

SLAVEMAGIC
召喚少女の奴隸魔術

異世界魔王と
召喚少女の奴隸魔術

3

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——甲殻に覆われた巨人。それが『魔王クレブスクルム』の姿だった。



二人が声を揃える。

「臭くないよ!?」

「臭くありませんー！」

とにかく、ディアヴロは背を向けていた。
さらさらと流れる川の音と、
彼女たちの声だけが聞こえてくる。



「くつ……」

「ひやうんッ！ ふあ！ あッ！ あああッ！
熱いッ！ 热いですッ！ デイアヴロ……も、もう……
わたし……はふッ！ こんな……お、おかしく……なりそう……んッ！」



Prologue

Part 1

The base that was the foremost line in the western edge of the Lifelia Kingdom—Fortress City Faltra.

To the north, there was a series of impenetrable mountain ranges, and to the south, there was the large Seplia Lake. The forest that spread out on the eastern bank of that lake was called the 『Kohigashi Forest』 . The 『Kohigashi Forest』 was located to the southeast from Faltra City.

Unlike the dangerous western bank, since it was technically the Races' territory, the possibility of encountering Demonic Beasts and Demonic Beings was low, and not many large beasts came out either.

In this world, it seemed to be used as a moderate hunting ground of the townspeople.

In the game it was “a place to earn experience points by Players that finally managed to somehow arrive at Faltra”.

Lifelia Kingdom date, Year 164, Month 6, Day 8—

Diablo's group had come to the 『Kohigashi Forest』 .

More than one week had passed since they had fought the Elves and Feudal Lord Galford near here. Diablo had already recovered from his own physical conditions (like his MP consumption).

Sunlight came shining through the gaps of the many trees.

There was the sound of birds chirping.

It was filled with the scent of grass and earth.

Diablo crossed his arms, leaned his back on a standing tree—and gazed at Rem and Shera.

Shera was drawing a figure on the ground using white sand.

「Is this alright?」

「.....It's considerably sloppy but.....Since this is your first time, let's leave it at that.」

Though Rem frowned, she allowed it.

Shera waved her hands, flapping them about.

「It isn't my first time~. Since I summoned Diablo, this is my second time, isn't it?」

「.....At that time, the one that had drawn the magic formation was me.」
She breathed a sigh.

Rem Galeu was a short young Pantherian girl, and the panther ears on her

head, her long and narrow tail, and her hair that went down to her waist were all a beautiful black color.

Normal Pantherians had orange colored hair and their ears and tails were colored with amber as the basis, but Rem was one of the black panther colored ones.

A 《Slavery Choker》 was attached to her neck.

Although some childishness was left behind, her looks were beautifully arranged, and her almond-shaped eyes and her tightly closed mouth made one feel the strength of her determination.

The one that that Rem was coaching was the newbie Shera on being a Summoner.

Shera L. Greenwood was an Elf. Having slender limbs that were long, and torsos that were also thin. Hair that was like melted gold, and cerulean blue pupils that were like the ocean—they were a race that was beautiful enough to be called the closest to the Divine Beings, and moreover, she was a the princess.

It's not exactly because of that, but the breast that should have normally been moderate, in Shera's case, was very abundant. Even though she was wearing the typical hunter's clothing, it looked like it was about to burst, and if that wasn't already enough, her cleavage was emphasized.

「Ermm, so I just have to place this crystal at the center of the magic formation, right?」

「Be sure not to step on the lines.」

「I know that.....Ah!？」

「.....」

「J, just barely! It's alright!」

Ahaha. Shera laughed so as to pass off her blunder.

When she slouched down and was working, the two bulges on her chest swayed, going “tayun tayun”.

Having involuntarily stared at them, Diablo hastily averted his eyes.

—A Demon King wouldn't get their eyes stolen away by cleavage!

Diablo was a man that had an outward appearance of having sinister horns growing from his head. He was a Demon that had birthmarks on his face and body that looked like tattoos. Ever since he was summoned, he claimed that he was a “Demon King of another world”.

However, his pompous and brimming with confidence attitude, all of it was a Demon King role play. In reality, if he didn't act out this role play, he would have a communication disorder where he wouldn't be able to sufficiently talk.

「Hmph.....Even though Chemical Elemental Magic is much stronger than something like a Summoned Beast.」

「That's because, Diablo, you are special~.」

Shera pouted.

Rem also had the same opinion about this.

「.....Even if we were to use Chemical Elemental Magic, I'm sure we wouldn't produce enough power to defeat a Demonic Being like you would, Diablo. Besides, in battle, a Summoned Beast can act as a shield.」

「Well, it's fine. Hurry up and finish the ritual. After all, no matter what abilities you try to gain, in the end, it will be towards battle.」

「Un!」

Shera nodded looking delighted.

At her feet, there was a figure drawn with white sand. With several circles as the foundation, there were symbols and letters inlaid.

Rem once again started lecturing.

「Listen well, this magic formation—each and every component of it holds significance, it arranges the flow of magical power, and it is the key to causing a precise phenomenon in the world.」

「Un.」

「.....The time, place, magic formation, incantation,.....and above all, the practitioner's magical power and concentration are important. What takes place by having all of these things together is 『Ritual Magic』 and the

『Summon Magic』 that you are trying to do this time.」

「That's pretty, bothersome, isn't it~.」

「Even though it seems like it, this is the basic of the basics. Although you only have to throw the crystal when using a Summoned Beast to call it out, and things like Chemical Element Magic's 『Aria Magic』 can be used only by putting it into words, 『Ritual Magic』 requires much preparation. Incidentally, things that are activated with only the magic formation are called 『Formation Type Magic』 . Since it isn't suited for battle, Adventurers don't use it, but since they can act as a Dungeon's traps——」

「Ku—.....」

「Don't go falling asleep.」

Peshi peshi Rem hit Shera's head.

—So that's how it is treated.

Diablo recorded that in his mind's 『Other World Version Cross Reverie Walkthrough Memo Book』 .

Since 《Ritual Magic》 and 《Formation Type Magic》 were only seen in events in the game, Players didn't have the option to use them.

That's why, even if he saw them produced in the movies, this was the first time he saw the finer preparation work for it.

Naturally, in exchange for the labor taken to make it, one could expect a much greater effect from 《Ritual Magic》 than other techniques.

Rem gave the instructions, and Shera stood in front of the magic formation.

「.....It might be hard to understand but—summoning a Summoned Beast from another world through a ritual is called 《Summoning Magic》 . And then enslaving what appears is the 《Slavery Ceremony》 , and through this, the Summoned Beast is turned into a crystal.」

「Come to think of it, Diablo wasn't turned into a crystal, was he?」

「That's because he isn't a Summoned Beast, but a Demon King of another world.....Also, the 《Slavery Ceremony》 was reflected after all.」

「Then, we're the ones that are going to be turned into crystals!？」

「.....I haven't tested it out but.....I haven't heard stories of people of the Races being turned into crystals. In terms of magic, the 《Slavery Choker》 is something similar, so it might be better to think of being turned into crystals as "a Summoned Beast's ability".」

「Is that how it is?」

「When a Summoned Beast is brought out from a crystal, the Summoner's magical power is consumed. With Diablo being here, is our magical power being consumed?」

「Ah, it's not.」

「Going by that fact, Diablo is a Demon King of another world, and not a Summoned Beast—that is clear. Well, me being the Summon Master is an unshakable fact though.」

Once again, they quarrelled about "which one of them had summoned him" but.....since they had gotten used to it recently, they immediately got back on topic.

Diablo made a sigh of relief in his mind.

Immediately after he had been summoned to this other world, he was fearful of whether or not he would be turned into a crystal.

To tell the truth, Diablo wasn't a Demon King of another world, but simply an invalid gamer that only acted as a Demon King in the game.....

At this point, it was embarrassing and he wasn't able to reveal it. It was a

secret that he absolutely needed to keep hidden.

Rem explained a point.

「Calling out a crystallized Summoned Beast is also called 『Summon Magic』. Both enslaving them and setting them to work, it's all a chain of magic after all.」

「Fumu fumu. It's like how going to a restaurant and putting food into your mouth are both "having a meal".」

「.....That's a good comprehension of it, considering it's you.」

With a *Fufun!*, Shera puffed out her chest.

「Then, why don't we hurry up and try out doing the 『Summon Magic』!?」

「Right.....Please pour in magical power into the magic formation.」

「Un! Teyah!」

「You don't need to shout.」

「Nn~, come to think of it, I did practice it with Rem, didn't I.」

Shera smiled with a broad grin, and wiggled her fingers about.

Rem's face went red.

「I-if you keep saying such stupid things, I won't teach you anymore, got that!?」

Remembering that, on a night a few days ago, the two girls did it while playing around, even Diablo blushed.

He cleared his throat so as to pass it off.

「Eei, hurry up and do it. I don't have time to spare!」

Though, to tell the truth, he didn't have any quests and was just idling about at the inn.....

Shera nodded.

「Un, I'll have a go at it!」

She thrust her hand out near the magic formation.

The figure drawn with white sand burned as if oil had just been set on fire.

However, the color of the flames was green.

Heat couldn't be felt.

Was this a torrent of magical power?

Rem muttered.

「.....The Race of Elves possess the attribute of "Wind", but the magical power of Shera herself might be suited to the "Fire" attribute.」

Diablo held interest. From the start, he was into the Fantasy MMORPG

enough to make him lose his footing in real life. His interest in that type of topic was strong.

「Do the people of this world carry an attribute by the moment of their birth?」

「Yes. However, there are cases where the attribute changes when an incident that can change one's mental state is experienced. This is only my impression but.....I believe that the attribute of magical power responds to the state of one's mind. Severe feelings are of the Fire attribute.」

「Severe, is it?」

He didn't get the impression of severe from the Shera that was usually bubbly laughing.

「Throwing away her position of princess, and casting aside both her family and hometown to go out travelling all alone—I cannot call that anything but severe.」

「Fumu, that certainly is true. That being said, are you the same?」

「.....I am “Earth”. To begin with, Pantherians are of the Earth attribute, but my current state of mind is, of endurance.」

「I see.....」

So the mind of Shera, who had rushed out from the Greenwood Kingdom that didn't allow her freedom, was a severe “Fire”.

And Rem, who was made into the cage that sealed the soul of Demon King Krebskrem, was an enduring “Earth”.

「From what you can see, what of me?」

「Eh?」

「Ah, no, of course, a Demon King is one that cannot be measured on the same scale as those of the Races, but I have grown an interest in the impression that lesser people have from seeing me. I allow it, tell me of your diagnosis.」

His real intention was that he “had a keen interest in Rem's attribute diagnosis”, but a Demon King that asked other people about himself wasn't cool. That's why he pompously enquired about it with his Demon King role play.

Rem started thinking with a “Fuumu”.

「.....Demons possess the “Darkness” attribute.....Ah, of course, Diablo, although you are a Demon King, since you have a similar appearance, you might also be similar in attribute. Before, when we were doing the level judgement at the Adventurer's Guild, the mirror became pitch black.

Thinking back to that time, you really might be of the Darkness attribute,

don't you think?」

「That's true.」

When speaking of Demon Kings, the Darkness attribute comes to mind. If one of the other attributes were to be said, the image would be a bit different.

「.....However, the state of mind of the Darkness attribute is, deception.....That's what I believe.」

「What?」

「Diablo, could it be that you have a large secret.....and.....no, it's nothing. It's simply something like fortune-telling. To begin with, generally classifying the complex and multifarious minds of people into the six attributes is a rude story after all.」

Rem wryly smiled looking ashamed.

Diablo also smiled, looking like he was composed.

In his mind, his heart was throbbing, thinking if his Demon King role play was seen through.

Their idle talk was suspended, and they looked over at Shera.

She continued to pour magical power into the magic formation with zeal.

Rem nodded.

「.....It's vexing, but Shera seems to have talent for this. Even though this is her first time, the gate to another world is stable.」

「What kind of Summoned Beast will be called out?」

「That, depends on luck.」

「Fumu.....」

It being a luck gacha is the same as the game.

Going through harsh troubles and gathering the raw materials for the sake of a summoning, and once it was tried out, it was a low class Summoned Beast.....He had often heard of such stories. In the case of the walkthrough site, the comment fields of the rare Summoned Beasts were filled with screams of 『It's not coming out』 , 『Not implemented yet』 , and 『Tsuchinoko』 .

Rem leaned forward.

「It's come.」

Gou! Wind was rolling, and it blew at the magic formation that was clad in bluish-white flames. The white sand was whirled up, and concealed their field of vision.

On the other side of that, the silhouette of a Summoned Beast was floating.

「I did it!」
Shera shouted.

Part 2

It was a Summoned Beast that had a size of about a basketball. It looked like a rotund and stout turkey. It had black feathers, and possessed a tail that looked like a folding fan. Flapping its wings, it was slowly flying.

Its black round eyes were repeatedly blinking.

Rem breathed a sigh.

「.....That is a 『Turkey Shot』 .」 四

「So cute! This, this! This is the kind of thing that I wanted!」

Shera was letting out a smile looking delighted.

「.....As your first practice use, it might be just right.」

「Is it? This, what does it do?」

「.....Putting it plainly, it isn't a strong Summoned Beast. Among those of the Wind attribute, I believe it is one of the weakest. Probably at the same level as the 『Sprite of Wind』If it's only about fighting strength, it's inferior.」

「Ehh—!?」

「It's Skill is something called "Shared Vision". It's an ability where you yourself are able to see the things that the Summoned Beast sees.」



「Ah, isn't that pretty handy?」

「Do you really think that it would be useful in reconnaissance? Since it consumes magical power, it can't be used for long periods of time. Though, it might be handy at times when you've lost your way.....」

「So vague.」

Shera made a dispirited looking face.

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

「Although there are various Summoned Beasts out there, in the end, the ones that are sturdy and high in offensive ability are strong.」

「I see.....」

「What will you do? You don't really need to go all the way up to the 『Slavery Ceremony』, you know?」

「No. Since it's a Summoned Beast that went through the trouble of coming out, I'll contract it.」

Shera pulled out a gem from her waist pouch.

It was white.

Diablo cocked his head in puzzlement. He hadn't seen that in the game.

「What is that?」

「Nn? I don't really get it, but it kind of seems to be needed?」

Rem frowned at Sera's reply.

「.....I had properly explained it to you yesterday. That is a 『Contract Magic Gem』. It is utilized in the 『Slavery Ceremony』.」

「Yeah, that's right, I, I remember that, you know?」

So there was something like that. In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, there wasn't anything like the 『Slavery Ceremony』. Was it because it was too verbose in terms of game production that it was omitted?

Or maybe, there might be a different reason—The 『Slavery Magic』 that enslaves Summoned Beasts seems to be of the same nature as the 『Slave Magic』 that turns people of the Races into slaves. It's likely that, even in that magic, 『Contract Magic Gems』 are also used.

In the game, components related to slaves were thoroughly eliminated.

Rem held out a white gem.

「.....Diablo, although you seem to have no interest in Summoned Beasts, it might prove useful in the investigation on removing our 『Slavery Chokers』. I believe that if one is a Magician, it would be good to hold onto at least one.」

「That's true. It's not like it is something that will get in the way either.」
Diablo accepted the 《Contract Magic Gem》 .

Shera recited a short spell.

「.....By the name of Shera L. Greenwood, I command thee. Answer to me, belong to me, obey me.」

And then, she opened her thin cherry blossom colored lips, and held the white magic gem in her mouth.

The Summoned Beast 《Turkey Shot》 descended towards the ground, and then became quiet as if it were sleeping.

On its head, *Chon*—Shera put her lips on it.

From near her lips, a faint red radiance shined through. Did the 《Contract Magic Gem》 shine?

Jii Shera stared at the Summoned Beast.

On the 《Turkey Shot》 's neck, a black light coiled about.

Vuun.....A low pitched tone that would remain in one's ears resounded. A *Gachi!* sound that was similar to the sound of something being locked followed after.

It was the same as before when the 《Slavery Chokers》 were attached to Rem and Shera.

However, what was attached to the 《Turkey Shot》 was a small choker that matched its thin neck. Because its feathers were thick, it was mostly hidden.

Shera's eyes were shining, and she looked this way.

Rem nodded.

「It was a success.」

「I did it!」

「Fufu.....It's great that there wasn't a magic reflection.」

「Ueh~. I wouldn't want to be enslaved to a 《Turkey Shot》 !」

The girls started laughing.

Diablo also expressed a smile as if he had gotten hooked into it.

Suddenly, he remembered some information on the walkthrough site.

「.....About that 《Turkey Shot》Since you can also use the bow, it might make for an interesting combination, you know?」

「Fue?」

「There is a way of using it like a UAV^[2] and Sniper combination in FPSs,

that's what the walkthrough site had.....」

「Eh? Eh?」

Not only Shera, even Rem was bewildered. That was only natural. There was no way they would know of that terminology. He redid his explanation. —Though, I the things possible in the game might not necessarily be possible in this world as well.

Diablo separated a bit from the two, and placed a copper coin in the gap of some undergrowth.

「Are you able to see the coin from over there?」

「Nuh-uh?」

「In that case, try having that Summoned Beast fly over.」

Shera nodded and concentrated.

「Erm.....Go take a look!」

The 『Turkey Shot』 that had received an order flapped its wings and flew up.

It was certainly was dull.

However, even if it were to be shot down, there would be no damage to the practitioner.

Shera opened her eyes wide.

「Wawah! I'm flying! Ah, I see it!」

「If you can tell the location, wouldn't you be able to hit it with an arrow as well?」

「Leave it to me!」

With movements that had no hesitation, she took out an arrow from the back of her waist. At the same time, she prepared the bow that she carried on her back.

Without looking like she took aim at anything, the arrow that was fired into the sky with a pop—

drew a parabola, and fell near Diablo.

To the copper coin that was placed in the gap of some undergrowth.

It was shot exactly in the center.

「I did it!」

「Umu!」

In the game, there was a specification where it wasn't possible to set one's sights on an opponent that one couldn't directly see in their field of vision. However, when the field of vision is expanded through the Summoned Beast 『Turkey Shot』 , it is possible to make them an attack target by knowing where they are from the sky.

Even in reality, as long as the location was known, the rest depended on their skill with the bow.

Rem raised a voice of astonishment.

「How could this be.....!? I had never thought that there was such a way of using it..... As expected of you, Diablo. Even though you come from another world, to think that you would possess knowledge deeper than our own.」

「Hmph, it's simply something I realized after thinking about it a little. I am a Demon King after all.」

In reality, he only remembered a bit of material of a walkthrough page. There were millions of Cross Reverie Players. With that many of them, there would be eccentric ones among them—and it seemed that there were some that went through trial and error to see if there was a way to use the 『Turkey Shot』 that everyone treated as a failure.

Rather, Diablo was in admiration to something different.

It was Shera's skill in the bow and arrow.

With that way of firing that could only be seen as her shooting randomly, to think that she could shoot through the coin. It seemed like Shera's true ability as an Archer was at a considerably high level.

He extracted the arrow that was stuck in the ground. The copper coin that it had gone through was split right in half.

Shera came rushing over.

「Thank you, Diablo! I, I thought this.....might be a bit of a failure, but now I'm extremely pleased with this child!」

He wasn't accustomed to being shown gratitude. To hide his embarrassment, Diablo coldly averted his eyes.

「Is, is that so.....」

「Ehehe, I'm going to practice a lot and raise my level!」

「Umu.」

「.....Practicing is good and all but.....Wouldn't the thing that is going to rise with that practice be your Archer level?」

Shera received a shock from Rem's sharp tsukkomi.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Not sure if I translated that correctly. Original: ターキーショット

[2] Unmanned Aerial Vehicle

Interlude

Part 1

Lifelia Kingdom Era, Year 164, Month 6, Day 6—

The location was a waiting room in the depths of the royal castle Grandios that was surrounded by the seven ramparts of the royal capital, Sevenwall. It was a room where people in line for an audience with the king would wait. Since it was a location that even the king of a foreign country would use, as if to exemplify the Lifelia Kingdom's authority, the furniture was exceedingly luxurious and gorgeous.

Gold vases and crystal tables. The floor and pillars were made of marble, the walls were covered in embroidered silk, and a gigantic depiction of the figures of the gods was on the ceiling.

It was greatly decorated with goods related to heroes throughout history that had fought many times with the Demon King and repelled it.

In that room—

The State Knight Alicia Christela was quietly standing stock still.

She herself was reflected in an enormous full-length mirror.

If it were someone having a normal audience, all of their weapons would be confiscated, but seeing as how Alicia was a State Knight, she was approved to be armed with a sword.

She was trusted to be on the side of protecting the king should there be a time where something happened.

Though, since there was the possibility that the person herself might be in possession of magic-like goods without herself noticing, an inspection of her things at hand was done with scrupulous care.

On her way back from Faltra, because she had been stopped on route by bad weather and the Knight troupe's attacks, she was later than she had planned.

From here on, she was going to have an audience with the Lifelia King.

She was waiting for her turn.

In the room, there were two visitors.

They were a Human man and woman in their mid 40s.

Having a clean personal appearance, it could be understood that they had a high social position with one glance.

Alicia had left the royal capital for the sake of the mission, and immediately after she came back, she came to the royal palace. It was half a month since she came to meet with him for that reason.

A father wearing a prominent beard placed a hand on Alicia's shoulder.

「You have truly done well in fulfilling your lengthy duty.」

Alicia slightly raised the ends of her mouth and formed an elegant smile.

「Thank you very much, Father. As long as I think of working for the sake of the country as an honor, there is no pain or fatigue from it.」

「I see. I don't think there would be anything to worry about if it were before, but do do your best so as not to be impolite to his Majesty.」

「I have thorough knowledge about that. I will not perform anything that would sully the duke house's name.」

「Umu..... You really have been raised splendidly. There aren't many that are allowed to have an audience his Majesty as a woman. Everything is all due to the excellence that you have. You are our pride. Be sure to be elegant and excellent for the sake of the nation after this as well.」

「Yes.」

Her mother pointed at her eyes.

「.....About those, wouldn't it be better if you take them off?」

「Ah, this is.....」

「To have metal fittings on a woman's face.」

It seemed that she wasn't pleased with the fact that her daughter was wearing glasses.

In the past, there wasn't any problem with her eyesight, but this was the result of studying extra hard every day and night.

「.....I shall take them off.」

Without them, she wouldn't be able to tell the addressee's face. She would be able to distinguish the place that his Majesty would be standing at, but when it came to the cabinet ministers that lined up beside him, it was doubtful.

However, Alicia took off her glasses, and placed them in the pouch on the back of her waist.

Her mother went and said "Oh, that's right".

「About that unpleasant book that was in your room.....」

「.....Eh?」

Her mother, as if confirming it, turned her eyes towards her father.
Her father nodded, and affectionately smiled.

「There was a book that seemed like it wasn't good for your education. Although it's a good thing to have an interest in all things no matter what it is.....Things like radical ideologies or folklore concerning Demonic Beings.....Even without really knowing about such things, you should be

able to work for the sake of his Majesty, right?」

「Thinking that, we disposed of it.」

「.....The book.」

「It was for your sake, you know?」

「It was for your sake, you know that, right?」

Alicia expressed a whole faced smile, and lowered her head.

「Thank you very much, for your concern. I apologize for giving you such worries.」

Her mother nodded looking delighted.

Her father spilled a sigh of relief.

「Umu, you truly are a perfect State Knight, and child of a duke house.

Though, if you had a man, I would have even less to say but.....No, let us choose a suitable and appropriate partner in the near future. Then our duke house will be secure.」

Kon kon The room's door was knocked on. It seemed that it had become her turn.

Alicia bowed her head to her parents once more.

「Father, mother, until next time.....」

They expressed proud-looking smiles, and showed their daughter out.

Part 2

—If I were able to let those two's heads fall, I wonder just how good it would feel?

While walking on the red carpet, Alicia held the pommel of her sword down with her left hand.

This sword was something that she purchased in Faltra City. As expected of the base of the foremost line of the Races. Although its ornamentation was second-rate, its sharpness was first-rate.

Although she cut down about ten people from being attacked by the Faltra Local Knights, the blade didn't get chipped a single time.

If it were this sword, something like the heads of two simple Humans would be.....

She swung her sword in this middle of her daydream.

—It's still, too early.

Alicia still required her position.

In order to exterminate these rotten smelling and unsightly Races, her own strength alone was not enough.

A Demon King was required.

