

Chapter 210 - It seems to be the End of the Job

'That much of a difference?' Shion wondered in the apparently remaining calm part of her mind that seemed to be delirious with bloodlust. 'My body feels strangely light, and I don't sense the weight of my weapon either.'

Shion, whose body wouldn't follow her imagination up to such a degree normally, demonstrated a battle that could be called the very best in her life so far. What reached her ears were the sounds of her sword cutting through the air, and the sounds of building stones, which might originally have been part of the stone paving, being smashed up when occasionally entering the trajectory of her sword.

As long as she hit them, she could definitely break them - be it stones or people.

However, her sword didn't reach him at all. Until now Shion had never seen it for herself, only watching from behind or the sideline. But, now that she was personally facing Renya, albeit it being a result of the developments, Shion literally experienced the height of Renya's skills with her own body.

Her attacks didn't connect. Even the idea that they might hit was out of reach for her. Even though Renya's body should certainly exist at a place within her sword's reach, around one sword length away in front of her, she was forced to understand, whether she wanted it or not, that it was already a distance with no hope, or rather, allowing her to actually feel the distance between them.

His taijutsu level was simply that high. It didn't even seem as though her attacks were being evaded. Renya's movements were always on point, as if he knew from the very start what attack would come with what timing and aim.

The reality that she couldn't make him adopt any defense stance, not to mention drawing his katana, started to gnaw at the part in Shion that was overheating. As if to pour cold water on those feelings, a truly small impact traveled through Shion's left flank.

There was absolutely no pain. It was an impact at the level of just being touched, but it startled Shion that a kick unleashed by Renya after he took just one step into the space, where Shion was right now in this moment brandishing her sword with thunderous wind-cutting sounds, had hit her side.

"Your attacks are continuing to grow wild."

Shion swung her sword, trying to pursue the place where the distance had shrunken by him stepping in, but once again Renya's body dodged just outside her attack range with the cuffs of his clothes fluttering in the wind.

Even while grinding her teeth in vexation over the fact that he had distanced himself up to such an extent, Shion didn't stop her hands. Probably fired up by her own irritation, Shion kept her attacks, which seemed to have turned into somewhat big swings, as compact as possible, swiftly carried out counterattacks, and desperately maintained a combat distance that didn't allow his bare arms to reach her while still staying in the range of her sword. She was hot on Renya's heels while putting

strength into her limbs, trying to land at least one slash, or make Renya draw his katana.

On the other hand, Renya was astonished in his mind while nonchalantly continuing to dodge without receiving a single of Shion's attacks. Each time her sword swings passed in front of his eyes and ears, they caused his hair to sway due to the wind pressure. The blows, which hit the ground, broke the paving and sent pebbles flying in all directions.

Whenever he tried to fall back or increase the combat distance, Shion resolutely and immediately closed as much of the distance as he had opened up by retreating. Moreover, the abnormal level of stamina, which she had already displayed during the training with Keith's unit, allowed Shion to not relax at her attack speed at all.

The sword in Shion's hand was something he had expressly created for her training session with the katurul. For the sake of increasing her stamina, he had created it with a far heavier weight than any ordinary longsword, but Shion continued to wield it with ease.

'It's regrettable, but aren't her attack motions getting bigger with each and every single attack as time moves on, probably owed to her irritation about her attacks no hitting?

However, once Renya closed the combat distance for an instant, delivered a light attack, and pointed that part out, she amended it at once. The part about her unleashing even faster attacks than before his advice caused Renya to admire this as possible learning speed based on her youth. But then again, there was almost no difference in physical age between Renya and Shion, even if the mental age was a completely different matter.

"Renya~, you need help over there?"

Having his attention distracted for an instant by the sudden voice reaching his ears, Renya evaded Shion's attack while panicking in his mind, albeit outwardly appearing to be calm. He lightly hit the sword's blade that had passed him with his palm, giving it an impact to increase its swing force. As expected, it wasn't anything that would make Shion let go of her sword, but her posture got somewhat disturbed by the increased momentum of the sword.

While using that opportunity to open up a somewhat bigger distance to Shion, he sent a fleeting glance in the direction of the voice's origin, just to see Rona and Emil looking this way through the window of a nearby building with Kilie standing behind them.

Renya felt somewhat upset as he had told them to get away at once, but without even trying to consider Renya's sentiments, Emil further added in a casual tone, "I can tag in for you, if you want? How 'bout it?"

Renya pondered what he should do. It's not like Renya had fully grasped Shion's condition. However, for some reason a power had manifested itself which hadn't happened until now. He believed that Shion had probably gone crazy with that as source.

