



## **GROUND ZERO: FRAGMENTS**

### **CHAPTER 2: STARTING WITH A DREAM, AND...**

#### **TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD**

The largest "King" and "Gold King" on the ground, Daikaku Kokujoji, stood beside a wide-open window.

Near afternoon, the summer sun is already golden and slanting, but the setting sun in the aerial garden is late.

"A dream?"

When he muttered that, about 30 minutes had passed since the hearing began.

Nanakamado, on the rooftop of the Mihashira Tower, is Kokujoji's private residence. A private space, normally accessible only to a very limited number of people who care about their surroundings, now welcomes guests.

There were two customers. He didn't have an appointment, but when he visited the Mihashira Tower, he was greeted by the messenger from "Tokijikuin" before greeting and going to the rooftop.

Of course, it is usually unthinkable. Everything in the politics and economy of a country revolves according to its intentions: the ruthless giant Kokujoji Daikaku, of whom it is said that "if he stumbles, the country will collapse", it is not common sense to meet unexpected visitors or spend minutes.

In other words, the client was an unconventional person.

"Colorless King" Ichigen Miwa. He sat quietly and watched Kokujoji's back as if he were enjoying the atmosphere of a giant rock in a garden.

And another boy in casual clothes that he brought with him. His slim and well-organized appearance appears to be that of a girl, but his agilely trained body and central posture make it clear that he is not just a student.

His name is Yukari Mishakuji. Kokujoji also knows that he became a member of the "Colorless King" clan a few months ago.

When the helpers who had guided the two were evacuated, Kokujoji ordered Miwa to speak directly.

"Say the matter, Miwa."

A direct tone that admits neither opportunism nor dignity. In a word, he easily dismisses the pressure with which a normal person could faint on their own.

"I'm not in a good mood, Your Excellency. I had a bad dream this morning, so I'm a little worried."

"A dream...?"

Kokujoji fell silent.

The vision of the future is a unique ability of Miwa. It may fall into his mind in the form of a mysterious poem, or it may arise in the form of a non-verbal vision. Such visions often come during special wakefulness before and after sleep. In other words, a dream. It is a dream of precognition.

"Ichigen Miwa visited the "Golden King" with an unwanted vision of precognition."

In response to this fact, the tyrannical monarch, Kokujoji Daikaku, who made a quick decision, turned to the recipient. Things were serious and there was very little information.

In the background, there was a situation of immediate readiness.

The existence of a man who is losing control with enormous power.

Kokujoji waited for the next word, but since Miwa didn't say anything, Kokujoji asked about the situation.

In that way, thirty minutes passed.

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The Silent Thirty Minutes of Kokujoji Daikaku.

It was a time when the taiga water was blocked by the dam and the volume increased moment by moment. Kokujoji's vassals, who were below, probably felt chills.

Not to mention the inside. Yukari Mishakuji tried to pretend to be calm, but the overwhelming "water pressure" seemed to crush his entire body. Miwa Ichigen said, "You just have to sit quietly.", but that was just a life-threatening event.

It was Kokujoji who broke the silence.

"A dream?"

"Yes."

In a word, Kokujoji's wrinkled face looked slightly skyward.

"I've already encountered that."

This is a confirmation, not a question.

The giant airship "Himmelreich" constantly orbiting over Tokyo. Adolf K. Weissman, the lonely inhabitant of the celestial world, who lives on the airship and has not set foot on land for more than half a century.

Miwa Ichigen, who had the vision of the ruin in a dream this morning, first visited the Himmelreich before the Mihashira Tower. Just a few hours ago.

This was to gain Weissman's knowledge of the unprecedented "giant extraordinary disaster".

The power of royalty, far beyond the limits of the different abilities of an individual. The possibility of the force losing control and going out of control was predicted from the beginning of "V" physics research, which began in Germany during World War II, with the danger that the trigger was left to the will of the individual.

In terms of simple calories, the energy release far exceeds strategic nuclear weapons, the explosion of royalty (Damocles down).

After the war, Kokujoji, who took control of the national affairs of his native country, turned the metropolitan area centered on the Mihashira Tower into an experimental site where the "Seven Kings" were concentrated, that was to study and control the state of that power.

The "kings" with seven attributes and seven destinies pursue life, society and power, and die. In the end, he was able to catch some truth... it was supposed to be like this.

However, there was a blind spot in the Kokujoji concept, no, a gross miscalculation.

The "Red King" Kagutsu Genji.

The man had a will for violence that could be said to be out of the standard, he was extremely radical compared to the "Red King" that existed in the past.

