

One Piece 301

Chapter 301 - 301: Volume 2 – Chapter 203: Observation

The world was deathly silent.

Only the terrifying sounds of crumbling buildings and the earth splitting apart echoed across the island— alongside the arrogant laughter of the Great Pirate in the sky.

From the direction of the auction house, the screams and cries of civilians began to rise, while flames spread throughout the city, sending thick black smoke into the sky.

"That lunatic!!" Bloodshot veins suddenly burst in Sengoku's eyes as he growled through clenched teeth.

The pirates on-site stood frozen in place, staring at the devastation spreading across the island, their expressions blank, as if they couldn't believe what they were seeing.

"This... this kind of power isn't something a human should possess..."

"One slash nearly tore the island in half."

"Terrifying..."

"This is Shiki, the Great Pirate... a man who stands at the very peak of this sea..."

In that moment, it was as if the pirates had lost their souls. They stood rooted in place, their eyes filled with fear and confusion.

Bullet's expression first showed shock, but his eyes quickly turned wild with excitement.

"What incredible power... So this is the opponent Captain Roger acknowledged? I have to... I have to fight him!!"

His fists clenched tightly.

King's face also turned deathly grim.

"Jiihahahaha, did you see that...?"

Shiki looked extremely pleased with the power of his attack. From above, he gazed down at the pale faces below and burst into wild, defiant laughter.

"Only I, Shiki, have the right to claim this Devil Fruit! If you don't want to die, then get the hell out of my sight—"

Before he could finish his sentence, a tall figure suddenly leapt up from the shattered remains of a box in midair.

Bullet's face twisted the moment he saw it, gritting his teeth.

"Daren! You bastard, he's my opponent!!"

The sudden movement immediately caught everyone's attention.

"Daren!?"

Sengoku's pupils shrank.

He looked up at the Marine Commodore soaring toward Shiki, and a thought too wild to believe surged in his mind.

Could it be... this brat actually intends to face death head-on!?

The pirates were equally stunned, staring at the Commodore in disbelief.

What is he trying to do?

Is he trying to get himself killed?

After witnessing the overwhelming power Shiki just displayed, who here—aside from Admiral Sengoku—could possibly take him on?

Everyone's eyes locked onto the scene, subconsciously holding their breath.

"Come on, Shiki... Kill me, and the Moa Moa no Mi is yours!!"

High in the air, Daren's lips curled into a fearless, unrestrained smirk.

The wind whipped against his cheeks and through his hair, his snow-white cape fluttering wildly behind him.

His eyes were locked on the airborne Great Pirate ahead, a gleam of madness—almost hysterical—shining in them.

"Hmm?"

Shiki raised an eyebrow.

This little Marine brat... is he asking to die?

He glanced at Daren charging straight toward him.

Their eyes locked across the air.

A moment later...

A cruel smile suddenly spread across Shiki's face.

"Jiihahahaha! Not bad, you've got fire in your eyes!!"

In the eyes of this Marine brat, he saw a twisted, crazed determination.

Shiki could smell it—he recognized the scent of his own kind!

"Interesting little Marine... don't blame me for being merciless!"

Shiki roared with laughter, and his aura exploded in an instant.

Raising his famed blade high above his head, his long golden hair whipped in the wind, and then...

He brought it crashing down!

"Zanpa!"

Shhh!!

The clouds split instantly, carving a massive trench through the sky as the cloud sea churned violently.

A destructive golden slash, like a crescent moon hurled by a god, plummeted from above, aimed straight at the Marine Commodore!

It's coming!!

In that instant, Daren felt an overwhelming sense of death consume his mind.

That golden slash—like it could cut through anything—made every pore on his body erupt in terror.

Clang...

He tried to summon his strength, but the Seastone shackles on his wrists clanked, their power suppressing every ounce of energy in his body.

Suspended in midair with no footing;

Weakened by the Seastone, his strength plummeted;

His Devil Fruit ability was like a stagnant pool, completely inert.

The full weight of death pressed down on Daren, like the dark clouds blanketing the sky, swallowing him whole.

"Daren!!!" Sengoku roared, eyes bloodshot.

Everyone's eyes widened in shock.

But Daren didn't flinch. The grin on his face only grew wilder.

Every cell and muscle in his body felt like it was burning, every bone screaming as if being torn apart. Adrenaline surged, and his pupils began to blur.

He let out an involuntary roar—but no one could hear it.

Time seemed to slow to a crawl.

The golden slash closed in, inch by inch.

Blinding light engulfed him.

Just as he was about to lose consciousness—

'Daren, remember... the essence of Observation Haki is staying calm, even under the pressure of death.'

Zephyr-sensei's voice rang out in his mind.

Absolute... calm.

His eyes snapped open.

"I'm not dying here!!"

In that instant—

It felt like something deep inside him had been pierced and detonated.

Power surged from that point, flooding through his entire body.

In that moment, all sound faded. Though he stood on the brink of death, his mind was sharp—crystal clear.

It was as if his soul and senses had left his body, watching everything unfold from above, like a god looking down on the battlefield.

His breathing steadied. Countless images rushed into his brain—Sengoku's tense face, the Marines' horrified expressions, Shiki's twisted grin, Bullet's fury...

What was this feeling?

Silence.

Yes, a silence so absolute, it stood just a breath away from madness.

That supreme stillness spread through Daren's mind.

He could hear everything.

After more than half a year of grueling training, that final wall—his Observation Haki—had finally awakened!

...

Then came the slash.

Clang!!

A sharp, splitting sound rang out—something incredibly hard had just been cut.

In that critical instant, to the astonishment of all watching, the Marine Commodore suddenly twisted his body to the side, dodging without a hint of hesitation.

The sword beam, powerful enough to cleave an island, brushed past him and shot toward the far end of the island, slicing clean through a small trading port and sending seawater erupting into the sky.

Daren's body crashed down like a cannonball, smashing into the ground and blasting out a massive crater.

Dust and smoke billowed.

A second later, the Marine Commodore stepped calmly out of the pit, his broad white cloak fluttering behind him.

The Seastone shackles on his wrists had been severed, clattering to the ground with a crisp ring.

Daren casually rolled his wrists, then looked up at the Great Pirate above.

A flicker of eerie red glowed deep in his eyes.

The corner of his lips curled into a bold, unrestrained smile.

"Now... the real fight begins."

Chapter 302 - 302: Volume 2 – Chapter 204: The Invincible Flying Fleet

"It actually... worked..."

Sengoku stared at Daren, whose pupils glowed with a crimson light, a storm of emotion surging in his heart.

That brat had actually used Shiki—forcing himself into a life-or-death crisis just to awaken Observation Haki!

Sengoku had sailed the seas for decades, faced countless opponents in battle, and led more elite Marines than he could count, but he had never met anyone as insane as Rogers Daren.

To use a man who stood at the top of the sea—a legendary Great Pirate—as nothing more than a whetstone!?

If he hadn't witnessed it himself, Sengoku would never have believed it was real.

"How amusing... Jiihahaha!!"

Shiki suddenly burst into a vicious laugh.

"I remember you, little Marine—Rogers Daren."

"You're the one who killed that idiot Byrnni World. I heard even Roger took a hit from you?"

He looked down at the Commodore on the ground with contempt, fury flickering in his eyes.

"You said 'the real fight begins now'?"

Shiki's rage flared, and he laughed to the sky like he'd just heard the world's dumbest joke.

"Don't be ridiculous!!"

"There's no fight between you and me! You're not even worthy to be my opponent!"

"On these seas... no one can stop me—Shiki!!"

With a glance, he had already seen through it.

This Marine brat had deliberately used him to simulate a brush with death—just to trigger his awakening.

"All of you... open your eyes and watch!!"

"This is what it means to be a ruler of the New World!!"

With a wild, twisted grin, Shiki swept his hand across the air.

As if some invisible force tore through the sky, the thick, wall-like clouds above Coin Island split apart.

Then...

A dense cluster of black dots slowly emerged from behind the sea of clouds.

Like a looming shadow blanketing the heavens, they spread and filled the skies above everyone's heads.

