

Isekai Restaurant

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Chapter 32: End of a War, Beginning of Another

- Silas -

I completed another order of ramen and passed it to Shuna before washing my hands and leaving the kitchen.

The early morning was always the busiest hour of the day for me as I had to wake up early to prepare stock for the rest of the day.

The refrigerator of the Restaurant kept things frozen in time so there was no problem with them going bad no matter how long I kept them there but I still had a habit of preparing a stock daily. It was something I had inherited from my father.

A while later, Tohru arrived at work and I gave Sakura, Lavy and Orihime a break.

Last night the girls had stayed up too late, getting to know their new summoned servants. Only Sakura-chan woke up early this morning. Lavy and Orihime woke up a bit later but they looked tired. I told them to go back and rest but they didn't and still came for work.

As for their servants... well, Medusa was actually helping out in the Restaurant. She had borrowed a dress which was magically altered by Caster and was actually serving the guests with the rest of the girls, and I gotta say... she looked fine in the maid uniform.

The silent thumbs up Rimuru and Ainz had sent towards me when they saw her like that reaffirmed this.

Her two sisters however... they have been utterly invested in watching idol videos from the moment they had awakened this morning.

These two had been completely taken in by the idol culture in Japan and other countries and were now completely focused on researching those. As for the Holy Grail War... they waved it off. According to them, just by being present, they had reduced two servants that needed to be taken care of. That was already enough work for them. We could do the rest.

As much as my lips twitched at their shamelessness, I couldn't find a way to refute them.

Medusa had come in immediately after they left and apologised, promising to assist Sakura in the battle to the best of her ability so that we wouldn't feel the absence of her sisters.

She was actually feeling quite sorry for us.

I actually had to take some time off and reassure her that there was no need for her to worry.

After all, Caster as Saitama's servant and the one who was supposed to get the wish didn't seem to care in the least if those two sisters participated or not, so who was I to say? Ultimately, she was assuaged and joined the rest of the girls to serve the customers.

I came out of the kitchen and Sakura gave me a towel.

I haven't sweated while cooking since I became a Greater Daemon. Whether it be stamina or resistance to elements, I had spades. Yet, Sakura had this habit and I... appreciated it too.

I gave her a smile. "You should go and take some rest. All of you have been awake all night. Don't push yourself too hard lest you fall sick due to exhaustion."

She smiled and nodded at my words.

I looked at Medusa, who had just returned beside Sakura too. "Please see that she takes some rest. She has a bad habit of pushing herself too hard."

Medusa nodded stoically at this.

She did give off a very reliable vibe in the maid uniform.

Unlike her sisters... I looked at the two who were watching tv without a care in the world. The only change now was that Megumin and Milim had joined them too.

"They sure like Idols." I chuckled at their behaviour.

Who would have thought that people from the myths would have personalities like these? Then again, I have had my perception about such beings changed a long time ago after meeting people like Lucoa, Aqua and Milim.

Medusa looked at them too. "That's because they are goddesses born from the wishes of mankind for ideal idols, the embodiment of the yearning hearts of men. They are the perfect incarnation of goddesses who would never age and remain beautiful all the time."

"Wait seriously?" I asked, surprised.

Her words made me take another look at the sisters. Born from the yearning hearts of men... those two?

They are arrogant and condescending... although they hide it well under that facade of theirs. And what was that about not growing old and always remaining beautiful?

My eyes went down slightly... they should have at least let them age up a bit.

Were all those men yearning for her actually masochistic lolicons?

"So Gods in your world were born that way? From the wishes of humans? Oh, you three are sisters, right? So what kind of Goddess are you?" I asked... and then almost regretted doing so as I observed a slight wince on her face.

"I... I am flawed. Due to that flaw, I aged. We were supposed to be triplets and yet, I became the one who broke the perfect scene." She replied, her tone filled with self depreciation.

The words and tone... they reminded me a bit of Sakura back when I had just met her.

It didn't feel good.

“Eh, that’s not true, you know. According to me, you have your own kind of beauty. While I won’t deny that there are some people who like their kind of beauty, I am pretty sure there are far more people who like your kind of beauty nowadays.” I wasn’t even lying. She could pass for a world class model in my world.

“Silas-san is not wrong, Rider.” Sakura patted her on the shoulder, reassuring her.

The girl however gave us a light smile, indicating that she appreciated our words but didn’t want to continue the topic anymore.

I couldn’t imagine the significance of such a thing for her so I didn’t say anything else either. We didn’t know each other that well after all. It wouldn’t be right to push her when she didn’t want to talk anymore.

They went to take some rest while I went to the private room where Rimuru and the rest of the group played around. Milim wasn’t around today as she was out planting daikon radishes in Tempest with the goblins and goblinas.

