

Chapter 208 - It seems to be the Extremity of Training

Renya hesitated whether he should really toss Kilie, who had lost consciousness while having foam around her mouth, into the sea, but in the end he limited it to throwing her down at some random, free place. Given that he hadn't sensed anything breaking or crushing beneath his palm when he had held Kilie's head in an eagle hold, Renya assumed that Kilie's skull was very likely safe and sound.

If that assumption was correct, Kilie was still alive, although that was something slightly disappointing from Renya's point of view. Although it was only a bit, Renya had been tempted by the idea to make her shut up for eternity.

'If the iron claw hasn't finished her off, she might suffocate if I throw her into the ocean while still unconscious, and maybe, by some chance, the katurul might take her quietly away to some far and distant place.

"It must be at a place out of the public's eyes..."

Until Kilie started to kick up a fuss over Renya tightly grabbing her head, no one paid any attention to the two. However, now that Kilie had made so much noise, even the people, who had absolutely no interest, were looking in Renya's and Kilie's direction, wondering just what was going on. Not to mention, that it wouldn't be strange for one of them to hurriedly notify the city guards in the worst case, considering it was a fairly good-looking girl who was laying on the ground with foam around her mouth and the whites of her eyes showing.

But then again, the people around here already recognized Renya's face and somewhat knew his antics, thus the emotions contained in the looks turned at him were mostly ones of having fully given up on commenting on his behavior.

Although Renya believed that he reaped what he had sown, he somehow didn't find it amusing to be seen like that.

"No, even if I toss her into the sea, the probability for her to be carried away is low, I guess."

Kilie could understand the katurul. For some reason no one considered it to be weird why she was actually able to do so, and Renya himself had no plans to check the reason since he didn't really care all that much in the first place, but either way, her being able to communicate with the katurul meant that she could also be called its kin.

In other words, the katurul should consider Kilie as a friend to some degree and as someone to not be hindered. If that way of thinking were to be correct, it would be difficult to believe that the katurul would cause any harm to Kilie. Rather, Renya believed that the katurul would pick up and bring Kilie ashore again, if he were to toss her into the sea while unconscious.

As far as Renya saw its behavioral pattern, he couldn't believe that the katurul would harm a ship trying to fish or travel between the continents in some way, but it seemed that the katurul was truly merciless towards ships and the people boarding those ships.

Otherwise they wouldn't allow for something like not a single ship setting sail or the prohibition of

building a port despite having such rich fishing grounds right before the front door to happen, according to Baron Gordonal.

Given that it was a territory where the cultivation of produce didn't work overly well due to the salty sea breeze even under normal circumstances, it was a dear wish of generations of family heads in the Baron Gordonal house to use marine products as special, local product. Not only Baron Gordonal, but also the residents of the city were deeply thankful to Renya, who not only made it possible to circumvent that fishing restriction but also provided a market to sell the seafood, but that was yet another story.

For the time being, Renya pulled up his feet to the surface of the sea while leaving the limp body of the unconscious Kilie at a spot where she was still on the wharf while harboring the faint hope that she might by chance drop into the water by herself.

As if saying, "Just a little bit more," the katurul's tentacles wobbled back and forth inside the ocean, but Renya's toes, which had continued to soak in the sea for a fairly long time, had started to get an even more wrinkly skin thanks to the salt water.

He created a water sphere without chanting, and rinsed off the salty water on his feet with the magic water. Moreover, once he exposed them for a bit to a weak wind he had generated, his feet became dry without any need to wipe them with a cloth.

After confirming that his feet had become completely dry, Renya lowered the cuffs of his pants, and put on his boots. Once he looked towards Kilie with a glance, she was still unconscious, and several tentacles that stuck out from the wharf were gently nursing her by wiping the foam from her mouth with a cloth, which made Renya wonder just where they had procured it, and placing cloths that were wrung after wetting them on her forehead.

Surprised by that sight, Renya doubted whether the katurul was really a being that would rob people of their consciousness and drop them to the very bottom of madness, from where they wouldn't be able to return ever again if they were unlucky, by just showing itself, if it felt like it, but he immediately pushed those thoughts away.

