



"BEFORE ZERO"

CHAPTER 1: SHIDEN ISSEN (SWORD FLASH)

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

The main forces were on the brink of destruction.

The "Scepter 4" Mobile Task Force, which was urgently dispatched to deal with a person with superpowers, was overwhelmed by the enemy, causing a large number of casualties, forcing the defense.

A personnel transport vehicle rushing to receive a site report is equipped with a late-arrival booster unit, along with "Scepter 4" deputy director Shiotsu Gen.

"How many people are there, Shiotsu?"

Gouki Zenjo, one of the reinforcements, asked from the back seat to the front passenger seat.

Shiotsu replied briefly while receiving the status report from the communication device.

"One person. Hiragi."

"It is not a matter of counting. He is a tough opponent."

Zenjo entrusted his weight to the handle of a Strain control saber. The registered name is "Hekireki". The specially made blade is long, thick and heavy. It is a substitute that cannot be handled without extraordinary physique and sound power.

"...Interesting."

Zenjo laughs like a beast sharpening his fangs.

"It's not boring."

A member sitting next to him snorted. He is small as a child, but there is no point in drawing on the scale of writing. It is an irreverent attitude.

"You're going to clean up by yourself. Would you like to go?"

A small hand struck the head of his saber. The name of the saber was "Shiden", a special product made from the same material as Zenjo's "Hekireki".

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The arrival site had become a mountain of lame tiles.

Three five-story buildings in a downtown area have been completely burned down, one of which has completely collapsed. Additionally, firefighting activities have not been conducted against flames that spread to surrounding buildings. You cannot approach the scene. For a single man who is on the scene.

A man in a black suit sits on a rugged black rock shore against a thick black smoke background.

Eyes bright as a bonfire, he looks around.

"Purgatory" Executive Officer Hiragi Toma.

The red clan, "Purgatory", that even lower-class clan members are comparable in destructive power to other clan executives. Hiragi is the executive, and the current rank is number 3 after the "Red King" and his lieutenant.

He was one of the strongest infidels on earth, except for the "Seven Kings", who had non-standard powers.

His power is individual and equal to a group of combat units. Even if it is "Scepter 4", which is an expert group in different battles, he is not an opponent that can be easily suppressed.

In fact, Hiragi's girth had already been painted with multiple deaths.

The number of ordinary people involved in the structure that quickly collapsed in flames is unknown. Most of them are burned bodies whose identity is difficult to identify.

Some of the bodies that fell around could be identified from the unburned clothing. The guards, general police officers, firefighters who responded to the scene, and the two bodies lying to the left and right of Hiragi were members of "Scepter 4".

Three on the "right" and three on the "left". An unsheathed saber stands out from each back.

A Strain control saber stolen from deceased members pierces the bodies and is deeply nailed to the ground.

The death of the civilian population to be protected and the death of the companions of "Scepter 4" were expected when they arrived. However, what they actually see is a horrible scene that exceeded their expectations.

"...Regrettable."

The moment Shiotsu coughed after seeing the state of the scene.

The reinforcement unit was replacing the injured members. There were some who leapt out of the formation like arrows.

"Scepter 4", Gouki Zenjo, Head of the Mobile Operations Division.

There was anger in his eyes, a smile on his mouth, and the expression of a ferocious beast. The extraordinary blue light flashed on his saber and the muscles of his entire body, turning the body into a meteorite running across the ground.

Zenjo approached Hiragi at a speed that far surpassed ordinary people and nullified the common sense of Strain people. Kick the ground in a low position and use a long saber in the back. The fiery villain and black robes are ready to be cut as he goes.

Hiragi was waiting for him. The moment to burn the lost life. One of the few men in "Scepter 4" that is unimaginable.

"Come on, Zenjo... Demon Zenjo!"

