

the monarch Chapter 71 - A peculiar invitation[2]

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"Master, you told me that when I encountered an opponent who used a katana and at the same time gave me that feeling, I should bring him to you", with this sentence the previously calm atmosphere became heavy, and the old man's gaze sharpened towards Kayden.

The boy felt as if thousands of hands ran over every inch of his body, it was as if he could not hide anything from the old man's view. Invaded. Kayden felt violated.

As soon as it came, the feeling passed and the old man's gentle and calm look returned.

"Nobody training, just physical exertion, impressive," the elder muttered to himself as he shook his head. "Very well, position yourself", with his order the two boys headed towards the center.

Kayden walked slowly without rushing. He was thinking about what had just happened, it was the first time in his life that he felt someone's "spiritual sense". Now he understood why it was considered rude to use it in public places.

2

The two faced each other in the center of the room, Kayden with his katana and Astolfo with his immense spear. The boy had faced opponents who used this weapon before, but it was usually an easy match.

Most did not have a good command of the weapon, the spear was a difficult weapon to master, out of every 100 who knew how to use it, only 1 would be a true master.

"I will suppress the use of mana and put pressure on you to only use your bodies and techniques," the elder's voice resonated in Kayden's ear, and at the same time, he felt as if he had dived into a pool.

His movements became a little slower than normal and he wasn't even able to circulate mana through his body. This... was power, absolute power, the mere will of man could dictate reality.

Kayden smiled to himself devilishly. For now, it would be suppressed...for now.

"The rules are simple, don't die or ruin my dojo, the first is optional", Kayden felt a vein on his forehead pop, and the man seemed to be serious about not ruining his space.

'Stingy', both boys thought at the same time.

"Begin", as soon as the order came out of the elder Astolfo's mouth he began to twirl his spear in his hand, Kayden had to admit that the boy looked imposing while doing that. But...

Unfortunately for him, the boy had no desire to see this show, advancing at high speed he struck a side blow with his katana, catching Astolfo by surprise and forcing him to defend with the smooth part of the spear.

"Hey, that was dishonest", Astolfo complained as he took a few steps back, his sentence was ignored by Kayden who advanced again, the problem was that this time his opponent was ready and maintained a sequence of thrusts to keep him at a distance.

Astolfo's technique seemed to be polished to the maximum, his movements were fluid and connected. Kayden began to smell a small fragrance of cherry blossoms and observed Astolfo's spear taking on a certain pink hue.

' Murim ', Kayden remembered this style from one of the thousands of manga he read about cultivation in the mum world, he didn't expect to see something like this in this life. Leaving these thoughts aside, the boy resumed his constant attacks.

3

His blows were heavy, even with the spear keeping him away he still delivered strong attacks to his opponent's weapon. It was obvious what he wanted to do, he intended to force Astolfo's hand to slip so he could take advantage of an opening.

Astolfo began to make circular blows in an attempt to gain space, Kayden's attacks continued to rain on him uninterruptedly, and his hand began to feel the impact of dozens of blows.

With a feint, Kayden found an opening on the right side. His katana came down at high speed, threatening to cut the spearman in two diagonally, but Astolfo also saw this opportunity to strike Kayden's left arm.

The two were expected to retreat, but neither of them was normal. Kayden's blade entered his opponent's back, opening a reasonably sized cut, and at the same time, Astolfo drew his spear against Kayden.

There was nothing he could do, his last effort was to duck to receive less damage. Instead of his arm, his shoulder was hit and blood began to spurt. His wound was deep and would probably take him out if he were normal.

But he wasn't, right?

"I think this is over," Astolfo said, but he had a bad feeling when he saw a smile on his opponent's face. And his fear came true, the boy rushed towards him with even heavier blows.

His katana looked like a violent snake, every space she found was transformed into an attack with lethal intent. But the spear was like a wall, no matter how many blows were landed, it did not swing.

TRIIIIINNN! TRIIIIIINN! TRIIIIIINN!

Only the sound of metal hitting metal could be heard in the room. The minutes dragged on, it seemed to be an even fight for both sides.

"Astolfo, you can use the family art", the old man said calmly, taking them both by surprise. A small smile was opened by the spear user.

His posture underwent small changes, the shade of pink and the smell of cherries increased exponentially. A barrage of blows was thrown at Kayden, forcing him to go on the defensive for the first time in the fight.

The blows came at high speed from every possible angle. Kayden was defending well for a while, but the speed kept increasing. The previously spaced blows now seemed to be connected.

As soon as he defended himself from one blow, another was already hitting his defenses. The boy started to keep his distance, but the spear had an insanely long reach. He didn't know what to do.

A small groan of pain left Kayden's lips as his waist received a slight cut. His groan was in surprise, he hadn't seen that cut coming, and he hadn't even felt the blade cutting into his skin.

Over the next few minutes, Kayden began to receive dozens of small cuts on his skin. He began to notice that Astolfo's spear was at different points in space at the same time, but how was that possible? He had no idea.

Every time he parried the spear, a small cut would appear on his body.

'From where?' This question was in your head being repeated incessantly. The boy was too focused to notice the old man's smile.

"Even with dozens of cuts and in a horrible situation, he is still calm and thinking about how to turn this battle around," the elder muttered to himself.

Kayden decided to create an opening and go on the offensive. When the spear came towards him from the side, he followed its movement until his blade met the spear.

As Astolfo had to travel a greater distance, the spear no longer had as much strength as at the beginning of the half-moon. His gun was thrown back and Kayden closed the distance between them even further.

2

His opponent's chest was open, this was his opportunity. Putting all his strength into his arms, the boy was about to deliver a decisive blow, but...

Metal. A cold metal was felt on his shoulders stopping his movements, but it didn't make sense. The spear shouldn't have the speed to come back so quickly to perform this attack.

'What the fuck?'

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Kayden was sure he would manage to use at least one attack before Astolfo managed to control the impact of the shock between his blows. He fought long enough to be sure of Astolfo's strength.

And he knew that no mana had been used, there was no point in calling him here to win unfairly, especially under the old man's eyes.

"It's over now," Kayden said neutrally. The two put away their weapons, Astolfo had a pained expression on his face, while Kayden was expressing absolutely nothing.

Compared to other injuries he'd had, these small cuts seemed like child's play. His mind was more concerned with the battle, everything changed when the elder permitted Astolfo to use the family art.

Kayden knew that his technique was nothing to write home about since it was developed by him during his countless fights, there were probably several mistakes and moves that could be improved.

"Here, take one each," the old man threw a small pot containing several brown pills.

Clumsily picking up the pot, Kayden snapped out of his reverie. He was stunned for a moment without knowing what to do, these pills were alchemy items that only rich families would have access to.

Each of them cost at least 1 gold coin, he had never used anything like them, and normally mages specializing in healing were cheaper. To avoid being insulted, Kayden took one and passed the pot to Astolfo.