In order to revived it, her position of being the daughter of a duke house, and her position as a State Knight were both useful, and she couldn't allow herself to part with them.

For the sake of making the world beautiful.....

Alicia needed to be an obedient daughter, and a sincere State Knight.

Pulling out her glasses from the pouch on her waist, she put them back on. Wearing a mask of a smiling face, she entered the room for the audience.

The ceiling was high, there were a great number of pillars, and the walls were distant.

It was a spacious room that was able to have the many generals of an army that was about to depart line up.

The national flag that had red as its keynote was put up on the wall.

And then, the carpet was also red.

An extravagant chandelier was hanging from the ceiling. Receiving the light of the candles, a great number of gems were sparkling.

The sixth Lifelia king—Dalesh Sandros would become 37 years old this year.

When Alicia approached to come before the platform, at a distance of about eight steps from the throne, she kneeled down and lowered her head.

「.....State Knight Alicia Christela, has just now returned.」
Dalesh called out to her.

「Raise your head.」

Having been allowed to, Alicia once again gazed upon the platform. The throne was magnificent. Cut from marble, the large chair that had gold and jewels arranged on it, if someone with personality were to sit upon it, that majesty would be made known.

The current Lifelia king was, still young.

In regards to domestic affairs diplomacy, Dalesh hasn't raised any large problems but.....

To begin with, this country had a calm climate, the soil was rich, and it was even blessed with marine products.

The problem was in his aptitude in military affairs.

That was an unknown number.

Since he was enthroned 12 years ago, a large-scale battle had not occurred.

Dalesh's eyes were sharp, but that might only be because his flexibility was

lost.

The story of how the large army of Demonic Beings had closed in on Faltra City and of how the Adventurers had repelled them at Fort Bridge Ulg had already been circulated to the royal capital.

It was for this reason that Alicia was dispatched to that land.

—The Demon King.

To the Lifelia Kingdo, those trends were more important than any other problem, and were something dangerous.

In Dalesh's perimeter, there were about six Humans lined up.

The shogun and the cabinet minister and the like, they were the important people of the country.

Naturally, Alicia properly recognized them.

Their eyes from the platform were turned towards herself. There was probably enough tension to make a normal person feel like fainting.

Dalesh extended both hands.

「It is good to see that you have returned safely, Alicia Christela. Good work on your mission in a distant land.」

「Those words are too good for me.」

「According to the report you sent beforehand, I saw that there was a war with the Greenwood Kingdom but.....May I have you inform me of the detailed facts?」

What he sought from Alicia was not her personal opinion, but information as the king's eyes and ears.

However, it's not what you say, it's how you say it.

「I shall make my report—The Greenwood Kingdom had sought for the deliverance of Princess Shera who had ran away, and had advanced their army up until the 『Kohigashi Forest』 . They seemed to have no intentions of invasion. However, Lord Galford saw their entering the territory as a proclamation of war, attempted to repel them, and had executed Prince Kiira who was their commanding officer. The Elven forces had not reached as far as Faltra City. Though they may have been within the territory, there may have not been a need to kill Prince Kiira. The relationship with the neighboring country hereafter has become opaque.」

「Fumu.....」

Dalesh folded his arms.

A report from the Feudal Lord's side should have arrived as well. She couldn't make any blatant lies.

However, prudence should be held towards the Faltra Feudal Lord—she had put in that degree of information. With this, it should become harder for

Galford to make a move.

For the sake of the Demon King revival, it would be better if there were fewer obstacles. Against the hero of the great war that was strong enough to make one not believe that he was someone of the Races, it was enough to make her want for him to disappear from Faltra City if possible.

However, she didn't overdo it.

There was something else that she truly needed to keep hidden.

Dalesh made an inquiry.

「.....Just what kind of person is this “Diablo”?」

「I believe that person is an Adventurer. Was he mentioned in Lord Galford's report?」

「Nay, this is from one that had gathered information on the city.」

“I see”, is what Alicia thought.

It appears that—although Galford had tried to eliminate him once, he seems to have evaluated Diablo's fighting strength as high.

If he were to expressly report to the king that he was “dangerous”, and then if he were to be ordered to “arrest him”, then he would probably have a hard time dealing with him.

He couldn't possibly report that he was “unable to win” against a single Adventurer.

Galford's ulterior motive was—quite possibly to skillfully use Diablo to fight against foreign countries and the Demonic Beings.

The point of wanting to keep Diablo a secret, is something that coincided with Alicia's intentions.

—I certainly do have many masks, if I do say so myself.

Towards her parents, she acted as an obedient and all too serious child.

Towards Diablo's group, she wore the mask of being a humanitarian.

Pretending to go “for me, acts of mercy are my objective”.

Alicia's true objective was, the annihilation of the Races through the revival of the Demon King.

That is why she was covering up for Diablo. As he is currently, he seems to be on the side of the Races, but he might someday awaken as the Demon King. Also, she had sensed the Demon King inside of Rem. By some chance, could she be the key to the Demon King's revival..... ?

Right now, she needed to avert the King's concern.

「Your Majesty, there is an Adventurer by the name of Diablo but.....I do not believe that he is someone that you should worry about.」

「Even though there is a rumor that he had repelled 100 Demonic Beings?」

「I believe that the repulsion of the due to the great efforts of the many Adventurers of Faltra City. After all, the Adventurer known as Diablo is a 『Chemical Element Magician』.」

In the Lifelia Kingdom, when speaking of Magicians, it was about 『Summoners』. 『Chemical Element Magicians』 were made out to be weak and not worth mentioning.

That fact is something that Dalesh also understood.

「.....Fuumu.....So it was nothing but a rumor.」

「In that town, there are many Demi-humans. The circulated rumors cannot be said to be completely true.」

「Indeed.」

In the royal capital, the contempt towards Demi-humans was firmly rooted. Dalesh was a personage of nobility and had tried to stay impartial, but he was unable to completely separate himself from the values of those around him.

Speaking of the Demi-humans' gossip—something like the existence of an unbelievably strong Chemical Element Magician, that was something that couldn't be trusted.

With this, the audience should end with "no abnormalities in Faltra". That is what Alicia had thought.

However, Dalesh's tenacity was unexpectedly strong.

「.....But, Vinasion.」

The name of the Royal Court Astrologist had come out, making Alicia click her tongue in her mind. Though that didn't show on her face a tiny bit.

「Could it be a prophecy of Vinasion-sama's?」

「Umu. Three days ago, he had prophesied that "there are signs of the Demon King revival in the town to the west". When speaking of towns to the west, it should be Faltra City.」

「I see. This is the most specific one up until now.....」

Alicia had trouble keeping down her delight. She tried to keep it from showing on her face.

The thing called Astrology was treated as a convenience as it could see into the future. Moreover, if it was an Astrologist that was employed by the King, the accuracy was something quite substantial.

It was a prophecy about the "Demon King's revival"!

To Alicia, there was nothing more joyous than this.

However, because it was prophesied, the danger of the revival being prevented had also sprung up. Even up until now, that kind of thing had

happened many times over. The army and the Adventurers would interfere with the Demonic Beings ceremony, or re-seal the Demon King just before its revival.....

Dalesh looked like he was troubled over it.

「Naturally, I intend to have guard on Faltra City to be flawless. I have conferred ten thousand elites and allocated them to hero Galford. There are also many Adventurers. Above all, there was a large-scale barrier. Even if the Demon King were to revive, that should be enough for them to hold out until the main forces of the royal capital to reach them.....」

「Yes, that would only seem flawless. Rather, if we were to split our war potential and focus it in the western direction, our protection of the royal capital, and guard against the other direction would become unreliable.....In the eastern direction, there is the holy country, Viraal.」
The retainers also spoke out their respective opinions.

A certain shogun claimed that if there were signs of the Demon King, then the main forces should be put into action.

However, an enormous budget would be required to move a large army. A conservative theory was raised by the cabinet minister that looked after the national treasury.

The budget was limited. Wasting it on inactivity would cause a budget deficiency at a crucial time.

If they were to compel a taxation because of an emergency, the people would become impoverished.

The people were the foundation of the country. There was no country that would lose with their people still affluent. If the people were to become poor, then the day that country is ruined is probably getting closer.

Dalesh was not febleminded.

He would not raise an army that was spurred on by fear of suspicions.

However, he looked like he wanted to hit his hand on something.

Alicia took one step forward.

「Your Majesty, in that case, please send me to Faltra City once more. This time, there was the matter with the Greenwood Kingdom and I had returned to make a quick report but.....if there is an omen of the Demon King's revival, then I shall find it, and definitely see to obstructing it.」
A sense of justice and a sense of duty was spread out in her voice.

Dalesh dignifiedly nodded.

「Mu.....This is immediately following your mission to a distant land. You should be given some time to rest, is what I had thought but.....」

「Thank you very much, for giving me your consideration. However, if it is

work for the sake of the country, then there is no fatigue in this body. By all means, please give me your order, Your Majesty.]

「Magnificent. I am blessed to have a subordinate like yourself, and I am the luckiest amongst the successive kings. Very well, this matter shall be left to you. Proceed to Faltra City once again, and sniff out any signs of the Demon King's revival.]

「Most definitely!」

She bowed down.

Although there was some unexpected things, in the end, it went just as planned. Hiding the exaltation in her heart was what was difficult.

Alicia raised her head, and opened her mouth to convey that she would immediately depart.

From her back, solid footsteps could be heard.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: ビナシェン. Looking for better spellings for this.

Part 3

Not only footsteps, there was also the sound of something like metal rubbing against metal together with it.

Was this the sound of metal armor?

An armored figure coming in during an audience, even though it wasn't war time.....?

She reflexively looked over her shoulder.

It was a man with a sharp impression similar to that of a bladed tool.

He wore a deep scarlet platemail on his body.

And then, he had several swords in his possession. There were two swords on each of his left and right sides of his waist, and two more on his back, for a total of six long swords. Also, there was a fixed dagger on his belt. There were chains extending from the pommels of his swords, and that was what made the unpleasant metallic rubbing sound that was resounding.

When he came near—

There was the smell of blood.

It looked like he had washed it off, but the stained blood was making the smell.

In contrast to that appearance that looked like he was in war time, the man expressed a smile that looked like he was a good person, and kneeled down next to Alicia.

「Holy Knight Sadraa, has come carrying a letter from the High Chief Priest.」

An attendant that came at a quick pace received the held out letter, and delivered it to the King.

While unrolling the parchment letter, Dalesh nodded.

「Umu.....I see, good work.」

To not even protect the order of audiences, how rude—is what Alicia thought, but she didn't speak it out loud.

The High Chief Priest was the highest rank of the church.

The Lifelia Kingdom had its faith in the “God of ancient times and the Divine Beings”. That power clearly supported the lifestyles of the Races. The miracle of healing was not something rare. The blessing of good harvest had certainly displayed an effect.

Once, it was said that, in this world, there were Divine Beings and Demonic Beings.

The God worthy of being head of the Divine Beings, and the Demon King that was worthy of being king of the Demonic Beings had continued to fight for a long, long time. At the end of that, the God defeated the Demon King, smashed it to pieces, and sealed its fragments away in different directions. And then, on the earth that had fallen to ruin due to the war, God brought about plentiful blessings. Furthermore, the Races were born from the blood of the Divine Beings.

In other words, Humans, Elves, Dwarves, Grasswalkers, and Pantherians are descendants of the Divine Beings.

Among the Demi-humans, there were also those known as Demons, but these were said to be people where the blood of Demonic Beings had mixed together with Humans.

Gifting the blessed earth to the Races, the Divine Beings returned to the heavens.

Giving praise to the gods that are probably watching over us from the heavens, we revere them, and seek salvation in life and after death and pray.

This was the most popular religion in the Lifelia Kingdom.

The influence of the church was strong, and if it were the High Chief Priest, they were high enough to rival even the King.

The chief vassals unanimously gave words of thanks to the Holy Knight. Among those voices, voices of fear were mixed in.

The ones known as Holy Knights were selected as "people who act as the will of God through the use of armed might".

The ones that they subjugate are Demonic Beings and their believers—the ones that desire the Demon King's revival, the 『Demon King Worshippers』 .

On that point, they were no different from the army and the State Knights. However, the one that used them was different.

The Holy Knights served God, and moved in accordance with the church's intentions. They abided not by the law, but by their creed.

And then, while saying that "it depends on God's honorable will as to who is a Demon King Worshipper", in the end, the Holy Knight would pass judgment based upon their own dogma and prejudice.

Even if they were a noble or a wealthy person, if they were arbitrarily seen as a Demon King Worshipper, a gruesome torture would be inflicted.

In other words, a Holy Knight was a sword that protects the authority of the church.

And so, not even the chief vassals of the King did not want to be concerned with them. They did not want their eyes to be put on them.

Fortunately, there were not many Holy Knights. Even though there were more than 1000 State Knights nation-wide, in contrast, there were only thirteen Holy Knights.

Alicia muttered.

「Just a few days ago, I had heard that you had just departed for the south but.....you have made quite a quick return, haven't you, Sadraa-sama?」

「Yes, after all, smoothly and soundly bringing Demon King Worshippers to salvation is the mission of us Holy Knights. In the beginning, the questionable one in the southern village wouldn't quite show their figure and had given me some trouble. However, my humble self only abided by God's will.....And in the end, I had all of the villagers gladly cooperate with me.」

「.....And what happened to the people of the village?」

「They were brought to salvation, all of them.」

Alicia reflexively bore a sensation that was similar to her spine freezing up. Although he didn't answer it outright, the methods of the Holy Knights was always the same. It was torture and mass killing.

That southern village was made out to "have a Demon King Worshipper", and in the end, surely all of the villagers were killed with brutal methods.

—I don't care about the fact that people of the Races had died.

From such a thing, Alicia's heart wasn't hurt even a single bit.

However, the Holy Knights were a threat.
For example, if the King and chief vassals were to suspect her with “couldn’t she actually be desiring the Demon King’s revival”, she could make as many excuses as she would like. She had also made many achievements meant to make them not suspect her.

That would probably not apply to the Holy Knights.

If she were to be suspected even just a little bit, torture with no mercy would be waiting for her. She had confidence that she would not talk, but that did not wipe away the anxiety of her body and mind being broken. If possible, she didn’t want to be concerned with them. Alicia wanted to quickly excuse herself from the audience room.

Even so, Sadraa spoke out something unexpected.

「Although this may have been a bit rude.....in regards to the mission given to State Knight Christela-dono, I had overheard it.」

「.....And, what of it?」

「Having heard that there was a prophecy of the Demon King’s revival, and then saying that you would personally go, that devotion! It is magnificent!」

「.....Thank you very much.」

「However, if there is a suspicion such as that in that town, I believe that we Holy Knights for sure are the appropriate ones. Please, I would like to have the matter of Faltra City left to my humble self!」

「That is.....」

Troubling.

However, she was unable to instantly think of what she should say to refuse him.

If she were to carelessly refute him, and be suspected of being a Demon King Worshipper, she herself would be exposed to danger.

Even if it were a false accusation, it was difficult to prove. Not to mention that since Alicia actually was a Demon King Worshipper that desired the Demon King’s revival, she had no idea how much she would be able to successfully hide.

Dalesh also couldn’t just accept it without dissent. He made a difficult face. If the Holy Knight were to do the same to Faltra City as he did to the small southern village, he couldn’t shut his eyes to it.

Above all, Feudal Lord Galford probably wouldn’t stay silent about it. The situation of the national armed forces and the church having conflict is something that he absolutely needed to avoid as King.

A young cabinet minister that was in the lowest seat of the chief vassals, respectfully lowered his head.

「Your Majesty, if I may.....」

「Oh, ohh, so it's you, Noa. Do you have some kind of ingenious plan?」
In this case, if possible, he sought a way to keep the Holy Knight silent, or at the very least, a plan that would protect Faltra City.

Alicia still did not know much about the man called Noa.

It seems that he is a young man that has recently been steadily raising his value in the royal court. He held deep knowledge in not only politics and military affairs, but also in agriculture and medicine, and there have been rumors that those propositions of his were bringing about reforms on the national scale.



It's said that he is the adopted son of the Marquis Givun House, but his lineage before that hasn't been investigated.

Although his appearance was blond hair, blue eyes and had beauty without a single defect, he did not give a cold impression, and instead expressed a gentle smile. He even seemed like a young girl that kept her hair short.

「.....Both State Knight Alicia-dono, and Holy Knight Sadraa-dono are persons worthy of trust. How about entrusting this task to the both of them？」

「Fumu. Are you saying, to have them travel together?」

「Their objective of finding omens of the Demon King's revival is the same.....I believe that it would be best for them to put their hands together to safely resolve this.」

「.....That isn't bad.」

It seemed that Dalesh was pleased with Noa's proposal.

It did not reject Sadraa's opinion, and it made it possible to keep surveillance on his running wildly.

Though, Alicia who was forced to do the surveillance was cursing in her mind.

—That man called Noa, is he trying to eliminate me? Or could it be that he seriously thinks that I can hold the Holy Knight back?

Dalesh gave his order anew.

「State Knight Alicia Christela is one of the people that I trust the most. Entrusting her with the important duty of searching for signs of the Demon King's revival together with the Holy Knight, I see no problems with this but.....how about it?」

At the very least, it seemed that the King didn't intend on making Alicia a sacrificial stone. If she was appraised this much, even if their opinions conflicted at their destination, Sadraa should not be able to arbitrarily decide that Alicia was a Demon King Worshipper.

Though, it would be a different story if the church was planning on confronting the King.....

Sadraa respectfully gave his thanks.

「If I am together with such a capable and gallant State Knight, it will be quite reassuring. We shall most certainly smoke out the omen of the Demon King's revival, and, in the name of God, I believe that we shall obstruct it.」

Alicia also lowered her head.

「In order to meet your Majesty's expectations, I shall give my all.」

Lined up together with Sadraa, she exited the audience room.

The door was closed behind them.

As usual, he expressed a smile that made him look like a good person.

「Christela-dono, let us immediately prepare for our journey. Are you alright with departing tomorrow morning?」

「Yes, I believe that would be appropriate.」

「This will be my first time going to Faltra City. Being close to the former Demon King territory, just how many Demon King Worshippers will there be.....It seems like a town that will need much salvation.」

「Salvation is.....yes, that might be true.....Sadraa-sama, do you.....」

「What is it?」

「Do you hate the Races?」

「Of course not! I like people very much. I love them. They have been blessed by the gods and are their descendants after all. It's because of that that the ones known as Demon King Worshippers are unforgivable.」

「.....I see. I understand that very well.」

So it's because this man loves people that he kills people.....She didn't understand the meaning of that at all.

What was certain was that "the number of troublesome things increased". She had no choice but to admit that a large seam had appeared in the plan that had been progressing so well.

She stifled a deep sigh.

The good person smile that looked like it was pasted on disappeared from Sadraa's face.

「By the way, Christela-dono, your facial expression really is constant, isn't it?」

「Eh?」

「See, even now. You're being conscious of it and hiding your facial expression. Just what exactly is the reason for that? Is it some ulterior motive that absolutely needs to be hidden?」

Inside of her chest, Alicia could even feel nausea from the delusion that was like an edged tool being grafted into her.

However, the mask that she had long played out created the facial expression of a wry smile.

「For me, since I would look immature if I were to be surprised or to laugh.....In places like the royal palace, I become conscious of it and make a diligent-looking face. This might be a trouble that does not exist for a gentleman that looks gallant no matter what facial expression he

makes.]

「Ahh, please excuse me for that! But, please don't worry about that when in front of me. I wouldn't do something as foolish as make judgements of a person based on the expressions of their face after all.]

「Thank you very much.]

「As I thought, the value of a person, is determined by the color of their internal organs.]

「.....Eh?]」

She no longer had any idea as to what kind of face she should make. However, all she thought was that it was creepy.

Chapter 1: Trying Out Talking with Demonic Beings

Part 1

The day after obtaining the Summoned Beast—

Diablo's group had come to the lakeside of 『Kosei』 this time. It was about an hour walk downstream from Fort Bridge Ulg.

There were rocks laying around, but it was flat for the most part, and there was undergrowth that grew up to about knee level.

Today, they were doing a small collecting quest.

Although it was easy, the setting was that the reward was raised due to things like public order having deteriorated recently. It was a so called Profit Quest.

After somehow completely gathering up the required amount of medicinal plants, they finished up by having lunch with the hard-baked bread that they brought.

The changing of the seasons in the Faltra vicinity was gentle, and it was said that the temperature didn't rise that much even when it became summer, but even so, when it became June, the number of hot days increased.

If they went back now, they would probably reach the town before it became evening.

Shera scowled.

「Come to think of it, Rem, doesn't it kinda smell?」

「.....Smell, is it? It is the riverside after all, so there is the smell of water and grass, you know?」

「That's not what I mean. Rem, don't you smell?」

「…………………Ha?」

「Nn~, you really do smell. Look, you've been moving a lot. That's why, you smell of sweat. Also, smell of dirt. And then……what could this be, a beastly smell?」

Sniffing, she snorted her nose.

Rem hugged her body, and jumped back.

「P, please don't sniff me! I do not smell!」

「But it would be better if you took a bath. Rather, I want to take a bath!

Hey, let's do that!」

「Kuh……You……Saying that a person “smells” just because you want to bathe yourself, I find something very wrong with that, you know!?」

「You're wrong! You really do smell!」

She vigorously asserted that.

Rem became speechless.

Shera changed the aim of her attack.

「Hey, hey, Diablo, you think so too, right!? That Rem smells.」

「Nn? Mu……Well……」

Diablo averted his gaze from the two and scratched his chin.

—I would really like for them to not talk about smell right in front of me. He had finally grown accustomed to being together with them, but Diablo was inexperienced with women to the point of being unable to have a plain conversation with them.

Just to be sure, he tried focusing on his sense of smell.

—She doesn't really smell.

Just as Rem said, there was the smell of water because it was the riverside. Also, maybe the smell of grass.

At the very least, it was much better than the room of his former self. There was mold and dust and……No, he didn't even want to remember.

「Hey, Diablo, what about, me? I've sweat quite a bit, haven't I~.」

Shera expressly brought her body closer.

If there was some kind of smell, maybe because they had warmed up from the medicinal plant gathering, it was the feeling that the sweet smell of the girls had become stronger than usual. Rather, he thought that it was a good aroma.

However, since saying something like that would make him seem like a pervert, he was troubled on how to respond.

「Ugh……Mu……」

Rem looked at him with a face that looked like she was about to cry. She

stepped away from him and took some distance.

「.....Diablo, um.....do you also think that I smell?」

Although he should skillfully follow up so as not to hurt her at a time like this, it would probably be alright to change the topic.

「Ugh.....Well.....」

If he could say something that decent, then he wouldn't have a communication disorder.

He had no idea how a Demon King would react at a time if he were asked about a girl's smell. He had never imagined it.

Shera talked cheerfully.

「Enough already! If you take a bath, you'll become all clean!」

「.....Kuh.....In that case, wouldn't that mean that I'm admitting that I smell at the present time.」

「Eh—, then, why don't you come over here and get smelled by Diablo?」

Rem glared with scornful eyes.

「.....Pantherians do not like getting wet with water.....Our movements become heavier when our fur gets wet, and since it becomes more difficult to grasp an understanding of the surrounding situation.....」

「Then, since this a good chance, Rem, let's get you to like bathing!」

「What kind of reasoning is that!?」

Although she was objecting to it, when Sera took Rem's hand—she seemed to be reluctant, but she didn't resist.

Come to think of it, Diablo also only went to the level of just wiping his body with a wet cloth on occasion.

In the Lifelia Kingdom, there didn't seem to be any habit of taking a bath or shower. But even so, since the air was dry, and there was also the wind, it was easy to overdo it.

Even on a hot day, he thought that it was quite pleasant immediately after wearing a new shirt. That sensation is something that would occur again and again.

It might alright to bath in the water occasionally.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original: 湖西. Lit. Trans.: Lake West

Part 2

Although there was a decrease in Adventurers that accepted quests, bathing at a place that was used for harvesting medicinal plants was bad—Because of that, they moved a bit further downstream.

They found a convenient sandbank. At the inner part where the river curved, there was an arched portion where sand and gravel piled up. Since the river's current was more gentle on the inner part than the outer part, it was just right for bathing.

Also because the sandbank was lower than the surroundings, it didn't seem like they needed to worry about being seen in their swimsuit appearances.