When Hiragi got up and shouted his name, the flame went out from the upper half of the body, burning the suit from the inside. Shoulders, chest, arms and back. A Japanese carving tattoo that was carved on the body when Hiragi became a member of the "Red King" clan and belonged to an antisocial organization. All of them have become wide area burners and put out high temperature and high pressure flames.

Hiragi, who became a human torch, grabbed the sabers caught in the left and right bodies at random. One on the right and one on the left. If he holds both swords with both hands, he will put more effort into the hand holding the handle.

The flames that inhabited the body traveled through the left and right arms and towards the blade of the saber. The condensed power of red talent burns the saber blade, which is the medium of talent, to make it glow red and then more incandescent.

In the end, he waves the saber and throw it away. Right and left. The two blades that have become high heat arrows of light reach Zenjo's body as if sucked.

Zenjo avoided a sword with a slight movement, and struck another unavoidable with his own sword.

But...

The difference between the blade that was thrown in full force and the blade that swayed while running, and the difference in posture, was the difference in power.

He lightly defeated the incandescent blade, and Zenjo's blade shook. The swing of the blade became a swing of posture, and Zenjo's momentum was slightly dull.

Hiragi has already pulled out the next two swords from the left and right bodies and is holding them. It is slightly faster for Hiragi to hit the incandescent blade than Zenjo to reposition.

"I have you, Zenjo!"

At the moment when he stalks...

A small shadow like a child emerged from the shadow of the handsome giant. It appeared in front of Hiragi's eyes, to jump over Zenjo's head. As he twists his entire body hard, use a long blue lightsaber.

"Scepter 4" Mobile Task Force, Akio Minato.

"No!"

In the end, the remaining left blade slammed shut.

Zenjo's sword, which fell into the middle, stopped it.

Thus, for a moment, the situation changed...

A flash of sword spins in midair blowing Hiragi's neck.

Aki fell to the ground, leaving the momentum of haste and lateral rotation, and rolled.

A tall parabola was drawn, and the Hiragi's neck fell a few meters away.

Akio stood up as Zenjo approached his neck and lifted him up. The long Shiden encased in the rear sheath and hitting the hips ending looks like an armed boy. Although she is such a small soldier, the young girl in front of Zenjo, tense and with her arms crossed, she is tough and arrogant.

"It was dangerous, Zenjo. If you weren't there, I would have died."

"No, it was dangerous."

Zenjo, who was inspecting Hiragi's neck, looked up.

"Without me, you would have two parts."

"That is the same as you."

"No, no. Hiragi is a strong enemy, but if you give me a hand, I win. I was the one in danger."

"Don't say regret."

"Right."

He does not resign before Zenjo. In fact, when it comes to combat and fencing, the declaration of good faith is always accurate and there is no exaggeration or fantasy.

But Akio is also bad. Looking back, it seems unsatisfactory.

"What's wrong, Brother Gen?"

"He is the "Deputy Chief", Shiotsu."

Shiotsu, who ran from behind, stopped in front of Akio.

"The "Brother Gen" on the scene."

Ignoring the astringent face, Akio continues speaking.

"That neck is my credit, right?"

Shiotsu replied, deepening the wrinkles between his eyebrows.

"Instead of credit, they're both punitive. Don't be arrogant."

"No, it is bad."

Akio pointed to the tip of Zenjo this time.

"This guy suddenly jumped, so I went into the next one."

"Is no different."

Zenjo argues.

"He just jumped off me. I helped him."

"Both of us. They both have behavioral problems. We will eliminate them later. Return to the transport vehicle."

"But brother Gen."

Extinction and rescue work has begun around the site of the fire. In addition, the work of containment of the remains.

Akio said, looking around at the terrible situation and pointing at the neck held by Zenjo.

"Hiragi from 'Purgatory'. It was really dangerous. If I hadn't acted immediately, there would have been more people killed."

Zenjo nodded with a serious look.

"That's right, Brother Gen."

"Stop calling me "Brother Gen". I have no reason to be called that way."

Shiotsu said to Zenjo.

