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The Spear User That Couldn't Become the Hero - WN Chapter 00-09

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Prologue

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

プロローグ

Prologue

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

A once ordinary and peaceful town is presently filled with roaring screams.

「Run! Just run!」

「Throw away your luggage, it will only slow you down!」

「I'm begging you, let me on your car!」

Without distinction in the chaos, a crowd of people are trying to escape. Those who stop will be caught by the thing that is chasing them. Only death await those who are caught.

「Wait, papa, mama!」

In the crowd, there is lost little girl calling out for her parents, but no one stops to help her.

From behind the little girl, a man who is running away pushes her aside as he runs for his life.

「Out of the way brat!」

「Kyaaa」

No one raised a complaint as she was pushed aside. The man escapes from the sea of people.

However, the heavens didn't overlook the man's foul deed.

Suddenly from the back, a red beam pierced through the man's body.

「Gyaaaaaaaa— — —!」

Not long after the man gave his finally agonizing scream before collapsing on the ground like a puppet that had its strings cut.

On the man's body is a single scar. His shredded heart slowly stops beating. The light in the man's eye disappears; he will never speak another word. It is now a corpse that has lost its spirit.

It can't be explained by science as its existences defy the very fountain of life.

「Ah, ahh.....」

Upon pulling herself up, she is rendered speechless as she witnessed the disaster unfolding before her eyes. By supporting herself with her hand she turns around.

There a transparent hexagonal crystal prism is floating on the lonely highway where people had once stood.

The giant crystal is about the size of an adult male; in the center, there is a dim red orb of light.

The surreal looking object is like a photoshopped picture.

However, that thing is an existence that seeks to destroy them. It is an enemy to the world and humankind.

「N, no.....」

The little girl cowers in fear. As if it is scowling at the girl, the red orb inside the crystal begins to move about.

And once again, its death beam begins to shine.

「Someone, save me.....!」

No matter how much one prays, in this world, no benevolent god will save the damned.

However, people need only save one another.

「Shaayaaaaaaaa— — —!

For the sky comes a thunderous roar, a golden tsunami knocks away the crystal that was trying to attack the little girl.

「Eh.....?」

The shock wave causes the girl's hair to flutter in the air; she raises her head and looks towards the sky for where the light had come.

Above the ground on which the tragedy occurred is the serene blue sky.

Standing there is a lone young boy.

From his shoes are wings that allow him to float; in his hand is a golden sword as bright as the sun.

「An angel?」

She is captivated by his beauty. The boy notices the little girl who is in a daze; he smiles at her and waves.

「Everything will be alright, I'll protect everyone!」

The boy makes an assuring declaration. As the crystal's main body still remains, the boy flies to the area around the town.

The little girl sees the golden trail in the sky that appears to be endless.

That boy is not an angel sent by the cruel god.

He is a great person who has stood up to save humanity.

「A hero.....」

The girl and everyone else looking up at the sky knew it.

He is the one who fights humanity's enemy, a savior of the people.

This is the story of a lone hero out to save the Earth during its time of crisis— —not.

「*Buha!*」

Far away from the little girl's location; a boy with a spear over his shoulder crawls out from among the debris that was created by the golden tsunami.

「Are you trying to kill your own ally!」

The protesting voice doesn't reach the hero who is flying in the sky nor the people on the ground.

This is, the hidden secret behind the hero, something that wasn't recorded in the history books; the story of the lone spear user.

Chapter 1: Meeting

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第1話 出会い

Chapter 1 – Meeting

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

2025 A.D. the world completely changed.

Enormous crystal 『pillar(s)』 appeared everywhere on the surface of the Earth. Afterwards, mysterious crystal bodies referred to as the 『C.E. (crystal・enemy)』 began their assault on the world.

When humans were hit by the mysterious beam fired from the C.E. even if they did not sustain any injuries, they would fall into an untreatable coma.

It is as if their very soul had been extracted.

Although each country had utilized all of their power into exterminating the C.E. they made no progress.

The C.E.'s invisible membrane had prevented any attack from coming through.

Although the barrier wasn't invincible; breaking it with artillery fire, missiles, or gunfire was a matter of luck.

At the cost of countless deaths; with the assistance of tanks, battleships, and fighter jets they relentlessly threw themselves at the C.E. As a result, they were able to destroy thousands of the C.E. and force the enemy back.

However, humanity's steady advance was put to a halt.

Their stockpile of ammunition and reserve supplies had run low. Humankind was overwhelmed by the C.E. that seemed to endlessly spawn.

Against the C.E.'s high defensive strength and great propagation ability,

humankind's high offensive strength had been chipped away. The war fell into a stalemate.

Half a year after the start of the war, on an orient island, a weapon that could overturn the war was born.

The weapon is in the hands of a lone young girl that is running through the battlefield.

However, the war against the C.E. had yet to reach a conclusion. The war will continue.

2031 A.D. 6 years later, once again war will break out.



He exited the train station in Maebashi city (前橋市) located in the Gunma prefecture (群馬県). When Sorachi Souji (空知宗次, そらち そうじ) saw the scene before him, he only had one impression.

「Is this the city?」

Souji is deeply moved and he didn't notice the woman beside him giggling at him.

Because he came from a mountain village that had a population of about 1,000 people; it can't be helped that Souji is surprised when he saw the city.

「I should hurry if I'm going to take the bus.」

For a while, he is fascinated by the Gunma prefecture's town landscape. Souji observes his surrounds, but he found it was a lot to take in.

「There sure are a lot of bus stops.....!？」

In the countryside there was only one bus stop; it ran two times a day, once in the morning and once at dusk. But, the traffic rotary here is like a maze.

「In its own way, this thing is quite intimidating.....」

For the first time in his life, Souji is nervous. He is trying to use an automatic ticket gate machine but is afraid he will make a mistake and buy a ticket for the wrong bus route. To him, this is an excessively high hurdle.

However out of the entire world, he was one of those chosen by god.

「*Phew*, how embarrassing.」

From behind him, Souji hears a suspicious kansaiben dialect. A hand is placed on Souji's shoulder— the person is tossed into the air.

「*Eh.....?*」

「Who are you?」

Before the person realized what had happened, Souji had quickly thrust his hand (shaped into a knife) at the person's neck. (T/N: no his hand didn't become a knife)

The person is a young boy much like himself; although, the boy is a soft country bumpkin lacking in vigilance.

「Are you a pickpocket? For me to already have an encounter, a city sure is a frightening place.」

「W-wait, wait, I'm no pickpocket!」

The kansaiben boy can feel the bloodlust coming from Souji as the hand that is mimicking a knife seems ready to behead the boy. While being flustered the kansaiben boy tries to explain the situation. (T/N: again there is no knife, no English equivalent)

「My name is Endou Eisuke (遠藤映助, えんどう えいすけ), I'm a student from the same school as you!」

The kansaiben boy points to the black collar of his school uniform. Certainly, Souji is wearing the same uniform.

「I see.」

「Now do you understand?」

「Are you a pickpocketing student?」

「*Say what!*」

Eisuke instinctively tries to tsukkomi him, but Souji easily avoids it.

「*Tsk*, you're no fun. I was planning on telling you which bus to take to get to the school.」

「You were? Oh, I'm sorry for my rude behavior.」

Eisuke grumbled as he explained himself. Souji regrets that he came to the wrong conclusion and he silently bows.

「Maybe you're not so bad..... afterall」

Eisuke opens his mouth wide and gives a loud laugh. They walk to the bus stop.

「By the way, Endou, where are you from?」

「Just call me Eisuke. Do you really want to know?」

The bus arrives at their destination; Eisuke raises his hand onto his chest and makes a declaration.

「Me, I'm a genuine breed and born—— person of the Ehime prefecture (愛媛県)!」

“*You're not from Osaka!*”—— In their minds, all the passengers on the bus retort with a tsukkon. Souji shows little interest as he merely nods.

「Ehime, huh..... which city?」

“*Say what!*”—— Needless to say, the passengers retort with a tsukkon. This person will eventually become Souji's best friend. And thus, this is how he meet Endou Eisuke.

In the distant future, Souji will come to think it was fortunate to have met Eisuke. Although the historians who read about this event would probably mutter a sigh.

In this foreign land, the first encounter is not a stunningly beautiful girl. As expected this guy 『is a have not』. (T/N: my guess, referring to mojo “those who have it, and those who don't”)

Chapter 2: Encounter

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第2話 遭遇

Chapter 2 – Encounter

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

The bus left Maebashi (前橋) station and headed west to Tonegawa (利根川). Suddenly, the number of buildings one could see began to decrease as the sight around them became replaced with ruin spots of earth.

「In the past people use to around here.」

Souji (宗次) and the person sitting next to him, Eisuke (映助), had a meek expression as they gaze at the scene before them.

In several places, there are artillery shells and collapsed houses. The burnt fields were left as is.

This is only just one scar that the C.E. have inflicted on humanity.

「Hey, we have arrived.」

Because there were no traffic lights, it took about 10 minutes to reach the destination. All the passengers including Souji stood up.

They exit the bus; in front of them is a vast land enclosed by a high wall.

The dry brown plots of ground seem to extend endlessly; it is a rather dreary scene.

In the middle, there are many rustic and angular buildings.

They had come to this place to learn how to fight.

「So is this the high school where the Anti-Crystal▪Enemy special team

undergoes their training?」

「Everyone calls them the special police unit, though.」

The boys and girls who are wearing identical uniforms pass through. Souji and the others all seem to be experiencing strong emotions.

「Hey! Souji look over there!」

Eisuke joyfully points somewhere; Souji turns his head to that direction. A beautiful girl is standing there alone behind the school gate. Her long pink hair is tied into twin-tails.

