

～栄転飛躍編～

3

Kiyuna Toto  
喜友名トト

# 悪の組織の 求人広告



MFブックス

# **The Evil Organization's Recruitment Ad**

**- Aku no Soshiki no Kyuujinkoukoku -**

**- Volume 3 -  
Special Conquest  
- Ramone -**

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# CHAPTER 23

## EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU

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The sound of silence echoed throughout the plane. Anice was energetically talking a while ago, but she soon got tired and went for a nap. Niina was already drinking beer before the plane took off, and passed out mid-flight. Neito decided to review the intelligence gathered before they arrive in the special region.

[Tsurugi-san, could you pass me the files?]

[Boss...]

[Oh, sorry.] Tsurugi, pass me the files.]

[Understood.]

As Tsurugi passed the files, Neito started reading them.

Special Region: Okinawa

There are two reasons why Okinawa was considered as a “Special Region”.

One: There was an existing evil force besides Metallica that existed in the island.

They were Non-human creatures called “The Santana”. Though lacking Intel on them, they were generally living the sea bed and feed on human souls.

Neito didn’t know if humans have souls, but the population in Okinawa was attacked several times throughout the years. Those who were attacked ended up in a state of coma.

The Santana doesn’t choose which individual to feast on. In other words, whether you are a normal civilian, a Guardian, or a Metallica member, they’ll still come at you. Further Intel has revealed that the stronger the individual is, the more likely they are to come at you. This has been a thorn on Metallica’s side since squads sent over are constantly being ambushed buy the Santana.

As a result, Metallica cannot fully exercise their power in the island of Okinawa.

Two: A strong Guardian is situated in the island. He is identified by the name “Ramone”,

He doesn’t leave the island and is said to get his powers from the sun and sea. Intel has confirmed that his capabilities were real. They identified it as an extension on “Shamanism” to a certain degree. With unlimited energy supply, he is able to exercise dominance over the island.

Ramone’s objective is to protect the people in the island. This of course, includes protecting them from Metallica.

Metallica’s situation is further complicated by the Guardian situated in the island in addition to dealing with the Santana.

Metallica’s usual tactics were to infiltrate, sabotage and overwhelm the enemy in surprise. They were not able to exercise those tactics in the special region.

Because of the reasons mentioned above, Metallica has dubbed Okinawa as a “Special Region”.

[Fuu... This is quite troublesome.]

Neito reevaluated the dangers imposed in the special region.

[That’s not like you... Our mission in Okinawa is just to secure a foothold in the region. I doubt it would be really difficult.]

[Yeah, If that’s the only case.]

[Which means?]

[Tsurugi, I don’t plan on just securing a foothold in the region.]

[... I understand now. As expected of you. I agree with your idea.]

*Why end the mission on just securing a foothold in the region? I’ll crush both Ramone and the Santana. That should spread Metallica’s influence in the nearby areas too. It may be called a special region, but in the end, it’s just an island. If I were to conquer the world,*

*this island should be nothing.*

[Tsurugi, do you have battle experience with the Santana?]

[Yes. I fought with them twice.]

[Are they strong?]

[They are certainly strong. I was risking my life when I fought with them.]

[If I were to go on head to head with one of them, do you think I could win?]

[You boss? Please stop joking. You would last for about a minute. Niina would only last ten seconds.]

[That's quite unexpected... You're making me scared now. I'm about to cry.]

Of course, they were aiming to conquer Okinawa. What's scary is scary. He wanted to take a leak.

If that's how strong the Santana are, Ramone who fought with them was much more impressive than. Neito's feet started shaking.

[You really are a mysterious person. When an opportunity presents itself, you become a totally different person. Other than that time, you're the opposite.]

[I can't help it... When we arrive at the island, can you train me up a bit?]

[Understood.]

[I just can't get my finger around it.]

[Metallica's plane regulations are quite normal. How about it? I'm not Niina, but would you care to accompany me for a drink?]

Tsurugi brought out a jar of sake.

[Aa, I'll join you.]

As they started drinking, Tsurugi kept silent all the time. Neito began to feel sorry for

not starting a conversation.

[Nate...Mmnmnn~]

[What is it....? She's sleep talking?]

[Ummm~...Love you... Introduce you...Papa...]

For some reason Anice had a terrifying plan while sleep talking.

[Fu~]

[Now don't you dare laugh]

[Sorry boss. But this is actually good for you. Someone like Anice-san fell for you. I'm certain why she's into you]

Neito thought of protesting, it wasn't like Tsurugi was gay, but he knew there was something people found in him that made them think that way.

[...Each and every one of you...]

Neito didn't hope too much. The day he would be it would be the day he would die. Until then, he'll live his life the best he can.

It turns out Maki would be participating in this year's humanoid construction competition this year and Ikeno was reassigned to the *Global Level Management* section.

*I can't lose to them...*

Neito drank all the sake in his cup all at once, and held out his cup to Tsurugi for another round.

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Komori Neito

General Affairs Department (Level 1)

Second Sales Department (Level 2)

Okinawa Branch Office Head (Level 3)

Following: Manager Class (Level 4), Section (Department) Chief Class (Level 5), and Managing Director (Level 6).

## CHAPTER 24

# I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU GUYS THEN

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Neito immediately noticed something after arriving.

The Okinawa branch office had too many problems.

Firstly, the morale was at an all time low. The guys from general affairs, as well as the branch manager, were not even motivated to conquer the island.

*I don't blame them... After all, they're facing two powerful forces...*

[Ah, you're the new section chief? How unfortunate that you got sent away to this far away island. But it's going to be okay. If you can hold out for two years, you'll be transferred again. You don't need to do anything here.]

He mentioned that his name was Ooshiro. From the looks of it, he was a native to the region. Smiling without a care in the world, he was always in a good mood.

[Ah, good work today chief. What? Training? Well yeah, we do it, but I doubt we'll be encountering any battles soon, so...ah, no, we'll fight if it comes to it.]

So far, they go out threatening local businesses and gangs for money. If they screw up and reveal themselves carelessly, the Santana would immediately hunt for them. Also, if Ramone found out about them, there'd be no guarantee of their safety. They were in no position to act against the two strong forces that were situated on the island.

This got Neito thinking.

*We're dealing against a strong enemy, but I mostly have weak subordinates. The branch office is not functioning as it should, and we have no reliable support from the main office... I might as well rot on the island like these guys...*

*What's the purpose of this branch anyway? They're practically useless...* Thoughts entered his mind, but seeing as how Metallica considered Santana as a huge threat to their operations in the region, there must be a reason why he was sent here.

Neito understood their situation after being assigned for a few days as the Branch Chief.

However, he didn't plan on rotting on the island for the next few years. He thought of saying [Get your spirits up, men! We're conquering this island!] as a way to boost morale, but he doubted that it would work.

After giving it a thought, he came to a decision.

It's not like you can force someone to be motivated. That was obvious. That's why he needed to find a way – a way to defeat those two powerful forces in the island.

But in reality, Neito didn't have the required fighting power to deal with both threats. He was more suited for office work than for being on the field and fighting.

[...And that's why, I'll be giving you individual tasks from now on.]

He needed all the help he could get from his team. The heads of the branch were him, Tsurugi, Anice and Niina. At once, they held a meeting to discuss their plans.