She really enjoyed these small things a lot.

Hell, she even enjoyed drawing with Naruto and Kanna after she saw their artbooks from school one time.

They were having another one of their monthly pokemon competitions to decide who pays for the food next week. Currently Ainz was in the lead... as expected.

Among all of us, Ainz was by far the best gamer... followed by Kazuma.

Rimuru, despite his skills, was not that good in games as he never used his skills. As for Saitama, he... for lack of better words... sucked at gaming.

The guy liked games and was a great casual gamer... but he sucked when it came to competitions.

Perhaps the only one he was better than was Fafnir... and that wasn’t hard as that dragon sucked even more.

I sat down in the corner of the room and started working on something which I didn’t get a chance to do yesterday.

Yuri and Narberal had started the production of manga in the Crossroads Publications. We have both a weekly and a monthly manga in publication.

Tanya was running advertisements all over the tv and newspapers.

And all of it was showing its effect too.

The last two weeks sales have shown a significant increase. These kinds of things took time and I could only wait.

One more thing they had been doing was acquiring properties around the Restaurant. One of the things I realised was that I needed more rooms for the staff. Currently, there are only two more rooms apart from mine. One was shared by Orihime and Sakura and the other was Lavinia and Shuna's room.

They slept in my room but they had their stuff in that room.

It was used mostly when guests came over.

As the staff of the Restaurant grew, I have been feeling the need to expand the Restaurant a bit more to accommodate more residents or we would get stuck with situations like yesterday where everyone had to cram themselves together in the current rooms.

Even Tanya and the Nazarick maids had to stay in one of the apartments we had bought to house the oni and people from Rimuru and Cid-kun's world.

This was especially considering that I was thinking of hiring Jouchiro-san as a Sous-Chef and even have students from the Totsuki Academy over her for stagiaire.

I was thinking of making another floor above the Restaurant and a dorm beside the Restaurant to have more rooms for the staff and any guests to live.

Since I had money... why not use it?

I told this to Yuri and Narberal and they agreed immediately and got to work.

Within two weeks, the properties near my Restaurant were bought. Just yesterday, the paperwork was completed and Shuna was out all day getting the documentation completed for this.

“Still working on the plans?” Rimuru asked as he came and sat down beside me.

“Hmm, the paperwork is done. All we need to do now is complete the construction. Do you think I can borrow the dwarves for a while?” I asked.

Rimuru’s dwarves had done the previous remodeling of the restaurant barely months ago and yet now I need to expand again.

“Oh sure. They have been free for a while. They have been urging me to give them more work. I am planning on going on a trip to meet the students which Shizue-san had told me about. I made a promise to her to take care of the kids.” He said, looking at the wall. “It’s time I fulfilled the promise.”

“Hmm. When are you leaving?” I asked.

“A week or so later. Rigurd and the rest have started managing the city quite well. Shizuka will be going out for a conference of some kind to another city too.”

“Oh yeah, she wasn’t excited about that.” I nodded, remembering the rant she had gone on after drinking the last time she had come to the Restaurant after her date with Rimuru.

Seriously, it was a bad idea to let her drink with Lucoa-san and Aqua.

I even told Rimuru so but that guy was too smitten to say anything. In the end, he had to carry her to Tempest... or maybe that’s what he wanted... I looked at the slime in human skin beside me with narrowed eyes.

“W-what?”

“Nothing. So everything is settled in Tempest?” I asked.

“Almost. Milim said that she would be leaving in a while. That’s why I have been holding off. I will leave after she goes or...”

“There won’t be anyone who could keep her under control in Tempest?” I asked, already knowing the answer.

Rimuru smiled.

“Well, not exactly. If things become urgent, someone could just drag you out to bribe her with sweets.” He laughed, making me roll my eyes.

“Help me expand the Restaurant and I will make a room for her too. When she comes to Tempest, she can stay here. That way I can keep an eye on her too.” I added moments later.

Despite her... eccentricities, I have gotten... surprisingly close to Milim, in the past month or two.

It was especially so after our disastrous trip to the amusement park.

Apparently, she enjoyed it a lot. Since then she had been spending more time in the Restaurant. She even went out to Hayato-san's world once with Naruto and Kanna.

Now it wasn't rare for her to eat at the Restaurant and fall asleep on one of the couches while playing games. Even Rimuru left her there as he knew that I could manage anything she did in the Restaurant.

I had to carry her upstairs to Lavinia's room on such nights. It was really like having a little sibling of my own.

She was already kinda living here in a way. Hell, she even had her own pillow and night dress in Lavy and Shuna's room. It wouldn't be odd to make a room for her.

