**THE EVERLASTING VOLUME 3**

**Grand Tournament**

**Chapter 1 : Spars and a rude red-head.**

‘Well she started improving that I can say for sure right now…but she is still lacking.’

It was a nice sunny day .A good breeze of air whiffed from time to time making the weather ever more pleasant.

If only I didn’t look like I was bullying a pretty girl that was gasping for air in front of me I think I would call this a perfect day.

What lead to this you might say…well it goes like this.

Back when I was on the transportation ship which by the way was magnanimous the size of it was ridiculous its different compartments would take days to describe …well in all its glory the ship was magnificent and capable of carrying the entire student board of the school while still retaining its majestic appearance…

Well I was in one of those compartment near a clinic that was built inside the air ship…yep there was a clinic…even a restaurant…one can only imagine how big it was…

So after Osfor was done talking to me and relaying the various informations regarding what happened after I passed out…this angelic being entered the room while Osfor comically exited.

She was as always, beyond beautiful…her perfect proportions nothing too big nothing too small a perfect hourglass shaped body with white hair reaching her waist. A stern look was atop her face when she said in a tone akin to be a whisper than a direct speech.

“Can I speak with you?”

I hastily said “Sure” before she could change her mind as I too was bewitched and wanting to converse with this person.

She looked back checking if Osfor-sensei really did leave then turned back facing me with the same sharp look on top of her face.

“I would like to spend some time with you…”

“Huh?” what? What? Is this chick saying…spend time with me…is she…no there seems to be a mistake here.

She fidgeted with a look of embarrassment on her face while her cheeks blushed red for a second then corrected herself.

“I-I mean…would you please spend time with me for training purposes…I was told that you managed to break through the third floor and even took down the yeti that I was unable to beat…I even saw your fight that time with the invaders at our school…I was helpless in front of one of them whilst you managed to beat him so please” She bowed slightly with her hair covering her face and added “would you please spare some time with me for sparring when we reach the school grounds…”

Now this is embarrassing, the girl wanted a sparring partner while my head on the other hand was in the gutter. Coughing a bit to shake off my embarrassment I said.

“Surly but I cannot see how sparring with me would prove beneficial to you even if as you say I was able to beat the floors of the dungeon that doesn’t qualify me to be a proper sparring partner, shouldn’t you ask a teacher?”

She waited for a moment opening her mouth then closing it hesitant on what to say next…then after a brief delay she said.

“W-well you see…the tournament is coming up soon and I need a partner not for magical fights but if my adversary is a warrior like you I would like to know how to handle myself in front of such opponents…there are not many teachers who can wield weapons on Albion so finding an adequate person to help with my training is difficult…until you showed up that is.”

She has a point…I have seen no teachers or classes teaching anything besides magic in this school…I know it is a magic school, but shouldn’t they at least have a small branch teaching swordsmanship?

“I see…well I need to consult first with Osfor sensei I also need to organize my time so that our sparring sessions will not be hindered by the time we need to attend classes.”

As I finished my sentence the girl’s eyes lit up and with pursed lips she smiled…a toothless smile but it can surly melt anyone’s heart.

“Thank you…Asura-san” She said. Bowing once more then left…

I was left starring at the ceiling for a moment…still awestruck by what happened…if I remember…her name was Yuna.

And now here I am…in the middle of the coliseum of the school dodging and counterattacking that same girl’s attacks.

She was Bold… strong and at times reckless. Most of her movement were elegant but still a bit exaggerated. Too many unnecessary actions…although here magical prowess were almost peerless to anyone I have seen in this school…except for Shiki I think he can hold his own. Her mana pool that was apparently dozens upon dozens of times larger than my natural mana pool seemed like an endless sea.

If it wasn’t for her incomplete combustion that she told me that she could use 97% of here spell while 3% rebounded back causing magic poisoning, think she would make a terrifying mage.

I have been sparring with her each morning for the last 10 days. This however dragged some random audience that wanted to see how the fights go on.

She dropped down from exhaustion…mostly magic poisoning. As she was never able to fully burn trough here mana in a fight with me because the poisoning always prohibited here from continuing.

I started giving some advice.

“Okay…what can I say…I think right now you are perfectly capable of handling that same yeti. You obviously took the advice of Sraam-sensei and applied it. It’s a good thing that you can use different attributes well not exactly to the same extent of the ice element nor your other dominant element wind and water but still it’s amazing. Although…well you have a lot of openings…I know you are trying and I know this is not your full strength but you always take time between attacks and seem to hesitate every time you try using a large scale spell. More so you use too many useless movements trying to dodge a simple attack. Sidestepping my last blow would have been better than jumping backwards. At that position I could have used a follow-up attack and took you out with a single trust before you could even land.”

The girl dusted herself up standing then nodded

Bowing slightly she said “Hm. Thank you for your time…Asura-san”

I am starting to feel embarrassed by the look of this girl bowing to me frequently.

“Don’t mention it, whenever you feel ready just come ask for a sparring session I’ll never decline a challenge.”

Feeling good about myself I walked away from the arena.

The coliseum was not empty it had a number students that were watching our spare they too wanted to know how would the ice beauty fare against the devastating juggernaut this time…as one of the spectator stated earlier…quite a fun nickname the juggernaut, I think I became fond of it.

Appearing in front of me was the ever smiling face of Shiki. He seemed rather relaxed considering he was almost beaten to death by the teacher who he stole her bra.

“What’s up buddy? Won’t you spar with me too? Common I would like to see how I can manage myself in front of you.” He said that with a bit of cracking and electricity spewing around his body.

…troublesome.

“Alright then let’s go.”

In an instant Shiki appeared on one side of the arena…he seems to be enjoying showing off especially when a lot of the audience was cheering once he was inside the arena. Mostly girls…what a showoff.

I said

“So would you like me to use my blade arts or magic or both?”

He said sarcastically.

“Well, well, well. If it isn’t little Asura trying to pity me hah.”

“So what is it gonna be?”

He said

“Well, use everything you got I want to see how I can beat you with you full power. I know you were able to beat that mage but I tell you this time you won’t be lucky as I am fully prepared and will take you down instantly… speaking of magic didn’t you just start learning it…you couldn’t possibly be able to use high level spells so that bluff of yours will not work heheh so Let’s go.”

A judge was at the side of the ring staring at both of us probably bored from the small chat. He said

“The rules are the following. The use of A class offensive spells and above is forbidden as for non damaging high tierd spells there is no restriction. the person who’s hit points reaches 0 first is the loser of the match the player who leaves the perimeter of the square stone platform is considered to have lost the game as well. Fight well…FIGHT START”

I had a wristwatch like thinning that I was given to by Osfor it supposedly calculates my current MU and SU. As Magical units and spiritual units. It had multiple functions and one of them this hit point system

It gives points that translates the current health state of a person in a normal situation when the hit points reaches 0 the person dies but under the dome and barrier of the school when the hit points reaches that threshold the person loses consciousness as the pain is only translated to the brain and not actually dealt to the body.

In a second as I watched Shiki who started to charge himself with electricity I believe I witnessed this before it the same as the time with the twins. He used this attack to accelerate the response of his body so he could move at inhuman speeds.

Not giving him time to fully finish his spell I used Shunpo appearing right in front of him while using earth shattering blow right in the middle of his chest.

And that was it. I think his hit points reached 0 long before his body could hit the wall of the arena.

A cheap shot…well I don’t think that an opponent will wait for you to finish your spell will they now.

Shrugging at the instant defeat of Shiki I walked away from the ring…and I remember myself almost pissing myself the first time I saw the guys at school use magic. Laughing at the current development I headed away from the arena under the loud screams and cheers of the audience.

“Now it’s my turn.” Said a rude person who I begun to despise…it was Nassi he seems to have been accompanied with Shiki and decided to tap in. I wanted to decline but what can I say...It’s my motto never back away from a challenge.

Releasing a long sigh I turned back and walked back at the arena again under the loud cheer of the small audience I crushed yet again another challenger.

Man…if all mages are like this I have no idea how they always won the tournament…it only takes a warrior with high enough speed a single hit to break them. Mages are strong but if they can’t use their powers when they are needed then what is their use.

Walking away from the arena I noticed another line of challengers forming…give me a brake will you…

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The day ended with me having a 22 consecutive win against different opponents…Shiki on the other hand joint the line three more times. He actually was the only one to be able to dodge my initial Shunpo+earth chattering blow. While he did dodge it he couldn’t come up with a follow up as I just shrugged his useless attempt and reused the same combo but this time appearing behind him.

Nassi refused to join the line even after he was asked by Shiki…repeatedly.

Kaori who came to the Coliseum a bit late starred in wonder at what was happening and she too decided to join…she tried to erect a barrier of water to counter my frontal assault but it just shattered once I coated my right hand with ice magic making the water she created brake like glass. I hesitated a bit as I have never hited a girl before. but before I could say anything she gave up. She said that she only wanted to test the strength of her water magic against my attack and if that failed there was no need to keep fighting.

Then he came…probably he heard the commotion one of the called five monsters came and joined the line.

He respectfully stood in line at the last position. But once the students saw him they all cleared way.

Making him approach the stage and entering the arena.

This guy…he looked simple. Not too buffed nor too slim just average…with average looks and average height he even wore average looking glasses and had an average haircut. He had a small book on his right hand which he was keeping close to his chest and his left eye was fixing his thick average looking glasses.

“Hello there Asura-san. It seems that you are enjoying yourself. So may I join in on the fun?”

…why say that when you already are inside the ring…

“Well if you say so…”

The judge who seemed a bit more serious this time called upon the start of the fight.

The second the words Fight Start left his mouth my hyperecognition skill activated. With time slowing down I noticed that the average looking dude used a spell that was fast…so fast that I could only use Shunpo to dodge his initial attack as he pointed his index at me and few wind bolts were sent toward the location I should have been in a few milliseconds ago.

Not leaving the chance he gave me, an opening was created once he noticed that I already dodged his attack and a startled expression appeared on his face.

I used Shunpo and closed the distance between us. Trying to use the earth shattering blow I noticed a smirk on his face. The blow hit ’nothing’… no I was sure I struck at him but his body just dissolved.

This is a cloning technique?

No. he appeared to have blinked to another location as my eye copied his spell. The thing I stuck at was his after image…so this guy is able to use a similar version of Shunpo but it relied on magic instead of muscle and spiritual energy. He uses magic to ‘push’ his body from place to place. Not very fun as the use of mana is ridiculous… almost 1200 Mu per use.

I can use Shunpo for a far less cost and for a much better results.

His ability was not as fast. As it needed a quarter of a second to activate which in my opinion is quit long. This is why he blinked a far distance away probably for him to have enough time to reuse the spell.

Once I used my Shunpo appearing right at his side he teleported about 30 meters away from me. knowing that he will do that I chased after him again. The speed at which I was catching up to him, was increasing. As every time he blinked he would find me right where he would appear. Closing in on him each time a panicked look started to show on him…I taught carefully this time he probably is baiting me around as to prepare some sort of trap as he didn’t use any spell except for this blinking from the beginning of this high speed chase.

Stopping at the middle of the arena. I turned my face around looking for anything inconvenient. And I was right. There were feint traces of mana that I was able to see thanks to my right eye lingering in the air…these were not here before. He must have been ‘feeding’ his spell mana when we were playing tag.

Looking at him I understood that he knew I was on to him, he then smirked and snapped his finger making spear sized bolts of air appear in the sky. Hundreds upon hundreds of arrows just materialized and even more so did after them…when did he ever have time to cast such a spell…I didn’t even see a Mahojin…this is less than an A class tier spell…amazing.

The spears were aiming at me. I walked a step to the side noticing that the tip of every spear in sight slightly moved to my new position. They were all held in the air…waiting for a chance to pounce at their prey…I am being hunted…I laughed at the taught.

With another snap and a muffled “Go” from the guy in front, the spears gradually started descending row after row of spears landed at the location I was standing on I dodged and moved running using Shunpo and even rolling over away from the never ending stream of spears being thrown at me…this was fun.

The guy didn’t seem to be suffering from fatigue even after using a spell this scale. he is yet to break a sweat.

I took a chance.

The next time I used Shunpo I appeared in front of him. Aiming with my right hand a bluffing blow that forced him to use his blink in order to dodge my attack. Not letting this chance go I kept on chasing him even if I was chased by his stream of spears. Every spear on contact made a deep penetrating hole on the platform of the arena. This would take a considerable amount of HP if I take a few of them head on so I have to dodge. I forced the guy to a corner he can’t blink away from there as if he tried to appear behind me he will be greeted with his own volley of attacks. Stuck between the external borders of the ring and the incoming me, he had no choice but to brace himself. In a last attempt he summoned a Mahojin that created a thick wind wall in front of him, he probably taught that if the wall was able to slow me down even for a second the arrows will hit my back before I could land another hit. He couldn’t be more mistaken.

Charging my earth shattering blow and in an attempt to blast him away with his own spell and right before the contact.

A strong and loud feminine voice was heard. “Both of you stop right there.”

It belonged to a beautiful looking girl. With long red hair akin to orange which I never seen before. Her eyes were hazel with sharp green in them a small nose and some cute looking freckles on its side. She had a height of 175cm. She is a third year because the tie on her neck was red in color.

She was accompanied by two other girls almost the same height as her and a freakily big looking guy.

The girls were also on the beautiful side…I don’t remember noticing any plane (ugly) looking girls in this school…weird.

The girls were following a few steps behind the girl that spoke they too had the same tie color even the big guy. All of them were third years. One of the girls was wearing a wizard hat on her head…it looked really cute as she was …petit in size I can’t believe someone with the body of a 12-13 year old to be a senior…

The other one had a detached expression on her face as if she was not interested in the least cool beauty type of presence. As for the guy…he was simply big… more than 2meters tall with tanned skin and a serious face…the type of guys you would try to avoid bumping into while walking down a street.

At that moment the average looking guy stopped fueling his barrier with mana and canceled the spears that were still numbering hundreds even after the insane amount that was already launched at me.

I also stopped my fists. I could have won this if they didn’t intervene…I will have to ask for explanations.

The judge seemingly annoyed with the intervention asked the girl.

“Vessma-sama even with your authority as the student council president you cannot stop a duel without proper procedure…this fight has yet to end.”

She looked at the judge in a serious manner then sighed.

“…I know sir but I needed to stop this farce as you know we don’t want to be seen as bullying the freshmen so I needed to stop this before the boy gets hurt.”

Hoo…me? Get hurt? Hah now that’s a good joke…I was wining this for god sake.

I said, in apparent annoyance facing the girl.

“Hey you…on what basis you presumed that I was being bullied. As you can clearly see I was in perfect control of the match since the beginning and even right now I have this guy backed to the wall…or edge”

She squinted here eyebrows raised her chin and pointed haughtily with her finger and with a harsh tone she said.

“How dare you talk back to me like that…why would an insignificant person like you even be allowed to attend Albion…Just because your master had stupid luck and ended up being one of the great seven do you think that a school for mages will accept a half brain barbarian and a no name like you. I will make sure that you are expelled for this…now kneel before me and apologies so that I may reconsidered myself.”

The hell…isn’t this an over exaggerated introduction hammering me with insults and even insulting my master’s strength…who the fuck is this girl.

I saw the look on the entourage that was surrounding her…the girl with the wizard hat hung her head down while the other girl face palmed adding to her detached expression a look of disdain.

The big guy however…didn’t move nor changed his expression.

I on the other hand was still processing what was going on then I turned toward her and looked directly at her…she really was pretty but that doesn’t give right for anyone to insult others or demanding them to kneel for god know what stupid reason that she taught of…

I tilted my head a bit and lifted a brow then blinked twice and said.

“What gives you right to ask that of me? To kneel for you? That is ridiculous I bow to no one only my master. And you dared insult him in my presence…I would have let this go if you were only speaking to me but to dare smear the name of my master while I am present is something I will not tolerate .”I used the pressure skill from the control pillar making heat waves reverberate through the space. Everyone that was affected flinched and walked back a few steps except the five persons in front of me with Shiki Nassi and Kaori exempted from its effect.

“You dare threaten me…heir of the noble house of the molten lands…you will know your end today insignificant one.”

How in the name of the all mighty did this person was able to become the student council president…

She clenched her fists and an even stronger heat wave was emitted from her body the shock was apparent on all students present as they taught that a war was going to break through.

Not fazed by her approach I fully changed my focus on her…today I am ready to hit a girl.

Then a hand grabbed my shoulder. It was the average looking guy he calmly said.

“I am sorry for this Asura-san it seems that our match will have to be postponed to a later date. And you Vessma-san that was a very rude way to address someone even if they are not a part of a noble house or a clan you need to calm yourself…”

She answered back with a tone filled with contempt.

“Zeles-sama this person is not one to be given respect he is but a commoner with no backing the likes of him are to be trampled by us of noble linage…pitiful existence I should not have wasted my time with this brute. Let’s go we have work to be done I was looking for you and finding you playing with this person made me lose my temper…”

…what the hell…every word from this girl’s mouth is making me angrier…I would have grabbed my sword and gave her a piece of my mind if it was not for the rules of the school that forbad me from drawing it…

The guy named Zeles turned to face me then whispered to me.