Contrary to her childish hairstyle, her limbs are long and slender, and the girl's big chest is supported by her thin waist. Her whole body oozes sexy appeal.

「She sure is a stylish young woman.」

「My lovely! Come chat with me.」

As Souji had expected the city girls are different. Eisuke twists his body and hearts float from his eyes.

Before the two noticed, no sooner had they seen her, the beautiful girl made a heart thumping smiled in their direction; she rushed over to Souji and the others.

「F-for now, for now, let's exchange diaries.....」

Souji is astonished; the beautiful girl walked up to them and turned to Eisuke's direction——just like that she embraced the boy that was standing behind Eisuke.

「*Aaargh!* Who do you think you are!?!」

「You don't know? I'm Otome, Chikagesawa Otome (千影沢音姫, ちかげさわおとめ).」

「Eh, the girl who had lived next door, that Otome-chan!?!」

「Oh, I have longed to be reunited with you, Ayato (英人, あやと)!」

The girl called Otome, vigourously clings to the boy named Ayato as she piled kisses onto him.

「*Whaaaaaat*———!」

「.....city girls are amazing.」

Eisuke cries out in disappointment while Souji is merely surprised.
As far as history is concerned this event had been the deciding factor.

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 3: Renown Spear

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第3話 名槍

Chapter 3 – Renown Spear

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

Having had his heart broken, Eisuke drags his feet towards their destination. He and Souji both arrive at the high school that the special police unit is in charge of.

Although it looks like a normal high school building, this place is a fortress; it is made of material strong enough to withstand a bombing.

「Those of you who are new students, please change into your indoor shoes and then follow the teacher's instruction as they will guide you to the underground level.」

Speaking in a loud voice, the man instructions the students. There is nothing unusual about the teachers' appearance except for their well-toned muscles behind their suit.

「Certainly, this isn't a normal school.」

Souji changed into the shoes they had handed him. Before heading down the stairs, he strengthens his resolve .

Upon going below ground, he no long thought this place was an ordinary school. Underground were dull concrete passageways and rows of metal doors; it was quite an eerie place.

The teachers lead them to a room with concrete walls, inside there is a row of pipe chairs. Souji feels a dull uneasiness.

「It's like a tasteless secret hideout.」

「Yeah, it does give off that impression.」

Souji is surprised that someone had responded to his monolog; he looks for the voice's owner.

From the back of the room, a beautiful woman waves to him. Her white lab coat gives off the impression that she is a scientist.

「Yahoo, super sexy onee-sama!」

Souji is amazed that Eisuke quickly recovers from his heartbreak after seeing a beautiful woman. Moving on, Souji asks, 「Who are you?」.

The woman shows a bewitching smile as she introduces herself to the students gathered in front of her.

「Hello everyone, I'll from the special police unit. My name is Hoshina Kyouko (保科京子, ほしなきょうこ), I work as a researcher and school nurse here.」

「Kyouko-sensei, beautiful nurses are the best!」

Not only Eisuke, but almost all the other schoolboys had their eyes glue to her. Kyouko's large chest is being pushed upwards by her white lab coat; from her tight skirt her black stocking lead down to her toes.

「Well now, to those of you who are present, we are already acquaintances. For that reason, I'm allowed to explain what purpose this place serves to the special police unit.」

「「「Yes~ ! 」」」

「「「.....tsk」」」

The boys unanimously reply; the female students who saw this clicked their tongue.

(City girls are scary.....)

From Souji's village, there was only one other child aside from him, a 6-year-old girl. Being surrounded by these students, Souji felt uneasy about his upcoming school life.

「This place is known as the anti-crystal enemy special team high school. The main objective of this school is to train people to defend Japan from the C.E. And so——」

She stops her speech short to observe the faces of every student present before making a declaration in a loud voice.

「Everyone, you are officially a member of the 『Anti Crystal Enemy』 team, 『A.C.E.』 for short. Out of 5,000 people, you all have been selected for being exceptionally gifted.」

Having been praised the students puff up their chest with pride, they seem to be as proud as a peacock.

However, Souji had a perplexed expression.

(Do I..... do I really have such a remarkable trait?)

Last summer, when the bus had traveled to the neighboring town, they had him put on a strange helmet.

He wondered if it was somehow related to, 3 years ago, when the A.C.E. team began holding exams to find new members. Back then they had merely given a simple explanation and the details about the process is still unknown to the public.

「The appearance of the C.E. has caused deep wound to humanity; however, as a result, we discovered the 『phantom children (幻子)』; these phantom children are able to wield and manifest 『fantasy/ illusion weapons (幻想兵器)』!」

Upon hearing the terminology, the students became excited. Most likely everyone has seen those viral videos on the internet. Videos of, selected young man & young women wielding weapons from fantasies and legends.

「Everyone, quiet down. Now then, will you listen to my request?」

Matching the timing of Kyouko's voice the door opens and a teacher pushing a trolley enters.

Loaded on the trolley are stacks of large dark black colored metallic bracelets.

「These are 『fantasism・conveters (ファンタズム・コンバーター)』. This device will allow you to bring forth a fantasy weapon, or it can be used as a shield. It will also serve as your proof of being a member of A.C.E.」

Kyouko and the other teachers distribute the devices to the students.

「This is a converter, huh?」

「Amazing, super cool!」

Kyouko displays a gentle smile as she sees the joyful expressions of the students.

「Affix the bracelet onto your dominant arm; but keep this in mind, once it locks the bracelet cannot be removed.」

「EH~!」

The students cry out in dissatisfaction. Kyouko had expected their response, thus, she wasn't smiling.

「There is no need to panic. I must insist that you all use the device right away as we will be collecting the data from each of you, one at a time. Now then, we will start with the students sitting in the foremost row.」

Kyouko exits the room. Afterward, the first 10 students are called.

「Not good, I'm nervous.」

「Me too.」

Eisuke and Souji sat up straight as the both of them were very tense.

(Fantasy weapons, huh.....)

According to information from the newspapers and television broadcasts, weapons that are effective against the C.E. can only be used by the younger generation.

However, presently no detailed report has been published.

「Eisuke, what do you know about the fantasy weapons?」

「Me, well, I came here to find out that very reason.」

Eisuke shrugged his shoulders before he cheerfully began to speak.

「I how do I put this, legendary weapons are something amazing.」

「Legendary weapons?」

「Yeah, things like swords from a video game and such. Apparently, it is not fiction.」

Non-existent things were appearing in the real world, dub fantasy weapons.

「Sounds like a lie to me.」

「It's genuine! Here, watch this viral video!」

The doubtful Souji watches the video on the smartphone that Eisuke took out.

「Look, this is a video someone secretly took of A.C.E.'s training.」

In the video, boys and girls who have on the same uniform as them, have affixed the phantasm converter onto their arms; when the students recited something an object extends from their arm.

The converter gives off a light, and a weapon appears.

Sword, spear, ax, cudgel, bow; various different weapons had appeared. The boys and girls swung their weapons.

What had happened next was unbelievable.

Fire gushed from the sword, the ax was engulfed in lightning, and the bow fired off a bird made of light.

「.....is this not C.G.?」

「I doubt it~ I say it's real. Besides, there are other videos.」

Eisuke shows Souji video after video with each showing something impossible. Every video had displayed a supernatural weapon.

「It sure does appear to be genuine.」

「That's right. These videos went viral as soon as they were discovered. Why is it you haven't seen them?」

「At my house, we don't own a computer.」

「What about a smart phone?」

「It is regrettable to say, but there was no reception in my village.」

「.....if it was me, I don't know how I would be able to live in such a backwater place.」

This is Souji first contact with the internet. Eisuke turns his attention to the primitive man.

They continue to chat about trivial matters until their turn came up.

「The children sitting on the 3rd row, please follow me.」

「Yes.」

Although they showed a tense expression, the students stood up and followed

the teacher when they were called.

They are lead to another room which also have dull concrete walls.

However, one of the walls is made of glass. Kyouko and some other scientists who are wearing white lab coats are behind that glass wall. The scientists seem to be busy operation machines and other instruments.

『Well, let's start with the child from the right. State your name and move to the center of the room.』

「YES, *Endou Eisuke* (遠藤映助)!」

Kyouko is giving instructions from a speaker. Eisuke gave a strain reply as he awkwardly walks to the center of the room.

『The lock will be released, so please take out your converter and recite, 『armitize』. This will cause your fantasy weapon to take shape.』

「Y-yoshi, ARMITIZE!」

Eisuke who seems to be fired up recites the word.

What happened next was similar to the contents of the video that Souji had watched. Light gushed out of the phantasm converter and gathered in Eisuke's palm.

「I've done it, I've done it ! Now, I'm a genuine member of A.C.E.!!」

In front of the joyful Eisuke the light beings to take shape.

It's a legendary weapon found in fantasy—— a wooden club that is.

「*What the hell!*」

Eisuke was expecting a cool looking sword, being disappointed, he threw the club onto the ground. And then——

Kaapow!

The club hits the ground, easily cracking the concrete floor, causing a thunderous sound.

「*Ahh!*」

『Hey now, be careful with the fantasy weapon! Don't let the name fool you, even though its power is being limited, it still has the power to kill a person!』

「S-sorry.....」

From the next room over, Kyouko scolds Eisuke; he apologizes and picks up the club.

『Try to be more careful from now on. I will check the origin of your weapon.』
「Eh, *what do you mean!*?」

Although Eisuke is disappointed that his weapon is a club, it still has the power to break concrete, thus, there is still some hope left in his eyes.

