

Menu 1091

Chapter 1091: A Sword Emerges— (2)

"Hmm."

"Alright, please follow me."

Seeing that Hanakaiin Haru showed no sign of fury, but rather nodded calmly, the man in the suit immediately bowed and said.

Then, leading by just half a step ahead of Hanakaiin Haru, followed by Jason and Sagaraso, he walked towards the dock.

At this time, the 'Doom' ship was also slowly approaching the dock.

The approaching 'Doom' ship.

The advancing Jason, Hanakaiin Haru, and Sagaraso instantly drew the attention of the other people present.

The competitors looked at the trio with malicious intent.

That kind of gaze far exceeded the sinister aura of the 'Doom' ship.

Instantly, the two raised strands of Sagaraso's hair stood up completely.

Like two antennas.

The entire person's style shifted from being carefree with a hint of sweetness to becoming 'stern.'

Muscle lines also became more defined.

Especially the eyes, they shone like two lightbulbs.

"Hmm?"

Hanakaiin Haru was taken aback as he looked at Sagaraso.

At this moment, he actually felt an extremely dangerous aura emanating from her.

As if he were being targeted by some terrifying entity.

"This teammate of mine..."

The young Onmyoji wanted to comment, but in the end, he just laughed softly.

A strong ally, at a time like this, is more reliable than anything.

Straightaway, Hanakaiin Haru advanced forward once again.

And Jason?

He followed closely without any fuss.

He was restraining himself!

Restrain the hunger.

Restrain the impulse.

He constantly reminded himself that the hunt would start later.

Now?

He had to be patient.

But this kind of patience was misunderstood by the surrounding competitors.

"What's with this big guy?"

"How come he has a weaker aura than that girl?"

"Where did this piece of trash come from?"

"Go home and suckle on milk!"

"Hahaha XXX!"

Vulgar words taunted Jason.

Most of the competitors echoed them, while a few looked on coldly at everything happening. They observed the people around them and also Jason's group, especially Jason and Hanakaiin Haru.

However, in the end, they all frowned slightly or shook their heads.

Even after Jason and his party boarded the ship, they still couldn't figure anything out.

This made them feel uneasy.

Equally anxious were a few people in the distance.

"Where did Haru find these teammates?"

"That little girl's aura is already strong."

"That big guy is completely unreadable."

"Didn't I already order to cut off any potential teammates for him?"

A middle-aged man asked loudly around him.

Immediately, two servants with their faces covered knelt on one knee.

"Sir, these two were teammates unexpectedly found by Young Master Haru; it's an unforeseen development."

One of them answered.

But as soon as he spoke, he was kicked to the floor by the middle-aged man.

"Unexpected!"

"Your existence is to prevent the unexpected!"

"And now you're telling me 'unexpected'?"

The middle-aged man's voice rose.

The servant who was kicked to the ground trembled and didn't dare to retort.

The remaining servant bowed his head deeply, silent, fearing the anger might turn towards him.

But the middle-aged man's gaze turned towards him.

"Who are those two!"

"I want their information!"

"Now! Immediately!"

The middle-aged man bellowed.

"The female is a girl named Sagaraso, a second-year student from the Imperial Sakurako Academy who has a good relationship with Miss Zhumei and is suspected to have received training from 'Mingzao.' She has an amazing appetite and great strength."

"The male is the Exorcist 'Jason' who came wandering from outside the island; he caused trouble outside the island, then sought refuge inside. However, people from outside have already started looking for his whereabouts."

The other servant responded with more details.

"Imperial Sakurako? Mingzao? That's troublesome."

"Leave it for now."

"However, deal with this Exorcist for me... Regardless of the outcome, first, spread the word that this bastard is here, and let those people outside the island know."

After hearing about Sagaraso's background, the middle-aged man raised an eyebrow and quickly shifted the focus.

"Yes, sir."

The two servants nodded immediately and disappeared quickly.

The middle-aged man paid no more attention to them.

He directly walked over to the window and looked down at the 'Doom' ship through the glass.

"Haru, you can't escape!"

"You're definitely going to die here!"

The other side muttered to themselves.

And their voice reached a secret base two kilometers away.

It was a van hidden in the bushes, listening to the voice coming from the radio, Yuli couldn't help but yawn.

"So boring."

"Another one of those family feud dramas."

"Isn't it nice when everyone gets along?"

The young and energetic Yuli girl pouted, looking very disdainful.

"As if it's that simple."

"If everyone could just get along, you wouldn't have slipped away to have Kaoru 'fetch' the invitation for you."

Kaoru said very rationally.

"That's to prove that I can inherit 'Extreme Flow' too!"

"And that dumb brother of mine, his head is filled with muscles, if he inherits 'Extreme Flow', he'll definitely lead it to decline! Unless he finds a disciple who's also an idiot and very rich!"

"But even so, chances are I'll be the one stepping in, selling my looks, and entering a political marriage or something."

"This lady would never do that!"

Yuli said angrily.

Kaoru didn't respond, just looked at Yuli indifferently.

One second.

Two seconds.

Three seconds.

About five seconds later, Yuli couldn't hold it any longer with a huffy look on her face.

"Alright!"

"I admit it!"

"I just want to prove that I'm stronger than my brother!"

The girl Yuli admitted.

Kaoru withdrew her gaze, turning her head to look at Hui Lixiang.

"Hui, should we make a move?"

Kaoru asked.

"No need."

"Our mission is only to monitor the Hanakaiin Family."

Hui Lixiang, dressed in a purple-red suit, looked very sharp, even sitting cross-legged in front of a radio didn't affect her valiant demeanor.

"But that big guy is Chen Xi's friend, right?"

"If something happens to him, Chen Xi will surely be heartbroken."

Girl Yuli said, unable to help herself.

"That won't happen."

Hui Lixiang said very assertively.

This caused girl Yuli to widen her eyes, full of curiosity.

Even the usually rational girl Kaoru showed curiosity in her eyes.

Seeing her two curious teammates, Hui Lixiang couldn't help but sigh.

"Chen Xi has a particular trait since childhood—her friends are not ordinary people."

"Not ordinary people?"

"What do you mean by that?"

The girl Yuli became even more curious.

"It means just what it says."

"At some point, those Chen Xi calls 'friends' are all far from simple. Haven't you asked me how I managed to get into the 'Inside World' without guidance?"

"All thanks to the 'friends' around Chen Xi."

"Look, because you're Chen Xi's sister, here's a secret book for you as a gift."

"Eh? How can Chen Xi's sister be so weak? Here's a secret technique, I'll teach it to you."

"Eh? How can Chen Xi's sister be so ordinary? Here's a hundred-year-old ginseng, take it to build up your health."

"Since I was nine, I've encountered things like this every so often."

As Hui Lixiang spoke, an inexplicable look of disdain and irritability appeared on her face.

Yet, Yuli's face was filled with envy and jealousy.

Kaoru was no exception either.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Do you envy my life that much?"

Hui Lixiang looked at her two teammates with an unfriendly gaze.

"Of course not..."

Yuli, who was outspoken, blurted out her words and then caught herself just in time to muddle through.

"I feel somewhat offended."

Hui Lixiang said.

Then, the sister seemed like she wanted to say something more,

But suddenly turned her head to look towards the sea.

Yuli and Kaoru also reacted and turned their gaze towards the sea.

The dark sea.

A streak of light.

Suddenly appeared.

The dazzling light instantly cut through the night sky.

The profound darkness dispersed at once.

Leaving behind, a gentle yet incredibly tenacious glow of white.

Like the dawn.

And like—

A sword!

Chapter 1092: Behead!

Step, step-step.

Jason and two others boarded the 'Doomed' vessel. The deck was run-down, not only covered with patches of rust but also tainted with an indescribable stench, as if rotten fish and shrimp had been mixed with excrement.

Hanakaiin Haru frowned.

Miss Sagaraso covered her nose.

"It stinks! It really stinks!"

"What is this smell?"

"Hasn't anyone cleaned this place?"

