

Chapter 14: Fighting With Reason

A few hours had passed since Utan and the others defeated Roa, True Assassin, and Ms. Heart. The presumed death of Shiki Tohno was having a lingering effect on Arcueid, Ciel, Akiha, and Satsuki. Utan distanced himself from Akiha after he snapped at her. He knew he had to find Shiki as soon as possible. The search for the Angra Maniyu was on hold, again.

Utan: (he sees a vision of Arcueid, Ciel, and Akiha killing each other. Utan was in the middle of the crossfire and died along with them.) I can't believe this.

Utan: (he heads to Akiha's room and knocks the door.) Akiha.

Akiha: Go away.

Utan: I just want to apologize to you.

Akiha was silent.

Utan: (becoming upset.) I - - - I'm starting to become concerned about you, Akiha. You can't stay in there forever.

Arcueid: You have no reason. Just leave her alone. (Utan grabs her hand.) Hey - - -

Utan: Apologize to her.

Arcueid: What?

Utan: You heard what I just said; I want you to apologize to her, right now. (he drags Arcueid to Akiha's room.) Akiha, open this door.

Arcueid: Here, let me help you.

Arcueid grabs Utan's head and drives it into Akiha's door. Utan quickly recovers from Arcueid's attack and stops them.

Utan: DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT! (he generates two monoshizao.) I'm warning you!!!

After 15 seconds, Arcueid and Akiha calmed down.

Utan goes back into his room to relieve the tension against Arcueid and Akiha. However, he couldn't concentrate due to someone knocking on the door.

Utan: Come in. (sees that it was Komane and Sion.) Can't you see that I'm busy? (sees Len.) So, why are you here?

Komane: We're concerned about you.

Utan: There's no need. I was concerned about Saber killing us. I had a gut feeling that we needed to escape, whether or not Shiki was alive.

Komane: So are we going to find Shiki?

Utan: We'll do this tomorrow. During these bone-breaking fights we just had, we must remain here for the time being. Sion, were you able to use your etherlite on Shiki?

Sion: Yes.

Utan: Good. I can use my etherlite within my body to pinpoint Shiki's location with my signal beacon.

Utan used the signal beacon along with a needle as a satellite to track Shiki. However, the signal disappeared.

Utan: He's gone.

Komane: What?

Utan: Someone either removed the etherlite or killed him. (thinking silently.) Talk about worst-case scenarios, some luck we have. There's no telling what may happen if those three become berserk that Shiki's dead. (speaks.) Ok, let me rephrase that; we're finding Shiki at sunrise. Any objections?

Komane: No.

Utan: How's Rider, Komane?

Komane: She wants to speak to you.

Utan heads to Sakura's room in the mansion.

Utan: How is she, Sakura?

Sakura was silent.

Utan: (senses that she's scared of him.) You have nothing to fear from me; sorry for asking.

Rider: (looks at Utan.) Utan?

Utan: How are you feeling? I'm sorry for what happened earlier.

Rider: It's alright. I just need some of your blood, Utan.

Komane, Sakura & Rin: What?!

Utan: It's ok. You've taken a lot of damage from our fight; you could be an asset for us to bring Zoukenou down.

Utan lies right next to Rider and she sucks his blood. His appeal to Rider increased the mana potency in his blood. Utan was out of it, but he wasn't dead.

A few hours had passed; it was 6:50 in the morning. Utan and Komane, along with Arcueid, Len, Ciel, and Akiha, began the search for Shiki at the bridge. Utan was surprised to see a red shroud below the bridge.

Utan: Hey, I found something below the bridge.

Akiha: Shiki?

Utan: No, a shroud.

Komane: Who's was it?

Utan: (sniffs the shroud.) So, it was her. (wraps the shroud.)

Komane: Who's?

Utan: I have no idea. On top of that, we have Dark Saber to deal with; I'm guessing he's been captured by them.

Arcueid: You think so?

Utan: I'm just speculating. Besides - - -

Akiha: No.

Utan: (insulted.) I didn't finish my sentence.

Akiha: I heard enough of your lies.

Utan: Obviously, you're not in the same page with me. I knew it was going to be a big mistake taking you along with us. Why did you even come along?

Akiha: I came just to make sure Shiki comes back in one piece.