『Hold on a moment..... let's see, 『club of olive (クラブ・オブ・オリーブ)』, it is the club that was used by Heracles.』

「Heracles, as in the great hero from Greek mythology?」

「Hey, that quite super cool!」

Even those not familiar with myths would know that name. Eisuke jumps with joy.

『It is too soon to celebrate. You see, fantasy weapons always have a special ability.』

「Say what!? If it is Heracles' club, its special ability must be the strongest!」

『The results conclude that the special ability of the club of olive is——』

「*glup*」

『——it does more damage against lion opponents.』

「*Say what!*」

Having been disappointed for the 2nd time, Eisuke throws the club.

「Lion, this isn't a savanna, it isn't a useful ability! What am I suppose? Will lions appear in Gunma?」

『Hey, hey, no need to get angry. Wouldn't it be effective against lion type C.E.?』

「Is there such a foe!?」

『.....yes, on to the next child.』

「So there isn't!? Wait, give me a retry!」

Eisuke clings to the glass and pleads for a do-over. The teacher had to drag him away by his arms.

「NO! I was finally able to join A.C.E., I don't want to be left with a good-for-nothing-club——」

Shhh!

『Next child, please step forward.』

「.....yes.」

Souji wipes away the tear of pity he shed for Eisuke and then made his way to the center of the room.

He activates the converter on his right arm.

「Armitize.」

The light changes into a long object.

「This is.....」

In Souji's hand is a weapon he is quite familiar with.

The staff is twice his height and the tip is long like bamboo grass.

『Wait a moment, your weapon is——』

「The 3rd most famous spear, Tonbokiri, used by the warrior Honda Tadakatsu.」

「Tonbokiri (蜻蛉切, とんぼきり)」

『Eh?』

「The 3rd most famous spear, Tonbokiri, used by the warrior Honda Tadakatsu.」

Souji had informed them of his weapon before Kyouko could give an explanation.

He knew this because he had seen a photograph of this spear many times.

「Amazing.」

Being excited Souji's cheeks blush. While showing a child-like expression he swings the spear horizontally.

The spear silently cuts through the air causing a cold draft.

『Ehh..... ah, I see.』

Kyouko is surprised by Souji's attitude. She confirms his profile on the computer nearby.

『Your family is a partitioner of the Soraichiryuu style of spearman-ship (空壺流槍術), correct?』

「Yes, I was taught spearman-ship from my grandfather.」

Souji gave a reply while he thrust his spear about. He was well disciplined as he showed no wasted movements.

「Grandfather would say, 「in the era of guns and bullets, the spear is merely deadwood」.」

Nevertheless, Souji was disciplined in the martial arts despite it being called pointless. His grandfather would have never thought it would be used against the C.E.

『Hmm, I can't say for sure, but for now, can you settle down?』

「Yes, sorry.」

『If you press the button next to the converter 3 times, the fantasy weapon will disappear.』

Souji bows and apologizes. He pressed the button and Tonbokiri vanished. Souji prepares to exit the room.

『By the way, Tonbokiri's special ability is, 『to be nimble as a dragonfly』.』

「I see, it is amazing.」

『Ah, you don't see it as bad luck?』

「Why would I?」

As he didn't quite understand, Souji tilts his head, his docile expression is admirable.

Kyouko who is surprised by his response shows a strained smile.

『The children your age, similar to the previous child, they prefer a weapon with that fires off beams or some other showy weapon.』

「Oh.....」

Because, Souji grew up in the countryside, he wasn't around an environment with video games and the internet; for that reason, he didn't see it as such. Having grip the spear in his hand, Souji found the spear to be sharp and sturdy; he thought it to be a reliable weapon.

「Before I leave, may I ask a question?」

『What might that be?』

Sensing his intellectual curiosity, Kyouko had the next student wait outside with the other teacher so she could answer Souji's question.

「Tonbokiri currently exist in this world, how is it possible for it to appear here?」

The spear that Honda Tadakatus (本田忠勝) used 400 years ago still exist; Tonbokiri, is currently owned by a businessman living in Shizuoka (静岡). Does that mean the fantasy weapons are being teleported to them? With a smile, Kyouko gives the perplexed Souji an explanation.

『Well you see, your Tonbokiri is an illusion. It is a phantom created from one's imagination.』

「Phantom?」

『You will be learning the details in class later, for now, please be patient.』

As they are currently busy, Kyouko ends the conversation. Following the cue, the other teacher enters the room with the next student.

(A phantom spear.....)

As he observing the converter, Souji exits the room as he was told. With the mysterious material, a phantom child can bring forth a weapon from fantasies and legends.

(Is it really such a good idea to fight a war while relying on something so suspicious?)

Perhaps it isn't a matter of should they, but rather it meant that humankind has been driven into a corner. Unlike the other student that are delighted holding their legendary weapon, Souji felt a cold chill down his spine.

Chapter 4: The Female Sword Saint

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第4話 剣の聖女

Chapter 4 – The Female Sword Saint

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

Having successfully activated their phantasm converter, the students were made to wait outside on the school's sports ground (field).

「Enough, I will just go on live on the savanna.....」

「.....」

Eisuke is still in shock that his weapon is a club. Souji offers him no words of comfort; he merely pats the back of Eisuke's shoulder.

Suddenly, they hear the voices of some male students talking.

「Hey, are you serious.」

「It's true, that guy is Tendouji-san's . younger brother.」

Souji wonders who they are talking about. He turns around to look at the face of the young man, but there he sees the girl with the twin-tail hair style and standing beside her is that boy from before.

「What, Tendouji?」

Upon hearing that name, Eisuke raised his head.

「Is that person a celebrity?」

The boy called Ayato is slender and handsome. It wouldn't be surprising to find out that he is an upcoming star or something of that natural.

However, Eisuke shakes his head no.

「No, that lady-killer isn't famous or anything. However, his older sister is very famous.」

「Tendouji..... who are they?」

「Do you really not know.」

On the internet, this is common knowledge. While being utterly amazed, Eisuke gives Souji an explanation.

「Tendouji Setsuna (天道寺刹那, てんどうじ せつな)..... 6 years ago, she was the first person to use a fantasy weapon to fight against the C.E.; she is a hero who had protected Japan.」

「Hero?」

For being such a famous person, they were never mentioned in the newspapers or on T.V. Souji truly never heard of her before.

「Well, it can't be helped as you didn't have access to the internet. At the time, Tendouji Setsuna was 16 years old. Although humankind was facing a crisis, many people would have protested against the idea of a young girl participating in the war.」

It is said that against the C.E. the Japanese had suffered approximately 2 million casualties.

The Japanese had lost about 1/50 of their total population. This large number of civilian casualties had not been seen since World War II.

It was a critical moment for Japan and they just could let things continue as it was.

And thus, they sent a 16 year old girl with a suspicious weapon onto the battlefield. They tried to cover it up as much as they could.

The government had regulated the flow of information and issued a gag order to the mass-media.

「However, the information found its way onto the internet. As a result, Tendouji Setsuna, the girl who brought victory to Japan became known as the female sword saint!」

Eisuke thrusts out his smartphone to reveal the magnified picture of a lone girl. It is a picture of a girl, with long black hair, running through the battlefield with

an enormous sword over her shoulder.

「She is beautiful.」

「I know right! Setsuna is super lovely!」

Upon seeing Eisuke's flaring nostrils, Souji could tell that this was Eisuke's honest opinion.

「Ontop of being a hero, she is a beauty. Currently, she is a very popular idol on the internet.」

「.....」

Eisuke tightly hugs the picture of the beautiful Japanese girl to his chest. Souji who saw this silently took two steps back.

「Hmm, if that was 6 years ago, isn't she about 22 years old now?」

Upon Souji pointing out the girl's (woman's) age, the mood became tense. And then, Eisuke's abruptly made a sad expression.

「..... Setsuna-chan is, she is,」

「Eh?」

「Although the information is not credible, 5 years ago, there was a rumor going around that on an operation to defend the citizens, and there were numerous C.E.」

In an official report that was leaked, it stated that she was missing. It is possible the girl no longer exist.

「.....I see.」

The person who fought with the fantasy weapon is probably dead. It is possible that someday Souji and the people here might meet the same fate.

「But, because of Setsuna-chan's efforts the country is presently training young men and young women to help fight the C.E. In other words, she help create A.C.E.」

「She is an amazing person.」

Souji is amazed that a girl the same age as himself kept fighting until she became a hero.

He wondered for what reason did the girl swing her sword? Perhaps, he has

already missed his chance to ask her that question.

「So, is that guy Tendouji Setsuna's younger brother?」

「I don't know. He somewhat looks like her..... but, for some reason, he annoys me.」

Eisuke along with the other male students were grinding their teeth, when they saw the beautiful girl with the twin tail hair style pushing her breast up against the blushing Tendouji Ayato arm.

While they were busy with their pointless chitchat, the test first test for the new students came to a close.

Hoshina Kyouko (保科京子) and one of the combat instructors arrived at the sports ground (field). There are about 150 new student present.

「Everyone, congratulations on successfully completing the phantasm converter activating test. Next, we will begin the fantasy weapon operation test——combat trial.」

「「「Ehh!?!」」」

Upon her statement, the students let out an astonished voice. However, Kyouko waves back their confusion.

「Do not worry, no one will get injuries because the converter's 『phantom armor (幻子装甲, ファントム・アーマー)』 will prevent you from taking damage. You may not notice it, but your body will be as tough as an armored vehicle.」

「Say what.....!?!」

The surprised Eisuke slaps Souji's shoulder. However, a transparent membrane prevents the slap from going through.