"Thank you," Kayden thanked the old man and popped the pill into his mouth.

As soon as he swallowed the medicine, he felt his body begin to heat up uncontrollably and his wounds began to cool down, it was a very strange sensation of having two opposite types of temperature running through his body.

His mind became calmer and it felt like he had just come from a walk in the park and not a violent battle, his energy recovered to the level it was when he woke up earlier today.

The temperature sensation lasted a few seconds and as soon as it was gone, Kayden saw his entire body healthy again and, unlike healing magic, this pill recovered his mental state.

Seeing that Astolfo had also recovered, Kayden looked at the elder waiting for what would happen now, it had already become clear that the spearman was just an assistant in this situation and the one who gave the orders was his master.

"Well, now that we're ready, let's talk, Kayden." With his sentence, a small table was levitated from the second floor containing tea and some snacks. The elder and Astolfo sat on the floor, inviting Kayden to join them.

As soon as everyone got ready, the old man resumed speaking.

"My family has countless spear and sword arts and dozens of practitioners of both disciplines. I was its second patriarch and we are on the sixth. I have already accomplished everything I had to do with this family." His tone sounded nostalgic, as if he was remembering things that happened a long time ago. "I have had dozens of apprentices, from spearmen like Astolfo to katana practitioners. My father taught me that knowledge should be shared."

The old man took a break to drink tea. At that moment, Kayden realized that perhaps luck was smiling at him for the first time in his life.

"I have several nicknames among my generation, but the main one is 'monster'. Not because I'm strong, there are several people much better than me. This nickname is due to my innate level 1 talent."

The last part caught Kayden completely off guard. It was the first time he had seen someone in a high position have a low-level innate talent. And without a doubt, that old man was strong, otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to be the patriarch of such a large family.

"I spent my entire childhood abandoned. My family practically discarded me like trash." His story...was similar to what Kayden went through in school. But, unlike the old man, his family was not impacted by the revelation of his talent. "Ah, but that doesn't matter, the past is over."

The calm and gentle smile returned to the previously serious face.

"When I was younger, I made a promise... I promised myself that I would pass on everything I achieved to someone like me." This... was too good to be true. "It's been decades of searching for someone with the same innate talent. Level 1 is extremely rare and those with the willpower to cultivate are even fewer."

That was true. Kayden has never met another person with talent merely similar to his. It was easier to find level 4 and 5 than a level 1 innate talent.

"And guess what when my grandson told me about a 5th-rank apprentice facing people at the 7th rank? And even better, his talent was level 1." The old man's eyes showed a certain shine. "Kayden, I want you to be my disciple."

There was what Kayden was waiting for.

"I don't even know you, sir. You don't expect me to accept an unknown master, do you?" His sentence made Astolfo jump from his seat.

"Kayden!!! Stop being insolent! My master is..." Before he could continue, the elder raised his hand.

"The boy's right, Astolfo. I wouldn't go into something like that blindly either." With that sentence, the old man stood up and retrieved a katana from the second floor. "My name is Sasaki Kojiro and I am a swordsman of three kingdoms. I am currently one of the oldest men alive and hold the title of katana master in our kingdom."

1

The title of the master was something Kayden had already heard of. The kingdom gave the strongest person with a certain weapon or technique the title of master. Kayden didn't expect to meet a title holder on a random day.

They were giants in their ranks, people who had reached the peak of the peak in the human world.

"I am known as the calm swordsman." The man began to draw some movements in the air with his katana. They seemed... calm, but the more Kayden paid attention, the more ridiculous the technique became.

The movements that looked clean were several strikes together. When the katana came down, there were at least three different hidden movements. The boy was sure he was only seeing this because the old man was allowing it.

The elder's sword had a faint tinge of white in its movements. It felt like a dance as if the universe resonated with their movements. After a few seconds, the old man stopped.

But Kayden was still in deep thought. The world had opened up to him. The elder's art was impeccable. His proficiency was capable of leaving Kayden stunned. The boy didn't remember seeing anything like that at any point in his life.

"Kayden," Sasaki called the boy. "I don't expect you to make up your mind now. First, you must prove yourself worthy. To do that, I want you to win this year's city championship."

His request was... unreasonable. Kayden was taken by surprise. He was sure that he still wouldn't be able to accomplish such a feat. Most of their opponents would be senior seniors who were at the 7th or 8th apprentice level. Even more so with your team of beginners.

Before the boy could say anything, he found himself being levitated out along with Astolfo. Passing through the door, Astolfo landed on his feet, but Kayden wasn't used to it and fell flat on his face.

"Come back when you fulfill my request," the elder's voice came from behind the door. Kayden stood up and looked at Astolfo.

"Your master... he is... eccentric," Kayden wanted to call the old man a crazy dreamer for giving him an impossible mission, but it was better not to push his luck. Astolfo seemed to agree with Kayden's statement.

"He's...one of a kind," Astolfo agreed with Kayden.

the monarch Chapter 73 - A new ally

Chapter 73: A new ally

Kayden's team was once again practicing at the school in their bubble. The training was on a completely different level than when they started. There was only 1 month left and they needed to climb several positions to reach the top 5.

Only people in this ranking can compete in the municipal championship. The problem was that now onwards their opponents were only at the 6th rank and those in the top 5 had 7th rank mages.

Kayden was no longer able to balance the difference in strength like before. At most, he could face two average opponents at best. His team was able to fulfill their duties, but...

If something went wrong, the boy didn't have much hope that they would be able to deal with the unexpected.

"Come here, please," Kayden gathered his team in the center of the circle. "We're going to recruit one more person for our team. Let's do it simply: anyone can join, we're going to have a dueling championship."

1

With their team ranked 13th, many students wanted to join it, even if they had to abandon their current team to do so.

"Carlos, go publicize it. The championship will be held at noon." The bald man was the best option to spread the news because due to his lively manner, he had several friends who would make the message forward even faster.

It wasn't long before a small crowd was gathered around Kayden's team. There were at least 50 students from different classes spread around the place. The event was unprecedented.

Even Mr. Lucas was recruited to be the referee for the matches, all thanks to Carlos' natural charisma. Even the bubble from before had to be replaced by one of the training spaces because of the size of the crowd.

Kayden was sitting in a random place waiting. As soon as his pocket watch beeped, the boy stood up and walked to the center of the arena. The people who saw him made space for him.

"Attention," the boy clapped his hands to attract the crowd. Little by little, she fell silent until total silence. "The rules are simple: it will be a one-on-one match, we don't need support."

Simple and short. Kayden hadn't prepared any speeches and tasked his team with doing the work of drawing lots and solving the problems.

"Ah, that's what leadership is," the boy smiled to himself and returned to his previous seat. He would only pay attention to the last participants.

Your mind simply disconnected from all the happenings around you and entered a state of focus. His thoughts kept returning to the technique the elder demonstrated to him the day before.

