



*BEFORE ZERO*

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# - BEFORE ZERO -

**TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN**  
**RAWS: RIDIA**

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## **CHAPTER 1: SHIDEN ISSEN (SWORD FLASH)**

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."

## **CHAPTER 2: BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

A cat that has disappeared recently appeared at the front of the garden with a prey that it had killed.

When Akio, who went to a distant university, visited a young man about six months later, Shiotsu was immediately associated with such a scene.

"Marry this boy."

Contrary to Akio's expression at the entrance, which is something she's good at, she brought a strange one.

Shiotsu thought.

The young man in front of him is slightly shorter than him. The age is the same as her, who is 20 or two younger, but when it comes to Akio, who is mistaken for a high school student at eighteen, she appears to be an adult and a child.

What kind of person does it mean to show up at someone else's house after being after a girl?

No, the reason he sees them with such colorful glasses is that he has probably been involved in Akio's love affairs several times in the past. If he looks at it without prejudice, the young man in front of him seems to be a very ordinary person without any special points. On the contrary, polite behavior makes he feel even better.

However, there was a sense of incongruity, like "why is Akio such a genuine person", which made him feel like it was strange.

Unfortunately, there was no advance notice for the day's visit, and her parents were paying, so Shiotsu decided to deal alone.

"I'm sorry to have arrived suddenly."

The young man, who called himself Hayatoshi Minato, sat down by the table and bowed deeply.

"Today, I was visiting Akio's parents' house to receive a greeting, and suddenly there was a story that said, 'I will show my face to Brother Gen.'"

From the first glance impression, it was a reasonable greeting, he was calm and uncomfortable.

On the other hand, Akio,

"Well, this is also like a family home. It's another home."

She immediately stretches her legs to make it easier.

"Akio... I don't mind if you relax, but at least after the greeting."

Minato nodded his head as Shiotsu frowned.

"I was planning to show you what I'm doing today."

"Oh, by the way... it's a pain."

Akio sat in a sitting position next to Minato, even though she was scared. Since she is experienced in kendo, when she sits down seriously the form is determined.

"Oh..."

It wasn't his attitude that attracted Shiotsu's interest.

Akio obeyed what the others said.

It is the fact.

"Akio told me that she has a family relationship with Shiotsu-san."

"Oh..."

Shiotsu returned to Minato's words.

"Well, it's a long-distance relationship, but this street and my house are in the neighborhood."

"Especially, Shiotsu-san was like a brother and sister, and they went to the dojo together."

"They told me to be careful not to hurt their son..."

"I see... Akio-san is committed to everything. The parents would have been relieved to see Shiotsu-san."

"Yes, I'm fine with that."

He was caught up in an indirect conversation, and Akio got in the way.

"Yes. Then..."

Minato corrected his posture towards Shiotsu.

"I think I was surprised by the sudden story, but I'm not overly cheerful. I don't know if it will be five or ten years before I get married, but I look to the future. I would like to apologize for the relationship I established."

"Ah..."

It is a long time to say that two people, who have just met, will ask for forgiveness ten years in advance...

"Sorry, nothing... what if I say 'I won't forgive you'?"

After blurting out such a word, Shiotsu rushed in and added Minato.

"No, I'm sorry. Right now, I want to say, 'I don't mean to speak in the first place.'"

As a social resignation, it should be possible to say "Congratulations" or "Cheers to Akio" here. However,

"But it's okay."

Once again, he was afraid to say it again.

"Besides, brother Gen says that."

Akio sharpened her mouth.

"It's the cancer that makes you think 'it's not going to last any longer', so I came all the way to see you. You'll be fine next time."

"Eh?"

Minato bows his head and...

"Oh. Are you hanging me 'decently'? I see, I see."

He didn't seem to feel uncomfortable with "next time", Minato cried, laughed and turned to Shiotsu again.

"Again... that's why, Shiotsu-san..."

Minato said, leaving a smile on his cheek.

"I want 'brother Gen' to support me. Both Akio-san and me."

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After that, the situation changed more quickly than originally expected.

Far from "five years, ten years ahead", he entered the group six months after the greeting, and a year later, Akio had twins.

Akio wanted to get married and give birth, of course, but Akio's parents and others around her with their "we want to summarize the story this time" and "we want to calm Akio" helped.

The other party, Minato,

"So, it's faster than I thought, but let's start over."

He made arrangements for important things like finding a job and moving.

Minato's parents died prematurely and it was said that a small inheritance had allowed him to earn a living until his income was stable. He said, "It's a long time before we can give back to all of you...", but he had no tactic to rely on public support or the home of Akio's parents.

Although Minato is calmer than the average person, Minato, who has not passed the age of 20,

"It's okay. You have plans for the future; I think there is something like a life plan."

I confirm Shiotsu every time,

"If I say it strongly, my plan is to complete it with Akio."

Saying that, Minato laughed at ease.

"I will not be bored for the rest of my life."

"Not boring." Shiotsu, who tends to accept unplanned situations as stress, is an idea that never comes to light.

"If it is okay..."

Rather, it is less flexible.

Have thought about it,

"I think it's good for Shiotsu-san to have the ideal of "being there" in things," he said.

About five years later, the relationship between Shiotsu and the Minato family continued unabated.

Shiotsu, who dropped out of college to become a policeman, and Minato, who became a general clerk. Akio, who has had several short-term jobs while raising her twins. In general, they are a very ordinary citizen.



Akio's parents died one after another when the twins were three or four years old, and Shiotsu decided to take care of them on behalf of their relatives, but Shiotsu also had his own job and his own life. When he visited the Minato family on occasion, he was surprised by the growth of the twins.

The reason it changed is the appearance of a person named "Blue King".

The "Blue King" Habari Jin recently established an organization called "Scepter 4". As a result of the aptitude test within the police, Shiotsu was chosen as one of them, and was soon placed in the position of the King's official lieutenant.

Furthermore, the Minato family, who were related to Shiotsu, underwent a similar test, and it was found that everyone, including children, was fit to have powers.

Unlike Shiotsu, who originally had an ideal of social order, they had the option of living as ordinary people while being watched by the authorities. However, mainly due to Akio's high hopes, the Minato couple received an installation from the "Blue King", and they both became members of the "Scepter 4" maneuvering section.

Of course, Shiotsu objected. The functions assigned to the new organization are those in which the exchange of lives is normal.

Not recommended for couples with young children. That is something common sense cannot admit.

But there were some extraordinary factors in the situation.

One is that Minato Akio has displayed unusual aptitude that surpasses Shiotsu's. If she accidentally wakes up to a Strain and become a stray person, along with her own direct personality, it cannot be left out in the general public.

And one more thing is the rise of the "Red King" Kagutsu Genji. The number of people who can control the members of the red clan led by Kagutsu is scarce, and the breakwater that stops the collapse of society must be reinforced no matter what.

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These are ancient stories.

Akio's twins are 12 years old. They will become middle school students this spring. It seemed to him a great achievement that this family was able to enter milestone season without missing any.

By the way, the twins' birthday is in early March. He tried to adjust the shift for the Minatos to celebrate this with their family, but he couldn't make it easy for Minato and Akio to go home at the same time, so the month was halfway there.

And now that day.

"It's a bit late so start first."

Said Minato who got the phone call from Akio,

Shiozu was a bit gloomy.

"Uh."

