

## **Multiverse 221**

### Chapter 221: Challenging the Vacant Throne

At this moment, the Negación that Kaiser was pressing on was not the one originally in front of him enveloping Kaname Tōsen, but the one enveloping Sōsuke Aizen.

"Divide"

The voice imbued with power rang out from within him. The dragon force that no one in this world could comprehend immediately turned into a ripple that spread across the Negación encasing Sōsuke Aizen.

Under the interference of this dragon force, the Negación enveloping Sōsuke Aizen rapidly dimmed at a speed visible to the naked eye, and its size suddenly shrank by half.

"What?"

Standing on the rocky platform, about to rise into the Garganta, Sōsuke Aizen's expression changed upon seeing this.

At that moment, the second voice sounded from within Kaiser.

"Boost"

A force similar yet completely opposite in nature to the previous one burst out from within Kaiser, instantly doubling his power.

"Boom!"

Golden spiritual pressure erupted from Kaiser's body, instantly shattering the ground, evaporating the air, and sweeping across the field like a storm.

The storm-like overwhelming spiritual pressure was like an invisible sky crashing down upon the earth. In the instant it swept across the field, it caused an earth-shattering impact.

The space violently trembled, the heavens and earth quaked, Reishi surged like boiling water, and all the Shinigami present were as if struck by an invisible meteor, collapsing to the ground on the spot.

All the Lieutenant-level Shinigami lost consciousness on the spot.

The Captain-level Shinigami barely maintained their awareness, but all of them were stunned as if their minds had gone blank from the shock, unable to react for a long time.

Even Genryūsai Shigekuni Yamamoto was forced to one knee by the terrifying spiritual pressure, his eyes suddenly widening as he looked at Kaiser.

At this moment, Kaiser's Spiritual Pressure level officially surpassed the limit, stepping into the realm of First-Class Spiritual Pressure, even above the peak of Genryūsai Shigekuni Yamamoto!

"This spiritual pressure...?!"

Inside the Negación, Gin Ichimaru and Kaname Tōsen both showed drastic changes in expression, and even Sōsuke Aizen's pupils contracted.

Under such circumstances, Kaiser's figure suddenly rose into the air, and the countless Zanpakutō surrounding him shattered with a boom, transforming into immense spiritual pressure and injecting into the Crown of Heavens in his hand.

"Trying to retreat, Aizen?"

Bathed in terrifying spiritual pressure, Kaiser's voice echoed throughout the entire Seireitei.

"Then at least take this blow before you go!"

This was the strongest attack released after sacrificing the power of numerous Zanpakutō, abandoning defense, and converting the shadows of all Zanpakutō in this world into pure spiritual pressure.

"Blade Matrix Annihilation!"

On the Crown of Heavens in Kaiser's hand, countless Zanpakutō flickered in and out of illusion, rendering the erupting golden spiritual pressure into a blazing gilded glow.

That golden brilliance, that radiance, that intensity—it was as if it could erase all the colors of the world, leaving only this one field of golden light.

"BOOM!!!"

The dazzling golden Zanpakutō cleaved downward with a roar, shaking the heavens and earth. As if it could obliterate the entire world, the golden slash tore through heaven and earth and flashed through the entire Seireitei.

And then, the entire Seireitei... broke!

The circular-shaped Seireitei, in that instant when the golden slash that pierced the heavens and earth flashed by, was like a cake—it was forcibly cleaved apart!

A bottomless abyss appeared in the center of Seireitei, splitting it in two, while countless dust clouds burst forth from the ground!

And that halved Negación was likewise suddenly severed under the slicing of this golden slash!

"———!"

Within the split Negación, Sōsuke Aizen, standing on the rocky platform, had pupils that shrank to the size of needle tips.

"Swish!"

Bathed entirely in golden spiritual pressure, Kaiser used a single Shunpo to dash in front of Sōsuke Aizen.

"It's over, Aizen..."

Without hesitation, Kaiser slashed out with the Crown of Heavens in his hand, aiming for Sōsuke Aizen's head.

This slash, though no longer as powerful as the one delivered with the force of all the Shinigami in the world, under the boosted spiritual pressure from Kaiser's amplification, its edge instantly broke the sound barrier, landing before Sōsuke Aizen even before the sound of slicing reached the air.

Just as Sōsuke Aizen was about to be decapitated in one strike...

"Captain..."

A familiar voice called out before Kaiser.

What stood there, originally Sōsuke Aizen on the rocky platform, had somehow become a girl with a bun—his Lieutenant, Momo Hinamori.

"!!!"

Kaiser's expression instantly changed, and he halted instinctively.

But the moment he stopped, he immediately realized he had fallen into a trap.

"Clang!!!"

Sure enough, Momo Hinamori before him suddenly drew her blade and slashed. A heavy blow struck the Crown of Heavens Kaiser had raised, producing a bell-like metallic clang and sending Kaiser flying.