One...

Two...

Three...

One pirate ship after another

slowly pierced through the cloud layer.

Each ship bore a golden lion skull Jolly Roger fluttering atop the mast, outfitted with pitch-black heavy cannons aimed directly at the auction house below.

Even from hundreds of meters away, you could faintly make out the decks packed with pirates.

They held a variety of weapons in their hands, twisted grins on their faces, looking down at Coin Island like it was already a smoldering ruin.

"Wh-what... is that...?"

"P-pirate ships...?"

"No way..."

"They're floating in the sky... pirate ships...!"

"That's... that's Shiki the Golden Lion's invincible flying fleet..."

...

Everyone on the ground stared in disbelief at the dozens of pirate ships suspended in the sky. The light in their eyes faded, replaced by deep despair.

A flying fleet like that—

That scale... that number...

Even if they didn't land and simply fired from the sky, it would be enough to level the island with ease!

"They're here at last... Daren, don't screw this up now..."

A heavy shadow crossed Sengoku's face, his eyes filled with solemn dread as he subconsciously turned toward Daren.

"How terrifying... He really brought his fleet."

On the other side, Borsalino batted away King's flaming aerial slash with a casual swing of his sword, glanced skyward, and smiled faintly.

Bullet's face also turned grim in an instant.

"Oi, oi, oi... I've got a really bad feeling about this..."

"Jiihahahaha!! You see that, little Marine?!"

Shiki raised his Meito high and pointed it at Daren.

"With just a few dozen Marines, you think you have the right to talk to me about war?!"

"Be annihilated... by the firepower of my flying fleet!!"

As his words fell, the pirates aboard the floating ships broke into action, laughing wickedly as they began loading the cannons.

Their movements were swift and precise—clearly, this wasn't the first time they had reduced a town to rubble through sheer bombardment.

Time seemed to slow.

And a wave of indescribable fear swept through the minds of everyone present.

"Run!!"

"Stay on this island and you're dead for sure!!"

"Shiki's lost his mind!!"

"Damn it!!"

...

Panicked screams erupted from the pirates who had come to the auction hoping to take advantage of the chaos. They bolted toward the distant port in a frenzy.

The wind howled violently.

The scene grew more chaotic by the second.

Now, faced with the overwhelming might of Shiki's flying fleet, any thought of resistance had completely vanished.

Some clutched their heads and ran blindly.

Some trembled uncontrollably.

Some just stood there, frozen in fear.

The air was thick with the stench of gunpowder.

It wasn't hard to imagine what would happen in the next few seconds—furious cannon fire would blanket all of Coin Island, reducing this once-thriving city to scorched earth.

And then—

BOOM!

The first cannon blast erupted from one of the pirate ships.

Then the second.

Then the third.

Then the fourth...

Orange-red flashes flared across the decks of the fleet, while black cannonballs rained down like a storm, filling the sky in a suffocating, despairing downpour.

A relentless net of death swept down from above—an indiscriminate barrage.

As the shells dropped at accelerating speed, shrill howls pierced the air, followed by thunderous explosions.

The muzzle flashes lit up Shiki's twisted, ferocious face, making his savage grin look even more monstrous.

Those who had been frantically fleeing suddenly stopped dead in their tracks. Their bodies froze, eyes glazed, locked onto the sky in stunned disbelief.

"It's over..."

Someone murmured.

Then suddenly, amidst this apocalyptic chaos, a low sigh drifted through the wind.

Soft. Unexpected. Even a bit... casual.

"Took you long enough... I've been waiting."

Everyone froze, turning their heads instinctively.

There stood the Marine Commodore, completely still, a playful look on his face... as he slowly raised his right hand.

Fingers spread.

Then—he reached up and lightly grasped at the air.

Zzzzz...

Faint arcs of blue lightning crackled around his fingertips. An invisible ripple of energy burst forth from his hand.

And in that instant—

Every soul on Coin Island witnessed something they would remember for the rest of their lives.

The deadly downpour of cannonballs suddenly halted midair!

It was as if they'd collided with an invisible, cushioning wall—or been snatched by an unseen giant's hand from beyond the sky.

Every single shell froze high above the ground, completely motionless.

As though time itself had stopped.

The scene was eerie—unreal.

And in that same moment...

The cruel grin on Shiki's face froze solid.

Chapter 303 - 303: Volume 2 – Chapter 205: This Is My Battlefield
Silence.

A deathly silence.

Everyone on Coin Island stared in stunned disbelief at the countless cannonballs suspended above their heads.

Gulp...

They swallowed hard, eyes filled with utter shock.

"The shells... they're just hanging there in the air..."

"What the hell is going on...?"

"This... this is unreal..."

"Was that the Marine's doing?"

"What the hell did he do!?"

...

And it wasn't just them.

Aboard the Flying Pirate Fleet, countless pirates stood frozen on their decks, their faces filled with disbelief, unable to comprehend what they were seeing.

"Damn you, Marine brat!! What did you just do!?"

Shiki suddenly roared in fury.

He had never seen anything like this in his life.

Sengoku was equally stunned.

Though he had long known the nature of Daren's Devil Fruit ability, this was the first time he'd seen him control cannon fire on such a massive scale.

"Take them back."

Daren let out a cold chuckle.

His open hand clenched into a fist.

The next instant—

The countless cannonballs hanging in midair all paused.

Then, under the push of a spreading magnetic field, they reversed course with blinding speed—firing back along their original paths toward the flying fleet of pirate ships in the sky, as the stunned pirates looked on in horror.

A torrent of shells as dense as locusts ripped through the air, the sight delivering a visual impact like no other.

Sengoku's heart surged.

Shiki's terror wasn't just in his overwhelming personal strength, but in the dominance of his flying fleet.

Airborne and armed with relentless, wide-area bombardment, they were a nightmare even for a Marine Admiral to handle.

Sengoku's own Devil Fruit, a Mythical Zoan rarer than any Logia, gave him immense power—but even he had no easy counter for that kind of aerial assault.

But now... Daren had caught that very assault single-handedly.

In a flash, faced with their own cannonfire hurtling back at them, the Flying Pirate Fleet's crew instantly felt the same crushing pressure the people on the island had moments earlier.

"Shit!! The shells are coming back!!"

"Take cover!!"

"There's no time!!"

"There's too many of them!!"

Panic spread across the ships as pirates scrambled in chaos, faces twisted in fear.

Once their ships were airborne, the rudders were little more than decoration—the entire fleet's controls lay in Shiki's hands.

Even aboard their own vessels, the pirates were helpless, forced to watch as a wave of cannonballs came screaming toward them.

"So... it's a metal-controlling ability!"

Shiki's pupils narrowed sharply, then a twisted grin spread across his face.

"Marine brat... don't you dare underestimate me!"

Gripping both his swords tightly, he soared to the front of the fleet, charging straight into the incoming barrage. His twin blades flashed.

"I am Shiki!!"

Slash!

Roar!

With a blast of force, his two famed blades—Oto and Kogarashi—swept forward in unison.

A howling storm of blade winds erupted, slamming into the incoming wave of shells.

BOOM BOOM BOOM...

Explosions ripped through the sky as countless cannonballs detonated midair, bursting into massive fireballs, black smoke billowing skyward in thick plumes.

"Hell yeah!!"

"Captain Shiki is incredible!!"

"We're saved!!"

"Hahahaha!!"

The members of the Flying Pirate Crew erupted into cheers, their eyes locked on the golden-haired figure hovering ahead, wild and untamed like a god descending from the heavens.

As long as Captain Shiki was there, they believed they were invincible.

"Jiihahahaha!! You see that!?"

The roaring wind shredded through the smoke as Shiki gripped his swords and threw his head back in manic laughter.

"You think you can destroy my fleet? You're decades too early, you brat!!"

"Is that so?"

Daren's cold voice echoed up from the island below.

Shiki's eyes narrowed.

The wind scattered the thick, swirling smoke.

And finally—he saw the ground clearly.

The sight that greeted him made his pupils shrink to pinpoints.

Click... click...

Somewhere on the island, a pirate suddenly heard an eerie, unnatural sound.