Meanwhile, in the small league...

"Why is he here?" "He already had a team, didn't he?" "This is completely unfair."

Voices like this could be heard coming from every corner of the crowd. The battles were lasting an average of 5 to 10 minutes each, but one of the participants was simply sweeping the floor with his opponents.

Their matches barely lasted 3 minutes and most of the time it was simply a one-sided beatdown. Little by little the number of participants decreased, in about 2 hours the matches only had 4 finalists.

At that moment, Maria woke Kayden from his daydreams. As soon as he recovered, he saw something he hadn't expected at all: Astolfo was imposing with his giant spear and his blue hair.

The other three contestants didn't even get a second look from Kayden. He knew that Astolfo was on a completely different level, not only that, but he was also in a higher cultivation position.

Kayden sighed. If he had known this would happen, he wouldn't have proposed this idea. Over time, the crowd only started to grow, everyone wanted to see the school's current top 1 fight.

Astolfo's opponent was a longsword user, without a doubt his class was a knight. He wore armor that seemed to weigh the same as him or more. Other than that, Kayden was unable to gather any further information.

The battle between the two began quickly, with the knight running against Astolfo quickly. The spear user began to exude a smell of cherry blossoms and his spear turned a certain pink color.

The first blow came from the knight with a strong side cut. Unfortunately for him, Astolfo's spear parried the blow simply and a small gash was opened on the knight's waist.

'That...' Kayden had a glimpse of what happened yesterday, but he still wasn't sure.

The same scene that happened to him was seen in that fight.

Cut over the top. Small cut on the leg. Side blow. Small cuts on the shoulders. Lunge. Small cut on hands. Feint and diagonal strike. Small cut on the side.

No matter how the opponent attacked, the spear would have a quick and cruel rebound, always ready to exchange one eye for another. Little by little, injuries accumulated on the knight's body.

On the other hand, Astolfo was simply intact, not even his breathing changed intensity. And all this because of something simple: technique. Kayden was sure his opponent was at least in seventh place.

Otherwise, he wouldn't be able to stay in the fight for more than a few seconds. For the first time, Kayden saw an example of how technique is more important than strength. He did not doubt that Astolfo would do well even against ninth-ranked opponents.

The fight continued at high intensity, at least on the part of the knight. Astolfo seemed more like he was putting on a show for the audience, his smile and winks at the girls in the audience irritated his opponent.

Driven by anger, his blows came harder and faster, and yet nothing changed. It changed: now he had even more injuries. That made a light bulb go off in Kayden's head.

Astolfo's technique... was like a shadow, it depended on the opponent to be complete. His strikes and speed matched and reflected his opponent's intensity.

The fight lasted a few more minutes, clearly, Astolfo was prolonging it for his entertainment. Outside of his master's eyes, his sadistic side took over, but well... that wasn't Kayden's problem.

He wasn't even paying attention anymore, the outcome had already been decided a long time ago.

CLAP!

The sound of a body falling was heard. Finally, the fight was over. Astolfo looked into Kayden's eyes and smiled innocently as if all this fuss wasn't his fault.

"Who is next?" His tone symbolized confidence. The other two participants were a swordsman and a wind mage. They hadn't even fought yet and were already depressed.

"I quit."

"Me too."

None of them wanted to suffer at the hands of this maniac. They did not doubt that they would suffer the same end. They could still see the knight's body being healed by Mr. Lucas, it looked like a ball of blood.

Astolfo's smile disappeared, giving his face a tone of contempt.

"Trash." Their offense was said loudly, but the two could do nothing. They were afraid of the spearman's strength.

Little by little, the crowd began to empty.

In the end, only Kayden and his team were left with the new member. Kayden's three companions didn't know what to say. Astolfo was a legendary figure to them. It hadn't even been a month since they were at the bottom of the food chain.

The three waited for Kayden to take the lead. He would probably know what to do. But, contrary to his expectations, Kayden had no idea how the mere recruitment situation got to that point.

"Weren't you already on a team?" That was the first thing Kayden said while receiving that strange look from Astolfo.

"I'm tired of him." His tone was as if reaching the top 1 was something fleeting and easy. "Plus, they're all seniors, so there's no point in me continuing with them."

"I see. Get in the bubble, let's start training." Kayden had already resolved his curiosity and no longer cared.

"Hey! What's with this lack of emotion? I'm the incredible Astolfo, the Cherry Blossom Lancer, and I demoted myself to join your team!" With an offended tone, the teenager attacked Kayden.

"You are no longer the spearman of the cherry trees." The boy opened a small smile. "Now you're one of my guinea pigs...members of my team." Kayden seemed to have gotten the words wrong.

2

"Guinea pigs?" Astolfo mumbled under his breath without understanding as he entered the bubble.

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Chapter 74: Rating 12

"How much longer do we have to do?" a voice resounded, it sounded desolate and lifeless.

"I don't know, until he's satisfied," another voice replied.

"Hey! Don't speak too loudly or he might wake up", another voice hurriedly entered the conversation.

"Is there no way we can escape?" the first voice asked.

"No",

"No",

The two voices together responded without a hint of hesitation, almost as if it was a universal fact. At that moment, Kayden came out of his meditation and saw Carlos, Maria and Astolfo talking hidden in a corner of the bubble.

"Have you finished your training yet?" Kayden's words sent a shiver down the three's spines.

"We were just resting", the phrase was said together.

"I understand", a simple word seemed to hide a tone of threat. "Gather here, let's discuss our next fight." It had been 1 week since Astolfo joined the team.

At that time, Kayden preferred to introduce him to the team rather than fight other opponents. To do this, he made the members get to know each other and achieve a certain synergy between them.

"We will have to win at least 7 fights in 3 weeks. Our opponents will now all be at rank 6. We will no longer be able to use guerrilla strategies, now it will be a head-on battle."

This was Kayden's biggest fear before, but now with Astolfo on the team, he believed it wouldn't be too difficult to reach the top positions in the standings.

"Astolfo and Carlos will be the front line after Maria's barrage of spells, I will be the universal support and Jean will be the standard support." With his sentence, everyone agreed, each one was where they would do their role in the best way.

Kayden actually wasn't some kind of support, he would just go wherever he thought best suited to help. He was the only one who could play this role, as Carlos had no experience and Astolfo had to play the front line because of his technique.

A few minutes later, Kayden's team was in the arena facing one of the most unbalanced teams they had ever seen. The team at rank 12 had 5 attack mages in its composition.

They were all wearing black and red hooded clothes, it was practically impossible to discern any characteristics of them, not even their gender.

"Start", the voice of Lord Lucas was heard in the arena, starting the confrontation.

Simultaneously, the 5 mages launched spells of different elements against Kayden's team, from fireballs to icicles. It was simply a very large flood.