"Swish!"

Momo Hinamori's figure flickered as she Shunpoed into the Garganta, landing on the hand of one of the Menos Grande.

Her figure rippled like a moon reflected on water and transformed into the form of Sōsuke Aizen.

"...I am truly astonished, Kaiser-kun."

Sōsuke Aizen looked down from above at Kaiser, who had steadied himself midair. His face now lacked all composure and smiles—there was only solemnity.

"To break even a Negación that separates worlds... I might be just as shocked as when I discovered the truth of the Soul King."

The look in Sōsuke Aizen's eyes toward Kaiser had completely changed.

That gaze was no longer that of a man looking at a Shinigami, but more like a man staring at an unknown creature.

Gin Ichimaru and Kaname Tōsen beside Sōsuke Aizen were the same. The former's eyes were wide open and filled with shock, while the latter's face bore only wariness—and even a faint trace of fear.

"Tch..."

Kaiser clicked his tongue obviously as he looked at the three on the hands of the Menos Grande in the Garganta.

"So this is all you have left, Aizen."

Kaiser's cold voice was met with Sōsuke Aizen's deep response.

"In the end, I was still confined by the limits of being a 'Shinigami.' Reaching this level is about the extent of my capabilities."

Sōsuke Aizen reached out and took off his black-rimmed glasses, crushing them.

"But that only applies to today."

"This is my final moment of weakness, the last time I will appear before you as a 'Shinigami.'"

"When I break through the boundary and reach new heights..."

Sōsuke Aizen slicked back his hair, his once gentle image turning domineering and aggressive.

"I will challenge the vacant throne and ascend toward the heavens."

"Then, I'll once again test your power."

"Kaiser..."

As his words ended, the Garganta in the sky slowly closed.

"Uhh..."

"Uhh..."

The hollow cries of countless Menos Grande gradually faded into the distance, causing the Garganta to slowly vanish from the sky.

When the Garganta had completely disappeared, the once-torn sky returned to its original state, as if no rupture had ever existed.

Kaiser stared at this scene and, after a long while, finally exhaled.

"Challenge the vacant throne... huh?"

Kaiser muttered to himself.

"Do you think that throne is something good?"

"No... you should know the truth very well, shouldn't you?"

"That's why you want to sit on it yourself—to change everything, isn't that right?"

No one could hear Kaiser's words.

But it didn't matter.

At the very least, he clearly understood Sōsuke Aizen's ultimate goal.

"Hōgyoku..."

Recalling that blue-black gem, Kaiser's eyes flickered slightly.

"Captain Kaiser..."

"Captain Kaiser..."

Just then, a chorus of voices called out from the ground, pulling Kaiser's thoughts back as he looked below.

There, all the Captains had successively stood up. Even the seriously wounded ones were rising with the support of others, no longer collapsing.

They were all looking at Kaiser—looking at this man who understood everything and nearly created a miracle—with complex expressions.

Kaiser remained silent for a moment, then descended from midair to the ground.

In front of him, Genryūsai Shigekuni Yamamoto stared at him silently for a long time without speaking.

On the battlefield of ruins, all the Shinigami fell into silence.

This storm that had swept across the entire Seireitei, plunging the Gotei 13 into chaos and annihilating the entire Central 46, had finally calmed...

...

Afterward, the Soul Society became more bustling and noisy than any day before.

Though the storm that had swept across all of Seireitei and the Gotei 13 had passed, the Soul Society did not return to calm. Instead, it grew ever more riotous as all sorts of news spread.

The incident had become so widespread that even the residents of Rukongai had more or less learned about its causes, leading to a great deal of discussion among the people.

Whether on the main streets or back alleys, as long as there were people, the most talked-about topic in recent days was this incident in Seireitei.

And if even Rukongai was like this, the situation in Seireitei—the heart of the storm—was naturally even worse.

One after another, Shinigami moved throughout the area—some busy with various tasks, others discussing events, giving the impression of a disaster site after a great storm.

Many Shinigami, upon passing the center of Seireitei and seeing a deep chasm like an abyss, wore expressions of profound awe.

"Did you hear? That was supposedly cut by Captain Kaiser of Division 3..."

"I've heard about that too, but is it really possible?"

"How could anyone cut all of Seireitei in two?"

"Is Captain Kaiser really that strong?"

"That's terrifying..."

This was the topic people discussed the most, showing just how shocked they truly were.

In the face of this, even the fact that Sōsuke Aizen had defected seemed less important, so much so that for a time, very few expressed opinions on that matter.

However, while ordinary Shinigami could forget, the Captains of the Gotei 13 could not.

Thus, on the third day after the incident ended, Genryūsai Shigekuni Yamamoto convened another Captain's meeting.