"What... what is that...?"

He turned instinctively toward the noise.

Beside him, a building made entirely from stacked coins suddenly began to shift—as if it had come alive.

The coins, under the control of some strange force, rapidly reassembled and stacked.

In mere moments... they had formed a massive cannon.

It stood three meters tall, with a pitch-black barrel nearly half a meter wide, its muzzle pointed directly skyward.

The pirate's throat bobbed nervously.

The surreal sight made him stagger back a few steps.

And then—his back hit something cold and solid, like metal.

He spun around, heart pounding wildly.

What he'd bumped into wasn't a wall.

It was another cannon.

Click... click...

The unnerving, insect-like skittering echoed from all directions.

The pirate's eyes widened in terror, like he was staring into a nightmare.

And it wasn't just here.

All across Coin Island—in the trade port, on the commercial streets, atop luxury buildings, and amid the ruins of the auction house...

Every place embedded or paved with coin or metal began to reshape itself.

To Shiki and his crew high above, it looked like the entire island was... awakening.

Land, buildings, roads—everything began to reconstruct, rotate, combine, and stack.

A vast network of heavy cannons took form, unfolding like a cascade of dominoes.

Barrel after barrel emerged, each one upright, packed tightly across the entire island like the unblinking eyes of some monstrous war machine—all aimed squarely at the flying pirate fleet.

There were too many to count.

Everyone stared in horror at the island's transformation, and then—all eyes turned to the Marine Commodore.

Sengoku stood stunned, the corners of his mouth twitching despite himself.

"This is... absurd."

King muttered, eyes wide with disbelief.

"He turned the entire island... into his arsenal."

...

Daren knelt on one knee, one hand pressed against the cold, metal-laced earth as crackling arcs of lightning flickered around him.

He looked up, defiant, and smiled coldly at the frozen expression on Shiki's face in the sky.

"So... how are you going to stop this?"

As the words left his mouth,

A red gleam flashed in his eyes, and a surge of blue lightning exploded outward, sweeping across the island in a blinding wave.

"This is my battlefield!"

"Electromagnetic Entanglement: Ten Thousand Cannons!"

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!!

Ten thousand cannons roared at once!!

The ground shook with apocalyptic force, sending countless pirates sprawling, covering their heads in terror.

They stared in disbelief as the entire island lit up with artillery fire, faces pale as death.

In that instant—

An endless stream of shells, propelled by electromagnetic force, burst skyward like a furious storm.

Their speed was monstrous—at least three times faster than conventional heavy artillery, far too fast for the naked eye to follow.

Each shell trailed blazing red streaks, painting the dark sky with the rising paths of falling stars.

"Damn it!! How is this possible!?"

Shiki's bloodshot eyes twisted with fury as he swung both swords wildly, trying to slice the barrage from the sky just like before.

But this time, the density and speed were on another level. Not even he could block them all.

Despair began to creep into his crimson-tinged gaze.

He tried to steer the fleet away—but the Fuwa Fuwa no Mi wasn't built for speed.

...

And so—

Amid Shiki's furious roars,

Amid Sengoku's thunderous cry, fists clenched tight,

Amid the wide-eyed panic of pirates gripped by terror,

Amid the earth-shaking roar of ten thousand cannons...

The fleet of ships floating in the sky... erupted into flame.

BOOM—BOOM—BOOM!

Chain explosions lit the heavens one after another, bursting across the fleet like a sky-born firework barrage.

Black smoke towered, fire bloomed, and the thunder of destruction echoed endlessly above Coin Island.

...

Chapter 304 - 304: Volume 2 – Chapter 206: The Fallen Fleet

Boom...

Thunderous explosions rocked the sky in rapid succession, shaking apart the dark clouds above. The sound was so loud it felt like the heavens themselves were splitting.

One after another, massive orange-red fireballs erupted across the sky where the pirate fleet had once been. The crimson glow lit up the entire gloom-shrouded sky.

Everyone on the ground dropped flat in terror, eyes wide as they watched cannonballs streak across the sky like blazing trails of light. The tremors beneath their feet made their souls feel like they were being ripped from their bodies, their faces pale with fright.

Ten thousand cannons. All fired at once.

Even the world's most powerful military force—the Marine Headquarters—couldn't unleash a barrage like this.

They could only watch in horror as ship after ship from Shiki's so-called invincible flying fleet was torn apart under the relentless hail of fire. Burning wreckage and dismembered pirate corpses rained down from the sky like hellish embers.

It was a massacre.

For the pirates aboard the Flying Pirate Fleet, there was no escape. All they could do was stare in helpless despair as their ships exploded beneath them, the flames consuming them alive.

Being airborne meant there was nowhere to run. Even jumping ship was pointless.

They could only watch death barrel toward them—and die with their eyes wide open.

"That damned brat Daren..."

Sengoku was just as stunned, completely speechless.

He'd tried to guess what kind of method Daren would use to deal with Shiki's airborne fleet.

Maybe he'd use the power of the Jiki Jiki no Mi to restrain them, then let Borsalino finish the job.

Or perhaps he'd rely on his flight ability to close in and dismantle the fleet ship by ship...

But never—not in a million years—had Sengoku expected Daren to go for something this... brutal. This simple.

Shiki's fleet had overwhelming air-to-ground firepower. But it wasn't invincible.

So what if you had hundreds of cannons?

Daren just built ten thousand.

By exploiting the unique architecture of Coin Island, he had weaponized the entire island.

On this metal-clad battleground... Rogers Daren was a one-man war fortress.

More importantly, he had clearly seen through the weakness of the Fuwa Fuwa no Mi.

Its power lies in "floating," not control.

Which meant that when faced with ten thousand high-speed projectiles, Shiki had no way to lift his fleet fast enough. The floating speed was far too limited.

...

Meanwhile, clad in black, "The Conflagration" King was watching the destruction unfold, his face dark with dread. His voice trembled as he muttered,

"He took out Shiki's fleet by himself... this guy..."

Ever since Daren had destroyed the Beasts Pirates' production line at their base, he'd been placed on their must-kill list.

Queen had even been punished by Kaidou for "failing to guard properly."

But now, it was clear—the destruction of their base wasn't due to Queen's negligence.

They had simply underestimated this Marine from the North Blue.

...

"You seem distracted..."

A lazy voice suddenly rang out nearby.

King's expression shifted slightly—then a sharp pain tore through his gut.

Shhk!!

A piercing golden beam shot straight through his abdomen, blood gushing out in streams.

Not far away, Borsalino stood with his index finger still raised, smirking faintly.

"This bastard..."

King gritted his teeth, flames erupting across his body. With a snarl, he drew his blade and lunged at Borsalino once again!

The two clashed in a furious melee!

...

The thunder of cannon fire still roared across the island.

"This is insane..."

Marco, who had been hiding in the crowd, lifted his head slightly from beneath his hood, eyes wide as he stared at the endless array of heavy cannons covering the ground. His eyelids twitched uncontrollably.

The appearance of Shiki—one of the Great Pirates, rivaled only by his own old man—had been terrifying enough on its own.

Especially when he summoned his invincible fleet, Marco had truly believed the Marines were doomed to suffer massive losses this time.

But never—not in his wildest thoughts—did he expect such a jaw-dropping reversal in less than ten seconds.

Shiki's flying fleet, the one that had dominated the seas, the one no one could touch...

Had been blasted apart like firecrackers, bursting into smoke and flame that painted the sky.

If he hadn't witnessed it himself, Marco would never believe this was real.

He glanced cautiously at the Marine Commodore standing in the center of that sea of cannons, then instinctively shrank deeper into his hood.

Compared to the last time they met, this Marine's presence had grown drastically—enough to surpass even his own.

His gaze flicked discreetly toward the auction platform, now reduced to rubble.

A handful of trembling security personnel huddled protectively around the Moa Moa no Mi, while the tailcoat-wearing auctioneer lay buried beneath a collapsed wall.

"...There's still a chance."

Marco's eyes narrowed, and after a breath's pause, he whispered under his breath.

...

Boom!

