

Multiverse 293

Chapter 293: Granting Eternal Affection

In the original story, Kusanagi Godou once borrowed the power of the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi to steal his own Authority, merging his Authority with the sword to produce various different abilities.

When he fused the incarnation of the "Goat" with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, he gained the ability to control electromagnetism, accelerating objects with electromagnetic force and unleashing ultra-high-speed railguns, even turning large-mass objects into mass projectiles launched into space.

When he fused the incarnation of the "Boar" with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, he could summon a giant wild boar clad in black-gold armor, transforming it into a Divine Beast with a body of steel, with its pair of tusks capable of launching like missiles at divine speed.

When he fused the incarnation of "Strong Wind" with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, he gained the speed of wind and the destructive power of a hurricane, achieving mobility rivaling teleportation and the ability to sever the flesh of gods.

When he fused the incarnation of the "White Horse" with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, he could continuously release fragments of the sun radiating golden brilliance, with extremely terrifying destructive power.

And when he fused the incarnation of the "Warrior" with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, the summoned Golden Sword would merge with the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, changing the blade's black color to a dazzling golden hue, and granting the power to sever the threads of fate and cut through even undying and immortal divine tools.

In addition, Kusanagi Godou also used it to steal, copy, and imitate many gods' Authorities and powers, thereby displaying many different abilities.

So, don't be fooled by Kaiser belittling the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi as worthless—if it had been Susanoo using it instead of Seishuin Ena, the result would certainly have been completely different.

Its strength depends entirely on the opponent and the user's own abilities—the stronger the opponent, the stronger it becomes; the stronger the user, the stronger it will be.

It is, after all, a Steel Sword God that manifests on earth in the form of a divine tool, and is a subordinate god of Susanoo. Thus, Seishuin Ena could also summon the spirit of Ame no Murakumo onto herself and use the divine power of this divine blade.

Before Kaiser fought with Seishuin Ena, the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi had already attempted to inject its power into her body in order to temporarily control her and fight Kaiser.

In addition, with Susanoo summoning a storm, the divinity of the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi was greatly stimulated, and its fighting spirit was maximized. Eager to battle Kaiser, Kaiser had cleanly and decisively initiated the fight.

Even if Kaiser hadn't made a move against Seishuin Ena, under the influence of Susanoo and the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, she would have eventually raised her blade against Kaiser.

Because of this, Kaiser acted straightforwardly and without hesitation.

Now, he didn't intend to blame Seishuin Ena, and he had already taught the mastermind behind it all a lesson. But this divine tool with such a unique ability—he had no intention of returning it to Seishuin Ena, or to Susanoo for that matter.

This was already his spoils of war.

Unlike the Gungnir, Trident, Golden Sword, and Yagrush and Aymur, although the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi is also a divine tool, it is not essentially an Authority.

Those divine tools—Gungnir, Trident, Golden Sword, Yagrush and Aymur—possessed Divinity and divine power, but because Kaiser slew their owners and usurped them as Authorities, they became manifestations of those Authorities.

They were not only Kaiser's Authorities but also exclusive weapons that recognized him as their master.

Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi was different. It was a god in itself, and so its sense of self was exceptionally strong. Upon recognizing how unusual Kaiser was, it immediately followed its nature as pure-blooded steel and challenged him.

However, since it is a god, once defeated by the God-Slayer Kaiser, Kaiser naturally could use it as a sacrifice, offering it to the Circle of Usurpation to activate the grand God-Slaying spell—the Dark Christmas Rite—and take its Authority.

That's exactly what Kusanagi Godou did in the original story. After defeating the revived Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi that had possessed Seishuin Ena's body, the sword acknowledged him as its master. Though due to his reckless actions it turned into something no one could confirm was even an Authority anymore, he did indeed gain ownership and the right to wield it.

Now that the sword was in Kaiser's hands, he certainly wouldn't allow such a relationship to remain vague.

Therefore, without waiting for Seishuin Ena's consent, Kaiser summoned the Circle of Usurpation and offered the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi as a sacrifice.