There are already five plates on the table. Minato's home cooking. He knows it's always good to work, but it will take a certain amount of time to prepare this beautiful dining table.

It was planned that Minato after the night shift would get ready for today's party, and Akio, who will be leaving the office for the night, will join him later. Shiotsu, who happened to be working at the same time as Akio, also decided to participate, but he remember that he was just an "uncle of a relative" and is in an extra position.

Although, that's...

Akio, the mother of this family, wonders what she would do later than that. Where the hell would she stray on a day like this?

While Shiotsu was irritated, Minato and their sons were...

"I can't help it. Hayato and Akito. Let's cut the cake."

"Yes, I'll get a knife."

"I'll serve you a plate."

Then she changed her schedule and started working. He's used to Akio not moving as planned.

Also,

"I'm glad Shiotsu-san is here. Only three of us really lack emotion."

"Oh."

It made him worry about it.

Akio returned home about an hour later.

"Oh, have you already given a gift? Did you give it to Hayato and Akito, brother Gen?"

The twins waited in time, looked at each other and responded with their voices.

"Catalog gift."

"Buhahaha! What is that?"

Taking the catalog brought by Hayato, Akio laughed even more.

"Brother Gen, this is what you will give them! It's like tableware or futon!"

"It's not interesting and I'm sorry."

Truth be told, a paper cutter similar to the one custom made the other day for "Blue King" Habari Jin.

The twins of the Minato family are said to have a strong longing for the "Blue King" Habari Jin.

If he gives a gift that matches Habari, Shiotsu's thoughts that would make him happy would collapse on his birthday.

The paper cutter that was supposed to be given to Habari was used to kill the member of the "Purgatory" clan at the hand of Zenjo, a member of the Mobile Task Force. A similar one is too sinister to give away.

"Brother Gen is really boring. He's too boring to laugh."

"Akio, I'm not saying that."

Minato gives up on Akio who keeps laughing,

"I am happy, Shiotsu-san."

"I have fun choosing."

The twins said to Shiotsu.

"It's good to be funny."

Akio said with a smile and satisfaction.

"Because we are like that. It's just ordinary boredom."

Namely, this year's gift that the twins were given with the couple's joint name, chosen by Minato, is a fountain pen with the names Hayato and Akito.

"It is a souvenir. It won't force you to be interesting."

Minato smirked.

"Thanks Dad."

"I appreciate."

The twins said.

"This house would be useless without me."

Speaking like this, Akio went to the front door and returned with a large box in both hands.

"What are you doing with that big box?"

When Shiotsu asked, Akio raised the box to her face level,

"I bought a set at an electronics store."

"Wow!" Said the twins.

"Akio..."

When Minato yelled, Akio looked back in trouble.

"I know. I spoke with the children and "decided to graduate the toy". This is not a gift, it is mine."

"Is there such a graduation?"

Akio ordered the twins, ignoring Shiotsu's words, if there was such a graduation.

"Hayato and Akito. I'll let them do it, so I can connect various things."

While Akio was late and ate, the twins clashed, hooked up a game console to the TV in the living room, completed the initial setup, and started playing together. For the game software, they choose what they bought together with the main unit and tested it.

Finally,

"Okay, let me do it too."

Akio, who had finished eating, also intervened there.

"The controller is not enough."

"There are only two."

"I am the owner. You take turns."

"She is not willing to give it to her son."

Minato said to Shiotsu who leaned forward.

"Apparently that was the correct answer."

"Correct answer...?"

"The children said: "We are adults now.", So I thought about putting them together... but I'm afraid I still don't have enough time to play."

The appearance of Akio and her children addressing the television in the living room is more like a close brother and sister than parents and children.

"But in high school, playing with parents would be boring."

"Perhaps it is a great distance from children of the same age. After all, the occupations of their parents and the qualities of children's blood are special."

"I see... it's a job."

"Even if I'm working or raising a child, I'm trying to find everything... I trust Akio's nose."

"What is that "nose"?"

"I call it instinct... She always looks messy and always makes the right decisions where necessary."

Shiotsu looked towards the living room. Both Akio and the children play seriously, shake their bodies and raise their voices. When he was really serious and Akio's legs stopped, Minato rushed over and stopped.

"That's it..."

Marriage, childbirth and enlistment in "Scepter 4". Akio's actions and choices thus far seemed to always be hasty and reckless from Shiotsu's perspective.

If everyone is connected to this scene,

"I see, it's true."

It certainly feels that way now.

### **CHAPTER 3: PURGATORY HOUSE**

The head of "Purgatory" is in prison.

As long as it is isolated from society inside the ship, its existence is allowed.

But perhaps he will escape from prison at will and spread destruction over the world.

If he cannot be chained, he will have to die on the spot.

Before the next leak and destruction.

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The "Undertakers" is a sign that refers to the Red Clan "Purgatory". Wearing black suits reminiscent of mourning clothes, the members of "Scepter 4" call them "Undertakers" and "Return from the Funeral" to members of the Red Clan.

In addition, in the same firm, what is called "prison" is the territory of "Purgatory", "Ruins of the Kaume Detention Section in Toyosawa District". Originally, it was a secondary penal institution under the jurisdiction of the Tokyo Detention Center, but lost its function



as a public facility due to the attack and occupation of the "Red King" Kagutsu Genji, later it was approved as a territory by "Tokijikuin".

It should be said that the "Red King", who is not connected to any prison, was "imprisoned" by himself. Anyway, the "prison" is now home to "Purgatory".

And the "Red King" and his subordinates are "imprisoned" at will.

If you escape the territory protected by extraterritorial law and show up in the metropolitan area of the city, you will fall in love with the extraordinary ability of fire. In that way, not only does he often kill and injure innocent citizens, but in the latest Beta-Class case, the Hiragi Incident, the escape of the clan's executive, Hiragi Toma, has completely turned a section of downtown the city on charred soil.

"Purgatory" was a spark that hovered across the map, and if left unattended, it would burn forever. The normal police cannot cope with the super physical destructive power they wield, and from the position of the leader of the "Covenant of Seven Kings", the response of "Tokijikuin" led by the "Golden King", usually comes late. In that situation, it was the responsibility of "Blue King" Habari Jin and his subordinate clan "Scepter 4", to quickly arrive on the scene and crush the fire from his black robes.

As an extension of that responsibility, Habari finally decided to invade the territory of "Purgatory" and kill the "Red King".

As long as the existence of the "Seven Kings" is beyond the law of a country, it is not an act that follows legal legitimacy.

So is it some kind of private fight? That is different.

Limited royal power war. The fight, which is fought by the will of the "King", is a "public" act against all people beyond the nation.

The "Blue King" Habari Jin, thinks so.

The "Golden King" Daikaku Kokujoji admits it, and other kings also tolerate and wait.

But what about the "Red King"?

First of all, there is no room or need to ask for his position.

The violent "King" is a fiery beast that burns the city and kills people just by being present. It is a disaster for everyone who has a life. For the sake of humanity, it must be exterminated as quickly as possible.

Habari Jin thinks so.

He doesn't think about it, he doesn't talk about it, he just looks inside the ship.

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"Final confirmation."

Shiotsu called the members from the back seat in a personnel transport vehicle heading to the prison.

"The purpose is the boss, the 'Red King', but be sure to neutralize every clan member you come across. Think of unnecessary hoof bets as endangering the entire "Scepter 4"."