[Eeh? Senpai, are you really serious on taking down that Ramone? That's normally impossible... Let's just go with whatever happens...]

Niina was quick to adapt to his environment. He already was used to swimming in Okinawa waters.

[Don't say that, Niina. I'm not asking you to go one on one with Ramone. The only thing I want you to do is gather information.]

[And analyze it?]

[Yeah, it has been a few years since Ramone and the Santana appeared in the island. They've fought each other on more than one occasion. After fighting each other for many years, there should be some footage and records about them. I want you to search for those and report to us anything peculiar that we must know, anything we can use against them or any strategy that would be effective. I know you're smarter than me, so I doubt you'll have a hard time.]

[...Aah, well, I'll do it, but... what about the information not revealed to the public?]

It was clearly a question that someone who wasn't used to the 'evil' ways of the company would ask.

[That's easy. Just find the one in charge, and force it out of them. How do you think someone would react if dangerous looking people from our branch suddenly surrounded them with weapons? They'd immediately spill the beans.]

[...Woah, you're a real vicious one, Senpai. I'm not even sure if I'll be able to do it...]

Niina was expressing himself light-heartedly. Perhaps it's because he adapts so easily.

[And that's where you'll come in Anice. You'll be going with Niina as a team. Lay down the honey trap and wait for your targets. Anice will handle the execution, while Niina is in charge of analyzing the information gathered.]

[Yeah! But, I won't be too reckless. Will you still be fine with that?]

Anice certainly had high fighting capabilities. She was also used to doing evil while looking innocent. On the surface, she was just a cheerful and beautiful young lady (well, that was the impression everybody got) and she can easily move around without raising any suspicion.

[For you, Tsurugi-san... Ah, wait. Tsurugi, for now you'll pair up with me. We're going into town. We're going to investigate the places where the Santana was seen and the places where Ramone fought with them. This may sound dangerous, but are you up for it?]

The intel they had before arriving was becoming more useful. The Santana had mostly been attacking strong people such as sports athletes, Guardians and, in rare cases, professional Knights. Again, these attacks were mostly done near the seashore.

In other words, the possibility of them being attacked was also quite high.

[Hmph, Boss. I'm entrusting my life to you. I'll go with you. If you say "do it", then I'll do it with no questions.]

Tsurugi's voice was calm and clear. He didn't hesitate at all.

[... Is that so? Then I'll be in your care.]

[Understood.]

With this, their meeting came to an end. In order for them to spread the grasp of evil, they needed information. Information against your enemy was very important.

[Alright, I'll leave to you guys then. This is our first step. If we don't succeed in this, then we can't move our guys in our branch. I'm counting on you guys.]

With betrayal, lies and surprise attacks as the basics, Neito was used to crushing opponents who showed any form of weakness.

## CHAPTER 25

# THE SUN! THE SEA! COME TO MY AID!

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It took Neito the whole morning to issue orders to his subordinates in the branch. So, it was already in the late afternoon when he went to the beaches with Tsurugi. There were reports of a marathon runner being attacked a few days ago.

[Not a single trace of humans here...]

[That's obvious. It is a restricted area after all, and there's the threat of being attacked by the Santana. It would be illogical for a mere civilian to come to this area.]

The sound of waves was heard throughout the entire beach. He was together with a thirty year old man under the starry night sky. This was too much of a cliché to him, that he decided to ignore the situation.

*Anyway, there isn't anyone looking at us.*

[There's not much we can get here, And the Santana aren't probably going to appear either. We should start heading home.]

[I agree. Niina has apparently found something interesting. Let's go and hear his report then.]

A moment ago, the beach was calm with the waves beating up the shore. Suddenly, the sound changed into a constant splashing. Something was approaching them.

[! Boss, look out!]

[...Aa]

Changing stance, they turned towards the sounds. Then...

There they were.

Their distinct figure was clearly visible.

They must have come from underwater.

[...Takko,Takko...](*TL: They sound like that...I guess that's equal to a Murlock's gurgling sound*)

It was a mysterious yet creepy sound.

Their whole body was covered in blue scales, and their feet were those like of a scuba diver's fins. They were moving their mouths quite a lot, but it seemed like they were only giving out nonsensical sounds. Their height was about two meters tall.

Fish-men.

Neito read a detailed report about the Santana, but those reports couldn't fully grasp what he was seeing now.

It creeped him out. The sound of [Takko, Takko] was constantly heard, and one by one, they emerged from underwater. There were a total of six Santana that emerged from underwater. One of them was particularly bigger than the rest and had bluer scales.

*He must be their leader huh?*

The larger one was wearing something like a wristband.

[...Takko...Takko...Strong...Souls...Must...take]

[!... Did they... just say [Take]? And not [eat]?]

[...Give it... Before Ramone... Comes...]

There were some un-understandable parts, but most of the words spoken had a meaning. This wasn't mentioned in the reports....

[Shall we do it Boss?]

Tsurugi put his hand on the hilt of his katana.

[Wait Tsurugi...A-...Ehem!]

Neito faked a cough.

[Umm... You're the Santana right?]

[... Takko... Takko...]

[My name is Neito.]

[Boss?!]

Tsurugi unexpectedly raised his voice. But, to Neito, this was the most obvious thing to do. If they are intelligent enough to abduct any person for his soul instead, then their battle capabilities must be high, they can't possibly get away easily. The situation had changed. The Santana were able to speak human language.

[...Takko...]

[I have a proposal for you]

[Pro...posal?]

It seems that they can hear him clearly. It was pointless to run away, but they were still cautious with him and Tsurugi.

[Tell me your objective. Aren't you going to devour the souls?]

[...Takko... Gather... Souls... Rebuild... Castle...]

*They seem to have a common goal by gathering human souls. Gather the souls and [rebuild] their castle? What the heck is going on?*

[Tell us more about your plans. We may be able to assist-]

[Takkkkooooo!!]

Neito wasn't able to finish his sentence. Their leader ignored Neito's words, and let out a deafening howl. They started approaching Neito and Tsurugi aiming for an attack.

[Dammit!!]

They were fiercely fast. As soon as they stepped onto the beach, sand exploded as they

accelerated towards them. Their leader swung his scaly arms, aiming for a decisive hit. They were supposed to go for the strongest first, but for some reason, their leader went for Neito and not Tsurugi. Neito had no plans on getting hit.

[Tsurugi!]

[Understood!]

Tsurugi quickly reacted to Neito's words. Unsheathing his blade, he swiftly deflected the attack.

*Gang-!*

The sounds of blade clashing echoed throughout the beach. The sand around them was flying in every direction.

[...You mere Fish-men!... I won't let you touch my Master!]

Tsurugi pushed the Santana back.

[That was close. You have my gratitude Tsurugi.]

[No problem boss... But, at this rate... Boss, I'll hold them here. You go and get away as far as possible...]

Neito knew what Tsurugi meant. There were six of them and two of us. There was no chance of winning. At this point, they were going to be defeated. But, Neito noticed something.

[... That may seem like what a villain would do, but there's no need to do that.]

[Wha-?]

Neito stepped back away from the sand and pointed towards the wave barriers.

