



"Remember our lessons...let's go, Cindy, Betty!" (Agnes)

The three begin to fight the small dragon golem with the oldest, Agnes, acting as leader. Going by amount of mana, age, and personality, I believe that it's the most sensible decision for Agnes to be the leader.

"Betty! Cast the 『Magic Barriers』!"

"Sure thing!"

First Agnes entrusts Betty, who's good at using 『Magic Barrier』, with the defense which you can't miss in battles against dragons.

Thanks to the 『Magic Barriers』 deployed with appropriate strength and timing by her, the dragon golem's breath attacks are blocked with ease.

"I guess the timing and intensity of her 『Magic Barriers』 gets a passing mark..."

"Earl Baumeister, that is quite the strict assessment." (Arnest)

"Well, their lives are on the line here. Besides, I'm a sensei."

"With that appearance?"

"Don't say it!"

It's not like I've become a child because I like it.

The battle between Agnes' group and the dragon golem currently seems even with both apparently sounding each other out.

Since it's not a practical lesson, I have to help out in the worst case, but with my offensive abilities right now...

I don't know whether I'll be of much use, but I need to get ready to reinforce them at any time.

"It will not work out like with the bone dragon subjugation you mentioned previously, Earl Baumeister."

"It'll be a joint effort. Agnes' party is holding out well."

In the first place, me being forced to fight such a monster as a 10-years old, and moreover by myself, was abnormal. Agnes' group is handling it quite well considering their lacking experience. If it were other students of my class, Arnest and I might have already been dead by now.

"In other words, being partial is not only bad either." (Arnest)

"Don't call it being partial!"

I'm just keeping an eye on excellent students, okay!?

He sure keeps saying whatever he wants, and yet he's totally useless with his huge amount of mana!

"Anyway, I'll back them up. Remove the 『Magic Barriers』 once I give you the signal."

"Roger." (Arnest)

I take the handmade bow which I used long ago out of my magic bag.

It's rather questionable whether I'll be even able to cause a single scratch on the dragon golem with it, but the objective isn't to cause damage.

I remove the arrowhead of the short arrow used by children, install a reasonably big magic stone instead, and after nocking the arrow, I aim at the dragon golem who's repeating a hit and away offensive against Agnes and the others.

"What do you plan to do with that?"

"It's gonna be a distraction."

Even if the rat and the dragon golem are man-made, it should interfere with their visual perceptions, seeing as they got artificial eyes.

The magic stone at the arrow's end will be used for casting 『Flash』 in front of the dragon golem's eyes.

"Even without you going out of your way to add a magic stone to the arrow, it will work as long as you use your magic, Earl Baumeister."

"It has another aim as well. Arnest, Agnes, Betty, Cindy, close your eyes!"

Upon my signal, Arnest lowers the 『Magic Barrier』 temporarily, Agnes' group strengthens their 『Magic Barriers』, and all of them close their eyes.

Immediately following, my arrow flies all the way to the tip of the dragon golem's nose, and before hitting its head, the installed magic stone casts a light that only dazzles.

Unable to use anything but elementary magic at the moment, there's a limit to my power, even if I use it as dazzler with 『Flash』.

Not to mention that the opponents are artificial. The effect should be fairly limited.

Accordingly, I also make the magic stone at the arrow's tip burn, causing a fierce 『Flash』 to burst forth in front of the dragon golem's eyes.

If they have such an intense flash light up right in front of them, it ought to scorch the lens parts of the golem and rat's eyes.

"A plan to limit their visual perception, huh?"

"Correct."

They'll quickly recover from the dazzling, but if the structure of their artificial eyes has been scorched, their visual input will be limited until it gets repaired.

"Agnes! A part of the rat and dragon's eyes should have been burned. Use the blind spot created by that!"

"Okay!"

I think the battle ought to become a bit more advantageous for Agnes' party's side with this. While I'm thinking this, Agnes' team completely switches to offense. Entrusting the control of the 『Magic Barriers』 and their defense deployment to Betty, Agnes fires a follow-up 『Fireball』 at the dragon golem, and Cindy follows suit with a 『Earth Lance』.

