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COMING INTO BLOOM

SEIOHUKAN ACADEMY TRAINING ROOM

LIVING STONE DAISY!!
Geez...

He uses his sword to reflect the first wave of my chakra into the second one...

Always the same nonchalant expression.

Even when you're playing with fire.

Well, I suppose I don't have anything else that would—

Because I'm burning with excitement!

Blazing

Now, I wonder, will you be able to dodge the next one?

Win your favor anymore, right?
LET'S SEE...

HOW ABOUT THIS?

OH,
THEN, WHAT WILL YOU DO?

WHAT?

VANISH
GLORiosa!

ERUPT!

THIS TIME

A TRAP!

I WILL WIN.
ABLAZE

AMAGIRI SHINMEI SWORD STYLE SECOND SWORD

SPIN
TOBI AZAMI!
(TEN LINKED THISTLES)

WHAAAAA~!
NOT BEING ABLE TO WIN IS DWINDLING MY SELF-CONFIDENCE.

MU...

I THOUGHT TODAY WOULD BE IT.

BUT, AREN'T YOU SELING YOURSELF SHORT, JULIS?

POUT
AFTER ALL, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO HIT YOU EVEN ONCE TODAY.

IT'S NOT A FLATTERY.

HONESTLY, THAT LAST ONE WAS PRETTY DANGEROUS.

STILL, YOU HAVE A LOT OF TECHNIQUES IN YOUR ARSENAL.

THE LAST ATTACK WAS NEW TO ME.

THAT LAST ATTACK WAS NEW TO ME.

I AM PROUD OF THE VARIATIONS THAT I HAVE...

U..UMU.
Here's an example, Ayato.

Though it would be impossible to win in the Festa if I couldn't do this much.

At the Festa between a Strega and a Dante, or, basically, between 2 ability users.

Both have a high chance of winning, right?

While it may be true that a Strega or a Dante have a high chance of winning—

It only applies to the first few rounds...

Eh?
I see.

Or in other words, both a Strega and a Dante can be read easily.

Because, once the information regarding their ability and how to deal with it began to spread, it's game over.

There are only so many battles that can be fought before the ability users begin to lose.

For example, like that time with Silas.

UmU

It's not enough to just win battles here.

Top ranks with ability understand that very well.

That is true.

Isn't just limited to a Strega and a Dante, right?

But having your tricks blown and falling behind due to it...

Clench.
BY THE WAY, HOW IS YOUR BODY HOLDING UP?

THROB

THUMP

CLOSE...

O... OH

THEN THAT'S FINE.

I THINK I STILL GOT ENOUGH LEFT IN ME. NOTHING TO LIVE OUT OF BUT ORDINARY.

AH... WELL.

THUMP

THREE MINUTES IS STILL THE LIMIT.
HONESTLY SPEAKING, IT WILL BE REALLY DIFFICULT.

LOOKS LIKE IT...

IT'S NOT ENOUGH, RIGHT?

I NEED TO REST FOR AT LEAST A FEW HOURS.

I ALREADY SAID IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE.

JUST MAKING SURE,

BUT YOU ARE UNABLE TO BREAK YOUR SEAL AGAIN IN YOUR CURRENT STATE, RIGHT?

AND SER-VERESTA WON'T RESPOND UNLESS YOU HAVE FULL POWER.

UUMU

SO FIGHTING AT FULL STRENGTH WHILE MINIMISING THE RECOIL IS LIMITED TO... THREE MINUTES.

WE COULD PUSH THE LIMIT TO FIVE MINUTES BUT YOU'LL BE INCAPACITATED FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
Yeah, I think that'd be the best approach.

Guess we'll have to create a plan around your full power time limit.

At the very least, so long as they're not stronger than myself, it shouldn't pose too much of a problem.

There aren't too many people that could last three minutes against you.

Sigh...

It's frustrating to admit but we've already proved it.

Are there that many students that are stronger than you, Julius?

Dumb
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND YOU.

NO, WAIT... IT'S FINE...

ARE YOU TAKING THAT SERIOUSLY...

THAT MANY...

BUT AT THE VERY LEAST, MORE THAN TWENTY.

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE QUITE A FEW OF THEM.

I'M HAPPY THAT YOU THINK SO HIGHLY OF ME BUT IN THIS ASTERISK ALONE, WHILE I WOULDN'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY "THEY ARE MANY."

THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF GALAHADNORTH IS SAID TO BE AT THE PEAK AS FAR AS SWORDSMANSHIP GOES.

I'VE ALSO HEARD THAT THE STUDENT COUNCIL PRESIDENT OF JIE LONG IS AN ABSOLUTE MONSTER BUT SHE IS UNABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FESTA DUE TO HER AGE SO WE DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MEETING HER THERE.

I'VE SEEN SOME OF HIS MATCHES AND I'D SAY THAT HIS ABILITIES ARE, AT THE VERY LEAST, BEYOND YOURS EVEN WHEN YOU'RE AT YOUR FULL POWER.
I believe she comes from Rewolf and is the successive champion of Lindvolus...

That reminds me about someone I've heard of.

It was all over the news for several days last year.

The Ereshkigal, Ophelia.

Sorry, I was thinking about something else.

...Julis?

Yeah, that's it!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS?

ANYWAY, COMPARED TO THOSE I JUST NAMED,

YOU DO HAVE ONE ADVANTAGE.

WELL... NOT AT ALL...

IT IS ONE OF YOUR TRUE ABILITIES THAT HASN'T BEEN MADE PUBLIC YET.

UMU.

OH, RIGHT. THAT DOES TIE IN WITH WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT.

THE SILAS INCIDENT WAS KEPT UNDER WRAPS AND THERE WERE NO EYE-WITNESSES.
GOT IT.

SO, IN THE COMING MONTHS UNTIL THE PHOENIX STARTS,

IT STILL WON'T MATTER MUCH BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT IT CAN DO.

DON'T FIGHT POINTLESS DUELS AND REVEAL YOUR OWN HAND, GOT IT?

WE NEED TO GET YOU TO AT LEAST BE ABLE TO HANDLE AN UNRANKED COMPETITOR WITHOUT UNLOCKING YOUR SEAL.

OKAY, THEN LET'S GET BACK TO TRAINING!

THIS IS A PROBLEM THAT I DON'T HAVE A SOLUTION FOR...

IDEALLY, IT'D BE A LOT BETTER IF WE COULD HAVE MOCK SPARRING MATCHES BUT...

U-MU...

OTHERWISE I MIGHT JUST ROAST YOU ALIVE.

WE ALSO NEED TO COVER UP WITH MORE TEAMWORK AND COORDINATION.

That would...
Wouldn’t it be easier to just ask one of our classmates?

That’s it? If it’s just that,

Even if we did spar with a classmate, your abilities will be made public.

In the first place, you’re...

First and foremost, did you already forget what we just talked about?

Oh no, I didn’t mean to...

What a mean joke...

You know I don’t have any friends here.

You have guests. Would you like to let them in?
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