He had no stop. He ran full speed for the shortest distance that led to a fugitive and sought more destruction.

The means to stop the self-seeking "King" are very limited.

Normally, only another "King" can control the "King", but trying to stop the runaway "King" makes it easy for the stopping "King" to escape. In other words, it is the blowout of a chain of blowups that goes far beyond a simple royal outburst and brings about global ruin.

The suburbs of Tokyo, where the "Seven Kings" are concentrated at close range, have been turned into huge bombs with the "Red King" as the detonator.

Adolf K. Weissman, the proponent of "Theory V", was very concerned about the possibility of ruin. However, if he stepped in as the First King and one of the Great Kings, that power could immediately trigger an outburst from Kagutsu. He was afraid of interfering with the ground.

A few hours ago, Weissman told Miwa.

"I'm willing to provide information, but I can't help directly. I'm just a helpless observer. If I try to do things, I'll be the source of chaos."

And now, Kokujoji, who heard the summary of the press conference, silently nodded.

His position was similar. If the "Earth's Greatest King", together with Weissman, came into contact with the fugitive "Red King", it would cause an outburst of both, and even super-physical mutual interference involving all the other kings.

"Silver" and "Gold", the two giants are tied to their respective positions due to their enormous size.

The acknowledgment was in line with Miwa Ichigen's understanding. In a word, he doesn't have a means of observation like Weissman or an information network like Kokujoji, but he has come to the same point of view just by his five senses and inspiration. He was another "King" with the same sense of crisis at this stage, and the only "King" with freedom of action.

"Tell me what you need."

Once again, Kokujoji spoke. It was a tone that neatly stopped the flow of the conversation.

The exchanges thus far may have been a necessary process for Kokujoji to gather his thoughts and intentions, including the time of silence.

A man who was blown away by the wind and casually visited him was blocking the river so the giant could breathe.

The man, "Colorless King", Miwa Ichigen, touched the tatami.

"Can you let me take a walk around your knees?"

"Permitted."

Kokujoji responded immediately.

"If necessary, we will talk amongst ourselves."

"I think I'll ask you when necessary."

"Well, do you need an escort?"

"Clansman, Yukari Mishakuji. That is enough."

"That's it."

Kokujoji looked at Yukari's figure. Yukari held his breath and just endured the "pressure".

The steep line of sight turned out the window again.

"Go, "Colorless King". Look down into the eyes of the heavenly whale, the power of the pillars, walk all the way to your heart's content, and find a way to avoid ruin."

"Yes."

"...Miwa."

As he looked at the garden, Kokujoji spoke. It was a huge back like a rock. Immovable, solid as a rock, but therefore...

"It takes time and effort."

Heavenly giant whale, earthly giant tree. The two giant Kings in heaven and earth are motionless due to the size of their existence. The reason is that the giant tree that supports a country entrusts things to the fluff that rides on the wind.

"Come on."

Miwa stood up as he urged Yukari on.

"Fortunately, I have nothing to carry on my back. The lightness of my waist is the key."

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The hearing ended in less than an hour.

After leaving the tower, the city on the ground had already fallen into darkness. Looking up, the setting sun was shining on the upper floors of some skyscrapers. Depending on the height of the viewpoint, the view that is seen will change.

But other than that,

"I wonder if you are responsible for my identity."

Kokujoji's parting word mentioned above. There was a complaint from an unexpected place.

"Yes? Oh, of course I feel responsible, Yukari."

Miwa answered easily.

"But I haven't brought him into your life, because you have your own path."

Yukari still had a dissatisfied face. He didn't seem convinced. He didn't mind following Miwa.

"I've been a bit away due to my fitness and changes in my position, but I'm chasing 'a stick, cut and stretched'. It's okay to have a life like that. You can have a life like that. I'm sure it will be fun."

He imagines a "path" that he couldn't choose, Miwa's tone seemed to be very funny. But, "Hah."

He couldn't keep up with Miwa. Far from being fun, if life will continue like this in the future...

A world that can be said to be the secret behind the world, woven by kings and talented people. The sensitivity of Yukari, who has just set foot there, is still close to that of ordinary people.

If he organizes the situation in his mind to deal with an unusual situation...

The fugitive "Red King" and other "Kings" trying to stop him.

The Lord who plays a role in the "Seven Kings", the "Colorless King" Miwa Ichigen visited the "Silver King" and the "Golden King" to understand the situation and guidelines for action.

In order to maintain the balance of power between the kings as mediators and avoid ruin, it is necessary to visit the remaining four "kings".