“Again I am sorry for the behavior of Vessma-san. She is usually not like this but I believe that she couldn’t accept the fact that the school has accepted a warrior within its ranks even if this is a school for mages. The ability you have is exceptional while you can use martial arts the addition of magical prowess makes you really good in combat. If the rules enabled me to use higher level spells I believe I would not have been cornered this much. Let’s keep this between us today you have won but I need to keep face so let’s call it a draw and redo this with full power next time Kay?”

I receded to his demands and asked the judge to rule a draw. The judge disbelieving what I just said asked Zeles again as to confirm this decision then he cleared the arena declaring that the match has ended in a draw.

Looking at the leaving figures of the read-head and her click I noticed that she was pestering Zeles on why he accepted the draw. I was a bit disappointed that my game count was stopped at 22 wins and 1 draw…I wanted a perfect score but I really needed to get rid of that annoying girl…I can’t imagine that someone will hate another this much just because they think they are unworthy of attending the same school…nobles…hang on…nobles? So she must be from outside the capital…as the capital has the clan system the nobles are a faction that lives outside the capital they even share their opinion on the high council…hmm this is giving me a headache…

I then herd Shiki whistling behind me in awe.

“Man I can’t believe you threatened that girl…I envy you bro…at least you can back up your words as for me I still can’t beat her in a fight…”

I said

“Who is she supposed to be? Some noble heir or something?”

“Well it’s exactly like that and more…the heir of the nobles unlike the clans is the first born. And she is the sole childe of the rulers of the molten lands north of Alsa. The clans however choose their heir based on his exploits and powers before a certain age. Yet even if she is the heir by birth that doesn’t mean she is weak…I fought with here recently and I still wasn’t able to beat her…she really is quite strong for a spirit mage that is.”

“…a spirit mage? So she is a summoner?”

Shiki answered.

“Hmm well almost, she uses her summon as a suit to envelop her body and fight inside it. the summon is absorbing energy from the surroundings, and she uses that to fight here enemies…quite an annoying ability as you need to DE summon her guardian before you can beat here and that my friend is a real pain in the ass.”

“…a different type of combat mage interesting…”

“I believe that she noticed that you were winning the spar and she intervened to stop it …she didn’t want you to tarnish the image of her entourage…as Zeles was her vice president and she already was ‘shamed’ by having one of her entourage lose a match with me she didn’t want you to be the second one…she thinks that me as in heir to the thunder beast clan I was tolerable to have won against one of hers but if you and sorry for the use of the next words a no name won then her standings will be shaken and her position will be questioned by the school…”

“…quite a difficult situation ay…but still that is no reason for insulting me or Master Greetman that was just plain rude and stupid.”

“well you can’t blame a spoiled girl that always had her ways…I still think that the winner of the last game was you as in a matter of fact you fought more than 22 times none stop while everyone challenged you in their best shape I think that is commendable…”

“Haha I have yet to break a sweat so want a rematch?”

Shiki held his hands up declining

“No, no. we need to leave now as it is time for lunch heheh”

“Hmm nice dodge, alright then let’s eat.”

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**Chapter 2 .A date! or is it?**

Taking a seat at the grandiose school cafeteria I noticed that a few faces were staring at our table and seemingly discussing something.

The cafeteria was…huge the entire thing looked like it came from a king’s dining room. It had a gigantic chandelier with thousands of small crystals decorating it, the walls were decorated with large red tarps embodied with golden symbols and straight lines from the roof to the floor. The floor was made from expensive looking marble and the chairs were royal looking with rectangular tables .Our table was close to a window that was showing a small pond with a bridge on it a few chairs were around the pond and a lot of exotic and rare flowers were spread decoratively around it.

The group we formed was the usual. Me Shiki Nassi Kaori and Haruka with the new addition Yuna-san that reluctantly accepted my invitation to lunch once we met with here near the entrance.

With the usual fooling around Shiki was hitting on her only to be disappointed by her lack of response.

She then looked at me but still turned around hastily as if trying to avoid my gaze.

We were served by the school staff a grandiose delicacy of roasted boar meat with a wicked sauce on the side…the taste was heavenly as I have never tasted something like this before. Even though Master Greetman was a good cook eating something like this was a rare occasion that deserved to be cherished.

I asked Shiki about something that was bothering

“So about that girl?”

He answered with some food still in his mouth

“You see…that is Vessma Stronghold she is the daughter and heir of a noble house of the molten lands.”

“Well that I already know from our interaction earlier but what was that all about?”

“Emm…what can I say she is a bit hot headed heheh”

“…not very convincing” I replied then added. “By the way why did she address Zeles with adding –Sama? Isn’t she the school council president? Shouldn’t she be stronger than him?”

“…You are asking the wrong question here Asura-san san” Kaori interrupted then said

“It is true that the school elects the strongest five to be the council president members but even if she is already strong that doesn’t mean that her standings on the real world reflect her position here in school.”

Nassi then said

“In general Alsa is a country that is unlike the other three. It is not ruled by a king but by clans that work in the interest of people. Yet before the clan system was elated this country did have a king but after he fell noble houses scattered and the clans took the ruling of this land. However some houses are still holding on to their nobility and they still have power within the council and they too are able to partake and contribute in laying new laws.”

He took a breath then said.

“While it is true that Vessma is a member of a noble house so is Zeles. He is also the heir of the House of Vind they’re a noble house with a higher statue than the stronghold house…the House of Vind is the same one that the principle Kazehara comes from she is in fact his aunt. And this is the reason why he is called Sama even if he is lower in status than her in school.”

I said

“Hmm…well that does answer some questions…but what is the difference between heir of a noble house and heir of a clan why did the clan even get to hold position in the capital and control the country because even if the former king lost his position, normally a noble house with a close relationship to the royal family will claim ownership of the lands…but the clans were able to claim the country this is something I don’t know how it even happened.”

Nassi then said with a smirk on his face.

“Power. The clans came into picture and took over because they had power far beyond the nobles and even more they came and held the country together. The strife and the civil war that almost broke because of the nobles were trying to claim the throne for themselves. Their arrival brought prosperity and stability so the people accepted them and they drove off the nobles. The rest of the nobles were perplexed most joint the clans but some retreated to their personal cities and held lordship over them. The clans did not peruse and let them have their own lands but only if they were to follow orders and help to stabilize the country.”

He again stopped to take another breath and said.

“As for the heirs of the clans they’re chosen based on their power. Because a clan head may have more than one child he can make them when they grow to a certain age prove their worth and challenge each other for the right to lead the clan. The next generation however will consist of a branch and a main family. But that will not disable the branch family from claiming the seat to become then next heir if their child is stronger than the main family. So the heir will always be the strongest and not like for the nobles when the heir is always the first born.”

The discussion about this soon ended and I immersed myself in eating the delicacies in front of me.

Shiki and Nassi started arguing about some random things while Kaori played the non-caring card. Although once in a while I saw here laugh at something Shiki said that turned Nassi red till his ears. Haruka was trying to calm them down. I started feeling out of place…I mean I know these guys and they are good guys…but still I haven’t made my place. I think that when I looked at Yuna-san’s face again she had the same look as me…she felt detached I believe that this was the reason she hesitated before accepting my invitation for lunch.

Eating my portion rapidly I stood up wanting to leave. As this day was school free day I needed to go back and visit the city I really needed to take a good look at the capital as the tournament is only 4 days away now. Slipping away from the table I left the guys. But before I could turn back I was surprised to see Yuna-san at my side. She must have felt that it would be even more awkward if she was left there alone even though I was the one who invited here…what an idiot I am.

Trying to atone for my sin I nonchalantly asked her

“Hey do you have time to visit the capital? I am quite new here and I need someone to show me around the city. So if you have time?”

She seemed to have been shocked…I believe that she wasn’t expecting me to ask her out thus she blushed a bit and quietly said.

“Sure”

I was ready for a rejection but when she agreed I mentally screamed in joy.

“Then I’ll meet you at the school gate in two hours.”

She bashfully answered

“Okay”

We separated once we reached the dormitory. I needed to be presentable so I took a shower and put on some of my old cloths…I mean who would want to go to his first day smelling of sweat and pork after sparring all day and having that feast.

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I probably should have taken better looking cloths…I mean the girl in front of me just radiated from glamor and elegance with a tall white dress the same color as her hair with sky-blue colored flowers here and there it looked elegant and really pretty she did have a hat on her head that moved slightly with every gust of wind.

While me on the other hand wore a black tight pants with a black T-shirt on top. Quite the assortment as I was wearing black and she was in almost full white.

“You look beautiful.” Are the words that came out of my mouth until I realized…did I just blurted that?

While I knew I was blushing I saw the same was happening to her as she tried to cover her face a bit with tucking down on her hat saying

“T-Thank you”

Stunned for a few seconds I then asked

“S-so where should we go first?”

Answering me she fixed her hat and said

“Umm I have an idea.”

We took a carriage that was powered by magic. They have those close to the school as means to transportation between the city and the school…I should have noticed them when I first came to this school that was a long walk.

After about 30 minutes the first signs of civilization were apparent. Glamorous buildings here and there well organized and paved ground. The city was magnificent spotless with a Victorian décor. The people were minding their own business and shops were open for all. I saw few people wearing different colored attires with a cape on the back that held the name of their clans. The rest were normal people just about everywhere. Yuna-san said that they were clan members doing their job at patrolling the city and there are different faction within the capital but they hold a competitive nature between them and not one of hostilities.

You can see some shops holding the banner of different clans. We got off the carriage at a center square.

There was a big fountain in the middle of the square with a statue of a maiden in the middle.

She was wearing full plat armor and holding her sword to the heavens.

There was a signboard in front of the statue says ‘in tribute to Alsa the Everlasting Might.’

Alsa was the name of the capital and also the name of the city named after the hero that liberated the lands of a great demon that threatened its future.

“Meh, people do love to tell tales… to believe there ever was an Everlasting… what a load of c--…”

Before I could continue I remembered that I was in the presence of a girl and I stopped my words halfway seeing the sour expression on her face…probably I shouldn’t have said this…

She said after hesitating a bit

“Well it is true that the existence of the Everlastings is doubted…but you can’t help but believe. and what right do anyone have for taking the hopes of the people that there will be a liberator that will one day help purge the blight and destroy the demons…people have right to dream…”

I answered

“I know…and I have seen a lot of those demons and blighted multitudes but I can assure you that one man no matter how strong cannot destroy the entirety of those things alone…I think that people should not follow blind hope…and if they truly want liberation they should bond and fight for it instead of waiting for someone to do their job for them…”

Seemingly defeated she tried to open her mouth to rebuke my statement but decided to remain quit and contemplate a bit. So we walked to the next area.

It was a small temple with different banners held high at its surrounding walls.

There was a marriage ceremony that was happening so we decided to take a look.

A simple yet awe inspiring wedding. The groom was wearing the red cape of the blazing fire dragon clan atop of his black colored suit was being wedded to a member of the earth golem clan that she wore a brown cape with the name of her clan on the back atop of her eastern styled wedding dress.

The relationship between the clans was very amicable and mixed families were not a problem for any of them. This was explained by Yuna that looked hyped for seeing this wedding…probably all girls are like this huh.

We decided to continue our walk for a bit. We passed by the grand library it was …grand. I mean enormous… the size of it was larger than the school main building by three folds. It had a doorway with pillars made from marble and a signed in the entry that said ***The Sea of knowledge is only feared by the ignorant.***

It probably contained a magnanimous amount of information…I took a mental note to myself to come back and study the books here later.

It was becoming a bit dark so I decided to go to a restaurant after hearing the sound of Yuna-san’s belly growling I played it cool and made it look like I didn’t hear anything…a gentlemen must not be tactless

I turned to face her to notice that she tried to avoid my gaze with a bit of embarrassment showing on her face. I tried to ask her to grab a bite only to be surprised by my own belly making sounds that could scare off a king boar.

Giggling and cracking up we both understood that we needed to eat so without words we entered the first restaurant we encountered.

It was nothing short of a high class restaurant the type that you need to reserve days before you get to enter. In short it was full to the brim.

Without losing hope I still went for the clerk and asked him if there was a table for two available. The man in question snorted as he looked at me and said casually and in an undermining tone.

“Sorry…but we do not accept beggars please leave.”

…I took it from his words that my cloths did not go on par with the dressing code of this restaurant.

Squinting my eyes and really wanting to break this smug smile off his face I was stopped by the ever beautiful Yuna-san. That placed her gentle hand on my shoulder tagging in on the mental conversation between me and the rude clerk.

She looked directly at the clerk that had a sudden change of facial expression.

She calmly said

“We would like to have dinner here is there a vacant table?”

. The smug on his face changed to a sour almost frightened expression and gently said...

“Uhhh…ah my lovely lady I was not aware that this young man was in your company…I believe that there is still an empty spot at the balcony if you are interested in dining here.”

…what a jerk…people are still judge based on their looks…anyway at least I get to eat…but let’s make him regret his actions.

The table near the balcony was magnificent. As the view was showing the city under the magical street lights it almost looked like a romantic dinner between a couple that was just getting to know each other. Not that I have experience regarding that but at least I know that it accounts for something.

Grabbing the menu I initiated my little revenge. Taking a look at the most expensive item in the menu I decided to order the Drudish Sea monster’s tong soup with Grigan mountain dear stake and a bottle of aged Grinnain sake that I remembered Ousay rambling about that day.

As for Yuna she decided on some salad and a boar king rib meat.

When the waiter came he was shocked to see the ordered items that I decided on and Yuna seemed perplexed on the reaction of the waiter. She probably hasn’t noticed yet.

When the waiter entered the kitchen I heard a rambling inside and a gentleman hastily came in toward us he seemed of high authority as when he was getting closer most staff stopped their work and took notice of our table.

He stood near us then said.

“Dear Sir. I would like to make sure that if you had fully took in consideration the price of the items you have ordered. I am afraid that I will require a proof of your ability to pay the amount of the food you requested. Because as you can see they are not easy nor cheap to come by.”

I answered haughtily

“So you and the clerk at the door have the same judgmental view of people. People who do not dress the part are not able to pay the food they want. Well I can tell you one thing Mr.?”

He nervously and hastily said. “I Am Barkiss Levoro the owner and a titled Master Chef of Alsa.”

I said “Ok Mr. Barkiss so as I was saying you do not have to fear anything. Just bring me what I have ordered as you can see I am pretty hungry and I was yarning for some exotic food.”

He then said... “Sir…that exotic food you are talking about costs more than 20million Crona it is only served for kings and the highest of nobility even clan heads rarely order it…are you sure about this sir?”

Yuna looked at me with questioning gaze but her eyes spoke as if saying what the hell did you order?

“…you are beginning to taste my patience…will this prove that I can pay for the food I ordered?”

I grabbed a small spherical green rock from my pocket and threw it toward him.

He grabbed it jumpily and started inspecting it. His eyes widened for a bit then he bowed deeply saying

“I have greatly mistreated you young Lord this will not happen again. And as a sign of my sincere apology I will be the one to make this food for you. Please excuse us for any short comings that I or my staff members have produced.”

The entire room went silence then some chatter was going on here and there the staff scurried and the Master Chef quickly went to the kitchen. I took a glance at the clerk that was having spasms instead of facial expression and also bowed deeply in deep regret.

The expected question then came up.

“What was that all about? And what is that stone?”

“Well that was a little revenge on the clerk that was looking down on me. And that stone is a sacred beast core. It belonged to a lesser wyvern I hunted when I was with my Master. it should fetch more than 20million Crona if I remember.”

With shocked expressions she said.

“You were Hunting Sacred beasts???”

I answered.

“Not exactly hunting but that wyvern was just an unlucky guy that ended up meeting us at the wrong time in the wrong place. If it had decided to keep its distance and go away I wouldn’t have had to kill it.”

“…you are weird. Brushing off sacred beast hunting as a normal day activity…no wonder you are that strong.”

“Hah…that is just your imagination I actually almost lost my life twice to it. Imagine being impaled by hundreds of steel sharp feathers and getting dropped from a 300meter distance. I actually ended up with a few broken bones but that was the reason that Master decided to give me the stone he said that it was me who took it out so it’s me who should get the loot.”

“…but isn’t that a fortune couldn’t you use it for better things than a silly pride contest?”

I answered

“Well I don’t see myself using that much money in the future anyways” laughing it off and trying to change the subject.”

“So what brought you to Albion?” I said trying to start up a conversation.

She hesitated a bit as if to think of what to say then.

“Euh…well I come from a family that is well versed in magic. My mother is the clan head’s sister the raging water dragon clan. And my father is a nobleman of the Vind house. And I have an agenda of my own hens I went to Albion. “

“Oh I didn’t know that” I said then added. “But hang on a second I knew from Shiki that Kaori-san is the heir to the water dragon clan shouldn’t that be you considering that you are much stronger than her?”

She frowned a second and turned her head facing the balcony and said

“Normally that should be the case. But my parents’ marriage was outside of tradition as the Vind family is not associated with any of the four great clans my position as an heir candidate was revoked.”