The earth beneath them rumbled as another wave of cannon fire unleashed a brutal recoil, shaking the ground and sending gravel jumping into the air.

Bullet stood there, stunned by the sheer devastation unleashed by the ten-thousand-cannon barrage, a drop of cold sweat sliding down his temple.

A thought suddenly struck him—he immediately tore off the metal arms he'd created using the Gasha Gasha no Mi and flung them far away.

"That bastard Daren... he's gotten way too strong!"

He muttered bitterly.

But the gleam in his eyes—the thirst for battle—only intensified.

...

The shattered remains of the pirate fleet fell from the sky in a blazing rain of debris, streaking through the air like a shower of meteors.

Five seconds later, the barrage finally came to an end.

Thick black smoke spilled from the red-hot barrels of the cannons, rising in columns from every corner of Coin Island.

When the smoke finally began to clear...

Everyone slowly lifted their heads, trembling, their eyes fixed fearfully on the sky above.

The once-dreaded, "invincible" flying fleet... had vanished completely.

Only a single figure remained, floating silently in the sky, veiled in lingering smoke.

His head hung low, golden hair partially obscuring his face.

But everyone could see it clearly—Shiki's hands, still gripping his swords, were trembling.

"Such a shame... your fleet's gone."

A mocking voice rang out.

Everyone turned to look.

There, the Marine Commodore who had knelt moments ago was now rising to his feet, his chest heaving as he sucked in heavy breaths. The effort of creating that colossal cannon array had clearly taken its toll.

Yet his eyes gleamed with untamed defiance. His smile carried nothing but ruthless resolve.

Behind him, a black Cursed Sword slowly floated up, hovering in the air, its blade pointed directly at the Great Pirate in the sky.

"So... am I finally worthy to be your opponent, Shiki?"

Chapter 305 - 305: Volume 2 – Chapter 207: Besieging Shiki

"You're asking for death!!"

The moment those taunting words rang out, Shiki's eyes instantly filled with crimson veins.

A killing intent unlike anything before surged from his body. Without hesitation, he raised his blades and slashed several times in rapid succession.

Shwsh! Shwsh! Shwsh!

Golden sword beams crisscrossed and spiraled outward, each shaped like a crescent moon. They tore through the air like divine lashes, shrieking toward Daren at terrifying speed.

"Shishi: Senjindani!"

But just then, a figure radiating golden brilliance appeared in front of Daren in a flash.

"Not so fast!"

Sengoku, eyes bloodshot with fury, let out a thunderous roar. Having transformed into a golden Buddha, he slammed his palm forward with overwhelming force.

"Impact Wave!"

BOOM!!

The surging shockwave collided head-on with the oncoming golden slashes.

A deafening explosion tore through the air, unleashing a wave of force in every direction. Within a radius of several dozen meters, cannons, rubble, and unlucky pirates were all hurled skyward like leaves in a storm.

Dust and debris filled the air.

The next instant—

Shiki came diving down like a madman, golden hair whipping wildly in the wind. He pierced through the swirling dust clouds like a missile, speeding straight for Daren.

"Marine brat... you're dead!!"

"Not quite!" Daren sneered.

He didn't move—but the Cursed Sword behind him, etched with flickering purple-black flames, suddenly shot forward, slicing through the air toward Shiki's face.

"Jiihahaha!! Do you really think a toy like that will stop me!?"

Shiki scoffed and swung his sword.

CLANG!

Sparks flew. Enma was sent spiraling away.

But just in that instant, Shiki's pupils contracted sharply.

The ground beneath him shifted.

A series of heavy cannons twisted violently, reshaping in a blink into hundreds of jagged metal spikes. Like a nest of serpents, they coiled and lunged upward, aiming straight for him.

"This sneaky little brat!!"

Cursing in his mind, Shiki slashed with both blades in a blur.

His twin Meito sliced through the incoming spikes one after another.

But Daren's magnetic field only intensified, conjuring more and more spikes from the ground—tighter, faster, denser.

Even when cut down, the twisted metal quickly reformed and struck again.

Black metal spears surged like a tide of serpents, whirling through the air in a wild dance, sealing off every path.

From afar, it looked like Shiki had been thrown into a pit of snakes—surrounded, suffocating, nowhere to run.

"Damn it!!"

Shiki roared furiously, his blades turning jet black with Haki.

"Zanpa!"

A massive cross-shaped sword beam exploded upward from the ground, slicing through the writhing black spikes in a storm of steel.

"Your fleet's gone, Shiki! This is no place for you to run wild anymore!"

Sengoku's voice boomed as he leapt high into the air, appearing behind Shiki.

A golden glow blazed in his palm, and black-red lightning began crackling faintly around the void near him.

"Then let's see if you can stop me, Sengoku!!"

Shiki let out a wild laugh and swung his sword behind him without turning.

Crimson-black lightning burst from his blade as if dragging thunder through the sky.

The next second—

BOOM!!!

Fist and blade clashed—without even touching.

A sphere of black-red lightning formed between them, compressing and expanding furiously.

Then—detonation.

A colossal shockwave tore outward. The earth buckled and lifted like waves at sea, launching a towering tsunami of soil and steel ten meters high.

Heaven and earth darkened. The entire island seemed to descend into apocalypse.

A storm of pure hell swept through everything. Even the clouds overhead were blasted apart by the sheer force.

Conqueror's Haki—clashing at full force.

Countless weaker pirates couldn't even scream. Their eyes rolled back as they dropped unconscious, felled by the overwhelming pressure alone.

"Jiihahaha!! Sengoku, compared to Garp, your punches are still too soft!"

Shiki let out a wild laugh and roared. With a twist of his left wrist, he reversed his grip on his blade and slashed straight toward Sengoku's abdomen.

Sengoku's expression shifted slightly. He instinctively pulled back, just barely dodging the swing.

Their clash ended with a sharp separation, and a blast of Conqueror's Haki erupted around them.

Using the shockwave for momentum, Shiki was flung backward. He braced a hand against the ground and twisted midair with ease. His right hand flicked out.

"Shishi Odoshi: Chimaki!"

The ground beneath him suddenly surged like a flood, rising up and quickly forming into a colossal lion dozens of meters tall. Its gaping jaws opened wide, aiming to swallow Daren whole.

"Try stopping this one, Marine brat!"

Shiki cackled with glee.

But the grin froze on his face in the next instant.

A flicker of azure-blue lightning arced between Daren's fingers—brief, but sharp.

An invisible magnetic wave pulsed outward.

And the towering lion, created by Shiki's Fuwa Fuwa no Mi, froze in place—suspended as if clutched by a giant, unseen hand.

"Your floating power's impressive... but this island belongs to me."

Daren's voice was cold as he raised his hand and pressed forward through the air.

Suddenly, the massive lion turned its head with a mechanical jerk, jaws wide as it lunged not for Daren—but straight at Shiki.

The strength of the Fuwa Fuwa no Mi lay in levitation, even powerful enough to make an entire island float. But when it came to force in lateral motion, it was no match for the magnetic control of Daren's Jiki Jiki no Mi!

"Damn it!!"

Shiki's eyes flared with rage.

"Then I'll just cut you to pieces!"

Both of his Meito blades surged with Armament Haki. Faced with the massive metal beast, Shiki didn't retreat—instead, he charged, slashing down hard.

Swish!

A devastating wave of sword energy surged into the air. The giant lion shattered into countless metal shards, raining across the sky.

But before the fragments could even fall—

A massive figure burst through the storm of metal, charging straight at Shiki.

"Jiihahaha!! Finally, it's my turn! Caught you slippin'!"

Bullet laughed wildly.

Seeing him, the fury Shiki had been holding back finally erupted.

Ever since setting foot on this Coin Island, he had been constantly outplayed by that Marine brat.

First, used like a sharpening stone to awaken his Observation Haki.

Then, his once-invincible flying fleet was obliterated by a barrage of cannon fire.

Even his Devil Fruit powers were beginning to feel suppressed.

Yes, it was partly due to the island's strange composition—but for a man like Shiki, feared and unbeaten on the seas, this was unacceptable!