「This could work. With this stable armor and the fantasy weapons, A.C.E. would be the strongest soldier that is capable of battling the C.E.」

When Kyouko sees the student confirming it with one another, she could n't help but show a gentle smile.

「The phantom armor is due to the effect of your ability as a phantom child——you could say it is MP. Although it can't be used when it runs out, while the armor is up it will defend against all attacks, for that reason, it is safe to do a mock battle using fantasy weapons.」

After the explanation, the students felt relieved.

「Now that you have obtained your fantasy weapon, don't you want to test it out?」

In a way, this is a sort of initiation for new students that have enrolled in A.C.E.

「Now then, decide on who your opponent will be.」

She claps her hand, signaling for them to begin. The bewildered students began to form pairs and lined up in front of Kyouko.

「Souji, do you want to partner up with me?」

「Sorry, maybe next time.」

「Why!?!」

Souji felt grateful for Eisuke's invitation, but he had to refuse. Souji walks away from Eisuke.

Even if it is just for play, Souji is a martial artist. He wants to test the spear against the strongest opponent.

Souji had already decided on the person he wants to challenge.

The hero • Tendouji Setsuna's younger brother.

Chapter 5: Duel

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第5話 試合

Chapter 5 – Duel

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「You are, Tendouji Ayato, I presume?」

Souji timidly starts a conversation with the hero's little brother who the girl (twin-tails) is flirting with.

「What of it?」

「Will you have a duel with me?」

Tendouji Ayato is surprised to be asked so straightforwardly that he widely open his eyes, but he immediately replies with a smile and a nod.

「Sure, why not, I'll accept your challenge.」

「Wait Ayato!? Your partner is——」

The girl with the twin-tail hair style is flustered and she tries to stop them. However, Tendouji Ayato paid it no mind and went over towards the teacher. Afterward, Souji followed suit.

「Sensei, may we have a duel.」

「Understood, Tendouji Ayato-kun and..... you, right?」

Kyouko is surprised to see Souji's face, but right away she shows a serious expression and calls over the other teacher.

「Kimura-sensei (木村), can you be the referee for their duel.」

「Yes, leave it to me.」

The male teacher called Kimura showed a strange smile. The two are then invited to the center of the sports ground (field).

「I heard that's Tendouji Setsuna's younger brother.」

「Seriously!? I can't miss this.」

The surrounding students, who had been clumsily fighting with their fantasy/illusion weapons, along with the other teacher stopped what they're doing to observe the hero's younger brother.

Naturally, nobody sees the unknown person, Souji.

「Souji lay the beat down on that pathetic lady-killer!」

Well, except for his trusted friend Eisuke who he had met today.

「Good luck.」

Souji lightly waves his hand to his friend, before summoning Tonbokiri. As if it was a fantasy, the weapon materialized in the palm of his hand.

「Armitize!」

Tendouji Ayato materialized his fantasy weapon, a one-handed sword that he wields using both his hands.

It is a western sword with beautiful decorations. However, it is difficult to determine the sword's origins just by looking at it.

(Now that I think about it, this is my first time fighting an unknown opponent.)

Souji had dueled against his master (grandfather) many times but he had no experience dueling anyone else.

While being excited by this new experience, Souji rotates his spear in a half circle to where the pointed butt-cap of the spear is facing Ayato.

(It should be alright if we have the phantom armor, but just in case.)

In all seriousness, trying to use a spear to stab at a living opponent is indeed frightening.

Although, a third party probably wouldn't see it that way.

「What? Does this person not know how to use a spear?」

「Are you not taking this seriously; you're the worst.」

The girls who fell for Tendouji' Ayato's looks thoughtless began to heckle Souji.

「Please wait, I'm only——」

Because they disagreed——Souji wasn't given a chance to explain himself.

「*Hiyaaa !*」

Without waiting for the referee's signal, Tendouji Ayato charges forward.

(Oh shit!)

Although he was caught unprepared, Souji readies his spear.

This may only be a test, but they came here to fight.

It is disgraceful for someone from a martial artist family to look away from their opponent during the middle of a match.

「*Seiyaa!*」

Even though his opponent is human, Tendouji Ayato swings down his weapon without mercy.

When Souji had caught the unfaltering attack on his spear, he felt that something was off.

(Huh?)

「*Hiyaaa ! Hayaaa !*」

Tendouji Ayato shouts out his battle cry and begins to rain down a barrage of sword slashes one after another.

He swings the sword down with all his strength as if it was a metal bat.

There was not a hint of any martial arts skill behind his attack. The guy moved like a complete amateur.

「Are you really Tendouji Setsuna's younger brother?」

As Souji easily handles the attacks, he asks a question.

And thus, Tendouji Ayato looked up and raises his voice even louder than before.

「Do not mention my sister!」

「Eh?」

While being bewildered by Ayato's response, Souji continues to handle the

barrage of slashes.

Compared to his grandfather's spear that seemed to freely move like a serpent, Tendouji Ayato's sword is moving so slowly that a dragonfly could rest on top of it. For Souji, it was a simple feat to avoid the attacks.

(How disappointing.)

Although it is impolite to his opponent, Souji couldn't help but be disappointed.

Not only had she protected Japan, she was the first in human history to obtain a fantasy weapon.

He had thought that the younger brother of the hero would be just as strong, but in reality, Ayato is merely an amateur.

(No, it was my selfish thought.)

Souji reflexed on his shameful way of thinking.

By having a biased viewpoint of the 『hero's younger brother』, Tendouji Ayato, it resulted in Souji having an excessively high expectation of Ayato.

At his own convenience, Souji had held expectations for Ayato and suddenly it became disappointment; he also had not taken into consideration the social pressure that Ayato felt nor how the loss of his sister had affected Ayato. Souji thought his own actions to be disrespectful.

「Sorry.」

「What!?!」

Tendouji Ayato shows a doubtful expression to Souji's sudden apology and continues his attack.

However, the spear user who has already seen through his opponent's skill is no longer on defense.

Souji stops the slash and kicks Ayato in the stomach.

「Ugh!」

「Hey, using your feet to attack is cowardly!」

The heckling from the group of girls doesn't disturb the combat ready Souji. Ayato is currently in a good range for an attack from Souji's spear. And thus, Souji made a thrust with the spear's pointed butt-cap.

「Uffuu!」

He stabs his opponent in the shoulder. While Ayato is trying to regain his balance, Souji bashed him in the head and then proceeds to knock Ayato down by sweeping at his feet, and then finally, delivering a finishing blow by thrusting the spear butt-cap into Ayato's chest.

This is the basics of the Soraichiryuu style of spearsman-ship.

As the name implies, the spear techniques involves 『performing a dozen strikes, knocking the opponent off balance, and pushing the opponent backwards』; this involves striking the opponent either 『from below, from the sides, or from above』multiple times from all directions.

「Uwhaaaa———!」

Upon taking the 3 hit combo, Tendouji Ayato cried out as he fell to the ground.

「Phew.....」

Souji lightly exhales as he lets down his guard.

His grandfather would always say, 「when you're holding your spear, always be prepared for combat」.

「「「.....」」」

Upon the conclusion of the match, the audience falls silent. Souji pays no mind to the fallen Tendouji Ayato, he turns around and calls out to the teacher.

「Sensei.」

「.....」

「Kimura-sensei」

「W-what is it!?!」

「Where is the signal.」

Souji is inquiring about the end of the match from the teacher who is the referee.

「.....」

However, the teacher stays silent as the victory hasn't been decided.

「Hey, declare Souji the winner already.」

「.....」

Eisuke insist they hurry, but the teacher shows a dumbfounded expression and doesn't say anything.

「Why are just standing there, the lady killer is already beaten, ouch! What are you doing!」

Eisuke turns around to see who had struck him on the back of the head. Behind him is the girl with the twin tail hair style and a group of girls.

「You, don't count it as Ayato's lost at your own convenience!」

「Eh, no, look at reality——」

「That's right, Ayato-kun hasn't lost yet!」

「He isn't even using his spear properly, and not to mention kicking is foul play!」

「W-what are you saying? This isn't a sport——」

「A foul is a foul, that person is a coward!」

Eisuke listens to the girls complains, but all they were doing was criticizing Souji.

However, not all the girls had the same opinion.

「Hey now, stop with the false accusations.」

Although a single girl tried to step in, the commotion didn't stop.

「I don't agree, I call for a redo!」

「Ayato-kun will definitely win!」

「I won't accept that person's cowardice!」

The group of girls hysterically shouted out in an attempt to revoke the results.

「How did things end up this way.....」

Souji questions how the girls ended up blaming him.

It is a bad idea to take one's eye off of a fallen opponent.

「.....there is no way I can lose, *Ahhh*———!」

Tendouji Ayato suddenly stands up and give a battle cry.

And thus, from the sword he is gripping with both hands comes a radiant golden light.

「What the?」

Ayato has invoked his fantasy weapon's special power.
But, from what legend does the golden sword originate from?
Souji didn't have the time to consider the sword's origin.

「Hiiiiiii——— !」

A golden light streams from the sword that Tendouji Ayato is wielding and becomes an enormous blade that splits the sky.

「What the!?!」

The pressure emitted by the blade of light causes Souji's body to tremble.
What would happen if that person swings down his sword where the students and teachers are standing around?
The hero's younger brother needs to be stopped before he can swing down the sword.

「Excalibur———!」

Like a falling giant the blade of light slowly descends from the sky as it emits a thunderous sound.
It would've been easy for Souji to avoid the attack by leaping to the side.
However, the Eisuke, the group of girls, the other students, along with the other teachers behind him who are awestruck by the blade of light wouldn't be able to dodge it in time.