"Don't worry, brother Gen."

Akio screamed.

"You can cut it from the edge you see. It's easy."

There was a low laugh among the members. There cannot be a human in this vehicle who can win in a cutting battle. If there was such a person in the past, they would definitely be dead.

The voice of "Blue King" Habari Jin, from the communication device, inspires the members.

"We, "Scepter 4", carry out the duties of being an individual swordsman, controlling the sword with a sword. There is no cloudiness in our haste for the cause!"

"Hurry up!"

A transport vehicle went through the main door of the detention branch, overturned the body and opened the rear door. Seven members jump out of the vehicle and run to the prison building at the same time.

First of all, Goki Zenjo and Akio Minato came out first. Zenjo leans over and glides across the ground, and Akio rushes to compete, jumping step by step.

Behind are four men.

One is equipped with two sabers. And the other has a spear. The remaining two have a dagger.

The names are Azuma Sohei, Bado Ryoichiro, Chidjiwa Gaku, Daiba Sadamitsu. All of them, who carry extraordinary light on their bodies and run at speeds that surpass ordinary people, are first-rate players who go beyond the level of simple extraordinary combat personnel.

Finally, Shiotsu followed them in form to chase the six. Maintaining the position behind so that everyone's behavior is in view.

Hearing the sound of the door smashing, more than a dozen men jumped out of the prison. "Undertakers" in black suits, the lower members of the "Purgatory" clan.

Of the "Undertakers" who still could not understand the situation, Zenjo and Akio cut off the first two heads that flew to the left and right.

"It's the Blues!"

"Kill them!"

It should be said that those in black clothes regained their posture before the two severed bodies fell to the ground. Some are bare-handed and others carry weapons such as knives and tonfas, each with a red flame of genius in their fists and specialties.

Furthermore, when they formed a dense formation to protect their backs, a battle group was formed surrounded by a huge flame. Even if it is Zenjo or Akio, it is difficult to cut this flame.

However, at that moment, a man stood out from the "Scepter 4" racing field. Tall beyond good, broad shoulders, long limbs. It's the spearman, Bado.

"Ha!"

Bado put his feet on the ground and pushed forward as he turned the iron spear. From both arms to the handle of the spear and to the tip of the ear, a radiant blue light of different skill spiraled and emitted in a swirl like a thin twister.

The blue light twister pierced through the defense of the flame, brought out the side of the black clothes in front and broke the formation of them while involving several people around.

Then there was a person who ran down Bado's side and jumped into collapsed space. It's Azuma, two-sword style.

His body is well trained, but the height is average. Swallowed in a flock of black clothes in the blink of an eye.

"Otsu!"

Azuma took a breath with the sabers dangling from his left and right hips, crossing his arms. The extraordinary light condensed on the blade shone in the air, and the left and right black clothes were cut at the same time. Azuma also manipulated the two sabers with sometimes symmetrical and sometimes asymmetrical orbits, rotating his entire body in a complex way. Two lines of blue blade light flashing around Azuma. The black robes that brushed against the trail of death's light are surprised one after another like a puppet whose thread of life is cut.

"This guy...!"

A group of intimidating black robes surround Azuma. From behind, there was a man who jumped with a sign of anger.

"Blue Clothes!"

"Purgatory", Executive, Jingo Iwamon.

A big and thick body that seems to burst the black suit on the inside. The right half of the face is a trace of an old burn and the original face has crumbled to the point of being confused.

He doesn't have a gun. The rock-shaped fist itself is a weapon. When he put the power into his fist, Iwamon's right half immediately burned out. The black jacket burns, revealing the body engulfed in flames. Only the right side of the midline is surrounded by burning flames, as if the face, chest, and arms are separated by a line.

When Iwamon stiffened like a beast, he ran towards Azuma.

A giant body engulfed in flames closes in to cover the view, and a rock-shaped fist turns into a volcanic bullet and fires a shot into Azuma's chest.

Azuma swung his twin blades and slammed them into Iwamon's fist. Two swords and a fist collide violently.

The blade of the blue genie would have easily broken, even if it was a real volcanic bullet.

However, the fist of the different skill received the blade of the different skill and further repelled Azuma's entire body.

Neither his fist nor his sword broke, but the black clothes that surrounded him ate the collision of the two forces, the red and the blue. Several people who were unable to defend the sentry wall collapsed and agonized from the impact of hitting the internal organs.

One of them, with a fiery fist, grabbed the chest of black clothing next to him. When he lifts a man of average physique to the extent that his legs floated with one arm and put more effort into it, the flames on his right arm burned softly. The extraordinary flame swirled throughout the body in the blink of an eye, and the black robes screamed and fluttered violently. The pain from the heat of the flame that burns the whole body, is a reaction due to the physiological contraction of the muscle.

Iwamon threw a burning black body at Azuma, who was getting ready as he leaped back. The man who flies while burning is one size larger than Azuma only in terms of physique. Frantic fire Tatzuma, screaming in pain, a huge reef of fire. He approached with the smell of burning hair and grease and exploded in front of him.

Chidjiwa pushed the dagger with both hands. It is not meant to attack. With the point down, hold the handle with his right hand, place his left hand on the blade, and show the dagger forward.

The flaming human body that flew there exploded in front of the dagger. However, the bodily fluid that was supposed to fall onto Chidjiwa's body was scattered in all directions at the site, as if it had been hit by an invisible wall.

Rather than putting the power of a different skill on the sword, it is a fighting technique of a different skill that develops as a "shield", but Chidjiwa specialized his technique at that point. The dagger held in the opposite hand is nothing more than a means of controlling different abilities. The non-material shield formed by the high-density force field is Chidjiwa's weapon.

Defense specialization. His qualities, which can be called "shield soldier" of different abilities, are more effective when collaborating with the same person than when fighting alone.

And conversely, there are also owners who specialize in attacks.

"Shu...!"

With a strong exhale, a slender, youthful body leapt from the shadow of the giant Chidjiwa. It only takes two steps to close the distance of about 1 meter to Iwamon. Stepping on god speed, even if there is no gap between the flying tools. No, he was a flying tool himself. That is why he is called "Daiba, the arrow thrower" with the accumulation of classes.

The specialty is a small dagger of the same type as Chidjiwa's. He also developed his fighting skills without using a sword. It is a combat technique that specializes in assassination, focuses on the limbs and tip of the dagger, and specializes in approaching and piercing. The technique of betting, "If you get within three steps, I'll win.", but on the other hand, there was a difficulty defending the side, and he was not good at fighting. On the actual battlefield, he compensates for his weaknesses by cooperating with the Chidjiwa shield.

Daiba has now taken the first and third steps and has taken a leap towards Iwamon. It is a movement that jumps to the head and stabs the dagger that he holds in the opposite hand.

"Uh!"

Iwamon struck the front of his face with his burning right hand. Daiba leaned back and avoided his hand, but got caught in midair as he lost his posture with his other hand. On Iwamon's left side, he grabbed him by the ankle.

Iwamon can crush Daiba's ankle as it is. He can also hit him against the ground.

Iwamon grabbed Daiba with his right hand. Inject the power of red abilities and ignite the entire body from within. The most reliable means of execution.

A thick and fiery finger grabbed Daiba's neck, at that moment...

Akio, who jumped from the side, struck his reddened wrist with a saber.