Miss Sagaraso muttered to herself in her straightforward way.

"Of course not."

"This place is both a battlefield and a graveyard."

Hanakaiin Haru replied, his gaze shifting to the gaps in the deck beneath their feet.

Through this slim gap, the young Onmyoji could clearly see skeletons piled up inside the cabin.

"Not just for the 'King of Fighters - KOF Tournament' feeding, but also fed at other times?"

Hanakaiin Haru narrowed his eyes.

Based on the shape and state of the skeletons, he could very easily confirm this.

These skeletons were not from the Inside World.

They belonged to ordinary people.

And how could ordinary people possibly board the 'Doomed'?

The only possibility was 'feeding'.

Regardless of the methods used for this 'feeding', the master of this ship, as well as the organizers of the 'King of Fighters - KOF Tournament,' were not likely to be compassionate people.

"A graveyard?"

"This, this?"

Miss Sagaraso was startled, and then she followed Hanakaiin Haru's gaze to see everything inside the cabin.

Instantly, the outspoken young lady flared up.

But there was no panic.

Just a pure shock and anger.

"Feeding people to the boat?"

Clearly, the straightforward Miss Sagaraso could not accept such a reality.

"In the Inside World, such things are not common but not few either."

"In a way—humans are the most frightening creatures in this world."

"And the human heart?"

"Indescribable."

Hanakaiin Haru comforted his teammate with his words, then turned his gaze toward another silent teammate.

"Have you found a place to temporarily hide?"

The young Onmyoji asked.

After boarding, Jason had been silent, clearly searching for a place to temporarily hide.

They were the first to board the ship, the rare 'opportunity.'

If they could find a place to hide and launch a surprise attack, it could tip the scales of victory slightly in their favor.

In fact, after boarding, the young Onmyoji had found two good hiding spots.

"Hide?"

"No need."

"This spot is just fine."

Jason smirked, and while speaking, he walked to the center of the deck.

Then, he simply closed his eyes.

"Huh?"

Hanakaiin Haru was taken aback.

What does this mean?

Out in the open, with no cover.

If spotted by others at first sight... wait!

The idea is to be seen by those guys!

The bastards would surely assume we're hiding. But when they board the deck and find us standing there, they'll be caught off guard, completely unaware of what we're up to.

If we suddenly strike at that moment, the effect will be better than lying in ambush!

Brilliant!

"Worthy of being the successor of Tongshou Temple!"

With such admiration, Hanakaiin Haru strode towards Jason.

Jason, without opening his eyes, glanced at the approaching young Onmyoji and praised him internally.

Worthy of the 'Cat Hole' agent.

Miss Sagaraso watched her two teammates, and without any hesitation, walked over straightforwardly as she was.

Soon, a triangular formation was formed with Jason at the front, followed by Hanakaiin Haru and Miss Sagaraso.

"Follow my command later."

"Whatever I say, just do it."

Jason instructed.

"Okay!" X2

The two nodded in agreement.

Afterward, Jason closed his eyes completely, calmly waiting.

In this wait, one after another, the contestants of the team selection boarded the ship.

Just as Hanakaiin Haru had predicted, the moment these contestants boarded and saw Jason and his teammates, they were taken aback.

Shouldn't they be hiding?

Why are they standing here?

Is there a trap?

Such thoughts lingered in their minds, causing the first wave of boarders to hesitate and quickly retreat to the other side of the deck.

They didn't want to be the cannon fodder for others.

The second and third waves of contestants thought the same.

And so, an extremely amusing scene ensued.

Boarding with excitement.

Retreating with hesitation.

Then, observing.

As time ticked by, the atmosphere on the deck became even stranger.

Everyone was eyeing Jason and his teammates eagerly yet warily of each other.

This scene, when seen by Hanakaiin Haru, couldn't help but draw out another round of praise for Jason.

Such a good strategy!

A simple move had put these bastards in a dilemma.

Next...

It should be our turn to make a move, right?

From where to begin?

Based on his own conjecture, Hanakaiin Haru guessed Jason's thoughts and searched for potential targets to strike.

His eyes swept around.

Each person who met Hanakaiin Haru's gaze initially appeared fierce.

But intermixed with the fierceness was hesitation.

In an instant, they nearly became all bark and no bite.

As Hanakaiin Haru surveilled, the group of contestants' momentum visibly weakened in an instant.

Especially when compared to Jason, who was closing his eyes to ignore everything, and Miss Sagaraso, who seemed eager to try.

Everything became so apparent.

This must also have been anticipated by Jason, right?

Thinking after the fact, Hanakaiin Haru pondered.

Chapter 1093: Slash! (2)

Deep admiration grew within, almost tangible.

Ooh!

Woo woo woo!

As all contestants boarded the ship named 'Doom', the whistle of 'Doom' blared forth.

Everyone trembled.

The sound of the whistle was like a starting gun.

These boarding contestants, each assumed a ready stance.

They were on guard against those around them making a move, as well as Jason and his two companions.

But...

Nothing happened.

Following the silence after the whistle, everything was quiet.

All that remained were the sounds of the waves slapping against the ship and the howling sea breeze.

After the bizarre silence, the deck fell into an even more awkward state.

Every contestant looked at the three unmoving figures of Jason and his companions, and then back at themselves, feeling like the monkeys being made fun of.

Some of the more hot-headed contestants were almost about to burst into curses subconsciously.

However, since everyone around them remained silent, their mouths opened, but no words came out.

This scene further deepened Hanakaiin Haru's admiration.

Attacking the mind!

First hit hard, then two strikes to weaken, followed by the final halt!

So that was it!

Hanakaiin Haru took a deep breath.

Just moments ago, he thought he had fully understood Jason's train of thought, but it wasn't until now that Hanakaiin Haru realized just how superficial his understanding was.

All he had seen was the surface.

The depths of it all, he had completely failed to anticipate.

"First, use a 'calm' stance to catch these bastards off guard."

"Then, use the sizing up by me and Sagaraso to instill fear in these bastards."

"Finally, use the whistle to apply the last bit of pressure—with the current state of these bastards, they'll probably perform at most 80% of their capabilities!"

"It's a good opportunity!"

Subconsciously, Hanakaiin Haru was ready to make his move.

But, Hanakaiin Haru had not forgotten Jason's instructions.

The young Onmyoji looked towards Jason.

With closed eyes, Jason stood still, showing no intention of taking action.

What is this?

Could there be something I haven't considered?

Hanakaiin Haru's brows furrowed slightly.

He definitely didn't believe Jason would just stand there waiting aimlessly.

It isn't a matter of biding time.

With Jason's cunning, there had to be another plan.

What could it be?

Hanakaiin Haru pondered.

Just as Hanakaiin Haru was theorizing, one of the surrounding contestants could no longer bear it.

The bizarre atmosphere was torturing him.

"Go to hell!"

The person shouted and charged out of the crowd.

But no sooner had he lunged out than blood blossomed from his back.

Pfft!

A blade pierced through his body.

The charging figure looked down at the blood-stained tip of the sword in his chest, his lips moved as if to say something, but the attacker didn't give him the chance, twisting the hilt and shattering his heart.

The attacker holding the sword sneered.

But immediately, his sneer froze.

Pfft!

The flash of a blade.

The head of the attacker with the sword soared into the air.

The person who attacked him was then rendered into pieces by the chaotic blades.

Everything happened so suddenly.

Yet everything seemed so logical.

Facing the seemingly vulnerable trio of Jason, these contestants themselves were dominant.

At least, they believed themselves to be.

This sense of superiority made them guard against the others much more than against Jason and his companions.

Besides, when they deemed Jason and his companions as their targets, any person who attacked Jason and his companions would bring disaster upon themselves.

If it were a normal situation, such things would be controlled.

At the very least, it would happen after a group assault had taken down Jason and his companions.

But just now, they didn't attack all at once.

Opportunity slips away in an instant.

What remained was mutual wariness.

Blade shadows and sword lights.

Flesh and blood flew about.