「I have no choice.」

In an attempt to stop the approaching enormous blade of light, Souji runs with all his strength and then throws his spear.

「I'm counting on you, Tonbokiri!」

The spear's dragonfly blade confronts the holy sword's light.
However, the force from the blade of light pushes Tonbokiri back, causing the spear's butt to be implanted into the ground.

「Tsk.....!」

However, Souji and his spear acts as a pillar in a desperate attempt to hold back the blade of light.

「Runaway, hurry!」

He had no time to turn around and check, but did his words reach the people behind him?

Not long after, Tonbokiri had reached its operation limit.

Shattering!

「Ah.....」

Souji apologizes to his spear before his body is swallowed by the torrent of light and his consciousness falls into darkness.

– [ToC](#) –

Intermission: 1

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

【聖剣の英雄伝説・第1章・26ページより】

【The Legend of the Holy Sword・Part 1・Page 26】

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

「Are you really Tendouji Setsuna's younger brother? *Hmph*, garbage such as yourself will only bring shame upon your deceased older sister.」

「I don't care what you say about me..... but, I won't let you mock my sister!」

Having been insulted by the spear user, Ayato's anger pushes him over the limit.

「*Hiyiiiii*——— ! 」

With the thoughts of his honorable sister weighing on his mind, Ayato's once silent sword begins to reveal its true power.

「W-what's happening!?!」

While the spear user is trembling in fear, Ayato determined this was the time to unleash his mana.

「To protect the people, I shall cut down evil, Excalibur——— ! 」

Amazing——— !

「*Argghhhhh*——— ! 」

The evil spear user cries out as he is swallowed up by the holy light and disappears.

「This is Ayato's power.....」

As a blessing to Ayato's victory, the dark clouds above them parted and sunlight spilled from the sky.

Everyone who saw this divine scene became convince that Ayato was the symbol of peace.

Tenjouji Ayato is a true hero. Only he can save humanity from the evil C.E.

– [ToC](#) –

Chapter 6: Fantasy Weapon

英雄《しゅやく》になれない槍使い

The Spear User that Couldn't Become the Hero 《Protagonist》

第6話 幻想の兵器

Chapter 6 – Fantasy Weapon

MTL: uniquegasuki

Editor/ Proofreader: (not proofread)

Souji regains consciousness; he sees an unfamiliar ceiling and a beautiful woman wearing a white coat.

「Kyouko, sensei?」

「Eh, are you hurting anywhere?」

Upon seeing the face of the beautiful nurse, Souji shakes his head no.

「Is Eisuke and everyone else safe?」

「.....your a peculiar child, is this really the first thing you want to ask?」

For him to worry more about his friend and everyone else more than himself, Kyouko is surprised. In admiration of this selfless she smiles.

「Everthing is fine. Thanks to your efforts everyone was able to avoid a direct hit.」

「I see, that's good.....」

Having learned about the present situation, Souji exhaled and covered his face with his right arm.

「I lost, how vexing.....」

Despite having lost to his grandfather thousands of times, Souji is still not used to losing.

Upon seeing the frustrated Souji trying to hide his face with his palm, Kyouko couldn't help but open her mouth in surprise.

「Are you thinking that you've lost to Ayato-kun?」

「Yes, it was my defeat was it not?」

「Ah, *umm*, it wasn't really a loss.....」

It was a rather unusual conversation as Kyouko didn't give Souji a straightforward answer.

「Were you not the one to first knock down Ayato-kun?」

「The referee didn't declare it as my victory.」

「But——」

「Ayato stood back up, but I was knocked out. Doesn't that mean it's my loss.」

The order doesn't matter, the true winner is the one who is last standing. This universal rule not only applies to their fight but it will also apply to their future battlefield that they will be sent to.

「Do not worry about it.」

Souji had become conceited after his grandfather praised his skill. Admitting his mistake, he reflexed on his own ignorance.

However, there was something Souji wanted to know before he began his training.

「Kyouko-sensei, was that fantasy weapon really Excalibur?」

「Yeah, that was the holy sword that King Authur (アーサー王) had received from the fairy of the lake.」

「But, Excalibur shouldn't be able to release a blade of light.」

None of the legends pertaining to Excalibur mentions it having the ability to unleash an enormous beam sword.

However, the reality is that Tendouji Ayato possesses King Authur's sword and that he was able to unleash such an attack.

「It must be similar to my Tonbokiri. Even though my spear is the same as the original, its seems to be a separate existence. But, the reality is that these weapons do exist.」

Souji stares at the small scar on the phantasm converter (on his right arm) that

was caused by the direct attack from Excalibur.

If he were to activate the converter, the broken Tonbokiri would reappear fully intact.

「Sensei, what are these fantasy weapons?」

While on the battlefield, they must entrust their life to these mysterious and ominous weapons.

As long as Souji held such doubt, he wouldn't be able to fight against the C.E. When Kyouko could no longer stand Souji's stubbornness, she sighed.

「I had planned to save this for later but..... because you had put up a good fight, I will give you a special lesson.」

「Thank you very much.」

When the beautiful nurse winked at him, Souji couldn't help but blush a little.

「First off..... *umm*, do you think Excalibur really exist?」

「Well, I think the one Ayato has looked real enough.」

「*Umm*, what I'm saying is, do you think 『King Arthur's legendary holy sword Excalibur』 actually existed? Did such a sword really existed hundreds or thousands of years ago?」

「Well.....」

「No it did not. Such a fantastic magic sword did not exist in this world.」

Souji is puzzled by Kyouko's statement.

The legendary sword Excalibur that was owned by King Arthur was something based on a made-up story.

「But.....」

「The fantasy weapons are something a phantom child thinks up. You might be thinking, 『are you saying in the past magic never existed?』 I understand how you feel, but it is a fact that in this day and age, the sword Excalibur does not exist in this world.」

Having guessed what Souji was thinking, Kyouko supports her previous statement. (T/N: but mommy, magic does exist)

She wasn't making baseless assumptions, Kyouko has stacks of research papers to backup her claim.

「You see, everyone knows of the holy sword Excalibur due to things such as manga, video games, and other various media.」

「Ah.....」

「It is something that doesn't exist but everyone knows it. You see, from their imagination— something like a 『illusion』 is created.」

「——Eh!？」

Upon hearing the ridiculous explanation, a cold shiver runs down Souji's spine.

「Excalibur doesn't exist, but it's a legend that everyone is aware of. In truth, the 『fantasy weapon Excalibur』 is a figment of reality. It is like the saying, “what came first the chicken or the eggs? (元○玉)”」

「Chicken, egg..... what does that mean?」

「Oh, you don't know, *ahahah*.」

Upon recalling their age difference, she made a stiff smile.

She and Souji aren't from the same generation. Souji is from a generation where it is common for a child to use the internet.

「Anyhow, a person's fantasy weapon will differ between individuals. For that reason, the weapon isn't always the same as the legend they are from. The effect of each person's 『personal weapon』 will depend on the individual's imagination.」

In the year 2031 A.D. there are probably merely a few people who know the original legend of King Authur' Excalibur.

Most of the people probably know about the sword from video games or anime. And thus, to excite and satisfy their audience, as a result of modern media and filter, it then became a 『invincible and famous sword』.

Tendouji Ayato's 『beam emitting, Excalibur』 is a modern interpretation of the original.

「So, in other words, it is an imitation?」

「That rather a bit harsh to say. If there was never an original how could it be a fake? Are you aware of the big change made from the classic King Authur legend? You see, the person known as the knight, Lancelot of the Lake (騎士ランスロット), didn't exist in the original story.」

「Ah, I think I remember reading about that before.」

「Ah, I think I remember reading about that before.」

He recalls reading an article on the internet about legends & folklores from the computer at his school's library. (T/N: this sentence alone has raised many potential plot holes, Author-san)

「I think it was something about the 10th century?」

「During the 10th century, the story of King Arthur was rewritten by Chrétien de Troyes (クレティアン・ド・トロワ). However, most of the modern day character's are based on Thomas Malory's (トマス・マロリー), 15th century, 『The Death of Authur』. Nowadays, people prefer a strong and beautiful “mary-sue” type of character. In modern writing, the 『greatest character is the lead』.」

Compared to the original: King Authur and Gawain play less of a role in the story, Guinevere's betrayal (NTR) had caused the collapse of the round table, and the villain never received a proper punishment.

These events never happened in the original story. The modern day re-telling has the worst characters; it's 「fucking bullcrap!」 and should be thrown away.

「I may as well say this, but the Arthurian romance (アーサー王物語) version is derivative from the original work. The detestable character, Lancelot, is also in Malory's version of the story.」

「Is that so.」

Souji had read Sutcliff's version of King Arthur so he doesn't hold any hate for the modern stuff. However, in the world exists a sinful mania.

「Nowdays, there are few people who don't know of Lancelot. After the postscript, fantasy was overwritten by fiction and as a result, a character like Lancelot became popular.」

「.....」

「Do you understand? Much like Lancelot, this is Tendouji Ayato-kun's holy sword, his version of the 『the best and strongest Excalibur』. Whether it is genuine or fake doesn't matter.」

From the beginning, Ayato's sword is an original created from his imagination based on the warped idea of the Excalibur's popularity and strength. There isn't much left to say about the topic.

Although Souji still felt a lingering sense of fear, there was nothing he could do about it.

「In other words, fantasy weapons will take the form of the wielder's imagination.」

Does Souji understand now? — Kyouko tilts her lovely head, but Souji had yet to nod in response.

「Sensei, how do fantasy weapons exist?」

The first question was a good one; the second is more philosophical. With a stern expression on her face, Kyouko gives him a reply.