“Deal.” I agreed too.

“So, what do you plan to do for this... Holy Grail War?” Rimuru asked.

“Nothing?”

“Hmm?”

“I am going to do nothing.” I replied, confidently.

“Really? I thought you would help out Sakura-chan?” He asked.

I shook my head. “She doesn't want that. She wants to do this to prove herself. If I interfered, she would never be able to do that even if she won. I have never seen

Sakura-chan look so determined about something. I... I don't want her to lose this feeling." I replied. I had already done everything I could to support her.

"Eh... I guess I understand."

"If anything, it would be for the best for me to stay put in the Restaurant. You know how every time I leave the Restaurant, I come across one thing or another."

"We checked. There was no curse, ya know?" He replied although rolling his eyes. "Maybe your luck sucks in that department?"

"It does." I agreed. "That's why it would be for the best that I stay in the Restaurant instead of following them out lest I bring more trouble to them."

"Sounds like a plan. With four servants on our side, they should be pretty safe too."

"Hmm."

"Still... you gotta propose after this is over. I mean Lavinia-chan and Shuna-chan are okay with it too. It's almost painful to see you two flailing around like that." He joked as he took a sip of his cold drink.

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"I will." I replied after a light pause.

Rimuru spurted his drink. "What?!"

The noise attracted the attention of others and all of them suddenly turned towards us. Rimuru however just stared at me.

"Really?" He asked.

“Hmm.” I nodded. “She is facing her fears and charging ahead bravely. It wouldn’t do well if I were to shrink back. So... after this Holy Grail War... I will tell her how I feel about her. Whatever happens will happen.” I replied.

I had been thinking about this for a while and finally came to this decision.

“Wait wait, what’s going on?” Ainz asked. “What will you tell and to whom?”

“I am going to tell Sakura-chan how I feel about her after this Holy Grail War ends.” I replied once more, resolutely before turning to them. “Make sure that not a single word of this conversation leaves this room, or else...”

“Obviously it won’t. But are you sure?” Ainz asked.

“I am.”

“That’s great. If she agrees we party together. If she doesn’t we still drink together.”

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Why do you guys seem more excited about this than me?

The topic changed from there, and shifted towards the topic of the Holy Grail War.

One thing led to another and the topic came to the summoned servants.

“Eh, I think Euryale-san and Stheno-san are quite cute. They even asked me about Idols. I think they want to become one themselves.” Kazuma said.

“Ohh, yeah... I can see those two doing well in the Idol industry. They have the looks and personality for that.” Ainz nodded too.

“By the way, does everyone get a cute girl as a summoned servant? All three of the Restaurant’s waitresses summoned cute girls. Saitama-san got Caster-san and even Sakura-san’s sister had a cute knight servant. Do you think I can get a cute servant if I summoned one too?” Kazuma asked, already imagining the scene of himself participating in the event.

"Eh... we don't know for sure. I mean, wasn't that Berserker servant some kind of monster? You could get that too." Rimuru poured water over Kazuma's thoughts, immediately waking him up.

"Umm... Berserker wore a skirt." Saitama added, sending shivers down everyone's spine at the implications.

The rest of the afternoon went on like that.

- Ikki Kurogane -

Standing in front of the blind captain, he wondered how things had changed so much in just two days.

"Are you sure you can take them on Kurogane?" Ichigo asked.

"I can."

"You sure you can take on the 'see no evil' guy?" The voice of the most unexpected person, the man he had almost fought to death just a few days prior, Kenpachi Zaraki asked him.

Ikki nodded.

"Well, your wish then. I wanted to take all four of them on by myself but I will let this pass. I will take on the bucket head. I always wanted to see the face under that helmet."

They separated from each other while Ikki stayed back with the eleventh squad to fight the other captain.

"How foolish of you to think you can stand in the face of justice. Let me show you the error of your ways."

Ikki got serious as well. This was a captain. Similar to the one before. "Come Intetsu."

Over the last few days he was trained by Yoruichi. And by training... he meant, she was beating him to within an inch of his life and then healing him with Silas-san's Healing Potion.

She did this because she had observed that his spirit power had increased greatly after healing from such injuries using the potion. According to her, there could be two reasons for this. First, the potion, which could heal Spiritual Beings too. It was very likely that his body was absorbing some of the spiritual power inside the potion every time it was used on his body, thus increasing his own reserves. Although, if that were the case, the results would be diminishing and would stop after he reached a certain level.

The second theory was the Healing he had received from Aqua-sama.

Yes... he was brought back from the brink of death by a genuine goddess.

Even now, Ikki found it hard to believe.