And now, this damned upstart who'd been watching from the sidelines wanted a piece too?

His fury exploded like a long-dormant volcano.

Zzzzzz!!

Black and red lightning surged, forming a net of violent arcs that crackled around Shiki's entire body.

"You're dead!!"

He unleashed both swords at once, hacking down furiously at Bullet.

Bullet: "?!?"

Sensing Shiki's sudden murderous aura and the crushing pressure behind it, Bullet's face darkened.

His smirk vanished.

In an instant, he summoned massive arms formed from metal and stone using the Gasha Gasha no Mi. Armament Haki coated them immediately, and his own Conqueror's Haki flared.

He threw a full-force punch.

BOOM!

But it only lasted a second.

The massive arm exploded apart under the impact. Bullet was sent flying like a cannonball, blood spraying from his mouth as he crashed through building after building in a thunderous trail of destruction.

Chapter 306 - 306: Volume 2 – Chapter 208: Blocked!

Daren: ...

Watching Bullet charge forward only to be sent flying moments later, Daren couldn't help but twitch the corner of his mouth.

Still as reckless as ever.

The surrounding pirates, witnessing the brutal scene, turned pale with fear and scattered in panic.

One slash... just one slash... and the "Demon Heir" with a bounty of 300 million Belly was sent flying without even a chance to resist.

If it had been them, wouldn't they have been sliced clean in two?

To hell with the Moa Moa no Mi!

Even if they managed to snatch the Moa Moa no Mi amidst the chaos, they'd still need to escape this island alive!

"Jihahahaha! No one can stop me, Shiki!"

After slashing away the troublesome Bullet, Shiki's body shot forward once more.

With a posture nearly skimming the ground, he dove toward Daren.

Along the way, countless metal spikes erupted from the ground, like black serpents aiming to ensnare Shiki's figure.

But he weaved through them effortlessly, slicing some into fragments with a flick of his sword, others he simply dodged—none could impede his advance.

From afar, Shiki resembled a soaring golden lion, charging forward with unbridled arrogance, rapidly closing the distance between them.

In both hands, he gripped the peerless Meito swords, Oto and Kogarashi, their blades crackling with dense black and red lightning, trailing twin torrents of thunderous fury.

Conqueror's Haki surged around him!

At that moment, the entire island seemed engulfed by the raging Conqueror's Haki, black and red light flickering chaotically, transforming the space into a hellish purgatory.

Shiki's eyes were bloodshot with rage, his expression ferocious and bloodthirsty, like a demon from the underworld.

"Die, Marine brat!!"

In an instant, Daren felt an overwhelming pressure bearing down from the front, nearly suffocating him.

Every pore on his body stood on end.

At that moment, Shiki reminded him of the time he first left the North Blue and encountered Roger!

Like a demon!

The same unstoppable force, the same unparalleled dominance!

But back then, Roger hadn't gone all out. Now, Shiki's aura and killing intent had reached their peak!

Faced with such a dire situation, anyone would instinctively retreat!

Even Daren could feel his muscles and cells screaming in protest, urging him to fall back.

Yet, a fierce grin spread across Daren's face.

Over a year of relentless training;

Half a year shackled by Seastone, enduring suppression;

The agony of torture and imprisonment by the Beasts Pirates;

Years upon years of grueling practice, sweat, and toil...

Countless memories flashed through his mind like a revolving lantern.

At this moment...

How could he possibly retreat?

He could forgo the Moa Moa no Mi, but this strike—he had to face it head-on!

If he stepped back now, if he dodged this blow, his journey might end here, never advancing another inch.

"Come on then!!"

Daren let out a thunderous roar and stepped forward instead of backing down!

His right fist clenched tight as Armament Haki surged from his entire body, erupting with full force and wrapping his arm like an impenetrable suit of armor.

He struck with a punch!

In that moment, his mind was completely calm.

His gaze was fierce, but inside, his heart was like a still lake.

Reflected in his pupils was Shiki's ferocious, grinning face, but deeper within, his eyes were like a tranquil pool, gradually stirring with blurred images.

Like a ripple spreading from a droplet falling into calm waters, the scene twisted into the image of a broken warship.

To Daren, the lightning-wielding Shiki in front of him seemed to vanish, replaced by a shattered warship docked at a scrapyard.

Spirit, will, strength, skill... everything merged into one!

It was like a flash of insight piercing through the Commodore's mind.

Not far off, Sengoku, who was sprinting over, caught sight of Daren's soaring will and that all-or-nothing punch. He froze instinctively, his expression shifting.

"That punch... could it be...?"

In the next instant, Shiki's twin blades clashed head-on with Daren's fist!

Boom!!

A deep roar thundered out as a shockwave burst in all directions.

Black and red lightning crackled outward in streaks.

The ground within hundreds of meters collapsed and quaked. Cannons and massive boulders were launched into the air, then shattered in the explosion of air pressure.

"He... he blocked it!?"

King and Charlotte Perospero stared in disbelief, a storm raging in their hearts.

Shiki the Golden Lion—one of the legendary Great Pirates, said to surpass even their own captain and Mama—had unleashed a full-powered strike... and it was actually blocked by that Marine Commodore!?

From the rubble of a collapsed building, Bullet, having just climbed out, paused at the sight. Then, blood dripping from his mouth, he broke into loud laughter:

"Kahahahaha!! I knew it! Daren, you bastard—only you are worthy of being my rival!!"

Boom! Boom! Boom!!

The raging shockwaves continued detonating like a chain of bombs, casting darkness over the sky.

Shiki looked at the Commodore in front of him, a trace of surprise flickering in his eyes, pupils slightly narrowing.

Was it just his imagination? That brat's punch just now... had a faint echo of that bastard Garp's presence.

"Did he inherit Garp's legacy?"

But in the next breath, Shiki grinned again.

"Even if he did, that's just a sliver of it! Not even Garp himself could stop me!!"

Shiki's body shot upward, then came crashing down from above!

Black and red lightning roared again. Wrapped in Conqueror's Haki, an overwhelming force like a collapsing mountain and surging tsunami bore down on Daren!

Crack! Crack!

The black Armament Haki covering Daren's fist began to fracture, fine cracks spreading out.

With a heavy thud, his feet were driven deep into the ground like nails, sinking past his knees.

The earth itself buckled under the pressure.

"Jihahahaha!! Now this is a strength worth praising!!"

Shiki laughed madly and slashed upward, sending Daren's bloodied arm flying.

The Marine Commodore was left wide open!

An opening!!

At that exact moment, a red gleam flashed simultaneously in both Daren and Shiki's eyes.

Observation Haki!

A sharp sword wind shrieked—Shiki, one of the strongest swordsmen alive, attacked with ruthless precision, his strike as fast as lightning.

"Die!!"

He brought the sword down in one swift motion!

Shish!!

The Meito sword "Kogarashi" pierced deep into Daren's chest, unleashing a burst of blood.

The world fell into a moment of silence...

Then Sengoku's anguished and grief-stricken cry echoed across the island.

"Daren!!"

Chapter 307 - 307: Volume 2 – Chapter 209: You Don't Understand Fighting

Blood splattered into the air, landing across Shiki's face and making him look even more savage and terrifying.

Everyone stared, dumbfounded by the scene before them.

Snap!

Suddenly, a hand shot up and grabbed the razor-sharp, peerless Meito sword.

The twisted grin on Shiki's face froze instantly.

"That really hurt... You almost gutted me right there..."

Daren suddenly raised his head, panting and grinning, locking eyes with the legendary Great Pirate before him—his gaze cold to the extreme, and just as mad.

Shiki's pupils shrank.

To his shock, his blade had sunk into the Commodore's chest muscles—only to get stuck tight. It wouldn't budge another inch!

The pitch-black Armament Haki began to slowly recede from Daren's chest. Around the bleeding wound, the muscles—like stone, yet seemingly alive—clamped down hard on Kogarashi, emanating a cold, iron-like pressure.

This was... Armament Haki combined with the Marines' Rokushiki technique, Tekkai!

No...

If that were all, there's no way he could've taken my strike head-on!