Wails were unceasing.

Cries of agony were continuous.

Watching the scene unfold before his eyes, Hanakaiin Haru was filled with shock.

The young Onmyoji naturally knew that these contestants could not possibly be of one mind.

He also had thought of utilizing this fact as a weakness.

But his thoughts were limited to using misleading words at most.

Not like Jason's silence, which was profound.

Without the need for verbal deceit, he was able to make these bastards kill each other.

"So that's how it is!"

Hanakaiin Haru was full of admiration in his heart.

Especially when he saw that the initiator of it all, Jason, was still standing with closed eyes, his admiration reached an unprecedented level.

Initially, he thought Jason was merely insightfully perceptive.

Later, he discovered that Jason's strength was also extremely formidable.

And just now, he realized that even without formidable power, Jason was sufficient to inspire awe.

Such planning, such a strategy, perhaps in the annals of history, there were but a handful like him?

Moreover, an important point, Jason also possessed quite formidable strength.

With the two combined, it was like a tiger sprouting wings!

Such people...

Must become friends!

Must be my allies!

Definitely cannot afford to be enemies with them!

Cold sweat unconsciously appeared on his forehead, and as the sea breeze blew, Hanakaiin Haru shivered and then quickly made the wisest decision of his life.

The sounds of battle continued.

The chaotic fight was still ongoing.

However, the number of contestants had sharply decreased by more than a quarter in a short time.

Slaughter is the fastest filter.

The remaining contestants eyed each other, deliberately increasing the distance between themselves.

"Everyone, wait!"

One of the contestants shouted loudly.

Seeing that it worked, he immediately continued shouting.

"We can't go on like this!"

"If we keep on, all of us will die!"

"And our targets are just watching from the side!"

"Right! Our targets are them, not each other!"

The contestant's words immediately sparked a cascade of agreement.

In the battle just now, many contestants wanted to say this.

But who would dare to be distracted in the midst of a fight.

This was a battle to the death, not a practice match.

Therefore, even if they wanted to say it, they simply didn't dare to speak out.

But now, they had finally found the opportunity.

One person spoke up, and the others echoed.

Immediately, the prior slaughter dissipated.

What remained was malice towards Jason and the other two.

A thick, indissoluble malice.

Sagaraso felt this malice, and her hair stood on end like two antennae, and she unconsciously got into a boxing stance.

Hanakaiin Haru felt it even more clearly.

But there was no sign of tension on his face.

The number of contestants left was within what he could handle.

Simply put, he believed that with him, Jason, and Sagaraso, they could defeat these enemies.

Moreover, a point that was even more important.

He trusted Jason.

Jason, who had meticulously set up his game, would not just end like this.

The subsequent battle would surely be strategized again.

Provoking those bastards' self-annihilation was inevitable.

So the victory would certainly be theirs.

Thinking of this, Hanakaiin Haru became even more relaxed.

Therefore, even if Jason stood there with his eyes closed, unmoving, Hanakaiin Haru wasn't worried at all.

The remaining contestants, on the other hand, were eyeing the trio like hungry wolves.

Although the chaos had stopped, they appeared to reconcile.

But their blood-stained bodies were a constant reminder.

They were all members who had mingled in the Inside World.

Saying one thing to someone's face while another behind their back, they were well used to that.

Time slowly passed.

Hanakaiin Haru became even more relaxed.

The surrounding contestants became even more cautious.

Everything was as Jason had predicted.

Hanakaiin Haru thought to himself.

And at this moment, the contestant who first spoke out spoke up again.

"What are we waiting for?"

"Don't forget the bomb!"

"We don't have much time left!"

"If we don't kill them, we're the ones who'll die!"

With that, he charged towards Jason and the two women.

This time there was no sneaky attack from behind.

Instead, they swarmed over.

Of course, some noticed that the first speaker's speed had suddenly slowed.

But at this moment, nobody had time to care about that.

Kill!

Kill Jason and the two women!

Discuss the rest later!

All had this thought in mind.

Suddenly, their aura twisted into one.

Their killing intent sharp as blades.

Piercing enough to sting the skin.

Sagaraso was vigilant all around.

Hanakaiin Haru also took out Talisman Paper.

But just at that moment, Jason's voice sounded—

"Jump with all your strength."

Jump?

Hanakaiin Haru and Sagaraso were taken aback.

But, out of trust for Jason, they didn't hesitate and leaped up.

Then, they witnessed a scene they would never forget for the rest of their lives.

Sword!

A 40-meter long Light Sword!

Slashed out from Jason's hand!

With an unstoppable momentum!

Like cutting down rot and pulling up weeds!

Sweeping across the field!

Unrivaled reaper!

Chapter 1094: Jason: My swordsmanship is exceptionally gifted

Everything happened too suddenly.

So suddenly that everyone was caught off guard.

It was as though they were in a dream.

The chargers had not anticipated such an attack at all.

In fact, they didn't even consider the possibility of being attacked.

They believed they could rush in all at once.

And win easily.

Although the competitors mixed among the chargers had consciously kept their distance, they never expected Jason's attack to have such a wide range.

And, this sword, so sharp.

After the sword passed, the air seemed to freeze.

Then—

Puf!

Puf puf puf!

Amidst a succession of slicing sounds.

With Jason as the center, within a radius of 40 meters, it was dyed crimson.

From the high angle of Hanakaiin Haru and Miss Sagaraso, it looked like a red rose blooming in the night.

Petal by petal spreading out.

Circle by circle, the petals stretched out.

Eventually, forming this crimson rose.

"No, impossible!"

The competitor who had incited everyone to charge was shouting with widened eyes.

By this time, his body was already split in two.

Starting from the waist, the lower half fell away, organs spilling out.

However, his strong vitality kept him from dying.

He saw everything.

Saw the light that pierced the darkness.

Saw the unparalleled long sword mowing down everything.

Saw the indifferent face of the Swordsman.

"You, who are you?"

The shadow of death was looming over him, but he still stared at the person in front of him.

In fact, not just this competitor.

All surviving competitors had the same expression at this moment.

"Jason!"

Jason did not have the habit of answering his enemies.

The one who answered these people was Miss Sagaraso.

This straightforward girl, after landing, directly said upon hearing such words.

"He is Jason!"

"My partner!"

"And my foodie friend!"

Miss Sagaraso emphasized particularly.

But to these people, such emphasis was useless.

They only heard the first sentence.

"Jason?"

The first speaker murmured softly, then suddenly raised his head, looking towards Jason, his voice suddenly loud.

"The Sword Saint of this era!"

"To die by the Sword Saint's sword, I die without regrets!"

As he spoke, the light faded from his eyes.

The remaining competitors, upon hearing the name 'Sword Saint', also breathed their last.

Their final wish was fulfilled.

They died without regrets.

To die by the hand of a nobody is infuriating, enraging.

But to die by the hand of the 'Sword Saint'?

They had no complaints.

"Sword Saint?"

Miss Sagaraso scratched her head.

She didn't understand the meaning of this title, let alone comprehend its significance.

But Hanakaiin Haru did understand.

Thus, his gaze towards Jason, brimming with a trace of fanaticism.

Sword Saint!

In legend, there was a Swordsman who could slay great demons and monsters with the long sword in his hand.

According to the family records, from before the Warring States period to modern times, there were eleven major incidents of monster invasions into the real world, six of which were resolved by the Sword Saints of that era.

The remaining four were resolved by the Onmyoji.

One more incident remains unclear.

It could be said that each Sword Saint was the pride of their era.

They were the pinnacle of human combat forces in their respective times.

Perhaps they did not form a family like the Onmyoji.

But the swords in their hands were existences that far surpassed any other power during those times.

"Go to death! Go to death!"

"Demons and monsters."

"Evil spirits and fiends."

"Imperial Palace Nobility."

"Though the enemies are numerous, with one sword, I slay them all."

Unconsciously, Hanakaiin Haru hummed the poem about the 'Sword Saint'.