I honestly taught that was unfair and said.

“Shouldn’t your parents have a say in this I mean you are partially family to the raging water dragon clan”

A silence that was too heavy was what followed my words then she spoke only to make me hate myself for my rudeness

“My parents passed away when I was young. You see this is the first time I tell anyone about this, I am actually Kaori’s cousin but she and the rest of the clan heirs don’t seem to remember me, not that I mind but when I was young I once visited them with my parents. And we got in all sort of trouble” she smiled remembering her past. an innocent smile with a hint of sadness but that was beyond beautiful. At that moment I knew I was smitten.

I hastily answered back.

“I am sorry. I didn’t mean to make you remember that.”

She then said

“Don’t worry about it it’s been a long time…”

At that moment a ruckus was being stirred as the doors to the kitchen have been opened. The Master Chef was wearing a full white apron and dress with his toque atop his head. He walked in pride taking long strides followed by two servants at the side. Each of his hands was carrying a plat with the countries’ best delicacy. One of the other servants was holding a bottle of Sake over his arm while the other servant was carrying the rib dish and the salad that Yuna ordered.

They cleared the table and sat the wears placing them neatly and elegantly. The food was served in professionalism while the chef was describing the way his dish was made. Enthusiastically at it too.

The servant to my right poored for me a bit of the aged sake. Tasting it I understood why Ousay was able to hold a grudge of 10 years for one of these they were well worth it. The taste was heavenly a sweetness like nothing before while still making the mouth drown in the strongest of flavors. As for the food….i have never tasted anything like this before, the texture of the meat and the consistency of the soup was beyond my imagination. I even took a glimpse and saw Yuna eyeing the dish I was having. I mean common if someone is eating a 20Million Crona worth of food you are bound to be interested in the taste. So I scooped a portion of my plate placing it at hers and nudging her to have a taste. She didn’t hesitate to bite on the meat and as if in a bliss she couldn’t utter but the word. “Delicious”.

The chef left us to enjoy our meal as for the waiter holding the Sake remained.

I urged him to poor a cup for Yuna which he complied to then she said

“I-is it really ok? I never had alcohol before…and shouldn’t we be above a certain age to be allowed to drink?”

I shrugged at her innocent answer and said.

“Money makes everything possible, enjoy because you never know when you might get a taste of this again”

She hesitantly accepted the cup and first took a small sip. The face she made after was a face of pure bliss. She then took another and another almost finishing the cup in few moments she realized what she was doing and placed the cup back on the table with a face full of embarrassment.

I couldn’t help but laugh which even made here redder than she was.

Taking our time we finished our meal and decided to leave. The Chef seemed to notice our departure came back and walked us out apologizing again for any discomfort that happened. I mean he has to gaining that amount of money in a single day is bound to leave good impressions.

I believe that Yuna was becoming tipsy. So I asked her if she wanted to rest she said no saying.

“The night just started there are a lot of places to go to and visit didn’t you want to see the capital in all its glory? The…hiccup…night is young.”

Letting a small laugh I faced her saying

“Are you drunk?”

She pushed her index near my face and said

“Nope. Just buzzed now let’s goooooooo”

She was drunk.

So we walked and walked visiting different stores and random stalls we then went into an area that had an almost amusement park look. It had different attractions and small booth that sold food and had mini games. Magic shooting games and strength testing games.

I noticed that Yuna was paying attention to one of the rewards for a game of strength that was basically a pedestal you needed to hit with a hammer achieving a high enough record allows you to gain different prizes however the weight was reinforced with magic so it was almost impossible to get the first prize that was a small silver bracelet of an Oroboros… basically a snake eating its tail. It represented infinity. Quite the accessory as the eyes of the well detailed serpent were made of expensive looking rubies.

This was probably the reason why this attraction had so many contenders wanting to impress their date and gain their favor by winning the gift for them. The price for testing a shot was 1000Crona…really expensive.

Without need to tell. The prize remain unclaimed until a really buffed looking guy came in. he was tall muscular and tanned…if I remember correctly this is the same guy from the red hair’s group…what is he doing here.

He paid the fee for trying his luck and grabbed the sledgehammer. The pedestal Shon in brown as a small amount of mana was emitted from it.

The guy used magic clad…he covered his arms and waist in a thin layer of mana then struck down.

The pole had more than 20 meter length. And only the top five spots had prizes in them.

When the hammer struck the weight escalated quickly to the top passing the fifth gift and barely reaching the fourth. I saw the face of the owner of the game slightly panicking then relaxed when he noticed that the weight was not going to reach the top.

The tall guy won a stuffed animal that looked quite…

“So cute!!!” said Yuna in a loud voice then placed both her hands on her mouth as to hide her embarrassment. Everyone started to stare at us then I felt a tug on my sleeve.

I turned to be surprised by a very close angel face starring right through my eyes.

Then she pointed at the pole and said whisperingly.

“I ‘hiccup’ want one…”

Still drunk…I should have probably not shared with her the alcohol.

“What can I do…”I said then added “Il give it a try.”

I walked toward the pole and paid the fee for a shot.

I heard the discouraging voice of many people probably jealous of the company I had saying words like “don’t even try” and the “not even the muscular guy got it” then another you “better give up before you embarrass yourself kid”…the usual.

Activating some buffs I held the somewhat heavy sledge hammer. Bringing it down the sweetest sound was herd of metal hitting metal and a clang stating that the weight has hit the top of the pole.

The unbelieving owner of the game was left with mouth wide open. Few rattled and some booed even other called me a cheater but I do not care I hit got the first prize so he has to pay up.

I walked closer to the owner and demanded my gift when he said.

“W-wait young man that is not possible no one is supposed to get the top…I think you have cheated…Do it again!!”

So he was a con man…I said

“Why should I do It again I won fair and square just give me the winnings and let me be.”

“I-I can’t have that you are ruining my business here I tell you what if you score first place again I’ll give you the bracelet and add in another stuffed toy like the one your girlfriend over there wanted.”

I turned back to see a gleeful look on Yuna’s face that almost says ‘Please get me that one’ that was mostly my imagination running wild but what can I do.

I accepted.

The man this time clearly was trying to ruin my fun. He used more energy on the pedestal and it clearly was going to be many times heavier. Everyone noticed what was going on and some even snorted thinking that I probably deserved not wining it…quite cumbersome isn’t it.

So I did what I had to do.

Using a larger variety of buffs on myself and a full magic clad reinforcement with a few more earth spells to increase my own weight.

Grabbing the Hammer and smacking down…results… a destroyed pedestal and a pole without a tip as the weight smacked so hard at the top of it that it flew far enough to be missed by the mouth agape spectators that couldn’t believe what happened. And finally a shattered pride of a con man that met his nightmare.

Demanding my prize I grabbed both gifts and handed them both to Yuna who was uncomfortably close.

She wore the bracelet that was an awesome accessory that added more to her already divine beauty. The stuffed toy however was of a small mountain Groundal bears that are ridiculously ferocious and territorial. Hunting them was a pain as they used a lot of body reinforcements making their skin harder than steel. This version however was…cute-fied. She snuggled the toy and hugged it saying words of thanks. It seems she was more interested in to toy than the bracelet but whatever.

We walked away from the booth looking for more businesses to ruin. Sadly most owners avoided giving us a chance at their games when they knew that we won what was rumored to be the unbeatable game.

To be expected…most of the booth owners must be con men trying to get their way with rich and naïve looking people.

Walking away from there I noticed that we were followed by four people. They made a terrible job at trying to cover their presence while making unnecessary sounds and releasing a stupid amount of blood lust.

Yuna seems to have noticed that too when I looked at her I noticed that the redness on her face lessened she is probably sobering up. So I turned to face the four shady figures.

Nothing to say here as I made a quick work of them. A Shunpo followed by a punch to the gut made the first person I struck drop on his knees with eyes rolling and mouth foaming, to the surprise of the others who looked at me and their downed friend then at each other. I struck forth punching the second one on his jaw sending him a couple meters away and using a roundhouse kick that sent the third man flying toward the last guy then finally stopping at a trash can. This I learned from Master as he was always one to Punch first then ask questions while punching, so trying to reason with people who were after your belongings or threatening your life is never a good idea.

Looking back at the unimpressed face of Yuna she shrugged then started to walk back while snuggling the stuffed toy…what was that for?

So I hasted my steps to catch up to her. She seems to be tired as her eyes were now droopy and once in a while she would casually yawn but still holding her grace and covering her mouth elegantly while she is at it. I saw a similar carriage to the one we came in this morning so I held my hand up and the carriage stopped. I opened the door to the lovely lady at my side and she bashfully nodded and walked in. no words needed.

I followed suit and got up to the carriage asking the driver to get us back to the school.

It was a mystic ride as the view with the veil of night was far more charming than the one in the morning. Lights that were illuminating the view making the streets seem more dazzling while every once and a while people will pass by couples holding hands and elderly people sitting on benches. I never saw a city with this much ‘Zaze’ as it was an almost small heaven on earth. I am sure that I have not once seen any signs of poverty or even slums like what I was used to see in every city I see while I traveled with my Master.

“This looks like a fairly good place to live in…I think that the clans are doing a far better work at enhancing the living standards of the people unlike where the nobles who govern their own cities are stuffing their pockets with tax money and totally ignoring their subject”

Seeing that I was left unanswered I titled my head to see the sleeping face of Yuna. A scene that almost shocked me to my very core it was more destructive than anything I have ever seen a true angel was sitting right next to me and I will not dare turn my gaze.

She moved a bit which startled me then leaned on my left shoulder. Unconsciously taking a better position to set her head she drifted again in a world of dreams.

At this moment I truly wished that I had learned a spell that can stop time. I wanted to gaze on this face for all eternity.

Lost in my taught I didn’t notice that we have already arrived…the driver turned back only to smile wryly at the happenings behind him. I think I blushed a little since my head was turning hot.

I gave Yuna a slight nudge waking her up telling her “we have arrived.”

She shook her head a bit letting yet again a small yawn then she noticed wetness on her hand. Probably from the slight drooling and a small wet spot left on my shirt.

She instantly turned tomato red and fidgeted a little trying to think of something to explain her mess.

I had nothing but a laugh at her cute face so I opened the door leaving it open for her to exit…walking to the driver to pay him back for the ride he declined saying that this one was on him as he never gave a ride to a nice couple as this one…why do I feel pride in getting these misunderstandings I asked myself…

Turning back to the still red as ever Yuna-san she bowed slightly saying

“Thank you f-for everything…it was a pleasant d-date a-and thank you for the gifts…I am sorry all the trouble I caused you.”

D-date?? She believes that this was a date…wait hang on, if someone asked you out. Went sightseen and have an expensive meal at a restaurant then go and have some fun at some booth and presents you with gifts…and ending it with a ride under the star lights…yep this is a perfect date…I feel so stupid at finally realizing this and I only wanted to see the capital before we go to this tournament.

I answered

“d-don’t worry about it. It is nothing actually and it was me who asked your help with the sights…”

She bowed again this time only deeper saying

“Then I will have to leave for the night and I hope that we can spar again tomorrow.”

Then without waiting for my answer she darted back through the gate heading toward the dormitory.

I turned to see the ever so smug face of the driver that just shrugged at me and turned his carriage around.

I sighed deeply and waltzed back into the school happy for having my first date ever with the most beautiful person I have seen.

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**Chapter 3 : Preparations**

It appears that my little adventure is a well-known fact now. It seems that somehow my little escapade with Yuna was brought to light and now the entire school thinks that we are dating…yay me right? ...HELL NO…I mean were you ever in a position where every guy near you starred daggers at you just by walking near them. Feeling the full brunt of jealousy coming from every direction…not a pleasant sight I tell you. It appears that the dinner we had was not only expensive but it seems that ordering it will bring attention from some interesting people. More so one of those people apparently was dining in that restaurant and somehow managed to take a picture of the most expensive dish made in the capital served by the most famous chef in Alsa…to ‘two –as the newspaper says- young love birds’ that were happily munching and sharing their meal… way to go journalism making my life even harder…and what is worse that She missed the sparring date three times now… 3 days I have yet to see Yuna and I am probably sure that she is still embarrassed by this ‘little’ misunderstanding…I need to clear this or else I might end up being the number 1 hated guy in school…

Today was a free day no need to attend to classes as the competition is starting tomorrow. We will be taking the same royal size air craft that took us away from the Grandin fairy forest.

Apparently the school will be taking almost all students to watch the competition some must have already departed and are resting near where the tournament will be upheld…what I found to be fascinating was the fact that the event will not take place on either one of the four countries but will be held on a neutral zone.

A land that is sharing the four counties’ borders will be the meeting ground of the event.

A pat on the back was what I received and was what woke me from my day dreaming. It was Shiki who as always was smiling like if he was someone from a toothpaste company.

“Oi Asura I was asked to get you to the principal’s office she has something to tell you.”

I was near the main building anyway so I nodded and followed the ever so smiling Shiki.

Arriving at the door that was opened by the Maid san who nodded slightly when our eyes met.

The principal’s office was this time a bit packed. As I can see there was the big guy from that night with Vessma and Zeles also with the Loli-wizard-chan. there were two other with them that also had the same red tie. They had almost the same height with one having the exact same hair color as Vessma. Probably a relative he also had some freckles around his nose so that was the seal on that previous taught.

The other guy had dark blue hair with a Mohawk haircut. I can’t believe that school regulations neglected this but he must have a very strong backing to be allowed to have this much freedom and this was apparent on his ear piercings and kempt cloths as his uniform was screaming mercy from the disorder it was in.

Then there was a girl that had a relatively beautiful figure with long braided twin tails and a large glasses she also had more than enough meat on some delicate parts making many girl eye her with jealousy.

What I noticed when I entered that every one of the guys present turned to face us some with a loud clicking of their tong making their dissatisfaction show.

However only one person was startled by our entry and turned the other way around the second our eyes met. Yes it was Yun-san who was as red as it could be and for obvious reasons…I will need a lot of explaining to do just to get the situation back to whatever it was before…

The principal was one to intervene after letting a small laugh then announced the reason for why we have been called here.

“Now that all our representatives have gathered I would like to say a word. You will be transported in a private airship in 30 minutes to the Borelia planes it is the place where the competition will be held. Normally you would be brought along with other students but because of few problems we have recently had to deal with we concluded that it would be safer to be taken there in a discreet manner.”

Discreet? Why what seems to be worrying the school so much to force it to take the students in a way like that? I asked

“Can I know the reason why?”

Then the redhead intervened with an apparent dissatisfaction in her tone

“Hmpf…ignorant fool you think that other countries will not do something to further enhance their chances at winning the competition. There is a lot at stake here entire futures and dreams of numerous people will either be kept or shattered. Nothing a commoner like you has to worry about anyway. And tell me principal why the first years are allowed to participate, the third years are more than enough to handle this it’s but a farce to let newcomers participate. We can’t be risking our chances with these guys.”

The principal raised her eyebrow and said

“I will not have you disrespect another person in front of me and in my office he is my guest as you are too. And one more thing I know very well the stakes that are at risk even more than you do and I can assure you that with Yuna Shiki and Asura we are to have better chances than with anyone else in this school. Even more so the names or the participants has already been announced and all schools know who we are to be facing. If you are worried about the future of your household just do your best and win whatever competition you end up being in.”

Another clicking of her tong was her response to what was on the principal’s mind

The principal turned to face me and then said.

“I would like for everyone to leave, go to the coliseum there will be the private aircraft that will take you to the tournament grounds be sure to be there and fast. Shirogami-san I would like you to stay here as I have something to discuss with you.”

When everyone left I noticed that Shiki and Yuna gave me a worried look then turned back their way.

The principal used a spell that created a small transparent dome that covered both of us.

“So Asura-san…I understand that you are a contractor…don’t worry I knew this from Osfor but I would like to understand one thing. Are you in control?”

“…don’t worry I am in perfect control over it even more so that now I don’t need it to give me mana I can have even a stronger grip on it. So you don’t have to fear me going berserk and transforming into a demon at least not in the next coming days heheh”

Her serious expressions turned to a saddened one almost as if I was pitied…

“Good then…but I would like to tell you something. Under no circumstances you are to use the demonic powers into the arena if the judges found that you are a contractor you will be removed for inspection and the school will take a penalty. Being a contractor is not against the rules of the competition but will be checked to know how far the demon has progressed so it will be problematic for all of us. So try and stay low.”

“…that won’t be a problem but I will be needing to use my sword and changing its forms without letting the demonic aura seep from it is difficult but I can still manage it.”

She then said

“Ah you don’t need to worry yourself about that. As that sword was formerly wielded by Greetman anyone that recognize it will be more interested in you and your relationship with Greetman than to notice that the sword has turned into a soul weapon. Well Off you go or you will miss your flight. And good luck on the tournament I will be cheering for you.”

“Heheh don’t worry I will make you proud.” Was my answer.

Arriving at the coliseum I saw the luxurious aircraft that was to be our carry and take us to the Borelia planes.