「.....Nn? The swimsuits?」

「What's wrong, Diablo?」

He was asked that by Shera who was tilting her head.

「You two, do you not have swimsuits?」

「What's, that?」

「....."Swimsuit", is it? Is that some kind of tool?」

「Will the two of you enter the water while still wearing your clothes?」

Thought that might be good since you will also be doing your laundry as well.」

Shera laughed at Diablo's words.

「Ahaha, if we did that, we'd catch a cold—」

「.....That's true. Our clothes would also be damaged.」

Shera placed her equipment on the sandbank. They were the gathered medicinal plants, her bow and arrows, and a small pouch that had small change and Summoned Beast crystals inside.

She started to loosen the string of her clothes.

「Since we're taking a bath, of course we'll be naked, you know, Diablo?」

「.....This is also, one of the reasons why I do not like bathing. Parting with my equipment in front of another person.」

「We're not just other people, we're companions—」

「Good grief.....」

Although Rem shrugged her shoulders, she didn't deny it.

She also put down her equipment, and undid the hook on her backside.

Diablo started pouring sweat for a reason other than the heat.

—Bare · na · ked!?

So there were no swimsuits in this world!? That's strange! In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, even swimsuit equipment was implemented normally!

He went into a slight panic.

Without showing any particular signs of embarrassment, Shera took off her hunter's clothes. *Purun* Her abundant chest shook.

Rem was blushing, but, covering her small chest, she took off her lightweight armor. There were small pink spots on her well-shaped bulging mounds.

As if he had been struck on the tip of his nose, Diablo bent backwards.

「Habuuah!？」

「.....Is something wrong, Diablo?」

「Are you alright? Did something happen?」

The two of them made worried looking faces.

Rather, he questioned if the two girls were alright.

「N, nwell.....Aren't chu guys embarrasshed?」

He reflexively showed his true self.

Rem hid her stomach with her other hand.

「.....Th, that is not something that should be said. Other places aside, taking off one's clothes in when bathing is only natural. Not looking at another person's body even if you can see it is proper manners.」

「That's right, that's right. Things like being a pettanko (flat-chested) despite being a Pantherian, saying stuff like that is a breach of manners, you know?」

「Ha—!? How could you say that, you boobs Elf!」

「So mean!？」

While they were quarreling, the two of them started undressing their lower halves.

Shera put her fingers on her shorts, and Rem did so for her spats—could they be called that? Since this world didn't have anything like elastic polyurethane textile, was it cotton? Or could it be clothes that were made from magic like raw materials. In any case, she grabbed hold of her spats. They brought them down.

Their rounded asses, and the girls' secret places were—Before he was about to see them, Diablo turned his back to them.

This was the first time since he came to this world that his heart pounded this much.

He might die from a heart attack.

If he had a personality where he could still behave unreservedly even after seeing a girl's nakedness, or was able to stare while being lustful, he probably would have had a slightly different life.

—Haa, I really am incompetent, aren't I.

While he was sighing in his mind, he passed the situation off with his words.

「I do not like whimsical things such as bathing. The two of you should clean off your smell by yourselves.」

The two matched each other's voices.

「I don't stink, you know!?」

「I do not stink!」

In any case, Diablo turned his back to them.

Only the rustling sound of the flowing stream, and the voices of the girls could be heard.

Rem had a sigh mixed in with her voice.

「.....Thanks to you, my image has been terribly ruined. I wipe down my body everyday and I won't smell even if I do sweat a bit. A Pantherian's sweat doesn't smell.」

「Is that true!?」

「.....It, it doesn't smell, and it is not at all salty.」

「Heh—, let's see, let's see?」

「Hyah!? What are you licking that place for!?」

「Fumu fumu, true, it isn't salty.....Maybe? Heh—, why is that?」

「.....I absolutely won't tell you the reason.」

「I wonder if Elves are the same. Rather, we don't sweat all that much.」

We'd be exposed when hiding in the forest if we gave off a smell after all.」

「.....We Pantherians are the same. Our ancestors seemed to have hunted in the plains.」

「Is that so—. Want to try licking my sweat too?」

「Bah!? I do not have that kind of hobby.」

「Then, I'll just lick you.」

「Stop it, not a second time!」

Bashan! There was the sound of water.

「Ah—, you dove into the water.」

「Fufun, with this, my sweat has washed away.」

「I'll also, dive in—!!」

There was another sound of water.

Basha basha They were moving violently.

「Why, are you clinging on to me!?」

「Ehehe! You see, in the Elven country, whenever everyone took a bath,

they would hug each other close like this, or chase after each other—. But since I was the princess, I always washed my body in a place separate from everyone else.....」

「.....I see.....Hyauh!? Why did you rub my butt!?!」

「I've thought this before, but, Rem, you've got a lot of muscle.」

「You just have way too much flab even though you're an Elf!」

「It isn't flab! It's only in my breasts, you know!? Look! Look, look! My stomach is nice and slim, and my waist is the same!」

「Kuh.....This is! It's all just flab!」

「Hyan! If, if you do that so roughly.....Nnn.....If, if you don't do it gently.....Don'tt.」

「Why you, this! This flab is!」

「Fuaun! Nn, nnn!」

While hearing the *basha basha* sound of water and Shera breathing heavily through her nose, Diablo started to feel that it was unbearable.
—Wouldn't it be alright for me to look for a bit?

It's not like he was told to "not look".

If it was only a moment's glance.....

While pretending to look around at the surroundings, Diablo sent his eyes to his back and peeked behind him.

「Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa——ツ!!」

Shera's scream resounded.

「Wah! Sorr.....ツ!?!」

No, this urgent sounding scream, something's wrong!

Diablo was about to apologize, but he noticed that something was strange.

Rem shouted.

「Th, this guy is.....Could it be, are you a Demonic Being!?!」

Part 3

—A Demonic Being!?

This was no longer the time to be embarrassed.

While turning towards the river and putting himself on guard, Diablo extended his hand to the pouch on his waist. The 《Staff of Tenma》 was needed.

In the middle of the river, there was Rem and Shera.

There wasn't only them, there was one more.
It was a Demonic Being that he recognized.
Her silver hair extended gently down to the waist.
Her skin was brown, and if one looked closely, the surface seemed like scales.
Because of her figure that was short and that had no chest and her large eyes, she had the impression of being very young. However, she was unmistakably a Demonic Being. In those golden eyes of hers, there were pupils that were vertically slit pupils like that of reptiles.
It was the commander that led the 100 Demonic Beings that had attacked Fort Bridge Ulg before—Her name was Edelgart, wasn't it?
She was grabbing Rem's arm and lifting her up.
In her other hand, she grasped something that looked like a large horseback lance.
A cold sweat went down Diablo's spine.
The soul of Demon King Krebskrem was sealed within Rem. And then, the way of unleashing it was said to be to kill her.
If that secret were to be exposed, she would be killed. She was going to be killed.
Diablo felt his internal organs becoming hot.



「You, what did you come here for?」

It was a firm voice that surprised even himself.

No matter what magic he would try to use, with her being at such point-blank range, it was difficult to have the attack hit only Edelgart.

He did have high precision magic, but the power was weak. They wouldn't be able to drive away the Demonic Being.

Shera was frightened and trembling.

She probably remembered that it was a Demonic Being that I had fought at Fort Bridge Ulg. She started spilling a large amount of tears from Rem's desperate situation.

「R, Rem.....no.....」

「Kuh.....L, let me go! To think that, there would be a Demonic Being in a place like this.....Uugh.....Diablo, please use magic! Don't worry about me!」

Don't say something stupid like that.

Abandoning Rem, that was something he absolutely wouldn't do. He had no choice, he had to use a high power magic that could blow away the Demonic Being in one attack.....

—I need to hit only the Demonic Being with my technique!

Having the invocation location be off, he had Edelgart barely in the effect range.

Diablo was about to utter the spell.

Just before that, Edelgart thrust the horseback lance that she had in her hand down into the water. She then separated her hand from the lance that was thrust into the riverbed.

「Have no intentions~, to fight. To fight against you, unable to do it alone.」

「What was that?」

「Talk? Won't talk?」

「Release Rem. Otherwise, I will annihilate you without leaving a single trace.」

「Under, stood.」

Surprisingly, Edelgart quite readily separated her hand from Rem. Rem hastily ran away.

Shera, who was crying, rushed over to her. *Gyu* she hugged her close.

「Waan! Rem!」

「Ba, baka Shera」

「I thought that it was already hopeless! That you would die!」

「.....Even I had resolved my.....Uuu」

Maybe because she recalled her fear of death, Rem's small shoulders quivered.

Edelgart opened up both of her hands.

「Today～, won't fight. Edelgart, came to talk?」

Rem and Shera looked over at Diablo looking uneasy.

Could they believe her?

Could a conversation with a Demonic Being even happen?

However, there was no mistake that she released Rem.

Diablo lowered his staff.

「Hnn.....It would appear that you are no fool.....You seem to understand what would happen if you had bought my wrath.」 「Edelgart, is～, smart?」

「So you said that you have something to talk about? However, if that's the case, why did you lay a hand on Rem?」

「.....Also have something like, own circumstances?」

「Hou?」

「Felt, Demon King-sama's soul? Touched and was convinced. Certainly, is there.」

Edelgart fixed her golden eyes on Rem.

「Hii!？」

Rem shrunk back, and Shera embraced her as if to protect her.

Diablo clicked his tongue.

「Tsk.....Did you say that you could tell just by touching.....?」

Not too long ago, Diablo had practiced how to feel the flow of magical power. Thanks to that, he became able to obtain a great amount of information from someone if he touched them.

What Edelgart had said was probably not a lie.

Not to mention, as she was a Demonic Being, it was no mystery that she would be able to feel 『Demon King Krebskrem』's existence better than the Races.

—Though there is an even bigger question. Why, did she set her sights on Rem?

The other day, it seemed like the Demonic Being that appeared in the town, Gregor, didn't pay attention to her but.....

Right now, rather than inquiring about that, he needed to think about how to deal with the situation.

「Even if the soul of the Demon King is within Rem, what do you plan to

do? Will you kill Rem? Do you plan on fighting me?」

「Like I~ said~, today~, won't fight. Won't~ kill~, that Pantherian.」
With the lance still thrust into the riverbed, she didn't show any sign of picking it up.

Edelgart is a Demonic Being.

However, her way of talking was only a peculiarity and she was no idiot. Since she was a commander that led 100 Demonic Beings, that was probably only natural.

Above all, if they simply wanted to revive it by simply killing—they should have just killed every and all people of the Races that had the possibility of having it. There was no reason to expressly ascertain the soul's existence.

「Fumu.....It would seem that the story you wish for me to hear is some different information.」

Shera blinked her eyes in surprise.

「What, what? What kind of story is it? Explain it to me so that I can understand it too!」

Rem breathed a small sigh.

「.....Looks like there's no helping it. I understand. I'll talk about everything without leaving anything out. About my secret.」

Part 4

Within the gently streaming river, a lance was thrust in and Edelgart was standing there.

The depth was enough to submerge her in water up to her waist. Diablo was away from the sandbar and in the river to where it reached up to right below his knees.

Immediately beside him was Rem and Sera who were still naked. The two of them had drops of water spilling from their hair, and water was going down on top of their skin.

Rem quietly talked.

「.....Within me, the Demon King Krebskrem's soul is sealed.」

Shera raised a loud voice.

「Ehhh!? The Demon King!? You mean the Demon King!?!」

「.....If I were to die, Krebskrem would be revived, that's what I was told by my mother.」

「No way! Then, why are you doing something like being an Adventurer!? It's dangerous, you know!?!」

「I was entrusted with the seal by my mother. And then, if I were to give birth to a child, I'm sure that child would inherit the seal.....Until the one day that Krebskrem is revived, this will continue on unbroken. That's why.....I, decided to defeat him with these hands. In order to obtain that strength, I became an Adventurer.」

「Ah, could it be, that "certain problem" that you mentioned at the inn before was this?」

「You remembered that well, considering that it's you. That's right. As long as I haven't defeated Krebskrem, I won't have the luxury of care freely working a cafe.」

On a night from a little while ago—Shera, who had just cast away her hometown, talked about her dream of "wanting run a cafe together with Diablo and Rem".

At that time, Rem replied with "right now, I carry a problem and can't respond to that".

Shera inflated her cheeks.

「It's an important matter concerning you, Rem, so of course I'll remember it! But, I didn't imagine that it would be because of something like the Demon King's soul.」

「.....I'd be troubled if you were able to notice it so easily. The only ones that know about this are Celes and Diablo after all..」

It seems that only Celestine Bordorel, the head of the Magician's Guild, knew of this secret before Diablo came along.

On the night of the day that he met Rem, Diablo tortured her and made her confess.

At that time, he also made a promise.

That—he himself would take on her problem.

Shera looked lonely.

「I understand that, it was a big enough secret that you couldn't say it.....But, I would have liked for you to open your heart up to me.」

「.....Sorry. But, I had judged that you shouldn't be burdened with this as well.」

「Well, sure, I get that I'm weak, you know? But, Rem, if you were to meet with great danger, I want to be of some kind of help. I mean, we're companions after all!」

Shera once again hugged Rem. And then, she cried large drops of tears. Rem was surprised by that.

「.....Was it really so shocking that I kept it a secret to the point of making

you cry?」

「*Gusu*.....You're wrong.....This is.....The reason I'm crying is.....because, Rem, you've done your best this whole time to keep it a secret. That, must have been so painful, so lonely, so sad.....and so difficult. I'm sorry.....for not noticing.....I'm so sorry.」

「.....Guh」

From Rem's eyes as well, who was gritting her teeth, transparent drops were spilling out.

Edelgart tilted her head with an absent-minded face.

「.....Is this atmosphere, where Edelgart can ask question? If seems like take long time, come back later. Don't, want to be discovered by Races.」 Diablo nodded his head.

「I shall allow it, you can ask.」

He had no intention of ending this with only a confidential talk.

「You~, want to defeat Demon King-sama? That, serious?」 Rem nodded.

「.....I'm serious. I also, have something that I wish to ask you. I thought that I would be killed immediately if the whereabouts of the Demon King's soul were known by the Demonic Beings but.....would the revival not happen with my death?」

「Would. No mistake~, if you die, Demon King-sama would revive. How, ever~.....Bit wrong. Demon King-sama is, delicate? If vessel were only to break~, various things lacking.」

「.....I see, I had heard that there was ritual needed for the Demon King's revival. The Demonic Being's ritual.」

「Right. Edelgart~, desires Demon King-sama's complete revival. That why~, won't aim for your life? Won't let you die!」

She declared that with a clear voice.

Diablo asked a question.

「You, do you know the method of having that Demon King make a complete revival?」

「Know it. Heard it from Demonic Being priest, after all?」

「Fumu.....」

Shera squinted her eyes.

「In that method, will Rem be safe!? The ritual won't end with a *Dosu!* by an edged tool, will it!?」

Certainly, that did indeed seem like it would be the finale of a Demonic Being's ritual.

Edelgart shook her head.

「.....Danger.....none, or it shouldn't. Rather, as Demon King-sama's mother, be treated with something like care?」

With an *Mhn mhn*, he nodded.

—Can we trust her?

Even if it were a ritual where Rem would die, she wouldn't be foolish enough to confess something like "it seems she'll die" here.

Edelgart talked.

「You~, don't trust Edelgart? Don't trust! That why~, teach ritual. Ones to do it, is all of you. Demonic Beings~, won't touch. Believe?」

「That is a somewhat better proposition.」

It would be hard to trust her, but if Diablo were to perform the ritual without the Demonic Beings coming anywhere close to them, there would be less danger.

Rem's safety was the biggest problem.

The other concern was.....

—Would I, be able to win, against Krebskrem?

Diablo looked at his left hand. There, the 《Demon King's Ring》 was on it. It was a super rare item that would reflect all magic.

In addition, there was his black clothes called 《The Hollow of Jet Black》, and his black mantle called 《The Curtain of Dark Clouds》.

There was equipment called 《The Distorted Crown》 attached to his head. The reason why it looked like he was growing horns was because of this.

His weapon was 《The Staff of Tenma》 that he possessed.

Each and every one of them were one of the strongest equipment in MMORPG Cross Reverie, and had sustained Diablo's victory.

He had also experienced combat in this world time and time again.

—There's no reason to hesitate at this point.

He felt as if the noise from his head was diminishing. Right before challenging a formidable enemy, it would occasionally become like this. His thoughts began to become simple.

The various things that he complained about, all of them became pointless.

「We will revive Demon King Krebskrem, and I will defeat it!」

Diablo declared.

Rem nodded. It was because he said that he himself would defeat it on that night she became frank about her secret to him.

「.....I believe in you.....Diablo.」

Those were words that were something like a prayer.

Shera raised an astonished voice.

「Ehh!? You're going to defeat the Demon King!? Can you even do that!?」

Edelgart curved the corners of her lips and smiled.

「Hmph.....Demon King-sama, is~, strong, enough that 100 gathered Demonic Beings can't win.」

That's only natural. If it weren't strong, then there wouldn't be any point in going through the trouble of reviving it.

In the game, there wasn't a power difference of more than 100-fold between the last boss and the mid-boss right before it, but.....

Well now, how would it be in this world?

There was no way of ascertaining if it was safe.

However, doing nothing until one was able to confirm the safety of something was nothing but despicable negligence. To begin with, was there any guarantee that doing nothing was safe?

「Edelgart.....I shall cooperate with you until Krebskrem's revival. After that, I will demolish that sham Demon King. The genuine Demon King is this Diablo after all!」

「Nn~? Demon King-sama is~, strong. Because strong, is Demon King-sama.....That why, Demon King-sama won't lose.」

Shera talked sounding uneasy.

「Diablo, you're strong but.....isn't the Demon King, like, extremely strong? I, don't want to see you die, Diablo, you know?」

There was no guarantee that I would win.

To begin with, Demon King Krebskrem wasn't implemented in the game. Its abilities were unknown.

What if there were plans to implement it after several years? At that time, the upper limit of the Player's levels might have changed. There also might be much more high powered equipment that would be implemented.

There would be no end to it if his uneasiness was raised.

There was enough fear to make him want to writhe about while holding his

head.

However, Demon Kings were something that should express a smile of composure at any time. To be scared from unease, to be impatient due to being at a disadvantage, to take no action until safety could be confirmed, none of that was becoming of a Demon King.

—Welcoming a formidable enemy with a smile is what Demon Kings do! That's why Diablo smiled.

「Do you doubt my strength?」

「Th, that's not it but.....it's dangerous, you know? Even though you don't know just how strong Krebskrem is.....」

Diablo snorted his nose.

「This is something I have said many times. The genuine Demon King is me. This Diablo is the true Demon King, as well as the strongest. No matter what kind of existence is revived, if it challenges me, it will only be annihilated!」

Rem dropped her gaze to her stomach.

「.....I.....will believe in you, Diablo. I beg of you, please save me.」

「Of course. It is foolish to be uneasy. You can leave everything to me.」

Shera nodded.

「Kay, I got it. I'll also.....though it's a bit scary.....believe in you! I'll believe in you, Diablo! That's why, I'm begging you! Please save Rem!」
It was a serious facial expression.

There was no way he could betray the girls' trust and expectations.

Diablo turned his eyes towards Edelgart.

「I shall cooperate in that Krebskrem's revival ritual or whatever. You have no complaints, do you?」

「Under, stood. Edelgart, will~teach ritual.」

The talks were settled.

Edelgart squinted her eyes.

Feeling bloodlust, Diablo went on guard.

However, that wasn't something that was turned towards them. It was turned to further behind them.

There was the sound of grass being stepped on.

Part 5

There were shadows of people looking into the sandbank.

It was five men.

They were Pantherians and Dwarves, all of them were wearing dirty

clothes, and they were armed with swords and axes.

Adventurers that came gathering medicinal plants—was something that they didn't seem to be.

Their eyes faltered.

Rem's facial expression cramped up.

「.....Kuh.....They seem to be bandits. At a time like this.」

「No way!?」

Shera covered up her own body with both hands.

The girls still weren't wearing their clothes.

Diablo clicked his tongue.

—Come to think of it, it's because the public order was deteriorating that the quest's reward had a steep price rise.

So these guys were the cause.

Bandits had also appeared in the game, but they were treated the same as monsters and not as NPCs.

Naturally, in this world, they didn't have a distinct difference from the people of the Races in town.

The leading Pantherian made a vulgar laughter.

「Uhyahya! Look at that! We're really lucky! Some real fine goods! Look at 'em, those tits! This is amazin'!」

Rem and Sera were at the end of his sight.

The two of them covered themselves up with both arms, and cramped up their facial expressions.

「Kuh.....To be seen by a bunch like them.」

「Ue, no.」

The bandits came onto the sandbank. They stepped on the gravel.

「What do we do? Should we wait fer the boss?」

「No no, we need ta catch 'em properly. We'll get yelled at by the boss if they get away. So ya see, kill the guy! We'll take the women!」

One of the bandits pointed at Sera.

「Hn? Oi, I, I've seen this girl before! I'm sure she's the Elven Princess!」

She had become a rumor in town! 」 「Uhyahya! Are ya serious, that's incredible! I've always wanted ta stick it in ta royalty at least once!」 「Even the Pantherian, she's a black panther! She'll sell fer a whole lot!」

「And then, the other one is——」

The Dwarf that shifted his sight over to Edelgart made a doubtful looking face.

「She's a really fine gem.....but.....A Demon? That's not right? Her eyes

look like a lizard's.....And it's like scales.....are on the surface of her skin? Eh? What.....is she?」

Another bandit also noticed.

He stepped back.

「Uoh!? O, oi oi oi oi! C, could it be.....she's a Demonic Being!?」

「It's a Demonic Being! A Demonic Being has comeee!」

The bandits started to run away.

The other party knew about Shera. And then, they noticed the Demonic Being. If they were to escape just like this, it would propagate into Diablo's group meeting with a Demonic Being.

Diablo prepared his staff.

Those guys were the same as monsters. He understood that in his head, but he hesitated.

The bandits were about to leave the sandbank.

They stepped on the undergrowth.....

At this rate, they would get away.

Diablo tightly gripped his staff.

「Gu.....kuh.....」

There was the sound of water splashing.

Edelgart pulled out the lance that was thrust into the riverbed. A black light dwelled in that horse riding lance.

「.....『Darkness Slash』！」

Simultaneous with her shout, she swung the lance horizontally.

A jet black flash was fired off from the tip of the lance.

That became a large black blade, and flew out.

Diablo opened his eyes wide open.

—That move, isn't that way too strong!?

It was a 『Martial Art』 that could be used by either a sword or a spear. It places SP onto the weapon, converts it into a blade and fires it.

It was able to make an attack to the far off distance.

Originally, it was a move with low power.....but considering the Demonic Being Edelgart's base parameters, just how much damage would that attack give to people of the Races.

The gigantic blade of the 『Darkness Slash』 cut up the escaping bandits.

「Gah.....!？」

Five groans overlapped each other.

Their torsos, were split right in half.

It became something like a badly done horror movie.

Rem scowled, and Shera let out a small shriek.

Diablo bit down on his back teeth.

—She killed them, so easily.

Shera shouted at Edelgart.

「Th, there was no reason to kill them, was there!?」

「Would be, troubling to be seen by Races. That, why~, killed them. You guys too, being seen, meeting with Demonic Being is~, bad, shouldn't it?」

「Th, that might be true.....But!」

Rem controlled Sera.

「Even in the Races' laws, at the time of being attacked by bandits, it doesn't become a crime even if you kill them. They are the same as monsters. They, also know that they are treated like that. Even if we let them live, they would only kill, steal, or torment some weak person somewhere else.」

Her voice was trembling, but as expected of a skilled Adventurer.

「I knowthat bandits are bad but.....」

Shera dropped her shoulders.

Diablo feigned tranquility, but he was in unrest on the inside.

—So they're the same as monsters, huh.

In this world, it was probably like that. No, even in the world that Diablo was in, people that would kill other people and steal their money and goods would have a very high probability of getting the death penalty, and even if someone were to kill them at the time of being attacked, it would be recognized as legitimate self-defense.

Whether the opponent be a monster or a bandit, killing the enemy for the sake of protecting oneself was something that is only natural as a living being.

For him who had hesitated, it might have been due to him being a peace idiot that practiced a peaceful lifestyle of a peaceful country. He breathed a sigh.

「.....Doing something so unnecessary.」

Edelgart shrugged her shoulders.