"And don't walk around with his neck. Put it in the bag."

"Hm? Ah."

"Wait in the vehicle!"

To briefly tell the two of them, Shiotsu escaped to instruct on-site personnel and related organizations.

Zenjo and Akio stayed behind. Standing next to each other, they look like an adult and a child wearing the same saber. Not "like father and son". Two children, a giant and a short young woman.

After a few seconds, Akio said to Zenjo.

"Zenjo. Did you intend to take it to Commander Habari?"

"Hmm? ...Oh, yes. That may be true."

"So you're going to have the commander praise you? You're like a dog."

"Hey, I'm not a dog."

"You're a dog. You are a stupid dog."

Leaving Zenjo with his neck in his right hand, Akio started to walk towards the transport vehicle.

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"It's a dog. It looks like it was a vivid trick."

Two hours later, "Scepter 4" Headquarters, the Principal's office.

When he saw Shiotsu's face at the report, the "Blue King", Habari Jin said with a bitter smile.

"After all, it was the right answer to have partnered with Zenjo."

"Which is the right answer."

Shiotsu does not try to hide the astringent face.

"It is like having two Zenjos. If you don't tighten the reins anymore, eventually you will have a fatal accident."

"The situation is already deadly."

With a smile on the edge of his mouth, Habari said.

"As far as I know, today's deceased and missing people are estimated to have more than fifty names."

"Six of them are members of my "Scepter 4" Mobile Task Force. If I had tried to control Hiragi with normal tactics, the damage would have multiplied."

"So is..."

Shiotsu frowned. The wrinkles between the eyebrows get a little deeper.

"Zenjo is correct."

"People with powers are treated by people with powers. That is the importance of the existence of "Scepter 4" as a security organization. If the Strain is out of the standard, non-standard personnel need to be reapplied."

"Then it is a matter of luck. We are not in a good position to bet while betting on the security organization. This time we were lucky, but if we repeat this many times, it will eventually become serious. It will cause a collapse."

"It is my role as the "King of Order" to find an opportunity in chaos... but Shiotsu. You are right. I want to reduce the frequency of tremors."

"What does that mean?"

Habari often makes such innocent speeches, but Shiotsu decides to listen honestly each time. Also for this man, it may be necessary to have some kind of reins, he has that thought.

Breathe softly and look out the window, Habari said.

"The reason the fugitive Hiragi Toma appears to be an overreaction to the general questions of police work. It is not the reason. Just like the smell of sake the other day, the wind blew up a bomb on the road and that's it."

Got distracted? No, that is not the case. Shiotsu responds without breaking his solid stance.

"Oh, there's no reason for their sabotage. We need to be more vigilant about it."

"This is the same as saying nothing. But from a public point of view, we can only say it."

Habari continues speaking, shaking his feet.

"No matter how vigilant you are; it may not be enough. It is not just Hiragi. They, the members of the red clan, are a swarm of live bombs. This situation continues and the tragedy repeats until a clan called "Purgatory" is dismantled and all its members are under proper control."

"Hm, that is... but it would not be possible to crush "Purgatory". It is that man who is on top of them."

"The "Red King" Kagutsu Genji."

Perhaps to his dismay, when Habari spoke his name, he felt that the temperature in the room had slightly increased.

As usual, Habari keeps his face cold, cuts out words, and listens to Shiotsu's expression.

But Shiotsu said, feeling the sweat on his forehead.

"What do you mean, Habari?"

"Today's case is considered an important touchstone. We will discuss the new formation and operation of combat units and their effects."

"Stop saying things that you carry with you. Say it clearly."

Even in Shiotsu, the answer has already come out. However, he cannot be convinced until it is clearly said from the mouth of the Blue King himself.

With wrinkles between his eyebrows, Shiotsu looked at the Lord.

"That's..."

Habari smiled radiantly, with a cold look from his murderous gaze.

"That is, there is a rule to kill Kagutsu."