

Going back a bit in time.

After the swordsman called Karen hinted that Emil would get attacked by the third person summoned by the demons, Renya immediately withdrew, returning to the campsite where Frau was still maintaining the barrier. As Frau was frozen on the spot in surprise due to Renya's overly quick return, Renya cut open the barrier with one slash of his katana as he felt even ordering Frau to cancel the barrier would waste too much time. Seeing that none of the others had woken up so far despite him having told Frau to rouse them, Renya deeply inhaled while sheathing his sword, and loudly shouted without holding back at all.

"Rise!"

Most people often forgot because of her abilities, but Frau wasn't an expert in battle to begin with, and thus her decisions in that area tended to be naive. She had very likely believed that things would be alright since Renya had headed out himself, and thus considered it to be over the top to wake up everyone. There was certainly still some time left until dawn, and thus it wasn't as though Renya didn't feel bad about forcing up everyone early, but hardening his heart here, he yelled at full volume.

In response to his voice which was loud enough to make the atmosphere tremble after ripping through it, Dra-kun jumped up, causing Frau to tumble down from his back, Shion, and Croire rolled out of their tent while still wrapped up in their bamboo mats, and Rona peeked her face out of her tent in underwear while sleepily rubbing her eyes. Lastly, Az and Liaris - both nude for some reason - rushed out of their tent in panic, but Renya ignored all of that, and started to briskly hurl orders at everyone who stared at him quizzically.

"Wrap up the camp! Rona, resume the search for Emil after putting on some clothes. Emil might be in danger. Dra-kun, get read for take-off." Spoken up to this point, Renya cast his eyes down, squeezing out the continuation with obvious difficulty, "Liaris, hurry up and get ready to ride Dra-kun...Az, assist her. I mean, you two, I don't really care, but how about covering yourselves a bit..."

Even Renya's cheeks took on a faintly scarlet tinge towards the end of his remark.

With Rona fully waking up, the usual sharp glint returned to her eyes. However, contrary to Renya's expectation that she'd get back into her tent to change clothes, she pulled her clothes out of her tent, and began to change on the spot.

On the other hand, Az and Liaris apparently realized how they had left their tent after having it pointed out by Renya. Az's face turned bright red while Liaris screamed - both fumbling back inside their tent. With a sigh Renya began to unfasten the ropes binding Croire and Shion, who were squirming around like caterpillars while still being wrapped up in bamboo mats, as Frau started to disassemble the camp.

"Damn, you guys are such a pain..."

"Hey, wait a sec!?! Renya, you put us into this state, didn't you!?"

"It's your own fault for doing stuff that required me to tie you up." Renya curtly shot Shion down.

While waiting for her turn to have the rope removed, Croire asked, "Just what the hell happened?"

"I'll explain the situation while we're all searching for her."

Later Renya concisely explained that he had been attacked by two Losts who had been summoned by the demons, that there was apparently a third Lost, and that this third Lost had gone to Emil's place to launch an attack on her.

"Emil is a strong demon, but with a Lost as an opponent, it's possible that she'll be easily defeated."

Losts were beings not adhering to the logic of this world. Not to mention that the three Losts this time were deliberately summoned, and obviously provided with enough power to confront Renya. If one of them had been sent towards Emil, it wouldn't be weird for them to possess some ability that worked very well against Emil.

Having listened to everything up to this point, Shion, Rona, and Croire sped up. Once they fixed their clothing in a flash and packed their things, they handed their luggage to Renya. Then they quickly climbed Dra-kun's back while Renya put their stuff away in his inventory. As they ended up doing all this in a big hurry, it resulted in Liaris and Az being the ones trailing behind, but after Frau helped them where needed, she pushed the two up on Dra-kun's back with almost no delay.

"Liaris, instruct Dra-kun to open a path to me."

"O-Okay!"

Although for just an instant, Dra-kun acted hesitant towards Liaris' order. He apparently harbored the prejudice that it wouldn't result in anything decent, going by his experience so far, but with Liaris asking him politely and Renya glaring at him, all his resistance vanished quickly.

A dragon's wings bore almost no meaning when it came to flight. The wings attached to their bodies were way too small to gain enough lift for their huge frames to stay airborne. Thus some researchers were confused as to why dragons possessed them in the first place, but they had no choice but to accept it as a fact since the wings were attached to the dragons' back.

But, if one were to ask how dragons were actually flying, the answer would be them applying propulsive and floating power to their bodies by using their mana. It was said that dragons unconsciously did something similar to casting the spell <Flight> as it was called by regular magicians. In other words, dragons consumed mana to fly, and mana was something that would run out sooner or later.

Now then, if you connected Renya, who might as well be called an inexhaustible supply of mana, to a dragon, with him pouring mana on end into the dragon, what kind of result would it bring about?

Shion and the others could fully experience the outcome with their bodies, whether they liked it or not.

"Noooooooooooooooo!?"

The scream continued while the origin remained unclear. Renya admired that loud screaming for being powerful enough to not be drowned out by the thundering howling of the wind close to his

ears, but the other members didn't even have the leeway to pay any attention to it.