「A fantasy weapon is created by a 『phantom child's』 spirit. They are able to bring forth a massive amount of energy..... 『the reason question is how is a phantom child able to do this?』. The thing is, no one has been able to come up with an answer.」

「Is it dangerous?」

Kyouko had a feeling that Souji would ask this question. And thus, she tells him the answer she had prepared.

「It is dangerous. But, humankind has no choice but to use them regardless.」
「.....」

Although there is no data to support her claim, Kyouko had given her honest opinion. Her action is quite unbelievable.

To stop him from worrying, even more, Kyouko's eye hint to Souji 「to not pry anymore and to not ask the reason why」.

「There are a lot of unknown points about phantom children. Although there are some known facts here and there, we don't completely understand it. For example, gravity is something we don't fully understand.」

「Gravity?」

「Yeah, things such as what causes the force of gravity, and what not. How is it we can stand on Earth, or how is it generated and transmitted. Even to this day, no one knows for sure how it works.」

Gravity is theorized to be transmitted by 『Graviton particles』, which hasn't yet been discovered.

「Despite there being many mysteries about gravity, humans have used their understanding of the law of gravity and found methods to handle it. Likewise, we

have found a way to use fantasy weapons and phantom armor.」

And thus, she more or less told him about the phantom child. Whether or not it was helpful is another matter.

「Are you afraid? I don't mind discharging you from A.C.E. I don't know the details, but A.C.E. won't force members to fight with fantasy weapons against their will.」

It is possible that there could be an effects that might influence the nature/heart of the phantom child.

So to not lost his way, Souji shakes his head in an attempt to strengthen his resolve.

「I don't quite understand, but I won't run away.」

「Oh, I'm glad.」

While she pats the top of Souji's head, Kyouko shows a genuine smile.

「Oh, about our conversation, please keep the contents of our discussion a secret for the other students, okay.」

「Yes.」

Souji nods and once again shows a smile. The beautiful nurse exits the room. As he watches her leave, Souji feels a slight sense of regret.

「What is suppose to happen now?」

Souji continues to wait in the school's infirmary. He questions to himself as to whether his medical treatment is complete, or if he is free to leave.

For the ever so diligent Souji, this is yet another thing for him to ponder.

Chapter 7

Translator : Cnine

Editor : MystiKnight

Proofreader : MystiKnight

Chapter 7: Student Dormitory

Souji left the infirmary after he got Keiko's permission to leave and went off towards the school building.

In the sports ground dyed red by the setting sun, several bulldozers were filling up the long trench caused by that sword of light.

While looking at such a scene, Souji went towards a place a little separated from the school building, where twelve four-storey buildings stood in a line.

For the next three years, he'll be living in this ACE troop dormitory.

「There really are a lot of these big buildings, huh?」

If this place was to be a soldier's dormitory, he expected it to be fairly cramped housing.

「Is there some reason for this?」

Though that beautiful infirmary lady might know the reason, he doubted whether she'll tell him or not.

Anyhow, Souji was already told the location of his room, so he turned towards the 12th dormitory which was located furthest away from the school building.

「Bro, you're alright!」

Right after he entered the building, Eisuke greeted him while hugging his chair.

「We're brothers?」

「Of course we are! Did you hit your head or something and turn into an idiot?」

「Nope, I think there's still many things for me to learn」

「Uhm, that reaction, there's no mistake, you're the real Souji」

Eisuke exhaled in relief with an idiotic-looking serious face.

「But, that Philanderer, are you trying to kill us?」

「Don't tell me you're getting cold feet after all that」

(ED Note: I honestly don't know who said what here. The first line sounds like Eisuke, but the second line doesn't make sense then. Why would Eisuke be the one who is afraid?) Even Souji agreed with Eisuke's remark when he recalled the gigantic sword of light that fell from the sky.

「The surprising thing is that you can fight against that hero, can't you?」

「Nope, I'm scared you know」

He had never felt the danger of losing his life until he faced the might of the holy sword.

He really feared the nature of the youth named Tendouji Ayato, who could swing that gigantic full-powered sword of light without hesitation towards a human.

「That guy is scary...」

Even when he was the one attacking, to begin with.

Although his way of talking caused a misunderstanding, Souji was often crossing spears in mock battles against his grandfather, so he's already used to the act of attacking another human.

Even with that, it's exactly because of this that he knew how dangerous bladed weapons were when pointed toward other humans.

But, that hesitation was nonexistent in Tendouji Ayato, thus he could freely swing his sword toward humans.

If Souji didn't stop that blow and he didn't have the protection granted by his phantom armor[幻子装甲], that blow would have killed him.

「Maybe he has outstanding talent as a soldier...」

If he wasn't used to studying martial arts, maybe he'll get used to it by fighting.

However, he won't lose that nature which removes his hesitation about releasing his attacks towards humans.

Maybe he feels excited when he's hurting someone, though there's little hope if he's that kind of pervert.

「Well, it's that philanderer's problem, here we've got a more important matter」

Eisuke switched the topic and pointed to the side.

To the side of the entrance was a spacious hall, where fellow ACE corps could gather and deepen their friendship from now on.

「Right, we will never get along」

「Aah, I want to become popular too」

Though Souji saw a few boys playing handheld games together, what Eisuke saw was the gathering of the girls.

「Look, that girl with shoulder length hair, isn't she almost on par with Otome-chan? Even that black-haired big-boobed gloomy girl on her side, even that loli in front of her would make a maniac go WIIIIILDD~~~~」

「Haa...」

Souji, who wasn't that interested in love, made a half-hearted reply.

「In the first place, how the heck are those girls in this place?」

「I'm also interested in that!?!」

Souji corrected himself while turning towards Eisuke, who was hiding behind him in panic, with a face full of doubt.

「Gathering group of boys and girls in the same dormitory, wouldn't that cause trouble?」

Normally male and female dorms would be separated. All the more so as there's more than enough room to do that.

「Now that you mention it」

Even Eisuke whose spirit was soaring high in the sky thanks to the existence of the girls had noticed the abnormality.

「That's right but, this is a chance! Peeping into the bathroom, sneaking around in the middle of the night, GEHEHEHE~~~~」

「They'll kick your balls if you do that you know」

「What, for you to also say such scary things ——— Uge!」

Eisuke's face, which had turned around, solidified.

Standing in that place with a blue vein almost popping out from her head was a semi-long haired beauty, who had noticed their exchange since some time ago.

「I wonder who's this, sex-offender-SAN?」

「W-Wait a minute, this is just a misunderstanding...」

「That's right, you've misunderstood」

「Bro! You're going to save me!?!」

「Since he hasn't yet executed his plan, he's sex-offender-to-be」

「This fucking idiot!」

Eisuke sent a full-powered backhand chop to the back of the one who was covering for him.

But, Souji easily caught that attack and instantly moved to an arm lock.

「NOOOOO! GIVE UP, STOP IT MY BRATHEEER!」

「Please excuse him with just this much punishment」

「... PU, AHAHAHA!」

Part 2

Even the girl's wrath had blown off and changed into a laugh when she saw them doing their comedy routine.

「Such weird guys. Okay, I'll pretend that I didn't hear any crime plans just now」

「Thank you, e~rr... 」

「Hinata Hirasaka, comedy duo-san」

「Sorachi Souji」

Souji grasped the girl's, Hinata's, hand when she offered a handshake with a bright smile on her face.

「I'm Endou Eisuke, nice to meet you Hinata-chan!」

「I'm not asking for your name」

「You girls are so CRUEEEEEEEEL!」

Though Eisuke ran away while weeping, the other two didn't even try to chase after him.

「But is this really a mixed dormitory?」

「It's true, the dorm leader explained about that first — ah right, you weren't there at the time」

When she said that, she recalled the fact that Souji had arrived much later than them.

「After the match was cancelled due to that commotion, we were being assigned according to the number of our dorm but, it looks like we're also split by class without distinction between boys and girls. In short, we're classmates」

「I see, thanks for the explanation」

Hinata couldn't help but smile to Souji who was honest to the bone, bowing slightly to show his gratitude.

「Also when we're moving as ACE corps, it seems they left us to live together under one roof to deepen our friendship, since there'll be many cases in which we're moving as class」

「I agree with your point, but isn't that still a problem?」

For boys and girls to spend their life under the same roof, no matter how severe the surveillance is, they'll definitely hide their illicit sexual relationships.

Something like love affairs between fellow members of ACE corps will only bring trouble in the middle of a battlefield.

「That's right, it's normally isn't a good idea...」

Hinata had also noticed that fact and asked the dorm leader, but only had her words cut off with the indisputable words 「That's what was decided」.

「For now, although the boy's and girl's rooms will be separated by different floors, there's going to be different timetables for using the one bath, it's pretty

strange.]

「...」

Souji silently showed his agreement.

The special high school that existed to train the troops to battle the CE, even if it's simply a co-ed high school, even if it's a special high-school to train the SDF[Self Defense Force], it has too many mysteries.

(But, could that also be included in their calculations?)

Keiko had said before that humankind was left with no other choice but to depend on the illusion weapons.

It's somehow like an uncontrolled breeding ground for the users of the weapon which determined the fate of several million human lives.

(I don't know what their real intentions are. But, I know that they have some sort of goal)

Anyway, he can't refuse that either if it really is to save a human life that way.

「It's a rule that was decided by everyone, so it wouldn't cause some kind of problem, would it?」

「I wonder... uhm, let's consult everyone else about that」

Hinata, who quickly switched to a positive mindset, immediately returned to her circle of friends.

But, she stopped walking just about half-way to turn back to look at Souji.

