

Chapter 4 - It seems to be the Fairy's Battle

"Just what's that pipsqueak doing!?"

Szana also watched Frau jumping off Dra-kun from her evil dragon. The first thought hitting Sazane due to the tiny girl freely falling towards the ground with her apron dress fluttering, was something completely inappropriate: 'What the hell is she thinking by willingly attempting to kill herself?

However, that thought only occupied her mind for an instant. Sazane immediately remembered that the tiny girl, which had been introduced to her as silky in the information she was given in advance, possessed tremendous powers, contrary to her appearance. Accordingly, she hurled order at the demons under her control.

"Shoot that girl down!"

The evil dragons, which had gotten ready to attack the city, lifted their heads after being instructed by the demons on their backs, and fixed their aim on the falling Frau. As she didn't possess wings unlike dragons, Frau was simply falling down in a straight line. In the eyes of the evil dragons, it was trifling to target her even if her small size made it a bit harder than usual.

Frau's body with its childish appearance looked tiny and frail, causing the evil dragons to believe that she'd turn into ash in no time if she got hit by just a single dragon breath.

But, the order passed on to the dragons was to hit the girl with focused firepower. Although they felt quite reluctant to do so, the demons on their backs were subordinates of His Majesty the Demon King whom the evil dragons couldn't defy. As they were unable to act contrary to his intent, the evil dragons opened their jaws just as ordered, and filled their mouths with power.

"Fire!"

At the same time as Sazane screamed out that order, the evil dragons released their breaths at Frau. Frau, who would be unable to evade as she was simply falling while more than ten flame pillars approached her, sent a fraction of her power against the dragon breaths without a hint of panic.

"Eat this!"

The space behind Frau split open. Countless black arms crawled out of what could only be described as a dark tear. The arms, which clawed their fingers at empty air while slowly swaying back and forth as if searching for something, overflowed from the tear like a flood at the same time as Frau pointed her finger.

"What are those things!?" Sazane screamed.

At the end of her line of sight, the evil dragons' breaths and the flood of arms spawning from behind Frau crashed into each other. Several arms were burned to cinders by the fire breaths and vanished as if melting into the atmosphere, but in front of the sheer amount of arms, the breaths lost their momentum, and vanished as if being washed away.

Sazane was on the verge of instinctively falling into a stupor due to the overly abnormal spectacle of a mass of darkness raining down from the sky, but quickly realized that she was in no situation to act like a retard.

Even though there existed exceptions, most dragon breaths were only fired in straight lines. And, as might be natural, the destination of the darkness that drowned out the breaths were the dragons who had spat them out in the first place. Or in short, the location of Sazane and her men.

"All hands, evade!"

After ordering her own dragon to dodge first, Sazane ordered the other demons to do the same. Fortunately for Sazane's group, the speed of Frau's black arms wasn't overly fast, seemingly making it possible for the dragons to dodge with ease by using their flight speed. And as a matter of fact, Sazane's dragon quickly evaded the approaching arms despite Sazane's decision having been quite late.

However, unfortunately for them, one dragon couldn't escape the flood of arms, and got caught by the cluster of darkness alongside the demon riding on its back. The evil dragon screamed at that moment. An evil dragon was a being ranking quite high in this world, and it was said that normal life-forms had to resolve themselves for death if they met one. But such a being screamed, pleading for help.

The demon on its back was under the influence of Sazane's power, and thus didn't show any reactions allowing to label him as being alive, but that might have been extremely fortunate for that demon.

Having escaped out of the arms' range for the time being, Sazane looked back over her shoulder, and reflexively blocked her mouth with a hand as she felt like puking after witnessing the fate of the evil dragon caught by the black arms.

Its huge body was caught by countless arms, and cornered into a state of being completely immobile. But only that would have still been fine. Small, thin arms grew out of the arms holding onto the evil dragon, and began to strip off its scales. As soon they tore them off, the arms penetrated into the dragon's body through the exposed, fleshy parts. Using their tiny, slender fingers, the arms began to tightly grasp, rip out, gouge, and steal anything and everything, be it flesh or bones.

All of this looked like the work ants would perform on the corpse of a small animal, but the evil dragon was still breathing. The darkness deliberately encroached its body very slowly so as to not kill the dragon. It was a scene that would make the blood of any spectator run cold.

"The heck are these abominations...?"