However, the sword was flipped without blowing Iwamon's wrist. Like Azuma's twin swords, Akio's sword was protected by a powerful flame.



But... the next moment, Iwamon's head flew off.

On Akio's other side, Zenjo stepped forward from the left side and brandished his saber. The cut on the left side, which was not covered by the flames, slid into Iwamon's neck surprisingly easily and pierced through.

When Iwamon's neck flew into the air and he hit the ground, Akio began to blame Zenjo for not giving her credit.

Less than a minute has passed since the rush of the transport vehicle.

All six members, including Zenjo, rushed towards the "Purgatory" executives, who would normally cause enormous damage at the end of victory, even if they were surrounded by multiple combat units. It means that he was killed at the best time.

The rest of the black clothes have lost their executives and are upset. It is not a decent battle, but an immediate surrender. Shiotsu thought, instructing the next troops to suppress and stop them.

Is it the same as the last case?

The other day, the outbreak of Hiragi Toma, a "Purgatory" executive, and the suppression of "Scepter 4". At that moment, Zenjo and Akio entered without waiting for instructions, and in the blink of an eye, Hiragi's head fell.

Shiotsu thought that Zenjo was a rebel with a deficiency in operational behavior, but the idea of "Blue King" Habari was different.

First of all, thoughtful combat personnel like Zenjo were, in a sense, a natural enemy of outsiders. Any ability, in principle, is a force that is activated by the consciousness of the person and cannot deal with the attack before the recognition and judgment of the person.

But at the same time, its power is limited.

For example, it is almost impossible to succeed in a surprise attack on a person who has power and destiny beyond the realm of human beings, such as the "Seven Kings".

Habari's idea mocks that law.

That is, the concentrated entry of non-standard combat personnel like Zenjo. Continuous high-speed attack by thoughtful cooperation. By repeatedly hitting the "deadly" target in rapid succession, the target's fate is cut off and the gap in consciousness is opened.

Immediately after the Hiragi incident, Habari told his assistant, Shiotsu.

"Let's call it the beginning of the end, that's my 'main assassin' sword."

And now, the fast-spinning saw blade easily dropped the neck of the "Purgatory" executive.

Now there is no one to guard the prison door, and the entrance to the prison is wide open like when the black clothes came out.

Behind him, there is a hot humming signal.

Countless black robes, a few executives, and a rumbling foundry-like signal from the "Red King" Kagutsu Genji.

Akio looked back, bringing the saber to the body.

"Let's go quickly."

"Oh."

Shiotsu replied.

"The battle continues. Move on."

#### **CHAPTER 4: THE EYE OF THE KING, THE EYE OF THE HUMAN**

Zenjo, Akio, Azuma, Bado, Chidjiwa, Daiba.

The cooperation of the six masters easily cuts through the dense formation of "Purgatory".

A six-man training unit called "Saw Traction Unit" by its Lord, "Blue King" Habari Jin, the movement is unique, different from traditional combat techniques and modern urgent operations.

They have their own specialties in each hand and have different speeds, ranges, and advance powers. While running at full speed. A group of dry blue blades is turned into a four-dimensional excavator and dismantled through a large group of talented fighters. After the six swordsmen stormed past, a heartbeat later, the black-robed strangers splattered, splashing heat and burning blood.

"What are they?"

Shiotsu coughed while avoiding the hot blood splatters.

A six-member chainsaw, which is also a pioneer.

One, two or three people for each sword strike. His appearance of stroking the monster "Purgatory" and going through it reminded him of another monster that hunts and bites the monster.

"What are they?"

Shiotsu asked again.

The word was also directed at the members of the "Purgatory" clan, who continued to blatantly defy the violence of the opponent.

Men dressed in black who burn and heat the entire body's blood with the ability to "red" and literally gain an explosive spine and destructive power. Of course, such use of different abilities touches and destroys their own bodies first and foremost. Many of them will take enormous damage in their environment and die in a single battle. A human bomb in a black robe who simply rushes to destroy the moment without saving his own life. It is a destructive and unconventional variant, both mentally and physically.

Both enemies and allies are monsters. There was no possibility for ordinary people to enter the battlefield.

Shiotsu gave instructions to the next rushing forces. It is a cleaning of the remains of the red monster that was spoiled by the blue monster.

Shiotsu and the followers stabbed the end of each of the dying black robes that fell to the ground and leaned against the wall. Some were able to save their lives, but at the same time, they still have the power to suddenly kill opposing members. For those who don't have normal human sensitivities, this was also basically dealt with mechanically.

Perhaps the current scene is one of the most horrible little battles ever fought on land. However, if "Purgatory" is left unattended, it will cause much more damage in the future. This is a necessary public act. As a member of a security organization, Shiotsu understood that point.

But at the same time, in light of the common sense of modern human life and ethics, his life on this battlefield is too light.

"Huh!"

From the other side of the door that opened, he hears Akio's laugh. She does not belong to Shiotsu's common sense, and she seems to think of this situation as a game.

It's not just Akio. The "Red King" and the "Blue King", "Purgatory" and "Scepter 4", many of the people here think of this battle as some kind of game. If he does not get caught up in the weight of life and the heavy burden of society and move lightly like a sports competition, he will become entangled and die.

Something was moving at Shiotsu's feet. The mortally wounded black robes of "Purgatory" were wringing out their last power and concentrating their abilities on their fists. When the fist was about to be hit by Shiotsu's leg, Shiotsu's sword flashed, and when he slashed his fist, he pierced the eyebrows of the black clothing with his returning sword.

The bright red fist bounced several times, leaving a scorched mark on the ground, eventually turning into a black mass and burning.

When Shiotsu sighed, he accompanied his subordinates and followed the group of six members.

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A "Scepter 4" command vehicle is parked on the street in front of the "Purgatory" grounds.

The "Blue King" Habari Jin is in the passenger seat with several rear commanders. The appearance of leaning his elbows on the door and closing his eyes is like taking a nap, but his brain is spinning at high speed.

Various noises are heard from outside the vehicle. Status reports exchanged through communication devices. Noise due to radio interference. The tremors caused by explosions and collapses transmitted from their feet. All that information is collected to keep track of the situation.

The smile on his mouth shows that things are going according to Habari's plan. The sword of the "Red King" was quickly and surely approaching the throat of the "Red King". Kagutsu may or may not know the situation.

Even if he is in the middle of a war or disaster, he is a man who will fall asleep without raising his eyebrows.

Noises, tremors, screams, do not trigger Kagutsu's actions. The "Red King" continues to sleep in silence.

The "silent blade", which spreads sparks and roars, does not give the "Red King" time to wake up.

"That would be a beautiful ending."

Minato raised his face from the control table at the words that Habari suddenly leaked out.

"That is beautiful"?"

"Eh? Ah. I was thinking about the "Saw Traction Unit"."

"I see, members Zenjo and Akio..."

Minato was also witnessing a mock group training the other day. He can imagine the situation at the scene. The light of the blue sword and the sparks woven by the six masters, and the blood and explosion of the prey. High speed group sword dance, it was a spectacle that could certainly be evaluated with some kind of aesthetic sense.

"Beautiful...?"

He thought he didn't have that kind of sensitivity to talk about how life explodes from the perspective of "beauty".

Habari said in response to the confusion mixed with Minato's tone...

"To reach an overwhelming existence like Kagutsu's, you have to have some kind of 'beauty', no power, no reason... It seems like that to me."

