

Chapter 3 - I seems Simple Is Best

The news that the demon continent had been isolated by something like a barrier from the rest of the world appeared to have spread to all other continents far faster than Renya had expected, even if it wasn't at lightning speed. The reason why it only appeared to be so was the absolute lack of any attempts in publicizing this piece of information by the other races. Even Renya had only heard that the beastmen and elven higher-ups had apparently learned of this news to some extent through Kaede and Croire.

As for the dragonoids, Renya decided to not take them into consideration for the moment. The dragonoids, who were reconstructing their order after losing the Witenagemot, didn't have any leeway to pay attention to anything besides their own matters right now. They seemed to be in a state where they only barely managed to deal with the monsters streaming into their territory from the Miasma Forest.

With them being in such a dire situation, Renya had considered whether he should send back Albert to the dragonoids' continent as aid, but he received a declination about this from the dragonoids. They didn't tell Renya their reasoning.

Renya believed that it might be some silly reason that wouldn't fill anyone's bellies, like reputation or pride. While lowering his estimation of the dragonoids, Renya increased the amount of food aid in a partly forced manner, thinking that they should accept at least this much. Going by the fact that this was unexpectedly accepted without any problems, Renya got fed up with the dragonoids, labeling them as a pain.

"Not stopping the aid even while being sick of them, that's very like you, Renya."

"It's not like...I want to actually make them starve, and it's not that I can be bothered either."

Returning to the matter with the demon continent; the elves adopted an attitude of sticking to a wait-and-see approach, and the beastmen decided to completely disregard it. These two resembled each other in not acting assertively, but their actual actions were completely different.

The elves reinforced their monitoring of the demon continent, increased their establishment of bases inside the Miasma Forest, and began to augment their military strength. For the sake of providing equipment to the increased number of soldiers, they were carrying out large-scaled hunts over spans of many days to get their hands on monster materials without allowing the fires in their smithies to go out.

Seemingly having wondered what else could be done, there was a notion to go with a recommendation for all acts such as marriages, mating, and child rearing to be carried out under a huge Elven Breeding Plan by the elven emperor in person. Thanks to his attendants who had likely believed that this was going too far, whatever the circumstances might be, it was apparently successfully intercepted, barely stopping it on the verge of being proclaimed. There was no need to even mention that Croire was at her wits' end wondering, 'What's that idiot thinking?'

"A genuine rebellion..."

"I won't stop you, but wait for now. If even the elves fall into chaos, it will become impossible to settle the current issue."

The other one at her wits' end was Kaede, of course because of the beastmen's response. They concluded that it was unnecessary to deal with an opponent that seemed to have secluded themselves in a shell without coming out. Thus they began to focus on the internal struggles between the powers led by the four kings. This much wouldn't be enough to cause any headaches, but saying that this wasn't any time for civil wars as they were still more or less in a war with the demons, even if the opponent might not be attacking at the moment, the women, including Lobelia, took up arms.

The four kings turned pale in response to the uprising of all beastwomen as they believed they mustn't make the women into their enemies. Of all things, the kings, who expected that they might easily get crushed by the women if they were to be dealt with individually, stopped their quarreling temporarily, banded together, and for some incomprehensible reason in Renya's eyes the whole situation developed into an army of men vs. army of women. The army of men became desperate in their attempt to ward off the army of the enraged women as they feared the consequences if they were to lose here. This resulted in a situation where both sides vied for supremacy quite fervently, and it appeared that it would turn into a prolonged war.

Kaede grumbled, "Seriously, just what are those people doing?", but Renya felt like it was his side that actually wanted to know that.

"I will borrow Leopard for a bit, and annex all of it..."

"Stop it, as that will only lead to things getting even worse down the road."

If we were to speak of the human continent's reaction, the majority of the nations stuck to remaining spectators. There were many among them who believed that the threat of the demon continent was the demons and monsters attacking their continent while a demon king was present, and that there was no explicit need to deal with this if the demons and monsters didn't only not come attacking despite a demon king being present, but even remained locked up behind their barrier.