「Can't~, calm down here? That, why~.....Three days later.....on night of full moon, will wait at 『Starfall Tower』 . Ritual, happen there.」

Diablo nodded.

Certainly, it would be troubling if an obstruction were to come in during the ritual.

Also, when fighting an enemy with high fire power, a place with cover was

desirable. An open place like this is something he wanted to avoid if possible.

Edelgart walked towards the middle of the river. It would seem that she wasn't poor at being underwater either.

When the Demonic Being's figure disappeared, Rem and Shera let out their tensed up breaths.

They started to hurriedly put their clothes on.

Diablo sent his gaze towards the corpses of the bandits that were laying on the grass-covered plain—It was this kind of world. You'll be killed if you don't kill, is what he told himself.

Part 6

Three days later—

Diablo's group had their meal at 《The Triangle Ears》 .

It was a shop on Faltra City's western street, and a male Pantherian was the shopkeeper. Interestingly enough, it was a eatery where there were cats inside the shop.

The meals at the usual 《Relief》 weren't bad, but people will want to occasionally have a different flavor.

This shop boasted of having thick meat and good smelling cheese, and as a meal for the masses, it was on the luxurious side.

It was lunch time, so the shop was crowded.

Maybe because the shopkeeper and the employees were Pantherians, many of the customers were demi-human. Many of the high class shops that Humans used were in the northern district.

At the beginning, because of Diablo's outward appearance of growing horns and because there were 《Slavery Chokers》 attached to Rem and Shera, inquisitive glances were turned towards them from those around them.

Maybe because they had gotten used to it from it happening several times, they now didn't make a fuss over every little thing.

Rem paid attention to a conversation in the neighboring seat.

Diablo also turned his attention to it.

A pair of man and woman Dwarves were talking.

「Hey, it seems that a Holy Knight has come to town.」

「Ehh~, to do what?」

「Isn't it because there are rumors of the Demon King's revival? A Demonic Being had appeared just a little while ago after all. There might've

been some information that were Demon King Worshippers.]

「That sure is scary.」

「We also need to do our best to be careful.」

「Why? We're not worshiping the Demon King, you know?」

「Well, it seems that that Holy Knight is that Sadraa guy.....and they say that he's a really dangerous one. It seems that he'd capture people for no reason, torture them, and then, saying that they were Demon King Worshippers, execute them.」

「Ehh~, why!？」

「Who knows? It seems that Demi-humans are easily aimed at. It might be a good idea to leave town for a little while.」

「But, we have our jobs to worry about, don't we?」

「.....There's a Dwarven village about four days southeast of here. It's my hometown and my parents are there. If you'd like.....um.....」

「Eh? Is, isn't that.....Really?」

Tsk, go explode.

Diablo thought that while clicking his tongue.

—Looks like an outrageous guy that I would have a bad affinity with has come.

Rem looked his way looking uneasy.

「.....It might be best if we go out of town for a while.」

So she was thinking the same thing.

Shera also nodded.

「That's true. Since Diablo is a Demon King, it might be dangerous if he gets found!」

It was certainly as the girls said. However, saying something like refraining from going out because he was scared wasn't Demon King-like at all.

He threw out his chest with a *Hmph*.

「How foolish. I do not care if he is a Holy Knight or whatever but.....if he opposes me, I only have to pulverize him.」

—But, there's no need to go outside when I have no business to take care of!

Is what he added in his mind.

It would be for the best to refrain from going outside.

Staying at home was his forte. If there was a mail order system, he had confidence that he could stay indoors no matter how long it took.

Rem talked while stabbing some meat with her fork.

「Diablo, there is the thing we talked about tonight.....Please refrain from causing strife.」

「I know that.」

Of course he would refuse to have any trouble.

—The promise with Edelgart is tonight.

Since she said at night, and because she most likely meant after sunset, it was probably after 7 pm. There was still more than six hours left.

It would be for the best to stay in the room until th.....

A commotion spread out inside the store.

Through the door that wasn't particularly big, a Human woman entered

『The Triangle Ears』.

It was a tall woman.

Her body was tall as a whole, and her arms and legs were long and slender.

Her red hair grew down to her waist.

She also wore glasses, so she gave off an intellectual impression.

On top of the lightweight armor that showed her shoulders and looked easy to move around in, she wore a mantle that had embroidery on it.

It was the State Knight Alicia Cristela.

When she surveyed the inside of the store, she discovered Diablo's group and headed their way.

Shera noticed her and raised both of her hands.

「Alicia-san!」

「It has been a while, everyone. I have returned.」

She made a slight bow.

Rem let out a delighted looking smile.

「Alicia.....It's great that you are safe. On the way, you didn't run into any problems, did you?」

「No, none at all. How about all of you?」

「.....None.」

Rem slightly hesitated in saying that, but she usually talked after doing a bit of thinking. That's why no one was bothered by that small pause.

Most likely, the promise of reviving Krebskrem tonight had crossed her mind.

Though, naturally, this wasn't something to talk about in a place with people around like this.

Shera hit the table, making a *Tan tan* sound.

A seat had just opened up.

「Hey, hey, have a seat. Are you hungry? This place's cheese is delicious!」

「.....Just what are you saying Shera? When speaking of 『The Triangle Ears』 , it is about the meat.」

While making a wry smile at the usual Rem and Shera, Alicia asked a question.

「Diablo-sama, would it be alright for me to sit with all of you?」

「Do as you like. I have no reason to refuse you.」

When they had gone to save Shera, she drew her sword without any regard to her position or her life. He felt grateful to her.

Alicia smiled, and sat down in the offered seat. It was the opposite side of Diablo.

「I shall give my report.」

「Umu.」

Seeing that conversation, the surrounding customers whisperingly exchanged words.

「Oi, that's a State Knight.」「I had totally thought that she came to arrest the suspicious Demon but.....」「She said Diablo-”sama”. As I thought, that guy's no ordinary fellow.」「What kind of relationship do they have? How scary.」

For some reason, he felt that the prejudices from the surroundings became stronger.

—A Demon King does not get self-conscious from malicious gossip!
Crossing his arms, he pretended not to hear the surrounding secret talks.
Alicia reported.

「In regards to the Greenwood Kingdom, although His Majesty the King does not approve of the conclusion, it has been settled. And then, about you, Diablo-sama, you are a mere Adventurer—That is what I led him to understand. I'm sure you won't be bathed with unnecessary attention.
There won't be a dispatching of the army either.」

—Gratitude! You have my overwhelming gratitude!
However, a Demon King giving his gratitude for keeping the army away was just pitiable.

That being said, saying 「You've done something unnecessary」 to Alicia who had gone through all of that trouble was a bit harsh.
As he kept silent, Rem leaned her body forward.

「Thank you very much, Alicia. If the army were to come at this time, it

would have become really disastrous.]

Shera nodded.

「That's so true—, After all, tonight—Ow!？」

Right when she looked like she was about to say something unnecessary, Rem kicked her leg underneath the table.

Alicia added another thing.

「Also, Lord Galford did not make a report to his Majesty about you, Diablo-sama. I would dare say that he probably intends on concealing your existence and using you in a fight against a foreign country or the Demonic Beings.」

「I see.」

So that's why he didn't make any interference against them since then.

「As expected of you, Diablo-sama. To think that you could brush aside danger just by simply existing.....As one entrusted with the duty of protecting the nation, I hold an aspiration for being able to do that.」

「Hmph.....I was not thinking of something like the country's protection though.」

Alicia lowered her voice.

「Also, there is one more thing that I would like you to hear, Diablo-sama.」

「What is it?」

「.....In this town, a man called Holy Knight Sadraa has come.」

「So it would seem.」

It was the person that he had just heard about through gossip.

Alicia nodded.

「To have already known about him, as expected of you. Holy Knight Sadraa is extremely dangerous. Please take plenty of care for yourself.」

「I had said this to Rem and Sera before but.....」

「Diablo-sama, I perfectly acknowledge the strength that you have, but Holy Knights have not only the abilities of a knight, but also have the miraculous works of God on their bodies.」

「Hmph, no matter what power he may have, I will not lose.」

He tried recalling the “Holy Knights” that were in the game.

They weren't all that involved in the story, but the people that served the church did have that kind of title.

Since there wasn't an event where he had to fight one, their parameters were unknown.

—Though, in the game, they had the position of making harmless reports. He also had no recollection of the name Sadraa.
Alicia talked sounding worried.

「Diablo-sama, even if there is no need to worry about you, there is a need to do so for Rem-sama and Shera-sama. There is no such thing as being overly cautious.」

Certainly, if he were to confront Diablo, the possibility of the two of them being targeted would rise.

「Is he that dangerous of a guy?」

「Yes.....I'm sorry to say.....When one has an eye of a “suspicion of being a Demon King Worshipper” kept on them by Holy Knight Sadraa, they receive a considerably cruel torture. And then, the pain continues on until they admit that they are Demon King Worshippers.」

「What, the heck is that?」

Diablo frowned.

「Like that, the world is protected by the Church.....That is the achievement that they create. Also, it creates the ambiance that one cannot go against the Church.」

「No way.....So you're saying that, they kill innocent people?」

「It's because voices of criticism become fewer if the people that are critical of them are made out to be “Demon King Worshippers” and are abated.」

「I cannot understand this. How are they any different from bandits and monsters? Why are they left alone?」

「It is a fact that this country would not have come into existence if not for the Church.」

Diablo recalled information that was not from the game.

「Come to think of it.....In the Middle Ages, the churches carried a majority of social security. They would become the substitutes for hospitals, schools and banks, and even welfare was.....」

Not only Alicia, but even Rem and Shera tilted their heads at the words that he was muttering.

Since they didn't exist in this world, there shouldn't be words for “bank” and “welfare”.

The concepts unknown to the girls didn't seem to transmit to the girls very well. Diablo had not yet investigated the contrivance that allowed him to converse with others in this world.

Clearing his throat with a cough, he passed it off.

「Ahem! In any case, the Church is an indispensable existence in the citizens lives, and it is because of that that it receives great support, and it grasps a suitably large amount of authority. That is why eyes are shut towards their high-handedness, is that how it is?」

「Yes. Though the populace fear Holy Knights such as Sadraa, they believe that Demon King Worshippers are being reduced, and praise them.」

「How is it in reality?」

「Though there is no mistaking their abilities, in my own personal opinion, I do not think there are any Demon King Worshippers in towns and villages.....」

「I thought so.」

It's not like all people related to the Church possess that kind of selfish thinking.

However, those Holy Knights are killing people of the Races for the sake of the Church's benefit.

Shera became indignant.

「That's so cruel! Human countries are weird!」

「.....Though I am sure that they have their own things to point out, I wouldn't want to have anything to do with them.」

To the Holy Knights, people who were critical of the Church were the enemy, and probably saw them as monsters.

That's why, they strained the reason of not allowing the Church's reputation to go bad and started killing.

When thought of actions meant for the sake of self-defense, it was possible to understand them.

Though it was possible to understand them, there was no reason to go along with the selfish actions of such people.

It was because Diablo was doing his Demon King role play that he said something like "only have to pulverize" but.....

—Ahh, please don't let us get involved with them!

Alicia lowered her head.

「Everyone, I would like to ask that you all stay in the inn as much as possible. I shall take measures and endeavor on my side to have him return to the Royal Capital quickly.」

「Hmph.....I understand what you want to say. However, I will do as I like!」

—Confining myself in the inn, is what I want to do! That's what I've

dramatically declared in my mind.

Although she made a somewhat anxious facial expression, Alicia nodded.

「Thank you very much for listening to what I had to say.」

Shera offered some food.

「Alicia-san, you'll eat something, right? Cheese? Cheese?」

「Let us get another order of meat.」

Rem called out to a Pantherian employee.

Alicia expressed a troubled looking smile.

「I do have the role of being Sadraa's overseer but.....I suppose it would be fine to have a little, wouldn't it?」

「.....That must be pretty difficult.」

「It's troubling even when a problem occurs.」

Zawa, the atmosphere in the store changed.

Alicia turned her head, and Diablo also looked at the entrance of 『The Triangle Ears』 .

An armored figured man was expressing a gentle smile.

He carried several swords. The chains attached to the pommels made metallic sounds that were a pain to the ears.

Since this was an area close to the former Demon King territory, platemail wasn't anything unusual but.....

That man looked this way and smiled.

Alicia left her seat with signs of panicking. That facial expression gave off a feeling of being tense.

Diablo realized it. That, this guy was Sadraa.

—As I thought, it would have been better to not go outside!

Though shut-in thinking had exploded out, Diablo also stood up.

Rem and Sera also stood up.

Behind Sadraa, about four Human knights with similar looking appearances accompanied him. They each carried one sword like normal, and they were turning their vigilant looking eyes towards the surroundings.

So they are the Holy Knight's convoy. The so-called subordinate knights.

Part 7

Sadraa's group approached the table.

「Thank you very much for your hard work, Cristela-dono. You said that you had some business to take care of but, was it to meet with these good

people?」

Alicia expressed a smile. Her tensed mood from before had disappeared.

「Yes, since they are Adventurers that had assisted me when I came here before, I thought that I should give them my greetings.」

「I see. We Holy Knights do take along attendants, but it would seem that the State Knights often receive the cooperation of the local Adventurers.」

「Though, if I can settle things alone, that would be the best way of doing it.」

Since they were expressing smiles that made them look like nice people to each other and conversing, when seen someone that doesn't know the situation, they would without a doubt think that they are on good terms. In reality, the tension was swelling to the point that it feels like one could hear the air grating.

Sadraa turned his gaze towards Diablo's direction.

「Nice to meet you, I am known as Holy Knight Sadraa belonging to the Royal Capital main Church.」

「.....」

He couldn't just keep silent.

He needed to at least give his name.

Honestly, Diablo was nervous.

He mustn't provoke him. But, to abase himself, there was a problem with going with the Demon King role play. While he could be Demon King like, he needed to give his name without saying anything unnecessary. It's fine to do it like normal. It should be fine to do it like normal.

「I am Diablo! A Demon King that has come from another world!」

——Ah, just now, I said that I was a Demon King, didn't I?

Sweat spouted out.

Alicia opened her eyes wide in shock. This might be his first time seeing her facial expression this disturbed.

Rem hit her hand on her forehead, and Shera tilted her head.

Sadraa raise a voice of laughter.

「Ahahaha! As expected, there are a lot of interesting people among the Adventurers out in the countryside. I see, a Demon King, are you. Well now, you've got me there.」

Alicia smoothed over her facial expression, and expressed her usual troubled looking smile.

「Yes, Diablo-sama really does love to joke around.」

The smile vanished from Sadraa's face.

He had the eyes of a beast about to sink its fangs into its prey.

「——Whether or not it was a joke, to think that you would be intimate with a suspicious looking man that would call himself a Demon King.....This is a problem that I cannot shut my eyes to, you know, Cristela-dono?」

「ッ!?」

No way, to think that go in Alicia's direction.

Diablo couldn't just take back what he said at this point.

Still, just what would be the best thing to say.....

Alicia was at a loss for vindication.

Sadraa looked as if he were tormenting his dying prey.

「No matter how deep His Majesty's trust in you is, with how you seem to be having a secret talk with ones such as these, wouldn't that instead be said to be betraying His trust?」

「They are Adventurers that had cooperated with me. I have not done anything shameful at all.」

「Well now.....Do you really have nothing that you are hiding?」

「Do you intend on torturing me? If you were to try to make any false accusations about me in a place like this, how do you think His Majesty would think about that?」

「Hohou, so His Majesty would go as far as oppose the Church just to protect a single State Knight, is what you are saying.」

「Would the Great Chief Priest forgive the violence of a single Holy Knight that went as far as to make light of his Majesty?」

Even Alicia was making a stern facial expression.

She had become an unwomanly State Knight. Having a false accusation placed on her, she did not become weak-kneed.

The two of them glared at each other.

Sparks were flying as they glared at each other and it seemed like one would get burned if one were to lay a hand on either of them.

It was there that a third person cut in.

Rem came forward.

「.....This is a ridiculous story. So what if Alicia Cristela-dono had come to meet with us? I have piled up achievements as an Adventurer, and even Diablo right here.....Though he does say some strange things, has fought against the Demonic Beings and protected the town. Though she was praised, it's just strange to threaten her from simply meeting and talking

with us.]

Sadraa's eyes became frenzied.

「A slave.....should not talk to me!」

It was said with a vigor that seemed like he would kill her at any moment.

Rem faltered and placed her hand on her neck.

A 《Slavery Choker》 was placed on her. From the viewpoint of people that don't know her, she was probably seen as a slave.

「.....Kuh.....I am not something like a slave. Alicia-dono has not done anything wrong. Rather, she is a splendid person that would risk her life for the sake of saving troubled people. As someone that has fought alongside her, I will not let any suspicions about her pass by me.」

「I told you to shut up, didn't I, slave?」

「As I said, I am not something like a slave!」

「Are you admonishing me, a disciple of God, you lowly slave.....」

Sadraa swelled up only on the animosity of being criticized, and did not lend an ear to Rem's words.

Rem reacted to him right from the front.

「.....No matter who you are, if you make unjustifiable suspicions, I will deny you.」

If one thought about tonight's promise, or about the seal that was within her—Rem shouldn't do anything to stand out. Rather, the one that absolutely needed to hide herself from Sadraa in this town should have been Rem.

However, Rem could not just overlook the situation where Alicia was being suspected. She always fought against distress.

Even in regards to Krebskrem, if she were to get married and give birth to a child without opposing it, she could have transferred the seal to that child. She should have walked a safe life.

However, thinking that she should end it herself, Rem became an Adventurer and sought strong power.

She was the same even now. Even though Sadraa's eyes were turned towards Alicia, Rem personally stepped forward.

——How gallant.

That Rem that does not mind the dangers to herself, that Alicia that did only the things that she considered important, and that Shera that was worrying about them as if praying for them.....Every one of them, Diablo thought of all of them as precious.

Since he was poor at quarrels, he couldn't step forward right now. Doing it

like this had a higher probability of settling this peaceably. However, if the other party were to draw their sword, he would definitely protect them—Thinking that, Diablo stayed vigilant.

Sadraa glared at Rem.

「To admonish.....me.....this disciple of God.....How incredibly foolish.」

「It is because you are mistaken that I am saying this. If you believe that you are correct, then give a reason that everyone can consent to, and not some arbitrary labeling.」

「So you insult God, you damned Demi-human slave! Receive divine punishment!!」

Sadraa warped his face and became ugly.

Magical power was felt.

——What!?

Rem gripped hold of her own neck. The metal choker made a cracking sound.

「Kehoh! Kehoh!」

She coughed violently sounding anguished.

Shera hurriedly rushed over to Rem, and supported her shoulders.

「Rem!? Rem!?」

「Ugh.....Guh.....Kehoh! Uuu.....!?」

「Th, this is.....Are you under 《Stun》 !?」

Diablo was shocked.

Just now, Sadraa only glared at her.

No, he was pouring jeers on her, but there was no way that could have been an aria of magic.

There weren't any signs of him using a magic tool or a unique weapon either. At the very least, from what Diablo saw, there weren't any signs of him taking any special actions.

——So it was 《Chantless》 !?

It was a skill that was learned if one extended their parameters to level 60 in the Magician series.

The Bad Status type magic that could cause 《Stun》 was the same as Chemical Elemental Magic in that it was classified as 《Chant Magic》 . This meant that in order to invoke it, “speaking out the name of the magic” was required.

However, it would seem that if 《Chantless》 was learned, magic can be used even without speaking it.

In the game, it was only a skill that reduced the Cast Time—the time that it took to operate the spell to when the effect of the magic would appear. Considering the settings, it was possible to make that guess, but in this world, was it represented like this?

It was really as if Rem was suffering from God's divine punishment.

—So he's greater than level 60.

Moreover, it seems like he possesses sword techniques as a Knight. Then that would mean, his synthetic level, is much higher.

Sadraa's true strength was on a different level from the average person. The Adventurers of this world gained "strength for the sake of living" and lived with safety as the priority. Even the military personnel, a majority were probably the same. If they did not treat their lives with great care, they would quickly die. And then, in this world, if you die, that is it. Respawning from a point and Reviving the Dead Magic didn't exist.

However, Sadraa was different.

Just like Galford, he gained "strength for the sake of victory".

There was no mistake that he was a formidable enemy. If possible, he wanted to avoid a fight with him.

Perfectly understanding the danger—

Diablo smiled.

「You have made quite the foolish imitation, haven't you, you small fry! Divine punishment, you say? That is nothing but magic!」

「Wha!?!」

Sadraa opened bloodshot eyes wide open.

「To deceive people into believing that a power not of God is actually something of God's, that is equivalent to making a disciple of God a pretension. In other words, it means that your belief is also questionable. Before placing suspicion on the surroundings, you should prove your own innocence.」

「D, did you just doubt my innocence!? You say this towards a Holy Knight!?!」

「The social status of a foolish Church that bestowed such a position to a questionable fellow such as you, that doesn't suffice as any sort of proof!」

「Guh, kuh.....A lowly Demon dares to insult a Holy Knight!?!」

「Since a mere Holy Knight had used a joke of a magic on my property, I simply said the truth. You aren't even worth insulting.」

He sneered.

Since he had done so, Diablo finally realized his own feelings.

—I see, so I was angry.

When he had heard of the Holy Knight's heavy-handedness through hearsay, he contracted that from the surroundings. When there were false accusations towards Alicia, when there was abuse towards Rem who had possessed the courage to protest, the use of magic in a way that was like foul play.....

With all of that in front of him, Diablo got angry.

If one thought about the opponent's position and true strength, it was probably wiser to not confront him.

However, due to those strong feelings that could kick away such self-interest, he unintentionally let out those words.

All at once, the tension rose, and the surrounding guests escaped to the walls of the store.

The employees as well, even the cats that were there, they drew back to behind the counter.

Sadraa's shoulders were quivering.

「To doubt my piety.....to doubt God.....You have angered God.」

「Hmph, to have the likes of you act out their anger, that God or whatever isn't anything great.」

「God's divine punishment shall be bestowed upon you. You should learn of God's salvation and regret it. After that, I shall bring the others back to the church, and thoroughly and carefully teach them about God's salvation.」

Rem's 《Stun》 status continued, and she still looked like she was in pain. Shera was nestled close to her and was nursing her.

Alicia stood as if to protect the two of them, and her right hand was gripping her sword.

He couldn't allow anyone to lay a hand on the girls.

Diablo, who had become somewhat calm, incited Sadraa's next action.

「Hmph.....God's divine punishment, you say? How about calling it magic if it is magic? Something as useless as that, won't be of any use against me.」

「You fool that does not believe in the power of God! Turn into stone and regret it!」

Sadraa glared at him.

Even though he looked quick tempered, he still didn't attack Diablo.

Come to think of it, when Skills are used once, there is a fixed time of being unable to be used again. For this world, in a sense, it was something like feeling unable to concentrate on that action. For example, it was like doing something that required the concentration of making a thread pass through a pinhole, then becoming unable to immediately perform the same thing immediately afterwards—It resembled something like that.

Sadraa might have gone into a rest for the sake of 『Chantless』 . Even so, that didn't matter.

What the opponent used, was without a doubt magic. Because that is how it should be.

A suspicious light that was emitted from Sadraa headed towards Diablo—The effect of 『The Demon King's Ring』 was activated.

Any and all magic was reflected.

Sadraa solidified with his glaring expression as is.

Baki baki baki (Crack, crack, crack).....He became a grey color.

He turned into stone.

The Subordinate Knights that could be seen at the back had gone into unrest and were looking at each other. They probably had no doubts of Sadraa's victory. Certainly, a guy like that had a high level.

Diablo smiled scornfully.

「Hmph.....So he used 『Petrification』 Magic. Even though I had informed him that it would have no effect on me.」

In his mind, he yelled “Thank goodness—!!” and was relieved.

If he really was attacked with something miraculous like “God's divine punishment, and 『The Demon King's Ring』 didn't activate, and 『The Curtain of Dark Clouds』 ' Bad Status Prevention didn't show any effect, he would have turned into stone.

—I wonder if there wasn't any need to expressly receive that attack? But, if I were to attack with magic, he might have died, and I also didn't want to destroy the store.

He didn't have the time to take out the 『Trial-Made Great War Scythe』 he used to go easy on people.

Not knowing what had just happened, the guests and the employees were still afraid.

Only the cats unsteadily showed their faces from their hiding spots. Alicia checked Sadraa's state and gulped.