This poem is of unknown origin, but it is the 'dream' of many swordsmen.

Woo, woo!

The night wind suddenly roared amid the humming.

Wave after wave of the sea surged tumultuously.

The corpses on the ground kept rolling.

The crimson blood stirred again.

Jason strode forward decisively.

The sound of the wind, the sound of the waves, the humming noise.

Shadows of people, shadows of blood, the lone shadow.

The scene before them seemed like a painting, firmly etched in the minds of Hanakaiin Haru and Miss Sagaraso.

Hanakaiin Haru was so excited that his entire body trembled.

Miss Sagaraso scratched the back of her head again.

She just felt that at this moment, Jason was a bit special.

But where it was special, she couldn't quite pinpoint.

All she knew was that it was very special.

Jason?

He was used to it.

He didn't bother explaining at first.

Let alone now!

About a dozen 'meals' awaited his picking.

As for the others?

He would talk about it after he had picked up the food.

In the distance, a middle-aged man of the Hanakaiin Family stared dumbfounded at this scene from atop a high tower.

He had contemplated numerous outcomes where Hanakaiin Haru might fight valiantly to the end, might be split by a stray Doppelganger, or both sides could be equally damaged; he had thought of countless endings.

But he had never envisioned this scene before him.

What happened?

He recalled that recent moment.

The sword!

The long sword swept past!

In his mind, this was the only image.

But...

Wasn't this sword too sudden?

Wasn't it too long?

Wasn't it too sharp?

Shocking!

Fear!

Bewilderment!

Variety of emotions surged to his mind, and in the end, in the depths of his heart, only one thought remained—

One sword passes.

The spirits are startled.

"Sword Saint!"

He muttered under his breath.

He didn't want to accept this result, but such was the fact.

The contradiction between this thought and reality made him grab his own hair and tear at it forcefully.

Chapter 1095: Jason: My Swordsmanship is Exceptionally Gifted (2)

"How could this be?!"

"How could this be?!"

He questioned himself.

Everything had already been arranged.

No matter what, Hanakaiin Haru was not supposed to escape this fate.

But now...

Not only did Hanakaiin Haru survive, he also won the group selection match.

This was something he could not accept.

"I didn't lose!"

"I still have hope!"

"How could the Sword Saint appear by such a coincidence?"

"It must be some kind of item!"

"Yes!"

"It must be some kind of item!"

"Already used once, how could it be used a second time!"

The man muttered to himself, his voice growing louder, his face distorting, his eyes wild like a ravenous wolf, ready to devour anything in its path.

Without hesitation, he picked up the phone nearby.

"Declare them as the winners."

"Then..."

"Have them wait right there for a bit."

The middle-aged man said, his lips curling involuntarily, then his mouth wide open, his white teeth clenching together tightly, his gums beginning to bleed outward.

"You are indeed the winners."

"But you're also right to expect an accident."

"Now—"

"Go die for me!"

He said each word deliberately

...

"That guy is really annoying!"

"Let's get rid of him!"

"Such people who hide in the shadows, they only bring disaster!"

Yuli clenched her fists in anger as she listened to the voice coming from the radio.

This time, Kaoru stood together with her unusually.

"Yes."

"Like a snake in the bushes."

"Really despicable."

Kaoru said.

"Do you think Jason and the others are doomed?"

Hui Lixiang asked calmly in return.

"Otherwise?"

"Although that one-time item was powerful, it was just a one-time item!"

"Given the current situation, he shouldn't be able to cope!"

Yuli stated confidently.

"Right."

"That ship has absorbed so much blood, it has truly transformed."

"Although not as powerful as a great demon, its size already determines its uniqueness."

"Moreover, it's on the sea!"

"That's its home ground!"

Kaoru analyzed further.

But faced with her teammates' opinions, Hui Lixiang remained calm and unruffled.

"Remember what I told you before?"

Hui Lixiang asked.

"About those people your sister encountered?"

Yuli blinked.

Kaoru furrowed her brow.

It's not that they didn't believe what Hui Lixiang said, but if that's the case... isn't it too much of a coincidence?

How could so many good things happen to Hui Lijing?

Even if you are Hui Lixiang's sister, that's too outrageous.

Hui Lixiang remained completely composed.

"From that time, I have encountered countless Masters, sword experts, so... how strange could it be now to meet a 'Sword Saint'?"

Hui Lixiang said, pulling out a cigarette and lighting it straight away.

Whew!

A puff of smoke was blown out far.

Her face uncertainly forlorn.

Murmuring softly.

"All roads lead to Rome."

"But some people are born in Rome."

"It's tough."

Yuli and Kaoru looked at each other, seeing Hui Lixiang so disheartened for the first time.

Boom!

Just as they were about to ask more, a rumbling noise came from the distant 'Doomsday' vessel.

It wasn't the rumbling of an engine.

It sounded more like the roar of a beast.

And on that high tower, a member of the Hanakaiin Family chuckled sinisterly.

"Here it comes! Come!"

"Die! Die!"

...

"The winners are— Team Haru!"

The announcement came through the speakers on the 'Doomsday'.

"Oh yeah!"

"We won!"

Sagaraso cheered joyfully, even though she hadn't exerted any effort in the battle, it did not stop her from being happy.

After all, she was on the same team as Jason and Hanakaiin Haru.

Hanakaiin Haru also breathed a sigh of relief at this moment.

He was still worried that those bastards were going to pull some tricks again.

Unexpectedly, they directly awarded him the victory.

If that's the case...

Hanakaiin Haru looked at the 'Doom' beneath his feet.

The young Onmyoji immediately shouted towards Jason in the distance.

"Jason, we are leaving."

In the perception of the young Onmyoji, this place was far from benign.

The 'Doom' beneath his feet had already begun to transform.

Such a transformation would soon be complete.

Once completed, if they were still on 'its' 'body', an inevitable battle would ensue.

In the ocean, although the coastline was visible, Hanakaiin Haru was unwilling to fight a 'water-born' monster.

But before Jason could respond, the voice inside the speaker sounded again—

"Please wait, members of 'Team Haru'."

"We need a brief ritual to celebrate your victory."

"If you leave now..."

"It will be taken as your forfeiture."

The voice from the speaker made Hanakaiin Haru glare furiously.

He had anticipated the opponent's shamelessness but didn't expect them to be this despicable.

Jason, who had retrieved eleven portions of 'food', appeared indifferent.

Even if the other party wanted him to leave.

He would not leave.

It just so happened to align with his thoughts.

After placing the eleven differently appearing portions of 'food' in his backpack, Jason casually said,

"Let's wait patiently."

Having said that, Jason closed his eyes once again.

Seeing Jason's demeanor, Hanakaiin Haru instantly calmed down.

Before boarding, Jason had noticed something was off with the 'Doom'.

With Jason's intelligence and strategy, naturally, he would not miss this detail.

And now, staying calmly in this situation,

Naturally, everything was within Jason's expectations.

How would Jason break through this situation?

Hanakaiin Haru couldn't help but wonder.

Sagaraso scratched her head; being completely clueless about what to do, she chose to trust Jason and Hanakaiin Haru.

However, the subsequent mutation still surprised this carefree girl.

The blood on the floor was disappearing.

Not vanishing into thin air.

But seeping into the floor.

As if an invisible mouth was sucking up the blood.

And then came the tearing sounds, as if turning the invisible mouth visible.

The sounds of muscle being torn kept echoing.

Under Sagaraso's gaze, the flesh of the 200 corpses on the deck was torn and sucked into the deck together.

Soon, the 200 corpses turned into 200 skeletons.

Boom!

The vibration came from beneath the deck.

Accompanied by a roar.

'Doom' began to shake.

As if it was coming to life.

"It has completed the 'Transformation'!"

"From an object, it has turned into a 'demon'!"

Hanakaiin Haru said solemnly.

Buzz!

Squeak!

The sound of electricity along with the opening of the speaker came, and the piercing noise caused an uncomfortable ringing in the ears.

Sagaraso immediately covered her ears.