'Even if I think about it, it won't change anything anyway. In the first place, the katurul is recognized as an existence beyond human understanding.

There was no way that a human like Renya would understand the reason behind its actions, even if he tried to analyze them.

Renya irresponsibly summed it up with the idea that the katurul must have a reason grounded on some kind of truth secretly existing at the very end of the universe or the furthest depths of profoundness, and decided to let it do whatever it wanted to do. Standing up from the edge of the wharf, he was about to turn on his heels when he witnessed midways yet another unbelievable scene.

"Yaaaaa!"

A longsword, which was fully swung through alongside a yell of fighting spirit, cut through the air, and repelled several attacking tentacles in one go. That longsword had its blade dulled as it was

made for training purposes. Although it was one of Renya's creations, focusing only on sturdiness, the longsword's parts, which were struck by the edges of the repelled tentacles, had definitely cracks, where the metal had been somewhat broken out, despite the blade's edge being dull.

Shion, who slipped in close on the tentacles that had been thrown backwards, unleashed a sharp blow against the tentacles' base before they could fix their posture. Due to the slash that seemed to dig out the ground, several of the struck tentacles lost their power, dropped to the ground and stopped moving.

After some time passed, those tentacles were apparently retrieved with some kind of method, slowly being dragged beneath the ground and disappearing. In exchange, an even bigger number of new tentacles showed up, and released thin, sharp water jets from their tips, targeting Shion, who had warily readied her sword.

Watching one of the shots widely missing its aim and deeply piercing into the ground, Renya realized the firepower behind those water jets, and hurriedly erected a mana wall around the battle site.

Although it was called ground, that place was covered by a stone paving, meaning, the water jet released by the katurul's tentacle broke through stone. If such a powerful water jet hit a human body, heavy injuries would be inevitable.

It should have been a training that was mostly playing around, but Renya was puzzled just what had taken place in the time he didn't pay any attention to the mock battle.

Unrelated to those thoughts of Renya, the water jets that were continuously fired at Shion looked somewhat dangerous, but Shion shortened the distance to the tentacles while smoothly dodging the water. Seemingly understanding that Shion had been closing the distance on the tentacles, the katurul stopped firing water jets all at once, and assailed the approaching Shion with the tentacles by lashing them out like whips. But those were all knocked down by Shion's longsword.

With Shion apparently unable to knock out the tentacles with just one blow, the tentacles, which were knocked down to the ground, wriggled around and tried to raise their bodies again while being stepped on by Shion who ran around stomping down on them.

Renya widened his eyes at the speed of Shion, who stomped away at the tentacles without any hesitation, and her discernment to knock out several tentacles at once by calmly aiming at places where several tentacles were gathered.

There was no doubt that Shion had grown as a swordfighter. Moreover, despite being totally messed with at the time they started this training session, she had reached a point of being able to deal with the tentacles' attacks at a level that could be regarded as a decent battle in little time. Renya couldn't hide his astonishment at this fact.

Without even taking any notice of Renya, Shion narrowed her eyes while looking down at the tentacles trying to somehow escape being trampled, focusing her senses in some way.

"Through learning by watching..."

"Are you kidding me?"

The surrounding air was sucked towards the chest of Shion, who was concentrating, alongside a shrill sound. That air formed a transparent sphere while winding in a vortex.

Renya had seen such a spectacle at another place before.

"Fang King's Roar!"

Once the compressed cluster of air was released and hit the swarm of tentacles, which couldn't break away from beneath Shion's feet, the tentacles were slapped against the ground by the pressure and roar.

The after-effects caused the hair and clothes of Shion, the originator of the attack, to flutter, and clashed against the mana wall created and maintained by Renya.

The Fang King's Roar was a wide-ranged attack used by Hero Leopard. The one he used was a technique causing a huge impact and pressure towards a fixed direction by releasing it after compressing the surrounding air and adding a rotation to it. Although it had the flaw of needing quite a bit of time to amass enough air before its release, its offensive power, once it was fully charged, was immeasurable. The place suffering that attack would be largely gouged out, leaving nothing behind in its wake.

Shion's imitation definitely fell short in range and firepower in comparison, but the issue here wasn't the firepower of the attack, but the part about Shion consciously manipulating mana.

