

A single city was gliding through the air while slowly lowering its altitude, continuing to sink into the hastily finished trench etched into the ground after being torn apart by wriggling tentacles.

The thickly overgrown leaves that covered the city like a dome had been going up in flames all over the tree, and if one strained their eyes, they would be able to spot a figure restlessly running around, trying to extinguish the fires.

Frau, who was still standing atop Dra-kun's head, observed that scenery while they circled in the sky above the city. Once she estimated that things would work out one way or another, she directed her eyes to above. Ten-odd evil dragons were flying up there in formation with a conspicuously huge evil dragon in the lead.

Every once in a while, flame breaths poured down, hitting the tree, and thus causing new patches of fire to blaze up on the leaf canopy.

"They're completely dominating the upper sky ~no. That's bad news ~no."

It wasn't as though Frau understood the concept of a dog fight, but when it came to high and low positions during battle, she could at least tell which of both brought more of an advantage.

In case someone at a lower position was about to attack someone in a higher position, they had no choice but to always shoot their attacks upwards. However, this made it much more difficult to make an attack reach when compared to shooting downwards, on top of making targeting complicated.

But, if Frau and Dra-kun were to try raising their altitude, Dra-kun's speed would naturally plummet, turning him into the ideal target for attacks from above.

"Dra-kun, full speed ahead ~no!"

Either way, it was necessary for them to gain speed in order to not be easily targeted by the enemy. Following Frau's instruction, Dra-kun began to fly levelly while using the highest flight speed he could muster.

And as if having waited for that, the evil dragons started to attack him with breath attacks.

"They sure do as they please ~no."

The breath attacks piercing through the skies kept missing while only grazing Dra-kun's body within the quickly passing scenery, but below Dra-kun and Frau was the city, which Renya steered, and the path created by the tentacles for the city to pass through.

The missing attacks directly hit those, scorching a part of the tentacles and causing new seats of fire on the tree.

Frau grimaced atop of Dra-kun's head, "Not knowing is something frightening ~nano."

The attacks that impacted on the city couldn't be helped. The goal of the evil dragons, who had very likely been ordered by the demon king to attack them, was to not allow Renya's party to enter the

human realm. However, it was bad news for a part of the attacks to hit the katurul's tentacles.

The consciousness Frau could feel from the katurul at present only regarded the attacks as somewhat uncomfortable, but it'd be terrible if the katurul clearly recognized this as an attack and started to take actions against it. After all, the huge mass Renya was currently flying was barely staying afloat as it flew through the path created by the tentacles. If the tentacles forming the path started to move, the evil dragons would likely be annihilated in the blink of an eye, but it was clear that Renya and the others would also be dragged into the conflict between tentacles and evil dragons as collateral.

From the start, the city was somehow held together by the roots of plants. If that mass were to be grazed by a tentacle attack, it'd be in danger to completely break apart.

"Even if it's slightly dangerous, we must counterattack at once ~no."

It was necessary to rise in altitude for that sake.

Of course Frau was no dreamer believing that she'd be able to deliver a decisive counterblow against ten-odd evil dragons with just Dra-kun while being in a disadvantageous position. Leaving aside hand-to-hand combat, Frau didn't think that her own combat abilities would readily work against dragons either.

If someone else, who knew Frau, would have heard her current thoughts, they'd very likely ask just what that girl was saying, but Frau wasn't one to be full of conceit. Her approach was to be on the safe side in this precarious situation that didn't allow for failure by being too careful when it came to an unfamiliar air battle.

"Dra-kun, lift your head ~no!" Frau hurled an order at Dra-kun, after sensing an attack that would block Dra-kun's flight path.

Once he lifted his head as told, his flight route began to loop, and even though it cost them speed, Dra-kun began to gain altitude while looping.

"Take good aim! It's not just one opponent!" A black figure clamored on the back of an evil dragon.

It was Sazane who followed Renya's party after borrowing an evil dragon unit from the demon king. Currently she was sitting on the biggest dragon, and tightly clenching down on the reins so as to not fall off. Meanwhile she gave orders to demons with hollow eyes, who were riding the other dragons, in a shrill voice.

"Fire away! We're going to shoot down that eyesore of a dragon, and while at it, we'll also destroy the city!"

In accordance with Sazane's order, the demons steered their dragons, causing several streams of fire to be shot at Dra-kun who was still in the middle of ascension. However, after pulling off a loop at the very last minute by shifting to an inverted flight, Dra-kun immediately demonstrated a barrel roll, before moving to a level flight and evading the evil dragons' attacks by increasing his speed again.