"Jean!" Kayden didn't even need to say anything else before a bubble engulfed the team, but it wasn't enough. Small parts were showing cracks, similar to broken glass.

"30 seconds, Kayden", the boy seemed to be trying hard to maintain the bubble, his teeth were clenched.

"As soon as it falls, I will use a Flash Bang , Maria, start your spells at full strength. We must take advantage of this time to get closer to them. Jean, finish 15 seconds early and use speed spells as support."

Quickly, Kayden took control of the situation and instructed his team on a simple and practical plan. He really wasn't the best strategist, his plans were limited to simple things, but well done .

"10 seconds," Jean warned.

Kayden's team began preparing. Nervousness was visible in some of them, but Kayden and Astolfo were relatively calm.

"5 seconds", the bubble had a large number of cracked pieces, it really couldn't last much longer.

"Get ready," Maria was already gathering a large amount of mana around her since the start of the match.

"3, 2, down," Jean's voice started Kayden's team's attack. The swordsman released a Flash Bang above his head, momentarily blinding the opposing mages. Because of the distance, it wouldn't last long.

"Transcendence," Kayden muttered to himself. And simultaneously, Maria started to cast her offensive spells.

As soon as they found themselves in this situation, a bubble similar to Jean's, but with characteristics of the water element, was erected on the other team. Maria's offensive spells arrived at the barrier.

Unfortunately, it wasn't enough to cause much damage, but that wasn't the intention. It looked like a flurry of pebbles hitting a lake, dozens colliding with the barrier causing the sound of torrential rain.

"Just let them spend mana," the opposing team leader ordered calmly. A few seconds later, the attack finally ended.

CRACK!!

When the rain stopped, a spear passed through the barrier as if it were made of jelly, the introduction of the blade causing a scream from one of the mages. The spear came down, tearing the bubble and revealing Astolfo with a macabre smile.

"Hello, little friends", his tone and expression made it clear that the boy had some serious personality problem.

Unlike Astolfo, his opponents didn't bother to chat and started throwing spells of different elements at the boy. What they didn't expect was for the spearman to simply retreat.

CRACK!

On the opposite side of Astolfo, a katana pierced the barrier and slid down, opening a tear the size of an adult.

CRACK!

In another position, a fist surrounded by rocks assaulted the barrier. This time, the number of holes was large enough for the spell to completely destabilize and disappear.

As agreed, Carlos headed towards the only wizard who wasn't casting spells, as he was probably the one maintaining the bubble and should be the most tired.

He was the largest figure among them, at the tip. As soon as he saw the bald man running towards him, he began to chant a water spell. Within milliseconds, a wall of water began to rise.

"Ah!!", a groan of pain escaped the magician's lips as a shock ran through his entire body, taking away his concentration.

POW!

The sound of a jaw being forcibly dislocated was heard in the arena. The wizard simply collapsed to the ground after Carlos' punch. Kayden cracked a smile, his lightning doing more than enough.

Within seconds, the opposing team's morale fell to its lowest point. Seeing his teammate leave caused a wave of fury among the four of them. All of his spells were aimed at Carlos.

Simultaneously, a circling line of fire began to rotate at high speed around the four, preventing melee combatants from getting closer without leaving with deep burns.

Their synchronization was at a completely absurd level for Kayden's team at that moment. Before everyone could even react, Carlos' body went flying due to the amount of spells.

His body was bleeding, with his limbs twisted in positions that were not at all normal. Fortunately, Lord Lucas removed him from the arena and began to heal his wounds.

"Eyes!" Kayden shouted to his team and drew his opponents' attention to him. This was a pre-arranged tactic between them and, again, the boy performed a Flash Bang, blinding his opponents.

It really was something irritating, and since they hadn't fought it before, it was difficult to predict. This time, they didn't have the bubble to protect them and, in panic, they began to move away.

The circle of fire was broken before it caused any damage to his allies. The 4 retreated while randomly releasing spells, hoping to stop their opponents' advance.

Unfortunately for them, Astolfo was at a completely different level of speed than the other students and managed to get closer before any of them had fully recovered.

"Hello, sleeping beauty," Astolfo brought his spear down at high speed against the side of the nearest wizard. His opponent threw himself back, but came away with a deep cut on his arm.

the monarch Chapter 75 - Classified

Chapter 75: Classified

The pain momentarily paralyzed him. Most children were not used to feeling pain, even the senior teenagers at school were no exceptions except those who were trained to do so.

Three different spells came to Astolfo quickly: fire, wind, and earth turned into a confusion of attacks aimed at the boy. He had lost momentum because of his last strike and had no time to retreat.

"Shit," gritting his teeth, the boy placed his spear in front of his body and tried to cover his vital parts. And for the first time, Kayden saw Astolfo's element solidifying into a barrier of wind in front of him.

Boom!

The clash of the spells with his wall caused a loud bang and sent the spearman flying in the opposite direction. After rolling on the ground for a few meters, he stood up while leaning on his spear.

It was at the exact moment that he saw Kayden approaching like a rocket towards the remaining 4 wizards. Taking advantage of the blind spot of the already injured wizard, Kayden slashed diagonally.

His opponent would probably have been split in two if Lord Lucas hadn't taken him out before it was too late. Kayden turned to the other three opponents. He didn't have much time left before his body overloaded.

Again a wave of spells was thrown, only this time in the swordsman's direction. Fortunately, Jean was ready to help him and conjured a neutral element protection bubble.

Author's Note: Maybe I didn't explain this, but some spells can be cast simply using elements mana, but with elements, they can have certain unique characteristics.

The bubble had huge cracks on its surface but remained intact. The tip of a katana came out of it and released three concentrated rays in different directions.

The spell was not fast enough to reach his opponents, who easily used their magic to simply prevent the lightning from reaching them. At that moment, Kayden was already very close to one of his opponents.

Close enough to make a clean hit to his side. His blade descended at high speed and at the same time, the opponent conjured a spark in his hands. Kayden knew this would quickly turn into an explosion.

The right thing to do would be to retreat, right? At least that was what the fire mage expected, but unfortunately, he underestimated Kayden's insanity, who continued bringing down his katana without caring about anything.

Booooooom!

A loud bang combined with a confusion of flames took over the space where the two participants were. For a few seconds, nothing could be seen, until a body was removed by Lord Lucas.

All the fighters in the match were trying to see who it was. His eyes were fixed on that spot. When the body became visible, a very bright light exploded from the smoke, blinding both teams.

Kayden took this opportunity to throw a concentrated beam at one of the opponents and approach him at high speed. His katana came down mercilessly against his opponent, threatening to cut his neck out.

His weapon cut through the air.

Mr. Lucas again removed the participant before anything serious happened. Kayden turned against the other opponent but stopped his movements when he saw Astolfo simply holding his opponent by the neck.

"Hey, wake up, it's time to sleep," the boy slapped the wizard's face, snapping him out of his blindness. Because of the intensity of the last Flash Bang, they were blinded for much longer.