It was not as big as the Masscarrier but it was by far more beautiful. It was shaped as a drake with white color having golden stripes and at its side the word Alsa was written in gold. I got up and the aircraft started to lift as if it was only waiting for me.

The interior was amazing as it had a red carpet and leather paddings instead of metallic walls with couches and comfortable seats everywhere.

Taking a seat I was once again greeted by Shiki who came running toward me jumping then crashing next to me and well placing himself on top of a chair.

He then said

“What did the principal had to say to you? Was it something about the tournament? Or about that fuss the other day?”

Answering him with a wary smile I said.

“Nah it’s nothing important just some rules I needed to follow, you know because I am new to this and all.”

He disappointedly said

“Ah that is all…I taught it was something fun…but man that Vessma sure can be a pain…”

Chuckling I responded

“Yea I can’t believe someone can be that obnoxious. And now there are two of them. The guy that has the same hair color is he a relative?”

“Yea that would be Rikki stronghold he is he cousin from her father’s side. And you can bet that they have the same personality so if she doesn’t like you he will hate you heheh”

“That makes it one more person to avoid then…”

He then teasingly said

“Well you are not the only one playing the avoiding game…I think you should go and speak to Yuna she is in this aircraft

“Nah I believe that I should leave her alone right now she has enough on her shoulders. Now tell me do you have any informations on the participants? I would like to know who we are going to be facing.”

“Euh about that… I believe that there is a problem. Even though we are participating I don’t believe that the third years will let us join in on the fun.”

“What do you mean?”

He scratched his chin and then answered

“Well because when the tournament starts the team captain will be deciding who will join each competition. The tournament is divided into multiple categories. The first being track race, where the competitors will race to the finish line all participants will be allowed to use magic to hinder their opponents. Then there will be a magical beast taming competition then a team battle and finally a 1v1 battle. And because the one deciding of who will join the games is Vessma I believe that the chances of you showing up on stage are really slim…”

“…the tournament sounds interesting but I think it is unfair that if I join in or not is left for Vessma…I think I will need to speak to the teachers about this…”

Shiki nodded

“Yes I think so too. Because I think that with your abilities anything that you will be a good asset in the race. As for the team fights and 1 v 1 I don’t have a clear idea. Although you managed to defeat a lot of students in our school the competition doesn’t have a the A rank spell ban and if some of the guys that are participating use their high class spells I think that you will have a lot of trouble facing them…”

I nodded then answered back

“I see but I still have the right to participate so even if I am to be taught unable to win over the others I still need a chance to prove myself.”

Then one more person joint the conversation patting me on the back saying.

“Oh you don’t have to worry about anything Asura-kun I will make sure you get a chance to prove yourself. Hehehehe”

It was Osfor who like always creepily giggles and appears from nowhere.

“We will arrive in few minutes so rest for a bit and sleep early as the tournament will begin early in the morning.”

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**Chapter 4 : The Race.**

\*Loud cheers\*

“Welcome everyone to the annual competition marking the fifty turn. The grand tournament.”

\*cheers\*

“Today the elected representatives of Astora, Astarte Alsa and Alikh will be competing in order to prove their worth and hold their country’s flag high in honor and in good sports.”

\*cheers\*

“We will start with the magical track race, three participants of each country are to advance forward. The rules are simple the first to reach the finish line is the winner and will be awarded with 10 points 5 for the second and 2 for the third. Any place above that will yield no points. All type of magic and combat arts is allowed with the exception of teleportation magic or S class magic or any type of forbidden magic. ”

\*cheers\*

“Participants MOVE FORWARD.”

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(Asura Pov)

This is enormous. The stage is five times bigger than the school coliseum…it has a large central arena almost 400 meter by 100 with large screen on top and a stadium that is full to the brim and can easily hold more than 250 000 spectators it had several floors with booths on multiple parts of it designed for the VIP.

There were several exits more than 100 to flush the masses.

The stage was a normal dirt field but when the announcer finished his speech hills and obstacles were created even magmatic and ice islands were created with a water lake on the side.

A holographic road was created that passed through multiple zones of the course. It even went underground.

This must be the designed road. There are several lights on each side of it I think that it is there as a checkpoint that participants need to pass by to validate their course.

This would be a great chance for me to prove my worth as the Shunpo skill will be a great asset in this race…sadly that dam woman was against me participating I tried to ask Osfor to try and convince her but he was nowhere to be found. So she chose Zeles Shiki and the Mohawk guy to start.

I would have strongly objected if she picked anyone else as I do trust Shiki to be fast enough to score the first place so I had to stand down.

The other schools have chosen their members and are now standing on the start line.

Albion’s members were wearing their newly designed tournament clothing that had the same emblem of Alsa’s legendary knight the Everlasting might.

With white colored tracksuits with blue strips

Astarte’s clothing had the same white color but with large emerald colored stripes from shoulder to boots.

Every one of the participants from Astarte had a weapon of sorts. But nothing too showy just some long swords and broad swords and one participant holding a spear.

The other participants remained in their booth so did the other from different school.

Alikh had people wearing red uniforms with black strips as for Astora they had a silver colored clothing with a big orange circle in the chest area.

None of the participants had weapons except the three from Astarte so I guess they are all magic users. How would the sword users fair against the others is something I will have to see.

The loud voice of the announcer run once more announcing the start of the race.

In a blink of the eye there was no one near the start line. Shiki was leading the race with his ever so accelerating speed. He moved like a bullet followed by Zeles that was blinking every moment from place to place. On their tail was one from Astora as he was using some kind of magical circle making him float and advance in extraordinary speed. The fourth place was shared by amazingly three of the Astarte weapon wielders as they were running in at an amazing pace. As for the rest they were struggling to keep up even with their abnormal skills and amazing speeds they still were unable to advance to the first places.

The first movements of hostilities came from the trio from Astarte. The one in the middle looked at both his allies and nodded making the one on his right slow down while the one on his left pick up his speed. He easily reached the guy using the floating Mahojin sending an arc slash toward him to disturb his balance but he still persisted.

The other guy’s objective was to slowdown and hinder anyone that attempted to advance as he was constantly harassing anyone that was trying to bypass him. The one in the middle just kept his initial pace and advanced without worry.

While Shiki and Zeles were still advancing the rest were struggling and fighting among each other. This looked very promising for Albion as the first and second place might be reserved for us.

Until this happened. When Shiki reached the glacier area he was forced to slowdown as his speed would work against him in a low friction area. Zeles however seemed unhindered with this as he was still able to blink forward bypassing Shiki. The guy who was behind Shiki finally collapsed under the constant harass of the guy from Astarte. As his lost his focus and ended up receiving an attack to his flank that KOed him.

The sword wielder kept advancing this time changing focus to Shiki who was still slowing down.

Few participants surprisingly were eliminated by the Mohawk guy as he used the same tactic of the swordsmen and held back his speed only to eliminate whoever was behind him with hard hitting attacks. As he erected stone walls in the face of some of the competitors who could do nothing but crash in them.

Laughing maniacally he advanced forward.

He was using a surfboard made of stone to move on the ground. It was slow at first but the longer he was using it the faster he became…

Another participant from Astora was taken out by the swordsman that slowed down earlier making the total participants of Astora 0.

A total elimination of the first team of Astora was received with a mixed of booing and cheers from the audience.

Three from Alsa and three from Astarte and two remained from Alikh.

Shiki was almost out of the glacial area while Zeles already did leave it and was halfway through the magmatic zone.

The swordsman was on Shiki’s tail. It was apparent that if Shiki was to leave the frozen grounds he will be back in the lead in no time so the guy tried his best in order to stop him where he was considered weakest.

Throwing several arc slashes and attacks were his way of hindering once more another competitor. But this time he was joint by his buddy that miraculously managed to close the distance when he was keeping a steady pace earlier.

The pressure was high on Shiki as he was obviously struggling to dodge and keep his pace.

Feeling the frustration Shiki unleashed a an explosive shockwave that sounded of thunder from within his body it staggered and sent one of his chasers flying leaving a crater behind him and finally leaving the glacial zone only to tremendously pickup his speed creating afterimages of him while constantly making explosive sounds each time he took a large stride.

Normally the 400 meter large platform would be only few seconds for the fast Shiki but it was magically handled to make it look ridiculously long.

Dissatisfied with his inability to cripple the advance of Shiki the guy with the spear was cursing along the way.

Behind him was a ferocious fight happening as the two guys the Mohawk guy and the broad sword wielder were at each other’s troths amusingly anyone who ever got close to them and anyone who ever tried to attack them was instantly eliminated as they both focused their attacks at them. Making whoever came close either taking a longer road or giving up.

Zeles was truly surprised as he noticed the bullet speed Shiki bypass him even though he was almost at the end of the magmatic zone it became apparent that the interval in which he blinked started to become longer although it was problematic but it will not hinder his position.

Shiki on the other hand was able to break through the magmatic zone and waltz into the final zones.

The one that had a lake in it was easily traversed by his enormous speed as he was literally running on water. Getting out of it he was met with few caves and some underground tunnels which he easily finished in seconds due to his speed. Finally reaching the finish line while hearing the loudest of cheers that came from the audience this day.

About 2 minutes it was Zeles’ turn to reach the finish line. Rewarded with another loud cheering he bowed deeply to the audience.

Finally in third place after 5 minutes of Zeles’ arrival it was the spear wielder. Normally he should have taken a longer time getting there but he used a spear dive technique that boosted his advance making him hold his spear forward with both hand and increasing his speed enormously. As soon as he got out of the glacial zone that is.

When the first three reached the finishing point, the race ended with Alsa gaining 15 points and 2 points for Astora.

Right after Shiki was satisfied with the cheers he went back to the booth where the rest of the team was in including me.

**Chapter3:King class sacred beast**

“Oi you bastard that was nice and I know you can be even faster why didn’t you use the sound breaker skill you used that time against the metal mage?” I asked him smacking him on the back.

I probably didn’t control my strength enough as I saw him jolt from pain. He turned to me unaffected and like always with a wide smile on his face then said.

“We don’t want all our secrets to be known on the first run do we now?”

Oh he is right…well he better keep some trump cards hidden.

Then the redhead came into view. With a rude intrudoction she said.

“That was a good race Shiki-sama. It gave us the edge right off the bat. And for your information noobi” she said while looking at my direction. “This is but the start of the games, if we show all our cards we will definitely lose. And I already know about your ability to use the instant movement skill but it consumes a lot of Mu and with your puny pool you will lose steam halfway through the race and that is why I did not pick you.”

I tried to rebuke her saying that I had other ways to handle this but I decided to keep quiet and only show what I am capable off later.

Then she said “I don’t know what the principal thinking when she picked you for the team. You are obviously not needed humph…I tell you what the next game will revolve around monster taming you can try your luck there as we already have enough points for that even if you lose miserably we can still remain on the top spot. As it is only one per team. But on the other hand you will not join in on the team fights nor the 1v1 as I am more than certain that you will not be needed.”

I had to answer saying.

“You are obviously trying to get rid of me. But alright I will have to show you how good I am with dealing with Monsters.” I said with a sinker at the end.

Clicking her tong she turned and walked away.

Happy with my little victory I noticed that it was my time getting on stage.

The announcer then shouted

“Ladies and gentlemen I would like to have your attention. For the next competition as everyone knows we will be having a magical beast taming competition. However this year things will be a bit different.

Every year we caught the same type of beasts and gave every school the right to challenge them. Making the one that tames the beast without killing it and making it obedient first the winner. This year things will be different… THIS YEAR WE WILL HAVE ONLY ONE BEAST!!!”

\*Heavy chatter\*

“Please may I have your attention to explain furthermore…this time the beast will be an exception, instead of the usual dumb monsters we will be providing the participants with a genuine KING class sacred beast!!!”

\*loud cheers\*

“Behold the magnanimous ash wyvern.”

\*louder cheers.\*

“Now some of you may know that the ash wyvern are of the lesser wyvern class they inhibit the northern high mountains of Astora but only being outranked by their cousins the red wyverns. However this one is special. It has managed to gain a King class rank even while being a lesser wyvern so he is truly dangerous. Its capture lead to the death of two royal knights and the injury of several others. Just so we can bring you a new level of entertainment.”

\*cheers\*

“So I will explain how this will work. The first school to subjugate the beast will be the winner no matter if the other schools have gotten their chance or not. The turns will be held by lottery. And worry not even if the beast was injured by a competitor and that same competitor lost. The beast will be healed and sent back to the arena to fight the next contender. Now the schools order will be chosen randomly by a program and the results will appear on the screen.”

\*drum roll x)\*

“Now as you can all see the order of the school is as follows: the first school to try their chance is ASTORA. Followed by ASTARTE, after them is ALIKH. And finally ALSA…I know for a fact that people will think that this is unfair for the competitors as this is based on chance. But do not be mistaken, this is a King class ash wyvern and it is STRONG. I fear that even though four competitors may join in. there is a high chance that no one will be able to make it submit.”

\*Ohhhhh\*

“Before we begin there is something I would like to say. This singular contest will be held without pointing system. But it will have a special reward for the winner. Just to make it clear this will have no influence over the competition at all. So GO GET IT BOYS.”

I could almost hear Vessma laughing when the only competition I was allowed to join will have no impact on the competition…what an annoying outcome.

She then said.

“It is settled then, this contest will be left for Asura-san to clear. He needs to show us what he is made of hahaha”

Everyone’s eyes were looking toward me which filled me with a bit of nervousness. But I had only one thing to say:

“I will just have to prove it then.”

===========================================================================

The stage was a square platform that was elevated from the ground by few meters. There were four mages wearing purple hooded robes with golden strips on its outlines. They stood at the edges of the platform and started chanting a magical spell. They held their arms forward and a white magical circle appeared in front of each of them. Suddenly enormous amounts of mana was gathering making a dome like shape that surrounded the platform. It had a murky yellow color at first then it turned transparent.

These Mages were everywhere as some of them were standing between the rows of the audience and two were near every booth. They must be here for security measures. As some of them were clearly eyeing the audience looking for any suspicious movements. The entire coliseum was surrounded by ten towers. They were very long and towered the entirety of the arena. Each one of them was producing enormous amounts of mana making a strong barrier that protected everyone.

A barrier within a barrier one for the audience and one for the participants.

The first to get on stage was an Astorian participant with his flowing black hair and tall slim frame. He strolled down the arena. He had a pretty boy’s face and had an aura similar to Shiki…the kind of guy that you would really enjoy breaking his nose…anyway as he was waltzing inside the arena sending air kisses to the audience while approaching the wyvern that was towering a good 5 meters over him dwarfing the tall guy with its enormous frame.

For a wyvern this guy is really overgrown as they are usually not this big.

When the announcer marked the game for start. The wyvern as if it was on a leach and was released howled loudly making the entire arena shake. And as if on cue the audience cheered louder in response.

It charged at the guy that flinched for a bit but still managed to retain his composure.

He used a fire based spell that covered both his hands and jumped up.

The second the wyvern chomped at the empty place where the tall guy was earlier it was met with two heavy blows on the back neck. The wyvern clearly was not affected as his scales are normally very sturdy.

He landed at his side then sent two more shots at the wyvern’s flank. However he was not left unscathed as he was rewarded by a tail swipe that threw him a few meters away.

Groggily getting back up, he once again charged both his arms with the same spell as before. Looking back at the wyvern I noticed that all the places that it was struck at were still shining dimly.

The guy used his spell once more this time as a projectile to strike at the chest of wyvern that jumped aiming to crush him. Right before the claws of the wyvern could rip the Astorian apart he rolled to the side dodging a crushing blow that made a crater on the stage.

Getting back up and this time backing away from the range of the tail the Astorian used more projectiles that latched themselves to the wyvern. They did not deal any apparent damage but this soon was changed.

As series of explosions were emitted from the wyvern’s body. As every spot that was struck erupted in a deafening sound followed by the wailing of the wyvern.

The beast suddenly dropped to the ground heaving its chest while the Astorian deactivated his spell and clearly lowered his guard as he was walking in triumph toward the fallen foe…an amateur’s mistake…

The wyvern opened his eyes that changed its color from murky yellow to a clear red. His scales started to shake. His gray colored scales gained a hint of red almost as if it was coal on fire.

It is enraged.

The wyvern balanced itself standing up while gathering air in his chest. Enormous amounts of mana was gathered into its lunges then it exhaled furiously toward the guy that was oblivious to the terror in front of him.

Black smoke was emitted from the wyvern but it clearly was not normal. The second the smoke covered the Astorian it ignited with an explosion far louder than the previous ones.

Sending the guy rolling down the platform clearly unconscious. If the protective barrier was not erected he would have surly died from the attack.

The audience was disappointed by the outcome so some started to boo and others started to laugh while a few even cheered for the defeated guy.

More mages approached the platform this time they used a magical spell that was healing the beast. He seemed to calm down a bit as his scales started turning back to their original color.

The next to get on stage was the same guy from the race earlier, the one with the spear.

He unlike the other guy this one was clearly professional. As he took a spear stance right off the bat.

The wyvern started circling the spearman who was calmly pointing the tip of his spear toward the face of the slowly approaching wyvern.

