

The Dark Lord Arises

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Submitted: February 27, 2005

Updated: February 27, 2005

This is linked to the The Third Epic. After the battle with Kahn, Kenshin and his friends experience a new peace. That is until...

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Chapter 1 - The Dark Lord Arises

2

1 - The Dark Lord Arises

The Dark Lord Arises: Kenshin's Downfall

Within the 'Rurouni Realm,' Kenshin and his friends now confronted the mighty Lord Cavendish. It had been bad enough with the fight against Shishio, Usui, and Aoshi, and their strength had been cut in half since the fight against Master Kahn, causing Kenshin's reverse-blade sword to be destroyed in the process. Now, he and his friends now confronted a man of incredible strength. A man to which Kahn was a mere subordinate. Lord Cavendish of the Dark Empire. However, his name would remain elusive to the Kenshin group.

"Tell me what you want!" Kenshin demanded. "Who are you?"

"Who I am is not important to someone who shall meet their fate not too long from now." Cavendish chuckled. "And what I want is pure and simple. I notice that you have taken down one of the members of the Cavendish Shinobis, did you not?"

"And what difference is that to you?!" Sanosuke interrupted.

"You might say that I am here to replace Master Kahn. I am here to finish what he started. I'll conquer this world and enslave the people of this realm."-

"You're here to take over our world too?" Misao asked.

"That is correct." Cavendish implied. "I will eliminate all those who dare to stand in my way of conquest. For what you have done, to deprive us of the power stones, then I shall compensate by taking over this world."

"Then, we shall fight you for the preservation of our home, that we will!" Kenshin said.

Cavendish landed gently on the ground. He then began to walk towards Kenshin and his friends.

"I will enjoy killing you, Battousai. After this battle, your reputation has proceeded you. Well, no further will your reputation continue. Today, you and the rest of your comrades shall fall by my hands."-

"You still haven't told us who you are, you creep!" Yahiko said.

"And my identity will remain elusive." Cavendish chuckled. "Just consider me one of the top elite fighters of the Dark Empire."

"You talk too much." Sanosuke uttered, cracking his knuckles. "If you've come to fight, then let's fight."

"Very well, Sanosuke Sagara, then why don't you be the first to lead the attack."-

"Don't mind if I do then!" Sanosuke rushed forward, his fist clenched.

"What is that idiot trying to prove?!" Saito uttered.

"Sano!!" Kenshin beckoned. But it was too late, Sanosuke was already on the charge.

"Sano, don't!!" Miss Kaoru cried.

"This is for what you and your cronies did to Kyoto!" Sanosuke shouted. "I'm gonna pound your teeth straight through your boots!" Sanosuke lunged forward. "Futae no kiwami!!" Sanosuke slammed his fist into Cavendish's forehead. However, despite all he put into the attack, there was no effect, no flinch from the dark lord. Instead, Sano's entire right arm was shattered from his fingertips to his shoulder. He cried out as the blood from ripped flesh seeped from impact cuts.

"Sano!!" Yahiko cried.

"That moron!" Saito said. "Charging recklessly into battle like that is a sure way to get himself killed."

"Was that it?" Cavendish asked. "That was certainly a waste of time. But that attack wasn't even

worth bragging about.”

“That man,” Aoshi uttered, “he managed to repel Sagara’s attack without flinching.”

“Such an imbecile you are.” Cavendish stretched out his index finger and fired an energy beam straight into Sanosuke’s left shoulder. The beam penetrated straight through, rendering the young fighter’s arm useless. Sanosuke fell to the ground in severe pain. “I’ll finish you off later. I already know that you’re not much of a threat to me.”

“You’ll pay for this!” Kenshin shouted. “You’ll pay for what you’ve done to Sanosuke!”

“That’s the spirit that I want to see out of the infamous Battousai the Manslayer.” Cavendish chuckled. “Get angry, become a demon, return to Battousai the Manslayer and kill me. If you can, that is.”

“Kenshin.” Seijuro Hiko implied. “That’s exactly what he wants. He wants to rile you up and blind your judgment with utter rage so that you will not be at full awareness when you fight him.” He threw Kenshin his own reverse-blade sword. “The Amakakeru ryu no Hirameki may be the only attack capable of taking this man down. Wait for the opportune moment.”