There was a figure of a man standing near them. His face wasn't visible, but he looked young. From his silhouette, he was wearing beach pants and a T-shirt. His getup was quite rough, but you can clearly see that it was a person.

[Boss... Who is he? ... Is he ...?]

The man's right hand was burning. Literally. As the words imply, his right fist was on fire. His left fist was also abnormal. Water was swirling around his left fist.

[Takko! Takko!! Ramone! Ramone!! Takkoo!]

The Santana were panicking.

[That's quite a dangerous thing you're having there! Don't worry, leave everything to me!]

The man, maintaining his calm vibe, raised his voice and continued

[The Sun! The Sea! Come to my aid! Haa-!]

The man, along with his words leap towards them. His right fist was burning more fiercely while the water in left fist formed into a blade with a shape of a cross.

Under the dazzling night sky, the man changed his appearance.

Neito was bedazzled by the bright light.

He wasn't some faker or a bluff.

*I don't know how much significance there is in displaying the supernatural powers, but his power is undeniable.*

*Beetle was a tough and serious guy but this man's dignity goes beyond him. He feels manlier. And that was kinda cool.*

[Here I come, Santana! I won't let you do as you please!]

With the protection from the sun and sea spirits, Ramone revealed himself in the southern part of the island.

# CHAPTER 26

## THAT'S AMAZING.

### YOU REALLY ARE PROFICIENT AT THIS

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[Uriyaa-!]

After leaping from the wave barriers, Ramone dashed near the Santana, coming in a ten metre range of them.

[Haa-!]

The leader who was facing Tsurugi, immediately rushed towards Ramone, doing an attack like a spinning tornado.

*Bang!*

The sound-waves echoed throughout the beach, and the Santana were pushed back to the shorelines.

[?]

During that moment, Neito noticed something peculiar.

After the Santana were pushed back, the wristband that their leader wore shone brightly in a deep blue color. Among them, two beads shining more brightly than the rest flew away from the beach.

[Only two? I know you guys have about twenty in reserve. Hurry up and summon all of them!]

Apparently, Ramone knew what was going on.

[Kukko! Kukko! Ramone! Defeat! Defeat!]

[Ha-! This perfect! Come at me all at once! ... Err, can you guys run to a safer place?]

Apparently, Ramone identified Neito and Tsurugi as common civilians. (Even though

Tsurugi was wielding a katana and fighting with the Santana.)

*Can it be? This guy is too innocent?*

Neito hesitated for a moment, but this was perfectly normal (considering the situation they were in).

*Maybe it is because he is strong, that he can naturally say those things to the people who are attacked by the Santana...*

*Of course, everything would change if he knew that we are from Metallica.*

[T-Thank you very much! Do your best Ramone!]

*It would be too disadvantageous for us to declare him as an enemy here.*

Neito honey coated his word to fit what a normal civilian would say.

[But Boss...]

[D-Don't call me that Mister...! I'm just a kid in the neighborhood... Stop calling me "boss"!]

Neito pretended to scold Tsurugi, and immediately withdrew from the area.

After gaining some distance, they were in between the seashore and the forest. They observed the battle from the safety of the forest.

In terms of battle capabilities, Ramone and the Santana were equal. But apparently, Ramone had the upper hand here. With his burning fists and his karate techniques, he was pushing the six Santanas back.

The Santana projected their scales and fired strong water currents as a projectile from their mouths, but Ramone was superior. Neito wasn't an expert on martial arts, but he knew Ramone was a master in the art of karate.

But, it couldn't be said that victory would come easily. Ramone would sometimes get hit by the attacks of the six Santanas.

[What do you think Tsurugi? Ramone and the Santana's fighting capabilities?]

[Well for one, Ramone will win this fight. If the Santana had more numbers, then it would have been a different story.]

*Tsurugi is strong. His evaluation skills are certainly more refined...*

[How many Santanas will it take to defeat Ramone?]

[Hmm... nine? No, maybe ten would make their fighting capabilities equal. Anything more than that, Ramone would have a hard time.]

[.....]

[Boss?]

[No, this is enough. Let's withdraw.]

Neito thought that conquering Okinawa would be impossible, but now he can see the light at the end of the tunnel.

The day after they encountered Ramone, Niina said something unusual. There was something peculiar in the analyzed data. He wanted them to hear his report. Neito gathered up his squad members into the conference room.

[You already have collected information? That's was quite fast.]

[Hehehe. Well, ever since we started investigating, things turned out to be more interesting than expected.]

Niina lacked sleep, and his face was fatigued. But there were signs of excitement in him. He was in a drowsy mood, but something kept him up.

[Well, it's been a while since I got this serious!]

[Anice did her best too! Niina was too afraid on collecting the information himself, so Anice went with the guys from G.A (General Affairs Dept.).]

[Wha-, give me a break Anice-san!]

Anice was posing with an [Ei!], making herself more appealing.

*They most likely acquired the information through illegal methods... well, that's that.*

*Now thinking about it, Niina should be older than Anice, but he's using keigo. Well I guess that's also fine.*

*(TL Note: Keigo – the act of speaking politely towards elders/someone superior)*

[A-Umm. Anice is a good girl.]

Neito patted Anice's head.

[Ehehehe.]

Since Anice was all in smiles, they continued their meeting.

[Then? What did you find Niina?]

[Ui—s. Well, look at this data.]

Niina did something on the computer and projected the data on the screen.

[This is the data for the past two years for the cases of coma within Okinawa. In other words, the victims of the Santana's attacks. This information was acquired from the police.]

Over two years, four hundred and fifty people were attacked.

*Thinking about it, it's an unusually high number. Even with that kind of fighting power, Ramone had a limit to how many he could protect.*

[Then, this is the data for those who woke up from the coma.]

*It's a weird case, but after being attacked by the Santana, human souls are stolen thus ending up in a state of coma. There were cases of some victims in the state of coma recovering from it. I already know this. In the past two years, twenty-two people woke up. Comparing it with the total attacked victims, that is a small number.*

[This point is important, but please look at the day when they woke up in the hospital. I'll display it on the screen.]

On the screen was a calendar. Those days when someone awakened from coma were marked in circle.

[...? I don't get it Niina.]

[Wait a second there, Tsurugi-san. Take a look at this first. The next data are the days when Ramone and the Santana were confirmed fighting. There were a hundred and twenty-two occasions when they fought.]

The screen once again projected a calendar. Circles marked the days someone when woke up, and triangles marked the days when Ramone and the Santana fought. The circles and triangles overlapped with each other.

[...! This is...]

[So you finally noticed Senpai. Yes. The days that someone would wake were the days where Ramone fought with the Santana.]

There were one hundred and twenty-two occasions where Ramone fought with the Santana. The days when the twenty-two patients awakened were perfectly aligned with the days Ramon fought with the Santana. This was certain.

[Also, the twenty-two who woke up from the coma woke up within one month after they fell into the comatose state. Anybody who was in coma for more than one month died due to the body being too weak.]

[I see...]

[At first, I thought this was our greatest discovery, but there were more interesting things than that.]

Niina let out more information.