Again the wyvern jumped up widening his teethed jaw and chomping at the space where the spearman was supposed to be in. as the guy sidestepped the beast he trusted his weapon three times in rapid succession. The spear almost bended as it struck the hard scales making the spearman click his tong in annoyance. Another tail swipe by the wyvern just like before was his response to the spearman that easily jumped backwards dodging it with the minimum movements. The second the wyvern was facing him the guy jumped forward slashing diagonally with the spear head onto the wyvern’s face. No damage was dealt.

The spearman jumped backwards and raised his right hand asking surrendering from the match. A smart choice.

“Oh we have one that surrendered a smart discussion. As he understood that he was unable to deal damage. It takes courage to know when to give up.”

The audience was cheering for the guy but he clearly was dissatisfied with the fight.

The Wyvern howled in glory as he defeated one more challenger.

Next was one from Alikh. It was a beautiful girl with long flowing dark blue hair. It matched with the colors of her uniform.

She walked in with confidence as the barrier closed behind her. The wyvern as if mocking her crouched down waiting for her to make the first move as he must have realized that if all of his challengers were like the two from before he will need to do nothing as his body is strong enough to deal with their low damage.

The girl however started to run sideways making the wyvern turn his head to follow her movements.

Whenever she passed a location a small layer of fog was created leaving the beast puzzled from her erratic behavior. She circled the beast making the fog thicker. Then she suddenly pointed her hand toward the wyvern making the fog tremble slightly with her hands pulsating in a blue color.

Several water bolts struck the side of the ash wyvern as it was caught off guard from the damage that was dealt. Standing back hastily and clearly deciding to take the opponent seriously it howled making the fog clear away and giving him back vision that lasted only for few moments as the fog screen soon recovered and clouded its vision again.

Few more howls resulted in nothing but a frustrated wyvern and an ever so persisting screen.

More bolts found their way to the beast’s sides as he once again wailed in agony.

The wyvern decided to no longer play it shook his scales once again making them gain an ember color.

It spat forward its breath attack but to no avail as it did not explode nor ignite.

The beast that seemed enraged started flapping its wings. Which is something I wondered why it has not done before as it clearly had more advantage in aerial battles.

The length of its wings was magnanimous and the pressure behind them was nothing to be underestimated as it blew the fog in matter of seconds revealing the girl below.

She was not surprised by the rise of the wyvern which by the way was looking down on her with eyes filled with hatred.

This time the wyvern opened its mouth and instead of casting his smoke breath it spat forward balls made of it.

The smoke balls had a tint of red inside them which started to ignite on the way to their target that was the girl who dodged at the last minute the first two balls making them collide with the hard floor.

Normally smoke should dissipate when in contact with solid surfaces. However these balls blew up making a small crater where they landed.

Still the girl was unfazed by this as she was already casting a spell. Using both her hands she conjured a blue colored Mahojin that shot forward a highly pressurized water stream that destabilized the beast that barely held his position up in the air.

The monster had a clear gash on his flank as the damage from that spell was apparent.

Congratulated by cheers from the audience and a threatening growl from the beast the girl changed once again her position.

But as I can clearly see that spell was not something simple. Having both the water and wind element in them she almost resembled Yuna with her hybrid Elemntum. But this girl clearly had the water element to be more dominant than the wind element.

The wyvern tried to fly higher but was met with resistance from the barrier. The Mages started mumbling something between them and forced the beast to lower its flying zone as he was pushed by the barrier downward. Finding nothing in its range it focused its gaze toward the girl that caused him his pain.

Few more smoke balls missed their target as the girl nimbly dodged the beast’s attacks. While sending another pressurized attack toward the wyvern that must have learned from his mistake and decided to dodge by flapping his wings downward giving him the opportunity to dodge while ascending. Met again with the roof of the barrier the beast howled in discomfort and charged this time at the girl with his claws flung forward.

Its claws dug deep into the earth making the wyvern stuck momentarily in the ground. This gave the girl the chance to take a good shot at the beast’s head with a well-aimed pressurized water stream.

Shaking the beast to the core that attack left a gash wound on its face and cracked one of his horns.

Now this is where things should become interesting.

The beast that normally should have fainted now looked at the sky and howled loud enough to make the entire arena shake.

His amber colored scales ignited with a brighter color while steam was seeping from between his pores.

The beast coiled its wings around itself and instantly expanded them making the air blow outward even changing the shape of the transparent barrier. The mages who once again reshaped the barrier into its former structure could almost be seen sighing in relief as this was clearly unexpected.

The beast was seen as his color turned from a formally dim ember color into a blazing one. The girl was clearly not expecting this as she started to unconsciously walk backwards clearly from fear and uncertainty.

Then once again she stepped forward and struck a water bullet into the beat’s snout.

At first the water bullet made the wyvern flinch and the area that was damaged turned back to its former color but it soon reignited and changed to the blazing hot one.

Once again the girl shot multiple bullets that had the same effect as they were as effective as a drop of water inside a raging flame.

The beast this time had enough and charged forward at the girl, with unprecedented speed it head butted the girl sending her flying toward the barrier wall which she bounced back into the arena from.

The poor girl clearly unconscious never saw that coming. The thing is, she was still inside the arena and the beast placed one of his claws on her chest. It sniffed at her for a moment then howled as it opened its mouth trying to take a bite.

Fortunately it was struck by one of the mages at the side of the arena that made the beast flinch and squirm in pain. Removing its leg from the girl she was instantly teleported from under the beast.

Now it was my turn.

As I took a step forward I was stopped by a hand grabbing my shoulder.

A gentle hand that belonged to a gentle person.

It was Yuna who had a worried look on her face with a small tint of pink that was atop her cheeks.

She said

“Y-you should probably give up…I am sure if we talk to Vessma she can let you join in on the other games it does not have to be this one…this thing is really dangerous…didn’t you say that you almost died facing a wyvern this one is a king class you should probably not risk being injured…even that barrier can’t negate all the damage.”

Oh she was worried about me…hmm how adorable.

“Thank you for worrying but have no fear. And one more thing that wyvern I hunted I was told that it also was king class sacred beast. And that happened when I was 12 years old. So just relax. I got this”

===========================================================================

Stepping inside the arena I felt the pressure coming from the audience. And in front of me there was a flaming overgrown wyvern…it clearly was still pissed off from the fight before and his inability to satisfy himself with a snack. So I bet that I will be a good stress reliever from him...just my luck right?

“WARRIOR ARTS COMPLETE BUFF”

Ah my favorite light show.

The air around me started to become heavier and my muscles pulsated in energy my body felt lighter and my mind felt sharper. As I was already activating hyper-recognition mode I saw the beast in slow motion moving toward me with its jaws opened wide enough to gobble me up in one go.

Making a frontal flip I landed on its snout but while putting enough pressure on my legs I managed to force the beast to nose dive into the hardened soil as his mouth closed from the strength of the blow in a disgusting sound of teethes being crushed.

I landed on the left of the beast however without waiting a second after, I pulled my sword from its dimensional sheath and instantly used its second form. Coiling it around the right hand of the fallen beast I pulled it with all my strength making a dislocation sound that I was waiting for.

This will force the beast on ground.

I quickly placed the sword back into its sheet and landed an earth chattering blow at the left jaw of the wyvern the second it tried to stand back up. This sent the beast rolling on the ground a few meters while I jumped again making a frontal flip and landed on his side.

Hearing the sound of bones being crushed as his under rib side had not a lot of scales, I felt satisfied as his weaker skin was unable to stop the full brunt of my damage.

Yet this was not enough as I used again the earth shattering blow right behind his right knee joint making the beast wail in agony. It knelt back to the ground while failing to gain a proper standing. The damage dealt to his arm jaw and knee was showing.

The beast turned its head toward me and opened its jaw trying to blow me away by his fireball spell.

But I was faster as I jumped forward making an instant uppercut to the base of his lower jaw and closing his mouth the second he cast the spell making it explode within and charcoaling his mouth. The beast was flailing and squirming from pain as he was probably in the most pin he ever felt in his life.

I quickly jumped forward and grabbed one of his horns bringing the beast down whit me smashing his face once again into the stone floor.

This time it was clear as the blazing color from the wyvern scales started dimming turning into its original ash colored scales.

I looked into the beast’s eye and saw signs of a defeated monster. He had no will to fight and was waiting for its end as it saw how I easily dealt with him.

The thing with the beasts is that they do not think. They all act on instinct knowing their behaviors and weak points is a crucial point to wining against them, unlike humans who use magic and can be erratic and unexpected. The beasts are pure and simple.

The wyvern is one of such case. These monsters have weak joints and can easily be damaged if struck in a correct way. If the guys from before used their head a bit and avoided striking it on its hardened scales and tried to hit in a softer area they would have probably dealt enough damage to it to make it submit.

What is bugging me is that the announcer said that two royal knights died in an attempt to capture this thing…I fail to see how that is possible…hmmm perhaps the beast was with its family members or it was just exaggerated stories to make this more exiting…no matter this fight is my victory.

“WHAT AN AMAZING DISPLAY OF SKILL, this young man was able to single handedly subdue the wyvern, a feat that should be considered an impossibility to achieve by one as young as this man. APPLAUSE AND CHEERS FOR THE RISING HERO”

\*loud cheers and applause\*

Before my face turn red in embarrassment I turned my back away from the downed beast and walked in a hastened manner toward our school’s cabinet.

**Chapter 4: Behind the scenes**

The first to meet me was honestly the one I wanted to see the look on her face the most.

Yet disappointingly she had a stern look as if almost none caring…it was Vessma.

But what struck me with amazement was the words she said next.

“You actually did beat that lizard…I’ll tell you what, you can participate in the 1v1 fights as you have proved that you can manage to carry your own weight, I’ll give you that…however the team battle you will not join in as I have no need for someone who uses physical abilities and I can’t seem to find a spot for you in the team that I will be managing…concerning tactics putting you on the team fights will be a risk I cannot afford to take…so feel honored that you won the chance to partake in this event…and I will make sure you regret it if you ever put our school to shame.”

Silence was what I had as an answer to her baseless accusations and void threats.

She walked away leaving me to my taught as Shiki and Yuna came in with the addition of a small person, the wizard hat girl.

Shiki was first to talk as he had a not so bright smile like he always did.

“Tell me Asura” he said “how come you are this strong… yet we ended up being almost killed by that mage back at school…”

I nonchalantly answered

“Well you must know one thing first…when I was training with my master I was hunting beasts almost all the time. And knowing their anatomy and their instinctive behavior is of absolute need. Striking weak points with sufficient power is all it need to bring down this monster. As for that guy…I was bound to struggle and for multiple reasons, first was the fact that I did not have my sword with me. And secondly I was not familiar with magic, as I spent almost most my life traveling with my master from mountain to another locating beasts and taking down rouge monsters that threatened small villages I never got to see a full-fledged mage so Albion was truly the first time I had a direct contact with magic and therefore I was hesitant and unable to make correct decisions”

“I can’t believe that you spent almost your entire life without having basic knowledge of magic…well anyway you did beat that thing…damn it now I want to fight it myself to see how I can fare against it…”

I answered

“Actually…something is seriously bugging me about that beast…I fought with a King class wyvern before…and it was far more dangerous than this…even more I think that the aura from some of the participant clearly states that if it was something of this level they would be more than able to take it down…I don’t know but I think that this wyvern is either weakened on purpose or something was interfering with it to not make it show its true powers.”

With shocked expressions Shiki said

“Y-you mean that that thing is now in a weakened state, what the hell!!! And there are people who can beat it…hah then why didn’t they join in on the game they could have won if they did…”

“I can answer that.” Said the little girl with the wizard hat. She had a confident look on her face and a haughty attitude but you can’t help but to think that she looks cute in those outfits.

We both turned to face her when she started explaining.

“The fact that other schools did not put in their best warriors to fight against the wyvern is simple…they knew that this particular event has no impact on the school event so they did not want to risk showing the abilities of their aces. Even if some schools did have participants join in on the games the last year those students must have developed their abilities and gained new powers and therefore they want the other schools to remain oblivious and none-updated on their newfound prows. The reason you were chosen for this game was exactly for this. You are considered as a first year no name so it is actually more beneficial for our school that you are able to beat the wyvern without us having to show one of our main aces to the audience.”

“So I was just being used so that Vessma won’t have to show more of our powers…I can’t say I liked the way I was manipulated but no matter now I get to fight some interesting guys in the fights to come…but tell me little girl what is your name?”

The second I said those words Shiki’s face contorted in shock and he almost snarled out laughing.

The girl turned red with embarrassment and screamed her lungs out while removing her hat as if throwing a tantrum.

“I am not a little girl!!! And for your information I am older than you newbie humpf… and my name is Eli Starsoul”

The way she is pouting is adorable so I unconsciously started petting her on the head which only made her steam from embarrassment and rage.

Realizing what I was doing, I slowly withdrew my hand looking at the almost tearing small girl.

She gave me a piercing gaze then walked away muttering something of the words stupid and idiot…

Shiki then patted me on the back saying

“I can’t believe how casual you are acting with people of noble linage do you not fear anyone?”

I answered

“Huh so she is a noblewomen I should have guessed…but that question shouldn’t you say so for yourself you are acting casual toward everyone…”

Shiki then shrugged while saying

“Well technically I should be allowed to do that…well anyway let’s get going I was told that lunch will be served in a fancy restaurant near the stadium I really want to check out the menu of this foreign land”

I think this is the wisest thing Shiki has said today so I agreed letting him lead the way.

===========================================================================

(Elsewhere)

\*Sounds of metal hitting metal\*

In a grayish dark room there was a tall girl with emerald hair and an enormous bust swinging her devilish looking glaive on a steel wall each strike left a deep gash on it. Maiming it more and more with every swing

The glowing aura seeping from her body was enough to make any normal person flinch and back away in fear

“RAHHHHHHHHH”

\*Clang\*

“What the hell is going on here?”…

“I don’t know Rica… she has been like this ever since she saw that guy beating the wyvern…” (Jibi)

“What?!!...what the hell why would she do that…Jibi you have to wake her up from that trance…I don’t like that look on her face…it’s as if she is in ecstasy…”(Rica)

“No. I am not going to interrupt her especially when she is like that…we just need to wait for the principal she is the only one who can calm her down…” (Jibi)

“What is going on in here?” (Principal)

“Welcome madam principal…we were actually waiting for you to help us calm down Lori…she was acting strange after she witnessed the submission of the wyvern.”

The principal scratched her chin for a bit then said.

“… I think I know what is going on... Rica you are to join in on the team fight as for Jibi and Lori they will wait until the 1v1 matches. The rules this year have changed…the ones to join the group battle cannot participate in the solo battles so we need to secure as much points as we can in both games.” (Principal)

“Understood.”

The old woman skilfully approached the frantic girl and patted her on the head. The raging aura coming from her body started to organize itself while her breathing became organized.

She turned surprised by the woman behind her and quickly adjusted her posture and bowed saying

“I-I am sorry for disrespecting you Madam Principal…I just lost control…I promise to be more careful in the future.”

The old woman answered

“Worry not my dear, I am actually quite happy for you…as I have noticed you found yourself a new toy.”

When the words came out from the old woman’s mouth the girl’s eye shone for a bit then she said.

“I do think so too but I am afraid to bite more than what I can chew…this boy managed to beat that wyvern in less than 10 seconds a feat to be called a miracle for someone his age…However monsters are stupid and dumb unlike warriors so I do think fighting him will grant me the satisfaction I am looking for.”

“Oh I do think so too…and do not fear my child as I do know that if it was you that was facing that lesser wyvern you would have defeated it in less than that time.”

“Killing it… probably, but making it submit…I doubt that. However don’t worry Madam Principal if I ever got a chance to fight him I will make sure to not hold anything back…in solo fights we are not taming monsters we are vanquishing enemies.”

The old woman smiled saying

“I couldn’t have said it better myself, dear.”

===========================================================================

(Elsewhere)

In a room on the upper parts of a governmental building near the stadium a small meeting was held.

A long table that was centering the room with shaded figures carrying their discussions. Few of them were discussing the happenings that were transmitted via a magical crystal.

“Did you see that?”

“Yes. It was only momentary but he used that blade…do you think he is related to Greetman by any chance?”

“I don’t know wait a minute…isn’t Asilis here? He should be back from his mission, and if it is the same kid, he will be the one to tell us.”

Right after the man finished his sentence another person came in from a sliding door.

“Speak of the devil”

“Well if I am a devil then what are you Mr. Kiod”

Mr. Kiod shrugged at the retort and hurriedly asked his question.

“So is this the kid that you were inspecting?”

Asilis answered after taking a brief look at the crystal in front of him

“Yes it is…and Il be dammed this time if I don’t find out how he alone managed to repair the barrier…it has taken us years of hard labor to find the weakest link in the chain…and even more to lure those gores over there, and if the epidemic in Alikh was but a strike of fortune that boosted our plans forcing a lot of teachers to leave to help…this variable is too unpredictable to handle…I came here especially when I heard about his exploit and now I want to see them with my own eyes.”