As his back grew heavier, a massive power flowed into Kaiser's body, once again increasing his Magical Power.

At the same time, Kaiser summoned the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi once more.

At this moment, the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi was no longer Susanoo's subordinate god, but like Gungnir, Trident, Golden Sword, and Yagrush and Aymur, had become a manifestation of his Authority.

Its appearance also changed. It was still three shaku, three sun, and five bu in length, a straight single-edged sword with no curve, but even without curving into a saber, its blade no longer reflected the brilliance of the sun—it had turned into a bottomless black.

The hilt was black, the blade was black, and even the guard was black—pure and profound.

Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi, also known as Kusanagi-no-Tsurugi, Kusanagi-no-Ōtachi, Totsuka-no-Tsurugi, Tsumuha-no-Tachi, Yatsuka-no-Tsurugi, Kutsunagi-no-Tsurugi, etc., is a legendary divine blade.

In Kaiser's hands, this divine sword no longer concealed its sharpness, nor its original form.

"From now on, you'll follow me."

Kaiser spoke calmly to the divine sword in his hand.

The divine sword immediately responded.

"Yes! I am the so-called Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi! The steel that shatters a thousand blades! From now on, I shall obey my lord's commands!"

Now a loyal servant, both divine tool, Authority, and exclusive weapon of Kaiser alone, its voice echoed in Kaiser's mind.

"Buzz!"

Kaiser activated his Authority, golden patterns spreading over the pitch-black divine sword, covering it entirely and carving onto it an eternal exclusive imprint.

With Kaiser's Authority-enhancement, the power of the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi had grown significantly stronger.

Although the sword could steal, copy, and imitate a portion of the power and nature of its adversary and even fuse with the stolen power to produce new abilities, due to its limited capacity, overuse could result in damage to the sword itself.

Now, after being empowered by Kaiser's Authority and reinforced by his strength, its power had grown considerably, and its capacity had greatly increased. Even if it continued to copy and fuse more Authorities, it would no longer be so easily damaged.

And even if it were damaged, it didn't matter. As Kaiser's Authority and exclusive weapon, as long as Kaiser lived, even if the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi were completely destroyed, it would be restored under the nurturing of his power.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, Seishuin Ena let out a startled cry, snapping Mariya Yuri out of her trance as she gazed at the Circle of Usurpation, nearly triggering her Spirit Vision.

"Wh-What's wrong, Ena?!"

Mariya Yuri asked in a hurry.

"I..." Seishuin Ena spoke with a bit of disbelief. "I feel like my connection with the Ame no Murakumo has been severed."

"From now on, I might not be able to use the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi anymore."

The Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi is a divine tool, which in principle should be completely unusable by humans.

But Seishuin Ena was an exception, being Susanoo's shrine maiden and a spirit medium capable of connecting spiritually with the sword. By summoning the spirit of Susanoo or the Ame no Murakumo onto herself and gaining divine power, she could freely wield the divine sword.

Although, with Seishuin Ena's capabilities, she couldn't draw out much of the sword's power—only enough to deal with Divine Beasts or demi-gods, not enough to handle Heretic Gods—even so, she still possessed strength at the peak of humanity, on par with the Paladins of the magical world.

But now, she could no longer use the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi. She couldn't even grip the sword, let alone summon its spirit onto herself.

She was no longer the Hime-Miko of the Long Sword.

Not only Seishuin Ena felt this, even Susanoo, far away in the Netherworld, sensed the departure of his beloved sword.

"...Even the sword's been taken? What a stingy king."

The strong old god could no longer taste the flavor of his wine, smiling bitterly again and again.

Kaiser had no idea how foul a mood that sly old god was in now. He simply sheathed the Ame no Murakumo no Tsurugi and stored it back inside his body.

"This is my compensation and my spoils of war. Any objections?"

Hearing this, the shock on Seishuin Ena's face gradually faded, replaced with admiration and reverence as she looked at Kaiser, eyes sparkling.