Just in case Dra-kun had deployed something similar to a force field to protect his passengers from the wind pressure and to make sure that they wouldn't be blown off, but the very strong wind pierced through that force field, hitting the faces of the passengers, albeit barely remaining at a level that wouldn't drive them off Dra-kun's back. The only one calmly sitting cross-legged within that wind was Renya. Frau was sitting still in Renya's lap with an indifferent expression. Croire and the others tightly held onto Dra-kun's back scales, investing all their effort into resisting the wind pressure.

Speaking of Dra-kun: he kept flying at full speed in the direction designated by Renya with a face full of resignation while having mana poured into him. To put it bluntly, even Dra-kun felt the dire urge to scream. His scales hurt from being pulled all the time, but since this was still a rather small pain, he could bear it. The problem was the speed that was high enough to almost pull him in. After all, he had never experienced such a high flying speed during his life. One of the reasons leading to this was his lack of mana that didn't actually allow him to fly so fast, but the biggest reason was the complete lack of reasons to fly at such a speed in the first place.

And yet, despite having such circumstances, the one flying here was still Dra-kun, so anyone would think that he'd just need to ease up on the speed a bit. However, you could describe that as an unreasonable demand from Dra-kun's standpoint. After all, the amount of mana he was continuously provided with was too huge. If Dra-kun tried to suppress the mana consumption a bit by clamping down on the speed, the mana would easily exceed Dra-kun's mana capacity, and Dra-kun himself would very likely go berserk due to mana excess.

For the sake of avoiding this fate, Dra-kun strengthened his body with mana, deployed a force field on his back, and flew onwards at a ridiculous speed. He had no choice but to use up all the mana poured into him. Such draconic circumstances were often incomprehensible to people, and as a matter of fact Liaris had been telepathically begging rather than ordering Dra-kun to significantly lower his speed. If he could, Dra-kun would have gladly granted her request, but if he did, it'd expose his own life to danger instead.

As a result, Dra-kun had no choice but to keep flying at a forcibly heightened speed, unrelated to what he himself wished.

"Rona, are we heading in the right direction!?" Renya's tense voice drowned out the loud wind howling.

Seemingly having judged that her current posture would be the best to endure the wind pressure, Rona had placed both knees, both hands, and her forehead on Dra-kun's back while clinging to his scales. After a little while, she nodded in silence. Even just lifting her face and looking in Renya's direction put apparently a huge strain on her.

"Master, at this rate it's going to turn into a chicken race to see whether we arrive at the destination, whether Dra-kun reaches his limit, or whether us passengers reach our limit first ~no."

Renya's reply to Frau's implicit plea to do something about this, brought up with a flat voice, was merciless.



"It'll do as long as they don't die."

"Their mind is going to break ~no..."

"I told you, it'll be fine as long as they don't die, but...still, being forced to fly under such wind pressure is worrisome. Frau, you're going to be okay since you're sitting on my lap. Shion is...well, she should manage one way or another. Rona is probably going to be okay with that body of hers, but Croire might be in trouble."

Renya didn't even worry about Liaris or Az from the very start. Not because he was heartless or anything like that, but because he believed that no dragon would throw off its rider. If Az, who was right next to the rider, fell off, Renya judged that Liaris would notice it right away.

"Shion-ane-sama does have her physical strength...Rona-ane-sama can rely on her own weight, right? In that case, your worrying about Croire-ane-sama is...because she's slender and light ~nano?" Frau said something outrageously evil with her eyes still vacant.

It was a line that would usually earn her an immediate, physical retort, but as the three people named by her were frantically clinging to Dra-kun's back, they didn't have any leeway to lash out at Frau.

"But master, it'll be okay ~nano. Croire-ane-sama is slender and light, but accordingly she can defend herself from the wind pressure by perfectly pressing herself down on Dra-kun's back ~no. Since she's completely flat, she should stick well to his back ~no."

"Listen...you do understand that things will become quite harsh on you later for you, right?"

Renya thought it'd definitely count as a lie if she said that she didn't consider that possibility at all, but he knew there were as many things that shouldn't be voiced out as there were stars in the sky. Renya classified the nasty comment unleashed by Frau as the worst among them, but with her having apparently reached her mental limit thanks to Dra-kun's speed, her self-restraint didn't work as well as usual.

"Croire-ane-sama might also have no issue with laying on Dra-kun's back face-up ~no! After all she got no place where the wind could catch on ~no! She's as flat as a washboard ~nano!"

"Frau...I'll remember this once we get back down on the surface...!" Croire spat out something like a curse with such a deep voice that it sounded as if it grumbled all the way up from the bottom of hell.

Renya watched how her nails, which appeared to be engulfed by some kind of dark aura, stabbed into Dra-kun's scales. The sight of draconic scales, which couldn't be even scratched by the sword of a second-rate swordsman, being punctured by the slender fingers of an elf was very likely something that had never been observed since the very dawn of this world. But then again, Renya put it off as a trivial matter which merely meant that Croire's hold onto Dra-kun would be more secure than clinging to him normally.

For the time being, Renya held the head of Frau, who acted weirdly as if being completely delirious, between his hands, and irresponsibly shook it as if mixing a drink with a shaker.