Kiod said in a taunting tone

“Huh knock yourself out. I would be doing the exact same thing if I screwed up as bad as you did, the Organization is not merciful enough to let anyone get a second chance but miraculously you have the chance to redeem yourself.”

Asilis decided to not reply to Kiod’s obvious taunt and sat himself down monitoring the crystal screen and swearing to himself to find out why this irregular is always ruining his plans.

Kiod then said

“By the way I have some very surprising news to tell you.”

Raising a brow Asilis asked

“And what would that be?”

“We have a guest at our basement right now. Your friend Osfor paid us a visit this morning and ended up with an extended stay hahahah”

Asilis who still could not fully understand what Kiod was meaning said

“What would Osfor be doing here?”

“Let’s just say he found something interesting and decided to occupy himself for a bit.”

“…I don’t know what you guys are scheming but that man is to not be underestimated, well whatever happens it will be on you. And right now I have one less place to be at. As I don’t want to meet Osfor right now.”

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**Chapter 5: the strongest Loli!**

Shiki and I were walking down a street while biting down on a falafel sandwich. At first we were going to eat in a restaurant that was near the stadium only to be shocked by the amount of people waiting their turn…as we realized that this event has brought too many spectators, finding a decent place to eat in is bound to be a challenge.

So we just had to fill our need for food by eating from a nearby stall that we still had to wait for our turn.

For this neutral zone it sure becomes busy when it’s this time of year.

“Hot, man these falafels are a damn delicious” said Shiki while ravaging his sandwich

“You should slow down a bit…anyway did you see Osfor sensei today…I taught he was going to be at our booth but he never showed up”

Shiki answered with some food in his mouth

“I don’t know man but it doesn’t matter Vessma may be young but she can handle the team well. They should be picking the members who will be competing in the group fights by now…both you and I will not be part of it…as she will mostly be picking her old team members. Yet I can’t seem to disagree with her.”

I said questioningly

“What do you mean? I think that she should keep some of the strongest of us to fight in the 1v1 this way we have broader chances to get more points”

He then answered while wiping his mouth

“Well you see for the group battle it is obviously the best decision to make as she is much more experience in fighting together with the school council members and she knows all of their quirks and habits. Plus the fact that even with our advantage with the 15 points earlier we are probably not going to keep the lead if we don’t score enough points in this game.”

“…what do you mean? Do you know the pointing system they will take for the group battle then?”

He answered right after he threw the paper that was holding his sandwich into a nearby trash can

“You see, the wyvern taming competition threw off our calculations. Because it had no pointing system they had to modify the way participants will gain points in the other events.”

I said while raising my eyebrow.

“Meaning?”

He said

“Well you see… now in the group battle the points earned will be based on how you manage to defeat your enemy. Each team will be designed a leader. If a member’s hit points reaches 0 the enemy team gains 2 points. The leader is worth a fixed 5 points.”

I said

“So the total points for a team is 13…well that should not affect us even if losing this game we will still have a good lead.”

Shiki shook his head saying

“No, you see…there is a catch. The leader’s roll is not just being the high priority target. He is also the deciding factor of the game. If the leader loses all his Hp. The ally team will gain double the amount of points for every team member that is left undefeated. Because they failed to protect their leader that is. And one more thing if a team leader was the one that dealt the finishing blow on the other team’s enemy leader the bonus will be 3 times the norm so you see where this is going?”

“…ah so this is not a game about pawns but about kings…this might be a bit too complicated. So a basic strategy for a defensive approach will be to lose every member then have the leader be the last man standing this way they will lower the point gain for the enemy team… and as for an offensive view the best option will be to have them defeat the leader first without taking out any of the other members…this game will rely heavily on strategy than brute force.”

Shiki then nodded smiling and said

“Yes you are right…therefore it is better to leave this one to Vessma as she is much more experienced with leading and tactician roles”

I answered telling him

“True… well I can’t complain I at least got a chance at the 1v1 I should probably try my best and make the best first impression I could.”

He said with a curious look on his face

“What do you have in mind?”

I said while shrugging

“Hehe you will have to wait and see.”

“Ladies and gentlemen. I would like to have your attention!” said the announcer as he was this time in the middle of the stadium. He was tall and handsome with a sharp looking haircut that had nothing to do with being stylish and was boldly pointing backwards making his entire hair look like a cone with his head as base.

“You all must have enjoyed the unexpected turn of events that we all saw. The young warrior from Alsa that singlehandedly managed to subdue the ash wyvern. However I have one thing to confess. The truth is that that wyvern was drugged and was restrained from the use of some of his deadly attacks. As I have said before it did kill a couple of royal knights before it was captures and to insure the safety of the participants and still make an entertaining show we had to do this. BUT. This does not mean by any chance that the victory the little Alsian had over this beast to be less honorable. As if all of you have witnessed the beast even while restraint it still managed to beat three of the other participants”

The audience started murmuring between themselves agreeing with the statement of the announcer.

“The reward of this victory will be given to the young warrior by the leaders of the four great countries in tonight’s dinner party that will be held in honor for the participating schools”

The audience was struck in awe as they could only imagine what would the leaders of each country will gift the young warrior for his efforts.

“And now without further ado we will commence our third and final competition of the day. The group battle competition. The schools that will participate against each other will be as follow. Astora VS. Alikh. And Astarte VS. Alsa. The competition will be held like it was done every year. And the winning teams will challenge each other after the first battle is over for more points. As for the teams that lost they will face each other for half the points this way they might have a chance for a comeback.”

The audience was still restless after hearing the explanation of the commentator as he added even more information.

“So this year the leaders will be worth a fixed 5 points and the subordinates will be 2 points if team A took down a member of team b they will gain 2 points and if team b managed to takedown a member of team A they will nullify the team A advantage by making the scores 0-0 again. When the leader of any team is down the fight is over. However if a leader takes down another leader the bonus added will be three time the points of every remaining team member’s worth plus the leader’s original worth. So protect your leader well everyone.”

(Asura Pov)

‘It is almost the same as Shiki said…well he still didn’t mention that if each team lose a member the advantage is nullified…this is probably for not making a team gain too many points as the maximum amount of points per game can reach 29 point. if the leader of a team beats down another before taking down any other member that is…it must be extremely difficult as the first propriety of anyone will be to protect their leader the minimum loss on the other hand will be 5 points if a leader manages to stay last whilst both team members have been defeated…and this too is difficult to have…quite the sophisticated game they made huh’

I was standing inside our booth it was quite comfy as it was enhanced with air conditioning tools and luxurious looking chairs and couches.

In front of me was a crystal that projected the upcoming match. The first was being our school against Astarte.

The announcer finished explaining how the games will run then suddenly teleported out of the platform

Right after that both teams were teleported in front of each other.

Our members were consisting of the redhead Vessma the big macho guy with Zeles in the middle at the left of Vessma was the little Eli and yes she was still wearing her wizard hat.

The right of the big guy was the cool beauty girl that we met the day we were sparring and she was the one that Shiki was able to beat to get his spot in this competition.

The enemy team however had if I could not mistake the same spear guy with the two that were with him in the race event. There also was another guy with twin blade weapons at his sides. Yet the most eye catching was the small girl that was in the middle of their compo. She was…petit she really didn’t look any older than a 12 year old almost exactly like Eli yet with her hair color as red as Vessma and if I am not mistaken she too had some freckles on the side of her nose…but I can’t be too sur. Yet what was interesting was not her physic but it was the ridiculously long and large of an ultra-great sword that was on her back. It lacked elegance and looked like a giant lump of steel but the way she was holding it was as if to say that it was weightless. Carrying that thing with ease is proof enough that she is skilled. She had a wristband that had a crown on it same as Vessma probably it was designed to show who is the leader.

The arena flashed in white then everything changed.

The entire platform was coated in a magic blue hue that started changing the aspects of the terrain. Trees started sprouting and a small river began to form in the middle of the terrain.

The two teams were teleported to the sides of the rectangular platform before the announcement of the beginning of the game.

Our team grouped around Vessma in order to listen to some final instructions as for Astarte they were somehow acting weird. None of the participant showed any signs of excitement or hesitation almost as if this was an everyday thing.

The commentator used a spell that resembled a firework being launched in air announcing the beginning of the third game of the day.

It was large and bright enough that it almost shone like a second sun. Both teams saw and knew that the game begun.

Vessma who was in the middle begun by chanting something.

An orange circle on the ground appeared in front of her. It started gaining more color the longer Vessma chanted. Then a humanoid fire golem appeared from within it rising bit by bit as if it was escaping from a hellish inferno.

This one was larger and bigger than any of the golems that Osfor summoned the other day at the fairy forest. This one had more presence it exerted stronger flames and was more defined. Is features had more of a barbarian look to it. It stood 4 meters tall towering over all the team. A sight like that would make anyone flinch and terrorized in fear but the fact that the team was not showing any of that and this was probably due to the fact that they have seen this many times before.

Zeles and Eli started carefully running to the east side of the artificial forest hiding behind trees and casting spells probably to detect enemy presence.

The big guy stayed near Vessma and the cool girl left heading in the south-west direction alone while casting several spells making water orbs float in air. Probably an alarm of some kind.

The big guy smashed both his hands into the ground and closed his eyes. This is probably a method to sense approaching enemies.

“Hmm…I can’t seem to understand the strategy Vessma is trying to use”

Shiki then answered my not too quite way of thinking

“She is using a defensive approach to this game. She will try to make the enemies come to her instead of chasing them. As you know weapon users are very difficult to handle in close quarters and by making the team place traps and use sensory spells to figure out where and when the enemy will make their approach she will have the upper hand in this fight. At least that is in theory”

I answered with a doubtful tone saying

“I have seen how mages can handle themselves in fights especially with the way everyone was acting on the day I had that massive spar…but seeing those guys over there I doubt that going by the book trying to force them to come in range with traps and spells then showering them with spells will work…especially that little girl. She looks…experienced. Euhh…that came out wrong I what I mean to say she looks skilled and this type of thing will mostly be expected at least to a certain degree.”

He then said with a playful tone

“Hehe well even though they could expect this, handling Vessma with her fire golem suit plus the assistance of Zeles and Roid is almost an impossibility. Having Eli as a long range caster and Bella as support that team is almost invincible. Let’s just watch what will happen.”

I answered with a nod then proceeded to watch the crystal screen.

Movement was spotted on the enemy camp as all five of them advanced with massive speeds in a V shaped formation with the little girl leading the charge. She had her gigantic sword over her right shoulder and had her left arm spread in front of her.

She was agile as she managed to dodge any incoming obstacle by nimbly jumping over it or using a tree branch as a ledge then jumped for another tree. Her team kept with her pace and walked right behind her not missing a single step or making noticeable noise.

They all started jumping from tree to tree and fully abandoned traveling through ground.

If they kept going in that direction they will soon meet with the Cool girl’s traps or as Shiki called her Bella…if they were to find her alone she will be done fore as they will be able to blitz her without her even reacting.

The little girl slowed down a bit making the twin bladed guy in the lead by swapping their locations

He jumped ahead right into the trap network that Bella created.

Some of the water orbs started moving and headed toward the twin bladed guy.

He didn’t even care to dodge as he fluidly sliced through two of them and jumped forward slicing through many more. Making the orbs burst harmlessly each time he sliced through them the group behind him kept going. His blades had a weird glow to it each time it struck one of the water spheres.

Looking back at our camp I noticed Vessma was panicking a bit turning to ask Shiki what went wrong he too had a grim look on his face…this doesn’t look like it was planned.

Deciding not to ask Shiki what was going on I kept my eyes on the screen.

I noticed when Zeles and Eli came back near Vessma who now jumped into the golem’s hand. He picked her up and opened a space in its chest placing Vessma inside him. She is probably not going to be damaged by the flames from her golem so she took a comfortable position inside it.

The enemy team fully cleared the trapped zone they advanced with the same speed like before.

Making the little girl again as the frontline.

Zeles begun casting his spell that made multiple wind spears to be hanged in midair.

When the enemy team was in view the big guy Roid opened his eyes and further pressed his hands into the ground making two gigantic hands sprout between the enemy team and our allied team they must be to hinder the advancement of the enemy team.

The hands collapsed on the Astartian team but to no avail as they nimbly spread dodging and escaping the area of effect.

Zeles Shot forward his spears that were met with well precise and perfectly aimed counters from the enemy’s weapons making every shot bounce off or simply break in contact with their weapons while still maintaining their speed.

Not a second before the little girl Jumped forward making the ground beneath her burst as if it was made of sand. She propelled herself toward the chest area of the fiery golem.

Not ones to take any risks Zeles summoned a green Mahojin in front of him making several large bird like creatures fly toward the little girl. With the addition of Bella who too was shooting a shark like spell that was made of water aimed directly at the girl. These two shots were going to shoot her down and probably end this game in our favor.

Yet something was really bugging me about this. Considering the fact that this little girl was carefully calculating her steppes her approach seemed a bit too amateurish as this was going to be an inevitable outcome of that frontal charge. Even if she had enough confidence in her skills I don’t think she should have jumped in like that without a plan.

I could almost hear Vessma laughing at the naivety of the little girl from within her fire golem.

Right before the two spells struck her, an unbelievable thing happened. The twin bladed guy jumped forward and swung both of his blades In an X motion making both the spells from Zeles and Bella burst out. The little girl continued her approach from midair despite the apparent shock on Zeles and Bella’s faces. She spun horizontally making the force of inertia add more power to her swing.

The little girl even made a cutesy yell when she was swinging.

The second the Ultra-great sword struck the chest of the fire golem it broke it in half sending the clearly unconscious and unsuspecting Vessma flying tens of meters away.

The damage was immeasurable as if striking a glass door with a steel pipe.

Our team was clearly unable to understand what happened because the sheer force that Vessma was attacked with none could even thinking that that frail looking body was able to produce it.

Zeles was the first to act as he darted toward the direction of where Vessma was thrown. The other on the other hand started looking at each other. Then they focused their look on the little girl.

Right before they could start their attack the announcer interrupted shouting.

“W-What was that!!!? WHAT AN UNEXPECTED OUTCOME. THE FIRST OF THE GROUP FIGHTS HAS ENDED IN LESS THAN 1 MINUTE AND THE OUTCOME WAS EXTRAORDINARY. THE INSTANT DEFEAT OF THE ALSIAN TEAM… I never even saw this coming thinking that the heir of the noble house Stronghold would be eliminated in one strike TRULY MAGNIFICENT!!”

Hearing that our team members drooped their shoulders and canceled their spells

The announcer added

“THE WINNER OF THE FIRST GROUP FIGHTS AND TO BE QUALIFIED FOR THE NEXT GAMES IS THE ASTARTIAN TEAM BY A WHOOPING 29 PERFECT POINTS. 5 POINTS FOR THE LEADER AND THE TRIPLE AMOUNT OF POINTS FOR EVERY REMAINING ALSIAN PARTICIPANT”

\*loud cheers\*

“And now for the next event the team from Alikh will be facing the team from Astora. Let us all watch”

Once he said that the forest started disappearing and a platform showing both teams in front of each other.

A smirk was showing on the little girl’s face as she was clearly saying something taunting to our school members.

Zeles was Holding Vessma in a princess carry position as she was clearly still unconscious.

Frustration was clear on our team members as they could say nothing back to the small girl.

She shrugged and turned back to her team. A bright light illuminated the platform teleporting everyone back to their quarters as I saw that all our members appeared behind us.

I was thinking of rubbing the humiliating defeat that the redhead just got but seeing the look on the rest of the team was enough to talk me out of doing that.

A medic team soon entered and started checking on Vessma who still hadn’t regained her consciousness.

Shiki went to speak with Zeles probably to understand what happened from his point of view.

Seeing that I decided to walk away from the room as an awkward silence was permeating the air.

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**Chapter 6: Presents.**

Well…what can I say? I never taught in my lifetime I would be wearing a formal tuxedo

Earlier today I received an invitation to attend a party. One which will have the kings and most important representatives of every country present in it, along with the schools’ administrative staff.

The party was held at a grand palace that almost resembled a castle. It was a bit far from the stadium as I was taken there via carriage. The entrance was decorated with statues of knights and priestesses.

The door opened as soon as I exited the carriage, it was similar to the one that Yuna and I took on our little tour.

There were servants at the door ready to take the coats or vests of any who offered them.

A red carpet was spread from the entrance to the inside of the castle.

While important looking people were passing by. Probably they must have an important position in society some of the invitee were students from different schools.

They too were wearing tuxedos and dresses with an emblem representing their country.

Entering the great hall that turned out to be divided into four main parts with each part having multiple tables and the flag of their country on them and hanged on the walls of the hall.

There was a second floor to the hall that was overviewing the bottom floor. It was also divided into four parts. With each part having expensive looking decorations and luxuries looking chairs. Near every chair were multiple royal knights wearing the corresponding emblem of every country.

Food was neatly presented in a large table at the middle of the hall like a buffet. You could see some people carrying their plats and taking some of the food there but not everyone was interested in that.

People from different Countries were eyeing the participants from every school.