“I will.” Kenshin took his master’s sword and placed it under the straps of his trousers. Kenshin stepped forward and made his stance.

“B... be careful Kenshin...” Sanosuke uttered. “He’s a lot tougher than he looks.”

“I will, Sano. He will repent for the pain he inflicted upon you.” Kenshin stepped forward. Cavendish only smirked.

“I have no intention of fighting you as you are now.” The dark lord implied. “You are not Battousai the Manslayer. I wish to fight the legendary manslayer. The one who is said to be the strongest of the Imperialists. Quite interesting wouldn’t you say? Imperialist vs. Imperial.”

“I will fight you, but I will fight you as I am now! You will fight Kenshin Himura!”-

Cavendish only chuckled and turned his back on Kenshin.

“Why that dirty...” Yahiko said. “Who does he think he is?”

“Come on, Himura!” Misao cheered. “Give that guy a piece of the reverse-blade sword!”

“For what you and your minions have done to our world, I will guarantee that you will be defeated here and now.” Kenshin said.

“As if your idle threats mean anything to me.” Cavendish replied. He then turned again. “In the state you are now, you couldn’t even take down a common rat.”

“Battousai.” Saito said, walking up behind Kenshin. “This man will be defeated, but not by you.”

“Saito.” Kenshin uttered.

“The only way to properly defeat him is to know more about his fighting techniques. Thus, I will be the first to fight him. I will attempt to take him with one fatal thrust from my Gatotsu. If, however, it fails and I am slain, then at least you would have gained further knowledge of this foe.” Saito made his way towards Cavendish.

“Well, I see that you have decided to go before Himura have you, Hajime Saito?” Cavendish uttered. “A former leader of the third Shinsengumi squad. Quite fitting that you meet your end at the hands of the ultimate evil.” Cavendish folded his arms in front of him. “But really, why don’t you withdraw from this fight and not risk throwing your life away needlessly.”-

“As a former member of the Shinsengumi, I follow the way of the samurai! And fleeing before an enemy isn’t an option!” Saito crouched down to deploy the infamous Gatotsu.

“Then, come forth, former leader of the Shinsengumi! And let us see how great your determination is!”-

Saito lunged forth with all the strength he had. But despite his gallant rush, Cavendish remained calm.

“Will you just stand there and meet the full force of my Gatotsu?!”-

"I thinknot." Cavendish stretched forth his index finger and fired an energy beam straight at Saito. The beam pierced through his chest and exited out of his back. Saito fell to the ground, his sword flying from his hand. It glided harmlessly past Cavendish's head. Saito collapsed, dead, almost near the feet of the dark lord.

"S...Saito..." Kenshin uttered.

"Well, that went well enough." The evil lord chuckled. He gazed up at the group. "Now who else dares to confront my might?"

There was now a feeling of fear accumulating from the group. No one dared to make a move against this new fighter. Kenshin, gripped his sheathed sword even tighter. However, before he could step forward, Aoshi Shinomori stepped forward. Cavendish smiled.

"I shall be the one to fight you." Aoshi uttered.

"Lord Aoshi!" Misao shouted.

"I will be the one to challenge you, despite some opposition from my comrades." Aoshi deployed his double Kodachis. "I have always wished to gain the title of the strongest and fighting against you will be the best opportunity for me to gain such recognition."

"And how do you intend to fight against me, my friend?" Cavendish asked.

"I have my own ways." Suddenly, Aoshi disappeared. Again he appeared and again he vanished. "This is the ultimate technique of Aoshi Shinomori. Jissen-Kenbu."

"Is that the best you can do, boy, an after-image technique? I can do the very same." Cavendish began to divide himself into different entities. "However, there is a slight difference between your after-image technique and mine." Suddenly, Cavendish stopped, but his entities did not vanish. "I have the ability to also divide myself into several other entities. So tell me, Shinomori, which one will you take out first."

"Are you seeing this?" Misao asked.

"That guy divided himself into ten other entities." Seijuro Hiko added. "But how can that be possible?"

Suddenly, one of the entities rushed forward and managed to catch Aoshi by the throat. There in mid-air, Cavendish held the young warrior up in a stranglehold.

"Lord Aoshi!!" Misao cried.