She instinctively looked towards the direction of the speaker.

That should be the captain's cabin.

But now, the captain's cabin was already deformed.

The walls, glass, began to compress inward automatically.

"Ahhhh!"

"Help!"

"Save me!"

The speaker came alive again, and the desperate pleas for help quickly ceased.

Hanakaiin Haru sneered coldly.

Completely unmoved, his hand always pinching a stack of Talisman Paper.

Although throwing the Talisman Paper could save these people.

But he would not save his enemies.

The ones he wanted to save were only his companions, teammates.

"Jason, what do we do next?"

Hanakaiin Haru asked.

"Stand behind me."

Jason said.

Hanakaiin Haru and Sagaraso immediately did as told.

And then—

A brilliance flashed!

The 40-meter long sword once again slashed through the night sky.

Unlike the previous 360° Horizontal Slash.

This time, the sword blade plunged down, drawing a perfect semicircle in the night sky, moving from one side of 'Doom' to the other.

Crack!

Creak!

The sound that made one's teeth sour was that, in a moment, the previously intact 'Doom' was cut in half—

Ship Cutting!

Chapter 1096: Since he is called the Sword Saint, then... he truly deserves the title!

The ship has been split open?

No, that's not right!

It was cleaved in two!

After witnessing the scene on the ocean, Hanakaiin Haru, Sagaraso, the middle-aged men from the Hanakaiin Family observing from afar, and the group led by Hui Lixiang, all of them were dumbstruck where they stood.

Then, a thought simultaneously arose in the minds of these people—

Sinking a battleship with a single strike!

The sword of the 'Sword Saint' was rumored to be invincible.

Be it castles, fortresses, or demonically possessed warships, all could be sliced in one stroke.

Now!

They had finally seen it with their own eyes.

"Is that, is that really the Sword Saint?!"

Yuli exclaimed in astonishment.

Kaoru looked at the towering figure on the distant sea with an unusual gaze.

It was pure admiration for a powerful being.

"The Sword Saint?"

Kaoru murmured to herself.

As a member of the 'Inside World,' Kaoru naturally understood what those two words meant.

Similarly, she understood clearly what the existence of such a being in this era signified.

It was a true overlooking of all living beings!

It was the misfortune of many fighters and swordsmen.

But also, their fortune.

They would be utterly suppressed.

Yet they would be able to witness a world different from all others.

It truly was...

Wonderful!

Kaoru took a deep breath, her eyes igniting with endless fighting spirit.

She, wanted to challenge Jason!

Betting the title of 'Fighter.'

In contrast to her companion's exclamations and overflowing will to fight, Hui Lixiang was calm.

Exhale!

She took a deep drag on her cigarette, then exhaled heavily.

Her face bore a look of expected disillusionment.

Her sister was always this peculiar.

Somehow attracting all sorts of odd and incredibly powerful individuals around her.

At first, she could accept it.

But later on?

She had to escape it.

Even having to resort to romance to numb herself.

Because it was just too crushing.

The more one learns about the 'Inside World,' the more disheartening it is.

Former masters, fighters, and swordsmen had already numbed Hui Lixiang, and now a 'Sword Saint' appears?

Hui Lixiang's numbed heart could no longer stir any waves.

She, was used to it.

After blowing another smoke ring, Hui Lixiang turned off her radio.

"Let's go."

"There's nothing more to see."

Hui Lixiang said as such.

Yuli, led by Hui Lixiang, and Kaoru, didn't object; their business involved more than just what was before their eyes.

Both immediately nodded, and the next moment, the hidden van merged onto the road, swiftly disappearing from sight.

Unlike the trio of Hui Lixiang, the middle-aged man from the Hanakaiin Family completely lost his composure.

"How is this possible?"

"How could it really be the 'Sword Saint'?"

"This is impossible!"

Faced with reality, the middle-aged man roared, leaning on the windowsill, like a defeated dog.

Even till now, he couldn't grasp why a 'Sword Saint' would appear beside Hanakaiin Haru.

And Jason!

He was clearly just an Exorcist who had been banished and hunted, so how did he suddenly become the 'Sword Saint'?

With such strength, how could he possibly have been banished and hunted?

Those people from the outside islands weren't fools, right?

Could it be...

This was all a trap?

A trap set by the outsiders against the Hanakaiin Family?

And 'Tongshou Temple' too!

That old Monk must also be involved, otherwise, Jason would not have such formidable strength, perhaps it was that old scoundrel playing tricks.

Yes!

It must be so!

This is an important piece of intelligence!

I must report this!

I absolutely must report this!

With that thought, the middle-aged man turned to leave the place.

His mind may have been shaken by the appearance of the 'Sword Saint,' but his meager rationale was telling him not to stay any longer.

If he stayed, once Hanakaiin Haru came to his senses, his fate would not be good.

So, he had to leave at once.

Of course, he wasn't fleeing.

He was going to report about significant information to the Family Head.

However, the moment the middle-aged man turned, he was startled into immobility.

A man dressed in a black suit, wearing a white mask, stood in front of the door.

Only the eyes were cut out of the mask; the rest was a plain white surface.

Such attire was all too familiar to the middle-aged man of the Hanakaiin Family.

It was the uniform of the subordinates of 'The King of Fighters Grand Tournament' organizers.

For this, the middle-aged man held contempt.

He believed it was all 'posturing.'

As a member of one of the four great Onmyoji families, the Hanakaiin Family, he certainly had the standing to judge so.

It was the pride of being part of the Hanakaiin clan.

Now?

No exception.

"Move aside!"

The middle-aged man of the Hanakaiin Family said coldly.

He had no time to argue about why the other party had barged into his room without his permission.

Once he reported to the Family Head?

He would certainly give the other party a good lesson.

At the very least, breaking their limbs.

Humming coldly, the middle-aged man from the Hanakaiin Family walked forward.

Unlike before, the steward-like figure did not nervously step aside as usual but continued to stand still.

Immediately, the middle-aged man of the Hanakaiin Family became vigilant.

He watched the masked man in the suit with a wary eye.

His hand quietly reached for the Talisman Paper in his pocket.

But the moment his fingers touched the Talisman Paper—

Pfft!

A dagger had penetrated his throat just like that.

"Argh!"

The middle-aged man from the Hanakaiin Family looked in disbelief at the dagger in his throat, then his gaze towards the masked man in the black suit changed.

Chapter 1097: Since he is called the Sword Saint, then... he truly deserves the title! (2)

How dare they?

How dare they lay a hand on him?

He is a member of the Hanakaiin Family!

The middle-aged man died with his eyes still open as he fell backward.

Thump.

The corpse made a dull sound when it touched the thick carpet, which quickly brightened with the pool of blood that flowed, turning vivid.

Meanwhile, the masked man in a suit bent down and raised his hand.

Pfft!

The dagger was just like that, wrenched out.

Ignoring the splattering blood.

The masked man in a suit turned and left the room.

All the surveillance cameras along the way had been turned off ahead of time.

The man in the suit left the place openly, without hiding.

At the entrance, he dragged the blade across the corpses of two subordinates of the middle-aged man from the Hanakaiin Family.

Only after confirming that there were no bloodstains left on the dagger did he put it away.

Clearly, these two subordinates, tasked with leaving earlier, didn't make it out of the building before they met their demise.

And the masked man in the suit pushed the door and stepped out.

He quickly arrived at a rocky reef by the sea.

At his feet, a man in shorts was tied up here, with his own sock stuffed into his mouth.

Upon seeing the approaching man in a suit, the real guide, who had just guided Jason, started to struggle violently.

"Mmm! Mmm!"

The man with socks in his mouth couldn't articulate a word.

But the tied-up man continued to inch away from the man in the suit.

The sky was still rather dark.

However, the faint light beginning to emerge from the east allowed him to see bloodstains on the suit of the man.

What happened?

The man didn't want to speculate.

He only knew that he wanted to survive.

Ever since he inexplicably passed out and, upon waking, realized that something terrible was afoot.