Utan: You're still - - - (becoming angered.) HOW COULD YOU? IS SHIKI THAT IMPORTANT TO YOU? OTHER THAN THE WORLD'S WRATH?

Komane: Utan, chill out.

Utan: Ever since Shiki's disappearance, you have been acting like - - - ahh, that really angers me so much.

Komane: What are you talking about? These people aren't your enemies.

Utan: (calms down.) Never mind, let's go get some breakfast.

He decides to take himself along with them to McDonald's. Utan was still feeling uneasy that Arcueid, Akiha, and Ciel were not even enjoying their breakfast. He was becoming slowly angry by the same level as Akiha. He knew that he had to lower the tension level with himself and the others.

Utan: Are you guys even hungry? I wouldn't mind having seconds.

Ciel: Go ahead. Take it.

Utan: (sees that she didn't eat anything.) Ok. How about you, Arcueid and Akiha? Are you going to eat?

Utan was becoming angry at Akiha and Arcueid.

Utan: Hellooooo!! I asked you a question, DO YOU WANT TO EAT OR NOT?!!

Ciel: Don't waste your time with them. I'm leaving.

Utan: We've been here for a couple minutes and now you want to leave?!

Komane: Utan, calm down.

Utan: Calm down? Why don't you tell them to do that?

Komane: Because you're attracting these people to throw us out.

Utan: (calms down.) I'm terribly sorry.

Meanwhile, at Shinji's location he finds himself in a cage.

Shinji: Where am I? (thinking about W-Len.) Her.

Then W-Len appears.

W-Len: I see you've awakened.

Shinji: Why have you brought me here?

W-Len: Ms. Heart requested me to retrieve you.

Shinji: For what?

W-Len: Ask her when she comes.

Meanwhile at Utan's location, Utan and the others were heading back to the mansion.

Utan: I'm sorry for what happened earlier.

Akiha: There's no need for you to apologize to them.

Utan: It's not like you're going to listen my words of wisdom. It's too complicated.

Akiha: Why? It seems like everything you do is complicated.

Utan: Life's too complicated, even for me. It hit me hard when my mother died. It feels like I'm getting more out of you three in the battlefield, not outside. That's why I'm supposed to be one of the good guys; instead, people just have to do something abhorrent just to anger me and change their perception for who I am as a human being.

Akiha: Why is that?

Utan: My life was taken away from me; it felt like something's missing for who I am as a human. I've felt little joy and pleasure when I was back at Hawaii; some of the people there were wild. They felt like they were free to do

whatever they want. Downgrading humans, treating them like trash, screwing around with others, even beating them to death just to get what they want out of life, freedom. It doesn't matter where I go; it's always the same.

Akiha: It's ok. I feel the same way.

Utan: (becoming confident of having Akiha around him.) Thank you. Just remember, there are two battlefields. I will be the judge, jury, and executioner for all evil of any kind.

Utan and the others arrive at mansion. Utan goes to sleep.

Komane: What are you doing?

Utan: I'm going to sleep. Why?

Komane: Never mind. Go ahead.

Utan goes to sleep. After thirty minutes, Utan has ANOTHER nightmare involving Sakura.

Utan: What happened? (sees that everyone in the mansion was badly mutilated. Senses the presence of D-Saber.) Saber, you did this?

Saber didn't say anything but rushes to attack Utan. He becomes agitated with D-Saber.

Utan: Those were innocent people you just killed. Why?

He hears D-Sakura giggling. As soon as he attacked her, his weapon broke.

Utan: Why can't you just leave me alone? (sees that he's getting smaller than D-Sakura and D-Saber. He was like an action figure to D-Sakura.) Not again.

Utan lost his halcyon weapons when he became small, like a doll. He tries to run away from D-Sakura but he was too slow for her. He was caught.

Utan: (he was asleep.) Let me go! Let me go!!

Utan wakes up.

Utan: This won't go away. (He hears some glass being broken. He goes downstairs to see what happened.) What happened? Huh? (sees Sakura down on the ground.) Here, let me help you up. (Sakura screams in pain when he touched her left hip.) What's wrong?

Sakura: It hurts.

Utan lifts her shirt. Then, he sees another red mark on Sakura's left hip.

Utan: Again? Where did this come from? (sees a vision her being kidnapped along with Illya. He becomes invisibly angered. He feels his left shoulder blade hurting.) So, that's what it is?