「Ah, I almost forgot about it」

「What is it?」

「Thanks for your protection back then. You... looked really cool back there」

She then darted away with a blushing face.

「Protection... AAAH」

Souji just grasped what she meant a few seconds later.

She was also inside the range of the descending light blade swung by Tendouji Ayato.

It seems that maybe Hinata was the one who stopped the group of girls who were jeering at him.

「I see, so it was useful after all」

Though he experienced an unsightly defeat, he managed to save someone.

A pair of eyes, whose owner was hiding, was glaring at Souji who was smiling gladly at the fact that he's saved someone.

「Flirting with a girl... brother has betrayed me!」

Said the unpopular boy who misunderstood that scene... Unfortunately, there was no one to retort to Eisuke's remark.

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Chapter 8

Double Eiyuu release for you guys. Enjoy it while it lasts.

Translator : Cnine

Editor : MystiKnight

Proofreader : MystiKnight

Chapter 8: Disparity

That next day, the students were still surprised about how well they were treated in the student dorm, being given rooms the size of 6 tatami mats.

After they ate the provided bento breakfast, Souji and his classmates went to the school building, only to receive a shock when they arrived at the classroom that they would be using for the next year.

「W-WHAT THE HELL IS THIS-!」

It was only natural for Eisuke to be screaming.

Of the twelve classrooms in the building, the classroom they were given, 1-D, was the only room that looked like it was from the Taisho era 100¹ years ago.

All of the desks and chairs were designed for two people and made completely of wood, while the pitch black blackboard gave off a refreshing feeling.

Naturally, it wasn't equipped with air conditioning, and there was only a petroleum stove that was usually used as a heater in a household.

「It gives off a nostalgic feeling, doesn't it...」

「C-Can we really study in this classroom...?」

The other classmates and Hinata were also perplexed and stood frozen stiff at the entrance of the class.

Souji, who was the only one to enter the classroom, sat at the seat in the back row of the room near the windows without being disturbed by the condition of the rest of the class.

「Brother, how can you nonchalantly choose your seat!」

「My bad, did you want the window seat? 」

「That's not it! Don't you think there's something wrong with the classroom?」

「Nope... it's more splendid than the school in my village」

「You, were you really raised in Japan!?!」

There's a legend regarding the unexplored region of Gunma, which is this place. Eisuke wondered whether it was due to that.

「No no, this is clearly strange right!?! The new school building in this place is around 3 years old, how can this class be the only one experiencing a time warp!?!」

Wondering if they're mismanaging something, Eisuke rushed out from the D class, only to freeze again when he peeked into the C class next to them.

「THE, HECK IS THIS...!?!」

Inside that class was a standard classroom with pipe desks and chairs like those from middle school.

「N-No way...」

The B class he peeped into next to the C class was reminiscent of a university, with long desks and a slightly slanted floor to let the one sitting at the back to easily see the blackboard. It exuded the high quality of a seminar room.

「Impossible...」

Looking into A class, which he barely managed to reach with his wobbling feet, Eisuke finally used up all of his strength.

It's desks and chairs were engineered to give the most comfort to the human body.

Latest tablet PCs served as notebooks and textbooks were distributed to each of its students.

It was comfortable to the point that at the back of the class was a drink bar and light meals to relieve their fatigue in the middle of their study.

The blackboard was an EXO-DISPLAY[LCD] – the need for something as inelegant and boorish like blackboard and chalk disappeared since the lessons

given to them were easier to understand with video.

That classroom which was heavily infused with the latest technology was appropriate for a 21st-century class.

「You're fucking kidding me, HEY, I feel like jumping into the sea!」
「Calm yourself, there's no sea in Gunma」

When Souji nonchalantly retorted to Eisuke who's in the middle of raging, a sharp voice suddenly cut in.

「Be quiet! Don't make a ruckus in hallway」

With a voice that made their spinal muscles instinctively straighten, the owner of the majestic voice was wearing a pair of shiny glasses, which when combined with her long black hair, was the embodiment of beauty called THE FEMALE TEACHER².

「You are?」
「The teacher in charge of class 1-A、 [Irogane Ayako]」

When the female teacher called Ayako introduced herself, she clapped the wall with the teacher baton that she took right from the gap between her big cleavage.

「Understood, we'll go back to our class」
「WAIT, if you're a teacher then you can do something or other about this discrimination!」

Without being deceived by such a rare beauty, Eisuke pointed alternately at A class and D class.

But Ayako responded to his plea with an icy cold glare.

「Discrimination? This is a distinction. That classroom is befitting of you lot, who's left over, isn't it? 」
「We're, the leftovers...!?!」

Eisuke who received such a shock almost crumbled down, and Souji who was supporting him from behind asked the female teacher, without any sense of bashfulness.

「Sorry but, what kind of standard are you using to divide the class? 」

「Hou, it seems you know how to act to your superior. Fine then, I'll tell you」

Though teachers nowadays didn't mind about haughty attitudes, Ayako readily gave an explanation.

「The lot of you went through the ignition test of your phantom weapons, and you also inquired about its ability and name right?」

「Yes」

「From the results of that data, as well as by classifying you by how excellent your weapons were against the CE, we divided you into your classes」

「In short, we didn't have the qualification to use an excellent class since we're weak?」

「You're quite sharp aren't you?」

Ayako grinned at Souji who replied with an uninterested attitude.

Being unable to endure it anymore, Eisuke finally snapped.

「You're arbitrarily deciding who's weak at your own convenience with that kind of test! 」

「A club strong against lions (lol)」

「GUHA...!」

Eisuke fell as if vomiting blood when he was reminded of the cruel truth.

「Please, wait a minute, that Erosuke aside, we won't agree if you group us with that dunce!」

「That's right, though it's true for Erosuke」

「That Erosuke is the only useless one!」

The other students who followed after Hinata gave the final blow called complete objection.

「Why...It's Hercules' weapon...isn't it the strongest and easiest to use, right...?」

「...(PON)」

Souji could only silently clap his friend on the shoulder, who was breaking down and crying on the floor.

「Objection rejected. You don't have the right for it since your phantom

weapons are weak.」

「But ——」

Ayako silently clapped her teacher baton to the wall to shut up Hinata, who was trying to protest.

「If that's the case, if there's someone who could win against Tendouji Ayato's holy sword, that person can enter A class」

「.....」

The gigantic sword of light that could easily sever the school building.

In response to being asked to have that overwhelming power as an opponent, anyone would have no choice but to shut their mouth.

Souji, who was done talking, spoke up for his classmates who were wrapped in silence.

「Understood, sorry for causing this ruckus in the hallway」

Bowing down to apologize, he dragged away the still dejected Eisuke and then went back to D class.

「Let's go back everyone」

「KUH.....!」

Urging Hinata to go back, even his classmates retreated to D class while grinding their teeth in frustration.

After the last one vanished into D class, Ayako muttered in a small voice.

「I see, that's the kid Kyoko has interest in」

After she took off the mask of a cruel female teacher, what had replaced it was a face filled with a gentle smile.

1. 1912-1926 CE ↩

2. ED: 'THE' was in all-caps English in the raw ↩

Chapter 9

Translator : Cnine

Editor : MystiKnight

Proofreader : MystiKnight

Chapter 9: D-Class

「What the hell is wrong with that glasses woman ! 」

Already having taken the role of the leader amongst the girls, Hinata hit her desk in frustration making a “BAN” sound.

She had acted like a grown up previously when everyone returned from the hallway to ease everyone’s anger, but the truth was that she felt extremely frustrated inside.

「Even Hinata-chan can’t bear with this setup」

Says the petite girl who could be mistaken for an elementary schooler, Komukai Kokoa.

「T-That’s right, how can my shield be just a common shield, how can an A-class ...」

The shy person, whose eyes were hidden beneath long bangs, Karasuzaki Kanna muttered her feelings without even trying to hide them in her chest.

Hinata couldn’t come to an understanding and that caused her to groan alone.

「But, how can we let them look down on us that much just because of the levels of our weapons that they decided for their own convenience!」

They could endure these run-down class facilities.

But, how can they be given such terrible treatment when they’re not even fighting the CE yet.

Shouting along with Hinata, is Yuzuki Yuuta brimming with the aura of an “Honor Student”.

「Yoosshh, the most vexing one is YOU, RIGHT!?!」

Yuuto pointed his line of sight toward Souji, who was nonchalantly opening a textbook at his window seat.

He who beat Tendouji Ayato once, he who was almost victorious before the game changed, the Unlucky Spear User.

「... Right, won't you add something」

Though he's trying to endure it with silence, since Hinata's was making a fuss, he didn't have the right to make a racket with them.

Though Souji questioned the difference in the classroom treatment, he didn't mind it too much.

「But, although what that Ayako-sensei said was too much, she's still a good woman, I want her to step on me with her pinheee~!」

「PERVERT」

Souji gave a half-hearted response to Eisuke who was sitting in front of him, still saying nonsense without learning from his previous experience when someone besides him suddenly rose from their seat.

「H-Hello」

The one who greeted him was a petite and slender pretty boy [bishounen].

He definitely would be mistaken for a girl if he wasn't wearing trousers.

「Hello」

「May I sit beside you? 」

「By all means」

Since they haven't decided the seating of the class yet, they could sit where ever they want.

And then, that pretty boy sat next to him while looking strangely happy.

「My[Boku] name is, Ikaruga Itsuki」

「Sorachi Souji」

「Erm, please treat me well from now on」

Even when facing the blunt reply of Souji, the pretty boy called Itsuki¹ didn't let go of his smile.

Having seen that, Eisuke butt in with a meek looking face.