魔王から邪竜の部隊を借り受け、  
蓮弥達の追撃に走ったサザネが声を上げる。

「なんなのよ、あの機動は！」

蓮弥がその光景を見ていれば、

もしかしたらフラウが見せたドラ君の機動について、  
こう口にしたかもしれない。

クインメルマンターシと――

二度目の人生を  
異世界で14

"What the hell are those maneuvers!?"

If Renya had seen that spectacle, he might have been able to name Dra-kun's maneuvers. However, Sazane didn't know how those maneuvers were called.

This air maneuvers with the name Immelmann-Turn, had originally been invented to pursue an enemy plane that had flown past oneself, but Frau had chosen it as a means to gain altitude while at the same time evading the enemy attacks from within Renya's knowledge that was linked with her.

After switching to a level flight and speeding up again, Dra-kun performed another U-Turn in vertical direction, bringing him up to almost the same altitude as the evil dragons through a second Immelmann-Turn.

"Why aren't they even grazing them!?" Sazane screamed hysterically, but there was no one around to give her an answer.

The evil dragons were cooperating with Sazane upon the demon king's order, but the demons riding them were like dolls who were manipulated by Sazane's ability.

"Lay out a barrage! We're dealing with just one bloody target here, goddammit!!"

As soon as Sazane shouted this order while violently hitting her dragon's back, the breaths of the evil dragons assailed Dra-kun in response.

"Aren't you looking down here way too much on our Dra-kun ~no!?"

While Frau shouted on his head, Dra-kun slipped through the breath attacks with his fairly huge frame with magnificent evasive maneuvers by weaving his way through the openings between the fire breaths. Opening his muzzle widely so as to return fire, a strong, crimson gleam became visible inside his mouth.

"Fire ~no!"

The breath, which had been boosted by Frau's mana on top of Dra-kun's own fire power, directly hit a somewhat small evil dragon that failed to dodge. The demon on its back used defense magic at the moment he understood that they wouldn't be able to evade, but Dra-kun's breath pierced through the defense originally owned by the dragon alongside the demon's defensive barrier. The massive heat caused the air and water inside the dragon's body to swell, resulting in an instantaneous explosion.

It went without saying that this spelled the end of the evil dragon's life. Likewise the demon on its back helplessly turned into a lump of charcoal before crumbling apart.

"What the fuck's that...!?" Sazane muttered in terror while following the fragments of what used to be an evil dragon dropping towards the ground with her eyes.

The shape and power of breaths between the evil dragons and Dra-kun were worlds apart. The breaths spat by the evil dragons were, figuratively spoken, similar to flamethrowers with a very long range, but Dra-kun's breath resembled a bright red laser beam.

It was impossible for Sazane to know the reason behind this. It stemmed from Dra-kun's breath being drastically leveled up in fire power thanks to the addition of Frau's mana, but Sazane misunderstood this phenomenon as difference in specs between the dragons.

"A high-ranking dragon!? Then I might be outgunned with these guys here...still, I can't simply retreat without achieving anything either...I mean I've to take my own position into consideration as well..."

Sazane was pondering what she should do next, but such brooding was no more than a loss of time that could very well be called fatal in live combat.

As soon as a crimson light glowed up in Dra-kun's muzzle once more, another evil dragon was hit by a red ray of light. As that dragon couldn't stage any worthwhile resistance either, it followed the same fate of exploding and going up in a shower of charcoal and meat fragments as its dead brethren. Moreover, Dra-kun caught another evil dragon with the claws of his hind legs, dragging its body along as he flew past the evil dragon formation.

The demon on its back was thrown off, unable to keep up with the sudden shaking, and fell towards the ground. The caught dragon tried to free itself from the claws by twisting its body, but Dra-kun suddenly began to circle while preventing the evil dragon's escape with all his might, all the while not dropping his speed in the slightest.

After swinging the evil dragon around to his heart's content by making use of the centrifugal force, he released the captured body. The released dragon was being hurled around, apparently having lost its bearing as its eyes were unfocused. While randomly rotating at the moment of its release, it was blown far away and eventually crashed onto the ground, raising a huge cloud of dust.

Seeing how it was thrown down from such an altitude, even a dragon would be helpless, no matter how sturdy its body might be, increasing the losses on Sazane's side to three.

Even as all of this took place, the city continued to dive into the trench created by the tentacles, and albeit slowly, it steadily proceeded towards leaving the demon realm.

At this point, Sazane thought, 'now that we've lost around 20% of the evil dragons in almost no time, it's unclear whether we'll be able to win by fighting with all dragons at the same time, even if we directly take on the dragon, so the enemy will definitely manage to get away.'