Habari said that with a slight silence.

"Don't you think so, Minato?"

"No... I'm not in a position to say anything."

"I don't care. I want to hear your opinion."

"If that's the case..."

Minato said with a preface.

"I don't know anything about the existence of the "King" and the discipline to follow, but the closest thing to "beauty" you say is you, the "King of Blue"... I think so."

"In other words, not that chainsaw."

Habari struck the handle of the sword placed next to the seat.

"I should use this sword to face Kagutsu, that's what it is."

"No, until then."

"It is a very plausible opinion. Traditionally, the flight from royal authority has been suppressed by the direct action of another royal authority. It can be said that it is a thought."

"Eh... if so, why...?"

"Kagutsu is different from other kings. It is a non-standard monster that seeks destruction and violence. If I or any other royal authority were in front of him, that would be what he wanted. The clash of the two kings' abilities will bring an unprecedented amount of destruction to earth."

"Blast of royal power...?"

"Exactly."

Habari looked up at the sky beaming in response to Minato telling him to do so voluntarily.

"The power of two opposing "kings". The different skill fields of "red" and "blue" speed up, inflate and collide with each other. It would be a beautiful sight."

What exactly do you see in the eyes of the "Blue King"?



"Blast of royal power". A runaway and destructive phenomenon of a force field of extraordinary capacity predicted by Weissmann's theory. Minato lost his words to the "Blue King" who speaks of the ruin that the "Seven Kings" and their helpers are trying with all their might, except Kagutsu.

"But it is a beauty that should not be on earth."

Habari looked down at the "Purgatory" battlefield and the "Saw Traction Unit". Minato was relieved for some reason that his line of sight returned from heaven to earth.

"The highest potential for forbidden beauty is reaped with the next best beauty. That is the meaning of our chainsaw."

When he came to the conclusion of that, there was a slight tilt in Habari's profile.

He felt something was wrong with the noise outside the vehicle or the communication that he heard leaking.

"Commander...?"

"It's bad. Something unexpected is happening."

"Habari!"

As expected. Above Minato's head, Zenjo's voice came over the phone line.

"Can you hear! Can you hear me, Habari? Akio is dead!"

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The situation was extremely confusing.

Immediately after Zenjo announced Akio's death, the counterattack from the members of "Purgatory" began. The hordes of demons that had been ripped apart and crushed by the "Saw Traction Unit" reappeared inexhaustibly from here and there in the facility, dividing "Scepter 4" and sifting through each one. Some have been injured.

"What is the situation? Zenjo! This is the command vehicle! Habari!"

The command vehicle operator barely answered Shiotsu's question.

"Saw drive unit. The report is that it is no longer available. The commander has just headed to recovery."

"What... idiot, stop!"

Before the words were finished, there was a person running through Shiotsu.

The "Blue King" Jin Habari.

"Shiotsu!"

Without looking back and slowing down, Habari said.

"Assemble the group. Leave in five minutes!"

After a moment of victory, Shiotsu nodded and yelled in a loud voice that echoed around him.

"Scepter 4, get together!"

However, the situation is now inferior. At the edge of the corridor and in one corner of the room, there are several abandoned and isolated members.

First, gather the people in the center of the room and then collect the isolated people. However, not all members are on time.

When Shiotsu thought that, several silver lights streaked through the space.

Multiple throwing knives from Shiotsu, who followed Habari with his gaze, and were thrown from behind.

It was the work of Hayatoshi Minato, who ran in succession.

Like Habari, Minato moved his arm left and right without slowing down and threw three knives at once. Although rarely used in everyday life, Minato puts a series of small throwing knives similar to medical scalpels in the sleeves and pockets of his uniform as a convenient weapon, in addition to being equipped with his official sword.

Each knife followed a different curved path and hit the body of those in black as if it had been inhaled. The power of each is not high, but it creates a rift in the black clothes movement to help cornered members, and surely creates an opportunity to escape.

In the blink of an eye, a dozen knives were thrown, and Minato took a deep breath and jerked his arms forward.

Until then, the knives that had been thrown one after another, this time, were thrown six at a time, rushing forward like a torrent of light, stepping forward as they dodged Habari's back from side to side. Beyond that, he pierced the key points of the three black clothes guarding the door at the same time.

All three of them were only a part of the black outfit on the spot, but that was enough.

Habari draws his sword and slashes the three with a returning sword, and rushes into the dark room without gambling.

"Minato!"

Shiotsu called out to Minato, who ran over to the side.

"Protect the "Blue King"."

Minato nodded briefly, chased after Habari, and leapt into the darkness.

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Just a few minutes ago...

"Akio is dead!"

When he heard the words, Hayatoshi Minato became a self-defeating body for a few moments.

"Akio...?"

As a couple in a fighting organization, he was prepared to say goodbye in this way one day. However, when they told him it was "today", he was surprised.

Meanwhile, his lord, the "Blue King" Habari, jumped out of the vehicle and quickly used the sword at his waist.

"Minato."

"Oh, commander...?"

"Ask here. I have to remove the rest of the "Saw Traction Unit" and the forces that run."

Coming to himself with that word, Minato also jumped out of the vehicle.

"I'll accompany you too!"

It was an intuitive action.

On today's site, there are some items that exceed the expectations of "Blue King" Habari Jin. Something that took the life of Akio, who was creating a rift in cooperation with Zenjo.

He, Hayatoshi Minato, was said to be a foreign molecule in the "Scepter 4" organization. "Why is a decent person like you in such a small and stretched world?"

The answer is: "I came with Akio as a bonus." In contrast to Akio, who was a person who should enter "Scepter 4" in terms of personality and ability, Hayatoshi Minato originally had the qualities to lead a life as a general citizen.

The reason he entered "Scepter 4" is because he is with Akio. There is no doubt about it.

In response to Minato, Habari said, "It's an unexpected change." While maintaining common sense, he highly evaluated Minato's willingness to adapt to the air of an abnormal group without hesitation, often asking Minato for his opinion as a pseudo "big picture".

Minato offered to accompany him to the center of enemy territory.

Habari instantly caught Minato's will and nodded.

"Okay, let's go."

And now...

Minato ran after the "Blue King" and entered the devil's lair.

What does a mere human eye, a "king" or a demon see there?

What caused the death of his wife, Akio?

When the eyes get used to the darkness of the prison, Minato's eyes will find her.

## **CHAPTER 5: BATTLE START**

The moment Minato Hayatoshi entered the room following Habari Jin, the smell of blood and burned flesh snorted.

The room was surrounded by dim darkness. Not only were the lights turned off, but the windows were also blocked that should let in sunlight.

But it is not completely dark. The red, blue and radiant light of different abilities hit each other while flashing violently. The battle is on.

Based on information confirmed in advance, this room must be a shared room of less than 20 tatami mats. Not enough room for a full-scale battle. However, Minato's eyes, which began to get used to the darkness, clearly recognized a space that was larger than that.

A large space has been created by removing the walls of several rooms, focusing on the common room of the detention center. Is it a space for interception created in anticipation of an attack from the outside, or is "Purgatory" living in the facility piercing the wall in a playful way? He doesn't know, but this hasty "corridor" had turned into the biggest battlefield of the day anyway.

When the two of them started moving towards the shadows, looking at their surroundings...

"Habari! And Minato!"

There was a call from the corner of the room.