According to Yoruichi, Byakuya Kuchiki's attack had severed his soul chain, basically the chain which linked his soul with his body. The power which Aqua-sama used had fixed the link but there was a chance that his soul might have absorbed some of that power as well. After all, she was a higher tier lifeform than him. The power of such beings often left their mark on the target.

Just like being exposed to Spiritual Power could awaken Spiritual Sensing Powers in humans, Aqua-sama's powers could have done the same to his soul.

Although Yoruichi wasn't an expert in Medical Studies, from what she could tell, there was no adverse effect to his body so it seems that whatever was happening was beneficial to it.

All he needed to do now was do his best to unearth all the potential this change has brought upon his soul. Later, after returning, Kisuke can check him up and find the exact changes more comprehensively.

Ikki agreed and had thrown himself into training wholeheartedly, and the results were showing. In just the past few days, his Spiritual Power had grown immensely, reaching the level of a Vice Captain, according to Yoruichi-san.

With Ittou Shura, he could push this power even further, reaching Captain level for a short while too.

Even Intetsu was changing. He could feel it but didn't know what that change would actually be.

According to Kisuke, his sword had the possibility to evolve later on.

The blind captain attacked and Ikki matched him. He was good at swordsmanship but not at Ikki's level but his speed and strengths were above that of Ikki. It was only through his experience with Swordsmanship that he was able to fend off the attacks from the captain. Although he was still on the losing end.

As they clashed more, the cuts on his body increased bit by bit.

He was only able to fend off deadly attacks but couldn't keep himself from being unhurt by the relentless onslaught of the blind captain.

But things would change quickly.

One.

Two.

Three.

Ikki counted in his mind, remembering the rhythm of the attacks and after a while he finally got it. The next moment, the blade that was coming towards his head was swiftly diverted to the side. Ikki used this opportunity to step forward and the Captain was pushed back, creating a distance between them to escape from his next attack.

The blind captain managed to create a distance between them but there was a cut in his haori. A frown marred his face as he dashed towards Ikki again, this time aiming an attack at his heart... only for it to be diverted and Ikki stepping in for another slash. This time however the attack drew blood.

He had not only been training with Kisuke. Almost half his time had been spent in the Ryozanpaku Dojo to hone his martial arts skills and swordsmanship. The training from Ryozanpaku had enabled him to overcome his limit of small mana reserves, through learning to harness ki to empower his attacks.

The only reason he had been able to pick up usage of Ki so fast was due to his lifelong training as a swordsman. The masters of Ryozanpaku are truly masters of using ki. The techniques which he learned there are a great example of this.

It was one of these techniques which enabled him to do what he was doing.

Hayato-sensei had taken a liking to his progress and hammered this technique into him personally.

Seikūken.

A combat method that involves controlling the entire radius within one's arm length, creating a spherical shield around oneself. It can be used for offence and defence. Weapon users like Shigure-san can extend the range to several feet around them with the additional length of their weapons, allowing them to defend even at mid-range. More experienced fighters can even extend the range with minimal lengths by using air pressure.

This is what allowed him to react to attacks much faster than his own speed. The battle continued.

Both sides reached nowhere.

Any attack from the blind captain was countered by him and the counter attack, even if minimum was fired back and soon enough, Ikki managed to steal his swordsmanship style which made a direct confrontation fall into a complete state of stalemate between them.

Minutes passed by and when he realised that he couldn't achieve the upper hand, the captain jumped back and while midair, he held up his sword in front of him.

"Suzumushi Nishiki: Benihikō." The captain made a 360° arc with his sword as white blades formed in the arc.

Ikki anticipated the attack and let out a breath, then tried a technique he had stumbled upon in his training with Yoruichi. "Ittou Shura." He used Ittou Shura, his speed and strength increased temporarily. The blades which had been blitzing towards him slowed down to a crawl and in conjugation with the Seikūken, he slashed all the blades coming towards him away. "Kai."

The pressure was released again as the technique was released.

Previously, he hadn't been able to control the release of Ittou Shura. Once the technique was initiated, he would only stop when the mana in his body was exhausted.

This however meant that he would be completely vulnerable once the technique was over.

In the Soul Society, or any actual battle for that matter, such a thing would mean certain death. Moreover, he realised that Seikūken wasn't an unbreakable technique

If the speed of the opponent was too fast, he wouldn't even be able to react, let alone counter... and Yoruichi was fast... very very fast.

So to keep up with her, he was forced to use his Ittou Shura in short bursts. Not only that, he was also controlling how much power he was releasing as unlike previously, he now had much more power to spare. So in this state, he could fight for over an hour as long as he wasn't forced to go all out, in which case he would be able to last five to eight minutes maximum.