'In that case, I think the best method is to pour cold water on her head. Or I might have no other choice but to keep her company until her mental state settles down.

Those were Renya's thoughts, but seeing how Emil was a researcher, he believed that she might

understand Shion's current state a lot better than he did. Around the time when he had started to go along with Shion's attacks, Renya expected that she would run out of steam a lot earlier, but unexpectedly Shion continued to stick through this for a long time.

Renya didn't know what kind of power had suddenly manifested within Shion, but it might be the kind that mustn't be used for a prolonged time.

Just when Renya began to consider that entrusting this situation to Emil might be an option, Shion glared with a stabbing gaze at Emil. Due to the intensity of that glare, Emil's face, who had frivolously laughed, froze in an instant.

"Don't get in the way..."

"Shion!!"

Shion's eyes and her sword weren't aimed at Renya. But the mana charged into that sword made Renya recall the time when he previously fought against the human hero.

'There is quite a distance from Shion to the location of Emil and the other two. There would be no way for a sword attack to reach as far, but what if Shion has even learned how to send a sword flash flying like that hero?

When he reached that possibility, Renya shouted while putting as much power and spirit into his voice as he had never done so far ever since coming into this world. The atmosphere trembled, and Shion's movements stopped.

Even though they should have been quite a distance away, Rona pressed her hands against her ears while leaking a small scream, and Emil was about to fall backwards as she bent her head back too far, probably because of her surprise, with Kilie barely managing to support her before it became dangerous.

"Your opponent is me, right? You don't have the leeway to look away."

Once Renya warned Shion slowly in an easy-to-understand manner, Shion's face, which had been mostly filled with something close to murderous intent, suddenly blushed.

"Yeah, you're right, Renya!"

In front of Renya, who felt relieved thinking that it might have been a dangerous situation, Shion readjusted her longsword, and fiercely assaulted Renya again.

'If I hadn't stopped her, Shion might have started to attack Emil.

Renya comprehended Shion's current state to being similar to a dead drunk.

'If her discernment were to work properly, Shion wouldn't turn her sword at her friends because of something of this level as she didn't have the personality for that. However, for some reason Shion's bounds of common sense have become lax, and she seems to take strangely offensive actions for the most trifling reasons. It's something close to it turning into a brawl if you try to meddle with a

drunkard a bit.

Shion's attacks stopped for a moment in front of Renya who was thinking about such things. Renya thought that she might have run out of stamina, but the appearance of Shion readying her sword didn't look at all as if Shion was taking a rest to relax her exhausted arms.

(This is...accumulation of power...?)

Just as Renya thought that, two spheres of compressed air, the pre-stage before <Roar>, appeared on the left and right of Shion's blade. Renya's feet stopped for a moment because of the parallel activation of <Roar> which Leopard, a hero, had always fired as a single shot so far, not to mention Shion herself. That was a bad move, considering it was Renya.

The two released <Roars> didn't target Renya. Even Renya understood as much in the instant the <Roars> burst out with the spheres of compressed air popping.

'Just what are those <Roars> aimed at? There's no need to dodge an attack that won't hit.

Witnessing Shion charge at him while thrusting out her longsword in-between the two <Roars>, Renya knew that he made an error in his assessment. At the same time he felt admiration for Shion's battle sense.

She succeeded in using two parallel instances of <Roar> without any preliminary training, and fired them very precisely with a gap between them that allowed a single person to barely pass through. In addition, the charging power to launch an attack against Renya while the attacks fired by her demonstrated their effect.

If she had been off in her aiming of the <Roars>, it would have allowed Renya to evade. If her charge had been a tiny bit too late, the <Roars> would lose their meaning to cut off Renya's path of retreat.

On the one hand, Renya harbored feelings of commendation towards Shion's techniques and abilities, but now they made him ponder how to deal with those attacks unleashed towards him.

The full power attacks to stop him from escaping could certainly be called magnificent, but Shion hadn't taken Renya's defensive abilities into account with those attacks. In reality, if Renya promptly deployed defense magic without chanting, it would be possible to stop the two <Roars> and Shion's charge before they reached Renya's body.

'However,' Renya considered, 'this isn't a battlefield, but a training session. Moreover, Shion has desperately racked her brain to come up with this attack. As a fellow swordsman, I would wonder what to think of simply crushing her strategy through the difference in ability. Of course, if this were to be a battlefield, I would need to crush it forcibly, but seeing how that's not the case, shouldn't I defend against it while making use of a sophisticated technique?

The spell he used was <Manipulation>. Influencing the air with it, he offset the two swirling <Roars> blocking his path of retreat with two vortices rotating in the other direction. Then he dodged the sword point aimed at his chest by twisting his body to the right side while delivering a kick with his left foot targeting the underside of Shion's hands which held the sword.