"I guess their firepower is sufficient."

Since they've fired spells, which were concentrated to the limit for the sake of economizing on the mana, their spells should deliver decent damage if they hit. However, this dragon golem is quick. It skilfully dodges the spells of the two.

"I suppose their mobility goes up in proportion to their decreased size...Agnes, don't fire the magic in a straight line! Why do you think I reduced its visual field?"

Even though I went out of my way to scorch their eyes with 『Flash』, spells that are simply shot from the front will be dealt with by the rat and the dragon golem. The other side has its visual perception only impaired partially, it's not like they can't see anything at all.

"Cindy! From the right side!"

"Okay!"

Once I instruct her, the focused 『Flame Arrow』 shot by Cindy draws a big curve, trying to penetrate the golem's wing from the right. However, the dragon golem flicks it away with its tail before it can land.

"Sensei, it was no good."

"It's not like it failed completely."

As I thought, the 『Flash』 seems to have damaged a part of its visual perception. It was late to react against Cindy's spell, and only barely repelled it after getting instructed by the rat. Looking closely, a part of the golem's tail has melted due to the arrow's heat. Even though it would have usually dodged this, it probably had no choice but to repel the arrow with its tail because of its narrowed visual field.

"Agnes, from the left now!"

"Yes!"

Next, Agnes aims a 『Wind Cutter』 at the dragon golem from the left side. Her spell hits the wing, and tears off the wing's tip.

"All of you, did you understand?"

""Yes!""

Due to the series of instructions just now, it's become clear that the golem's visual field on the left side has worsened quite a bit.

Accumulating damage by abusing that fact is the ideal move. Agnes and the other two have comprehended that as well.

"These kinds of products of the Ancient Magic Civilization's era are certainly powerful, but if you damage them once, it's easier to chip away their combat power afterwards. They can't heal themselves with healing magic or potions after all."

There are some that possess a mechanism of automatically repairing themselves in front of your eyes, but you just have to make sure that they can't get away with it.

"Ey!"

Cindy shoots yet another 『Flame Arrow』 from the dragon golem's left side.

This one also hits, leaving a big hole in the golem's left wing behind.

Apparently judging that it'd be bad to allow them to attack any further, the dragon golem launches a counterattack, capitalizing on its small body.

Without clashing against the walls or ceiling of the cave that can't be called spacious by any standards, it spits its breath attacks at Agnes' group while flying around at a super-low altitude.

However, this is also blocked by Betty who focuses on the 『Magic Barriers』.

As if giving tit-for-tat, Agnes fires a focused 『Flame Arrow』 at the golem from the left side.

This one hits as well. The golem probably hated having its wings shot any further. By sacrificing half of its tail, it prevents the loss of its wing.

"The combination of the dragon golem's magnificent artificial intelligence with the rat's artificial intelligence is splendid."

"On whose side are you!?"

Even though he'd die if we actually lost...this is the reason why he's called scholar.

"It is dusty."

"So you say, but what's the point in whining about it, seeing as it can't be helped anyway..."

Arnest complains while brushing away the big amount of dust, which has been whirled up due to the dragon golem's high-speed maneuvers.

As if he's got anything to complain about dust when he's usually doing excavations anyway.

He's a guy where I don't quite get whether he's whimsical because he's a demon, or whether he's moody because he's a scholar.

"Uh-oh."

Just as I think so, he swiftly deploys his 『Magic Barrier』, blocking a stray breath shot that had been aimed at Agnes' group.

"I am useful." (Arnest)

"No doubt."

As expected, Agnes' group has their hands full, dealing with their own circumstances right now.

"It won't hit!"

"Agnes, we'll corner it in the cave with two spells!"

"Oki, let's match our timings!"

Still, although they seem to come up with their own plans, the golem easily dodges their two spells even after being cornered in a corner of the cave, and adds a return attack on top of it.