The area became quiet all of a sudden. Even the blind captain paused a bit.

"Hahahaha that was great. I wasn't wrong. You have indeed grown since our last fight. Let's fight again when this is over." Kenpachi Zaraki laughed.

The frown on the blind captain's face intensified as he spoke once more. "Continuing to resist in the face of Justice. It seems I will have to get serious against you. Bankai: Suzumushi Tsuishiki: Enma Kōrogi."

The ring on the side of his sword spun and enlarged and an area of darkness wrapped the whole place. Ikki couldn't see or hear anything. All his senses seemed suddenly cut off... no... he could still feel so his sense of touch was still there.

He suddenly felt a chill run down his spine and quickly used shunpo to dodge to the side, barely dodging a fatal wound although a cut appeared on his arm as blood gushed out.

Another thing he realised was that there was no sound behind that attack but... there was displacement of air. Such changes could be felt.

Ikki recalled the teaching of the masters of Ryozanpaku. Then he reigned the aura to a skin level thickness. "Ryusei Seikuken."

Ryūsui Seikūken was an advanced form of the original Seikūken. In this technique, instead of extending the radius of the Seikūken, it turns that principle inward, reducing it

to a thin layer above the skin to dodge the opponent's attacks at the last possible second. This principle is necessary because dodging at the final moment before an attack hits saves time and energy. An absolutely calm mind is necessary to be able to use it, as even a slight degree of emotion will disrupt the technique.

The move was harder to employ with three of his senses gone, but it was not impossible, so when the sword came near him, he dodged and slashed at the opponent's neck, making him retreat.

Maybe the opponent was not expecting this move but Ikki was not about to give him any chances.

Yoruichi had told everyone about how dangerous captains could be. So Ikki wasn't going to hold back and take all the advantage of the element of surprise he could. The next time the guy attacked and Ikki felt the sword coming towards him, he directly used his all, deploying Ittou Shura at his best and putting everything behind his next attack.

The compressed mana from Intetsu slashed through the captain, almost taking off one of his arms and cutting through his ribs before sending him flying and crashing into a building.

Ikki felt almost seventy percent of his power get drained from the attack and almost knelt down on one knee to catch a breath.

"Tousen!" The other captain shouted and Ikki found that the helmet protecting his head was now gone and there was a wolf's head on his body.

A Beastman?

"Oi bastard, pay attention when you are fighting me." Zaraki snarled before swatting him away with his own sword, defeating him. "Tch, so disappointing. They couldn't even make me serious." He clicked his tongue before looking towards the mountain where large spiritual powers were exploding one after the other.

Even from this distance he could sense the immensity of those powers.

Ikki knew that one of them was Ichigo. Seriously, his Spiritual energy reserves were something else completely.

Even with all his growth, he couldn't see himself as having a reserve equal to Ichigo's... at least not any time soon. But Desperados could increase their mana with training. So... there was a way. And as long as there was a way... he wouldn't give up. He wasn't jealous of Ichigo but during their training together, he had developed a small rivalry of sorts with the orange haired boy.

And Ikki wasn't going to back down so easily.

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He barely stood beside Ichigo who was laying on the ground after being injured in the fight. They were exhausted by the battles they had been through, looking at the man in front of them.

Souske Aizen was a terrifying man... extremely terrifying.

Just the revelations he had experienced in the last few moments were enough to solidify this fact to him.

Not just his mind but even his power was insane.

Ichigo who had fought off another captain and Renji who also mastered his bankai... didn't even get a chance to struggle before they were put down... so effortlessly. Even that captain with a dog head was taken down all the while this man didn't even look bothered, as if he were not standing up against the entire force of the Soul Society but rather drinking tea in his garden.

Kyōka Suigetsu, what a fearful power. No... Ikki suddenly realised that it wasn't just Kyōka Suigetsu which was fearful, it was Aizen himself.

This man had hidden himself in plain sight in the Soul Society for hundreds of years, manipulating everything and everyone without anyone being any wiser.

Even beings like that old man, Captain Commander Yamamoto had been fooled by him and danced to his tune all this time.

And now, even when standing there, with blades at his neck... he looked completely unbothered. Was there anything that could faze the man?

Not only him but also two of his other companions, the silver haired captain Gin and the blind captain he had fought before were both unafraid too.

"It's over Aizen." Yoruichi said, tightening her grip over the sword on his neck.

The man just smiled lightly.

"And what's so funny?" Yoruichi asked, narrowing his eyes.

"I am sorry to do this but the time has come."

Suddenly Yoruichi's eyes widened as she shouted for the other captain to get away from him. Almost at the same moment as they did so, rays of light fell from the sky on all three shinigami traitors.

