



Renya's worry, or rather, impatience was passed on Frau through their shared path while she was in the middle of combat. Once she cast a fleeting glance at the flight direction of the city far below her, Frau also realized that she was running out of time as the barrier was definitely close at hand.

However, even if she comprehended as much, it didn't mean that her enemy would obediently let herself get defeated.

"I've finally understood your weak point." Sazane shouted with a complacent smile from atop her evil dragon. "The range of your attack is wide and it possesses quite a lot of firepower, but its downside is that it doesn't work when faced with maneuverability!"

"You sure run your mouth like a know-it-all ~no."

Using the black mass pouring out of the tear she had created as a foothold, Frau quietly ground her teeth in vexation while glaring at the evil dragon as it flew around.

Actually it wasn't as though Frau's power didn't work against maneuverability. But, since Frau had concluded that a power she could manipulate precisely wouldn't be overly effective against evil dragons and that it wouldn't be able to bring down Sazane who was unleashing spells with tremendous force, she had fallen back on broadly relying on a power that possessed a certain extent of range. And yet, that attack hadn't hit Sazane and her dragon even once so far as it got shredded and burned to smithereens in front of Sazane's spells.

Frau had attempted to go with a saturation attack based on the idea of cutting off all escape routes by filling the airspace with the black mass, but Sazane had cut through that mass with her spells before it managed to completely blanket the whole area.

"Chantless and a spell ability enhancement...just these two are already a pain to deal with ~no."

The manifold black arms chasing after the evil dragons were scorched by Sazane's lightning attacks and dispersed. Each time she set off the black mass with magic arts, a small, prickling pain assailed Frau. This pain only spurred Frau's irritation even further.

Power that could be used on a wide range was evaded, and power that got narrowed down for precision got offset. And on top of that, Sazane used the time between both attacks for launching attacks at Frau.

"Eat this! <Flame Lance>!"

Frau negated the roaring spear of burning mana by letting the black mass clash against it. Once more parts of the black mass were entirely erased, resulting in a pain running through Frau's head. Moreover, this time the atmosphere, which got heated up by the fire lance, fanned Frau's displeasure by blowing against her unhindered.

"I'm far from done! Eat this and this and this!"

Sazane began to try making her attacks somehow reach Frau by showering her with several dozen shots all at once, once she realized that one shot wouldn't get through Frau's defense.

The thick, black mass warded off all of those attacks before they could get to Frau, but since the mass got chipped away each time it erased an enemy attack, Frau's irritation was continuously growing worse.

On the other hand, it wasn't as if Sazane suffered any damage from having her spells negated. Furthermore, as befitting for a Lost, the amount of her mana had apparently been adjusted, and thus she didn't show even the slightest signs of running out of it despite chantlessly firing quite powerful spells like a barrage.

"Haha! You're only defending, aren't you!? At this rate, I'll work my way through your defense and burn you to death!"

"...You're starting to piss me off ~no."

A frustration that she couldn't attack as she wanted to, and an irritation that was getting unilaterally fanned. In addition, the slight feeling of impatience she could sense from Renya was also added to the mix, resulting in something deep black starting to churn within Frau's chest.

In a fit of anger, she forced the black mass to make a slightly big move, but Sazane easily dodged it thanks to the mobility of her dragon. The countless flame lances fired at Frau in return scraped the black something off once again.

"Come one, go, go! What's wrong? You're quite the slowpoke, aren't you!?"

Sazane had her dragon circle in front of Frau so as to provoke her, but once Frau moved a part of the black mass to capture the dragon, Sazane skilfully steered her dragon to nimbly evade.

A barrage of spells rained down on the black mass as it cut through empty air. The black cluster, which got whittled down, gouged out and tattered, eventually faded away as if slowly melting into the atmosphere.

"Look! Here I come again!"

Once more countless flame lances headed for Frau. Frau was capable of evading those herself, but because she had unskillfully spread the black mass over a wide range, stray shots would always hit the mass, no matter how much Frau dodged the spells.