「This is!? He has been completely turned into stone.」

「This 『Petrification』 was most likely done with 『Cement Lock』 . It is

an Earth attribute Bad Status Magic.]

「How fearsome.....So this is Magic Reflection. Seeing it with my own eyes, I am shocked once again. To think that it would be this overwhelming of an ability.]

「It would seem that did you not teach the Holy Knight of my power?」

「.....If Sadraa were not an unexpected person that would place suspicion on sinless people, I might have thought about teaching him about it.]

「So you expected that he would have become hostile.]

And so, he wasn't bestowed with information that would have been to Diablo's disadvantage. Alicia had the position of a State Knight, but he could trust her. That's how it felt.

「Is this 《Petrification》 irremovable?」

「How long it will continue for, depends on the caster but.....eventually, the magical power will disperse and be removed. Though, that's only if he doesn't break, until then.]

「Will he die if he is broken?」

「Wouldn't he survive if it's just an arm or a leg? It's impossible if it's the head.]

Though he himself was saying it, Diablo felt a chill go down his spine. No matter what kind of person the other party is, imagining a person's death gives an unpleasant feeling.

Kehokeho After Rem cleared her throat, she took a deep breath.

「Fuu.....That was surprising. For him to have used 《Chantless》」

「Are you alright, Rem?」

「Yes. Thank you very much, Diablo.....You have saved me once again.]

「Hmph.....」

Having such an honest smile turned towards him, he was a bit shy. Diablo made a driving away gesture at Sadraa with his hand.

「You should take that fool that turned into stone on his own accord outside. Having an ugly stone statue inside the store will make the food taste bad.]

Alicia ordered the Subordinate Knights.

「Being suspicious of me, and inflicting harm on Adventurers that had performed no crime whatsoever, I shall report all of this to His Majesty. However, I am sure that no one desires the life of a Holy Knight that serves God to be taken away. Carry him and return to the Feudal Lord's estate.]

To begin with, they were only people that Sadraa had brought along. With their leader in this state, they shouldn't have been able to go against Alicia's command.

Excitedly, they raised up the petrified Holy Knight, and carried him outside of the store as if they were running away.

—Don't drop him, okay? He'll die after all.

The guests inside of the store finally understood the situation. They enthusiastically threw out jeers.

「Take— that, Holy Knight! Making fun of Demi-humans like that!」 「We've got Diablo-sama with us!」 「The next time you show up, he won't show you any mercy!」 「Get out of Faltra!」

Between the male and female Dwarves that talked about moving to their hometown a little while ago, the female looked this way, and her eyes were sparkling.

「How · drea · my! As I thought, men need to be strong!」

「Eh~, no way!? Didn't you say that you liked men with money.....」

The male Dwarf dropped his shoulders.

Go explode—is what he thought a little while ago, but when it becomes like that, it was a bit pitiful.

In any case, it was great that the trouble was resolved.

Having reached her seat, Rem, as if that 《Stun》 from a short while ago were just a lie, started to eat again.

Shera looked like she was still worried.

「Are you alright?」



「.....Since it was a Bad Status through magic, there isn't anything remaining. But, if you give me that meat, I'll be even more healthy.」

「That's fine but, give me that cheese over there, okay?」
Diablo also tried to restart his meal.
Alicia whispered into his ear.

「.....Was it really alright to let Sadraa go like that?」
Did she think that it would be better to have killed him?
Certainly, judging from that personality of his, killing him might not be any distant future troubles.
However, he opposed killing people only because they "might be a danger".
He might be a peace idiot but.....

Diablo made a Demon King-like composed nod.

「A small fry of that degree, I have no interest in whether he lives or dies.
Though, if he challenges me once again, I will not go easy on him at that time.」

「.....I understand. Certainly, he isn't a threat to you, Diablo-sama. I had a needless worry.」

Alicia expressed a gentle smile and nodded.

Chapter 2: Trying Out Undoing the Seal

Part 1

After lunch—

Diablo's group returned to the inn.
Rem muttered.

「.....If we are going to 『Starfall Tower』, then we will need to get going about now.」

「It's because a hindrance interrupted our meal that it took up time after all.」

「Ahaha.....Things were a disaster because of that weird person, wasn't it.」

Diablo nodded, and Shera gave a laughter as if she didn't have a single worry in the world.

Rem breathed a sigh.

「.....A person that is able to call being glared at by a Holy Knight a "hindrance to a meal", I'm sure there aren't many of that kind of person.」

「Well, there is no need to worry about that guy. More importantly——」
Diablo shifted his attention to the inn's door.

Alicia was in the room next to them.

She accompanied them here from 『The Triangle Ears』 but.....

Most likely, silently going out was probably impossible. Her perception was sharp, and when leaving the inn, they would have to pass in front of her room.

Rem looked like she was perplexed about something.

「.....It might be best to be honest with her.」

「That's true. Alicia-san is, a good person after all, so she'll understand.」
Going by Shera's view, most people were virtuous. Of course, to Diablo, he considered Alicia to be trustworthy. She could probably be said to already be a companion.

However, it was because of that.

Rem was troubled over it.

「.....Alicia is a State Knight.....No matter what the circumstances may be, she probably can't just shut her eyes to the Demon King Revival.
Rather than inconveniencing her, it might be best to keep quiet about it.」
Maybe because they had a small talk before, it seems that Rem and Alicia had become friendly with each other.

Thinking about their positions, hiding it would be for both of their sakes.
However, he wanted to be honest with her. Because he considered her a companion.

This type of delicate human relations, putting it plainly, was something that he completely did not understand. Just what would be the correct thing to do.

Just what should he say, to that their relationship would not go wrong.
If she were a complete stranger, it would instead be really simple. It was because she was someone they were close to that it was difficult.
Because he thought that it was absolutely impossible for himself, Diablo kept quiet.

Rem asked.

「What, do you think would be the best thing to do?」

—Asking me about personal problems, is like asking a turtle for tips on how to fly, you know?

However, it would be deplorable of him to reply with an 'I don't know'.
Diablo tried saying something that "seemed authentic".

「You are worrying about it. That is the answer.」

After he himself said that, he thought to himself "Haa?". Even if it was just

some random answer, there is a limit to it.

Even so, Rem nodded looking like she comprehended that.

「.....I see. Certainly, unless it were a person that I should talk about it with, I probably wouldn't be worried about it. It is because I thought that she was a companion that I place my trust in that I'm worrying about this. In that case, I should consult with that trustworthy companion that made me worry to this extent.....That is what you are saying, right?」

「U, umu.」

Rem made a cheerful face.

「.....As expected of you, Diablo. Not only are you strong, to think that you were sensitive to the matters of the heart.....From your point of view, I surely must be a small existence for worrying over such a trivial matter.」

He started to feel a bit apologetic.

Just by somehow saying something that sounded wise, the one that came up with the answer was Rem herself.

Even Shera's eyes were sparkling in admiration.

「Diablo, you really are amazing! That's exactly right, since Alicia is a companion, she'll understand if we talk with her!」

「Of, of course.」

「.....Yes. Though we might be imposing some trouble on her.」

And so, they called Alicia to their room.

Alicia accepted it surprisingly quickly.

She sympathized with how Rem suffered with keeping it a secret for so long, shed tears, and promised to cooperate with all of her might. Rem started weeping from that kind attitude, and Shera also received that and started crying.

There was no problem. As he thought, it was for the best that they be honest with Alicia.

Or that's how it should have been but.....

Diablo was beside the wall with his arms crossed, gazing at the appearance of the three girls shedding tears and sympathizing with each other.

It was somehow, cheap.

He thought that it resembled that.

As if—it was as if he was looking at his classmates right before they were changing grades.

They'd cry, talk, and vow to have lifelong friendships with each other. But when it became the new school year, he would never see them all in the same place together.

He didn't understand the meaning of that.

Rem's troubles were something that risked her life, and even for Shera, if she was intent on being present at the Demon King Revival, it was probably understandable that she was risking her life. It would be nice if she understood that.

And then, Alicia should have had some conflicts in terms of her position. For a woman to take up the position of State Knight, she should have had some uncommon hardships.

The girls' tears were different from his classmates' "make-believe farewell". Even though that is how it should have been, there was some kind of sense of discomfort.

Diablo breathed a sigh in his heart.

—Good grief, I wonder if it's because I have a communication disorder, don't have any friends, and never joined a L I N E group, that I can only see things through such a warped viewpoint?

Part 2

《Starfall Tower》 —

The time was probably around 8 o'clock at night.

In this world, small clocks that could be carried were extremely high-class items. A pocket watch was more expensive than gold of the same weight. Wall-mounted clocks were only in the estates of nobles and the church. A majority of the citizens lived by the time signal of the church's bell. From 5 o'clock to 9 o'clock at night, the bell would ring at every hour.

Five times if it was 5 o'clock, six times if it was 6 o'clock.....At 1 o'clock in the afternoon, it returned to one time. At first, he thought that it would be inconvenient, but with no train, no bus, and no TV, since there was no commute to work or school or anything to be late to, there was no problem with it.

Things like an accurate clock, transportation facilities, computers, and the Internet, these convenient inventions might be making it harder for people to live.

He casually thought such things.

A full moon shined in the sky.

The old looking, stone-made tower that stretched towards the moon had

eight sides, and was slightly thicker at the bottom.

He had seen it when he was summoned, so this was his second time coming here. Looking at it at night, its atmosphere was quite different. Diablo, Rem, Shera, and Alicia stopped and surveyed the surroundings.

「It should have been just as promised though.....?」

「.....That Demonic Being, just where is she?」

「Sh, she won't attack us, right?」

「According to the story that you told me, I think it should be alright but.....Let us proceed with caution.」

Alicia extended her hand to the sword on her waist.

From the tower's entrance, a small figure of a person came out underneath the moonlight.

「Finally~, came?」

It was Edelgart. In her right hand, she held a horseback lance.

Going "Hii!?", Shera hid herself behind Diablo. If she was that scared, it would have been fine if she waited at the inn but.....

Rem also had signs of being nervous.

As expected of a State Knight, Alicia was quite dignified.

The brown-skinned, silver-haired Demonic Being expressionlessly glanced at Diablo's group.

「Ritual preparations already~, made.」

—Nn? So she's not going to ask about Alicia?

He was worried that there would be a problem about how he came accompanied by a State Knight, but Edelgart didn't show any signs of minding it.

Being as strong as she is, did she not care about a single State Knight? Since there was no need to expressly make it a topic and increase the troublesome things, Diablo kept silent about it.

Right now, he should focus on the ritual.

Diablo crushed the nervousness in his heart, and collectedly nodded.

「Good work. All that is left is for me and Rem to perform the ritual, is that right?」

「Right. Well, then~.....Go?」

As always, her way of speaking was way too peculiar that it was hard to tell what she was thinking. To the Demonic Beings, the Demon King's revival should have been their dearest wish.

At the very least, for the past 30 years since the Demon King was defeated, they should have been seeking a new Demon King. For someone that was

on the lookout for something that important, she sure was aloof about it. Edelgart had her eyes go left and right. Incidentally, she also looked up.

「Best, to hurry up～」

Being urged, Diablo's group went inside 『Starfall Tower』 .

It was dark.

If this were the game, he would have raised the display's brightness with all his might.

Moonlight shone through from a small window. There was only the full moon, and that was the only place that was bright.

Edelgart was the lead, and following after her was Diablo, Rem, Shera, and then Alicia. While using the stairway to head towards the rooftop, Rem asked a question.

「.....You seemed to be vigilant of the surroundings but, is there something going on?」

「Guys of the Baal faction～, don't like, thing like ritual. Destroying, Demon King-sama's container～.....and immediately reviving is their desire.」

「Ugh.....」

It was only natural that Rem flinched. Because, her story meant that, in short, there were Demonic Beings that were thinking they "want to kill Rem right now".

Going "Fumu", Diablo placed his hand on his chin.

He knew the name Baal. He had appeared even in the game. He had an appearance like that of a bear, and was a considerably powerful opponent.

「So there are things like factions among Demonic Beings?」

「Ye, ah. Are. Generally, Baal faction says Races should be killed～.....Those guys～, stupid? Eternally weak-headed～. Only think about killing Races.」

「I see.....Why don't they come up to the town? There should be people of the Races doing farm work outside of the barrier though?」

「Because, Baal faction～ move on mood. But in truth, are scared. Without Demon King-sama～, Demonic Beings weak. Because weak, don't want to fight? But, Races want to kill?」

「In that case, they're something like Demonic Beasts.」

With how reason won't communicate well with them, they seem like they will be troublesome when encountered. He felt like he understood why she was vigilant.

「Then～, there is Ouro faction.」

「What kind of guys are they?」

「Ourou live long since previous previous Demon King? Oldest Demonic Being and seems to be strongest~. Not sure. Edelgart never seen him fight. But~.....Lethargic? Not usable.....Wrong.....Said, not lethargic. Moderate faction? That what he said.」

「Hmph, to think that there was a moderate faction among the Demonic Beings.」

He also knew about Ourou.

It should have been a gigantic owl. Wasn't it a Demonic Beast, was a popular topic but—regardless of outward appearance, ones that were able to operate words seemed to be called Demonic Beings.

In the game, since it was a scenario where one was capturing the Demonic Beings base, there wasn't much of a conversation, and after one-sidedly being told "You damned hateful Adventurers!", it rushed into battle.

It didn't give the impression of being a moderate faction, and it didn't seem like the strongest.

This was also the first time he heard information about there being factions.

「Because Ourou~ said "If we wait, someday Demon King-sama will revive once again"~, won't move? Won't move!」

Rem was surprised.

「.....A moderate faction among the Demonic Beings.....I have never heard of such a story. Even with just the current conversation, this would be surprising information for many people of the Races.」

「Though, before you would be trusted, it seems like you would be executed for communicating with Demonic Beings.」

With Alicia's words, Diablo agreed.

Among the Races, information on the Demonic Beings was much too scarce. It wasn't written even in the game's settings. What is the number of Demonic Beings? What is their command system? How do they live and how do they increase?

It was a foolish story. If they really thought about trying to win, they needed to know about the enemy more than the enemy knows themselves.

「Edelgart, which faction do you belong to?」

「Wrong. Edelgart is~, Edelgart!」

「So, in other words, there are three factions.」

「Ye, ah.....Have "strayed" but, pretty much three? Three! Edelgart, has~, heard story from Demonic Being priest, and for sake of reviving

Demon King-sama, has done various things. What is important is~, that Demon King-sama is properly revived. Properly.]

Baal and Orou, they were implemented in Cross Reverie. If it were updated, would Edelgart also eventually make her appearance?

Diablo gazed at her.

—This girl, with this outward appearance, some goods would have been sold.

He thought about such things.

They arrived at the rooftop.

Maybe because they had walked the pitch dark stairwell for a while, even the moonlight felt radiant.

It was the place where Diablo was summoned.

It was wide enough that it didn't feel confined even with five people around, was octagonal, and at the center, there was an altar surrounded with stone pillars.

There was no ceiling, and the night sky could be seen.

The large full moon was suspended in the air.

Part 3

《Starfall Tower》 Rooftop——

Diablo, Rem, Shera, Alicia, and Edelgart, all five of them came in front of the stone altar that was in the center.

Edelgart began to explain.

「For Demon King-sama to revive~, there is only the person of Races that is the seal container has to die, or Demon King-sama's soul is filled with magical power.....Still take hundreds of years~, maybe?」

Rem's body stiffened.

「.....Then, this ritual, it's meant to fill Krebskrem's soul with magical power, is that right?」

「That's, right.」

Edelgart turned towards Diablo's direction.

「Pour your magical power~, into Demon King-sama's soul. When done~, able to revive Demon King-sama soon, should. Probably. Priest said so.」

Rem was uneasy. *Kokun*, she gulped.

「.....It seems.....I have no choice but to believe you.」

Certainly, it was a story that was like catching a cloud.

Information meant to help make a decision, was overwhelmingly

insufficient. There was no way to make sure that Edelgart's words were true.

Rem extended her hand to Diablo.

With both of her small hands, she grasped his right hand which held 『The Staff of Tenma』.

Soft.

「Wh, what?」

「.....Diablo.....I, am unable to trust the Demonic Beings.」

「Is that so. In that case, shall we stop?」

「No, let us perform the ritual. Most likely, by storing magical power, Krebskrem will probably revive. At that time, whether I'll be saved or not, is something I don't know.」

「Umu.」

「Even so, I don't mind. More than my own life, I want to defeat Krebskrem. If it is you, that is possible.....It is definitely possible. That's why, I, will believe in you, Diablo.」

Jii, she gazed at him.

It was a face that showed she was betting her life.

As the egg of the Demon King that would one day revive, she chose not to live a life of quietly hiding, and had a face of someone chose to fight.

Bathed in moonlight, that figure was too beautiful.

Diablo placed her hand on her shoulder.

「I shall equally exterminate all those that oppose me.」

These words were not something he planned to say to relieve her.

It was an act to be Demon King-like, but they were also Diablo's true feelings. He would defeat Krebskrem.

And then, if something were to happen to Rem's body, he had no intentions of forgiving Edelgart either.

Edelgart urged them to the altar.

「Well, then～.....Lie here!」

It was the place where he opened his eyes when he came to this world.

Rem lied down on the altar.

「.....Is this alright?」

「Good. Then—.....Pour magical power.」

She turned her gaze towards him.

That was his duty. Diablo tried to make it so that the nervousness in his heart didn't appear on the surface.

「Do I, not use some kind of tool? You made preparations for the ritual,

right?」

「Underfoot~, magic formation. Amplifies poured magical power? Does.」

「Is that all?」

「Other things, needed?」

Edelgart tilted her head.

Pouring magical power probably meant the act that he learned from Medios the shopkeeper at the slave shop and had tried on Shera.

Although he had just happened to have learned it.....

If Diablo didn't know the way to pour magical power, the ritual would have failed right here.

It probably would have turned into a atmosphere that would make him feel like running away.

In his mind, he went "Thank goodness I learned how to do it—!!" and cried out banzai.

—Still, Edelgart looks like she has a pretty haphazard personality.

In proportion to her strange way of speaking, she surprisingly thought a lot about things. She also had knowledge, and was calm. Governing one of the three factions, just doing that was good.

However, she also had a part of her that left things to momentum.

Or maybe, could it be that she acquired the information that Diablo was able to pour magical power?

And for this reason, she made this proposal?

Shera blushed.

「Umm.....by pour magical power.....you mean "that", right?」

Diablo nodded.

「Most likely.」

「That, huh.....Rem, will you be alright?」

「.....I, I'm prepared. But, this ritual is meant to revive Krebskrem.....and then, defeat it. It is something serious.」

Before, Shera had playfully poured magical power into Rem. Probably remembering that, Rem's face also turned red.

「Y, yeah. Do your best!」

Edelgart stopped Shera who tried to get closer to Rem.

「Magic formation get disarrayed. So~ unrelated things, get away.」

「That so.....」

「Just leave it all to me!」

Diablo approached the altar.

Fuwah The magic formation that was drawn in the surroundings floated

up in a bluish-white color.

Even on the altar that Rem was lying on, there were fine patterns and letters were closely packed and written.

She quivered.

「.....Fufu.....Since the time, I decided to become an Adventurer, I had resolved myself for almost everything. However, to think that I would have the magical power from a Demon King poured into me, while on top of a magic formation drawn by Demonic Beings, this was outside of my imagination.」

「You should count the number of stars in the sky or something. It will end at once.」

—It will end at once, right?

Pouring magical power requires concentration. He had only just learned it, so he wasn't able to continuously do it for that long.

He touched Rem's body. First, he placed his right hand on her stomach. It felt pleasantly cool, and was soft.

「Fuh.....」

She leaked out a small sigh.

「Are you alright?」

「Yes, it was a bit, ticklish is all.」

「If it's painful, you should tell me immediately.」

「.....Yes.」

「Erm.....」

The top and bottom of Rem's clothes were separated. He touched her naked navel with his hand, and read the flow of magical power.

The strong stream created a swirl with her heart at the center.

It was a pattern that differed from the time with Shera.

He decided to try pouring magical power there.

The muscles along Rem's spine quivered.

「Nghuuuuuu.....ッ!？」

From the side, Edelgart interrupted.

「Wro～ng～, that. Wrong. That not Demon King-sama, that Pantherian!」

Putting magical power there, wrong.」

「Fumu, I see.」

He read the information more prudently.

Within the flow of Rem's magical power, there was a gooey mass.

In the depths of her navel huh.....

No, even further below.

Even if he read the flow of magical power, he couldn't tell the color. Or that's how it should have been, but it was black. It was as if there was a bottomless hole open inside of Rem.

It wasn't like he had read everyone's magical power, but at the very least, it was different from Shera's. Most likely it was different from Diablo's as well. No wonder Medios made a dubious face.

「So it's here.....」

He poured magical power.

Just like before, Rem's body quivered.

「Hafuunghuuuuu.....っ!!」

「Mu.....It isn't reaching.」

Because it was deep within, the magical power wasn't quite reaching. It felt like at least half was streaming towards Rem.

Edelgart talked sounding displeased.

「Like that~, not enough. Won't cross over to Demon King-sama? Better if stab finger in.」

「.....Wait. Did you say, finger?」

「Right. Like *Dosu*~, with that feeling.」

「Rejected. I won't allow a single scratch on her skin, well, I won't go that far, but if I were to do that, it would concern Rem's life.」

「Mu~, people of Races weak.....Just a hole or two.....Right. Hole.

There was a hole? Is.」

She came to the side of the altar, and pointed.

The Demonic Being had said that no one was to get close, but since the ritual wasn't proceeding favorably, he decided to not mention such trifles. More importantly, her proposal was a huge problem.

「.....What, was that?」

「If insert finger from here~, even if don't stab skin, it alright?」

「You, are you ridiculing me!?!」

「Edelgart~, hate.....jokes.」

Rem let out a small voice.

「.....ease do it.」

「Nn?」

「Please, do it.....Diablo. If that is what is needed.」

「U, gu.....No.....Uumu」

The watching Shera raised a voice saying 「I don't, really get it but, go for it!」 .

Alicia kept silent and watched intently.

Diablo nodded.

「Yosh! You should tell me if it hurts! I will at least wait!」

His voice felt like it was going to quiver.

Once again, he extended his hand towards her body.

To the closest place that that existence deep inside of her body was.

—This, is an action meant to pour magical power to Demon King Krebskrem's soul!

Diablo extended his hand to Rem's abdomen.

「I am going to take it off.」

「Y, yes.....」

Putting his hand on her spats, he slipped them down. The area around her hips was exposed to the air.

And then, he extended his hand between both her legs.

So as to not turn his eyes towards there as much as possible, or rather, so as to immediately tell if Rem was in pain, he looked at her face.

Groping about, he searched for the entrance to her innermost area.

Piku Rem's eyelashes quivered.

「Hann!?」

「O, oi?」

「I'm.....I'm alright.....You just touched, a place that is a bit, sensitive.....Please continue, without minding me. If it seems unreasonable, I'll be sure to say so after all.」

「Is that so.」

Before, Rem said that she was fourteen years old.

—Is this alright?

No, because she is a Pantherian, it is hard to believe that they would have the same standards as Humans. According to the setting in MMORPG Cross Reverie, Elves live to around 300 years. Also, that the other Demi-humans in general have longevity.

Diablo stopped worrying about such minor details, and focused on the deed.

Shera, who was watching from a small distance away, was blushing.

「Eh? Eh? This is a ritual.....right?」

「Of course it is.」

Alicia answered.

When Diablo's fingertips arrived at Rem's precious place, her back bent back.

「Fuh!」

「S, so it's here.....」

「Nnn, ah! Ahh! It.....it's in.....Diablo, is en, ter.....ing.....me.」

「Ah.....」

It went in easier than he thought it would.

Warm.

It was soft, and it was as if it was viscously coiling around him.

With his fingertip having entered just a bit, it was still too far from Krebskrem. There wasn't a great difference from when he had placed his hand on top of her stomach.

He pushed further in.

Rem's breathing became stiff.

「Hanghuu! Kufuuuu.....Uuuu! Nn, ah! Ha! Ha!」

「Just a bit more.」

Diablo pushed his middle finger inside.

Her body temperature was being transmitted to him clearly. It was tightly pressing on him.

And then, he also felt magical power.

——I've come close to you, Krebskrem!