"Agnes-chan! Cindy-chan! Hurry!"

Betty, who's deploying her 『Magic Barriers』 while dealing with the golem's attacks, starts to get flustered as her mana relentlessly keeps dwindling away.

"Even though she just needs to replenish her mana with spare magic gems."

"She cannot handle that much." (Arnest)

Betty must timely deploy her 『Magic Barriers』.

Because she can't take her eyes off the situation for even a second, she can't grasp a good timing to replenish her mana with the magic gems she possesses as a side effect of her lacking combat experience.

Since it's a common mistake among beginners, it's not really all that unusual.

Burkhart-san previously said that magicians end up dead because of that, although only rarely.

"Arnest, we're heading out."

"As support for the young ladies?"

"Yes, right."

If Agnes' group loses to the dragon golem, I, who have become a childish elementary magician, and Arnest, who can't damage the golem with his magic, are going to die.

I think it'll take a bad end if we don't lend them a hand at this point.

"Betty, excuse us for a bit."

"Sensei?"

Arnest and I aim for a moment when Betty hasn't deployed a barrier, and call out to her from behind.

"Since Arnest is going to cast 『Magic Barriers』 as needed as your replacement, take out a magic gem while you can, and recover your mana with it."

"Got it. Sorry, I got panicked worrying what would happen if I was late on using my 『Magic Barriers』 because I had taken my eyes off to check my magic bag..."

It'd be something else if it was only about her, but it'd also concern the lives of Agnes and Cindy. It's understandable that Betty, who lacks combat experience, has lost her nerves.

"Since you will have enough time to gradually learn those things, it's fine for you to concentrate on what you can do right now. That's why I'm here as your sensei."

"Thank you, sensei."

"Just so you know, it is actually me who is deploying the 『Magic Barriers』. With Earl Baumeister's current 『Magic Barrier』..."

"Shut it, we know without you spelling it out."

This demon really sucks at reading the mood.  
At such times you should just cast your 『Magic Barriers』 and keep your trap shut!

"I missed again!"

"Uug—gh, I'm not hitting it..."

If it comes to the amount of mana, the two are still capable of fighting without any problems, but as they're unfamiliar with actual combat, they've lost their composure.  
At this rate, they'll gradually run out of mana, and lose.

"Arnest, we're heading out even further to the front."

"Good grief, you sure are working your personnel hard."

"I don't mind if you want to die?"

If he says that demons don't die, I'm definitely going to leave him behind.

"I know, I know, I was just joking."

Betty is already fine after having replenished her mana.  
Next I'll calm down Agnes and Cindy, who're fighting in front of her, and give them a chance to replenish their mana.  
Taking back control here for a moment should raise our chance of winning.

"Agnes, Cindy, you okay?"

"Yes."

"I'm fine."

"Replenish your mana while you can. Take a deep breath and calm down."

While I have Arnest block the golem's attacks, I tell the two to settle down for a bit. At such times, things get worse the more you panic.

"Sensei, I have recovered my mana."

"Sensei, me too."

It looks like both have settled down.

"On the other hand, it is terrible for me!" (Arnest)

"Endure your role as a shield!"

After all he got more mana than me. Seeing how he can't attack, I have Arnest devote his efforts towards serving as a shield for everyone's survival.

"Agnes, Cindy, do you have an idea about that dragon golem's weakpoint?"

"Does it have something like a weakpoint?"

"Real combat is about fighting while discovering that."

You won't know whether an enemy really has any weakpoints unless you actually challenge them to a fight.

However, I'd like Agnes' group to realize that keeping to think about it while fighting, and flexibly changing the tactics at times is also very important.

"I'm sorry. You did your best to create a blind spot, and yet..."

The previous 『Flash』, eh?

The reason why Agnes has apologized to me is probably because their spells gradually stopped hitting from the left side as time passed on.

However, I had expected as much.

"That's inevitable. The battle situation has already advanced, and the opponents adopted countermeasures against it."