"I see, so that black, nasty power is directly connected to you." Sazane realized that fact from Frau's face which revealed how she was enduring the tingling pain.

Once she comprehended this, Sazane saw no further need to aim at Frau in particular. After all, everything covering the vicinity was a part of Frau.

"It's going to hurt a bit, okay?"

"Kuuhh..."

Sazane didn't give Frau the time to draw back the domain of her black power which she had spread out too far. At the same time as Sazane invested a huge amount of mana into a spell formula she had assembled on the spot, Frau guessed the true identity of that spell, looked up, and yelled, "Dra-kun! Evade ~no!"

Dra-kun should be still flying without any obstructions above the black power expanded by Frau. Going by Frau's analysis, Sazane's spell was a combination of multiple instances of <Roaring Lightning>. Moreover, it wasn't kept at the scale of a light interception like until now, but used a power at the level of the one Renya had unleashed out of rage in a certain royal palace a while ago. From the very start, the option of dodging it didn't exist for Frau.

If Frau were to dodge the spell through some kind of means, the spell, having lost its target, would directly impact on Jade's city below her. Therefore she couldn't allow for the black mass to be penetrated, and thus had no choice but to grit her teeth and weather through it.

"Let me hear you scream nicely!"

A thunderous explosion that was quite capable of rupturing one's eardrums, and a light so dazzling that it pierced through the eyelids despite them being clamped down. Many pillars of lightning poured down towards the ground out of empty space, about to connect heaven and earth with their radiance. But as they ran into the black mass on their way, they got scattered in all directions.

The black mass continued to diminish at a scale incomparable from before. Moreover, because the black mass was directly connected with Frau, the power of the spell hitting the mass was transmitted to her. The pain assailing Frau in response was something she had never felt before.

"Kuuuaaaaaaaaaahh!?"

With her bending backwards while screaming, not only pain, but also electric shocks tormented Frau. The backlash caused by the spell directly damaged Frau's body. Her flesh and skin was torn, and blood gushed out all over her body, but that blood turned into black smoke because of the heat triggered by the electric discharge crawling across her body, and evaporated. Her apron dress started to get scorched at various places with white smoke billowing. Her hair also got burned, beginning to stink.

Nevertheless, Frau couldn't afford to run away from there. If she stopped taking the attack, this much force would rush down on the city controlled by Frau's master. If that happened, the city might get totally destroyed.

This very thought let Frau devotedly focus on defense, enduring the pain assailing her whole body. Yet Sazane broadly grinned at her.

"You see, I've still got an evil dragon with me."

"Guuh...kuuhh..."

The evil dragon serving as Sazane's mount opened its muzzle towards Frau who couldn't move because of the damage to her body and her being continuously hit by the spell. Due to the flickering

flames fleetingly visible deep inside the muzzle with its array of sharp fangs, Frau groaned through the gaps of her gritted teeth.

"A breath...at this point..."

"Just lightning would be lonesome, don't you think? Accept it gratefully since it's going to nicely warm you up!"

"What a nasty personality you have...hag ~nano."

Blue veins surfaced on Sazane's forehead when she saw Frau laughing crookedly as she insulted her while bearing the pain. Apparently really pissed off, Sazane snarled orders at her dragon in such a rage that foam was sent flying from her mouth.

"Reduce that brat to ashes!"

When Sazane pointed a trembling finger - most likely quivering because of her over-boarding anger - at Frau, the evil dragon spat out the fire breath after amassing plenty of power. The line of fire, which assaulted Frau by tearing through the sky, was somewhat inferior to Sazane's <Flame Lance>, but it still possessed plenty of force.

In response, Frau extended her palms towards that fire ray, seemingly trying to block it even while being tortured by the still ongoing lightning spell, and mumbled something under her breath. And then Frau got swallowed by the dragon's breath without anything happening.

Watching Frau's small body disappearing within the raging torrent of fire, Sazane laughed out loudly.

"Hahahaha! Serves you right! I killed you! Just as I thought, you people have to be obliterated!"