I noticed a few gazes dropping on me but still the one who was having the most attention was obviously the little girl from earlier.

It seems that after that unprecedentedly fast victory she has pulled another achievement.

Apparently Alikh managed to beat Astora they won with one of the soldiers taking down the enemy leader.

They lost 2 soldiers but still took down 3 soldiers and the leader while one enemy survived.

So they won the following: 5 points for the leader, 4 points for the surviving enemy soldier. 6points for the enemy fallen soldiers making a total of 15 but minus 4 points for losing 2 soldiers. Making a total of 11 points.

The next game was Astarte vs. Alikh. However this time the little girl took a different approach. Instead of aiming directly to the leader she alone eliminated every single participant from Alikh without the interference of any of her team members. The victory took no more than 4 minutes.

She probably was trying to say that she could have defeated the leader anytime she wanted and this was her way of showing the difference between the two schools. They scored 13 points making their total points into 44 points. 29 of the first victory against us 2 from the race and 13 from the game against Alikh.

We had to fight one more time but this time against the team that lost. It was Astora. The winner was aloud half the points they could score against each other. However this time without the nullification perk. Meaning that this time if team A took down a member of team B then team B took down another member of team A both teams will gain 2 points. But in the end the total score will be halved. The leader however is now worth 6 points.

So what happened was we ended up mopping the floor with the Astorian team…I mean our guys were scary. Especially Vessma once she woke up from her state. She was furious.

Our team took an offensive approach to this game. Vessma used her Stone golem to trample over the small forest burning it to a crisp. This was enough distraction to the enemy team for them to notice the approach of Zeles that blinked behind two of the Soldiers and sent them flying with an A class spell.

He conjured a wind dragon at point blank range right behind the back of the two unsuspecting students.

Before his team members could even retaliate their leader was taken down by Vessma.

She was inside her golem and summoned a great hammer. It was made of molten rocks and emitted enormous amounts of heat.

The strike was aimed at the flank of their leader it was a one hit kill. Well he dropped unconscious thanks to the barrier that was nullifying deathly blows but still it looked very painful.

So…back to where I was now.

The little girl from Astarte was swarmed by some high statured members of society. Noble looking people.

I even saw with them a man who was wearing a kimono with a cloak on top of it that had the fire dragon clan symbol on it.

They are probably trying to gain favor from the little girl or even try to recruit her into their household.

I took a look near the center of the hall where I noticed Shiki who was also swarmed however his audience was a bit different. It was filled with girls…I am not envious but that bastard was just few hours ago seething with rage when our team lost and now he is on cloud seven flirting with every girl in sight…dam what a lucky…Ahem what a bastard…

Then she entered. She looked divine, a true portrait of beauty and elegance. She walked in confidence making everyone turn his gaze to score a glimpse from this splendor.

She wore a white dress the same as her hair color. She had an orchid like flower as a pin, it elegantly managed her hair as a bun.

The dress was exposing a large section of her back as for its bottom part it had a knitted sky blue wyrm. That circled the bottom of the outfit. The dress was exposing a dangerous section of her cleavage but it never made her look indecent, no. it even further enhanced her elegance.

She was walking toward me…

I could feel the gazes of everyone in the hall turn hostile once she was in front of me.

She looked a bit bashful as she had a small tint of red on her cheeks. She opened her mouth trying to say something but she was interrupted by the sound of loud trumpets.

“LADIES AND GENTLEMAN MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE”

It was the same voice of the announcer from the tournament.

“On behalf of the people of the neutral zone Quietus. I am the lord of this zone my name is Burgas Koldich the sixth and I hereby welcome you to the fifty second Grand tournament.”

Everyone turned to face the man that claimed to be the lord of this region he was standing on a small platform that was hanged in air via magic. I never would have taught that the owner of this land is the same guy that was commentating all day long on the tournaments…are they in need of staff that badly…

“Today and like every year the kings and lords of the four free great countries have gathered to celebrate this event. They are here to witness the promising youths that each country has elected to represent them. For all that have participated and for all that will do so tomorrow, be honored to have such persons watching every victory you make and every fall you rise from. However due to security measures only their representatives will attend this party as for them they will be staying in their lodges and attending the party via crystal transmission”

When he finished his speech a figure appeared in the zone that was reserved for the people of Alikh. The royal knights bowed and let the man sit on the throne.

“From Alikh and on behalf of King Ardous Elior his son and only heir Ardous Giive”

He was tall man probably in his early twenties, he had a small goatee with black hair that was cut short.

He wore a very expensive looking attire as his twin tailed vest was clearly made of the most expensive fabric.

People started murmuring while some girls started awing from looking at that man’s face.

I bet this guy can give Shiki a run for his money when it comes down to skirt chasing.

The man waved and sat down as his royal knights took back their position from having to bow to their prince.

“From Astora Representing the King Claudius Vondaze the minister of defense Gligan Brisht”

An old man walked in. he had a large scar on the left side of his face that cut through his eye as it was covered by a glass looking eye patch. He too wore high class looking cloths but probably not as much as the one made for the Alikhian prince.

This man didn’t bother to wave as he sat directly into his chair.

“From Alsa. Representative of the clan coalition of the city of Alsa the blazing fire dragon clan head, the Dragon General Ryoka Gaz.”

The old man entered. He wore the same Kimono I saw him with the last time and over it he wore a cloak with the words Undying flames on the back. His white beard can’t but make him look more intimidating as not a single soul in the audience spoke once he entered. The presence he emitted demanded respect.

Once he sat down everyone sighed in relief.

“Euhh…Okay…Now finally the Last but not least the representative of the King of Astarte Queen Elianor Lamina wife of King Bistor Lamina”

The woman entered receiving the gazes from everyone in the hall. She wore a black dress showing her enormous mounds. Her golden hair was complemented with a golden tiara on top of it.

She was probably in her early forties but she still look elegant as her beauty was proving that she was still winning the battle against time.

She dropped her gaze on the crowd below. But once her gaze locked onto mine I could almost see her lips rising a bit. But that was probably my imagination. She walked near her chair as the royal knights bowed then she sat down.

“Now before we begin our party I would like to say something first. As you all probably still remember we promised a gift from the representatives of every country to the one that beats the wyvern in the second round.”

The crowd started murmuring again but when I realized that they were starting to talk about me a cold sweat was running down my back.

“I would like the young warrior Asura Shirogami to come over here.”

Well having all that audience looking at you and being expected to stand in front of royalty is bound to make someone nervous…

The platform that the guy was standing on was hanged a bit more than 8 meters in the air. With only the walls close to it, the only way for someone to reach there would be by magic or by doing this.

I put some strength on my legs and jumped diagonally toward a pillar that was close to the platform then bounced off the pillar and landed on the platform next to the commentator.

The man looked shock and was clearly taken aback by what I just did. Some of the guests looked tense and some knights were even having their hands on their weapons and were clearly agitated.

Then the commentator said in bit of a surprised tone

“Euhh…when I asked you to come over here I meant for you to show yourself so I could bring you to where you would receive your gifts…and getting this close to a lord of a country is bound to get you in trouble lad.”

Apparently everyone heard this and some even started to chuckle while I turned red from embarrassment.

I taught that he meant it as a test to see if I could get onto his platform but I clearly misunderstood.

He pointed toward a table that held three small chests.

The table was near the seat where the Chairman Ryoka Gaz was seated.

Because the platform I was standing on was a bit higher than the second floor of the hall I had to jump back down toward the table.

I swiftly jumped down the platform and landed near the table.

Then a young man came and started by opening the first chest.

“The first gift from the country of Astora is an Orichalcum ring with golden encryptions. It has the ability to make the wearer blend in with the environment if it was fuelled with a small amount of mana. It can prove to be a handy artifact for a young mage to help him escape from sticky situations…or perhaps to peek on girls bathrooms.”

Even if cheers and sounds of admiration was heard from the nobles, some sounds of disgust were made by the girls in the hall and clearly a few of them were having a bad impression of me…I never chose this ability god damn it it’s an effing gift and I won’t be using it to peek on girls…probably.

The announcer then said.

“Then again the next gift is from the country of Alikh, this one is an ash wyvern egg and will be handed to Alsa”

The young man pulled an ashen colored egg from the small chest, it was the size of a small chicken egg and I taught that that was a joke when he said that this was an ash wyvern’s egg. But once he had it in his right hand it grew back to its normal enormous size.

He dragged back his hand toward the chest and once his hand was on top of it the egg became small again then he replaced it back there.

“The next gift is from Albion it is a Monster core that came from another King class Wyvern. An emerald one that is.”

I unconsciously said out loud

“Huh? Isn’t this mine?”

The lord exclaiming said

“What do you mean that this is yours young lad. I was told that this core was given to a renowned chef as gift for pleasing some young noble’s tasting buds. Are you saying that you are that young noble?”

I answered looking back at him

“Well I am no noble, but that core is mine I was the one that hunted the emerald wyvern that used to have it”

I could almost feel the disbelief that was drawn on the announcer’s face when he said

“Are you saying that you hunted a king class wyvern before…young man I do not take lightly to men who lie directly to my face so this will be your first and last chance to take back the nonsense you are spewing. Even if you did beat that ash wyvern as I have said it was suppressed and could not have exerted its full power. Who do you think I am kid?”

I felt a tone of contempt coming from the man when he asked that but before I could answer a young maiden came to my defense. It was Yuna when she spoke out loud the whole hall turned to look at her.

Some mesmerized by that beauty and some in doubted of the words she uttered.

“Why is it so hard to believe that he did manage to beat a king class wyvern?”

The announcer turned and faced Yuna then answered her.

“Young lady…I do not take kindly to liars. And saying that one man…no one kid managed to beat a king class sacred beast is nothing but a lie…I would not doubt the words of an elder if it was him that said that he beat it…even one of the seven heavenly demons of Albion can manage to takedown a king class sacred beast alone that I can be certain of…but a no name kid not related to nobility took liberty and said that he is at the level of those masters…that is something I would not let slide…his claims are questionable.”

Then another person intervened one that I never taught would have to. It was the Queen of Astarte. Queen Elianor lamina. He voice resounded trough the hall and made everyone pay attention to her. It was not loud but was clear. She said

“The kid does not look like a liar…but why not test if what he is saying is true…I am indeed interested to see if he did manage to beat a king class sacred beast.”

Before the announcer could say a thing I felt a surge of killing intent that was aimed at me…something extraordinary it could even match the one that Master could exert when he gets serious. And it was coming from the queen’s direction.

In an instant my Hyper-recognition skill activated and I felt the slowing of time.

People mouths were moving slowly and sounds were hollowed.

I saw that the queen while even under the effect of the hyper recognition effect moved her hand with an enormous speed.

A small dagger like item was thrown at my direction. The speed was unparalleled but I could still see it coming my way. So at first I decided to dodge it using Shunpo but I feared one thing. If the audience know of this ability I might be disadvantaged. One other thing was that if I do dodge the dagger will hit the young man that was presenting the gifts to me earlier.

I used almost all of my natural mana and coated my right hand with a thick layer of mana-clad

Reinforcing my right hand with stone skin and using soul barrier as I saw that the dagger had a small glowing aura around it so it probably was coated with magic.

The impact resounded trough the hall as I managed to barely hold the dagger by its hilt from piercing my heart.

The strength that was behind that throw was enormous…I even felt heat coming from the blade. The blow made me slide back half a meter damaging the wooden floor I was standing on. I even felt my hand grow numb…

She then said

“ I See…the kid does not lie…he is even capable of stopping one of my dagger throws…Ha ha-ha-ha, Young Asura that dagger is my gift to you, take good care of it. It was my first hunting weapon.”

After she said that I took a look at the dagger at my hand… it looked plain nothing too fancy with a leather strap covering its pommel the blade was chipped and a bit blunted yet it had a strange feeling to it…it still looked sharp. I bowed to the Queen expressing my thanks.

This thing must have held a great sentimental value to the queen and giving it to me should be an honor so I will have to take it without expressing my opinion on how lame it looked.

The announcer said.

“A kid this young was able not only to see the throw from queen Elianor but even stop to…I will have to express my apologies young lad…it seems you are indeed capable of the things you said”

Then a little girl intervened with a loud enough voice for everyone to hear.

“OH so Alsa has someone of this caliber…why did you not send him earlier you would have probably been able to prevent that humiliation you received earlier.”

It was the little girl from Astarte as her taunting were heard by everyone I saw that Vessma who was attending to some maters before was now seething with rage.

The young girl added.

“You probably have taught that if you could save this young man until the last round you would be able to score some points…like some trump card ha-ha-ha…sorry to disappoint you but there are even stronger monsters in our team and two of them are even stronger than me…”

At the end of her words anyone who was paying attention felt a thrill as this little girl who achieved enormous deeds alone just stated that there is someone stronger than her in her team and two of them never the less…I have to admit that I am starting to get the jitters.

The announcer interrupted saying.

“Well this is interesting…to say the least now we can be certain to say that tomorrow will be something to wait for. As for now let the party Begin.”

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**Chapter 7: May I have this dance?**

With a clap from his hands the Lord Burgas announced the start of the ballet.

A slow themed song filling the air making it much more pleasant. Some of the attendant had smiles on their faces grabbed their partners and begun dancing.

I felt a tug on my left sleeve, I turned to see the ever so beautiful Yuna biting on her lip with an obvious red tint on her cheeks.

She must want to dance…the way she is acting should not be that strange I mean she comes from a prestigious family. I paid it no mind and grabbed her hand putting my other one on behind her waist.

What? Just because I was trained in the ways of the sword doesn’t mean I never learned how to dance…hell I was even forced to take lessons of it pairing with master…Oh that was so embarrassing.

The look on Yuna’s face was priceless she truly looked surprised. She must have taught the same.

We moved fluidly. Making our way to the center of the hall, dancing in rhythm with the music making the simplest and most elegant moves Yuna moved. With her dress reflecting her movements and fluttering from the motion she moved as if she was flying.

Some of the dancers cleared the way for us. And some were eying us with admiration. I paid it no mind because I was lost in Yuna’s eyes. Beautiful and deep almost like the sea but they still could not cover the hint of sadness that they were reflecting.

I would have loved to stay like this forever. But time is cruel and the music ended.

I heard the claps of the invitee I even saw the queen of Astarte joining them.

I bowed to Yuna and so did she. Announcing the end of our dance.

Shiki jumped in this time saying

“Excuse me I would love to have this dance.”

I squinted my eyes and looked at his smug face…*is he for real this guy?*

He then added.

“I was talking to Miss Korima… shoo along”

Well I am thankful that he was not addressing me with his question but I can’t say I did not feel a bit sad having to hand him Yuna. But she is not mine so I had to concede.

The next theme was a bit bold, Tango.

Some of the audience who knew their level decided to back away while a few remained on stage with their partners.

I was almost in the middle of the hall alone. I saw Shiki who was struggling to find a proper pose as he was clearly surprised by the change in tempo. I couldn’t help but let out a laugh as I saw that the one who was leading the dance was Yuna. She seemed to struggle a bit with leading him but she still remained composed even if he stepped on her foot one or two times.

I decided to head back to our tables I remember that I saw some of our team members enjoying themselves with the food that was presented and I really did feel like eating something.

Until I heard

“Hey you there!”

It sounded like the voice of a young girl. I turned to look a girl that was almost my height. She had light green hair color that matched with the emblem on her night dress. She wore her outfit in a daring fashion.

It was backless and was tight around the waist yet it managed to perfectly show her humongous bust that was barely being covered.

The bottom of her dress was loos enough for fine movements as it was cut from the side showing her perfectly plum thighs.

All in all she was tall tanned and hot as hell.

I hesitantly answered

“Y-Yes?”

She brushed some of her hair behind her ear and in a low tone said

“May I have this dance?”

I didn’t expect that…this girl is from Astarte that is for sure but why would she ask me someone from another country for a dance? Well whatever you can’t let a girl hanging can you?

I instantly answered

“With pleasure.”

The rhythm of the music was slow. I grabbed her left hand and raised it up almost to her head’s height while my right was behind her shoulder blades, she felt a bit surprised by the sudden act but she still let out a smile.

I knew right away she was not a stranger to this type of dancing as she started to move her hips and match my steppes every step felt natural it felt smooth like I was dancing with the wind.

I started moving my legs with more vigor using moves that my teacher have taught me to make the dance more interesting crossing a leg behind the other only to be surprised by her doing the same she was perfectly tracing my steps. Almost as if she was reading my mind she matched everything and perfected it.

The dancers became staggered and a few of them even walked back and only stood to watch.

A spotlight from a crystal up in the sky lit up and begun following our movements.

I picked her up with my right hand and made a 360degree turn and she responded by raising her right leg and tilting her head back. Once I placed her down I spread my right hand and so did she we stepped away from each other but we were still linking hands. I tugged her back to me and she complied turning around herself until she reached my left arm where I tilted her body over my left arm.

She bent smoothly over fully tilting her head back that her hair almost touched the ground. Then I pulled her back tightening my embrace to her making her face was too close to mine we stood like that for a moment the picked up the pace once the music became faster.