But there was no one around who would answer Sazane's trembling voice.

Eventually body fluids started to ooze out the dragon's body as the arms continued to strip and tear it, but even those fluids were scooped up, and carried away inside the darkness firmly holding onto the dragon. The demon, who had a far smaller body than the dragon, had been swallowed by the darkness in the blink of an eye, and wasn't visible anymore.

Sazane's face became ghastly pale from the scene her mind couldn't process with its common sense, but the fact that she had managed to dodge the arms allowed her to retain some composure. However, even that remaining calmness was completely robbed from her in the next instant.

"They're chasing after us!?"

The darkness, which had poured down after having lost its target thanks to them evading, seemed as if it'd continue falling towards Jade's city. However, just one successful evasion didn't mean that the darkness was done with the pursuit.

The cluster of black arms, which looked as though it'd simply follow the pull of the gravitation, suddenly changed its direction after having fallen for a bit, and started to chase after the other evil dragons.

If Sazane would have chosen to withdraw from here at this point in time, their fate might have taken another turn. But, the word 'retreat' didn't exist in Sazane's mind as she believed that any more blunders would be unforgivable during a pursuit to cover up the previous mistake of having allowed Jade and his people to get away without even being able to attack Jade's city with her huge army.

The course Sazane picked was to dodge and counterattack. It was based on the fact that the swarm of arms had suffered a certain amount of damage by the initial dragon breaths targeting Frau. The demons under the control of Sazane's ability didn't have any alternative, and each of them started to eagerly counterattack with breath attacks while evading the chasing flood of arms, just as ordered.

The black arms were torn off and sent flying in succession by the dragon breaths that ripped through the air, but several times the number of torn arms launched counterattacks, swooping down on the evil dragons.

Once caught, the dragons had no means to escape. Even if they squirmed while mustering all the strength hidden in their huge bodies, the swarm of arms easily immobilized the dragons' bodies, and the tiny arms finely dissected the bodies in defiance to their toughness.

"Where did that fairy go!?"

Just when five evil dragons had fallen prey to the arms, including the one that was done in at the beginning, Sazane started to search Frau within the swarm of arms, believing that they'd be finished off one-sidedly at this rate. Around that time, the black arms, which appeared to endlessly spill out of the tear that had manifested behind Frau, filled most of the space around the evil dragons, cornering them into a situation where they soon wouldn't be able to dodge any longer.

They flew around to escape from the arms while concentrating their attacks to burn open an escape route, but it seemed as though it was just a matter of time before they'd become unable to do that as well.

"Look for the fairy! She was the origin, so as long as we kill her..." Sazane snarled while grinding her teeth in vexation.

"You're too late in noticing that ~no."

Once Sazane looked in the direction from where she heard the answer, she spotted Frau hovering in the air with the hem of her apron dress flapping in the wind. At first Sazane believed that Frau was using some kind of magic art to fly, but as soon as she strained her eyes, she noticed black arms tightly holding onto Frau's shoulders. It looked as if Frau was moving through the space buried by arms while being supported by arms.

"Although it's the standard tactic to take the high ground in an air battle, I think I made a little mistake there ~no."

Frau chose this means of attacking for the sake of taking an advantageous position by being above the dragons, but then noticed all of a sudden that the after-effects of her own attacks would likely affect the city beneath the dragons as she'd shoot downwards at the dragons from a higher ground. Frau became perplexed, thinking that it'd be better to attack from below then, but she couldn't do anything about it now.

What she devised as a last resort was the swarm of black arms.

"Fu fu fu...it is fine for you to tremble in fear when faced with this power ~no! No need to worry! After being carefully dissected and processed, these children will devour you with delight ~no!"

Watching Frau gently caressing the black arms squirming around close to her, Sazane glared at her with half-open eyes while experiencing pangs of dread.

"Hey... do you understand that this is anything but a line you'd hear from a fairy!?"

"You may become nourishment for me ~no! Lost from another world ~nano!"

"Just as I thought, you guys are the villains here!" Sazane shouted loudly while thrusting out a finger at Frau. "Most recently there have been many Light Novels with the demon kings actually not being evil, so I was half in doubt when I heard the explanation! But now I'm convinced! That you're a being that must be defeated!"

"Seriously responding to a joke is pretty uncool ~no."

"Shut up, scoundrel! I shall punish you here and now in place of His Majesty the Demon King who's full of grief over the state of this world!"