Back when Sazane joined the demon king's side, she obtained magic art skills and parallel spell formula activation as blessings. Sazane had poured an amount of mana close to the limit she could use at once into the <Roaring Lightning> spell. In the midst of Frau being damaged by that spell, the full power breath of the evil dragon attacked her from the side. No matter how much out of any norm the opponent might be, Sazane couldn't imagine at all that Frau would come out unscathed when faced with this two-staged attack.

And as a matter of fact, Frau was nowhere to be seen after the breath passed the spot she ought to be. Despite being a fairy, the opponent was still no more than a small girl. Sazane was sure that she must have burned down completely without even leaving any ash behind.

"Now then, I got rid of that annoying fairy. Next is that...harem bastard called Renya or whatever."

If Renya himself had heard this, he'd deny it with all his might. While applying a nickname to Renya which might have caused him to worry that it could actually be true, Sazane looked downwards at the city flying at a low altitude, or rather, sinking into the ground.

The parts that had been initially hit by the evil dragons' breath attacks had their fires already extinguished. There existed holes at many places of the overgrowing trees, but it didn't appear to

have had any effect on the city's flight itself. Sazane considered several fatal spells to be used against the city which continued to fly, albeit slowly.

"At its current altitude, it might not cause much of a damage, even if I were to break it to pieces. Still, well, as long as I can stop it from moving any further, His Majesty will probably come up with the next step."

'It might be a good idea to go with another shot of <Roaring Lightning>,' Sazane assessed. 'If it's the spell which slaughtered that fairy, it should pierce through any potential defense measure the city has in place, and destroy it altogether.'

Having come to that conclusion, Sazane prepared her magic art, but then suddenly looked above her, frowning. The black mass, which had been summoned by Frau, was still lurking up there as if hanging like a shroud over Sazane.

Probably because its manipulator, Frau, was gone, it had become very quiet as if its previous, vigorous movements had been a lie, and it loosely hung over Sazane like a jellyfish umbrella that had lost all its strength.

"It's a nuisance. It might pose no threat anymore, but maybe it's going to negatively affect my spell's power."

Beginning to think that it might be smart to make it disperse with <Flame Lance> or something else, Sazane looked up once more, as if suddenly having noticed something. The black mass was still there, maintaining a shape similar to an umbrella.

When Frau had manipulated it, the mass, which had more or less blocked the <Roaring Lightning> unleashed by Sazane, was originally something supposedly linked to Frau. Now that Frau, the source of its power, had been vanquished, it wouldn't be odd for it to have vanished as well. And yet the black mass still existed while keeping a clearly defined shape.

"This is..."

'Something bad is going on.'

As if stirred by that thought, Sazane suspended the <Roaring Lightning> she had been preparing, and tried to switch to another magic art. But, at that moment, the black something, which was hovering like a thunder cloud, began to emit low, heavy sounds, similar to distant thundering, and a flash of light from within just like you'd actually expect a thunder cloud to act.

"That fairy...don't tell me!?"

The instant Sazane instinctively directed her eyes to the city below her after having noticed something, the entirety of the black mass floating in the sky turned into bright red fire and burst alongside a loud explosion. Of course, Renya and the others could hear the explosion below as well.

"Hold onto something! It's going to shake!" Renya called out to Rona in panic due to the crimson explosion of fire covering the entire sky.

At the same time, he devoted his thoughts to flying the city, trying to restrain the effect of the heat blast that would arrive anytime soon so that it wouldn't cause an impediment to the flight.

However, there was absolutely no sign of the blast that ought to have arrived by now. Realizing that no shaking, even not at the level of ripples, affected the city, Renya quizzically looked up to the sky.

"Pheew...that was a close one ~no."

Frau's voice suddenly came from beneath Renya. Rona, who was clinging to Renya's shoulder for some reason, and Renya watched Frau coming out unhurt from Renya's shadow as if crawling out of a hole. While unable to process what had happened just now, Renya and Rona looked at each other with their faces almost touching.