"Zenjo, what is the situation?"

When Habari calls again...

"I'm addicted to this! I was waiting in this room!"

Zenjo said again as he dealt with three black clothes. The face that removes their fangs seems to laugh.

"And there is a nasty guy."

At the same time as that word, a thin whip-shaped mass of flames burst out of the darkness and attacked Habari like a poisonous snake.

When Habari instantly drew his sword and turned his "head", the flaming whip shrunk and recoiled, sucking on the hand of a man a dozen meters away and disappearing.

"Are you Soma?"

Answering Habari's question...

"Yes, it's me."

The man replied in a fuzzy tone.

Thin, thread-like eyes on the back of light-colored sunglasses. A smile that seems to stick to his mouth. It has a mask-like face that cannot be read.

The tall, slim physique and moderate demeanor, in the "Purgatory" martial arts group, their hair color is slightly different.

His "uniform", even a black suit that spreads a feeling of intimidation, only for this man, looks like a clean dress.

"Purgatory", Executive Soma Hitoshi.

He is also called the advisor and number 2 of the "Red King".

"Welcome, Habari-san. And I'm sorry. It is the appearance of the "Blue King", but my general is sleeping in the back... God only knows when he will wake up."

Soma speaks with a unique intonation like Kansai Ben's, which is exaggerated in a cartoon.

"Even if I don't get this far, I'll take care of you. I don't think it's possible, but I'll try."

"No, Soma. There is no shortage for the other party."

With a beaming smile, Habari held up the saber. The vanguard aims at the heart of Soma.

"Far from being unreasonable, you are an uncomfortable opponent. You can be said to be the worst except for Kagutsu. If you don't die soon, they will kill you."

"Ah, I must be careful. Really. A face-to-face showdown with a "King"..."

Soma pulled out a cigarette case from his chest.

"Before that, let's take a break, huh."

When the breathless Habari smiled a bitter smile, Soma also bowed with a masked smile, then took a cigarette and raised his left hand to his face.

The little finger on Soma's left hand was missing at the second joint. The cross section of the cut finger glows red with the extraordinary capacity of the flame. That was Soma's "Holy Mark".

Using the chipped finger in place of a lighter and moving the fire toward the tip of the cigarette, Soma began to smoke deeply.

Meanwhile, the sound of the sword battle between "Scepter 4" and "Purgatory" echoes through the room. Also, what hides it is the moan of the wounded black clothes.

However, Soma pays no attention to them at all. Habari also just looks at Soma with interest.

Finally, Soma turned his face towards the ceiling and exhaled for a long time.

"Fuu..."

Soma moved his left hand forward at the perfect moment to cut off the conversation. It is like throwing luggage in his hand, but he has nothing in his palm. Instead, a high-pressure "flame" erupted from the severed surface of the little finger and was shot into the space in front of it.

Soma's technique is called "whip". The flame that emerges from the missing finger cross section literally flutters like a whip. Autonomy and trajectory.

Like a laser, like a poisonous snake, the flaming whip piercing the darkness was not targeting Habari, but Minato at his side. The moment the tip of the fire whip seemed to crush Minato's eyebrows, Habari's saber flashed and the blade with a blue light flickered from the side.

The flaming whip that floated in the air for a moment, when swiftly swaying like a snake, attacks Habari this time in an arc-shaped orbit.

As he touched the head of the whip again, Habari stomped, crossing the "hole" in an instant with his extraordinary leg strength, and advanced until he reached Soma.

Whether or not the difference in range between the whip and the saber changes to the saber advantage when sneaking into the chest, the fire whip, which moves more freely and precisely than a live arm, is fully functional even in attack and defense at close range.

Habari and Soma began to fight a fierce battle.

In contrast to Habari's sword skill, which unifies all of his sword, body, and abilities, Soma keeps his left hand down and does not hold it.

The whip that extends from the little finger blinks rapidly like a creature of its own will and accurately repels the blue blade that thrusts itself over and over again. Soma himself protects his body with the whip, keeps the cigarette in his mouth and adjusts his standing position calmly leading the stars in a dance.

"After all..."

Habari said without any sign of discomfort.

"It is not easy to kill if the messenger is on the defensive."

"No... this is barely."

Soma responds with a suffocating tone and finally spits out a cloud of smoke.

"Minato!"

Without letting go of his swordsman's hand or looking back, Habari said...

"Please rebuild the place. Ask the others."

"Yes."

Within 30 seconds after that, she takes control of the battlefield and makes a breakthrough.

Minato quickly looked around. Eyes accustomed to the dark pick up the situation in the room and the disposition of his companions and the strength of the enemy, and reconstruct the history of the battle in his brain.

That way, Minato must understand, how "Scepter 4" and "Purgatory" have been fighting in this room for the past few minutes.

And how Akio died.

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The "Saw Traction Unit", which deviates from the original "Scepter 4" powerful control and cooperates at high speed by reflexes and instinct, has the power to easily cut through "Purgatory" like a flock of beasts. Neither a group of daring black suits nor executives with destructive abilities could contain a swarm of rapidly rotating blades.

However, the situation changes when a strange brain named Soma appears in the herd.

Soma was an exceptional technician among the powerful and crudely talented of "Purgatory". He was a genius who reached the realm of art, a genius comparable to Zenjo and the "Saw Traction Unit", and an advanced precision machine.



"Red King", from the existence of Kagutsu, flowing through the relationships formed by the facility, raging in the body, a tremendous amount of heat gives the subordinate clansman the power of destruction, but in the end, the energy it will burn its own body.

Soma is in full control of his own free will.

A strong "individual conscience" that does not renounce its own reason even with the "King of violence" on top, that is the basis of Soma's technique and also the reason for his peculiar position.

His position is the "immovable number 2" position in "Purgatory".

There is no organized chain of command in the prison. Like a flock of beasts, there is only one hierarchy of forces, which is very fluid and fluctuates with replacement of personnel.

It is not limited to this, the situation always boiled in a violent whirlpool around the "Red King". Nothing can maintain a firm presence there.

However, in the situation where even life is lost in an instant, Soma has been Kagutsu's assistant for about two years.

As a ghost beast that lives in lava, he himself is a superhuman by Kagutsu's side, and is an abnormal existence.

However, personal characteristics and abilities are only part of Soma's danger.

Soma was the best in individual combat technology and at the same time, he had more skill as a group commander. The whip of fire that pierces the heart, leaving the enemy's neck, was also the whip of a beast master who commanded a group of allies.

When Soma appears on the battlefield, the black clothes fighting for a strong self-begin to behave as if they are living creatures with only one will. Soma himself does not give clear instructions or strike the underside of the black robes, but Soma's "whip", which has both precise movement and long range, intervenes at key points in the battle unfolding around it. By doing so, he can control the transition from the war situation.

It was a unique ability in all clans under the Seven Kings. To put it bluntly, it was close to the combat assistance provided by Hayato Minatoshi's slow knife, but it was even more sophisticated and strategic. The flaming whip that runs between the beasts was an extension of Soma's brain, a nerve fiber that controls the body of a beast.

In fact, even in this "hall", the black robes of "Purgatory" acted under Soma's intent without being aware of themselves, releasing the power of fire and dispersion. Soma's "one move on the board", and because of that they burned their lives and collapsed, they were the game pieces that Soma enjoyed, the exploding stones and the abandoned stones.