However, Shion responded in a surprising way. She pulled back the thrust sword, and straightened it upwards, meeting Renya's kick with the pommel. If her hold on the hilt were to be half-hearted, the sword would slip out of her hands after the pommel was kicked upwards, but there was no way for Shion to go at it with such a weak grip.

Renya's boots and her sword's pommel clashed. Grasping that she succeeded in defending, Shion tried to start the next move, but in Renya's eyes, even the part of his kick being blocked was within his range of prediction.

Now that she had to straighten the sword to fend off the kick, there was no blade preventing Renya from getting close to her from the front. While forcibly stepping in with his left foot that got repelled by the pommel, he followed up with the right foot by pulling it towards himself, approaching Shion so closely that there was almost no distance between them.

At the time when Shion noticed that, Renya had already entered into Shion's bosom. In the instant she was forced to unleash a side sweep in desperation, Shion's visual field turned around and she lost her consciousness for a moment.

Shion herself didn't understand at all what had happened to her. Later on, when Rona told her what she saw from her location, she could finally grasp what was going on.

Once Renya evaded Shion's side sweep attack, he moved behind her. There he tripped Shion's left leg with his left foot, and furthermore grabbed the base of Shion's right leg with his arms as if putting it into a lock while letting himself fall to the back. Using the momentum, they rolled across the ground like a ball until Shion completely fainted.

Hearing about it afterwards, Shion considered herself lucky that she had tightly put on her hakama. After all it would have developed into an outrageous situation if it had been a skirt.

As a matter of fact, even Rona, who gave her the explanation, had a pale face, obviously not wanting to be on the receiving end of that technique by any means possible. If Rona had gone through the same experience in her priestess' garb, it would have been fully rolled up, completely exposing her underwear. She was sure that the embarrassment would be something beyond imagination.

"It was no good...after all, huh?" Shion, who woke up on top of the bed she had been laid to rest, spoke up dejectedly after sitting up, and slumping her shoulders in disappointment.

Exactly because she had believed that she might land at least one attack on Renya, Shion felt devastated by the fact that completely failed at it, but Renya, who had been sitting on a chair next to her bed, said with an amazed voice, "Now listen, I wouldn't be in this position if I allowed attacks to reach me that easily, right?"

"But, just one blow..."

"If you had planned to land a single decent attack against me, you should have at least brought a hero along, don't you think?"

Once she was told this by Renya as grave fact lacking any boasting, Shion smiled bitterly while agreeing with him. However, Shion still couldn't stop thinking about her own failure.

"I wonder whether there's no other choice for me but to completely rely on you, Renya."

Renya clearly shook his head at the complaint that escaped her mouth, "No, I understood from this time. That I should have done this a lot faster."

"Hmm?"

"Shion, you...have a somewhat abnormal potential for growth. I hadn't expected that you'd be able to come this far from just being toyed around by the katurul. I don't know whether you'll be able to reach the level of a hero, but I think there's value in trying to develop you."

Shion's face brightened up after receiving such an evaluation from Renya.

'At the very least, she has the ability allowing her to fight.

While believing that only a few women would be delighted over receiving such an evaluation, Renya continued, "For the time being, I will train you. It depends on you whether it'll lead to anything, but are you willing to try?"

"Of course, Renya."

Renya put on a slightly troubled smile upon her answering immediately. While thinking that it'd be great if he wasn't later told that this wasn't what she had expected, there was something Renya had to tell Shion at present.

Restraining Shion, who looked as if she would jump out of her bed at any time now, with a gesture, he decided to speak up, "Rest your body for now. Since you've abused it this much, your stamina and mana should have diminished quite a bit. It's important to get back in peak condition first. Besides, there's something I must have you do before we get started on the training and so on, Shion."

"What is it?" Shion tilted her head to the side in confusion, obviously having absolutely no clue what this was about.

Renya said, "You will properly take responsibility for the plaza at the ocean you destroyed, and repair it, okay?"

The effect of his words was immediate. Shion's face turned pale in the blink of an eye. The stones necessary to repair the paving would likely add up to quite the weight. Since Shion had also put holes into the ground below the paving, it was easy even for someone with no knowledge in public works to estimate that the work to fix the soil would become quite hard as well. Normally, it wasn't a task a single person would be able to accomplish.

"Well, do your best at it while considering it a part of your training."

While thinking that he probably had to help her anyway, Renya said so before Shion could answer

anything while putting a tiny amount of nastiness into his words, and revealed an evil smile.