「Here I come! Rem!」

Going as if trying to lift up her waist with only his middle finger, he pushed it in even deeper. He poured magical power in.

Rem raised a high-pitched voice.

「Hiaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa——ツ!?」

The magical power released from Diablo streamed to the jet black cavity that was deep within her.

Edelgart narrowed her eyes.

「R, ight.....That~, good.....Should be」

「AH! AH! AH! HIAH! NHaaaaa! D, don't, too stro.....No, just like that!

Nnhaa.....Aguuuuu! Th, the innermost area of my stomach
is.....hot.....It, it feels like I'm burning up.....Uuuu!」

「Not yet! More!」

He poured in all of the magical power that he had. He held nothing in reserve.

Now that they had gone this far, he was going to absolutely revive Krebskrem, and beat it down!

The magic formation that was drawn underfoot was releasing enough radiance that it was dazzling.

It was amplifying Diablo's magical power.
Within Rem, the swelling discharge of magical power was raging. It stirred up her insides, and her body had spasmed on top of the altar many times over.

「HAuuUUUGUAH! AGUH! NN! Ku, tsufuu! AH! G, going in so deep.....Naaaah, gouging me out.....Tsuhaa.....NN! I'm, I'm going cra.....zy.....HA! AH! NHAAH! AAAAaaaa.....AAaah!」

「Fuu.....Fuu.....」

The consumption of magical power was too much, and he was starting to feel dizzy.

A sensation similar to a dull pain reverberated from his spine to the inside of his head.

He started to lose feeling in his fingertips as if they were melting from the heat, as if he had become one with Rem's body.

Nevertheless, Diablo thrust deep within her.

「Kuh.....」

「HYAUN! Fua! AH! AAHHH! NHAaAH! HOT! IT'S HOT! Diablo.....I, I'm.....already.....HAFU! This is.....m, making me feel.....like I'll go crazy.....NN!」

「Yeah, you've started to overflow.」

The poured in magical power was overflowing from the deep hole that was within Rem.

—So Krebskrem has had its fill!

As if to make the finishing blow, he released the remaining magical power deep into her.

「KUOOOOH! Reach it!」

「Nnnnnu! AH! HHIGUUUUUUUUuuuuuuuuuuuuu——っ!!」

While scratching her insides, Diablo pulled out his finger.

Fluids fell onto the altar.

—It's coming!!

Something was coming out from within the deep hole.

Part 4

「AGUUUUuuu.....っ！」

Rem raised a pained voice.

Though it was coming out, it was not a physical existence.

It was a torrent of thick magical power.

Having expanded inside of her, like a flooded muddy stream, it came

pouring out with force.

Diablo stood firm at the side of the altar.

If he were to take precaution, he should have taken some distance but.....
The one he had to protect, was right here.

As long as he didn't know the structure of the Demonic Beings' magic formation, he couldn't thoughtlessly move Rem.

「Oi, Edelgart! This really is safe, right!? She seems to be suffering quite a bit, you know!?」

Edelgart was making a face that looked like she was about to cry and had her eyes fixed on the torrent of magical power.

Looking up at the sky, she moaned.

「Oh.....Oh.....Demon King-sama.....」

「Tsk.....So she isn't listening.」

She looked like she was always aloof from the world, but this meant that she also risked her life going towards a goal. With success right before her eyes, she was in a trance.

For an instant—

He had vertigo.

Maybe because he had consumed MP close to the limit, when he lost focus, he felt like he was going to collapse. Though, maybe because with the situation as it is, he wasn't assailed with lethargy.

Diablo turned his gaze to alongside the wall.

Shera was also looking at the torrent of magical power. And then, her body trembled from the excessively gigantic swirl of magical power that appeared.

「Wh, what is, this.....Is this.....Krebskrem?」

「That is right.....This for sure is.....」

Alicia muttered.

She was also gazing up at the sky, and her body was trembling.

Rem extended her frail arm towards him.

「Haa.....haa.....kuh.....haa.....haa.....Dia.....haa.....」

「Are you alright!? Hang in there, Rem!」

Diablo grabbed her hand with his left hand. The 『Staff of Tenma』 was being tightly grasped in his right hand. In order to protect this young lady.

「Ugh, kuh.....Haa.....Haa.....」

「Oi! Rem! Open your eyes!」

On her brow, there was an incredible amount of sweat rising up to the surface.

She had become pale and was quivering.

「Haa.....haa.....Diablo.....win.....win.....please.」

「Of course I will! You, have the obligation of seeing that with your own eyes! I absolutely won't allow my property to go off and die on their own after all!」

「.....That's, true.」

Although she was in pain, Rem smiled.

Shera shouted.

「It's solidifying!」

Having been released from the seal, the Demon King Krebskrem that had become an enormous swirl of magical power was revealing its appearance. Diablo put himself on guard.

A gigantic torso, formed its shape.

It was a long and narrow torso that resembled a snake.

And then, the head was made.

Two curved horns grew out of it. Red, shining eyes opened. Two, four, even on the center of the head.

The surface was a glossy black color, and gave the impression of being a hard surface like that of an insect.

Hands grew out, and legs grew out. The silhouette had turned into something that could be called humanoid.

It was larger than Diablo.

It was probably around three meters. As a humanoid, even the tall statured Diablo only reached up to the opponent's waist.

From its back, gigantic wings of light sprang forth, and spread out as if trying to reach for the sky. They even spread out to the sides. The dazzling light wings flapped.

—A giant wrapped in a carapace.

That was the appearance of 『Demon King Krebskrem』 .

Krebskrem laughed.

It was a woman's voice.

The laughter that resembled a high-pitched shriek shook the eardrums of all those that were in this place.

Edelgart raised both of her hands as if overcome with emotion.

「OaAOAa! Demon King-sama's revival!!!!」

It was a shout that resembled a beast's howl.

It made him feel that she really was a Demonic Being.

Krebskrem was gushing out magical power from its whole body.

Shera's voice trembled.

「.....This can't happen. This.....If it revives, it'll be no good!」

「Haa.....Haa.....This is.....」

Rem's complexion turned pale.

However, it looked like her respiration had somewhat calmed down. If it continues like this, wouldn't it be a matter of life and death.

Diablo shouted.

「Shera! Alicia! I leave Rem to you!」

He took out a Potion Tin from his waist pouch.

It was an MP Recovery Potion. Moreover, it wasn't something compounded in this world, but was something that he compounded in the game after gathering extremely rare ingredients.

He used it.

It recovered the MP that he consumed to close to the limit to its max all at once. He had a tired feeling that he wasn't conscious of until then, but it was all blown away. His thoughts that had become hazy turned clear, and his perception that he had lost returned to normal.

「Fuuuuu.....」

Diablo prepared his 《Staff of Tenma》 .

If the opponent were someone of the Races, he could read the opponent's aims from their movements.

However, in regards to Krebskrem, he had absolutely no information. No matter how much of a top Player he was in Cross Reverie, only this was something that he wouldn't understand unless he tried fighting her.

—There is the possibility that she might possess a technique that kills on first sight, but there's no meaning in receiving it, I guess.

If this were the game, this would have been where he would have listened to their speech, but in this world, there was no need to go along with the last boss's performance.

He turned his staff towards his opponent.

「——ツ」

He was about to speak out his magic, but at that time—

Basshuuuuuu!

It was a sound as if the air of a balloon all came out.

The Demon King Krebskrem's figure shrank down.

She had become the same size.....No, even smaller than Diablo. Far from Shera and Rem, she was even smaller.

She came falling down from the sky with a thud.

Diablo unintentionally forgot to attack and gazed at her.
The Krebskrem that should have appeared with a sinister form, had changed her form way too much.
Reflexively, he looked at her over and over.
He rubbed his eyes.
「.....A, child?」
Krebskrem had turned into a very young girl.
On her head, she had curved horns like that of a goat. Her eyes were a purple color that was similar to amethyst, and her blond hair that was put up into two tufts grew down to her knees. What she wore was a dress with fluttery frills, but her shoulders and stomach were visible, to the point where it would have been lascivious if she weren't a little girl.
She was a girl smaller than Rem, and had a charm resembling that of a small animal.
Her ears were long like that of an Elf, and from her butt, there was a lizard tail hanging down and flopping about.
She was a little girl.
Diablo doubted his own eyes. Questioning if the game-prepared MP Recovery Potion was too powerful and was making him see an illusion, he checkon on how Rem and the others looked.
The girls were also making surprised faces.
So he really wasn't mis-seeing things.
The little girl—Krebskrem got down onto a place where the edge of the tower became higher, crossed her arms, and glared over the surroundings. Though, even if she was standing on that tall place, Diablo was the taller one.

「Ku ku ku.....Were the ones that awakened Maou from her slumber, all of you!」 田
It was a normal, sweet voice.
Edelgart knelt down.
「.....Demon King-sama.....Revival~, happy to, see it? Happy!」
The little girl nodded.
「And you are?」
「Edelgart is called Edelgart.」
「I see. Umu! Maou's revival, you will be greatly praised for it-noda!」
Judging from the Demonic Beings conversation, this little girl is without a doubt the Demon King Krebskrem.
She was the enemy that he must defeat.

However, Diablo was perplexed.

In the MMORPG Cross Reverie, Humanoid Monsters had been introduced. There were also bandits, and even the Demonic Beings were Humanoids. This wasn't the first time he went against a female type either.

However, there weren't any little girls.

This was just a conjecture but—Components weren't not implemented, but instead intentionally eliminated from the game, the things like sex discrimination, racial discrimination, and slaves.

And then, wouldn't a component where the ill-treatment of minors being seen be removed?

Blowing away that Krebskrem with magic would probably turn into way too horrible of a scene.

Moreover, this world was not the game.

To "defeat" her meant that he was to "kill" her.

Since she was the Demon King, that is the natural thing to do, but.....

—To be completely honest, I do have some opposition to it.

He did have his promise with Rem, and he couldn't release her for the sake of the Races. That little girl was the Demon King that would destroy the Races. She should have been.

—Really?

「Oi, are you really the Demon King Krebskrem?」

「Mu? Indeed! And who are you?」

「My name is Diablo. I am the true Demon King that came from another world, the one that revived you.....And then, the one that will slaughter you!」

「Fufun, that magical power.....I see.....The one that woke Maou up was you -nanodana. Umu umu.....As a reward, I shall teach you what fear is!」 From that small body of hers, tremendous magical power came overflowing out.

It was distorting the air.

—Even with an appearance like this, she is still a Demon King, huh.

Seems like I have no choice but to fight.

Diablo took his stance with the 『Staff of Tenma』 , and the corners of his lips curved. Smiling with a grin in front of a formidable enemy is what a Demon King does!

「Kukuku.....What kind of fear would a Demon King that only just woke up be able to teach me?」

Krebskrem showed her sharp canines and laughed.

「Ku ku ku.....Let's see.....For you who had revived Maou, that method should be good. I will kill you with that extraordinarily brutal one!」

She declared that so as to exaggerate it.

She probably remembered some kind of fighting style. Or maybe, an execution method.

This girl was undoubtedly a formidable enemy.

—Will I take the initiative? No, with that physique, it's very likely that she'll come using magic.

Being attacked, it would activate the 『Magic Reflection』, and then should he hit her with a maximum magic? Diablo's thoughts had been completely immersed into battle.

Despite that, Krebskrem was making a troubled face.

「.....It's that. Erm, um.....There is an extraordinary method.....There should be -noda. Hold on a second.」

She was acting strange.

「What's wrong? What are you hesitating for?」

Did she have too many different magic spells to use? He was expecting her to use a powerful one from the first shot as much as possible though.

「Wait! Wait for a moment -noda. Right now, I will remember it! Erm, just how was it supposed to be done.....There certainly should have been something -nanoda, but.....」

「.....Could it be, you, can't think of something?」

「Nonono! Because Maou is the Maou, I have the Maou's varied knowledge! I should have it -nanoda, but.....um.....well. Perhaps you could say, I have forgotten a bit of it.....」

「You are telling me you forgot how to fight!?」

「Eei, that isn't it at all! Enough of this! I'll just burn everything that I see into nothing -noda! That kind of thing, that's Maou-like, right!?」

She was just like a little girl that had her temper awoken.

Shera shouted.

「Th, that kind of thing is something you shouldn't do!」

There's no way that would get though to the Demon King, that's how it should be.

Krebskrem faltered.

「.....So I shouldn't do that -nanoka? Well then.....What should I do -noda? I can't remember at all.」

She was stopped!?

Even Sera who had let those words out was surprised by this.

Rem and Alicia were also dumbfounded.
Even Edelgart had her eyes go wide open.

「Demon King-sama!? Abiding, to words of someone of
Races~.....Wrong? Wrong!」

「Mu? Really? However, when told to not do something, shouldn't I not do
it?」

「Wh.....at.....is?」

It was only natural that Edelgart would express a bewildered expression.
The others were the same as well.

Only Diablo was able to make a guess. Rather than calling it knowledge of
the MMORPG Cross Reverie, this was the result of having touched many
fictional stories.

——Has Krebskrem lost a portion of her memory?

It seems that the ritual was halfway a success, and halfway a failure. He
didn't know the reason why though.

Alicia asked a question.

「The Demon King.....is one that destroys the Races. Is that not how it
is!?」

「Nn? Umu, let's see. It feels like that's how it was.....」

Krebskrem started thinking.

Rem raised her voice while being supported by Shera.

「And why is that!? I've always thought it was strange. Why, why does the
Demon King kill people of the Races!? The Demonic Being possess
territory, and even though they are living without any need for the lands of
the Races, there should be no advantage or disadvantage to the
confrontation. Just what is your goal!?」

Certainly, Diablo didn't know that either.

Not a single thing about that was written in Cross Reverie's setting either.
To begin with, games where the hostile existence is trying to destroy
mankind and explained their reasons for it, there weren't that many of
them.

Monsters were things that attack people.

However, the Demonic Beings of this world possessed factions, and did not
carelessly approach towns of the Races in order to not pointlessly throw
away their lives.

If their interests coincided just like in Edelgart's case, they would also be

able to cooperate with the Races.

And then, just like this, interaction with Krebskrem would have been established.

“Why do you kill the people of the Races?”

Krebskrem racked her brain from Rem’s question.

「Uugh.....No.....That is.....It feels like there was some sort of reason - noda.」

「Well then, you do not believe that you wish to kill the people of the Races, correct?」

「Nn? Is that so? That may be the case.」

「In that case, I beg of you. Please do not kill the people of the Races!」

Towards a Demon King, that was a favor that seemed impossible.

However, Rem was serious.

Shera also continued with that.

「I also beg you for that! Killing people of the Races isn’t a good thing! Stop it!」

Alicia was dumbfounded.

Krebskrem nodded.

「Nn—.....Since I cannot recall the reason to kill, I guess it is fine. I got it. I am fine with not killing you all as well.」

She then glared over at Diablo’s direction.

「Though, if you say that you will slaughter Maou, I will have to burn you to death -nodaga?」

Those were inflammatory words.

In order to preserve a Demon King’s dignity, if told “burn you to death”, the only answer would be “go ahead and try it”.

Diablo, going tit for tat, was—

In a panic, Rem and Sera interrupted.

「He won’t slaughter you! He won’t kill you! He won’t fight you! As long as you don’t kill people of the Races, then surely!」

「Th, that’s right! Diablo is actually really kind after all!」

Having been together for so long, they jumped in upon understanding just how he would react with the Demon King role play.

Diablo felt relieved in his mind.

—Nice one.

Krebskrem came to an agreement.

「Fumu, if you have no intention of fighting, there is no point in fighting - noda.」

Alicia was making a face as if she was looking at something that was unbelievable. Surprisingly, she was displaying a diverse number of emotions.

「.....Are you serious? The Demon King won't kill the Races, is that what you are saying?」

「It is because I cannot recall a reason to do such a thing. Even if the Races are killed, it will not fill my belly -noda. Maou is hungry.」

「E, Edelgart!? Are you alright with that!?」

In response to Alicia's words, the girl that had been kneeling the whole time stood up.

Wrinkles gathered on her forehead, and she was making a stern expression.

—So, as I thought, the Demonic Beings don't approve of the idea of "do not kill the people of the Races".

Diablo put himself on guard.

However, Edelgart hung her head in shame.

「Don't particularly~, care about Races? For Edelgart~, Demon King-sama important. Only Demon King-sama important. Haa.....Demon King-sama's~, snack~, did not, prepare~.....Edelgart, blunder.」

It seems that she was lamenting over not having something to feed the hungry Krebskrem.

Come to think of it, she said that there were factions among the Demonic Beings.

The Baal faction thought only about killing the Races, and the Ouroou faction was the moderate faction. And then, Edelgart seemed to be in the direction of "obeying the Demon King".

This situation was favorable.

Alicia grinded her teeth.

She drew her sword. *Kiin*, there was a metallic sound.

「.....っ!!」

「You should calm down, Alicia. It would seem there is no need to fight.」

Diablo called out to her like that.

Alicia turned her gaze around the top floor of 『Starfall Tower』 .

Shera was relieved from the fact that it seemed that combat was avoided. Rem had the wish of wanting to defeat the Demon King, but she also seemed to be delighted that combat was avoided. Her facial expression was softer than it was before.

Edelgart was going 「Snacks~, go and get? Now? What should it be?」

and worrying.

Diablo had lowered his staff.

And then, Krebskrem was holding her stomach, and breathing out a sigh.

「Haa.....I am hungry -noda.」

「Kuh」

Alicia sheathed her sword.

—Could it be, she wanted to fight Demon King?

She was an all too serious State Knight. She might have possessed the zeal to subjugate the Demon King.

Even if the Demon King said that she "won't kill the Races", she should be defeated—there was the possibility that she might have had that way of thinking.

However, if Rem and Shera who were her companions, and Diablo who was the main war potential said that they won't fight, she could not insist on it.

Diablo guessed Alicia's feelings to be like that.

—It's because she's a straight-laced person. But, people who stay vigilant just like that are also necessary.

Just because the Demon King said that she "won't kill", it would be a problem to be too negligent.

Because the moment her memories return, there is the possibility that she would make actions to make her the original "enemy of the Races".

Entrusting Rem to Alicia, Shera approached Krebskrem.

Seeming like she was a coward, it could be said that she had courage.....

Did she completely trust her from the previous conversation? Contrary to Alicia, Shera had too little wariness.

「I have, snacks, you know?」

What she pulled out from her pouch was a biscuit.

It was a disk-shaped confection where wheat flour was hardened and baked. No, in this world, sugar and butter are mostly unused, so they aren't sweet. Rather than a confection, it was probably just preserved food.

Krebskrem's eyes shined.

「What is that -nanoda!？」

「It's a biscuit, it's delicious, you know? See, tasty.」

Shera presented her a piece, and she bit another piece herself. There was a crunching noise.

Krebskrem received it.

「Hohou, so it is called a biscuit. Is that so. Let's see, I shall eat it -noda.」

With a crunching sound, she bit it.

She shouted.

「Delicious -noda!」

「Really? Then, I'll give you more.」

「Oou! You should hand it over!」

「At times you receive things, you say "Please. Thank you", okay?」

She said that while handing them over.

Krebskrem was already so engrossed with the biscuits that she didn't hear half of what she had said.

「Please thank you, -nanoda!」

She tossed the biscuits that she received into her mouth.



「Delicious -noda! Delicious -noda! What is your name!? I shall make you a strongly valued Demonic Being!?」

「Ahaha.....I'm Sera. I'm an Elf, you know?」

「What, so you are of the Races. Well, that is fine -noda. I shall praise you -noda.」

「The Demonic Beings here is～.....Edelgart, alone? Alone!」

Having the role of giving snacks to Krebskrem stolen from her, she seemed dissatisfied.

Going "I see", the little girl nodded.

「In that case, I shall bestow you power -noda!」

She held one hand above her head.

The magical power that was released from her small hand was poured onto Edelgart.

Don! Edelgart's presence changed. Diablo understood from experience that her pressure had increased. It was the same amount of pressure she had when she took out her trump card of 『Sacrifice Charge』. Even though she hasn't prepared her spear right now.

—So when someone receives power from the Demon King, they change that much!

Edelgart knelt down.

「Ooo.....grateful～, blessing!」

She was a little girl that said that she wouldn't kill the Races and was delighted over biscuits but.....

She really was the Demon King. She was able to drastically increase a Demonic Being's level without any sort of difficulty.

Before, Diablo held his own against the 100 Demonic Beings that advanced on to Fort Bridge Ulg. He had blown away a majority of them with a maximum magic but.....

At that time, if the Demonic Beings were strengthened by the Demon King, it might have been difficult for him to win.

—It doesn't seem I need to worry at present though.

He couldn't feel any fighting spirit from Edelgart. Abiding by the Demon King's words, she probably intended on not killing the Races.

Diablo approached the location where Rem was. Nearby, Alicia was also there.

「How are you feeling?」

「.....I've calmed down. But, I've been too surprised, that strength won't get into my legs.」

「Hmph, so you're unable to stand. You will recover eventually. So.....Are you able to accept that?」

He lowered his voice and tried asking her that.

Rem squinted her eyes.

「.....Me, my mother, and my grandmother.....We had always been tormented by the Demon King's soul. I have lived with defeating Krebskrem as my only objective.....That is why, I can't simply accept this.」

「Is that so.」

「.....However, if she says that she won't kill the Races, there is no reason to fight her. If I were to kill her for no reason, wouldn't I be the monster instead?」

Saying that, Rem smiled.

She was exhausted. However, it was a cheerful smile.

Next to them, Alicia was silently listening. It seemed that she also held some complicated feelings, but it seemed that she already lost her fighting spirit.

Diablo nodded.

「There aren't many that could consent with everything that has happened. However, you have chosen to do so.」

「Yes.」

「The accomplished promise has become half of what it was supposed to be.」

He had succeeded in tearing Krebskrem's soul out from Rem. However, the promise of defeating her had seemed to have ended without him carrying that out.

—To kill her as she is now, certainly, that would make me the monster. The little girl Krebskrem was greedily devouring the biscuits.

「*Hagu hagu* (Munch, munch).....Delicious -noda! This is, delicious -noda! Thanks to this, Maou has remembered her mission!」

「Eh!?」

Shera panicked.

Krebskrem puffed out her flat-chested chest.

「To eat up the biscuits of this world! This was the meaning of Maou's revival -noda!」

—Like hell it is!

Diablo made a retort in his mind.

Because this world wasn't the game, peace was the best. However, in Cross Reverie, if this kind of Demon King were to be implemented, the

administration's mailbox probably would have been overflowing with customer complaints.

For works of entertainment, people always desire an enemy that one can simply beat the crap out of. They sought a target they could crush and feel refreshed over.

However, in this world.....Even the Demon King was not an existence meant be a diversion for the Players. She lives, she laughs, and she eats biscuits.

Krebskrem made an inquiry to Shera.

「Do you no longer have any biscuits?」

「Yeah, sorry. But if we return to town, there will be as many as you like, you know? If you put jam on it, it'll be even more delicious. Also, mixing in crushed walnuts, will make it more and more delicious.」

Shera talked with an entranced expression.

Jyuru (Slurp), Krebskrem slurped up her drool.

Bi. She pointed to the east.

「Yosh! You should guide me to the place with even more biscuits - noda!」

「EHH!? You're going to the town!? The Demon King is!?」

Edelgart drew closer in hot haste.

「D, Demon King-sama, should~ first go to Demon King Castle! That is, arrangement?」

「The Demon King Castle, huh.....There are biscuits there, right - nodana?」

「No? In castle is~, dead flesh and~, alcohol of blood and~, musical performance of shrieks~?」

Krebskrem pouted.

「You! Do you mean to take Maou to a place with no biscuits!? Even though Maou said that she was revived for the sake of eating biscuits! Even though she said that!」

「.....Ah, no.....Um~.....Demon King-sama~, being at Demon King Castle, appropriate? Appropriate! That is.....A, apo, logies. Deepest.」

Edelgart lowered her head.

Going "Hmph", Krebskrem folded her arms.

「Since I value you highly for the success of Maou's revival, I will pretend I

didn't hear that just now -noda. A Demonic Being that does not obey Maou's will is unneeded, got it -nodazo?」

「Ha, haha (As you wish)!」

Edelgart was ashamed. She was making a face that looked like she received shocking news.

Krebskrem grabbed Shera's arm.

「Yosh! Guide me to this town or whatever -noda!」

「So you really are going!? Is that alright!?」

Shera's eyes were swimming, looking like she was troubled.