Everyone looked up to see the sky cracking bit by bit, as hollows... no Menos Grande peeked out of the cracks. In between them was a large menos with a huge eye which was casting the light rays on the traitors as they slowly levitated towards the sky.

"You are going to run away? That's it?" One of the shinigami with glasses drew his sword and was about to jump towards the beams of light but was stopped by the captain commander.

"That light is a technique with the name of Negacion. It is used by the Menos Gande to rescue their fellow hollows. Once inside that light, it is impossible for those within and outside to interact. It is an isolated world inside those beams. Only those Menos know where they would take him. From the moment that light fell on Souske Aizen, it became completely impossible for us to reach him." The old man explained much to the frustration and rage of the ones present in the place.

A few of them gritted their teeth while the dog headed captain punched the ground and shouted at the blind captain who was being levitated into space.

"Kaname! Come back Kaname. Did you forget the words you told me? That you became a Shinigami to carry on the will of your friend, to protect the people of the Soul Society and carry out your justice? Where is your sense of justice now because I don't see it."

"I thought I made it clear to you that my eyes can only see one path and that is the path with the least amount of blood. Justice is always there... and the path I follow is justice." The man replied, unbothered.

The beastman captain punched the ground in frustration while a white haired sickly looking man stepped forward and looked at Aizen.

"You joined the Menos. Why would you do that?"

"I need to keep climbing higher."

"Did you really become that corrupt?"

"You are blinded by your self righteousness. From the beginning no one has stood at the top. Neither you, nor me, nor the Gods. But soon, that unattainable vacancy at the top will be filled. From now on, I alone will be at the top, and when I do that... I will let everyone know how the throne of the Heavens feels. Till then, goodbye, Shinigami." The man replied, brushing his messy hair back, until only a strand of hair fell in front of him.

The entire feel about him changed with this one action, making him feel like a completely different person.

He then looked at Ichigo and him. "And goodbye Ryoka boys. Even I would have to admit that for a human, you two are quite amusing, especially you." He said, looking towards him. "A Human awakening weapons born from their souls capable of defeating hollows without harming the souls like the Quincy. And this power was not obtained through injection of Spiritual Power by another Shinigami but in a completely natural way. How fascinating. Is it just a natural step in evolution or is it the world's way of saying that the Shinigami are unnecessary anymore? Either way, I look forward to your future."

The words made every shinigami in the place turn towards him.

Ikki knew that the man was trying to provoke an internal crack within them but he wasn't bothered. After all, they had entered the Soul Society as criminals to free Rukia Kuchiki.

From the very start, they had been prepared to make an enemy of the shinigami.

Still, it left a bad taste in his mouth to let the man go so easily after knowing that he had been behind most of these things. Suddenly, an idea struck his mind.

He quickly took out the item that Silas-san had given him along with the potions. According to him, it was an item which could unleash a curse. To be honest he had completely forgotten about this item in his fight with Kenpachi but even if he did, he wouldn't have risked using it.

To risk using it during such a high stakes fight with the lives of his friends in line wasn't something he could do.

But now... it was safer.

Getting a last hit on Aizen would be worth it.

So without any more thoughts, he brought out the item which looked like a piece of paper, a talisman of sorts and held it towards Aizen and tore it.

Immediately, he felt as if all his power was drained and he collapsed on the ground.

The piece of paper or talisman however burned with a black flame which rose into the air, spinning and taking the form of a huge black dragon which rushed towards the pillar of light.

Aizen and the rest stood there unphased... until the dragon collided with the pillar of light, directly shattering it.

The explosion sent a shockwave forcing most to close their eyes.

Ikki plunged Intetsu into the ground and held Ichigo who was going to be blown away by the shockwave for the blast too.

When the dust cleared, they saw a frightening scene. Almost ninety percent of the Menos Grande in the sky were destroyed by the attack, with only a few remaining.

But even more surprising was Aizen... he was kneeling on one knee, clearly injured. There was a light shield in front of him which had shattered from the attack and the side of his abdomen was bleeding heavily.

The silver haired and the captain he now knew as Tousen appeared in front of him in a flash, guarding him.

Did that small talisman do all that?

Just what kind of things does Silas-san keep in his Restaurant?

His surprise was broken by the scary look on Aizen's face.

Aizen had an enraged look on his face. "You!" He pointed his sword towards Ikki who was almost immobile, light gathering on the tip of his sword when the silver haired captain gently placed a hand on his sword.

"Captain... you are injured. Let me do it." He said, bringing out his own Zanpakutō.

The next moment, Yoruichi was in front of him along with another captain who had previously placed a blade on Aizen's neck, their weapons drawn out. The silver haired guy was however unbothered.