"That was just too easy!" Cavendish stuck out his index finger and fired an energy beam straight through Aoshi's body, piercing his heart and lung. Aoshi was killed instantly. Cavendish continued to hold the body of his enemy in the air. Then, with a smirk, he threw Aoshi's lifeless body to the ground. "I think this trash belongs to you." Cavendish threw down Aoshi's body and it tumbled just a few feet away from Kenshin and the others.

"Lord Aoshi!!" Misao cried, rushing to his body. She fell to her knees, tears running from her eyes. "No! You can't be gone, Lord Aoshi! You just can't be gone!"

"Aoshi..." Kenshin uttered.

"It can't be!" Kaoru said.

"Damn that bastard." Sanosuke uttered. "Now...Aoshi's gone too?"

"I'll kill you!!" Misao declared. Her eyes were filled with tears. But before she could lift her eyes towards Cavendish, the evil lord fired yet another energy beam and pierced through Misao's body as well. Misao was killed instantly and her lifeless body fell upon that of her lord. Cavendish still smirked.

"So, Battousai," Cavendish chuckled, "You intend to fight me yet?"

"You bastard!" Kenshin sneered. His eyes suddenly filled with utmost rage. "I will kill you!!" Suddenly, Kenshin's eyes turned a bright yellow. His hair became a fiery red, glowing with intense energy. A killing spirit was reestablished.

"You will kill me? You are a fool."-

“You are a demon! And it is here that you will die!!”-

Kenshin suddenly attacked with all his might.

“You truly are a helpless fool!” Cavendish fired an energy beam at Kenshin. But now, the Battousai was able to dodge the attack in time. He jumped up and hovered over the evil lord’s head. “Hiten Mitsurugi style Ryu tsuisen!!” But as Kenshin descended to deliver the final blow, Cavendish flipped in a 360% spin and evaded the attack.

“So this is the godlike speed of the Hiten Mitsurugi? It is worthless!” Cavendish suddenly threw out his hand, and with a powerful blast of chi, sent Kenshin flying into the wall. Kenshin fell to the ground after the impact. Blood now ran down his lip and from the back of his head. He gazed up. “Now behold my power and you can curse yourself for being weak!!”

Cavendish threw out his hand and with a powerful energy blast, blew away all of his friends and comrades, along with half of the countryside. Kenshin could only hear the final screams of his friends as they were incinerated by the blast from Cavendish’s attack.

“Yahiko!!” Kenshin cried. “Miss Kaoru! Sir Okina! Master!!”

“It... can’t be...” Sanosuke uttered. “They’re all... dead...”

“Oh yes, I almost forgot about you.” Cavendish chuckled. He threw out his arm and fired an energy beam straight at Sano. The beam pierced through Sanosuke, hitting his heart and lung. Sanosuke fell dead, his eyes still open.

“Sanosuke!!!” Kenshin shouted.

“What worthless fodder. Not even worth my time.”-

“You bastard! You won’t get away with this!”-

“I already have!”-

Just then, from out of the blue, three more men flew down from the sky. One of them, a young man with long, brown hair and a grey military frock, and accompanying him, two soldiers with tinted helmets and blasters on their arms.

“Your Excellency!” the young man cried.

“Aw, General Marcus Durovano.” Cavendish chuckled. “You have finally arrived.”

“I see that you have taken over this place without any problems.”-

“Naturally. Now tell our men to establish our fortifications within the city of Kyoto.”

“Yes, Your Excellency.”-

“Oh, and one other thing,” Cavendish pointed at Kenshin who was still alive, but severely hurt. “I want you to take him prisoner. General Ameba will be tickled pink when you hand this young whelp over to him.”

“I understand.”-

“We must make an example of him.”-

“Yes, my lord.”-

As Cavendish left, Durovano’s troopers picked Kenshin up and dragged him back to their point of origin. Kenshin was brought to a cruiser, surrounded by Imperial troops. Kenshin was bound by the wrists of his hands and locked into the cruiser where prisoners were held.

“Take a last look at your home, Battousai.” Durovano said. “It’ll be the last you ever see it.” Durovano closed the door and the sunlight faded from Kenshin’s eyes just as his hopes did.

“I can’t believe I’ve failed.” Kenshin uttered. He curled up, bringing his knees up to his chin. “Is it truly over?”