Now that things had become like this, there was no other choice but to take her there. If they tactfully declined her, it seemed like he would have to fight with the Demon King for sure this time.

Suddenly, Diablo had a thought.

—There are a lot of mysteries about the Demonic Being ecology, but there is one thing that I've come to understand.

In the Demonic Being world, there were no biscuits in their culture. Only that was something that was clear.

Translator's Notes:

[1] She says Maou in katakana, not kanji. So I kept it as Maou. Original:
マオー

Part 5

They went outside from 『Starfall Tower』 .

The full moon was still shining bright.

It was late at night.

If they were to head to Faltra City right now, they would probably arrive at daybreak.

Diablo slowly stepped out onto the grass-covered plain.

In the end, Rem could still not walk properly, so he held her under his left arm.

As he was holding her waist, she was making a reluctant-looking face.

「.....I can walk though?」

「But, didn't you fall over twice on the staircase. It's troublesome to worry about you.」

「.....You, were worrying about me?」

「Nn? Ah, no.....Hmph, it is because you are my property. It is only

natural that I worry about if your injuries increase.]

「.....Yes. That is true.]

Though she was blushing, Rem smiled.

A small distance behind those two—

Krebskrem seemed to be completely attached to Shera, and they were walking holding hands.

At first, Shera was scared from thinking of her as the Demon King, but, for better or for worse, because of her personality of having thin wariness, she had already become accustomed to her and was exchanging smiles with her.

They took the Demon King with biscuits—The one with a gloomy face that was expressing that was Edelgart. She followed along with her shoulders dropped down.

And then, the one furthest in the back, Alicia walked while making a face like she had lost the most important match of her life. Suddenly, she glared at the sky.

「.....Ah!? Diablo-sama, above!]」

「What is it!?’]

Reacting to Alicia's voice, when he looked up, a shadow that obstructed the moonlight fell down at almost the same time.

A humming sound came descending from the sky.

It was an owl that had a single, large horn growing from its head.

However, the owl was huge. It was probably about 10 meters long from its head to the tip of its tail.

—Is it a Demonic Beast!? Is what I thought right away.

However, he realized that he recognized that figure. He had fought against it in the game.

「So it's Ourou!?’]

It was a Demonic Being.

The gigantic owl landed a few steps ahead of where Diablo's group was headed.

And then, it started to change into a human like figure.

To a muscular giant possessing an owl's head.

Only having a thin shirt to cover those muscles that were like armor, it was an outward appearance that had intensity to it.

「Ourou, why?]

Edelgart muttered.

The owl giant turned towards Krebskrem and knelt down.

「Demon King-sama, congratulations on your revival.」

The little girl in question blankly looked at him while tightly grasping Shera's hand.

「Who are you?」

「I am the Demonic Being Ourou. An old Demonic Being that serves the many generations of Demon King-samas.」

「Ahh, is that so. Then, for you as well—」

Shera hurriedly stopped Krebskrem who was about to magical power to him.

「Y, you can't!? It needs to be Demonic Being that has properly promised that they won't kill people of the Races, okay!? If the people of the Races are killed, and the town disappears, you won't be able to eat biscuits anymore.」

「I see, that's no good -nanoda.」

Maybe because their level of thinking was similar, Shera was able to skillfully control Krebskrem.

Edelgart stepped forward.

「Ourou? Coming out~, at this time.....What? Business? Demon King-sama~, Edelgart will protect.」

If remembered correctly, the Demonic Being called Ourou was said to be a moderate faction. She said he was the oldest and the strongest.

Ourou ignored Edelgart. He addressed Krebskrem.

「I have been looking forward to Demon King-sama's revival. To be of service to Demon King-sama, there is no greater pleasure. In celebration of this auspicious event, I have an aspiration to take flight and dance about.」

Krebskrem tilted her head.

「Your words are difficult so I don't understand -noda」

「.....Pardon my courtesy. In that case, please allow me to speak frankly. To dance, that namely means—that I feel I would like to massacre the people of the Races that are for some reason alive right here, and make them a celebratory red flowers for Demon King-sama's revival.」

Going *Hii*, Shera's body went stiff.

With his beginning speech and conduct, ever since Diablo had noticed him, Diablo had already put Rem down.

He had the 《Staff of Tenma》 at the ready.

From Ourou to Diablo's group, there was still a distance of about 10 steps. With that much distance separating them, it was an advantageous interval for Magicians.

Orou did not have any sort of weapon in his hands. Going by that physique of his, he was most likely a fist fighter type of Demonic Being. However, he still watched the situation.

He had interest in Krebskrem's reaction.

She had spread out both hands in front of Shera.

「That is no good -noda! Killing people of the Races is no good -noda! I will become unable to biscuits! Shera had given Maou biscuits, you know - nodazo!? Killing is unforgivable!」

Orou's owl head had squinted his eyes in scrutiny.

「.....I see, allowing a portion of the Races to live for the sake of supplying a luxury grocery item is within the bounds of entertainment. In that case, I would like to request that the number of Demonic Beasts be increased. As many large types as possible.」

Diablo acquired some very interesting information once again.

—Incredible! So Demonic Beasts were something that Demon Kings can intentionally increase!

Among the Races, it is thought that “When the Demon King appears, they naturally increase”. Even in MMORPG Cross Reverie’s setting, that was what was written.

He felt like if he had access to the walkthrough site, he would have wanted to put up a video with this info.

Shera shook her head left and right.

「You can’t, you can’t, you can’t! Things like Demonic Beasts, they attack people of the Races you know!?」

Krebskrem shrugged her shoulders.

「—Or so she says. If the Demonic Beings kill people of the Races, it is better to not increase them -noda.」

She really wasn't Demon King-like. Was her mind strongly influenced because she had turned into a little girl?

Orou finally focused his gaze on Edelgart.

「What is the meaning of this? This is the first time a Demon King-sama has not wanted to kill the Races. Bestowing Demonic Beings power, increasing Demonic Beasts, and giving the order to eradicate the Races should be the correct Demon King-sama.....Are you really telling me that this is the Demon King-sama?」

「.....Edelgart, also～ doesn't understand? Edelgart～, received power! That why Demon King-sama is Demon King-sama. Edelgart～, will obey Demon King-sama's will?」

「Thou art young. Therefore, you are unable to understand the importance of this. The Demon King must be the king of the demonic, and the demonic are things that kill the Races. They are creatures that destroy. They are creatures that pollute the land. And so, Demon King-sama's soul is confined—As long as this Krebskrem-sama exists, it means that the proper Krebskrem-sama will not be revived.」

「And~ so?」

「The Ourou faction, is one that awaits the revival of the perfect Demon King-sama.」

「Oh, really.」

「And so I would like to return the incomplete Demon King-sama back to the circle of transmigration.」

It was a disinterested manner of speaking.

However, that was a clear proclamation of war.

It did not end with just Krebskrem. The killing intent coming from Ourou was turned to everyone here in this location.

Immediately following that, Ourou filled the distance all at once.

Closing 10 steps worth with a single step, he threw his right fist at Krebskrem.

Right before then—

Edelgart had cut in front.

With her horse-riding lance, she caught that blow.

Don It was a clash where it was enough for a shockwave to spread out.

「Guh.....You guys~, all on own convenience.....To Demonic Beings, something more important than Demon King-sama's will, none! Despite this!」

「Demonic Beings also have their role in this world. Thou art simply abandoning your duty and will. Your foolish and hasty actions have invited the revival of an imperfect Demon King-sama such as this one.....I shall correct this!」

The owl-headed giant fired a kick.

Edelgart received that as well by making her lance a shield.

While Shera screamed, she pulled Krebskrem's hand, and ran towards Diablo.

「Ukkyaaaah——!!」

「Uhyah! Uhyah!」

It might be that she was raising her voice to imitate Shera, but it only looked like the Demon King was laughing and having fun.

Since Diablo was protecting Rem who couldn't run and was at his back, he couldn't move.

Shera's group had come up to him.

「Fuahahah! The Demonic Being! It went boom!」

「Ahaha, boom!」

The teary eyed Shera blurted out ambiguous words, and Krebskrem let out a laughter.

Diablo put those girls behind his back as well.

「Leave it all to me. Oi, Alicia!」

「Y, yes!」

She was no longer making a crestfallen expression. It was the usual Alicia. She had already drawn her sword.

—She looks like she's alright.

「Protect Rem and the others. I have no intention of letting him get close but.....It would seem that is the strongest Demonic Being after all.」

「Y, yes!」

Part 6

Edelgart pushed her lance out at Ouroou.

「A Demonic Being~, going at Demon King-sama! To defy.....Strange!」

Ouroou averted it with his big arm, but blood scattered out from the surface of it.

「Nu!? I see.....So it really was true that you awarded magical power from Demon King-sama. However, your movements are still, too slow!」

The three-stranded attack from his fist that was projected straight out pierced through Edelgart's defences.

「Kuhah!?」

Normally, if one were to receive a powerful striking technique, some space should have opened up between them, but Edelgart's posture only collapsed instead.

Just what kind of reasoning was that following?

If one's posture is destroyed right in front of the enemy's eyes, they would become defenseless.

Even more continuous attacks were thrown onto Edelgart.

—I have no duty to save her but.

Diablo fired off some magic. Although its power was low, it was one that had high hitting accuracy.

「《Bit Arrow》！」

An arrow of light flew aimed at the owl head.
Reacting to Diablo's magic, Orou jumped away. He did defend against Edelgart's pursuit though.

—Tsk, so he avoided my magic as if it were only natural.
When it came to high ranking Demonic Beings, their resistance to magic also became high. Being able to dodge that magic due to high AGI was also seemed to be a reason.

His magic was also avoided before at the time he fought against Faltra City's Feudal Lord, Galford. If he didn't have that experience, he might have panicked a bit.

Orou glared at his direction.

「So the likes of a half demonic Race dares to rise against a Demonic Being!」

Diablo struck the ground with the 《Staff of Tenma》 .

「Kukuku.....Same to you, even though you have lived a long life, you seem to be lacking some vital information, don't you?」

「So you claim me to be ignorant?」

「I am the Demon King Diablo! For you to rise against the true Demon King, you really are a fool!」

The owl's eyes went wide open. His black pupils were floating on his golden eyeballs.

「Demon King, you say.....?」

「Though it is said that you are the oldest Demonic Being, for you to not know of me.....You should feel ashamed of your own ignorance!」

—As if. There's no way for him to know about me. I, am just a mere Player, and I'm doing a Demon King role play.

However, it was because he was performing a roleplay, that couldn't think of such a thing.

A Demonic Being that did not know of Diablo, was ignorant! That is what he arbitrarily decided.

Orou tilted his head.

Kurun It tilted and bent until it was directly horizontal.

「A foolish one, aren't you. To think that a mere person of the Races would to claim to be a Demon King, I shall bestow you a death suitable for that arrogance.」

「Hmph.....In that case, I shall make you understand with my true

strength.]

「If you claim to be a Demon King, why do you conduct yourself with the Races? Why do you protect that failure of a Demon King?」

「It is because these are all my property. I will annihilate anyone, no matter who they are, that tries to injure them. That is all!」

Alicia wasn't his property but his companion, and although Krebskrem and Edelgart couldn't be said to be his companions, it was because it was too troublesome to explain every little detail to the Demonic Being that he asserted as such.

Seeming like she had recovered from the damage from the blows that she received, Edelgart took her stance with her lance.

「Edelgart~, your property, wrong? Wrong! Serve, Demon King-sama~!」

「Hmph.....Hasn't that Krebskrem become a prisoner to biscuits?」

「Muu」

「Leave it to me. This muscular owl, I will defeat him.」

He turned the 《Staff of Tenma》 towards Ourou.

「《Flare Burst》 !!」

Abruptly, an explosion occurred right in the opponent's face.

First, it was a trial blow.

《Flare Burst》, among the magic learned below level 99, it was a magic of the highest grade, but conversely speaking, it was nothing but something learned before breaking through the limit.

Among Diablo's useable magic, it wasn't one that was all that strong.

However, since he was restraining his MP consumption, its activation was fast. Above all, its influence on the surroundings was small.

Since his companions were in the surrounding area, this was important.

Even though he was limiting the range, it was wider than the 《Bit Arrow》, and its speed from its activation was remarkably faster.

—Even he shouldn't be able to evade this!

Ourou came flying out from within the burst of flames.

「Doooooooooh—ツ!!」

His skin and shirt were burnt, but there was no weakening in those movements of his.

Diablo warped his facial expression in surprise.

And then, the moment that Ourou landed on the ground right in front of him—

《Super Mine》 was invoked.

Since it was a magic that was laid at one's feet, it was effective against opponents that come in for close combat.

The explosion assailed Orou.

In other words, Diablo making a surprised face was him doing his role play. It was to make Orou believe that there wasn't a trap.

The surface of Orou's body was burned, and his legs were distorted from the pressure of the explosion.

Even so, he pushed out his fist.

「I'm not done yet!!」

「Damn, you're a sturdy one.....ツ!!」

As expected, even Diablo was struck with surprise.

However, Diablo has experienced a countless number of battles.

Ahead of his surprise, he had kicked the ground and took some distance.

Up until a spot where his fist wouldn't reach—

Orou shouted.

「《Quartz Lance》 ツ!!」

From the opponent's rugged fist, a translucent crystal turned into a sharp lance and sprung forth.

—So this guy was also a 《Punching Magician》 !

However, Diablo had the 《Demon King's Ring》 .

It reflected the opponent's magic as usual.

When his secret skill was returned, the crystal lance pierced the left side of Orou's chest.

「Gohoh!？」

He was a tenacious Demonic Being, but as expected, even he had to stop moving around from that.

Diablo once again took some distance.

Edelgart lined up beside him. She was making a surprised face.

「What was that~just now!?」

It was only natural that she was unable to understand. After all, that Orou that had endured the attack magic and came thrusting out a punch had suddenly exploded, and moreover, the magic that he had fired off himself, 《Quartz Lance》 , was reflected back at him and he had received damage.

Going *Fu*....., Diablo curved the corners of his lips.

「It is the power of a Demon King!」

Going *Ohh*, her eyes went wide open.

Orou, who had smoke rising from him, narrowed his eyes.

「.....This is.....Could it be, my magic was reflected.....Do you mean it

was 《Magic Reflection》? Just like 《Demon King of the Brain Enkvalos》 -sama?」

「Hou, so you noticed my power with just a single bout.」

At the time he defeated that 《Demon King of the Brain Enkvalos》 in the game, Diablo acquired the 《Demon King's Ring》 as the reward. Magic Reflection was its ability.

Though, since Recovery and Support type magic was also reflected, it wasn't all just merits.

Orou groaned.

「.....Could it be.....This fellow is a genuine.....? No, there is no way that could be possible.....Demon King-sama is one that will destroy the Races!」

He started gathering strength in his right fist.

The SP was emitting a phosphorescence.

So, although it would take some time until it activated, he was planning on using a powerful and large 《Martial Art》.

「Hmph, there is no reason for me to wait for you! 《Lightning Bullet》!」

「Now is the time! Do it——!!」

Orou shouted.

—What!?

Diablo had continued his harsh solo play.

In battles where he himself would fight, and he would protect himself, he was invincible and undefeated. He himself and others recognized him as the strongest Player.

However, right now, he had beings that he had to protect.

Edelgart raised her voice.

「Wa, it!!」

Krebskrem and the others were gazing over at Diablo with a worried look. At their backs, Demonic Beings appeared.

Orou possessed a faction. In other words, he had companions.

It was the instant that Diablo fired a powerful magic, and even if he tried to freely use something else, it was impossible for him to attack a different target.

In hot haste, Edelgart kicked the ground, and headed towards where Krebskrem and the others were.

Due to Diablo's magic, a bullet of light was fired off. The 《Lightning

Bullet》 bore into Ourou's abdomen. It exploded inside of him, and blew away half of his torso.

Despite receiving enough damage where it wouldn't be strange for him to have his life end—

Amazingly, Ourou invoked a 《Martial Art》 .

Moreover, it was aimed at the dashing Edelgart.

「FuuHAH!!」

Clad in lightning, Ourou punched out at her. She was somehow able to receive that with her lance, but a dry sound was raised.

Her lance was smashed up.

「Guh!? Tsuhaaaa—ツ!!」

Edelgart was blown away. Purple lightning ran about her, and blood fluttered about.

She rolled on top of the grass-covered plain, and raised up a cloud of dust. Ourou had lost half of his torso, had his overused arm broken into the wrong direction, and the surface of his whole body was scorched.

Nonetheless, he was convinced of his victory and majestically stood there.

Simultaneous to all of that—

The Demonic Beings of the Ourou faction had attacked Krebskrem.

They were monsters that had wolf heads and had both of their arms turned into several snakes.

They all drew near from the back.

Noticing from the beginning, Shera raised a scream.

Krebskrem turned her head, and stiffened up with a start.

Although Alicia had a belated reaction, she no longer had the time to prepare her stance.

And then, Rem—she threw a crystal.

「《Stoneman》 ツ!!」

A gigantic stone statue blocked the Demonic Beings' way.

It was a Summoned Beast.

What the countless snakes that extended out towards Krebskrem bit into was tough stone.

These were Demonic Beings that Ourou, the strongest Demonic Being, entrusted the duty of obliterating the Demon King to. They were most likely suitably strong.

The Summoned Beast that Rem called forth was smashed to pieces by the countless snakes.

However, that small amount of time was plenty.

Alicia and Shera pulled her hands, and separated Krebskrem from the Demonic Beings.

Rem was also plenty separated from them.

Diablo fired off a maximum magic, and blasted away the wolf-headed Demonic Beings that had made the surprise attack.

Part 7

Orou returned to his former gigantic owl form from his figure of a body having lost half of its torso.

「.....To think that the likes of a mere Summoned Beast would prove to be a hindrance.」

Surprisingly enough, there was not a single injury to be found on the gigantic owl. Though, by some chance, there is a possibility that the damage remained.

Diablo turned the 『Staff of Tenma』 towards him.

「So you made a surprise attack with your subordinates.....Despite saying such self-important things, you've taken quite the underhanded tactic, haven't you?」

「.....If thou weren't here, things would have ended with me crushing her from the start. What incredible magical power.....It is hard to believe that you are a mere person of the Races.」

「I have said that I am a Demon King. I had thought that you were only ignorant, but are you also senile?」

「Impossible. But, this strength is not normal. I do not understand.....I do not understand.....I do not understand.....」

Orou, who had turned into a gigantic owl, flapped his wings. While noisily blowing up a cloud of dirt, he floated up.

—So he's running away.

Diablo could fire some magic and pursue him but.....

With a glance, he looked at the surroundings.

Honestly, if Orou were to make an area attack with something other than magic, he would have no other means of protecting the girls other than turning Rem's Summoned Beasts into a shield.

Moreover, since it had just been crushed, the one with the largest build, 『Stoneman』, couldn't be used for a while.

Edelgart also seemed to be seriously injured. Only now was she finally able get her body up.

There was no need to expressly drive a withdrawing opponent into a corner and invite a counter attack. As long as he didn't lose anyone, that was enough.

Diablo lowered his staff.

「Hmph.....I have lost interest. Those that run away are inconsequential.」

He spoke out strong words.

It was because he didn't think it was profitable to display weakness to Ouro.

However, even if he was doing a Demon King role play, the truth was that he didn't want to do a genuine battle to the death.

No matter how much knowledge or abilities he had, it was dangerous to battle against an opponent with wisdom. Not to mention, if the one targeted wasn't Diablo himself, but his companions, he was extremely restricted in his means of protecting them.

Ouro flew away.

The surroundings had become quiet.

「Shera, does it seem like there are any other Demonic Beings?」

「U, uum.....I don't think, there are any? Though, I was late in noticing earlier.」

「With as things are now, the other faction might come as well. Pay careful attention.」

「I got it.」

In her anxiety, Shera tightly gripped Krebskrem's hand.

As for the little girl Demon King that had her life targeted, she didn't seem to harbor any fear from the battle just now. She was making a composed-looking face.

「Earlier, the one that protected Maou, could that have been you?」

「Eh? That's.....I suppose that is how it turned out.」

Rem nodded.

She was probably talking about how she defended against the attack from the wolf-headed Demonic Beings with the Summoned Beast.

「That was good work -nanoda. I shall praise you.」

「.....I wonder, why, I protected you?」

「What's wrong? I praised you, so you should obediently lower your head -noda.」

When she said that sounding so self-important, Shera rebuked her.

「That's wrong. At times like that, you say "Thank you".」

「Even though there aren't any biscuits?」

「That is what you say when something that makes you happy happens.」

「You people of the Races are incomprehensible -noda. Well whatever, words need to match the recipient otherwise there is no meaning in saying them.」

「Very good, very good.」

Rem gazed at that situation, and made a face showing that she had complicated-feelings.

She had made defeating Krebskrem her objective.

Though Krebskrem had made the promise to not kill the people of the Races, she didn't know what would happen if her memories as the Demon King were to return.

Despite that, Rem had instantly protected her.

Why did she do that? She could not give an answer.

Alicia smiled.

「Rem-sama, I am sure that it is because you feel that you want to protect everyone from the bottom of your heart, that you spontaneously moved.」

「.....That, just might be true.」

「As expected, Adventurers have different experiences. At the crucial time, my body cowered.」

「.....I did as well. The one that fought was the Summoned Beast.」

Rem and Alicia seemed to be composed.

Diablo shifted his attention over to Edelgart.

「Are you alive?」

「No~ problem. Fine.」

Gazing at the Demon King and the others getting along, she breathed a sigh.

「.....Demon King-sama has~, been deceived.」

「That is not my fault, you know?」

「I, know. But, cannot~ consent? Killing person of Races~, from start.....And bring Demon King-sama to castle~Unable to do that, your fault?」

What she was thinking wasn't all that different from Ourou. Though, considering her own true strength and the situation, she did seem to have the composure to restrain herself from fighting.

「Edelgart~, want to protect Demon King-sama. But, if going to Races'

town~, cannot get close.]

「That's true.]

If it is just Krebskrem, they could handle it if they just hide her tail. If possible, it would be better to hide her horns as well.

Edelgart was beautiful, but she possessed reptilian-like eyes that were impossible for the Races and skin that had scales coming to the surface if looked at closely. If she were to get close to a town of the Races, she would be recognized as a Demonic Being.

Edelgart knelt down once again.

「Demon King-sam.....Edelgart~, cannot go, up to town? Will be waiting in forest~, so please call any time.]

「Umu, you did some good work -noda.]

「Someday~, please come to Demon King Castle.....Is desire, of all Demonic Beings.]

「At that castle, isn't that Demonic Being called Ourou from earlier there as well?]」

「Th, that is.....」

「Maou has the mission of eating biscuits at the town -noda. I will not be obstructed from this.]

「.....Under, stood. If that is~, Demon King-sama's will!]」

Edelgart silently gave her thanks. When she got up while looking like she was having trouble, she totteringly left towards the forest.

Although they felt sympathy for that appearance from behind that had sorrow floating about her, she was unable to enter the town.

Moreover, since she seemed to have the idea of "if there is a chance, she would kill the surrounding people of the Races and bring Krebskrem back to the Demon King Castle", they were insecure about having her nearby. It couldn't be helped that they were incompatible.

Diablo started walking towards the town. Rem followed along.

「Are you alright now?]」

「.....If we were to be attacked by Demonic Beings, I am now unable to say that I would become unable to stand. More importantly, Diablo, you really are amazing. Ourou was said to be the strongest Demonic Being, and yet.....」

「He was more tenacious than I imagined. He also has wisdom. If he had received magical power from the Demon King, it probably would have been

a hard fight.]

Lining up beside them, Alicia made a wry smile.

「Even so, it isn't "defeat" but a "hard fight", huh.]

「Naturally. I am the Demon King of another world after all. There is no way I would lose to a Demonic Being.]

Shera walked while holding hands with Krebskrem.

「The biscuit song～♪」

「What the heck is that!?」

「You see, at times when walking alone in the forest at night, it doesn't become as scary when you sing. And then, when you sing with everyone, it's fun. The Bi in Biscuit is, the Bi for Bikkuri (Surprise)～♪ The Su～ is the Su for Suteki (Wonderful)～♪」 山

「Bi, Bi～ is! Bi～!」

Krebskrem raised a loud voice and laughed.

They left behind the 《Starfall Tower》.