Another reason was that many of the countries were exhausted. Although they just reaped what they had sown, not few of the countries were in such a wretched state that they would fall apart like domino stones if they forcibly tried to replenish their soldiers, which they had lost in the hero battle, as it would negatively affect their industry and farming. They definitely couldn't be bothered taking even the demons into consideration.

The Trident Principality continuously received requests begging for assistance from many countries. The archduchess, who had gone to Klinge, was immediately dragged back to the capital.

Renya and others believed that it would be fine to just ignore those requests altogether, but if they were to actually leave the current situation alone with many countries collapsing, the people fleeing from those places would turn into refugees, and keep pouring into other countries. This would trigger a deterioration of the food situation and similar in the countries swamped by the refugees.

Furthermore, it wasn't unusual for that to invite a worsening of the public order with the people affiliated to the country's army turning into bandits after ruining themselves. Those bandits would

then attack the refugees streaming into the country, or visit the neighboring countries to lay waste there.

Being unable to get rid of the main cause behind all this, it wouldn't end with being the problem of just one country, but instead spread its effect to the surrounding countries, which in lieu would trigger a chain reaction with the influence continuing to spread even further.

The archduchess explained with an extremely tired smile to Renya before being brought back to the capital that it was necessary under any circumstances to provide barely enough aid so that the countries wouldn't collapse in order to avoid things developing like that. As Renya couldn't do anything about it even after being informed, he stopped his thinking at understanding that such circumstances might exist as well.

Somehow Renya felt the strong urge of wanting to ask, "And you guys really had planned to go to war?", but once he considered it well, it was only normal for the paces to differ depending on the conditions of the countries and the circumstances on-site. A situation, where the hero brings the world together to oppose the demon king as one unity like it happens in some heroic tales, was the height of weirdness. He could only think that it was fairly reasonable for the current situation to be as it was, if you considered all that.

"If things proceeded~ as they do in stories~ no one~ would need to suffer~"

"Though I kind of think it's the common people that suffer more than you, Your Highness."

Speaking of heroes, Renya ordered the four heroes, Kurz and Grün who came back, and Albert and Lepard who received treatment due to that, to earnestly hold mock battles against Shion, Rona, Croire, and Frau. As new equipment for Shion, Renya gave her an armor that used the same design as her previous one but was made out of evil dragon hide, and after he got persistently and intently pestered by Shion, a single katana which was tempered with an alloy of mithril and steel.

As katana were weapons from his former world and because he felt it would be somehow misplaced for him to add an inscription to the blade in the language of this world, Renya decided to keep the katana unsigned, but once he tried to appraise it with his appraisal skill, the result was rank 8.

This was the highest rank an artisan living in the transient world could achieve. It was such a rare item that people wanting to buy it any any price would rush Renya's place if the world were to learn of this, but without having a clue of that, Renya swiftly made a scabbard and a belt with the same mechanism as the one he was using himself, and handed all of it over to Shion as a set.

Thanks to the mithril added to the katana, it wasn't a blade that would chip easily, but since it wasn't maintenance-free like Renya's katana, it resulted in Renya first teaching Shion how to properly maintain her new katana.

At first the heroes were reluctant to hold mock battles with Shion and the others. The cocky words of Lepard that it wouldn't be much of a battle was the commonly shared opinion among all heroes, and the surroundings, who had heard about this idea, harbored the same view, too.

However, their way of thinking was easily betrayed after observing the first match.

Shion possessed an abnormal amount of strength on top of the ability to manipulate mana. Because she wore the equipment especially made for her by Renya, her defensive and offensive abilities got boosted, and on top of all, she could even use Lepard's <Roar>.

Thanks to being appointed as saint alongside the steep rise of her art powers, Rona had rapidly increased her repertoire of divine arts by reading all kinds of scriptures related to divine arts which she had ordered from the capital.

With the elves' characteristic abundance in mana as backing, Croire had developed her abilities even further by not shirking her training even after coming to Klinge as an accomplished, excellent sorceress.

And lastly Frau who was rumored that her existence itself might be gradually becoming too nonsensical.

If these four formed a party and fought by cooperating decently, there was no way for them to lose so easily, even with the heroes as opponents.