Shiki's eyes locked onto the wound—muscle, skin, bone...

"A steel-like body!?"

His pupils quivered violently as the words slipped out in shock.

Daren grinned wide.

So, in the end, Zephyr-sensei... Observation Haki doesn't matter much after all.

Only raw physical strength—that's my foundation in this sea!

With a low, thunderous growl, Daren's left hand curled into a claw. Wrapped in Armament Haki, it shot straight toward Shiki's groin with vicious intent!

What a dirty move!

Shiki's hair stood on end. He tried to yank Kogarashi free from the Marine brat's grip, but to his surprise, the blade didn't move at all!

That bloodstained hand was clenched tight like a steel vise—completely immovable.

This Marine brat... His raw strength is actually greater than mine!?

Block!

With his left hand, Shiki raised Oto to deflect Daren's claw strike. Sparks burst from the clash.

Daren's strike failed to land, but he didn't give Shiki even a second to breathe. Ignoring the blade tearing into his palm, he yanked hard on Kogarashi, dragging Shiki—sword and all—toward him with a wild grin.

Shiki stumbled through the air, completely off balance.

"Admiral Sengoku!!"

Daren roared, eyes bloodshot.

This wasn't some reckless ambush. He'd come prepared to take down Shiki.

The real threat with a master swordsman like Shiki wasn't just his blade—but his use of the Fuwa Fuwa no Mi. That floating ability gave him extreme mobility, letting him launch devastating mid-to-long range strikes.

In the original story, that's how he single-handedly broke into Marineford, wreaked havoc across half the base, and only lost when both Garp and Sengoku teamed up against him.

Which meant—if you wanted to truly defeat this man, the first step was locking down his movement!

"Hahahahaha!! Beautifully done, brat!!"

A massive golden figure suddenly appeared behind Shiki. His admiral's cloak billowed wildly in the wind.

Sengoku raised his fist, golden light surging around it—and slammed it down like a mountain falling from the sky!

That punch carried all of Sengoku's power.

A violent surge of Haki roared above Shiki's head. The surrounding air compressed to the extreme as black and red lightning shot down in streaks...

"Don't make me laugh!!"

As Sengoku's devastating blow closed in, Shiki roared with bloodshot eyes.

Zzzzz!!

Black and red lightning exploded around him, boiling and crackling as Conqueror's Haki surged outward without restraint.

"I'm the man who will rule the world!!"

Daren, at point-blank range, was struck as if by lightning.

The sudden burst of Conqueror's Haki at such close range sent the already wounded Daren reeling, dizzy from the impact.

His vision blurred. In front of him, the ground, turrets, rubble, and collapsing buildings seemed to shatter and sink into chaos—like a mirror breaking into countless pieces.

With a reversed grip on Oto, Shiki swung the Meito in a wide arc.

Boom!!

The blade collided with Sengoku's descending fist like a comet slamming into the earth, unleashing a massive shockwave that tore through the air.

Blood trickled from the corners of both their mouths.

Sengoku was forced back.

But Shiki, unfazed, grinned savagely and lashed out with a kick toward Daren's abdomen.

Daren's expression shifted. Fighting off the dizziness, he dropped into a crouch to block it.

Bang!!

A sharp crack echoed from his shin—his leg bones beginning to fracture. Daren let out a muffled grunt of pain.

This bastard... Even his roundhouse kicks are infused with Haki!!

"Jihahahaha!! Daren, I'll admit you're strong... but do you even know what real combat is!?"

Shiki laughed wildly. Though Kogarashi was still locked in Daren's grip, his legs struck with terrifying speed and force.

His kicks—master-level techniques!

Each strike thudded against Daren's body, bursting open blood mist on impact.

"Use everything... Every part of the body becomes a weapon... That's how I've conquered the seas—"

Bang!!

A brutal headbutt cut his words short and jammed them right back into his throat.

Twin streams of blood sprayed from his nostrils.

His head jerked back, eyes flashing with shock.

He's already this badly injured... yet this brat can still—?

"Of course I do!!!"

Daren's black hair whipped in the wind as he roared like a beast, blood-red eyes twisted in a feral grin.

His body was soaked in blood, his Marine uniform completely drenched in crimson.

He curled the fingers of his right hand.

Index and middle fingers pressed together, ring and pinky fingers aligned—like a dragon's claw!

"That stance..." Sengoku's eyes widened.

"Come on!!"

Daren's expression was wild, but his gaze was colder than ever.

"Ryusoken!!"

"Jihahahaha! You're an amusing brat!!"

Shiki burst into mad laughter.

"Zanpa!!"

Amid black smoke and dancing flames, both wore crazed smiles.

They struck at the same time!

The Meito Oto—

The black Dragon Claw—

The two attacks passed each other perfectly...

Their targets—each other's bodies!!

Both completely abandoned defense!!

Shhk!!

Shhk!!

Blood sprayed into the air.

Sengoku's pupils shrank sharply.

Time seemed to freeze.

Shiki, still wearing that vicious grin, had already buried Oto deep into Daren's abdomen, blood gushing from the wound.

Daren's eyes were like ice, his bloodied right hand locked tightly around Shiki's Kogarashi.

And his other hand—

The three-fingered Dragon Claw—had raked a deep, bone-revealing gash across Shiki's chest.

Chapter 308 - 308: Volume 2 – Chapter 210: Moa Moa no Mi, It's Mine

Blood poured from the corners of both men's mouths.

Daren's face went pale, his pupils beginning to lose focus.

"Jihahahaha!! 'Indestructible body'? Don't make me laugh—you're just metal meat!"

Blood trickled from Shiki's mouth, but he still grinned ferociously, his eyes blazing with murderous intent.

"I win!! It's a few hundred years too early for you to think about killing me, Marine brat!!"

With those words, he suddenly yanked both blades free.

Shhk!!

Sticky blood dragged from Daren's palm and abdomen, slicing crimson arcs through the air.

Daren let out a muffled groan.

Already heavily wounded—and burdened by the strain of overusing his Devil Fruit powers—his body was finally reaching its limit.

"Let's finish this!!"

With his twin swords stained in blood, Shiki charged forward and brought them down on the staggering Daren!

Given Daren's current condition, taking a blow now would be fatal—no question.

"Not a chance!!"

Sengoku reappeared at Shiki's flank, his palm wrapped in radiant golden light as he slammed it forward.

"You're in my way, Sengoku!!"

Shiki roared in fury. Crossing both blades in front of him, he met the attack head-on.

Boom!!

An immense shockwave erupted as Shiki was blasted backward like a kite with its string cut.

Spinning several times in midair, he reversed his grip and drove both blades into the ground, finally stopping his retreat.

Without lifting a finger otherwise—

The ground beneath his feet suddenly heaved and surged upward like a tidal wave, rising into three massive lion constructs, each dozens of meters tall. They crashed down toward Daren like crumbling mountains!

Shishi Odoshi: Gosho Chimaki!!

The pain in his chest made Shiki wince, but his eyes remained locked with an overwhelming killing intent.

For all the years he had sailed the seas, he had never taken such a loss from a single person.

Even during the legendary battle at God Valley, he had held his ground and walked away unscathed.

But now—he'd actually been brought low by this Marine brat?

Unacceptable.

Unforgivable.

He had to kill him!!

...

In the very next instant—

Sengoku vanished from sight.

Soru!

One of the Marines' Rokushiki techniques—his speed hit the limit.

In the blink of an eye, he appeared in front of the heavily injured, kneeling Daren. Golden light flared from his body as he launched a rapid series of punches.

"Impact Wave!"

Boom boom boom!!

The three massive lion constructs, crashing down like a tsunami, were shattered one by one by Sengoku's strikes, exploding into a storm of debris.

Just as Sengoku prepared to act again, he froze—Shiki had disappeared.

"What!?"

His face changed drastically. He whipped around.

"Jihahahaha!! Let's see which one of you can stop me now!!!"

Shiki's figure, like a streak of golden light, streaked through the sky at terrifying speed—darting toward a different direction altogether.

That direction... was the collapsed auction stage!