「Hey, can I ask one question ? 」

「Yes, what it is」

「You, are actually a girl right?」

「.....EH ? 」

At that moment, Itsuki's body solidified and he was rendered speechless.

Eisuke violently gripped his slender shoulders.

「You're a woman right!? You're actually a big breasted woman who hides her chest with sarashi, so when I accidentally peep at you in the shower you'll shout『KYAA~aaa, ECHHHHHH!』, and then it'll turn into a troubling development RIGHT ! 」

「W-What are you talking about!? I apologize but, I[boku] am a man ! 」

「Then, will you let me grope your chest and nether region a little ? If you're a man, you'll be fine with it right? 」

「I don't wanna, even if I'm a man ! 」

「Eehh you won't, just the tip, it's okay since it's just the tip, RIGHT ? 」

「NO, STOP I~it ! 」

Itsuki raised a loud scream while Souji attacked Eisuke's head with his English-Japanese dictionary.

「Calm yourself」

「B-Brother, please use a notebook inst...」

The teary-eyed Eisuke fell from his chair with no one in the class taking pity on him.

「Look properly, Itsuki's build is that of a man right」

「Y-YOU NOTICED ! 」

Itsuki eyes sparkling so brightly deeply moved by Souji who can see through him due to his trained eyes as a martial artist.

Itsuki's eyes were sparkling brightly, deeply moved by Souji who could see through him due to the training his eyes went through as a martial artist.

「I, for some reason there's many incidents in which I'm being mistaken as girl today, it's really bothering me」

「Today, for some reason, there's been a lot of incidents in which I'm being mistaken for a girl. It's really bothering me.」

「.....For some reason? 」

... Nope, no matter how you look at him anyone will mistake him for a pretty girl, everyone in the class (Eisuke included) simultaneously retorted in their mind.

「And then, I really want to become manly like Souji-san, Ehehehe」

「...」

Souji silently looked at the bashful Itsuki for a short while.

And then, gently tapping Itsuki's shoulder, said.

「Give it up」

「EEEEEEEEHHHH———っ!?!」

「That's right, give it up Itsuki-tan and become my br —— 」

「I said calm yourself」

He hit Eisuke who was still trying to make more confusion with his dictionary once again while comforting the still crying Itsuki.

He hit Eisuke, who was still trying to create confusion, with his dictionary once again before comforting the still crying Itsuki.

While that useless conversation went on, a chime resounded from the speaker and the door of the classroom opened as if waiting for that timing.

Entering the classroom was a crew cut giant wearing a jersey that was bulging with muscle. [TL : Ironman from Baka to test as reference]

「I[Watashi] am the one who's responsible for this class, Ogawara Ooma」

「WHAT THE HEEEEEEE———EEELLLLLLLLL ! 」

Obviously, the one retorting with all his power to that faultless self-introduction was Eisuke.

「Even though that A-class got such a voluptuous queen-like female teacher, WHY THE HELL DID WE GET THIS FILTHY OLD MAN ! RECALL! AT LEAST BRING KYOKO-SENSEI!!! 」

As for the rest of the boys, they're unconsciously nodding in their mind, their youthful spirit screaming aloud.

The teacher, Ooma, walked until he was beside the now silent Eisuke —

「Fu ! (RAiiiiSEEEEEEE[GOKI])」

「Shiiii~~~~~t !」

—-and easily strangled him with a sleeper hold.

「...」

With the rest of the class frozen and dumbfounded, Ooma began to speak in a clear, low voice.

「Gentleman, though this misunderstanding is troubling me, I'm the one who'll train you to become a soldier who'll protect this country from CE. So prepare yourself since I will not hesitate to deliver corporeal punishment so that there won't be any idiots left」

「.....YES SIR」

Being glared with the sharp eyes of trained soldier, they didn't have any choice but to nod.

Inside the class that fell into silence, Souji raised Eisuke who had fallen on the floor and snapped his eyes open with a method often used in period dramas by pressing his knee on Eisuke's back while seizing his shoulder.

「COUGH.....W-Where's that blonde babe!?!」

「Do you want to sleep again ?」

Ooma's big arms once again twined around Eisuke who just have a nice dream.

「HIIIIIIII ! FORGIVE ME, GORILA-SENSEI !」

「That's the right attitude for begging for forgiveness ! (GRINDGRIND)」

「GUEEEEEEE— — —HHHH !」

Unable to faint despite the pain, it was a perfectly executed strangling technique which squeezed out a cry like a squashed frog, which resounded throughout the classroom.

「How lively」

「Errm, can you still say this is lively ... ?」

Just a common idiot — —- was what everyone in the class was thinking except for Souji.

「Well then, though we wasted some time, let's start the lesson immediately」
Leaving Eisuke, whose soul was on the verge of leaving from his mouth with the white of his eyes showing up, Ooma looked at the students from the teacher podium.

「First, congratulation for your enrollment, from now on you'll be receiving training as ACE troops and taking the duty of protecting Japan from CE. Naturally, it's a dangerous job, so there's the possibility of losing your life」

“GULP”. Though it was just the sound of someone swallowing his saliva, it strangely resounded in the class.

「Although it's not like I'm telling you to go and die, your current situation is more painful than dying」

While saying so, Ooma took out a projector and laptop from under the teacher's platform.

After a brief moment of fiddling around, projected on the board was a withered patient lying on the bed.

「The person who receives the CE's attack will fall into a comatose state and never wake up. The way to cure it has yet to be found」

Looking up at the empty ceiling with eyes that have lost their vitality, a pipe pierced directly into its stomach. It was responsible for both providing nutrition directly to the body as well as taking care of waste.

Could you really call that being a living human?

All of the students' faces instantly turned pale thinking about that sort of thing happening to them.

「The CEs' attacks greatly resemble a high-energy beam, it's fast and difficult to dodge. But it's range is different from lasers and only around 30m, so the good news is it's not that much different from a handgun」

Following after that was a projection of battlefield.

Those unrealistic hexagonal bodies fired out lasers from the red ball at its center, causing the citizens bathed in its beam to fall and let out shrill screams while covering their ears.

「This is Matsumoto city in Nagano district where the pillar has appeared. The TV cameraman recording this at that time was able to send this valuable image recording via satellite to the broadcasting station」

「Uhm, that person is ...」

「He's looks like he's dying, right? He's lucky」

「...」

To such heavy answer from Ooma, the student who asked that question looking down when hearing such needless fact.

In response to such a heavy answer from Ooma, the student who had asked that question looked down after hearing that needless fact.

Even if you're receiving the CE's attack, it won't harm your life directly. It'll only knock you unconscious.

But, they wondered just how many days that people who could not move were left alone, exposed to the weather without receiving aid.

「Though there're satellite images showing the pillar at the center ... it's better if you don't look at it」

Want to see? — They even hesitated to ask about the hell that was pictured in front of them.

Thousands, tens of thousands of corpses, having turned to white skeletons thrown away on the ground, were surrounded by beautiful crystal-like bodies which seemed out of place.

「Uguh..... !」

One girl who's unable to enduring to imagine what happened to the victims running away to the washroom while holding her mouth, Even Ooma and the other students didn't blame her for that.

One girl was unable to endure imagining what happened to the victims and ran off to the washroom while holding her mouth. The other students, and even Ooma didn't blame her for it.

「The CE's attacks have high penetrative power, and though there's no way to avoid it with riot shields or bulletproof jackets, you can use thick concrete walls or bulky tanks to defend against it. You must note this, that their attacks possess more penetrating power than an assault rifle but still less than an anti-material

rifle.]

「Sensei, that comparison is hard to understand.]

「Oops, my bad. Anyway, just think of it as an attack that conventional human defensive gear can't defend against.]

When Souji retorted, Ooma corrected his explanation while smiling wryly.

「But, that's not the case with the 『Phantom Armor』 that was worn by the lot of you. That armor can withstand tens of CE attacks.]

Hearing that, the student who was on the verge of collapsing due to the heavy atmosphere sighed in relieve.

「There's no way that the lot of you who are ACE troops are going to leave despite that threatening atmosphere, RIGHT? And since we're currently having more new students, we have some surplus for battle. In reality, there's no one who become a victim last year.]

Even if it brought harm to the SDF [Self Defense Force] Personnel and the citizens, although we had basically no information regarding CE at the beginning, the current we developed ways to deal with them and their behaviours which reduced the victims to almost zero.

「But, there's no certainties on the battlefield. Even if it's safe today, there's no guarantee that it'll be safe tomorrow. I want the lot of you to never let go of your sense of danger in the midst of battle.]

Ooma let out a boorish smile while saying that.

Even the students of D – Class felt relieved in front of that smile.

He's a strict teacher, but, he's a kind teacher who worried about them.

「Well then, to build your stamina so that you won't lose to CE, run 50 laps around the school grounds !]

They then learned that behind his image as a sports coach was definitely a demon.

「「「EEEEEEEEEEEE— — —HHH!?!」」」

「If you still have time to voice your complaints, then change to your jerseys NOW. The last person will get extra 10 laps.]

When he clapped his hands, the students instantly raised from their seats.

「Crap, should we change into jerseys in the class!?!」

「Hinata-chan, let's run with me and everyone to our dormitory」

「W-Wait for me...」

While the girls hurriedly ran to the dormitory, Souji already changed to his jersey and hit Eisuke shoulder, who had finally regained his consciousness.

「Should we go?」

「.....Is this HELL? 」

Souji smiled at Eisuke's unusually funny joke.

1. ED: I looked around the raws for a little bit, and it doesn't look like Itsuki actually tells anyone what his/her name is. Only to the audience, in this line. ↩

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