"Those eight people can't be handled by us anymore." Keith said feebly next to Renya as they observed those eight jumping and rushing around on the wide, flat place prepared outside the city for the mock battle from atop the city wall.

At the end of his line of sight were Frau, who was manipulating countless tentacles which she had created from the ground, and Kurz who intercepted those with countless tentacles created out of black mist. The battle, where their respective tentacles devoured, tore apart, bumped, and smashed each other with their numbers being replenished in proportion to the losses, didn't seem like a fight between a hero and a fairy at all, no matter how you looked at it.

"In case something were to happen, I will ask you to handle it please, Margrave-sama."

"...Somehow I feel like the troublesome matters have increased even further."

Once Rona's mace, which she had swung with her physical strength reinforced through self-strengthening, powerfully hit Lepard's guarded arm, his big frame was pushed back several meters while raising a cloud of dust. Shion's front kick awaiting him there blew Lepard several dozens of meters away in defiance of Lepard guarding against it.

'He's right, taking on something like that will be rather hard for normal soldiers', Renya sighed. 'In short, whenever Shion's group and the heroes were to cause some kind of trouble in Klinge, all of it would be sent my way to deal with.'

"Won't it somehow work out if you face them using around hundred people?"

"It won't. Please do your best, Margrave-sama."

Keith shot Renya down curtly.

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It was decided for Kilie to stay in Klinge. On paper, she had the position of the archduchess' observer of Renya. Renya's protest that Shion and Mayria would be quite capable of that was rejected by the archduchess with the comment that there were no signs of them accomplishing that duty at present as both of them had ended up being tainted with thoughts close to those of Renya.

Renya didn't try asking her about Kilie's true identity. After all it was obvious that she would answer that she was a member of the Trident Principality's Intelligence Unit who had disguised herself as a peddler, even if he attempted to ask her.

From among the two pieces of information she had told him, Renya decided to share the information about the demon continent with all his friends, but he hid the other piece of information deep in his chest.

As far as Renya could see, it appeared that the residents of this world didn't know anything about the existence of a component called resources. Thus he thought that it might be better to have them perceive the collapse of mountains and the retreat of coastlines as nothing but unusual phenomena.

Renya didn't have any confidence that he could fully explain these things even if he tried to. Therefore he assessed that it might be better to not unnecessarily worry his friends with this information.

Instead, Renya somehow managed to grasp Kilie's true identity as she had directly informed him of these pieces of news while anticipating that it might cause quite a big shock if she let others know herself, but in the end he still had no will to check whether he was right.

"So it wasn't possible for things to improve to some extent with me coming here?"

"Hmm? What might you be talking about?"

"..."

"The decrease of resources went faster than anticipated. The reason...we just recently managed to identify the place that might be at fault...is difficult to deal with right away. Still, thanks to you Renya-san, it seems to be a situation where we still have some time until things become irrecoverable. This is what the electromagnetic waves, which I received, tell me."

"You know, that part about the waves is obviously weird if it's supposed to come out of the mouth of a resident of this world, okay?"

"Don't tell me, a leading question!?"

Kilie widened her eyes while pressing a hand on her mouth.

"Well, I don't particularly mind if you continue insisting that you're the peddler Kilie."

"It will be a big help if you could go along with that. It wouldn't be an overly cool story to tell the people that the new supervisor of this world has willingly come down to the lower world as your

guardian angel, Renya-san."

'I guess you don't have any intention to hide it,' Renya thought, but didn't retort audibly. He also pretended to not have heard the inappropriate term of 'guardian angel.' Although he ended up thinking, 'It's no more than a protection lacking any kind of divine favor.'

While at it, he also thought that it was her who had stood at the pillows of the priests all over the country, but he avoided pursuing this any further either.

Even if he were to disclose it to the public, there wouldn't be any gain to anyone, and Renya himself decided to flag it as trivial information. He felt like that little girl goddess would tell him everything, even the parts he didn't need to know, if he asked her directly.

"Though I had thought that it would be a place where I could spend my life more easily."

At the time when Renya grumbled this, there wasn't anyone near him capable of answering.

Spending several days in such a mood, one day that occurred all of a sudden.



Emil Rajah disappeared from Klinge.