It's not like Shion had no talent in magic. Although it was the basics of the basics, she could use the spell <Ignition>, and could use something like <Reinforcement>, albeit unconsciously. However, if it came to mana control at a level allowing her to generate proper firepower and releasing it as an attack, things would be different to such elementary sorcery abilities.

"Chain attacks!"

In proportion to it being smaller in firepower and range than the one used by Leopard, Shion could apparently use her <Roar> in quick succession. A second shot was fired at the tentacles still trying to move while having been slapped against the ground.

Rattling vibrations ran through the ground. A part of the people in the middle of work noticed that, stopped what they were doing, and began to look in Renya's direction, curious about what was happening.

"Renya-san!? What's going on here!?" Kilie, who had apparently revived without Renya noticing, asked next to him, unable to hide her surprise.

"You sure got back up on your feet quickly."

"I woke up due to those sounds and vibrations. So, just what the hell is going on?"

In response, Renya silently pointed in Shion's direction. Following his finger with her eyes, Kilie

saw Shion unleashing the third roar towards the ground alongside a meaningless scream.

The tentacles were slapped against the ground once more, and finally the stone paving also started to yield to the roars' pressure and broke apart.

Seemingly having their stamina completely whittled down by that blow, the tentacles stopped moving and were drawn back underground with a slithering. And then, a replacement tentacle appeared again, pushing its way through the stone paving.

"I feel like the firepower has been growing with each blow."

In no time, Shion released a side swing with her sword towards the new tentacle. The sword dug almost halfway into the tentacle, which had the thickness of an adult arm, with a heavy, wet sound, causing it to lose all power and drop limply to the ground due to that one blow.

"The power of her slashes is continuing to grow as well.

Renya felt that the fact of her having reached the level of her attacks properly connecting and gouging out the tentacles, despite those attacks not hitting or merely repelling the tentacles previously, couldn't be fully described with just the word 'growth.'

"What did you say was the full name of Shion-san?" Kilie asked Renya, who felt a bad premonition, with a nonchalant expression.

"I think it's Shion Femme Fatale."

Once Renya said so while believing that this must be her full name according to his own memory, Kilie clapped her hands together once as if having understood something.

"Aah...so that's how it is. One part comes from the qualities Shion-san possessed to begin with. Another part stems from the power of her family's bloodline. And on top of it, she had been right next to a source of very dense mana over an extended period of time. Yet another part is her taking in a fairly big amount of Katurul-san's flesh in a short time. And the last part is a result from her daily training..."

At the same time as the wounded tentacle was pulled back into the ground, another batch of replacement tentacles fired water bullets at Shion. Once Shion countered those with her roars, the water bullets were scattered, turning into countless droplets.

Shion dashed forward as if cutting through that cloud of droplets.

"Get to the point." Renya urged on Kilie as he wanted to know about the outcome rather than the progress leading to it.

However, he couldn't believe his ears when he heard what Kilie said next.

"It's an outcome of various elements having come together. It looks like Shion-san has radically developed her own abilities and broken through some kind of limit."

While stepping in sharply, Shion unleashed a low slash, smashing several tentacles simultaneously alongside the stone paving with the dulled blade of her sword. The tentacles, which were sent flying while scattering body fluids, and the stones, which were sent flying after breaking off the paving, clashed against Renya's mana wall at almost the same time, making the whole wall shake strongly.

Sensing that something was amiss now that things had gone this far, the workers ran off somewhere to file a report or began to evacuate as they realized that they had to leave before getting dragged into it.

"That's a good thing, or is it not?"

Once Renya asked while being mostly convinced that the answer he was going to receive wouldn't be anything he wanted to hear, Kilie shook her head as if having seen through those thoughts of Renya.

"The manifestation of her abilities is a bit too sudden. Those powers are prone to run amok, I'm sure." Kilie said in a carefree tone as if talking about tomorrow's weather.

At the place which Renya was watching while wondering how he should respond to those words, Shion aimed at the new tentacles, which were trying to come out of the ground, and hit them with an even stronger roar. The tentacles, which were in the middle of popping out, and the stone paving were smashed to pieces together, and scattered.