"...I don't know what you were told, but you're slightly pitiful ~nano."

Pity was literally visible in the eyes of Frau as she looked at Sazane.

"Probably you're just a Lost-san who ended up believing the convenient lies of their side ~nano."

"Shut up! If you think that the blessings I received are limited to Temptation, you couldn't be more wrong!"

A red light lit up at the tip of Sazane's finger.

Frau's body was quickly pulled away from Sazane by the arms holding her shoulders as Frau had immediately realized the identity of that light. And as if to protect Frau, a swarm of arms blocked the path between Frau and Sazane.

"Eat this! <Flame Lance>!"

A fire lance, which possessed a brilliance and thickness so strong that it easily surpassed the evil dragons' breaths, pierced through the swarm of arms protecting Frau. The <Flame Lance> cast by Sazane quickly penetrated the arms whereas the dragons' breath could merely scrape off the surface of the swarm. The swarm itself scattered after exploding.

"Stay away from me! <Roaring Lightning>!"

The arms, which had tried to sneak up from behind and the sides to grab Sazane, were completely gouged out by mighty pillars of lightning striking down from the sky, and vanished.

Frau lightly clicked her tongue after seeing that.

"You aren't even a hero, and yet you're such a pain ~no."

"We've been granted power for the sake of creating a truly peaceful world!" Sazane cockily declared after getting up on the dragon and pressing her hands against her hip even while believing that it might be a waste of time.

"Don't you think that it's weird for the demon king to talk about a peaceful world or something like that ~no!? Incidentally, in just what peaceful world would anyone choose to slaughter their own people ~nano? Are you an idiot ~nano?"

"His Majesty said so! This world is already corrupted and cannot be saved with normal methods anymore! That's why we will destroy everything once, and then gather all power under His Majesty! We will create a new world with His Majesty's power! He declared this to be the sole way to build a truly peaceful world!"

"...Uwaah, and you believe that ~no...? Even Frau would be disgusted by this ~nano." Frau's face cramped up as she became flabbergasted, if Renya were present here, he might have been unable to laugh off Sazane's attitude.

It was quite difficult to immediately identify a lie in a situation where someone, who had no knowledge about the circumstance whatsoever, was fed reasonable information with confidence alongside nice-sounding words. Much more so if they were approached by the liar under the pretext of them being their only ally in a different world where the person had no relatives. The number of people capable of refusing such flattery was probably quite limited.

But, for Frau, who didn't know of any such circumstances, the rather old woman in a gothloli costume acting arrogant in front of her merely looked like a simple retard, wearing ugly clothes while acting and speaking like a moron.

"Now then, it's time for you to become a part of the foundation for the peaceful world His Majesty is going to create!"

With Sazane shouting this in front of her while a red light was amassing on her fingertip once more, Frau glanced upwards. The swarm of arms had filled most of the area, but she could spot Dra-kun fighting the evil dragons in the sky above every so often through the gaps between the arms.

Dra-kun had an overwhelming disadvantage when it came to numbers, but by capitalizing on his training and the live battle experience he had cultivated so far, he somehow kept weathering through the enemy attacks with the battle situation being something between both parties being equal and Dra-kun being slightly at disadvantage.

Once she shifted her eyes downwards, the city was slowly but reliably passing through the trench split open by the katurul's tentacles.

Frau judged that neither side would fall into a dangerous situation even if she left them alone for a while.

"There is only one master in this world to whom I offer this body ~nano."

The black arms separated from Frau's shoulders. In exchange, a swarm of arms gathered underneath her to create a foothold. After landing on them with a thump, Frau looked down at Sazane, who was situated somewhat lower than her, and folded her arms in front of her chest.

"There's not a single thing I'd give to the likes of the demon king ~no! You're free to tuck your tail between your legs and scurry back from where you came from ~no!"

"What nonsense you prattle, villain!"

Once again a flame lance is fired from Sazane's finger.

Without devoting itself to defense this time, the swarm of arms around Frau intercepted the approaching lance. A person who received powerful skills as blessing from some kind of being as Lost, and a fairy who grew by staying next to a Lost for a long time and receiving his influence, albeit being a product of this world; when these two clashed in the skies above the city, an impact that seemed to shake the atmosphere and ground resounded, becoming the starting signal for the battle between Lost and fairy.