Komane: What's wrong, Utan?

Utan: Those dreams I just had about her; she has the same marks the other Sakura in my dreams had. This mansion will become a battlefield tonight.

Akiha: What? Why?

Utan: I saw it with my own two eyes; we need to make sure Illya and Sakura are safe. Zoukenou's planning to use Sakura to open the grail and unleash hell.

Shirou: Zouken - ou? Don't tell me, HE'S --- HE'S ---

Utan: Yes, he's still alive.

Everyone in the mansion was in shock when Utan shows the scar from the Angra Maniyu on his left shoulder blade on his back. Sakura fainted.

Komane: That scar, how did you ---

Utan: Back in Hawaii, three years ago. It almost came here; luckily, I was able to prevent ITS arrival.

Akiha: I can't believe this, Utan. How could you?

Utan: I'm terribly sorry for bringing you and your friends into this. Now that I have the power gauntlet and you happen to hold one of the gems, you have no other choice to fight alongside with us. Hopefully, Shiki will return.

Meanwhile at Shiki's location, he wakes up.

Shiki: Where am I? (sees that was almost noon and heads back to the bridge where Utan and the others were at.) They're gone. (senses Ms. Heart's presence.) You. Where's Utan and the others?

Ms. Heart: Who knows? I just like to borrow your body for tonight.

Shiki: Get lost. (he attacks her, she disappeared. He felt his body was being controlled. He raises his knife so he can see her reflection.) That's impossible. (he begins to move.) Where are you taking me?

Ms. Heart: I just need to kill a few people. I'm quite positive Akiha and the others would be thrilled to see you now.

In order for Ms. Heart's to possess Shiki, she had to kill as many humans and absorb their essences into Shiki's body for her possession magic to prolong. His body was becoming weaker and weaker every time she does this.

Utan was at the park sitting on the bench. He was eating comfort food, which were fudge-striped shortbread cookies. He was upset at Sakura being scared of him.

Utan: (was thinking about Maiya, looking up at the sky.) I wonder if she's in a better place now. But, I must do everything to ensure Sakura and Illya's safety.

He just couldn't finish the rest of his cookies because of how guilty he was for letting her mother suffer. It was like he was eating bittersweet cookies. Then, Illya and Sakura appear.

Utan: Sakura, you feeling ok?

Sakura: Yes, I'm fine.

Utan: (sees that Sakura's upset.) Why are you upset? Nevermind, come here and have a seat. (sees that Sakura wasn't moving.) Sakura, you have nothing to fear from me. I may be a fiery person, but I'm not a demoralizer.

Illya: You mind if I have some of your cookies?

Utan: Sure. Take as many you like.

Illya takes some of the fudge-striped cookies and eats. Utan saw something in her that seemed familiar. Utan had tears in his eyes.

Illya: Why are you crying?

Utan: I'm not.

Sakura: (obliviously speaking.) Is it about your mother?

Utan: You don't know anything about her. I'm - - - (sees that Illya resemble Maiya a little.) I'm sorry.

Illya: That's why you're upset?

Utan: It seems like everything I've been doing, so far, people like to use my emotions against me.

Illya: You aren't our enemy. Tell us, why are you upset?

Utan: It is because of that person Sakura said. I wanted to go all over the world to find the source, but it was right here. I felt Zoukenou's presence within one of those creatures.

Illya: Zoukenou?

Sakura: Zoukenou?

Utan: Yes, Zoukenou. Zouken Matou, I came all this way here from Hawaii to kill him. He's roaming free thanks to Shinji. Sakura, didn't you realize that he was doing this for him?

Sakura: . . .

Utan: Great, I'm sure that he's even alive now. Let's head back so we can get ready for tonight's attack. (sees that Sakura wasn't moving.) Sakura, let's go. (senses Zouken's presence within her. she tries to slap Utan, but he was able to grab her hand.) Zoukenou?

Sakura: Hello, Utan. Surprised to see me?

Utan: No. Where's Shinji?

Sakura: Who, him? He's safe here with me. What you're trying to do is inevitable, just accept the dark path the world has chosen and join us.

Utan: The world? This is between us, Zoukenou; the world doesn't have to suffer the Angra Maniyu's wrath.

Sakura: You've been warned, Utan. Just make sure that don't die too early before we see you.