The black clothes self-destructing special attack folds up, and Zenjo and the "Saw Traction Unit" split up and isolate themselves.

A group of swordsmen who surpassed the instinct of the beast were on the verge of being crushed when entangled in a mysterious and unusual intelligence.

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But now...

Habari represses Soma's actions. The tentacles are blocked and the giant beast once again divided into an uncontrolled swarm of beasts.

"Scepter 4, get together!"

Minato threw a knife to each corner of the room in rapid succession, giving a sharp command.

The black clothes of "Purgatory" are like amateurs in the sense of a group battle. Without Soma's guidance, they couldn't cooperate properly. The individually encircled and divided chainsaws were able to quickly defeat several black clothes and escape by simply hammering in a few knives and creating an opportunity.

Zenjo, Azuma, Bado, Chidjiwa, Daiba. When the five men gathered together, Minato called to Habari's back.

"Commander!"

"Yes."

While shooting a strong blow in moderation, Habari jumps away from Soma, after a few steps back, he is left with Minato and Zenjo.

"Habari!"

"Commander, are you safe?"

Habari gives brief instructions to the men who speak to him.

"Rebuild the "Saw Traction Unit". Not everyone can go."

"But Akio is not here!"

Zenjo said that. It was also a word that he said for the other members.

Zenjo and the others understand. The "Saw Traction Unit" is not just a team of powerful swordsmen. It is a fierce precision machine in which individual qualities and unconsciousness are intertwined at the instinct level, it cannot move properly without Akio, one of the gears.

But...

"I will take the place."

When Habari said that, everyone was shocked by the void for a moment and understood immediately.

Certainly, Habari will have sword skill and divine judgment, and Habari Jin will more than make up for the hole Akio Minato has left.

"But, Commander..."

Minato won.

The "Saw Traction Unit" is, so to speak, the "king's alternate force" in clan fighting, and it is the end of the story that the "Blue King" himself joins it. In the unlikely event that they are killed outright with the "Red King", it can unleash an unprecedented disaster, the "outbreak of royalty".

"Yes, Minato."

Habari responded with Minato's will.

"Today we cannot fight Kagutsu. This battle is our defeat. So..."

Habari turned the tip of the saber toward Soma.

"Today's ultimate goal is to seize the head of 'Purgatory' executive, Hitoshi Soma, and retire."

"Oh."

Zenjo, Azuma, Bado, Chidjiwa, and Daiba resumed in anger and fighting spirit.

It was a reasonable place to end the battle that Akio lost.

"The same order."

"I will need your eyes again."

Minato leaning forward was controlled by Habari's words and Zenjo's hand.

"Go ahead, Minato. Now, I'll get souvenirs in the fall."

Zenjo was sharpening his fangs to laugh. There was only anger in his eyes.

The words ran out and the remaining killing intent focused on Soma with a sharp eye.

"Really."

Soma coughed with a smile on the edge of his mouth.

A chunk of ash fell from the tip of the cigarette.

"Everyone, draw your swords!"

They have already drawn their swords. Members of the "Saw Traction Unit" ceremonially repositioned the swords they had been holding.

Zenjo has a saber, Azuma has a twin sword, Bado has a spear, and Chidjiwa and Daiba have daggers.

"With a sword, according to heaven, our justice is incomparable. "Saw Traction Unit", mission execution!"

With the command, his specialties were tinged with an extraordinary light. As he spilled the blood that wet the blade, it was blue, strong and glowing brightly, illuminating every corner of the "hole".

The six-body "Saw Traction Unit" has been revived. He was a divinely combative figure who turned anger and murder into light.

Soma got ready for the first time. In the next moment, a series of super speed attacks can turn to dust.

Distrustful of the reassembled "Scepter 4", the black robes that had been rolling in the distance began to move in anticipation of the resumption of the battle.

The tension was building in the room again.

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There is still something.

Minato's consciousness couldn't fully digest the sensation of strange matter in the corner of his thoughts.

First of all, the "Saw Traction Unit" was a perfect wall. It was a unit organized to be a perfect wall. No matter how strange Soma was, there should have been no possibility of attaching him to the ring of blades spinning at high speed.

What killed Akio, an unknown factor that broke the "ring" circulating in the perfect wall should still be in this room.

Minato looked around the "hallway" again. Before, he was paying attention to the position and movement of humans, but now that he's in a winning state, I've also noticed things around him.

Remnants of battle and destruction on the floor and ceiling. A blackout curtain that closes the window. Concrete fragments still remain on the edges of the perforated loose walls.

And he can see that furniture like sofas, tables, and shelves were the living space of "Purgatory".

Part of the view is hidden behind the pillars. Minato moved carefully and changed his mind.

Akio had fallen there.

"....."

Minato snuck under Akio, hiding in the shadows.

He hugged her body from behind, but she wasn't breathing and he wasn't ready to move. From the amount of bleeding around her and the huge wounds that pierced her while burning her heart, he was sure that she had died instantly.

A long saber rolls beside him. Akio's favorite sword, "Shiden".

It is not an offensive or defensive attitude. It is a situation that makes him imagine how she was suddenly beaten and killed with one blow.

There were no scratches on her face, and the wide-eyed expression remained as it was.

A slight expression of surprise.

Even if she was attacked by an enemy, she would have reflexively avoided him and blown him head off with a flash of "Shiden". That was the reason why she was selected as a member of the "Saw Traction Unit", and her qualities.

What surprised Akio? What kind of enemy could she not respond to?

Minato surveyed the surroundings while being aware of Akio's point of view.

Half-eaten pizza on the low table. A gaming machine is hooked up to a big screen television near the wall and a controller is lying around.

Do black clothes play games?

When he thought that...

"Uncle, what are you doing?"

He hears a voice from behind.

Minato looked back. A knife that slides from his sleeve into the palm of his hand pierces the enemy's heart the next moment. That was the moment.

But...

Minato's hand stopped when he saw the black clothes behind him.

It was a fatal delay in reaction.

In front of Minato was a young man, not a boy, but he was under 20 years old.

The sleeves of a black suit that he is not used to wearing are rolled up.

In fact, a poor intelligent student than a member of a violent organization.

It reminded him of his twin sons waiting at home.

The other day when their high school uniforms were tried on, they both appeared to be wearing uniforms.

"Is it too big?" Says Minato.

"They'll be big soon.", Akio replied.

Then, Minato understood.

"Akio, you too... you saw this kid."

"Ha, what is that, idiot?!"

The boy's fist was covered in red flames along with his forearms.

An extraordinarily strong fist pierced Minato's chest. He couldn't allow him to speak.

In a short time before he collapses to the ground, his eyes are quickly defeated and his vision closes to darkness.

A child's voice was heard from above the fallen Minato.

"Hey, this is two stars."

Then another boy, probably the same age, called.

"He was about to die now. Satsuki, it was dangerous too."

"I don't feel like I'm going to lose to him."

"He thought you were a boy and was not careful."

"I am not a child."

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"Minato!"

From somewhere far away, Zenjo's voice is heard.

"Wait, Zenjo."

The commander stopped Zenjo.

"Zenjo, now, focus on Soma."

Is this a member of Kagutsu?

"If you defeat Soma, you can do anything else."

The voice is far away. It's like saying something of a swordsman.

This may be a scene he need to stop.

The "Saw Traction Unit" is dangerous equipment that tends to run out of control.