In what order should he visit each one, and how should he work? It's a dangerous puzzle that can even ruin the world if he made a mistake in one step.

First of all, the next move, except for the "Green King", which is completely hidden, the choice is one of the remaining three "King".

Namely,

"Red King" Kagutsu Genji.

"Blue King" Habari Jin.

"Grey King" Otori Seigo.

Of these, "Red King" Kagutsu and "Blue King" Habari are based in central Tokyo, which is Kokujoji's knee, and engage in small-scale battles on a daily basis. The assault of the red clan "Purgatory" is being addressed by the security organization of the Blue clan "Scepter 4".

The remaining "Grey King" phoenix has a huge autonomous territory "Cathedral" in the southern part of Kanagawa Prefecture, and maintains a calm demeanor.

Regardless of the power he came into contact with, "Red", "Blue", or "Grey", there was a risk that the dangerous balance would be thrown off balance and the "Red King" would go out of control.

In particular, Yukari Mishakuji killed a member of the "Purgatory" clan in the "Yodomiya Incident" six months ago. Members' lives are light for "Purgatory", but it's not hard to imagine expecting retaliation from Yukari due to the organization's physical condition.

Also, before "Blue King" Habari who visited the place after the incident, he refused to join "Scepter 4" after being recommended.

"I tried to kill him..."

When talking about it for the first time, Miwa said in a cheerful tone.

"You only thought about it for a moment."

Yukari denied it. It was surprising to think that he was a dangerous person, and even more so that amused to him.

"At that time, it was an instant. But did you think about it every time you remembered? "How could he be cut, can I cut him today?"."

"Perhaps it is so."

"Of course, Habari Jin is not a person who has such a root, but it can't be helped if he is judged as a dangerous person. If you leave him alone, you don't know which "King" to cut down next."

"That is..."

"Haha... Just kidding, Yukari. Ordinary humans can't kill the "King" in front of them, even if they have extraordinary powers. Even if you can think about it, you're..."

At that moment...

The sudden sound of a bell interrupted Yukari's memory. It was a telephone ringtone.

Miwa took out a clamshell mobile phone from his chest. The screen did not announce the sender.

"Hello?"

"Hello, "Colorless King" Miwa Ichigen."

An electronically discordant voice. The owner of the phone was using a voice changer.

"You got your approval and secured the position of mediator."

"Who are you?"

The owner of the phone kept talking without answering Miwa's question.

"Your partner is Yukari Mishakuji from "Niibangai, in Yodomiya"."

At that moment, with a single look from Miwa, Yukari noticed that he was talking about him, and his slender body tensed.

"Even if it's a chicken, "Regicide". You can take it anywhere in the name of mediation."

"It's out of my mind for him to be called that."

"I'm not blaming you. I'm impressed that it's an interesting move. Miwa Ichigen, you're a good move."

"Thank you. I will accept it obediently."

Miwa replied.

"If you are going to praise me, can you tell me something instead of a reward?"

"Fine, but there may be a penalty for a boring question."

Ignoring the words that could be taken as a threat, Miwa asked.

"What is your motive, "Green King"?"

The owner of the phone did not deny the sudden name, and...

"....."

After a few seconds of silence, a word was murmured.

"...Dream."

"Dream?"

"Yes, it's a dream. Is there something else that moves people?"

Mockery, ridicule, or a bit of urgency. Suddenly, the phone was hung up faster than Miwa could measure the true meaning of the word.

"Ichigen-sama, that phone call was from..."

"The messenger of the "Green King"... no, perhaps himself."

Miwa seemed hollow, as if he imagined the appearance of a mysterious person.

"He called me a "move". In other words, he viewed this one-touch situation as Go or Shogi...and he designated us as a pair."

"Does that mean an unidentified "King" has declared us hostile again...?"

"Hostile... How about that? In any case, it seems that he invited me to play."



Suddenly, Miwa stopped.

The "words" had gone down.

Ichimoku,

He plays with me,

Play of war.

"Yes."

Miwa smiled back as if he wanted to release Yukari's tension.

"Let's enjoy this situation too. Well, we should move on to the next one."

Miwa started walking again, followed by Yukari.

The smell of summer nights was beginning to waft through the urban streets looking up at the high-rise buildings like giants.

If he made a mistake, this mega-city would turn into a smoky plain overnight.

Miwa Ichigen knew his responsibility, but he did not allow himself to be overwhelmed by the weight of it.

There was no impatience in his steps, even light ones somehow.