Seeing the legendary pirate flying straight toward their position, the few remaining guards turned ghostly pale. Abandoning all thoughts of defending the Moa Moa no Mi behind them, they dropped their weapons and fled in panic.

"Stop him!!"

Sengoku roared, his eyes wide with fury.

"Yasakani no Magatama..."

A burst of golden light erupted high into the sky.

Borsalino drove the exhausted King back with a single sword slash, then transformed into a beam of light, shooting upward. Spreading his arms, he unleashed a barrage of light bullets that poured down like a torrential storm.

Boom—boom—boom...

Explosions rocked the ground in rapid succession.

But Shiki's agility was unmatched. He weaved and spun through the rain of light, dodging each glowing projectile with terrifying precision, continuing his high-speed dive toward the Moa Moa no Mi without losing momentum.

"The fight's not over yet!!"

Suddenly, a hoarse roar thundered from the other side.

The auction hall wall exploded as a massive figure smashed straight through it, charging directly at Shiki!

Douglas Bullet!

But this Bullet looked completely transformed—his body coated in dirt and jagged stone, his skin layered with a purple-black sheen of Armament Haki. He was like a human war machine built to tear through fortresses.

"Unión Armado: Super Heavy Impact Cannon!!"

A colossal fist, nearly a meter in diameter, came crashing down on Shiki like a wrecking ball!

"You're too slow, brat from the Roger Pirates!!"

Shiki sneered, a flash of crimson glinting deep in his eyes.

Mid-flight, his body tilted into a sudden drift—just barely grazing past Bullet's blow.

Then, in the next instant—

Twin blades slashed with terrifying speed and force.

Shhk!!

Bullet's enormous body froze mid-swing, then shattered into chunks of debris.

A deep, cross-shaped gash tore across his chest, blood gushing as he staggered backward.

Against Bullet's brute-force brawling and wide-range power, the nimble, razor-sharp Shiki was the worst possible matchup.

"Jihahahaha!!"

Shiki laughed wildly, charging ahead without pause.

Over a dozen Marines rushed in, trying to encircle him from every angle.

But they didn't even slow him down.

In the blink of an eye, his gleaming blades sliced clean through their defenses, sending them flying like blood-streaked kites cut loose in the wind.

Closer...

He was getting closer!!

Shiki's eyes burned with greed and ambition, blazing like wildfire.

Locked onto the Moa Moa no Mi, sitting quietly inside a glass case.

The pirate fleet being wiped out—didn't matter.

Failing to kill that damn Marine brat—didn't matter.

Even suffering humiliation—didn't matter...

As long as...

As long as he got his hands on that Devil Fruit—everything would be worth it!

With the power of that fruit, combined with his Fuwa Fuwa no Mi...

Conquering the entire sea—surpassing even that bastard Rocks—would be within reach!!

He would become the ruler of the world!!

Nothing can stop me now!!

"No!!"

Sengoku's face turned pale as he shouted, teeth clenched.

Ten meters.

Five meters.

Three meters.

One meter.

Shiki's eyes gleamed with triumph. Laughing madly, he stretched out his hand toward the Moa Moa no Mi.

"The Moa Moa no Mi is mine—huh!?"

His pupils shrank to pinpricks. The victorious grin froze on his face.

The metal platform of the auction stage suddenly lurched like a living thing, rising up and folding in on itself. Like a gaping mouth, it swallowed the Moa Moa no Mi straight into the ground.

Then—

The remaining metal twisted and morphed, reshaping itself into a massive fist...

And finally contorted into a bizarre, mocking gesture—

A single raised middle finger.

In that instant, Shiki's eyes filled with blood-red veins, bulging with rage as if they'd burst from their sockets.

"...You insolent Marine brat!!"

He roared in fury, whirling around, eyes blazing with hatred and killing intent as they locked onto a distant figure kneeling on one knee.

The Marine Commodore—Rogers Daren.

Daren was pale, panting heavily, one hand pressed to the ground as faint arcs of lightning danced across his skin.

Blood dripped from the corner of his mouth, but he grinned with wild satisfaction.

"Too bad... you almost had it."

Shiki's face turned a violent shade of red, rage threatening to explode from within.

Chapter 309 - 309: Volume 2 – Chapter 211: Caught in a Net

He'd been played...

And played hard.

As Shiki stared at Daren's distant, mocking smile, his mind went completely blank. The same thought echoed endlessly in his head.

That Marine brat... He'd had the power all along to take the Moa Moa no Mi without any effort!

Damn it!!

As for that bizarre gesture—Shiki had no idea what it meant, but the mockery and provocation behind it were clear enough.

"What a shame... Your grand fleet is gone, and you were just inches away from claiming the Moa Moa no Mi..."

A calm, drawn-out voice suddenly came from a short distance away.

Shiki whipped his head around and locked eyes with Borsalino, who had landed smoothly on the other side.

The man casually spread his hands with an apologetic shrug, but the smirk tugging at his lips betrayed how much he was enjoying the show.

As the words hit, bloodshot veins flooded Shiki's bulging eyes.

And it wasn't just him—far off, the panting "The Conflagration" King, the Charlotte brothers Perospero and Daifuku, and even Marco, hidden away in some corner, were all frozen in disbelief.

Every single one of them... had been played.

But as soon as that realization hit, a wave of dread surged through their hearts.

If the Marines had the power to take the Moa Moa no Mi from the start... then why didn't they?

The thought struck them all at once. Their faces turned pale.

Could it be...

"Then it's time to end this."

Daren's voice rasped through the air, twisted with a feral grin.

Szzzz...

Sparks of blue lightning began to dance across his body. An invisible, violent force seemed to explode outward from the Commodore, pressing down on everyone nearby.

The crackling light illuminated his face, making his pallor even more ghostly. Blood spilled from the corner of his mouth, bright against the glow.

But in his eyes burned a savage, unrelenting killing intent.

He slowly raised his blood-soaked right hand.

"No!! Stop him!!"

King's face changed drastically, as if realizing something too late.

Charlotte Perospero and Charlotte Daifuku stared wide-eyed, fear creeping into their expressions.

Shiki's pupils shrank.

Daren burst out laughing—and slammed his hand to the ground.

"All of you—stay right here!!"

Bang!

His palm struck the earth with force.

Whoosh!!

Dozens of thin, crackling electric currents instantly spread out in all directions.

...

Coin Island, First Port.

"Run!! Get out of here!!"

"Shiki's here! If you stay, you're dead!!"

"What the hell happened?! Shiki's entire fleet got wiped out just like that!!"

"How should I know?! Just run if you want to live!!"

"Hurry up!! Get on the ship!!"

The once-busy trade port had erupted into chaos.

Pirates from all over the world, along with agents of the underworld, were fleeing in all directions, drenched in sweat as they scrambled onto their ships.

They'd only just barely escaped with their lives from the auction house—none of them had the time or will to think about anything else.

The docks were packed with pirate ships ready to sail. In the rush, rival factions clashed, hurling insults and blows in a scramble to escape.

But then...

"What... what is that?"

On one of the pirate ships, a sailor pulling the anchor froze. His hand stopped mid-motion, eyes locked ahead in horror.

His face slowly drained of color, like he'd seen a nightmare come to life.

From the direction of the land came a low, metallic groan—like some massive machine shifting into motion.

The strange sound caught everyone's attention.

They turned to look.

And then—they froze.

Like soulless statues, they stood still, paralyzed in fear.

On the island's surface...

Row after row of heavy metal cannons slowly turned, adjusting their aim...

Their barrels pointed straight at the port.

"It's over..."

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!!!

A storm of artillery fire swallowed everything whole.

...

The ruins of the auction hall.

All the pirates present stared in amazement at the flames and black smoke rising from the major ports of Coin Island, their hearts trembling amid the deafening sound of cannon fire mixed with the screams of pirates.

The earth seemed to be shaking.

They stood frozen in place as if struck by lightning.

"The port... has been blown up..."

"Our pirate ships... have all been sunk..."

"This... how is this possible..."

"The Marines... have gone mad..."

"..."