Kayden spent practically 50% of his mana on that spell and kept the rest for Transcendence, to maintain full efficiency. He estimated that he would be able to remove at least one of the opponents and leave the rest to his team.

"Kayden's team wins," Lucas' voice signaled the end of the fight. Kayden began to retreat from the arena when he received a kick to the butt, causing him to stumble. Before he could do anything, he heard the kicker complaining.

"You could have saved me there, couldn't you?" Well... that was true. Kayden could have helped Astolfo defend himself, but then he would have missed that window of opportunity and would not have been able to remove two opponents in a row.

"I was too far away," Kayden said with a neutral face that fooled no one on his team. "Now you can rest," Kayden's smile widened. "After we move up to position 10," his smile reached full size.

"Victory for Kayden's team," Lord Lucas' voice resounded in the arena as the last opposing combatant fell to the ground. On the last day of the deadline, Kayden's team managed to gain position 5 in the school.

Reaching position 6 was done in 3 days with the help of Astolfo, but after that, they were practically stuck, as everyone in the top 5 was a very well-organized team with strong mages.

Their compositions were usually balanced and their allies complemented each other. Kayden's team was only recently made, so they weren't in sync together.

"Kayden, I love you, my brother," A sweaty Carlos jumped up to try and hug Kayden, but was dodged by the boy. Kayden looked around and saw all his team members happy, even Astolfo was celebrating.

Kayden perhaps had some trouble, as he couldn't be happy with this victory. It seemed like it didn't have any impact on his life. What an achievement it was to be part of the top 5 in a place that would disappear in the river of time in a few years.

It was nothing. Irrelevant.

Now his goal was to try to win the municipal championship, but the boy was sure that it would be impossible. They only had three days to prepare for the championship.

It wasn't enough. They barely cracked the top five. Kayden sighed. He only had one alternative if he wanted to increase his chances of winning the championship, and that was to move up the ranks.

But it wasn't worth it. Kayden estimated that he would need at least another two or three months to make a quality breakthrough, and he wasn't going to throw his base away for just a mere championship.

He would always have other opportunities in life, but that wasn't the problem. His real dilemma was losing the opportunity to become Sasaki's disciple. The sword art he displayed in the dojo was simply spectacular.

Without a doubt, this would open doors for Kayden that he had never seen in his life. But everything is fine. Hadn't he made the heart out of mana? Unraveled an entirely new path out of nowhere? Still a level-one talent?

It might take a little longer, but Kayden didn't doubt that with time he could develop something similar... at least he hoped. Well, only time would tell if he was making the right or wrong decision.

"See you in three days," Kayden said goodbye to his friends. With that time, he would train until he died, as always.

Three days later, 24 teenagers were gathered in the school cafeteria. As it was a Saturday, there were only them in the establishment. In addition to the 24, there was one more child. He kind of differed in age from the people around him, but in appearance, he was practically the same.

Some were carrying swords, others were carrying bows and some were just holding empty hands, but they were all there for the same reason: they were going to compete in the municipal tournament for their school.

"I can't stop shaking," Carlos chuckled. "Do you realize how proud my father was when he said he would compete this year?" He said this with a huge smile.

the monarch Chapter 76 - Explanation [chapter without story]

Chapter 76: Explanation [chapter without story]

Explanation chapter

Hello, I feel like explaining some things about the story in an exclusive chapter.

Well, I would first like to detail a little about the country's nobility system. In my story, I put them in order of strength: King, duke, marquis, viscount, baron. Barons do not normally rule land.

3

We have the viscounts ruling over large chunks of land and then the marquises ruling over a cluster of viscounts. Dukes govern a cluster of viscounts in the same way.

Regarding the size of the world, at the beginning I said that each of the five kingdoms was about the size of Asia, I increased it a little more and I think three times is a better reference.

Sorry for changing the story like this, but I'm an amateur author and I want to do a good job and sometimes I have to fix my beginner's mistakes.

2

Some people say that I sped up the story a little, sorry about that, but I haven't even gotten to the real part of the story yet lol, and until then I can skip some things, I believe that in another 60 chapters the real thing will begin.

3

I have in mind something around a thousand or fifteen hundred chapters, that's about 1 or 2 million words.

I don't think there's anything else I can say here. If you have any questions or haven't understood something about the story so far, please leave a comment on the chapter, I will review it regardless of the data in the post.

Thank you for reading this far!

the monarch Chapter 77 - Tournament

Chapter 77: Tournament

Apart from Astolfo, the four were the only ones going to the tournament for the first time. The majority some veterans had already been fighting in this competition for a few years and had not even once been able to make it to the next stage.

"Astolfo, what is the level of the best teams in this competition?" Kayden asked curiously.

For a few seconds, the spearman reflected before responding with a less-than-optimistic expression.

"The best in public schools are usually in the sixth and seventh ranks, with a few exceptions in the eighth and ninth ranks. From what I remember, there are only a hundred people above the seventh rank."

This was a very small number considering that the competition had 2500 people and they were still the best of the best. The proportion was less than 5%, really few people managed to stand out above the average.

"Of these hundred, only 8 people are from public schools, the rest are made up of nobles." This... was something Kayden had already expected. How would people who needed to worry about mundane things like rent and monthly expenses compare to nobles who never had any worries?

Everyone was quiet and waiting, even though it wasn't the first time for most of them, they were still excited. It was normal considering that this was a very important moment for them to be noticed by some colleges.

A few minutes later, the director walked through the door. He was a relatively young man and had a height of 1.5 meters. But his presence was balanced by large amounts of muscle, revealing that he was a knight.

3

His clothes were simple suits that expressed elegance and class. At that moment, Kayden realized that this event might be a little bigger than he previously expected.

Looking around, he saw that everyone was dressed in the best possible way, even his friends were wearing different clothes than usual. Kayden looked down at his worn training tunic.

Well... it's part of it.

"Hello everyone, the rules of the event will be explained on-site. I am responsible for guiding our school there, please follow me." His speech was quick and direct, and everyone quickly gathered behind the man.

As soon as they left the school, Kayden saw his uncertainty about the level of the event confirmed. Two giant limousines were waiting for everyone at the school exit. The car exuded luxury and elegance.

"Five people per cabin, top-ranked teams can go first." Again, the director took the reins and instructed everyone. It wasn't long before Kayden found himself getting into the car.

It was a cabin with white-dyed leather sofas and the rest of the space in metallic black. The color composition increased the car's air of luxury. In the center of the space, there was a table and a built-in minibar.

At the top, there was a glass roof that could alternate between transparent and dark. Even the seat back had a massage and automatic adjustment. Luxury, was truly the ultimate comfort humanity could provide.

Kayden leaned back on a bench and closed his eyes. Now it was just a matter of waiting. A few minutes later, the limo stopped, waking Kayden from his little rest. He didn't even remember when was the last time he relaxed like this.