The blood on the man in front of him's suit only confirmed his fears.

Without hesitation, the man struggling away from the man in the suit simply collapsed to his knees, then prostrated on the ground.

This was submission.

Absolute submission.

To survive, such submission was not deemed improper by the man.

The masked man in the suit stopped in his tracks.

The next moment, he removed the mask.

The dim light did not hinder his handsome features from being evident.

Amidst the darkness, there was an unusual allure to his look.

One that could make observers momentarily entranced.

"I do not kill the innocent recklessly."

"Moreover, you are still of use to me."

Tsuchimikado Motoharu stated indifferently.

How dare the Hanakaiin Family scheme against his lord? If he didn't flay and dismember them, he wouldn't be living up to his oath.

However, he cannot show himself for now.

It's natural to need a proxy.

And the guy in front of him was just perfect for the role.

Using him to divert the attention of the Hanakaiin Family and the organizers of the 'King of Fights—Fighting Championship' couldn't be any better.

No need for much.

Just to delay time will suffice.

To delay until he has dealt with all loose ends.

Only then will he be free, to deal with these bastards one by one, slowly crushing them.

"My lord, I apologize for the inconvenience you'll have to suffer."

"It's due to the incompetence of your servant."

"Rest assured, it will not happen again."

"All of this will come to an end."

A sigh couldn't help but rise from the depths of Tsuchimikado Motoharu's heart.

He turned instinctively to look out at the sea.

There, the 'Doomed' ship, cut in half, was emitting painful cries.

Those sounds were carried loud and clear by the steam whistle.

And sounded all the more tragic.

The ship's body trembled ceaselessly.

Steel started to melt at the breakpoint, black threads intertwining like saliva stretching and sticking together, then slowly, so slowly pulling closer to each other.

The 'Doomed' was... healing!

"What is this?!"

Miss Sagaraso's eyes widened in shock at the sight.

Hanakaiin Haru, on the other hand, was calm.

One of the reasons why demons are difficult to handle, aside from their strange abilities, is this 'recovery'.

The young Onmyoji, not the least flustered, raised his hand, ready to throw out the Talisman Paper in his hand.

But Jason was faster.

With a leap, he jumped down from the rent in the 'Doomed' created by the slash.

And then—

A warm and tenacious white light reappeared.

This time it wasn't methodical.

It was chaotic!

A chaotic order within the chaos!

Jason, suspending mid-air, proficiently executed the "Whirlwind Dance".

Spinning!

Spinning without cessation!

The "Chen Xi Sword", in the whirl of Jason's "Whirlwind Dance", turned into rings of light, one after another.

These rings of light were either upright or slanted.

One following the other.

One after another.

Roar!

Roar, roar!

The "Doomed" vessel, which had just begun to "recover", once again let out a ghastly wail.

A wail that completely exceeded the former.

Moreover, it continued incessantly.

More importantly, the "Doomed" vessel's recovery couldn't keep up with Jason's slashing at all.

It barely kept up after one, two strikes.

After three, four strikes, it was clearly struggling.

And after five or more times?

The "Doomed" vessel could only passively endure it all.

Soon, the whole body of the "Doomed" vessel became riddled with holes.

Then—

Jason saw what he was looking for.

A fist-sized red gemstone.

This red gemstone, hidden at the very bottom of the "Doomed" vessel's hold, obscured by layers of corpses, concealed by various architectural structures of the cabin.

But Jason had long smelled its scent.

Or more precisely, the moment it came into existence, Jason knew.

Therefore, without hesitation, Jason sliced through the "Doomed" and leapt down.

What he was after was this 'food' emitting a rich fragrance.

As Jason approached, the "Doomed" which had just completed its transformation felt an imminent lethal threat.

Without any hesitation, the "Doomed" gave up on repairing itself.

No matter how fast it repaired, if the core was taken away, it would be futile.

Whoosh, whoosh whoosh!

Below the deck, inside the cabin, countless structures began to melt.

The next moment, they transformed into the sharpest spears, stabbing towards Jason.

Clang, clang, clang!

The spears struck Jason's body.

But amidst the sparks flying, Jason remained unscathed.

Even, they couldn't delay Jason's advance.

Roar!

The "Doomed" vessel roared angrily again.

The spears continued to shoot out.

But one by one, semi-transparent figures emerged from the cabin, the deck, and even from tables and chairs.

They looked around confusedly.

They were all at a loss.

An inexplicable force began to appear around them.

These semi-transparent figures started to frantically devour and merge with each other.

Just two seconds later, a tall semi-transparent figure appeared before Jason.

Huff, huff!

The giant semi-transparent figure had long lost any human-like appearance.

Bloated with a belly so big that it covered its legs, which were almost invisible.

The arms, in contrast, were extraordinarily thick, the head huge, with a single horn particularly conspicuous.

As the figure breathed heavily, a mouth full of fangs opened up.

A thick, white mist spewed out.

"Be careful!"

"This is a mutated great demon!"

Hanakaiin Haru, who had been paying close attention to the battle, changed her face when she saw this huge semi-transparent phantom.

Ghosts differ from spirits.

The latter can scare people but are almost harmless.

Unless they ascend to the level of Fierce Spirits, Evil Spirits, and the like.

But "ghosts" are different!

They are monsters born from devouring souls and fear.

Every one of them is unique.

With both powerful strength and terrifying abilities.

It's not an exaggeration to call them an unusual kind of demon.

And great demons!

They are an advancement of "ghosts".

They are monsters that instil fear.

Each one is comparable to a real demon.

Especially mutated ones, which are even more horrifying, as they have touched the realm of great demons; any carelessness would lead to death.

For this reason, Hanakaiin Haru immediately formed hand seals.

She had to summon her Shikigami.

Mere Talisman Paper would not hold up against such a mutated "great demon".

"Jason, wait a moment, I'm about to support you!"

"Now, listen to my..."

Hanakaiin Haru's voice abruptly stopped, leaving only the silent incantation echoes in Jason's heart—

Yi!

Chapter 1098: Before Breakfast

After silently reciting in his heart.

Buzz!

With a sound like a drawn sword, a silver radiance slashed out from Jason's hand.

[Evil-Slaying Slash]!

Thump!

The tall, ethereal 'ghost' was split in two.

Without any hesitation.

Clean and efficient.

"Roar!"

With a reluctant roar, the giant 'ghost' vanished like a burst bubble.

Hanakaiin Haru was left dumbfounded.

"This, this..."

This young Onmyoji stood there with his eyes wide open, completely at a loss for words.

As a descendant of one of the four major Onmyoji clans, Hanakaiin Haru certainly knew about Sword Saint's strength.

But those were just written records.

The records in text are quite ambiguous.

There is no precise data comparison.

And no visuals.

Thus, everyone recognized the strength of Sword Saint.

But just how powerful Sword Saint was, nobody could really explain clearly.

And now?

Hanakaiin Haru understood clearly.

A single strike!

No!

It was a single sword!

That kind of sharp Sword Qi could naturally be considered a sword.

A single sword able to kill this special large 'ghost'!

That means a single sword can kill a great demon!

"Truly, truly terrifying!"

Hanakaiin Haru silently thought to himself.

His eyes were fixed on Jason as he took another step forward.

This time, nothing could stop Jason's advancing footsteps.

Jason arrived smoothly in front of 'Fate's End' core.

The fist-sized red gem was slowly pulsing.

Just like a heartbeat.

Jason didn't hesitate at all and plucked the core out.

He resisted the urge to 'purify' it right then and put it into his backpack, alongside the eleven portions of 'food' he had collected earlier.

Boom!

Just as Jason secured the core of 'Fate's End', the entire ship began to shake.

The previously repaired cracks opened up again.

And more cracks began to appear.

As if it was about to shatter in the next moment.

"Jason, hurry, the ship is sinking!"

Hanakaiin Haru shouted while quickly folding a dark-colored Talisman Paper.

In a breath's time, a paper boat appeared.

The young Onmyoji tossed it into the sea.