*The Santana started moving on the year 2111, which is exactly four years ago, on November 11. At that same year and same date, something famous happened in Okinawa.*

*An ancient monolith was discovered in the seabed near Okinawa. For some reason, as soon as the investigation on the ancient monolith started, it suddenly started crumbling apart.*

*With regards to this event, Niina was suggesting [Maybe it has something to do with it somehow? Because they're sakana-man after all] or something like that.*

*(TL Note: Sakana : Fish)*

*The following information was also important.*

*When people first encountered the Santana, their numbers were confirmed to be ten creatures. But, after the battle with Ramone, they decreased by one and only nine were left.*

*After that, there were reports of them increasing and decreasing in number. Since there were no sightings of them being more than ten, Niina suggested [Maybe they can only increase themselves up to a number of 10. 10 is probably their max number. Maybe it's something like "law of mother nature" or "genetic restriction".]*

[That's about it.]

Niina concluded his report.

[Good job. That's amazing. You really are proficient at this. I was honestly surprised.]

Neito spoke from the bottom of his heart.

*As expected of someone who passed the entrance exam with high marks...*

Maybe it was attitude, enthusiasm or something in that corner that made him feel less superior. Neito understood himself well.

[Now now, what with the face? Finding more ways to compliment your subordinate maybe?]

[No, you're really amazing... Then, from your point of view, what do you think of the data so far?]

[What about it?]

[No. Well, any strategies? Ways to conquer Okinawa? If you come up with something I'll be here to listen.]

[? I haven't thought that much...]

[Not even once?]

[Not even once.]

[Is that so? Well, good work. You can go and take a rest now. You can take a nap in the break room.]

[Eh? Are you sure?]

[Yeah. Good work. You did well. You were amazing.]

Neito wasn't used to having subordinates. He wasn't great at conveying his ideas, so he just said it as honest as he could.

[.....]

Niina hesitated for a moment, then brightening up his mood, replied in a small voice.

[...Thanks]

[A-.Umm. Hey, if you're up for it, will you accompany me as my drinking partner today? Oh, I forgot. You weren't up for those kinds of things.]

Niina said that his work is separated from his private life. Remembering this, Neito withdrew his offer.

[... Is it your treat, Senpai? ... if that's the case, then I'll accompany you]

Niina replied rejoicefully.

[Oh, then let's go.]

*My salary isn't that high, but I don't mind treating him for free today. It's thanks to him that we are able to gather this much information. The conquest can finally start.*

Neito knew information that Niina didn't possess. Adding up today's information, Neito started thinking.

*In yesterday's battle, the Santana, after receiving Ramones attack, lost two flying brightly shining beads. Ramone mentioned [Two people huh?]*

“

[Gather... Souls... Castle, rebuild....]

[Give it... Before... Ramone comes...]

“

*The Santana definitely said those words.*

*They are collecting souls for a purpose. And it is possible to get the taken souls back in a short period of time. The Santana apparently tries to avoid a battle with Ramone. Then...*

[Ku-kuku-...]

He unconsciously let out a laugh.

[Senpai? Are you alright?]

[Aa-, no, it's nothing.]

[Is that so... For a moment there, your face expressed something like a “demon” or some sort of absolute evil.]

*Niina's words... Well, I can't deny it. It's true in a sense.*

[Nate? Is it possible that you found another villainous way to solve this?!]

*(TL: It's obvious, but if you ever encounter “Nate” in the dialogue. It's Anice speaking)*

Anice knew Neito for quite some time now. Anice easily saw through Neito's intentions. Neito displayed a sinister smile.

*No doubt she can easily guess what I have in mind if she saw my face.*

[Well, just a little something...]

*Yes, it's just as you think. I'll defeat the Santana and Ramone in one go. In some points of view, it is considered an absolute evil, but I'm from Metallica, and orders are orders. I'm gonna conquer the special region Okinawa.*

*Even if they're cold blooded creatures or an island hero, I'll crush them. I'll crush anybody that gets in my way. I'll show no mercy.*

*But can I really do it?*

*No, there is no choice. I have to do it.*

*I'll become a villain. Become a bastard if it comes to it.*

He felt the black flame inside him rapidly igniting, anticipating the incoming battle.

# CHAPTER 27

## I'M JUST A PLAIN OLD VILLAIN

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*Foreword: This chapter frequently changes the point of view to which the events occur.*

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Niina was assigned to his Senpai, Komori Neito. He considered him to be one of a kind.

He didn't look that strong, and there were some parts he was lacking. In his opinion, he was one of those "weak" individuals. It was quite hard to believe that he passed the entrance exam with his third rate appearance. Although he orders Tsurugi around, it seemed like he was pushing himself to do so.

While being that kind of man, He managed to defeat the Rock's Organization's Elite Dylan, as well as the high tech Beetle, even capturing the Harrison research facility.

At first, he thought that he was just a lucky guy. Niina was sure luck played a huge part in it. He surely possessed high amounts of luck. But he recently noticed that luck was just a small part of it. He noticed that Tsurugi wouldn't just follow someone with only luck on their side. And then there's the face he would make. A face of a true villain.

Maybe he was an incredible person.

On the other hand there was also something mysterious about him. Niina decided never to go out drinking with his fellow co-workers, but for some reason, he ended up accepting the invitation.

[You're a weird person after all...]

He blurted out his thoughts subconsciously, which was weird.

Neito gathered about fifty guys from the branch's G.A. department in the afternoon. The branch was too small to accommodate them, so he rented an auditorium.

*What does he plan on doing...?*

Niina, along with Anice and Tsurugi, weren't informed of the details.

[I'll tell you guys if everything goes according to plan.]

He smiled with that "weak" face of his and proceeded. He was concerned about the plans, but Tsurugi, with all his battle experience, just replied [Understood]. He didn't bother to ask more questions.

[Anice-san, what do you think Senpai is planning to do?]

Niina tried asking Anice.

[I dunno~. But I'm sure he's planning something sinister ♪]

*Thinking about it, Anice-san is also weird.*

*Apparently, she's the daughter of someone famous. Not to mention her beauty, she was about 5 year younger than me... She's probably a high school student.*

*With her unrestrained brown eyes, she looks like a fairy. Apparently she's too busy looking at Senpai. I once asked her what she liked about him, and she replied "cuz he's a really evil guy!" in a cheerful tone.*

[Mnn... it's taking too long. Half an hour has already passed.]

Niina and the others were waiting outside the auditorium.

[Niina, it's the boss' plan. I'm sure there's an explanation to be given at the appropriate time. As a man, wouldn't this get you more excited?]

[Hee~i] (TLN: simply means "Okay", but with a carefree touch)

*This guy is also weird. It's like he would commit seppuku for his master... What are you? A modern samurai? Aren't you supposed to come from the mafia? It's like I'm the most normal person in this group...*

[Uuoooh~!]

Loud voice were heard inside the auditorium. It wasn't the voice of a single individual.

*The guys from the G.A. Department?*

Niina clearly heard the cries outside the auditorium. It was a cry that made the air vibrate.

*What the heck is going on?!*

Those weren't cries of fear. He once went to a movie, the cries heard within the auditorium were more like battle cries from soldiers who were going to battle.

After a while, the guys inside the auditorium started coming out. For some reason, everybody was in high spirits.

A few moments later, his Senpai, Komori Neito came out.

[A, sorry about that. For now, we're done.]