At this moment, the pirates' hearts were completely filled with fear, even more shocking than when they had just witnessed the destruction of Shiki's entire fleet with their own eyes.

All the ports of Coin Island had been completely destroyed, and all the ships anchored in the ports had been sunk...

This also meant that they were all trapped on this island with no way out!

There was no escape!!

"What a crazy brat... Jihahahaha..."

Shiki didn't know whether to be angry or laugh. His bloodshot eyes flashed with a fierce light, staring intently at the Commodore of the Marines who was being protected by Sengoku.

"So, Daren, you want all the pirates on this island to join forces and kill you?"

What kind of counterattack would a beast driven into a corner launch?

You have to understand that among the pirates participating in this auction, there were nearly a hundred with bounties of over 100 million!

The other pirates also stared at Daren with hatred, their eyes filled with murderous intent as if they wanted to cut him into pieces.

Under normal circumstances, pirates would not dare to provoke the Marines.

But now...This Marine brat had completely cornered them all!

Noticing everyone's gaze, Sengoku's eyelids twitched, and he hurriedly gave the order, shouting,

"Protect Commodore Daren!"

As soon as he finished speaking, dozens of elite Marines stationed around them immediately rushed forward with their weapons, forming a defensive camp and protecting the seriously injured Daren firmly behind them.

"Kill me?"

At this moment, Daren spoke with a cold smile.

He was gasping for breath, blood seeping from his mouth and nose, and he was in terrible shape.

He propped himself up on his knees and struggled to stand up from the ground.

He looked up.

His eyes swept over the faces of the pirates who were rushing in from all directions and surrounding the Marines.

"No..."

He laughed coldly:

"I'm going to wipe you all out... every last one of you!!"

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"Kill!!!"

"Take out all the Marines!!"

"Kill Daren!!"

...

The battle erupted in full force.

Countless pirates surged toward the Marines, eyes bloodshot, faces twisted in madness. With no path left to retreat, they knew they had only one option—to fight their way through.

"Protect Commodore Daren!!"

"Hold the line!!"

"Push forward!!"

The Marines fired relentlessly, shielding Daren behind them with unwavering resolve.

"This... this has never happened before. Pirates daring to launch a direct assault on the Marines..."

Borsalino suddenly grinned and shot up into the air.

"Can't let you guys take out Daren now, can I..."

With his arms thrown open, he pinched his fingers into a poised gesture.

A blinding golden light erupted, and golden beams of energy poured down on the pirates like a torrential storm.

"Yasakani no Magatama."

Boom—boom—boom—

Like a divine purge, wave after wave of explosions tore through the pirates, spraying blood and limbs into the air. Many didn't even have time to react before being swallowed by the dense barrage of light bullets.

Flames roared into the sky, black smoke rolled across the battlefield, and screams of agony filled the air.

Countless pirates turned into burning husks, writhing on the ground before crumbling into charred skeletons.

Daren, shielded by the Marine formation, watched the devastation, the corner of his mouth twitching slightly.

When Borsalino got serious with Yasakani no Magatama... it was absolute carnage.

"Impact Wave!!"

Sengoku had also entered the fray, his massive golden Buddha form surrounded on all sides by a sea of pirates. But every thunderous palm strike blasted dozens of them flying, blood spraying from their mouths.

The ground quaked under the sheer force of the shockwaves, dust clouds surging into the air.

"Kahahahaha!!! This is it!! This is the rush I live for!!"

A booming laugh echoed through the chaos.

Bullet's figure crashed into the pirate horde like a feral beast, his movements sweeping and brutal. Everything in his path was destroyed. No one could last even a single exchange against him.

"Damn it!! Bullet, you bastard! You're a pirate!!"

"Go after the Marines! Why the hell are you attacking us!?"

"We're on the same side here!!"

Bullet shattered a pirate's skull with one punch, then sent another pirate with a hundred-million bounty flying over a hundred meters with a brutal spinning kick. His eyes gleamed red with madness as he roared with laughter.

"Why the hell should I listen to any of you!?"

"Marine or pirate—I'll kill whoever I damn well please!!"

"Stand with you weaklings? Don't make me laugh!!"

"Kahahaha!! Daren, watch closely... I'm way stronger than you!!"

Daren: ...

He paused, then sneered.

"Is that so? I don't buy it."

"I wiped out Shiki's entire fleet on my own."

"If you want to prove you're stronger than me, then take out all the pirates here with bounties over 100 million. There's only, what, forty or fifty of them? Do that, and I'll admit you're the stronger one."

Bullet blinked, then his eyes blazed with crazed excitement.

"Kahahaha! You said it!"

"Get ready to eat your words!"

"Besides, in your current pathetic state, killing you wouldn't even be satisfying!"

He suddenly turned, locking eyes with the pirates in front of him whose faces had turned pale with fear. Like a predator eyeing its prey, he licked his cracked lips and grinned wickedly.

"Sorry about this... Try your best to entertain me."

With that, Bullet activated his Devil Fruit ability once more.

A purple-black vortex surged outward as countless rocks and chunks of earth gathered onto his body. In the blink of an eye, a towering behemoth hundreds of meters tall took shape.

It rose from the earth—monstrous and overwhelming.

"This time... I'm gonna go on a real killing spree!!!"

Bullet roared with laughter, swinging his mountain-sized arms and slamming them down!

Boom!!

Dozens of pirates were obliterated in an instant, crushed into pulp before they could even react.

The ground shook violently, groaning under the impact, dirt and debris flying everywhere.

Bullet's laughter echoed across the battlefield as his giant form charged into the densest part of the pirate ranks, flattening everything in his path.

Blood ran like rivers.

Sengoku stared, dumbfounded.

What the hell is this...!?

Is he an idiot?

He turned to Daren with a blank expression.

Daren gave a weary shrug.

...

Of course, not everyone was out of options.

"We should go..."

Charlotte Perospero supported the badly injured Charlotte Daifuku, glancing at the chaos engulfing the battlefield as he lowered his voice.

Charlotte Daifuku pressed his pale lips tightly together and said nothing.

The Moa Moa no Mi had already fallen into Marine hands. Their chance was gone.

Even though the pirates on Coin Island seemed numerous, compared to the elite forces of the Marines, they were just a disorderly mob.

Their apparent advantage in numbers meant little. With Sengoku and Borsalino—two top-tier powerhouses—still at full strength, it was only a matter of time before the pirates were wiped out.

Both of them were already wounded. If they stayed any longer, they'd end up dying here.

And not just the two of them...

On the other side—

"The Conflagration" King landed steadily atop a crumbling rooftop, breathing heavily. One hand clutched at the wound on his abdomen.

A vivid stream of blood ran down from beneath his mask.

"It's time to retreat," he muttered weakly.

Borsalino's strength had far exceeded his expectations. Judging from how relaxed he still looked, it was clear he hadn't even been fighting seriously.

"Hey, aren't you leaving? If you don't go now, you won't get another chance."

King suddenly turned and called out to a shadowed corner.

After a moment of silence, a figure slowly stepped out of the darkness.

Marco pulled back part of his hood, speaking with a hint of resignation.

"How did you spot me?"

King replied coldly,

"You hid well, but that Phoenix scent of yours—I could smell it from kilometers away."

As a fellow Zoan-type Devil Fruit user, and with a unique racial bloodline, King had a heightened sensitivity to different kinds of aura and scent.

Marco froze in surprise.

And in that brief moment of distraction—

Shhk!!

A streak of black light shot straight through his body.

Marco's pupils widened. He looked down to see a blue-green flame slowly ignite around his abdomen, rapidly healing the wound.

He'd been discovered!

Marco quickly looked up.

Amid the Marine ranks, Daren was looking right at him with a slight smile.

"Marco, it's been a while."

"How's Kozuki Oden? Oh, and when you get back, be sure to tell him..."

Daren raised his hand.

The black light that had pierced Marco moments ago flew back to his side and landed neatly in his grasp.

"This Enma suits me perfectly."

The corner of Daren's mouth curled upward.

"If I get the chance, I'll go pay him another visit... I'm quite interested in Ame no Habakiri too."