The moment the sea water touched the paper boat, the entire boat began to enlarge.

Hanakaiin Haru jumped onto the paper boat first.

Jason and Sagaraso followed suit.

"Amazing!"

Sagaraso couldn't help but raise her hand to touch the 'paper boat,' which felt like it was made of wood, and couldn't help but marvel at it.

"It's just some minor Onmyoji technique."

"Compared to true power..."

"It's worlds apart."

Hanakaiin Haru said, his gaze inevitably falling back to Jason.

Jason still had that calm, serene expression on his face.

It seemed as though he didn't care about what had just happened.

In reality, at this moment, he was once again battling his 'hunger.'

He could only try his best to maintain such a demeanor.

Otherwise, he would literally drool.

But watching Jason's demeanor, Hanakaiin Haru grew even more admiring.

Strong power.

Brilliant strategies.

And a heart undisturbed by waves.

This is truly the mark of a powerful figure!

No, that's not right!

One must first have an undisturbed heart, which leads to brilliant strategies, and then, cultivate powerful strength!

And me?

I'm far from it!

Sigh!

Hanakaiin Haru sighed involuntarily.

Then, the young Onmyoji spoke.

"Sagaraso, we have some downtime coming up."

"If possible, please make good use of this time to train."

"Of course, don't overdo it."

Hanakaiin Haru advised.

"Understood!"

Sagaraso responded emphatically.

Everything that had just happened was still fresh in her mind.

She hadn't been of any help, and almost became a burden.

Although she disguised it well, she really was nervous when facing those opponents.

It was completely different from the usual opponents she encountered.

They were true villains in the eyes of ordinary people.

I need to become much stronger!

At least to develop a 'Serious Punch.'

Sagaraso, with a plan already in mind, started to plan, but only after a few seconds did the straightforward girl belatedly ask, "Did we just pass the preliminaries of the group stage?"

"Of course!"

"It's the proof."

Hanakaiin Haru pointed towards the sinking 'Fate's End' behind him.

A fierce look appeared on his face.

If someone dared to set him up like this, then they should be prepared for his revenge.

Of course, he would do it.

No need to involve his teammates.

Sagaraso probably wouldn't be able to help anyway.

And Jason?

Frankly, to be able to team up with Jason, a Sword Saint, for the 'salary' offered before, was already enough to make Hanakaiin Haru feel ashamed and embarrassed.

At this time, to continue asking Jason for help?

Sorry.

With Hanakaiin Haru's pride, he really couldn't do it.

And to offer more 'salaries'?

Apart from genuine life-saving treasures, he didn't think anything else could match the 'payment' worthy of Jason.

He didn't have that many life-saving treasures.

After all, he was just a branch family's heir.

And to fool Jason with other treasures?

Not to mention that Hanakaiin Haru couldn't do such a thing,

Just the fact that Jason would see such a gesture as an insult was enough to deter Hanakaiin Haru from even trying.

"After this, the 'King of Fighters—King of Fists Tournament' should start as per the normal schedule, which is in one month."

"During this time, Lord Jason, please be careful."

Chapter 1099: Before Breakfast (2)

"After what just happened, there will surely be various trials."

"Although with your strength there's no need to worry about these—a hyena cannot deal with a tiger, but a pack of hyenas is not to be underestimated."

Hanakaiin Haru reminded in a very tactful tone.

Jason's strength is, of course, beyond doubt.

He would not admonish Jason as he would Miss Sagaraso.

Because he believes in Jason's power, he believes more in Jason's own training habits and system.

His rash suggestion would only add to ridicule.

However, there are everyday things that he must remind him of.

Hanakaiin Haru does know some family tactics.

They might not be able to defeat Jason outright.

But they will make Jason extremely annoyed.

Ultimately, irritation leads to anger, and anger causes one to lose rationality.

A person who has lost their rationality can cause great trouble.

Not to mention a 'Sword Saint'.

A 'Sword Saint' who has lost rationality can bring about terrifying destruction.

But it will also lead to being surrounded and attacked by a group.

If there is such an opportunity, Hanakaiin Haru believes that those bastards would definitely not let it slide.

Of course, Hanakaiin Haru believes that with Jason's mindset, he won't fall into such trouble, but just to be safe, one must be wary.

"Hmm."

Jason nodded.

Why haven't we reached the shore yet?

I'm so hungry!

Driven by impatience, Jason advanced two steps forward.

From the center of the boat, he walked to the bow, looking into the distance.

And behind him, the sunrise began.

The people who had been standing on the shore soon saw such a scene—

At the bow, Jason stood proudly, his gaze calm and steadfast.

The sunrise slowly ascended, as if draping him in a layer of golden-red armor.

Behind him, the massive 'Ultimate Fate' slowly sank into the ocean, yet it stirred no waves.

The sea breeze gently blew, fluttering his clothes.

The seagulls skimmed over the sea surface, emitting clear cries.

"Is this the 'Sword Saint'?"

"To answer the call to battle, to fight and win, to seize the title of 'Sword Saint'!"

Someone murmured softly.

And others kept chanting.

"What a pity that no one was there to meet his challenge!"

"What a pity it's not the sunset after noon!"

"What a pity it's not a carved wooden sword!"

"What a pity there's no integrated strategy of sword and sheath to strike at the heart!"

"What a pity there's no swan song!"

"What a pity..."

Chanting continued, and in people's ears seemed to ring the light sound of clashing swords, and before their eyes appeared two figures constantly moving intricately, with every strike deadly—the unparalleled swordsmen.

The next moment, all they saw was that far-off man coming by boat,

All are mere phenomena, like illusory bubbles.

Unconsciously, these words came to everyone's mind.

Is this the 'Sword Saint'?

Unconsciously affecting my heart?

Everyone thought so, but their gaze uncontrollably focused on that tall, robust figure on the paper boat pulling to shore.

They observed the figure as much as they could.

Tall and muscular.

His expression calm, utterly still.

His eyes bright... fiery!

When everyone saw these eyes, their bodies trembled.

What kind of eyes are these!

That fiery sensation made their scalps tingle!

After looking into his eyes, they felt a tremor from deep within their souls!

Is this...

Tenacity?

Tenacity for the 'path of the sword'!

Yes!

It's just like that!

Only someone who is so dedicated to the 'path of the sword' could reach the level of a 'Sword Saint'.

Guesses in their hearts.

Quickly turned into admiration.

The next moment, as that figure moved forward, the people on the shore automatically parted to the left and right.

Those carrying swords even bowed in acknowledgment.

Jason's steps were neither hurried nor slow.

Although he desperately wanted to fly back to the 'Mask X Machete X Meat' office, hunger constantly tormented him, and he had to maintain a certain pace.

Otherwise, he really feared losing control in front of a crowd.

This isn't because of some 'idol burden.'

He simply does not want his 'weakness' to be discovered.

After all, it is extremely fatal.

"Lord Jason, may I know where you are headed?"

Hanakaiin Haru did not board the car but arranged for a driver to take Jason.

"'Mask X Machete X Meat' Office."

Jason answered.

Though 'Tongshou Temple' is also a fine place, he is more accustomed to staying in his own 'territory'.

This is a characteristic stemming from the bloodline of his hometown.

There, land is regarded as something important.

Such characteristic is also quite apparent in Jason.

Previously, he often visited 'Tongshou Temple', naturally for the sake of its heritage.

Now he has learned all the heritage.

Jason still prefers to stay in his own office.

"Very well, Lord Jason."

The driver spoke with utmost respect, even with a hint of zeal.

The driver of the Hanakaiin Family, who is also a person from the 'Inside World'.

He naturally understands the meaning of 'Sword Saint'.

Especially since he is also a master swordsman.

Jason noticed this hint of fanaticism, but he didn't think much of it, his mind too preoccupied by 'food', he just leaned back slightly in his seat and closed his eyes.

Seeing this, the driver immediately made the ride smoother.

Hanakaiin Haru watched as Jason drove away.