[Good work boss.]

[Thanks. I feel bad for making you guys wait. Now, let's proceed to the next phase of our plan...]

[Hmm? Senpai, what's that? A collar?]

Niina noticed Neito wearing a gold-like collar on his neck when he went out of the auditorium.

[Aa, this collar? I'll be wearing this for a month from now on, so don't pay too much attention to it.]

[Haa~ ...] (*TLN: slang for "yeah..."*)

Niina was confused as ever.



(TLN: Back to Neito's point of view.)

One week later, the guys from the G.A Department were proceeding to go near the area of the island "Sete" where the Santana were recently sighted. They stopped their vans and then began to wait. *(TLN: pronounced as Seh-Teh Island)*

The island was connected by bridge from the main Okinawa Island. After the recent battle on the beaches, the Santana were last spotted on Sete Island. The Santana lost one of their kind during that battle. Since the possibility of being attacked was high near the coastal areas, the Sete Island was deemed a danger zone and all entry was prohibited.

But, if you really want to, it was easy to get to Sete Island.

Other than them, only Neito and his group were on the island.

[Yo~. I was waiting for you.]

Neito, sitting on a bench of an abandoned shop, greeted his visitor.

[...Kukko...Kukk-...You...At that time...Strong one...]

It was one of the Santana, facing Neito with its scaly and muscular body.

[I'm strong? You seem to be able to use lip service... Well, I'm just a plain old villain.]

Neito seemed to be at ease during the conversation, but a few moments back, he was scared and was shaking shitless.

But when the time came, the shaking stopped.

*It's always the same... Every time I work towards my goal, I eventually get cured of all the nervousness I feel...*

[We were rudely interrupted by that hot blooded hero last time... Woah! Don't attack me! I'm really scared here. I might die of shock... I know that you guys could kill me anytime, but before that, I have a proposal.]

[...Kukko...Kukko...]

Meeting twice, an individual that wants to talk to them... That's what the Santana are probably seeing in their point of view. They didn't attack Neito, but they remained in a battle/attack stance.

[Thought so... I knew you guys won't easily listen to what I had to say... so I brought you a gift.]

As soon as Neito ended his sentence, the vans opened and from its trunk, five men were tied and were lying inside.

[Kukko!]

The men were breathing. They were alive.

[You guys are collecting human souls right? Here, I'll give them to you. It may not look like it, but I'm affiliated with one of the evil organizations in the world. It's no trouble kidnapping a few humans.]

Cold sweat ran through Neito's back. But there was no way he would let go of his poker face.

[It's not a bad deal right? I don't know why, but Ramone is coming. You don't even have the power to counter his possession of elemental spirits, do you? If that's the case, no wonder Ramone has been able to fend off your attacks in the past years... He may be heading here now...]

[...Why...do such...thing.]

[It's simple. I don't want to be killed by you guys. Don't attack my friends. In exchange I'll give living humans to you as gifts.]

[.....]

In an uninhabited island... the conversation continues between a vile beast and a merciless villain.

[It's not such a bad deal right? You're losing ways to abduct and acquire human souls of Ramone... And your numbers are constantly decreasing...]

[...Kukko...In return...that's all...you ask? ...]

[In return? Well, listen to what I have to say. No, just agree and it would be fine. Don't get all tense up there... I don't have to mention that you guys can kill me anytime when you want... Is there any demerit you would have when you listen to what I have to say? I'm sure there are none.]

Neito decided to go with an [investigation] style of cross reference answer comparing. Hopefully, they should be able to understand what he is saying. Although they spoke in a broken tone, the words are still comprehensible.

“You are collecting souls in order to rebuild your [castle] as your stronghold right?”

*(TLN: this is a question Neito asked the Santana, and below is the conclusion of their reply.)*

He was right. The monolith was apparently their base. As it was discovered, they had to move out. But in order for them to establish a new base, they need raw energy from humans. Apparently, they already had large quantity of energy stored before their base was discovered. Nonetheless, they still needed one months' worth of energy to fully support their construction of a new base.

“You can only increase your numbers to ten. Am I wrong?”

He was also right. The mysterious reason was that they needed to conserve themselves, so they couldn't increase their numbers to more than ten. They had to breed, protect their race, construct their base then collect souls. If given the time, they could breed and increase their numbers to ten. The only way their numbers get deducted are when they fight Ramone.

[I see... I understand. I got the gist of it. Then there's no need to expose yourselves in obtaining human souls. I'll deliver them to you. If you don't fight Ramone, you can increase your numbers right? Since you won't suffer any casualties.]

[...Who...Are you...?]

[I already told you before. I'm just a plain old villain.]

Neito silently laughed under his breath.

[There's no demerit in accepting human gifts right? Ramone strives to protect the inhabitants of this island. We're just a similar elements of evil that Ramone would want to defeat. I don't want to fight with you guys. As fellow villains, let's be friends.]

This was the plan he formulating for the past week.

The Santana took a while to respond but,

[...Understood...We won't...Attack...You...]

After replying, they took the souls of the abducted humans. The Santana proceeded to leave. Falling to the ground after their souls (their raw energy) were taken, they were in a state of coma.

After the Santana left, Tsurugi and Niina ran to him.

[Boss... why?]

[For now... everything went well. That was scary... I thought I was going to die... Niina, give me a blanket... I'm gonna cover myself up for a while. Urgh~, It's damn cold...]

[You really have done it now Senpai... You sure have no mercy.]

[Maybe your right...No...Mercy...]

Niina clearly understood what Neito had done. In order to save himself, he sold out other people's lives to the Santana. That's one thing a villain could only possibly do.

[Umm... what should we do to these guys...? Are we going to... even if we are villains... are we still going to...]

Niina was really concerned.

[Ah, we'll bring those guys to the Metallica medical ward. I already made the arrangements.]

[? Oh, is that so... I thought we were just going to dump them in the ocean... Huh? Medical ward?]

[What the heck are you saying? Dump them into the ocean? That's an absurd thing to

do there. That's not evil. That action is just too pointless.]

[?? Eh? But... pointless...huh?]

[Ah... it's too damn cold... that was really scary. I never want to do it again...]

Neito knew what Niina really meant, but he had no time to explain.

For now,

*I'll make Ramone and the Santana kneel before me. Until then, I can't expose my plans to anybody.*

Wrapping himself up more in the blanket, he was still shaking quite a bit.

Neito still hasn't lost his touch on being a villain.

## CHAPTER 28

### I'LL DEFEAT BOTH OF THEM BY TODAY

---

Three weeks have passed since they started offering human tributes to the Santana. Neito's plans were almost complete. It was either sink or swim. Succeed or die.

After that encounter, Neito along with his subordinates, met with the Santana a few more times. Offering kidnapped humans for their safety, the Santana started to lower their guard towards them. He was now able to set a trap up easily.

The Santana acknowledged that attacking humans would be too risky while Ramone was around. They would avoid any encounters with Ramone as much as possible because there was a possibility that they could get totally wiped out. That's why they accepted Neito's tribute obediently.

On the other hand, the Santana knew perfectly about the evil organization Metallica. They probably interpreted his actions as [a man from Metallica doesn't want us as his enemy. That's why he's offering tributes. Then we'll accept them gratefully. Metallica deals with the surface world, that's why we have no concerns for them.]