"Bankai." He smiled before softly saying. "Kamishini no Yari."

In front of him, Yourichi and the other captain summoned a shield of light like Aizen did at the same time to block the attack.

But unlike what they were expecting, no attack came... at least not to them.

What actually happened completely blew everyone's mind.

The silver haired captain's sword... pierced Aizen in the heart.

Even the man himself was stunned and tried to move. Tousen jumped to assist but the silver haired captain was faster, spinning around and cleaving Aizen in two right at the waist, as well as meeting Tousen with the attack and throwing him down.

The next moment another pillar of light fell on Aizen and the silver haired captain jumped back. The pillar enveloped the upper half of Aizen's body while the other half was still falling down. But anyone there could see that Aizen had actually died, his eyes still wide in disbelief.

Before they could process what was happening, the menos who had broken out of Aizen's control went crazy and attacked everyone below, while the biggest one... it actually chomped down on Aizen's body instead of retreating, swallowing it whole.

All this excitement, injuries and exhaustion was too much for Ikki as he fell down... blacking out.

x

"You seem to be in perfect health. You can be discharged now." The black haired woman in front of him smiled as she finished checking him up.

"Thank you, Captain Unohana." He bowed lightly, still in his bed.

Unohana-san nodded and left.

A week had passed since the rescue operation of Rukia and the fight on the Sogyoku Hill.

The turn of events which took place in the Sogyoku Hill completely shook everyone.

As if the betrayals of three captains was not enough, the fact that the silver haired captain, whom he now knew as Gin Ichimaru, was actually a spy, intending to catch Aizen off guard... was something no one had expected.

He didn't know the details as both Gin and Tousen were apprehended and taken away by the rest of the members of Soul Society. Later he found out from Yoruichi that it was verified that Souske Aizen was indeed dead... for real this time.

Captain Unohana had verified the half of his body and it was indeed his real body, not a fake he had left like before.

People were still not sure but then Gin Ichimaru revealed the ability of his bankai. It apparently left a fragment of his sword inside Aizen's body. It dissolved into a very potent poison when mixed with blood and ate away at his heart as well as internal organs so there was no chance that he was alive now.

Well... at least that's what he confessed.

No one trusted him either.

Apparently his reason for being by Aizen's side for so long was that Aizen's Kyōka Suigetsu could only be broken when someone was touching his zanpakutō. Gin had

known about him for years and that's why he knew that no one would believe him due to Aizen's complete hypnosis.

That's why he stayed by his side, grew stronger, just for one opportunity where he could strike him down finally.

And sure enough, not many people were willing to believe it.

Some were even thinking that it was another one of Aizen's schemes to send his spies back into the Soul Society no matter how ridiculous that sounded. Overall, Gin wasn't getting released. He was sentenced to prison for several centuries.

Ikki didn't know how to feel about it at all.

On one hand that guy had saved the Soul Society on the other, he did commit crimes against the Soul Society too.

Apparently, he wasn't the only one. There were many others who had similar feelings about this. But the decision was already made so there was no going back.

He had heard that the ones who had been pushing for the harsher sentence were mainly the nobles due to the death of their parliament Central 46.

The man himself already knew that this would happen so he didn't even resist, not that he could... but still. Finally, the sentence was carried out.

Apart from him, Tousen got five thousand years of jailtime.

Ikki was carried out by Yoruichi to her Clan's estate after the incident while Ichigo was taken by Rukia Kuchiki to the Kuchiki mansion.

He had regained consciousness the very next day but to his surprise, he was challenged by Kenpachi Zaraki.

That man had visited Ichigo who was still unconscious and then came to him for a fight. It was that fight which sent him back into the hospital again, although this time, his Ittou Shura did help him cut Kenpachi. He didn't need to use Ittou Rasetsu.

On that note, Kisuke had somehow appeared in the Soul Society suddenly. He found out that the man was the former captain of the Twelfth Squad and the one to establish

the Shinigami Research and Development Department which was currently headed by that weird face paint guy.

They were in hiding all these years because Aizen had plotted against the former shinigami captains, making it look like they were responsible for human experiments. That guy had used hollowfication experiments on several former captains and vice captains and later the Soul Society apprehended them. Aizen's forgery made it easy to make them look like the actual criminals. They were to be executed but Yoruichi and Kisuke stepped in at the same time and saved their lives.

Hirako Shinji and the rest were also former captains and vice captains of the Soul Society like Kisuke.

Really... the more he heard about Aizen, the more scared he got.

Now since he was caught, Kisuke and the rest were cleared of all charges although whether Hirako Shinji's group would be allowed to return back to the Soul Society again or not was still in question.