When the car disappeared from sight, he called for another car.

Hanakaiin Haru did not forget his other teammate.

"Sagaraso, take care on your journey."

"If you have any doubts about your training, you can ask me, or simply come to another court to observe those secret techniques – I have already informed the servants, they will take you to observe."

The young Onmyoji said.

"Okay."

"Goodbye, Haru!"

"I'm going to have breakfast first, then start my training!"

Miss Sagaraso waved repeatedly.

Eating again?

A smile stalled on Hanakaiin Haru's face, but he quickly returned to normal.

He nodded, signaling the driver to take Miss Sagaraso to have breakfast.

After the car carrying Miss Sagaraso left, the countenance of the young Onmyoji immediately darkened.

Turning around, the young Onmyoji walked towards a distant tower.

What's called a tower is actually a lighthouse at the dock.

However, with the abandonment of this dock, the lighthouse too was abandoned.

But, because it became one of the preliminary selection sites for the 'King of Fighters Tournament', it was refurbished again.

Including the dock and the surroundings.

What Jason saw was all refurbished.

And the lighthouse was one of the main refurbishment targets.

Not only the exterior was repaired, but the interior was more luxurious.

Hanakaiin Haru had never been here, but the servants had reported back—this was normal information gathering, Hanakaiin Haru believes not only he knew about it, Hanakaiin Itsuki, Hanakaiin Ue, and Hanakaiin Ra all knew.

As for Hanakaiin Tōru?

Of course, he knew as well.

But he basically didn't pay attention to it.

Even if he heard about it, he just smiled and went to drink tea and play chess.

If it's Brother Tōru, maybe I could give up...

Hanakaiin Haru thought, then immediately shook his head.

The young Onmyoji was very clear, he absolutely must not harbor such thoughts.

Because, once he did,

He would have lost his momentum.

He would be utterly disheartened.

Right now, it wasn't just about himself.

He had teammates like Jason and Sagaraso.

He also had his father.

And all those people supporting him.

These people were all watching him.

So, even if Brother Tōru wanted to compete for the position of Family Head, I must also strive!

Thinking this, the young Onmyoji immediately quickened his step.

And following the young Onmyoji, many people also came along.

They of course knew what was about to happen.

In fact, this was what they were hoping to see.

Being one of the four great Onmyoji families, if the Hanakaiin Family showed any sign of 'internal conflict', that was indeed more than welcome.

Therefore, these people from various forces, hidden here, moved forward while sending out signals.

However, very quickly, as Hanakaiin Haru pushed open the door of the lighthouse.

These people were stunned.

Bloodstains.

Bodies.

Two bodies lying behind the door.

Hanakaiin Haru's pupils constricted, the young Onmyoji quickly thought of something, almost instinctively wanting to rush inside, but then he forcibly restrained himself.

In an instant, his mind raced several times.

The next moment, he gestured to a servant nearby, saying—

"Call the police."

Chapter 1100: Ryosuke: The Harsh Reality Smoothed Out My Edges

Twenty minutes later, Ryosuke and Urashima appeared in Hanakaiin Haru's field of vision.

Both men were dressed in dark suits, with 'Investigation Division 1' armbands on their arms, but everyone present knew that these two were supposedly from the so-called 'Zero Division'.

Under everyone's gaze, Ryosuke began to methodically direct the police at the scene to extend the cordon more than doubling the previous range.

This made those around frown.

But Ryosuke ignored them.

The middle-aged detective gestured to a team of armed police to stand behind the new cordon line, then turned his gaze to the people around.

"I hope everyone cooperates."

Ryosuke said in his unique voice.

Paired with his intimidating appearance, there was a different kind of persuasive power.

For those present who mostly hid their true identities from the 'Inside World', they wisely kept their rationality.

Of course, they also remembered Ryosuke's face.

Ryosuke, unabashed, signaled to Urashima.

The two made their way directly towards the interior of the lighthouse.

Hanakaiin Haru stood still in his place.

In fact, since calling the police, Hanakaiin Haru had positioned himself in the line of sight of all present.

The young Onmyoji was not a fool.

He was well aware that at this time, if he were to leave the sight of the crowd and another body was found inside the tower, he would be completely unable to clear himself.

Being constantly suppressed, schemed against, and then, killing in rage.

It was all too normal.

So normal that everyone could think of it.

Even if it wasn't him who had done it.

But the Hanakaiin main house would certainly think it was him.

The hat of 'internal strife' was bound to come down.

Perhaps, in the end, he wouldn't lose his life.

But his trial to 'become the head of the main family' from a branch family would surely fail.

The latter was the purpose of those scoundrels.

Hanakaiin Haru understood this crystal clear.

Therefore, he stood there from beginning to end.

Even when he saw Ryosuke and Urashima, the young Onmyoji didn't open his mouth to greet them.

What he needed now was to avoid suspicion.

When Ryosuke and Urashima passed by Hanakaiin Haru, they made no pause.

Ryosuke was no fool; having stayed by Jason's side, he had already thoroughly investigated what had happened in the Hanakaiin family.

He naturally knew what to do now.

Urashima?

Whatever Ryosuke did, he followed suit.

The ordinary police had not only sealed the outside but also the inside of the lighthouse.

"Such luxury!"

Urashima, stepping on the soft carpet and looking at the protruding crystal chandeliers on the wall, couldn't help but mutter quietly.

He had seen carpets before; when he had moved to a new home, he wanted a 'gentle' landing spot, so he had specifically visited a carpet store recommended by a friend.

Because someone said that a warm blanket gives you the feeling of a 'lover'.

Single Urashima was very eager to experience that feeling.

So, he went.

And then...

He wisely chose to leave.

Because the cheapest blanket there required three months of his salary.

It was completely unaffordable for him.

And now, under his feet was the most expensive kind from that store.

At the time, he didn't even have the courage to ask.

What's more, at the time, what he saw was a 2X3 (meter) blanket.

And now?

Laid out from the entrance, winding up the spiral staircase, all the way to the top.

The price of such was beyond imagination.

As for those crystal lamps that appeared every two meters?

Since they were here, Urashima believed the price was something he completely couldn't bear, even though he couldn't tell them apart at all.

"Check the body closely."

Ryosuke, on the other hand, was completely unconcerned.

The middle-aged detective's gaze was primarily on the body.

"One stab to the heart, one to the neck."

"Both victims had no chance to react before their throats were slit."

"The wound on the heart was probably inflicted later."

"According to the wound, the murder weapon is likely a dagger or short sword."

The middle-aged detective said while pointing at the wounds, informing his younger colleague, Urashima.

Urashima nodded repeatedly.

Although still relatively new, Urashima, who was gradually emerging from his rookie phase, was now able to face corpses with composure, and he also knew the difference between wounds inflicted while alive and those inflicted after death.

"The two must have been walking side by side towards the door."

"But the killer, standing outside the door, slit both their throats in an instant as they opened the door."

"Then, he quickly hid behind the door to avoid the splatter of blood."

Ryosuke turned his head to look at the door of the lighthouse.

The door panel was covered in bright red, proving his statement.

Then, Ryosuke stood up and walked towards the top of the lighthouse.

Urashima quickly followed.

In the room on the rooftop, they saw the middle-aged member of the Hanakaiin family who had been dead for some time.

The body lay face up on the carpet, eyes wide open, mouth slightly ajar, and a bloody hole in the throat could be clearly seen through the carpet.

"An unexpected strike."

"The victim encountered the killer while preparing to leave."

"The victim didn't have a bit of guard up."

"Just like that, his throat was pierced."

"And after the killer did all this, he simply left the scene, even wiping the blood stains on the previous two bodies... Is this guy fearless?"

Ryosuke muttered to himself in a low voice.

As Ryosuke mumbled, the entire process of the case unfolded before Urashima.

As his partner, Urashima quickly recorded everything.

And then

"Was it someone familiar?"

The young policeman asked.

"Hmm."

"It was someone familiar."

"At least someone who wouldn't be out of place appearing here."