That's what they're definitely thinking.

But he wasn't going to leave it to chance. He asked Tsurugi train him for the following days in order to be prepared for the upcoming battle. Training in an abandoned factory, Neito proceeded with a mock battle.

[Go! Fight! Nate!]

Anice was cheering in the sidelines, sitting on a metal drum.

[...Haa...Haa... One more time Tsurugi.]

[E~h?! Senpai, I can't do it anymore. In the first place, we can't possibly match Tsurugi-san's abilities~.]

[It's not good to force yourself Boss. Aside from Niina, you've been at it for a fairly long time now. Rest is also important to one's health.]

[...I understand. One last round then. You can take a break Niina.]

[‘nderstood Senpai~]

*Tsurugi might be my subordinate, but he’s much older and more experienced.*

*We both have a police baton as our weapons.*

*No matter how many times I do it, I can’t land a blow. It’s not like I have bad athletic abilities... Ever since I entered Metallica, I always found time to train myself.*

*Since I was a NEET in the Tokyo area, I also researched about how to defend myself in the internet.*

*Even so, that didn’t help with my current situation.*

[You can come at me from any angle boss.]

*Tsurugi is calm as always. No matter how much I struggle, he still stops all my blows half-heartedly.*

*Damn. How did he become my subordinate again? No, no no. I can’t entertain such thoughts. If such a man found something in me to make him follow me , then I have to fulfil my role.*

[Here I come Tsurugi.]

*Concentrate and think.*

*What are my strengths?*

*I should know that already. This isn’t like the time when I had no self-confidence. I’m a villain. I’ll do anything to win. That’s my strength.*

*Then I’ll show you. My...*

[...The air around you changed quite a bit Boss.]

[...Is that so? Haa!]

Neito proceeded to strike.

But,

Neito's phone suddenly rang. The ringtone set was [no matter what the situation is you need to answer] tone.

[!.... We'll stop here Tsurugi.]

[...Understood...Huh... It seems like I was saved...]

Picking up the phone, Neito looked sideways and saw Tsurugi sweating heavily.

*That's weird... he was calm a while ago.*

[.....?]

*Well, that's that. The call takes the top priority now.*

[Hello. Good work. This is Komori speaking.]

The call was from Metallica's medical facility.

[Yes. Yes. I understand. Then, we'll go as planned. Yes. I wagered a few. Yeah, you can leave the ones that don't move as they are. Yes.]

Ending the call, the time had finally come.

[What happened *Nate*?]

Anice came over to him, wiping his sweat away with a towel. She smelled nice as usual, but he decided to indulge after they finished the day's work.

Neito let out a chuckle.

*No matter how hard I pretend to act tough, I still can't get used to this feeling.*

[Anice, Niina, I'll give you the coordinates on your terminals. Move towards those coordinates after you readied your equipment. Tsurugi, you're coming with me.]

[Un. Understood *Nate!*]

[E~h? What's this all of a sudden... A~! You'll explain it later right?]

[I'll give orders via the mobile terminal. I'll brief you while we're moving.]

Niina and Anice immediately headed for the Branch Office for their equipment.

[What about us Boss?]

Tsurugi already prepared himself for the fight ahead and was waiting for orders.

*As expected of him...*

[Yeah, we don't have much time. We'll head directly to the medical facility. After that we'll proceed to attack.]

Neito didn't fully explain the details to Tsurugi, but Tsurugi's response was swift. Perfectly, he arranged for a car and prepared the equipment.

[We can depart whenever you want Boss. You said we're going on an offensive... Is our target the Santana or...?]

*Taking them down individually is too much hassle.*

Neito responded.

[It's obvious isn't it? I'll defeat both of them by today.]

# CHAPTER 29

## YOU'RE KIDDING ME

---

(Niina's POV)

Niina was certainly confused. The coordinates they were sent to were definitely out of place.

{Coordinate 22- A - 1}

Upon checking, the coordinates pointed underground. Specifically, it was underwater. It was a cave, connecting the surface to an area below the sea. Whether this place had oxygen or not was a mystery. There was also the possibility of dying from a cave-in if there were to be any earthquakes.

And then there were the instructions.

{There will be a long battle occurring when you arrive to the mentioned coordinates. You are not allowed to interfere, but only to observe them from a safe distance. If Kabuto manages to defeat the second party except one, then you are to come in and stop him.}

*(TLN: Kabuto – A headpiece worn by samurai's in medieval japan.)*

*“Kabuto” would be the hero from the south. In other words Ramone. Then “the second party” would be the Santana.*

[What the hell is Senpai thinking...]

[N~. We~ll. I think I got the idea.]

[Eh? Are you serious Anice-san? That's amazing.]

He was walking with Anice inside the dark cave.

Now...

Niina and Anice arrived in the mentioned coordinates. Unexpectedly, the scene they were seeing was just as the prediction had foretold.

[!!! That's Ramone and the Santana!]

Niina almost screamed, but luckily Anice held him back from doing so.

[Niina, Shhh-!]

Holding her finger at her lips, Anice winked at Niina.

[But... Well... umm...]

The scene unfolded in front of him was a huge battle between the hero and the beast.

It was mysteriously well lit inside the cave. In the wide area where the battle was fought, a stone column and an altar were present. A blue light emitted from it. Simultaneously, Ramone's flaming right hand shone brightly, illuminating its surroundings.

There were a total of seven Santanas. Looking closely, there were three of them defeated nearby. Meanwhile, Ramone was also injured.

*It seems like that battle has been going on for quite some time now. The Santana have lost their numbers while Ramone is already out of breath.*

[Uuoohh!]

Ramone leaped high and aimed for the Santana's head.

[Kukko—-!!]

The Santana fired off their scales, damaging Ramone who came in range.

*Both of them seem to be deteriorating...*

Niina never saw such high level fighting. The differences in fighting capabilities were on a whole new level. With their unmatched speed, a single hit towards a normal human would surely kill them.

[...You're kidding me...]

Niina uttered in amazement.

Does Senpai really plan on taking out these guys?

# CHAPTER 30

## OH, HERO FROM THE SOUTH

---

Behind the mask of the hero called Ramone, Kinjou Yuuta protected the inhabitants of the island from the Santana.

Attaching a bracelet passed down by his ancestors onto his wrist, he was able to manipulate spirits, thus giving birth to the hero Ramone. He mastered the art of karate at a young age with the help of his grandfather.

The Santana stole the souls of humans. Yuuta learned that they have been attacking people and stealing their souls since the Ryukyu dynasty (*EDN: The Ryukyu dynasty is the time when an independent kingdom unified and ruled Okinawa and nearby islands. Or so Wiki says*). Yuuta's ancestors also protected the people of the island.

According to the legend, the Santana had stopped appearing after a certain time. Surely though, if they were to reappear, it would be disastrous to the people of Ryukyu.

Supposedly, the Santana's activities ceased due to them having collected enough souls to sustain their base, Niraikanai (*EDN: a mythical place in Ryukyuan religion*).

The legend also predicted, however, that with the advance in human technology and science, Niraikanai would be found and disturbed. That would be the day the Santana would attack humans again.