"The King even conquered the Ame no Murakumo? That's amazing!" The girl openly praised him, then said something shocking: "Since the King has accepted the Ame no Murakumo, how about accepting Ena too?"

In an instant, the entire place fell silent.

"Huh?"

A question mark popped up above Kaiser's head.

"E-Ena?" Mariya Yuri also looked at Seishuin Ena in disbelief and said, "W-What are you saying?!"

"Ena isn't speaking nonsense," Seishuin Ena said seriously. "Ena originally came to build a good relationship with the King under Grandma's instructions."

"Before I left, Grandpa also told Ena that if the King was pleased with her, he wouldn't mind offering his shrine maiden to him."

"The King has subdued the Ame no Murakumo and defeated Ena. As the loser, submitting to the victor is only natural."

"So, if the King doesn't mind, please grant Ena the same status as Yuri, let Ena be your concubine, and bestow eternal affection on the Seishuin family!"

As she spoke, Ena gave a deep bow.

Her etiquette was extremely formal, even more proper than the self-proclaimed graceful Erica. Completely unlike her open and forthright nature, it was clear she had undergone strict education.

As the only daughter of the Seishuin family, even if her personality was a bit brash, her every move was elegant. Whether sitting or standing, she was extremely dignified—no wonder she was praised in the original work as "surpassing anyone in ladylike upbringing."

Unfortunately, Kaiser was not in the mood to admire this, and Mariya Yuri even less so.

"I-I'm not the King's concubine!"

Mariya Yuri hastily protested.

"Really?" Seishuin Ena looked doubtful. "I feel like you and the King have a very close and natural relationship. Mr. Touma even provided Ena with intelligence, saying the King stayed in Yuri's room all night yesterday?"

Her tone and expression practically screamed she already knew that Mariya Yuri had received the King's affection yesterday.

"He stayed here alone!" Mariya Yuri flushed bright red and raised her voice. "I didn't stay here!"

"So Yuri hasn't received the King's affection yet?" Seishuin Ena nodded as if understanding, then said something even more shocking: "Then shall we do it together? Honestly, Ena is a bit nervous since I have no experience."

"I-I don't have experience either!" Mariya Yuri instinctively shouted, then suddenly realized what she said and yelled in shame and anger, "No! I don't want to be pampered together with Ena!"

"I see." Seishuin Ena smiled. "Then Yuri can go first. Ena's not in a hurry. Just teach me a bit afterward."

Such blunt talk rendered Mariya Yuri completely speechless.

Her mouth opened and closed like a goldfish, her face growing redder and redder, until she finally rushed out the door, covering her face in shame and fleeing. Seishuin Ena was left with a puzzled expression.

"What's wrong with her?"

The girl clearly hadn't realized how lethal her words were to a pure-hearted shrine maiden like Mariya Yuri.

The flustered Hime-Miko fled the scene, leaving only Kaiser and Seishuin Ena behind in silence.

"Are you serious?"

Kaiser crossed his arms, looking at Seishuin Ena with great interest.

"Of course!" Seishuin Ena nodded firmly, wearing a joyful expression as she smiled and said, "Please, King, don't withhold your affection. Let Ena follow in your footsteps and walk the path of the Tyrant together!"

"Please accept this loyalty!"

This wasn't just Seishuin Ena's personal resolve—it was the resolve of the entire Seishuin family.

As mentioned before, while many feared God-Slayers, just as many wished to follow them and receive their protection.

The Seishuin family differed from the Sayanomiya family. The latter, being a family of strategists, were still observing Kaiser, while the former, known for its martial strength, had both political and military reasons to be drawn to a God-Slayer.

If Kaiser were to accept Seishuin Ena, then the Seishuin family would likely submit as well, becoming the first faction to pledge allegiance to Kaiser.

Fully aware of this, Kaiser walked up to Seishuin Ena and lifted her chin.

"You really want me to favor you?"

Kaiser spoke with a half-smile.

And under his direct gaze, Seishuin Ena's pretty face finally turned red.