'Having one of these must be a goal of my life from now on', the boy thought to himself.

"Do your best," Astolfo told himself. The others also spoke similar phrases of encouragement to each other.

After a few more minutes, the door opened, and... it looked like a big movie event. There was a gigantic red carpet leading to some sort of football stadium.

That was not why the stadium was there, especially considering that it seemed to be almost a kilometer long, with several sculptures and entrances. Furthermore, it was colossal in height and had a gigantic glass dome.

Its entrances were several gigantic wooden doors. There were several, and in each one, there was a red carpet and hundreds of people around. Some had cameras and were professional reporters.

Kayden had never seen so many people together before, not even at the club. He was sure that there were at least a few tens of thousands of people there. For the first time in a long time, Kayden found himself nervous.

Thousands of eyes were focused on them, every inch of their body seemed to be being watched and analyzed. The sound that was previously unheard inside the car was now deafening.

Hundreds of voices mingled with each other, shouting different names. One of them that stood out was Astolfo, especially among the girls. His popularity seemed to be quite high in this group.

Kayden wasn't exactly the epitome of beauty, but he still had a nice presence. The problem was that he hadn't taken care of himself in a long time. Most of the time, his hair was cut with his katana, only when it obstructed his vision. The only care he took was bathing and eating properly.

Well ... but he had something else to make his presence known.

THUMP!

THUMP!

His heart began to pound in his chest, his aura began to change. Before, his presence was nothing more than that of a normal person, but now it seemed like he was something dangerous and unknown.

His eyes acquired a mana glow that caused admiration and fear in anyone who looked at them for a long time. Even his veins became more prominent and his muscles seemed to be slightly swollen.

But the main feature was its aura. Kayden discovered this state of transformation in one of his many tests. Unfortunately, he had nothing useful in terms of battle performance.

The boy had a suspicion that it was similar to the hormones that animals exude during mating periods. What was once an ordinary boy to most people, now, in terms of nature, he exuded an aura of alpha, similar to a pack leader.

Within seconds, the crowd that hadn't even noticed him before began shouting for him with different nicknames. Even his friends around him started to look at him differently.

That was uncomfortable, Kayden regretted having his little moment of vanity and deactivated this transformation quickly, and like magic, things went back to the way they were before, and his aura change was treated as a mistake.

It didn't take long and they arrived at the entrance, right in front Kayden saw two mages wearing red suits, each on one side of the entrance. When his team got close enough heavy chains were launched into the air with magic towards the door.

Slowly it was opened, revealing the spacious interior of an immense corridor with marble tiles, the sides had statues and pieces of Greek architecture, and the ceiling had several glass chandeliers.

BAAM!

The heavy door closed with an impact as soon as everyone entered, the loud sound ended up taking everyone by surprise and making everyone jump a little.

"Are the sissies scared?" well... almost everyone, Astolfo already seemed to know that this was going to happen and didn't warn anyone. This earned him some angry looks, but there wasn't much they could do.

Like a wordless mutual agreement, everyone began to ignore Astolfo and continued walking down the corridor without looking at the boy.

"There's no point in not talking to the great Astolfo " the boy continued annoying him, his old tough guy pose was completely revealed as false, in fact, he just looked like a mental patient with god syndrome.

A few minutes later they arrived at the end of the corridor and came across a room with several exquisite tables and chairs, along with the table there were several appetizers and drinks.

the monarch Chapter 78 - Tournament[2]

Chapter 78: Tournament[2]

Even some with alcohol. Only one table was not yet occupied. Each space had only five seats and was prepared especially for a team. At the end of the room, there was a large metal railing for people to lean on. There were also several televisions at each table so each team could choose which battle they wanted to watch.

As soon as he looked outside, Kayden realized that the space was much larger than he had expected. The stadium had straight sides, similar to a rectangle, and at the ends, it was shaped like a half circle.

The stands grew at an angle to the ground, with each row of chairs a little larger than the previous one. Furthermore, there were four floors with a long corridor leading to the interior of the building, separating them.

The floors seemed to divide the class of each seat. In the last seats, there were few seats and they were spaced apart. Furthermore, there were also people dressed in red suits circulating among them.

On the floors below, the seats had no spaces between them and only on the third were there also people in red circulating. In the other two, there were small stalls selling different foods.

But that wasn't the most bizarre thing, but the number of people. As far as his eyes could go, there were people. The amount of people was simply ridiculous. Kayden doubted that in his old life, any stadium could hold so many people at once.

"Astolfo, how many people can fit here?", Kayden asked curiously, maybe a hundred thousand?

"Half a million people. But this is a small to medium-sized stadium. Those in the capital have 10 million people. Normally, after the interstate ones, the finals are held there."

That... was ridiculous. Kayden couldn't even imagine the size of a stadium to fit so many people together. It should be simply colossal. This should only be possible to build using magic. There was no other explanation.

Everyone sat at the table and started eating the appetizers while waiting for the championship to start. As Astolfo explained, a member of the government would appear and take the corresponding team to the fighting space.

The arena had several spaces dedicated to battles with large bubbles and a judge on top of each one, dressed in a red suit. The first battles were carried out at high speed and the selection phase of the 60 best teams was carried out only on the first day.

This was bizarrely fast, considering there were 2,500 participants and around 500 teams. There would have to be many battles to get to the finalists. This was thanks to the high-level healing mages recruited by the government. They could restore both the participants' physical health and the exhaustion caused by the confrontation.

A few minutes later, all participants from all teams entered. In the center of the arena, the mayor caught everyone's attention with a beaming greeting.

"Welcome everyone to the municipal tournament for the best students in our city!" His voice reverberated in every corner of the stadium, even on the first floors, where they had no television access. This was possible through the use of mana.

His appearance was that of someone young, his hair was brown and, on television, it was possible to discern his eyes as blue as the sea. His body wasn't very bulky, but it suited the navy blue suit he was wearing perfectly.

"In a few minutes, we will start our event, try to buy all the food beforehand so you don't waste a second." His tone was cheerful and showed pleasure in presiding over this event. "Well... may my son win, because my love as a father is greater than for my work."

His honest phrase caused a wave of laughter in the audience and gave the event the joyful tone that it had every year. It wasn't long before an officer in red was seen floating in front.

"Team Kayden, please stand up." The referee's voice had a respectful tone, even though he was someone at the mage level or higher. As soon as everyone stood up, they felt themselves being levitated into the air.

With a smooth speed, the man moved to one of the arenas below. There was nothing peculiar about it and it was just a transparent bubble, its only effect was sound insulation, not even the vibrations on the floor could be felt inside.

As soon as they entered, they came across the other team, made up... only of magicians. It seemed to be a repeat of the first fight Astolfo participated in with them. Kayden quickly thought of the strategy they would use.