Although now, it was the fault of the humans, Yuuta didn't hesitate on taking them down. He pitied the Santana, but he lived a normal life – he had family, friends and a lover. His only goal was to protect the society in which his loved ones lived in. For the Santana who threatened this, he had no choice but to stop them.

Yuuta knew that currently, the Santana's base was temporary and that they needed to replenish the souls regularly.

He had noticed that the Santana could only increase until a number of ten from his previous battles with them since they were conserving energy.

Naturally though, the Santana did increase their numbers when they were below ten. He never found a day where their numbers decreased.

With the divine protection and guidance from the spirits of Ryukyu, Yuuta acquired the ability to determine the location if somebody was attacked. The Santana steals human souls. He detects them, protects civilians and defeats the Santana.

There were formally ten Santanas, but with his effort, he managed to reduce their numbers to six. They may try to repopulate, but he just defeated equally the amount of creatures born. This had always been the case.

But for some reason, they didn't show themselves for a while. They also didn't attack humans for their souls.

*Why?*

Without any signs of movement, Yuuta couldn't detect the Santana. It's good that they stopped attacking people, but without him taking them down, their numbers could significantly increase.

*After all the trouble I went through to reduce their numbers? That's not a laughing matter.*

Yuuta was lost in his thoughts. He decided to investigate.

He was in the dark for quite a bit, but he managed to stumble upon some information.

He looked for news within the prefecture around the web, and found an article about the Santana being sighted.

{I saw them in the abandoned village near the cliff.}

He thought of ignoring this, but other people also relayed the same information.

{I saw them with my friend.}

{There should be a cave route leading to an underground area beneath the sea.}

{According to rumors, that was apparently the Santana's base.}

Those rumors weren't only spread online. It was also well spread in the real world.

*Okinawa isn't a huge island, so rumors spread really fast. The online source also seems suspicious.*

There's no way I can trust this.

*But, there's no demerit in investigating it... And I can't just leave that as it is.*

The entrance beside the cliff was really hard to get into. A normal civilian would have trouble, but Yuuta got in easily.

He transformed and went in the cave.

At that moment he noticed.

*The rumors appear to be true...*

There was an ancient dark aura emitting from within the cave. The spirits were restless within.

*This is the Santana's base....*

Yuuta proceeded further.

*In the end, I can only rely on myself. Now that I found their base, there's no choice but to eliminate them completely. They are beings that shouldn't exist in modern society. This is all for peace.*

*My grandmother always said [you're too short tempered] but that's what the real Yuuta would do.*

Yuuta completely transformed into Ramone and proceeded to attack...

[Haaa-!]

Dealing with the surprised Santana, he dealt a back blow to one of them.

[Ha-i-ya!]

A Santana was blown away spinning.

It was their leader that got blown away. It was still wearing the bracelet where souls were contained.

Due to the attack, the beads glowed brightly blue and got flew away. He realized that if you dealt enough damage, he was able to free a human's soul. With his attack, he once again saved many souls.

But,

[...Kukko...Kukko...]

They were tougher than usual. They didn't die from the fiery fist strike.

[...Ramone...Kill!Kill!...]

The Santana fired out water from their mouth towards him. They were stronger and more deadly than a normal rifle.

[Ku-!!...]

He managed to dodge it, but he grazed his left arm. He started running while enveloped in pain.

*They're one hell of a bunch...*

There's no way a Guardian could withstand them. Even the Organization of Metallica stationed in the island can't do anything against them.

[You damn fish-men! Today, I'll rip you to...]

The battle raged on for quite a while.

He kept fighting and struggled against them one after the other.

*I'll rip you apart no matter what happens, I'll erase their faces off this planet. They are beings that shouldn't have existed from the start.*

Chop, punch, kick, grab, back kick, elbow, low kick, shove, and penetrate.

Yuuta kept repeating his karate techniques with the air of a man serving justice.

[Kukko-!!]

They shot their hard scales towards him.

*I can't be defeated here...*

*My fist are what protects the people of this island. They are the symbol of hope for them...*

Ramone proceeded to attack their leader.

[Sei-ya!!]

Mustering all of his power, he hit an underling hard in the head. The head shot and got buried in the ground. Ramone created a small crater.

[...Haa...Haa...You're all... that's left...]

Only one of them was left, and it was the Santana's leader.

Yuuta was already covered in wounds, but he couldn't afford to miss one of them.

*Evil... Beasts that only lead society to the wrong path and end up destroying the world...need to be annihilated.*

[I'm coming for you with the last of my strength!]

His fist burned fiercely.

*I'll gamble everything unto this strike. If I miss, I won't have any power left. I'll surely lose. But there's no other option.*

Borrowing the power of the spirits, mustering the courage to serve justice, his spirit burned with fire.

Focusing all of his power onto his fist, he leapt towards the leader.

[Kukko!! Ramone!!!]

The leader, in his own way, gathered his strength and attacked Ramone with full force.

[Sei-ya!!!]

One strike.

The fist that burned fiercely, which was Ramone's ultimate move, was similar to the Justice Hammer Beetle had. Their attacks exploded.

[It's finished... I win!]

Before the leader managed to hit Ramone, he side stepped and managed to hit the leader in full force at his chest.

Engulfed in flames, the leader got blown away, unable to get back up. Given a few minutes, he should burn throughout.

[I did it! I...really did it...!]

Yuuta was too tired from the attack. His legs were shaking. He ended up kneeling. He was at his limit. There was no strength left to even gather the power of the spirits.

But, it really didn't matter. With this he won. The wretched Santana are now annihilated.

*Ill rest my body... a bit... I'll go home, and let grandma make goya chanpuru (EDN: Okinawan stir fry of bittermelon, tofu, egg and pork)... A bottle of beer would also be nice...*

The hero Ramone was glad that the battle was over.

But,

***Clap clap clap clap.***

It was then he heard a mysterious sound from afar.

It seemed like an applause.

He was very far within the Santana's base. There was no way other humans could get here. Therefore there was no way he could be hearing applauses.

***Clap clap clap clap.***

The sound didn't stop.

[What the hell is happening...]

He tried to turn around but he was too weak. He managed to turn while still on his knees. He confirmed where the sound came from.

There.

A slender looking man was sarcastically applauding. Behind him were more men equipped with guns.

They were all wearing black. He recognized those costumes. He fought against them and saw them on T.V for a few times. He knows them.

[That was quite splendid Ramone.]

The slender looking man called out to him.

*Who the hell is this guy...?*

He was apparently the leader of the group. Ramone saw his expression... He was grinning.

He had a huge grin on his face, but in Ramone's eyes, he was a really cold blooded individual. His piercing eyes were enough to send shivers down his spine.

At the back of his mind, Yuuta already knew. The ones in black were evil beings.

But even without relying on his stock knowledge, he knew the slender looking man was incomparable to the others.

He was the embodiment of [*Evil*].

[...Who are you guys...?! What do you want?!]

Yuuta tried to get up.

The slender looking man looked at him and called out.

[We are Metallica. A proud evil organization. Oh, hero from the south, this where you'll meet your end.]

The slender looking man proclaimed boldly.

As a master of karate and a spirit wielder, Kinjou Yuuta felt a kind of fear he never experienced before.