'Considering further down the road, I've borrowed forces that could normally be called almost invincible from the demon king, and if I don't manage to get any achievements in the battle against Jade's people, who are escaping, and Renya's party, who's helping them, it's very likely for me to be the next one to be exposed to danger.

It was unthinkable that the demon king would hold Sazane in high esteem after she had displayed such a show of incompetency. For the sake of avoiding such an evaluation, she knew that she had to achieve something valuable enough to be described as merit for the time when she'd go back to the demon king.

Having considered things up to this point, Sazane gathered her thoughts, and started to pass instructions.

"Restrain that dragon's movements with four evil dragons! No need to bring it down! Focus on evasion and disturbance! The rest of you are going to attack the city together with me!"

'No matter whether it's a high-ranking dragon or simply formidable, it's still just one opponent. It'd be pointless to focus too much on it and let Jade and his people get away because of that,' Sazane judged.

The demon king had ordered her to make sure to kill Jade and the others within the demon territory. As long as she could accomplish that order, Sazane believed that she'd have an excuse for the demon king, even if she couldn't hold a candle to the high-ranking dragon.

"What a pain ~no!"

Sazane's plan was immediately passed on to Frau through the movements of the evil dragons. Having said that, anyone would likely perceive the objective, if the still more than ten evil dragons split up into two teams with the bigger part getting ready to descend whereas a small number circled around Dra-kun.

For Frau it was crucial to lower the number of evil dragons, but her highest priority was the defense of the city. She wasn't amused at all when she saw the evil dragons gathering up to attack the city. However, in order to do something about the dragons that were about to attack the city, she had to first get rid of the evil dragons surrounding Dra-kun and her. Otherwise, they'd likely suffer a serious blow from behind when forcing a pursuit.

Frau chewed on her lips, frustrated about lacking options. The only combat force she had at hand were Dra-kun and her. The enemy could adopt many more strategies.

"Get-out-of-the-way ~no!!"

A crimson flash surged out of Dra-kun's muzzle, but this time the evil dragons focused on evasion, and since they maintained a good distance, Dra-kun's breath fruitlessly tore through empty space. Frau tensely ground her teeth out of vexation, but because they had to take evasive maneuvers to avoid the counterattacks by the dragons around them, they were in no position to chase after the detached force.

"At this rate, the city will end up destroyed ~no."

The tree's protection was strong, but not strong enough to endure repeated dragon breaths. With the number of dragons which had begun their descent, it'd be just a matter of time until the breath attacks would break through the tree protection, reaching the city itself. Once that happened, the tree would burn down, and it'd become tough to keep the object together with the roots. The city's foundation would very likely crumble apart due to the collapse of the buildings and the tree.

Frau also considered to become unreasonable by forcing a huge amount of mana into Dra-kun. However, Dra-kun's true owner was Liaris, meaning Frau had merely borrowed Dra-kun from her right now.

'Making the mount try the unreasonable without the acknowledgment by its master might contradict courtesy too much,' Frau assessed, hindering her from putting it into practice. She asked herself what she should do.

Seemingly having guessed her distress as she was on his head, Dra-kun roared once.

"...Can I leave it to you, Dra-kun ~no?" Frau checked back, seemingly having felt something from that roar.

In response, Dra-kun howled loudly. His noise spread such a strong shock wave that it made the atmosphere tremble while causing the evil dragons to stop on the spot. Frau stood upright on his head as if having made up her mind about something.

"Dra-kun, I will entrust this place to you for a while ~no!"

The instant she said so, Frau jumped off Dra-kun's head. Naturally Frau's body immediately was afflicted by gravity, entering a free fall. The evil dragons, who tried to chase after her, were restrained by Dra-kun.

'If the enemy tries to deal with us by splitting up in two groups, we just need to do the same.

It was an extremely simple conclusion, but for Dra-kun it meant an increase in risk as his combat power had fallen in proportion to having lost Frau who had been adding her mana to his attacks. And yet, he had howled as if telling her to leave it to him.

In such a case, Frau had only one path she had to take here. While entrusting the four enemy dragons to Dra-kun, Frau would get rid of the remaining evil dragons who had headed off to attack the city.

"Our side has no leeway either ~no! So I will start with the climax right away ~nano!"

She wasn't eager about starting an air battle she wasn't used to. But, now that she had been cornered into a situation where she had to do it, she had no other option left besides giving it her best shot.

While freely falling according to the desires of gravity, Frau released her own powers as she zeroed in with her eyes on the evil dragons which were in the middle of shifting towards an offensive stance against the city.