to agility and combat experience.

In that case, we have no option but to win against quality with numbers, do we?

Gathering the bloodkin and challenging him with the strongest members will be easy, but...the possibility for there to be losses among my bloodkin is very high. Even if I gain a single, excellent subordinate, it'll be meaningless if I lose more than one excellent subordinate.

As such, it's absolutely necessary to carefully select the subordinates I take along.

Right now, my strongest subordinate is — Izayoi, albeit with conditions attached.

Izayoi and me...the rest will be ten lilims who excel at ranged attacks, and twelve living mails to be used as shields.

The lilims will single-mindedly attack from a distance with magic, and the living mails will protect the lilims while staking their lives on it. Izayoi and I will be in charge of cornering him once he weakens to urge him into 《Surrender》.

How about this?

I run multiple simulations in my head.

If I feel that it's dangerous or impossible, Izayoi and I just have to retreat.

As expected, we won't die from one blow, will we...? No way, right?

Driven by anxiety, I turned one living mail into a bloodkin. I add three living mails to it as its subordinates. I splurge on the bloodkin living mail, and give it a full set of mithril armor. Its three

subordinates receive C rank items from me.

And then I make them head out towards a second investigation of Demon King Takaharu.



The second enemy investigation was a success.

The four living mails endured Takaharu's onslaught for ten minutes. Because they devoted themselves to defense, they didn't deliver any damage, but I succeeded in reading his attack patterns to some extent.

What I should be careful of in Takaharu's attacks are his claw attacks aimed at the carotid artery. The dhampir, who died in the first investigation, very likely perished after receiving that attack. As long as we are wary of that attack, there's no worry about us dying in one attack. Izayoi and I might actually be able to endure more than ten attacks. Of course, neither of us would have the slightest intention to take those attacks silently.

The expended sacrifices to turn Takaharu into my subordinate are two bloodkin and five subordinates. No matter how much my maximum CP increases, turning someone into a bloodkin always consumes all my CP. The sacrifices were big, but the things gained were big as well — as if saying so, I put my preparations perfectly in order.



Alongside sunset, I head towards Takaharu's Domain while taking Izayoi and 22 subordinates along.

"Shion-sama, the moon tonight is very beautiful, isn't it?" (Izayoi)

"Indeed. The night wind feels nice as well." (Shion)

I walk across the road at night while basking in the moonlight together with Izayoi.

"Izayoi, night is our time. I will rely on you." (Shion)

"Yes, milord. I, Izayoi Shion, swear on this name and the moon shining down upon us, I shall definitely carry out my duty."

Izayoi bows his head respectfully. Until not long ago I was worried whether this plan would work out well. However, those worries were wiped away as I gazed at the moon illuminating the sky, and Izayoi who's brimming with confidence.

Afterwards, we head towards Takaharu's Domain while enjoying the quiet air of night.

One hour later.

"So it's here, huh?" (Shion)

The scenery, which I had observed on the smartphone's screen around a half day before, is reflected

in my eyes.

"If the enemy's boss — Demon King Takaharu doesn't show up after three hours, we will retreat."  
(Shion)

"It shall be as thou order, Shion-sama." (Izayoi)

Takaharu being a muscle-brain is just my prejudice. It's possible that he will see through my identity as a vampire, just like Yataro, and stay away from us at night.

I carefully step into Takaharu's Domain while having the twelve living mails form the vanguard. Inside the tranquil, rural area, we slowly advance through the Domain with a progression speed similar to that of a snail.

Considering a retreat in the worst case, I don't want to be too far from the entrance. However, it's also possible that he will become suspicious if we loiter around at the entrance area.

I continue walking slowly while cautious of my surroundings. We proceed for around an hour like that. Just when I started to succumb to the worry that Takaharu might possibly be one of the intelligent people——

"The fuck!? Stop dawdlin' 'round." (Takaharu)

A largely built man overflowing with wildness — Demon King Takaharu shows up with a listless attitude ahead of us.