Utan: (becoming angered when he mispronounced his name.) It's Utan, Zoukenou!!!

Sakura: Huh? (sees that he was holding her.) Utan!

Utan: (gets his hands off her.) Sorry, we have to head back to the mansion.

A few hours had passed; it was 9 pm. everyone stood their grounds waiting for Ms. Heart to show up. In Kohaku's room, Utan wanted to have a clear view of where Ms. Heart would attack by the security cameras. He checks the surrounding areas inside and outside the mansion.

Utan: Nothing so far.

Komane: We've been out here for thirty minutes, are you sure they're coming here?

Utan: Yes. Stand your grounds.

A few seconds later, he sees Shiki at the front gate.

Kohaku: There he is.

Utan: No, wait. (He sees the one of the lesser Angra Maniyu spawns attempt to devour Shiki. Utan teleported to his aid and kills it.)

Utan: Are you alright?

Shiki: Yes, I'm fine. Where are the others?

Utan: They're fine.

Shiki: Good.

Utan feels a grim presence of Ms. Heart in Shiki Tohno. He attacks Shiki and missed.

Utan: You're not Shiki. Who are you?

Shiki: Who else? It's me, Ms. Heart.

Utan: You!!!! (He tries to attack Ms. Heart in Shiki's body.)

Then, the lesser/least Angra Maniyu spawns appear to shield him. Ms. Heart runs away from Utan.

Utan: You get back here, you coward. (he chases Shiki regardless of the spawns in his way.)

As Utan was busy destroying the spawns, a group of Mech-Hishuis to come for his aid. Without saying a word, he hurries to stop Ms. Heart.

Utan: (grabs Shiki and punches him.) I suggest you get out of his body, Ms. Heart.

Shiki: Oh, you want to kill me? In front of them?

Utan: (looks at Arcueid, Akiha, Ciel, Sion, and Satsuki.) No. (lowers his stance.)

Shiki was immobilized Rider. By using his gauntlet in its ethereal form, he expels Ms. Heart from his body.

Utan: It's over for you, Ms. Heart. I suggest you give up.

Ms. Heart: (sees Sakura and Illya and one of the Angra Maniyu spawns appear to capture them.)

Utan: No. (throws a bunch of halcyon throwing stars at the spawns.)

Then, True Assassin appears and uses his Darkness to make Utan back off them. It was too late -- they got Illya and Sakura. True Assassin ended up killing Iris and then Leysritt as she tried to save Illya and Sakura. He ended up using the Hououdan (Phoenix Bullet - aka Eastern Fire) and shot True Assassin in the eye as he tried to kill him.

Ms. Heart: We got what we came here for. Let's go. Here's your going away present. (fires a shadowball at Shiki.)
Hahahahahahaha!!!! (Disappears along with the two.)

Utan was surprised to see Akiha defend Shiki.

Utan: Great, now they got those two.

Leysritt: Utan, I'm sorry. (dies.)

Utan: No, you were doing your job. I'll get them for you, I promise. (looks at Shiki and Akiha. He carries Akiha into the mansion.)

Right after the fight was over; Utan uses the power gauntlet to expel the dark magic within Shiki and Akiha. Utan's right arm was shriveling up by absorbing the dark magic from them.

Utan: It's complete.

Komane: (he sees Utan's right forearm was lightly shriveled.) Your arm. Are you - - -

Utan: Yes, I'm fine.

Arcueid: How's Shiki?

Utan: I don't know how he's feeling. It's almost like a seesaw about his condition; he may be able to fight, he may not.

Arcueid grabs Utan.

Utan: I understand your feelings for Shiki; we'd just be playing right into her hands as we are right now.

Arcueid: . . . (lets him go.) I'll have your head if anything happens to him.

He heads back in his room unphased by her threat.

Komane: How are they feeling?

Utan: They're feeling a bit ok. Akiha's safe cause of my gauntlet, not so sure about Shiki. It may take a couple of days for him to recover. There's no telling what may happen.

Komane: Is it about Sakura and Saber?

Utan: Yes.

Komane: So, what are you going to do now?

Utan: We'll search for Nanaya and White Len on the whereabouts of Zoukenou tomorrow; then we can deal with Sakura and Saber.

Utan and the others were becoming tired. Utan heads on top of the roof to see the moon, along with Len.