## CHAPTER 31

### **IF YOU'RE WILLING ENOUGH TO GAMBLE YOUR LIFE**

---

One month ago, when Neito was forming his plans, he realized that he needed the support of the G.A Department.

Having gathered information, he began explaining the plan to them.

He was going to offer human souls as tribute to the Santana. There are three reasons for doing such.

One: Having gained their trust, they will stop attacking Metallica and its members.

Two: Without the need to go out and gather souls, they won't have to face Ramone. Their numbers will significantly increase.

Three: Having souls offered, they'll begin to trust him more, lowering their guard. For example, he was able to attach a transmitter, revealing the Santana's base.

If all goes to plan, he will leak the information of the Santana's base and Ramone will definitely confirm the information.

They would have to fight each other, ending in an annihilation of one group. Then he would take care of the remaining one.

It sounded off like an easy plan, and the men from the G.A.D (Gen.Affairs Dept.) agreed with him. The hardest part to explain was still yet to come.

[The souls we are going to offer to the Santana... are going to be your souls]

Neito announced to them.

There was a reason for doing so. If they were to kidnap the inhabitants of the island, Ramone would know that Metallica is moving. It would be bad if he began investigating the kidnappings.

Neito took his proposal very seriously. Of course, who would want to offer their souls

to some monsters and be in a state of coma? There was also that possibility of dying after one month.

Neito already thought deeply about his plan. He then voiced out.

[I won't force you to do this. I just want you to give it some thought. There won't be any penalties if you don't do this. But if you do consent to this, I'll give back something in return. If you're worried, I will definitely get your souls back in one month. That is automatically provided for.]

With just these words, he couldn't capture the hearts of his men. It was still lacking. He needed to give some assurance that he'll get their souls back.

*They're probably thinking that they're just pawns meant to be thrown away once their purpose is over. Just like any person from the main branch would do. I can't blame them.*

[Then I will share your fate.]

Neito put on an explosive electric collar around his neck. Without the right password, it would never come off. It was Metallica's specialty. Everybody knows their purpose. Metallica uses it as an "insurance" in case anybody tried to betray them.

[The explosive is set to explode in one month. Any time more than that then it'll explode. I will have you secretly set the password. The timer will begin counting when the operation starts. If even one does not come back, I will die.]

The hall was covered in silence. Neito continued.

[Everybody... No, you guys came to Metallica with a purpose. Am I right? Shrouded by society, there was no other place you could turn to. You were unsatisfied by society, so you decided to change it. Am I right?]

[I also feel the same.]

[We are villains. We take whatever methods to achieve our goals. I think that is justifiable. Conquer Okinawa. We will definitely defeat the Santana and Ramone.]

[With that in mind, I gamble my life. I have nothing else to gamble. Before I entered Metallica, I was nothing. How about you guys? When I fought for Metallica, I never once thought of regretting it if I died. That's why I started off in the G.A.D. I kept moving

and I arrived at my current position. All for the purpose of attaining the power to change the world.]

[I'll say it again. I won't force you to do it. I won't bear a grudge over you for not participating. Even so, if you're willing to offer your soul, if you're willing to gamble your life, then let's gamble our lives and fight. We will definitely win.]

*This isn't a joke. This was not a thing you could boast in public.*

Neito announced his message sincerely.

Everybody in the G.A.D. said they will fight. Their war cry echoed throughout the building.

One month later, everything went according to plan. The men from the G.A.D started waking up. This was proof that Ramone and the Santana were fighting each other.

Neito then proceeded to the location of the battle.

[...Metallica...]

[You're right. There was even a time you saved my life... I thank you for that.]

Neito arrived in the last part of the battle. He continued observing them.

Along with his [**revived**] subordinates, he proceeded down the cave. He knew Ramone might notice them using the spirits, but the hero of justice would have focused all his power towards the foe before him.

[You really are outstanding. I'm sure you're just a really good guy. You fought well.]

[...I can't afford...to lose here!!]

Ramone, along with his beaten up body, fiercely stared at Neito.

*He's quite something. He's really amazing. It was also the same with Beetle. No matter what the circumstance, they vowed to protect the world. He is a really strong and enlightening man.*

*He's different from me. He tries to satisfy the world. Protect the little happiness he has*

*around him.*

*Using human souls, I baited the Santana and gathered information. I baited them both to fight each other to death.*

*Even a child can decide who was righteous.*

*Even so...*

[It's futile. You can't win.]

[Se-Aaa-!]

Mustering all the strength he had left, his fist started burning greatly.

Raising his hand, Neito commanded his men.

[Fire.]

His subordinates who were behind him, started firing their machine guns. It was a storm of bullets.

Metaphorically speaking, it was like crushing a tomato mercilessly.

Ramone could usually defend himself against their attack, but it was only when he was in a good condition.

[...Haaaaaaaaa-!]

Ramone couldn't avoid the continuous stream of bullets

He probably had no strength left to dodge them. He probably also had no power left to rush at them

[...You're really a great man...]

Neito spoke from his heart in a low voice.

Using his both hands, Ramone tried stopping the bullets and proceeded to go towards Neito.

He was walking towards them in a slow pace. There was probably some defensive energy left.

Step, after step, after step.

[...I can't... afford to lose...! I will...! Protect this island! You pieces of scum... I'll defeat you!]

The air was shaking like a mirage. He was truly a fierce man. Amidst machine gun fire, amidst the injuries had and amidst the damaged he received, he still kept coming.

Step, after step, after step.

He was true embodiment of justice.

[Don't falter. Fire. Keep firing.]

*I can't afford to be scared here.*

Neito commanded in a cold blooded voice.

Seeing the face of Ramone getting close, he wanted to run away from him.

But, he can't do that. He'll lose control of his troops if he does that. They can't defeat Ramone is that happens.

*There was no better time to defeat him, the hero. In order for me to proceed and change the world, I need to defeat Ramone.*

Neito didn't back down. He had no thoughts on retreating.

His evil ideals were immovable.

Second passed like hours.

Ramone managed to reach one step away from Neito. The bullets weren't enough to stop him. He managed to get this far.

Pulling away his fist, he proceeded to strike Neito with it. His Justice Hammer was burning fiercely.

But didn't move an inch. He carefully watched Ramone.

[...I will... protect...]

Ramone wasn't able to throw his punch.

A few moments later, he collapsed in front of Neito and stopped moving. Whether he fainted or he died, Neito didn't know. The bracelet Ramone used for his powers burned away at the same time he collapsed. Ramone could probably never harness his powers again.

Bending down, Neito voiced out to Ramone.

[We won. Your justice was only at this certain level huh...]

Neito grinned.

But within his heart, it was different.

*You were amazing.*

Neito didn't know the real name of the man before him, and he never would.

But even until the end, he kept moving forward.

He fought and annihilated the Santana Neito greatly feared singlehandedly. In order to protect somebody...

Who knew how much training he had to go through to perfect his karate techniques...

Who knew how much he had to sacrifice just to fight the Santana...

He didn't run away. He fought till the end. Admirable. He was really a great man.

Neito never spoke it out loud. He had no right to speak of him, as he was the villain that defeated him.

But he was a man worthy to be recognized.

With this, the battle for Okinawa drew to an end.