She asked me while we still danced

“So you are the guy that everyone is talking about. How did you feel seeing our little Rica taking out your leader in moments? You don’t seem like one who would fall for something like that by the way.”

I answered still moving my body to in rhythm with the music that only kept pacing up.

“I don’t know about that I still have not seen her directly to judge but she seems strong. I am only concerned about the other two she said that are stronger than her…and clearly you are one of those two”

As I said that she smiled but I spun her around my hand and tugged her back to my chest after making a brief back step.

She said

“And how did you find that out.”

I turned her forward grabbing her from behind my right hand on her waist and the other grabbing her left hand.

With my mouth close to her ear I said.

“It is the density of your muscles and well-proportioned body. There is not even a speck of excess fat nor lag in the movements you have been making. You are extremely flexible and that shows great time spent in training”

I separated from her and she spun around herself. She made a taunting gaze toward me almost filled with lust then she approached I grabbed her hand again and replaced my hand this time dangerously below her waist.

She said

“hmmm quit daring…but that can’t be all can it now…almost anyone here can have a body like that so how could you know I was really one of who Rica was speaking of?”

She already knows…but just want to make me say it…

“Well if you want to know…Any other girl would have had her hands crushed by the way I am grabbing yours right now I was raising the strength of my grip since the beginning of this dance yet you are still to feel a thing…if this is not proof enough I don’t know what is.”

She looked at me dangerously and said in a low tone

“Hmm…You make me want you even more…”

I answered

“Huh? What was that?”

She smiled and spun around with me once I stepped back she placed her right leg behind my left while her right hand pushed my hand upwards. Both our left legs were stretched over each other and with our gazes crossed the music stopped making the dance end.

It was utter silence when the dance ended only to have it broken by the sound of someone clapping.

It was followed by another then another until everyone in the hall was clapping altogether.

I bowed to the girl in front of me I could not even ask her name but she did say before we part.

“Let us dance again on the arena tomorrow but that time it will be a blade dance.”

She turned around and walked away heading toward the section dedicated to Astarte.

She should be a fine warrior to be able to make moves like that…strong too tomorrow will really be interesting.

As I was walking toward our table I saw the pouting face of Yuna who as soon as I met her gaze she turned hers to the side.

*I don’t know what went wrong but what did I do to deserve this*

Before I could manage to speak to her I saw Shiki who was gasping for air… a *dance should not be this taxing why is he out of breath* I thought.

Before I could ask him what is wrong he said.

“Man that girl is scary…I was being dragged along the arena all the time oh my god why did I even try and dance with her…it was not bad at first but once she saw you dance with that girl her temper changed drastically and I was getting thrown from side to side…oh god I don’t want to dance anymore”

Raising my brows was my answer to his idiotic reasoning so I just ignored the complaining Shiki and headed toward the feast.

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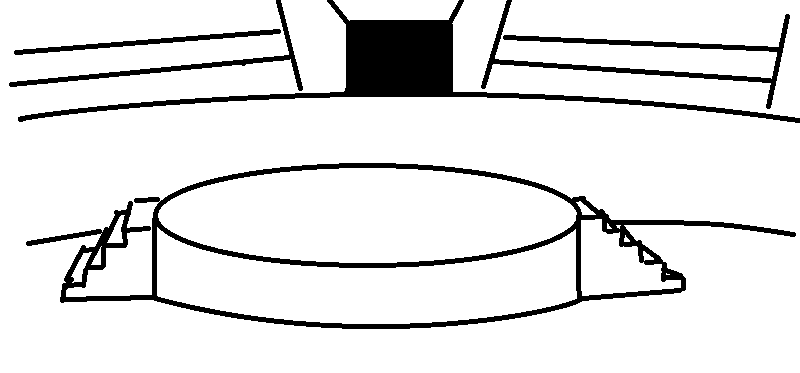
**Chapter 8: Solo battles.**

The sound of the morning. OH the cute birds chirping and voice of all different animals moving about

. Even a river flowing would be heard, If only the loud noise from the filled to the brim arena could be muted.

The arena was changed overnight.

Yesterday it was a rectangular large space but today it is a rounded platform circular and positioned high above the ground. With stairs leading up to it.



“LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, the second and final day of the grand tournament has begun.”

Yep that is him the lord of this region and the announcer of the tournament the guy with the weird haircut.

“I will now tell you how the fights will be handled. Every school right now has 5 remaining competitors. Lottery will decide which schools will fight each other. This year we have an unprecedented happening as the vast difference between the school’s points has made it almost difficult for other schools to compete. As you can all see the score board shows that the first position is for Astarte with their whooping 44 points followed by Alsa that has 26 points. Next is Alikh with 6 points and Astora with 4 points.”

It is true what he said I never noticed the vast difference between our schools…the best part is that I believe that Astarte was taught to be the underdogs as they were the only country that fully focused on using weapons instead of magic.

The announcer added

“The rules are simple, fight until you drop. Each contender is worth five points and if the same participant is able to defeat multiple fighters they will gain bonus points that will be added to their score.

+2 for 2 victories 4 for three victories, 8 if he won four matches and 16 if the contender was able to defeat the entire enemy team alone. These points will be added to the final score.”

The screen showed a that we were going to face against Astarte while Alikh will face against Astora

I am starting to doubt that this competition is rigged as this is almost the same assortment we had the game before. Amazingly almost as if the commentator heard me thinking that he said

“Well, well, well I never taught this would happen…so we get the chance to see a rematch between Astarte and Alsa the same is for Alikh and Astora. Will the results change now after seeing what happened yesterday??...and now without further ado LET THE FIGHTS BEGIN”

So we get to fight first…Alright this should be interesting enough.

A guy walked up the stairs of the platform.

He had a well-proportioned body with well-developed muscles he also had a rapier on his left.

His brown short hair showed no resistance to the blowing wind as it fluttered making him look like some type of a prince from bedtime stories.

He carried himself confidently yet in elegance at the same time.

Vessma chose the Mohawk guy to be the first of our team followed by the girl from the second year, and Yuna. I was left with Shiki for last to handle any unknown variables.

“I will be the judge of this event. There is no restriction on the type of spells in this game. All kind of abilities will be tolerated any who gets out of boundary is eliminated air suspension is allowed if you do not touch the ground and maintain yourself airborne. The barrier will negate all the physical damage and will translate it to the brain. Death is impossible inside this barrier so you can all let loose…Now let the two champions stand in front of each other and let the fight begins.”

The Mohawk guy took the stairs of the arena and got up. He clearly was nothing like his adversary.

The judge announce the start of the game with the loudest “FIGHT START” I have ever heard.”

The Mohawk guy or as the screen showed his name to be Yadil Giird.

The other guy’s name was Jibi. He didn’t have a family name added to him so I taught it to be weird.

The second the fight begun the rapier wielder Jibi took a pose.

His right leg forward and left hand behind his back his other hand was elegantly holding his blade.

A total opposite from the guy who was not even giving a damn about the dress code.

Yadil begun running toward his enemy closing the gap at a fast rate.

Yadil extended his arms to the sides and brought them together. That exaggerated clap created a deafening sound that made the blade wielder cringe for a second. An apparent shock was drawn on the face of Yadil probably because his attack did not work as he expected it to yet he still kept going.

He stretched his hand forward in a fist like motion making the air around it vibrate for a second. At max extension a bubble like pop was heard then another deafening explosion emitted from the guy’s fist.

The aftereffects of that attack was a shockwave that headed toward the guy named Jibi.

If I was him I would have sidestepped it and charged forward. Yet this guy was crazy. He stood forward and made a vertical slicing motion clearly disrupting the wave’s rhythm. It was as if he had cut it in half

The waves lost their strength and at the same time. The expressions on Yadil’s face turned dark.

The man in front of him did not wait for Yadil to regain his composure as he almost instantly appeared in front of him. Not losing any momentum he used his sword to slash at Yadil’s hand. He yelped from pain yet he could not see the coming leg sweep that knocked him down.

Another slash at his abdomen area was enough to make the downed guy cringe from pain. He tried to put his hands together probably to cast another spell but before he could even gather enough mana he was stopped by a devastating blow from Jibi’s left hand that made a small crater on the floor behind Yadil.

Seeing the white of his eyes the judge concluded the fight with the victory of Astarte.

The guy named Jibi failed to even drop a sweat or show any signs of exhaustion as he took back his old posture demanding for the next challenger.

Next was the girl from our school the second year tournament winner.

She walked in properly carrying herself unlike the guy before she was a daughter of manners as she bowed slightly before her adversary.

Her name was Hanna Vendi…

*Must be related to Zeles and the principal….*

The other gestured the same and the round begun.

Like the last time Jibi did nothing to initiate the fight and patiently waited for the girl to make the first move

As for Hanna she had smoke coming from her hands…purple smoke, clearly toxic.

It rapidly filled the stage shaping like a dome above the platform.

The visibility of the stage became really low with only sounds of a blade whipping and slashing through air, nothing was able to satiate the thirst of the audience from knowing what is happening inside.

“FIGHT OVER” said the judge.

The smoke started dissipating and a silhouette of a person was apparent in the middle of the platform

It was Jibi standing strong in front of the unconscious Hanna’s body.

He was coughing a bit but he still remained standing. The poison clearly was not enough to bring him down…I am quite surprised to see how he was able to exactly pinpoint her position inside that thick smoke screen. He must have enhanced senses that enabled him of that feat.

Yet what a monster…the fact that he is not even showing his true strength is what is frightening…he managed to bring down two of our members before they could even cast any of their A tire spells…

This is what I was talking about that time…I wonder how Yuna will be able to handle this guy. However if she could apply what I have been teaching her all those times when I was sparring with her, I believe she can work something out.

Vessma was unable to contain her anger with apparent discomfort from the fact that we were losing the game. She then started pouring her frustration at the docile looking Shiki who was trying to calm her down but to no avail.

Yuna got up on stage walking with unwavering will, she stood in front of the man that was taking his posture like always.

The moment the judge shouted the beginning of the match. The temperature dropped significantly.

Yuna who was closing her eyes for a second opened them making a surge of frost cover the entire platform in matter of moments.

Before the wave of cold even touch Jibi he jumped upward evading it as if it was plague.

Falling feet first on the now frozen floor proved not to be a hindrance to the swordsmen.

The look on his face showed prudence as it was obvious to anyone who saw that a girl was able of that feat in such a short time with apparently no incantations is a monster.

She walked confidently toward the swordsman. Two small Mahojins appeared on each of her hands. Muttering a muffled incantation two small dragons were summoned beside her.

They looked at her then looked forward. As if understanding the reason of their summoning they charged ahead.

I remember that in our sparring time she never summoned these things as it was forbidden to use A class offensive spells at school yet she did use them when facing off against the metal mage.

Our spares would have probably had a different outcome if she was able to use more of her power.

The hound like dragons had reached the man in no time.

They too were able to cast their own magic as whenever they howled a bolt of ice was propelled from a small white Mahojin that appears in front of their snouts.

The man started by parrying one of the bolts and evading the other.

This should have been a fatal mistake as the ice would cling to the blade and would dull it. Yet the bolt was sliced in half while the blade maintained its luster and sharpness.

This metal seems weird as it is almost the same type the twin blade user used yesterday to dispel the spells from Zeles and Bella.

The apparent shock on the face of Yuna when she saw how Jibi easily dispelled her summons’ attack was proof enough that she was not expecting that turn of events…this could turn badly if she does not change her view of the match.

Like I expected Yuna withdrew her summons as they slowly walked back into a more of a defensive posture protecting her.

Jibi had a wide grin on his face when he noticed that Yuna started chanting an obviously powerful spell.

*Damn it…he figured it out*

Dashing toward her, Jibi infused his weapon with spiritual energy. The two dragon hounds growled and jumped at him trying to rip off his head with the widest motion their jaw could stretch with.

*Simple beasts…*

It only took him the simplest of movements to finish one off as he side-stepped to the left piercing the beast with the tip of his blade three times in almost an instant. Not waiting to lose more time he kicked the second one and dashed forward. He reached Yuna in no time, he thrusts with his rapier that now glowed golden from the intensity of the spiritual energy that is enveloping it.

Yuna who had her eyes closed for a second felt his approach. Usually she would jump backwards but it seems that she remembers our last lesson

She sidestepped at the last second feeling that her magic was ready she pushed her hands forward. A Mahojin was created in front of her hands.

She then whispered a spell

“Ruin king’s tomb.”

What happened next was a sight to behold.

The atmosphere that was already cold became freezing. Her very words were spoken with white vapor coming from her mouth.

Jibi looked like he was panicking as he poised himself in a defending position only to make his situation grimmer.

The ice that was already on the ground instantly latched onto his feet. He noticed and started hacking at it with his blade only to realize that the ice was forming too fast. He was unable to do anything to slow down the persisting rise of the ice that right now climbed to his knees.

A square ice platform that he was the center of begun to grow in size.

The hands of Yuna were still held forward channeling more mana to create this thing.

Noticing his inability to do anything he charged his sword with as much spiritual energy that he could and made a wide thrusting motion aimed at Yuna.

Jibi grinned as he taught that his attack would connect and cancel the channeled spell but to his surprise a shadow jumped in front of the attack blocking it from reaching her.

It was the second wolf that he neglected.

Right now the ice formed all the way up to his chest area and the square platform was turning into a pyramid like structure with Jibi in its center.

Before it could reach his face he looked directly into Yuna’s direction making a nod.

The creating of the 4 meter ice pyramid ended as it was almost crystal clear Jibi was still inside it.

This should probably mean that he lost but seeing that the judge said nothing the game was still not over.

To my surprise Yuna was still chanting even if her spell was successful I think she wants to finish things her way.

This time four ice spears almost 3 meters tall were created on each of the pyramid’s sides all hovering in air pointed at its center.

In another whisper she said

“Heaven’s impaling javelin”

In a moment the four spikes whirled and spun then rushed toward the boy in the center penetrating trough the four sides of the pyramid crushing the trapped guy. This time however the judge stopped the matched declaring victory for Yuna as he noticed the fluctuations of the barrier when the spears landed accompanied by the screen showing that the HP score of Jibi hit 0.

A smile appeared on the obviously drained Yuna’s face a smile that could wash away a sad man’s pains.

Whit this our school…no our country scored the first victory this year against Astarte. This marks the beginning of our comeback.

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**Chapter: End.**

(Osfor POV)

Well I think I should stop playing with ‘them’ I already had all I need I should probably go back and enjoy whatever is left from the tournament.

For the last 24 hours I was ‘trapped’ in this laboratory as I found some interesting specimens to work on and test my new theories on the increasing threats from the so called gores… to my surprise the facilities here in Quietus are astonishingly more developed and better equipped this made my work easier compared to back home.

Even though I know I am being ‘used’…I just can’t help my curiosity.

I was first lead here by a short female researcher she invited me to this lab telling me that she had something interesting to show me…and indeed it was…I mean when can you even find such a vast amount of gores in once place…they have here more than 200 gore fully imprisoned and sealed. Used for experimentation…this is better than what I had back in my lab as I was only allowed to have one at a time.

I gathered more data in these 24 hours than I would have in a year. Copulated with the advanced machinery I think I am on the verge of a breakthrough concerning my thesis around the purification of the blight and corruption syndromes that are inflicted by the gores.

Yet I just can’t shake the feeling that something bad is going to happen…my pinky finger was twitching all day long and this never was a good singe…damn it, I think I should go back to the stadium I want to see my students…

By the moment I finished packing all the paperwork I needed to complete my theory I started casting my usual teleportation spell as this is supposed to be the quickest way to leave this building as I feel like I would encounter some ‘trouble’ from the ones who are keeping watch over this lab if I leave normally.

Yet to my expectations this room has a teleportation block mechanism. “*Should I blow up the wall*?” I taught. Then I considered against it as this would do more harm than good…so I should probably just walk out the door.

What was truly surprising is the fact that the door out of this lab is locked now…I was sure I left It open.

Yet before I could do anything I heard the voice of someone I didn’t believe to be here of all places. Asilis

He spoke trough a magnifying voice emitter that was installed somewhere inside this room.

“I see that you were a bit busy…did you like it here? Having all those toys for yourself should be quite satisfactory for you isn’t it Osfor?”

Toys? He is speaking about the gores…well I can’t blame him it really was satisfying hehe-hehe

I answered him almost instantly “It really was, however you know that clan head Ryoka gas can’t wait to see you again? He will be delighted to know that you are here.”

I could almost feel the tension that is now in his voice after what I said, he spoke

“h-huh well he can look all he want, I now have the backing of the Organization and with you here we are almost done and we can proceed to the next step. Trapping you here was too easy…you always seem to think yourself smarter than anyone else but the fact that you were captured here proves otherwise…I would advise that you don’t try and use any of your destructive spells there. It will activate the emergency defense mechanism, I have no qualms about you surviving the explosion, however many innocent lives will be lost if you try to forcefully leave…so I suggest that you stay put until an agent comes and get you.”

I figured as mush, they are using the lives of other people to twist my hands…although I can leave using ‘that method’…let’s just see what they have to offer first.

*To be continued…*