Above all, because the commander is also interesting and inspiring.

The group is also constantly fighting.

"Habari!"

Something suddenly became noisy.

"This sign... he's the one."

Commander.

"Wow, it's finally here."

Soma looks.

A wave of sound. The opening voice of "Purgatory" that shakes the space.

"Come on, ours."

The boy's excited voice.

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"Oh, I can't hear it anymore. Something vibrates on the ground... don't distract me."

What the hell was he talking about?

He wondered if that boy was saying, "I'm not a boy."

What happens? If he thinks he have grown up, he is still a child. That age is very difficult.

"Akio, what do you think?"

"Stupid, do you really want to deal with kids?"

"Oh, not at all. Exactly correct."

"You are a kind person. And always make the right decisions."

"There is no mistake in the important things in front of you, the things you must protect and order."

"Today and in the future."

"Where will you go next?"

"As always, I'll jump as I want."



"Of course, I am with you."

### **EXTRA: SHIKARABA, COMPANION CAPTURE FESTIVAL**

He was surprised because her little body jumped three times more than he expected.

That was the first impression of her.

From the moment he met her, she was like a lot of surprises to him.

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The girl on the tennis court looked to be the age of a high school student.

When the relatives of the people involved came to visit the magnificent interuniversity circle, they were asked, "Would you like to try it out for a while?" Standing in a simple T-shirt and leggings reminded him of a high school or high school PE class. He said that was an absolute beginner in tennis and was the first to hold a racket.

The right to draw was correctly transferred and the girl lifted the draw. He didn't know how strong she was, obviously too strong.

Then...

The girl hit the ball. The flight time was long and it seemed that time had stopped in midair.

Both the height and the shape resembled volleyball spikes. It was a more powerful serve than the professional players you see on television, but with more momentum than necessary. That did not enter the service court.

Standing face to face was a senior in the circle. A tall and gregarious man, he was the central figure in the circle, but he also had a bad reputation for blatantly changing his attitude depending on the opponent.

Minato thought it was not good to judge people by rumors, but the other day he saw him leading a rookie who wanted to join the club with a high pressure game. After being shaken left and right, the girl, whose body was crushed, withdrew that day.

Laughing without fear.

"I'm qualifying to keep the circle level low. Misunderstandings are eliminated."

In fact, he was a disgusting person. Even now, on the court, he still had the same laugh and smile.

She hit the laughing face directly, "Senbetsu.", and fell backwards.

"What's up, get up?"

The girl pointed at "Senbetsu" with a racket.

"Is that all? If you don't say an answer, I'll issue another."

When she received a replacement ball at her feet, the students who were gathering around "Senbetsu" suddenly scattered.

"That's it, that's it."

Minato ran as he waved his hand and held the racket.

"Oh? What is it?"

The girl looked at Minato. Her big eyes gleamed on her angry flushed face.

"You don't need to chase."

After a while, "Senbetsu" weakly raised his hand. From the hollow of the other hand that held his face, blood was pouring out. It was a gesture of "surrender."

"Hmm, that's right... this is one."

The girl finally lowered her racket and proclaimed loudly towards "Senbetsu" that still couldn't stand up.

"I won, misunderstanding."

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When Minato changed his clothes and walked out of the playground, the girl he saw earlier was walking forward. She had a shirt hanging down and was carrying a gym bag. She looked like a high school student returning from club activities.

He was a little concerned, so he called her.

"Oh, are you leaving already?"

Due to the height difference, he became like talking to the girl's head, but she talked about simple circumstances along the way, she was willing to talk to Minato.

"He made my classmate cry. That guy is a college student."

"Hah."

(Was that guy a college student? So he would be as old as me. He doesn't look like that.), he thought.

"So, in revenge..."

"No, I came to win or lose."

"Success or failure."

It was a word that he only hears in historical drama.

"I'm going to become a man in town, and I show up here and there, but wherever I go, I have a hand. A smiling, unpleasant, or just plain disgusting guy. That kind of thing. Not as an existence."

"Hah..."

"That's why I'm going to go through a few more today. Follow me."

"Well, that... success or failure?"

"Yes."

"Oh, I'm sorry."

Minato also heard rumors that "a scary and fierce chibi was making noise in circles here and there". Sure enough, this girl was the rumored teacher?

"If you help fight, I won't.", Minato said.

"It's wrong. You're the one stopping me.", said the girl.

"You came to stop him a little while ago. Well, he was saved. That's hard to draw."

"No, that's..."

Minato explained, feeling a bit uncomfortable.

"For example, the son of a friend. Actually, when he was being bullied by his superior, I was there too, but the singing wall didn't help... So I thought about doing it this time. Well, this time I helped the opposite person."

"Take care of more people in that condition."

"Eh?"

"So if I'm about to overdo it, stop me from the side at the right time."

In the field the older brother of the family was in charge...

(So I think it's going to be an exaggeration now.), Minato thought.

"Well, don't force it."

Seeing Minato patrolling, the girl quickly started walking forward.

"If you don't come, come back quickly. See you."

"Oh, yeah."

He didn't want to go back. He was invited into the circle by one person, but the air didn't fit very well and he was planning to leave it anyway due to the older of him. He just greeted a few acquaintances and left.

However, he did not want to follow her silently. To say the least, this girl was either a troublesome girl or a troublemaker. It was better not to get involved.

He already imagined it.

"For now, why don't you try drinking tea around and calm down a bit?"

He may have been hit by her unexpectedly. Although he was a bit reluctant, it was a word that didn't come out of him on a daily basis.

"Eh?"

The girl stopped. Eyes widening, she looked back.

"Tea or coffee. Are you going to invite me?"

"Well that's not the case, but it's okay."

There were parks and vending machines in the neighborhood. At the moment, the bench was enough to sit on, but if she wanted to go to a restaurant somewhere, he wondered if he would be okay hanging out with her that long.

The girl looked around Minato's entire body with an unreserved look. From the top to the bottom, from the bottom to the top.

Perhaps the behavior of "nampa" touched the inverse scale of her.

Minato was stiff and on his feet.

"You are an ant."

The girl suddenly started bouncing. The destination was the park in front of him, no, the little building inside.

"What happened suddenly? Toilet?"

When Minato asked hastily, the girl shook her sports bag and pointed to the public restroom.

"Hey, I'll change my clothes there."

"Change your clothes?"

The girl stopped again as if she had suddenly been slowed down. The face he looked at again was flushed.

"Because... I don't want to date in a T-shirt."

"Eh?"

(Is it a date? Do you care about your clothes? That shy face?), he thought.

At that moment, a series of little surprises went through his head, but what surprised Minato the most was that she unexpectedly had a pretty face.

It was he who thought that way.

"Is different?"

Before the girl that he thought she was brave, he confirmed with his superior eyes.

"No, I wonder if it fits... maybe.", Minato replied.

"What is "maybe"?"

"Sorry, that's right. Correct answer."

He hurried up and rephrased the answer, making a friendly laugh.

"Okay."

The girl also laughed. It was a bright smile, as if the sun was suddenly shining around her.

She was the first person with countless brilliance that would color Minato's life beyond that point.

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After that, they continued to make the right decision together.

Her emotions were so rich that she overflowed from her small body, always angry, sad, laughing and acting faster than Minato.

He was surprised by her thousands and tens of thousands of times, and he was convinced each time.

In the end, that was always the correct answer.