His first thought was the steam tactic used previously, but it was not possible in this case. The other team would hardly let them accumulate enough water for this, they would probably start the match with a flurry of spells.

"There is only one rule and that is not to use help from third parties, other than that everything is valid. You have five minutes to prepare, but pre-made spells are not allowed." The judge gave instructions for the confrontation.

Kayden's team remained silent. They didn't have much to discuss, the strategy would be the same as the other fight, with practically no difference, at least that's what they expected.

A few minutes later, the judge took a bell out of his pocket and shook it, starting the fight. For a few seconds, the two teams just stared at each other, but that didn't last long and the wizards began to organize an attack.

Quickly, dozens of fireballs were thrown at them. The incredible thing was that there were only mages of that element on the other side, probably this was thought to avoid interference by other elements.

This wasn't a good sign, as it meant they probably had great synergy together. Kayden's team just waited, and when the enemy attack came close, a neutral element bubble was raised by Jean.

Seeing this, the opposing team began to unleash dozens of fire-element offensive spells against the barrier. For a few seconds, none of them were even able to look outside with so many flames licking the bubble.

"Maria!" Jean called through his teeth clenched in effort. The girl understood what he wanted and took control of the bubble, changing it to an extremely cold water class.

Unlike many stories Kayden saw, in this world medium fire would never beat medium water, because the amount of water a mage could cast was much greater than a fire mage.

"60 seconds", Maria gave a maximum estimate of how much she could handle.

"Break it into 20. I'm going to use a giant Pop Flash. Jean, you must use all your mana to give us acceleration spells. We're going to make a unique beat. Carlos and Astolfo, focus on the ones closest to you. As soon as we remove one or two opponents, Maria will start raining spells."

With all the plan structured, now all that was left was to wait. No one doubted or criticized their decisions, they have come too far to have intrigues between them. Little by little, the bubble began to break.

"5 seconds" Maria gave the final estimate making everyone prepare for the imminent confrontation, it didn't take long and the sounds of glass breaking started to come from everywhere in the bubble.

Jean has already used his strongest wind element spell on the three melee attackers. Simultaneously, Kayden stretched his katana out of the bubble, drawing the attention of the five opponents.

The boy's Pop Flash blinded all his opponents, none of them were expecting anything like that, taking advantage of the surprise factor and Jean's acceleration spell, the three ran toward the wizards.

the monarch Chapter 79 - Tournament[3]

Chapter 79: Tournament[3]

The first to arrive was logically Astolfo. The distance was not very far, about 20 meters, and was completed in seconds by the boy. The closest opponent was a female mage of diminutive stature.

By the time the boy was lowering his blade, the mage had just regained her sight. She had no time to cast an attack, her only option was to try and dodge backwards, but unfortunately for her, her body became paralyzed and a wave of pain radiated from her waist.

With the help of Kayden's spell, Astolfo managed to land a clean blow on his opponent's neck. If it weren't for the judge removing her from the arena, without a doubt the girl would have been beheaded.

At the same time this confrontation was taking place, Carlos had just gotten in front of his opponent. Unfortunately, because his speed was not as great as Astolfo's, his opponent already had his vision restored.

Thanks to the delay that Kayden provided when using the concentrated beam on this opponent as well, Carlos was able to get close enough to fight with his fists. The fire mage had time to conjure a fireball.

This was his only option to hold back Carlos' advance and try to gain some time. His spell came out at point blank range, there was no room for Carlos to turn around. At that moment, the boy felt the surreal heat close to his body.

He had only one decision if he wanted to secure the advantage for his team. Taking courage, the boy used the side of his body to meet the spell. The flames exploded, threatening to consume him whole.

This was the most painful thing he had ever faced in his life. The entire side of his body suffered second and third degree burns, but swallowing the pain, he continued his attack.

His first punch hit the wizard in the stomach, causing him to double over. The force of the impact was enough to bend an iron bar. Without mercy, the boy brought his hand down at high speed against the fallen opponent's head.

If that blow hit the mage, he would likely have his head blown into a bloody pulp. But again, thanks to the judge's intervention, the wizard was removed from the arena. From the way they defended themselves, it was obvious that they didn't have any support on the team. It looked like a team focused only on attack.

As soon as the other three recovered, they launched a barrage of fireballs at Astolfo. There were so many that the boy couldn't even see the attackers anymore. He retreated without even thinking twice.

" Ugh !" A groan of pain escaped as one of Astolfo's legs received a spell and began to burn. The boy continued running despite the pain towards Jean and Maria.

His leg was consumed by a whirlwind of air that eradicated the flames. Thanks to the adrenaline, he didn't feel the depth of the wound until he reached a relatively safe area close to his team.

His leg was bright red. Virtually all of his skin suffered first and second degree burns. Kayden watched from afar as he helped Carlos back up and wondered how the boy was standing.

"Maria!" Kayden shouted, beginning the second part of the plan with the multitude of small water stones that, at high speed, looked like concrete as they hit the flesh of their targets.

A bubble of fire was raised to protect the remaining three mages, but that was all they could do at the moment. The amount of water balls hitting the same spot was insane. This meant that they had to keep mana flowing into the bubble at all times.

"Two minutes." Maria gave the time limit that she could maintain that attack. In fact, it wasn't a spell that used up a lot of mana, it was just a multitude of water balls being conjured and launched.

In fact, it wasn't even a spell capable of causing much damage, well... if it weren't for Jean, a wind element circle was conjured in front of her and all the water balls passed through her and gained at least three times its initial speed.

"Carlos and Astolfo, situation." Kayden ordered quickly and received a standard response that they had already thought of.

"My right side is useless, I can't fight because of my balance." Carlos was the first to respond. It was clear that the boy was in the worst condition of the two, his wounds started at thigh level and only ended near his neck.

"I can fight at full capacity." Astolfo's sentence surprised Kayden, who could clearly see that one of his legs was practically destroyed, but the boy didn't think much about it, he trusted his friends.

With this information, Kayden put together a plan. Carlos was the first to raise objections, but was quickly silenced with some threats... advice from the rest of the team. The boy gave everyone 1 minute to rest.

"Let's go." With his command, Carlos was the first to start running towards the bubble. Maria expressed all her remaining mana and consolidated it into an attack with an intensity twice as strong as before.

CRASH!!

With a loud sound of breaking glass, the bubble simply began to crack everywhere, but it was still standing upright, at least for a few more seconds. That was the time Carlos needed to arrive at the location.

As soon as the bubble fell, Carlos' vision was the first thing they saw and they reacted automatically against him, releasing fireballs in his direction.

'Idiot.' One of the mages thought when he saw how far away his opponent was and how he wouldn't be able to dodge in time, but his feelings told him that this wasn't a good sign.

Carlos smiled, confirming the wizard's hunch.

"You owe me one." That was the last sentence Carlos spoke before being taken out of the arena looking like a ball of fire. While Carlos served as bait, Astolfo was already approaching from the opposite direction.