Many people were still wary of their hollow sides. On the other hand, they themselves could care less about the Soul Society after a hundred or so years. They wanted to get revenge on Aizen and since that was done, they were planning to live their lives as usual.

Kisuke verified that Yoruichi's guesses about his rapid increase in power was more or less true. He would however need to experiment more to know for sure.

Ikki was waiting for Ichigo to recover completely.

The potion from Silas-san was already used up during training and Ichigo's injuries were very severe. He only awakened yesterday.

Ikki sighed.

Had he awakened in the morning, Kenpachi would have gone to challenge him instead of coming to him again.

Then again, compared to that crazy face paint guy, Mayuri, Ikki welcomed Kenpachi anytime. That nutjob had tried to kidnap him for experiments while he was unconscious from the hospital.

It was only after that he and Ichigo were moved to the Shihōin and Kuchiki estates.

Yoruichi did give that guy a good beating. Actually, even Kenpachi took a few cracks at the guy before that guy stopped bothering him.

Kenpachi might seem like a brute but he was an exceedingly simple man when one got to know him.

Yachiru, his vice captain though... she kinda reminded him of Milim in terms of her personality.

On the side note, the captain of the second squad, Soifon... she seemed to be angry at him for some reason. He still didn't know why.

As he was thinking of these things, the door to the room opened and in came Yoruichi and Tatsuki.

"Looking good. Are you ready to go back home again?" She asked.

"Yes." He nodded resolutely.

The next session of his Academy would start in a short while.

He needed to get there before that.

"Great. We will leave in the evening today. You can go and meet your friends before that if you want."

He nodded, already planning to make a visit to the eleventh squad and then the fourth squad to thank the healers for helping him.

Finally... the Rukia Rescue Mission was successful.

- Waver Velvet -

They rushed forward towards the place where the Greater Grail was located.

Normally the Grail was protected by the three families in Fuyuki Town but the Matou were missing, presumably dead, the Tohsaka were reduced to a single teenage girl and the Einzbern... well, they had much on their own plate.

This left the security of the Greater Grail in great neglect.

When they felt the energy from the Greater Grail erupt, all of them quickly ran towards the place.

However, by the time they got there, the energy fluctuations were gone.

As they climbed the steps of the Ryudo Temple, they suddenly felt something... the presence of a servant.

This made all of them halt in their paths and look forward cautiously.

None of them had summoned their servants yet.

It would be almost suicidal to go up against a servants in their current condition.

The sounds of steps echoed in the quiet darkness of the night and grew louder.

Whoever it was, was coming towards them.

They stood there, their muscles taut like a bowstring, ready to spring at the enemy at a moment's notice or run away as fast as they could if they were outmatched.

Dammit... he should have summoned Iskander before coming here.

The footsteps grew louder and finally a figure, a silhouette was visible.

As the figure came closer, the form became clearer.

It was a servant.

A blonde girl walked in front of them. She wore a battle dress, some kind of armour reminiscent of medieval Europe. In her hands, she had... a flag. Perhaps a lancer? But the most eye-catching thing about her were perhaps her eyes.

Those amethyst coloured eyes... they were so pure that it seemed as if they could reflect the soul of the one who stared into them. Just one look into her eyes made Waver reassured that she wasn't a danger to anyone.

Waver himself had to look away from her eyes with some effort. She was beautiful without a doubt. But there was something about her beauty that made her feel... scared... almost inviolable.

The girl smiled at them, a smile that sent a peaceful vibe in their hearts. "Hello masters of Holy Grail War. I am Ruler, the overseer of this Great Holy Grail War."

...

...

...

...

"Huh?"

X

X

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Beta Note: The advance chapters are in order of what is updated, a first Tier will not get 2 advanced chapters for every story, only the next two to be released.

Beta Reader: @LuluViBritania (FF.N, SB, WN and QQ)/-LuluViB|99th Britannian Emperor(Discord), and @Basilisk

Author's Note:

I am back with another chapter of 'Isekai Restaurant'.

This chapter took a bit more than I was expecting.

I was still deciding some things about the Holy Grail War so I decided to write the Soul Society Arc and when I reached further, I kinda decided to go all out and end the arc.

Next, I can solely focus on the Holy Grail War arc.

The last masters will be revealed in the next chapter and the Holy Grail War will start in earnest.

On the side note, Silas has made a resolution to propose to Sakura at the end of the Holy Grail War.

I was thinking of doing some slice of life parts with the servants before the actual war starts and everyone goes all out.

Should I do it or not?

I am planning to write another chapter of this one later.

Enjoy the new chapter.

Good Day, Peace Out.