The three were focused on the first opponent that appeared in their vision and did not notice the boy's approach until it was too late. The spear came down mercilessly against one of the wizards.

There was nothing he could do. The distance was too close for him to have time to cast a spell or dodge without taking damage. His face became calm, making Astolfo's guard lower.

The spear that was descending towards the opponent's neck hit the wizard's shoulder as he closed the distance. His charge took Astolfo by surprise and his next action surprised him even more.

The boy began to burn suicidally, but it was a different flame, it was much more aggressive and, in the blink of an eye, it went from Astolfo's spear to the boy. With all his willpower, Astolfo withdrew the blade and aimed another blow.

Again his blow was received with open arms by his opponent and, because of the short distance, he was unable to find a fatal blow that would eliminate him at once. Meanwhile, the flames continued to burn in the two's bodies.

It wasn't a particularly strong flame, but it was constant and caused pain that couldn't be ignored.

the monarch Chapter 80 - Tournament[4]

Chapter 80: Tournament[4]

"Give up, you little shit !" Astolfo roared at his opponent.

"Give up, you rubbish!" The boy received a response in the same tone, and his battle continued. At the moment, Astolfo was still at 100% capacity, but he was sure that if those flames lasted too long, he wouldn't be able to resist.

About that...

"Transcendence!" Kayden finally used his spell to take advantage of the window of opportunity Carlos got for them. His speed simply became monstrous, and he reached one of the mages almost as fast as Astolfo.

1

Using a concentrated beam on each one, Kayden paralyzed their movements, and counting on the surprise factor, he brought his katana down towards the head of one of the mages who had his back to him.

1

The other mage didn't have the option of approaching and trying something suicidal. He simply had no other options other than trying to take as little damage as possible. The boy tried to retreat.

Kayden simply stepped forward with his footwork and remade the strike. This time, he increased the speed to absurd levels, making it simply impossible for the mage to dodge.

When his blow hit his opponent squarely in the neck, he was removed from the arena by the judge. This happened in less than 3 seconds, but it gave the other wizard time to conjure a fireball against Kayden.

The size was 3 times larger than the ones being released before, which caused Kayden to hesitate before doing what he was about to do. But well... he had been through a lot of pain before, hadn't he?

The boy ran and collided at high speed into the gigantic fireball. As soon as his katana passed out of his, he blasted a flash PoP directly into his opponent's eyes.

1

Again, his opponent was caught by the surprise factor. Kayden getting through that spell without protection probably meant he had at least 50% of his body with 3rd degree burns, that was just bizarre.

"What a shit idea", Kayden thought as he brought his katana down towards his opponent. Due to the pain in his body, his mobility was severely limited, and a blow that should have been fatal only cut his opponent's arms deeply.

Even under attack, his opponent gave his all and conjured another gigantic fireball. Kayden knew he couldn't do the same again, not even the first time he should have. Using the last 30% of mana he had, he made two concentrated beams.

One with just 5% was thrown against Astolfo's opponent, and the other with 25% was against the wizard who conjured the giant fireball. The two hit squarely, and when Kayden was about to receive the impact of the fireball...

He found himself on the judge's side along with the eliminated members of the other team. Meanwhile, below, the battle continued.

" Ugh !" A groan escaped Astolfo's opponent, but not from pain, but from surprise at the shock he received on his left leg. His movement was weakened long enough for Astolfo to gain distance.

In terms of pain, they were both practically going crazy. Their bodies were slowly burning from the outside in, and the temperature of the flames continued to increase. No matter how hard Astolfo struck with the spear shaft, his opponent did not move away.

But now this confrontation is over. Astolfo used his wind to propel his attack towards the wizard, a full blow to his head would have been landed if the judge had not once again removed the wizard from the scene.

"Oh? Where's Kayden?" When he looked around, Astolfo only saw the last wizard left. His body was practically unable to withstand anything anymore, he didn't expect his opponent to have such an exotic spell.

Gathering what was left of his strength, he rushed towards his adversary. Unfortunately, its movement was slow and it was met by a giant fireball at high speed.

The boy threw himself on the ground to dodge and tried to go again, unfortunately there wasn't much he could do, the wizard seemed to have enough mana to keep casting that spell until he got it right.

One time or another he would hit the target and Astolfo would be forced to leave the match.

"Shit, shit, shit!" In his last attempt, Astolfo raised his spear and imbued it with neutral mana and another layer of wind. With all his strength, he threw the spear, his speed was simply absurd.

Shimmm !!

He cut through a ball of fire.

Shimmmm !

Again he cut another fireball and reached the wizard who... simply dodged to the side. Even though she was at high speed, she was slowed down by the impacts and was also not at 100% of Astolfo's strength.

"Crap!" Astolfo closed his eyes and waited for the impact with the next fireball, his body was already completely destroyed, that had been his last attempt and he failed.

CLAP!

Instead of the fire consuming his body, he saw the wizard's body soaked on the floor, unconscious.

"HEY Astolfo, will you stop resting on the floor?" Maria's voice brought him out of his confusion, the boy was so focused that he simply forgot about the other two teammates on his team.

While the wizard was distracted, Maria and Jean simply used the same spell combo as before and knocked out their opponent by surprise.

"Team Kayden is the winner!" The judge's voice put an end to the fight, instantly everyone was levitated close to the judge and those who had not yet received treatment because they were fighting were healed almost instantly.

Carlos made the movement of shouting in celebration, but was stopped by a slap on his head from Kayden.

"Behave," the boy whispered.

Their fight was one of the most difficult they have ever faced, everyone had an incredible desire to win, even if it meant sacrificing themselves for their team. Not only that, but here the attacks were much stronger.

There was no energy spared to not kill the other opponent, each spell was made to knock the opponent down so that he would never get up again. It was only thanks to the judge that this wasn't a bloodbath.

"Hey, the suicide asshole," Astolfo shouted to the other team. "It was a pleasure fighting you," the boy bowed in respect. "Could you tell me the name of the spell you used?" The endless flames really impressed him.

Astolfo's tone, along with his aggressive personality, didn't match this humble attitude of his. Fortunately, his opponent was also somewhat different.

"Imbecile, you're the one who doesn't know how to give up. His name is Endless Flames, it's a technique from my family", the boy said with a tone of pride. "I hope we can fight again someday."

That was the last interaction they had before an official in a red suit came to take each of the teams away. As soon as they set foot in the VIP room, they were greeted with applause by their school. Mainly from the principal, for him it didn't matter who won, as long as it was from his school. There were only two teams in the room, the others were probably fighting.

"Very well, very well, come and get some rest, the next fight should be in a few minutes," the director said with a smile.

Kayden sighed and plopped down in his team's chair. This fight had been quite frantic. The way the tournament was organized, they would have three more fights to be among the top fifty.