Translator's Notes:

[1] Original text for song: ビスケットのビ～は、ビックリのビ～♪

ス～はステキのス～♪

Chapter 3: Trying Out Going to a Cafe

Part 1

It had become late at night when they were passing through Fort Bridge Ulg.

It seemed that the wings of light that broke out at the 《Starfall Tower》 were seen even at the Fort Bridge. Moreover, since even the sound of magic explosions could be heard, they were questioned about various things.

Diablo answered with only 「Because Monsters had appeared, I repelled them with magic」.

Diablo had saved the people of the fort during the time that 100 Demonic Beings had attacked. Because of that, they thoughtlessly trusted him, and didn't get in the way of their passage.

They came to see the rampart of Faltra City.

There were guards even at the gates, so if they were to inspect Krebskrem, things would become disastrous.

They could deceive them about her Elf-like ears and her violet eyes because those were still Demi-Human characteristics.

However, her tail and horns stood out.

Right now, they borrowed Alicia's mantle, and covered her with it like it were a robe and hid her outward appearance.

「Mumumu.....Why does Maou need to take this appearance -noda?」

「It's because if you get discovered, you won't be able to get in.」

Krebskrem reluctantly nodded to Shera's explanation.

Rem looked uneasy.

「.....I think it will be alright since Alicia is here, though.」

「Please leave it to me.」

She smiled.

With Alicia, who is a State Knight, here, the guards would probably let them pass due to her position being well known.

The only thing that Diablo could do was, while acting dignified like a Demon King, try not to meet eyes with the guards and erase his presence.

Alicia made a proposal.

「Um.....This is in regards to Krebskrem-sama but, even if we take caution at the gate, if we were to call out her name within the town, wouldn't that turn into a small problem?」

Most likely, forget about the small, it would turn into a problem.

Krebskrem was the Demon King name that anyone knew if they were a person of the Races.

Rem nodded.

「.....If a person of the Races were to be given that name, they would be reported to the Church and the police officers would be called.」

「Hou, is that so.」

Diablo thought about it.

By some chance, it might have been impossible to enter that even in the game.

Even Shera L. Greenwood's surname couldn't be entered in the Player Character name.

Shera raised her hand.

「How does Krem-chan sound!?」

—Because she's Krebskrem, it's Krem, huh. That's simple. But I guess that's better than Kreb.

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

「.....That might be easier to deceive others with at times when her real name is accidentally said rather than a completely unrelated name.」

「I will respect everyone's opinion.」

「You should do as you like.」

Diablo placidly nodded. In truth, he had no self-confidence in naming. If he were to make a suggestion and have it vetoed, that would be uncool.

Shera clapped her hands by herself.

「Okay! Well then, from now on, it's "Krem-chan", 'kay?」

「Fumu, Maou is Maou but, in the face of biscuits, your way of calling me is a trivial matter -noda. I shall allow it.」

「Ehehe, Krem-chan! Pleased to be with you!」

「Umu!」

「It kinda feels like I've got a little sister. I've, always wanted a little sister. Elves don't give birth to children that easily.」

While they were talking, they got close to the gates.

Because they were matching Krebskrem's pace, the morning sun had already come out.

Far from arriving before daybreak, it was the time where the morning market was open.

They passed through the gates.

The unexpected continued as contrary to what they expected at 『Starfall Tower』, they neither had any sleepiness nor any troubles that would require them to fight, and Diablo's group returned to the inn
『Relief · Twilight Store』.

Part 2

The large room of the inn——

It was a dreary room that only had a large bed meant for three at the center.

Diablo was feeling like he wanted to sleep right away.

He hadn't used up that much magic, but it was certain that he had consumed MP. Since the scene of having tension coerced on him continued, his nerves were tired.

However, he couldn't just go directly to bed.

Rem asked a question.

「.....Krem, where do you want to sleep?」

Shera tilted her head looking that what Rem asked was strange.

「Isn't right here just fine?」

Bafu bafu She patted the bed.

It was a plain bed that was just straw with a sheet placed on it, but its size was sufficient.

Four adults would be difficult, but if it's three people and one child, they should be able to manage.

Rem turned her gaze towards Krem.

「.....A Demon King on the bed of a room like this? Ah, no.....Diablo is also a Demon King though.」

Hearing those words, Krem looked up at his way.

「Hou, so you also sleep here.」

—It's because I don't have money.

He couldn't reply to her with something like that.

Diablo scornfully laughed.

「If you sleep in an important looking place, you're important.....I am not a fool that would make such a misunderstanding. The royalty and titled nobility of the Races spend their money on their dwellings and furniture.

That truly is foolish.」

「That's true!」

「Fufu, isn't it.」

「The bed doesn't matter! Bring me biscuits -noda!」

I would really like it if you don't put those on the same level, is what he thought.

At any rate, it ended without being laughed at for being an Adventurer in poverty.

Alicia nodded as if she were in admiration.

「Certainly, I believe that having a person's worth denoted by the splendidness of their personal appearance or of their residence is a foolish assumption. As expected of Diablo-sama.....You are able to see the true nature of things.」

「U, umu.」

She interpreted that way too seriously.

Koten Shera collapsed onto the bed.

「Same here~, I prefer this over a gorgeous bed. Since everyone is nearby, it feels warmer.」

「.....If you don't mind us being with you.....then I don't mind.」

Rem's shoulders were faintly trembling.

As expected, she has some opposition to suddenly sleeping in the same

bed as the person who she had spent several years of her life for the sake of defeating them. It can't be helped.

「Rem, go and borrow some space in Alicia's room. For this bed is too small for four people.」

「Eh? But.....」

「Until you get accustomed to things.」

「.....I guess I should.」

She had signs of being troubled by that, but after nodding, Rem expressed a look of relief.

Come to think of it, he had not gotten the permission of the room's owner yet. He just couldn't help but be bad at these kinds of programs.

Diablo asked Alicia a question.

「You don't mind, do you?」

Moreover, he asked in an extremely high-handed manner. It would be nice if it didn't affect her mood though.

Alicia silently bowed.

「If I can prove useful with something like this, it would be an unexpected pleasure. By all means, Rem-sama, please use the bed.」

「.....I am fine with the floor. I am used to it since I am an Adventurer.」

「There is no need for restraint. Protecting the citizens is the role of a Knight.」

Diablo swung his hand and drove them away.

「The both of you will sleep on the bed! Get along with each other!」

「.....Uu」

Rem blushed.

Alicia bowed once again.

「If that is Diablo-sama's command.」

「.....I am sorry about this, Alicia.」

「It really is fine. Please do not worry about it.」

While saying that, the two of them left the large room.

「Fuuuu.....」

After Diablo put down the 『Staff of Tenma』 and took off his mantle, 『The Curtain of Dark Clouds』, he lied down on the bed.

Maybe because his energy left him, his whole body was heavy.

Shera came over, taking a peek at his face.

「Are you alright?」

「Yeah, though I did consume some MP.....」
If it is at this degree, it would probably be enough if he got one night's sleep.
The times where he repulsed 100 Demonic Beings and where he fought with the Elven Army were different.
Orou was a formidable enemy, but they only had a single bout. The portion of magical power that he poured to Krebskrem was already recovered when he used a potion.

Krem also got up onto the bed. Since she had already taken off Alicia's mantle, she had the same appearance she had when first appeared.

「Did something happen to this fellow?」
Shera explained.

「He fought for our sakes, you know? He did his best. And then, when Diablo uses magic, he gets tired and loses his energy.」

「Fufun, come to think of it, it seems that both people of the Races and the Demonic Beings are things that have their magical power reduced when they use it. That is something strange.」

「Krem, you're different?」
「Of course -nanoda! Maou is Maou after all! It's kind of like, it keeps chugging out from deep inside!」

——What the heck is that? Isn't that a cheat on a different level from 『Magic Reflection』 ?

Because of his fatigue, Diablo had such thoughts with a half-sleepy face. He had thought that Demon Kings were strong due to the magical power that they accumulate over many years, but that seemed to be wrong. Rather, it was in a more different category.....

Like an engine.....?

No, that's wrong.

He had a closer image with his knowledge from the world he was formerly in, is what he intuitively thought, but he couldn't collect his thoughts well enough.

It wasn't due to the MP consumption, but probably simply due to his sleepiness.

On top of staying up all night, they walked for close to 10 hours yesterday. They even went through rituals and battle. He would have died if he had the body of a shut-in.

——I want to hurry up and sleep.

Shera started taking off her clothes.

「Nsho.」

「Ha?」

「When I do this, you get energetic, right, Diablo?」

Turning into her appearance of having only underwear, she clung onto him. Her soft flesh pressed up against him.

「What're you.....!?」

「Hou hou, I see. You people of the Races sure are interesting. So you bestow magical power just like that.」

「Magical power? It might be a bit different. Krem, do you also want to try doing it? I'll be the one that will become energetic, you know?」

「What was that!? Even the one doing the bestowing will get energetic!?」

「Yup! Both me, and Diablo will get energetic. A win-win?」

——Oi, stop it.

Krem also started taking off her clothes.

「Yosh, I will try it out -noda.」

When she touched her own clothes, *shuru*, her clothes came off of her as if they had a mind of its own.

Her sleeves and her skirt remained, but she became stark naked from the navel on up.

Tsurun It was a chest with no ups or downs.

Her rib cage was slightly poking out.

Even though she was called a Demon King, she wasn't all that different from Humans. No, of the people that Diablo has seen, they've all been nothing but Demi-humans.

That flat-chested chest pressed up against him.

「Fumu fumu, like this?」

Her skin touched him.

Zoku The muscles along Diablo's spine trembled.

——What is this, this sensation!?

When he touched Shera and Rem, it was soft, warm, and made his heart beat faster. Although it was embarrassing, his body temperature would rise, and his tension would also jump up.

However, Krem was different.

「Nnn, do I do it like this?」

His strength was leaving his body. He became unable to move.

Maybe because Shera hadn't noticed, she still had a bright smile on her face.

「That's right, that's right. When you press up like this, it seems that he

gets totally energetic, you know?」

「Fumu, certainly, Maou is also starting to enjoy this -noda!」
Her skin felt like it was sticking on to him. When she pressed up to his arm, there was the sensation of electricity running through him, and it reverberated from the muscles in his spine up to his brain.
It was a sensation close to the time he drank the MP Recovery Potion.

「Uuu.....」

「Fufufu, what's wrong -noda, making a moaning voice like that? Could it be, this is good?」

Krem pressed her body on Diablo's arm, and was rubbing herself against it. As her skin rubbed against his, it turned into an abnormal stimulus and was transmitted to him.

「Kuh.....」

「I see. This is fun -noda.」

Krem smiled with her whole face. That alluring expression was something that didn't make her seem like a child.

Tsutsu (Slide) Her fingertips caressed the back of his neck.

The place that she touched felt as if fire and ice were simultaneously pressed up against it. He received a strong, tingling stimulus.

Diablo couldn't move as if he were tied down by chains.

「Nu, kuh.....」

「Fufufu, a thick neck, a well-shaped chin, eyes with no distortions.....You.....It is as if you were something that was created -noda.」

「Ugh, that's.....」

Certainly, Diablo had an appearance that was something that was created. It was a game's avatar.

「This is good, right -nodana? Fuu.....Fuu.....」

Krem was panting.

Pressing her body on Diablo's arm, she moved up and down it over and over again, rubbing up against it.

The strange stimulus came like waves that approached without end. His own breathing became rough.

Before he knew it, Shera was also moving in a similar fashion. Making her face deep red, and repeatedly panting her breath, that soft body rubbed against Diablo's arm.

「Nkuh.....haa.....haa.....How is it? Diablo.....Have you gotten energetic?」

「Yeah, I'm already.....」

「No, not yet -noda. More, more.....」

As if she were delirious from a fever, Krem clung onto him.

Gradually, her movements became faster.

The long sigh that Shera leaked out gradually changed into something high-pitched. Similarly, Krem was also—

「Fua! Ah.....Somehow.....This is, amazing -noda. Maou is, kinda feeling, fluffy inside.....ツ」

「AH, NN, AHH, It kinda feels like, magical power is.....pouring into me. Diablo, I.....I, magical power is.....FUAAhh! It's overflowing!」

「Kuh!」

Diablo bit down on his teeth.

Shera bent back into the shape of a bow.

「AH! NAH! Magical power is, overflow.....ツ.....NHAaaahhh——ツ!!」

「Something, something is coming -noda! Coming -noda! F, from deep inside.....ツ! HIGUuu!」

Spasming, Krem's body trembled.

Because he was touching them, Diablo was able to perceive something.

Magical power that was enormous enough that he found it difficult to comprehend was gushing out from inside of Krem. There was no way that this was magical power that was just stored up.

If a normal Magician possessed a cup's worth of magical power, and Diablo possessed a bathtub's worth of magical power, Krem's was as if he was taking a peek at a flowing river.

—Our structures are fundamentally different!?

Bathed in the outpour of that enormous magical power, Diablo found it difficult to even breath. He was drowning from the magical power.

「O, oi.....Don't let it flood out like that!」

「NN, FUAAhhhh!」

Gaku gaku Krem clung onto him while trembling.

And then, she—

Kupah, opened her mouth.

Her sharp fangs were lined up.

—I'm going to be eaten!?

Kapuh Her teeth hit the nape of Diablo's neck.

It was a sweet bite (play bite).

There was only a faint pain, but it went deeper than how it felt.

Immediately following that, Krem relaxed her limbs as if she were a puppet

that had its strings cut.

「Fua.....」



Guden She hung over him.
The torrent of magical power also came to an end.
As if what had just happened were a lie, Diablo felt that his body had become lighter.
With not only Krem but Shera on him as well, they were deeply asleep as if they had fainted but.....It were as if he couldn't feel their weight.
His MP had made a complete recovery, and the fatigue of his body also vanished.
On the contrary, his senses were sharpened, and strength was swelling up in his limbs. It were as if he had drunk some strange medicine.
By some chance, wouldn't this be how Demonic Beings that had magical power bestowed upon them from the Demon King would feel?
—Is it because I am a Demon?
The Demonic Being blood that was faintly mixed into him, might have reacted to the Demon King's magical power.

Part 3

When he woke up, it was the afternoon.
His days and nights were reversed.
He recalled the time when he was addicted to the game.
「Uwah.....」
Shera and Krem who were still naked for the most part were sleeping as if hanging over Diablo.
—No matter how warm of a land this place is, you'll catch a cold, you know?
Moreover, they were sticky and wet.
So it was sweat.
「Good grief.....」

「Wh, why do you have such an appearance!?」

Suddenly, a voice resounded in the large room.
The one that opened the door and was standing stock still at it, was Rem.
Her eyes were wide open.
「.....Shera.....and even Krem!?」
「N, no, you see, this is. Because it was a bit hot.」
「If you took off your clothes because it was hot, why are they clinging on to you like that!? I don't get it! I can't understand this at all!」
—I don't get this at all either..

Walking briskly, Rem approached the bed, and pinched Shera's cheek.

「Just what is the meaning of this, Shera!？」

「Uni～, goof mo'nin', Hyem.」

「Kuh.....Krem too.....Why, are you sleeping on top of Diablo while naked!？」

Slowly, Krem raised her head. She expressed a smile that was similar to that of a devil.

Rem shrank away.

「Uuu.....!？」

「Ku ku ku.....This is a good waking -noda. You should bring me biscuits.」

「.....The dining hall is on the first floor.」

「Mu. A town of the Races is something with a lot of rules. Even though it would be fine if sleeping and eating were to happen in the same place.」

While going *bu— bu—*, Krem got off from Diablo.

With a *haa*, Diablo took a breath.

Because something outrageous had happened to him right when he was about to sleep, he was unable to sleep for a while. There was no problems with his recovery, but there was a strange airy sensation that he had. Was it just mental fatigue?

「Oi, you should get up!」

Diabo raised his arm. Shera, who was lying down as if hugging it, tumbled down from the bed.

「Ow——ッ!？」

Wondering what the uproar was about, Alicia came to the room making an astonished face.

In any case, with all members having woken up, Diablo's group headed towards the dining hall to have a meal that was both breakfast and lunch.

「In that case, I have no choice but to burn this town to the ground - noda!」

In the dining hall of 『Relief · Twilight Store』, the one that made such a dangerous proclamation was Krem.

Shera became flustered.

「Wh, what are you saying!？」

「I mean, they said that they have no biscuits! That they have no

biscuits!】

「They don't have those in the inn's dining hall~. Erm, there's a bakery called 《Peter》, and that is where they are sold, okay? The ones with walnuts in them are the greatest.】

「..... 《Peter》's biscuits are delicious. Their bacon bread is supreme though.】

Rem nodded.

Diablo was also in agreement.

「Even having come from a different world, that place's freshly baked bread is worth eating.】

Alicia was standing beside them as if she were a guard official. *Ji* She was staring at Krem.

「.....】

By some chance, she might still be vigilant against her as the Demon King. Krem crossed her arms and talked sounding self-important.

「In that case, you should guide me there!】

「What should we do? I don't mind going there to buy them, you know?】

Sounding troubled, Shera asked that to Diablo.

Certainly, the matter about Krebskrem should be kept hidden. Since it would turn into an uproar if just a Demonic Being appeared in the town, he couldn't imagine the scale of the chaos if it was known that the Demon King was here.

Nevertheless, could they really keep Krem locked up in the room the whole time?

That was pitiable, and probably impossible.

There is no mistake that she would say that she wants to go out during that time.

Conveniently, the features that Krem had as a Demon King could easily be hidden with just a robe for the most part. Though, because of the warmth of the land, there weren't many that went as far as wearing a hood.

Before departure, Rem made a confirmation.

「.....If we are asked about her race or our relationship with her, what would we do?】

「There is nothing we can do if her tail is seen, but say that her horns are decorations. Since those ears stand out, we have no choice but to say that she is an Elf.】

Shera tilted her head.

「Is that alright? Aren't they a bit different from Elf ears?】

「Do not worry about the minor details. That isn't more unusual than a big breasted Elf after all.」

「Mu—」

Shera looked down at her own chest.

It is said that when they are that big, they can't see what is underfoot, but is that true? He couldn't even imagine it.

Alicia advanced the conversation.

「That store called 『Peter』, where would it be?」

「It's in the Southern District!」

「.....For now, how about we head out to the Central Plaza?」

That's how it ended up.

Part 4

As they walked the eastern street to head towards the Central Plaza, they came to see the Adventurer Guild's large building.

Shera pointed her finger.

「Ah, isn't that Emil?」

The other party seemed to have noticed them as well. There was an excessively conspicuous sparkling gold armored young man.

Having thick eyebrows and strong-willed features, he had forelocks hanging only in a single tuft of hair. With a fearless countenance, he had a tall stature for a Human.

It was the Adventurer Guild's number one Warrior, Emil Byushelbeljel. Today, he was together with some people that seemed to be his party members.

There was also the white robed young man that was there when he saved Shera when she was being abducted before.

「Emil, we are going to go on ahead, okay?」

「Ou! I'm going to do my usual thing!」

「Come over while you haven't cooled down, got it?」

Saying that, the party members entered the Adventurer's Guild.

Emil came this way alone.

「Hey there, my friend! How are you doing?」

「Nothing has really changed.....No.....Things haven't really, been bad.」

Diablo looked over at Rem and Shera.

The two that summoned him over to this world. These girls carried their own problems. Shera was being chased after by her native country, and

Rem was troubled over how she was burdened with Krebskrem's seal. Those things, although it wasn't all of it, were headed towards being settled.

Noticing his gaze, Rem smiled.

Shera expressed a smile, looking like she was having fun.

Emil exaggeratedly spread out both hands.

「Ooh~, lovely ladies! Have you been doing well? Weren't you lonely from not being able to meet with my great self?」

This guy wasn't a bad guy, but he had a problem of strangely being fixated on women.

Rem breathed out a sigh.

「.....As usual, you are a person that makes me want to take some distance from you at times where you're not needed.」

「So true, though, you aren't a bad person—. You did save me before, after all.」

Shera made a wry smile.

Alicia politely made a bow.

「Please excuse me for not properly greeting you the other day. I am the State Knight known as Alicia Cristela.」

At the time that Shera was abducted, Alicia and Emil met each other. The abductors were there at the time as well, so they weren't a chance for them slowly talk with each other.

Emil displayed a smile where his teeth sparkled with a *kiran*.

「My name is Emil Byushelbeljel! I am the ally to all women! If you are troubled by anything, please do consult me without reserve.」

「Yes, thank you very much.」

Alicia's reaction was perfect, but because of that, Emil's trademark routine that he had put all his being into seemed to have been brushed off, giving him a bit of sadness.

Making a wry smile, Emil casually lowered his gaze.

He took notice of Krem who was covered with a robe.

「Erm.....Oi, my friend? This child is.....?」

「An Elf.」

Come to think of it, they hadn't decided on their relationship with her. However, Emil had a personality that didn't mind the minor details.

「Hello there, Elf-ojou-chan, what might your name be? My great self is Emil, the ally of all women. You should rely on my if there is any thing that troubles you. I shall come running to your aid at any time after all!」

Krem glared at him.

「What is this, this overly familiar guy? Aiding Maou he says? He sure knows how to talk. Let me test out whether he has the ability to do that!」

「Heh? Maou?」

「That's right! My name is——*moga mogas*」

Shera closed up her mouth with both hands from behind her.

「Krem-chan! This girl is, Krem-chan! She's my little sister, so please treat her well!」

「EH!? Then, does that mean that she's a princess of the Elven country!?」

「Ah.....Err.....」

It seemed that she spoke that without properly thinking about her own title. Though Shera is in the middle of running away from home, she is the Greenwood Kingdom's Princess. Moreover, since her older brother has died, right now, she just might have the biggest right to be the successor to the throne.

If it's her little sister, then they would be an Elven Princess.

Rem hit her hand on her forehead.

「.....Baka Shera.....May I have a moment, Emil? We would prefer to not stand out. And so, your appearance and loud voice stand out very much. Do you understand?」

「My great self's appearance and voice aside, I think that Rem-chan's group stands out plenty already though?」

There was no denying that.

They were a Demon with horns, a huge breasted Elf, and a black-colored Pantherian. Moreover, two of them had a 『Slavery Choker』 attached. On top of that, there was even a female State Knight.

They were nothing but a group of rare articles. It couldn't be helped that they would gather the attention of the people walking down the road.

「.....Even if that is the case, we don't have the time to stand around talking.」

「I see. Come to think of it, my great self also doesn't have any spare time. It seems that some guy called the Holy Knight Sadraa has come from the royal capital. He's a guy with a pretty bad reputation. My great self had intended to be on the lookout so that women would not meet with any needless harm but.....do you know anything?」

Diablo nodded.

「Yesterday, I turned him into stone. Has he already returned to normal?」

「Whatt!? You've already quarrelled with him!？」

「There is no way that I would feel timid against a small fry like that.....But certainly, he was a guy that seemed like he would inflict harm on the innocent.」

「Good grief.....You are surpassing my great self's expectations as always. Well, from the looks of it, I don't seem to need to worry about you. Leave the townspeople to me. My great self will protect them!」

「Umu.」

Emil shrugged his shoulders.

「Well, from the beginning, I didn't have any worries about you losing to something like a Holy Knight. However, don't go overboard, okay? I don't want to see my friend's wanted poster being put up after all.」

If he were to do something like kill a Holy Knight, he would probably be turned into someone chased by the country.

That was something that he wanted to avoid.

Diablo snorted his nose.

「If there is someone that strikes back against me, I will crushingly defeat them. That is all there is to it.」

「That's what you say now.....but your opponent is the Church, you know.」

Alicia very deeply bowed her head.

「I am terribly sorry. The well-informed people of the royal capital are also concerned about the radical behaviour of the Holy Knights but.....If there is something that happens, could you please inform me about it as well?」

「Hou, it seems that you have your reasons for this.」

「Yes.....Ah, since this is a request to an Adventurer, I shall put up a reward at the Guild.」

「It's fine! If I can be of some use to a beautiful woman, then that is enough of a reward. Well then, if there is anything that is disturbing, I shall report it to you!」

When he waved his finger, Emil then entered the Adventurer's Guild.

After that, they went to the Southern District and visited the bakery called 《Peter》.

It was a shop that was run by three male Grasswalkers, so there was a rabbit drawn on their signboard.

Krem bought as many biscuits as she could, and the others also selected some freshly baked bread.

They had their meal at a table inside the store, and then, taking a detour, they returned to the inn while looking at city.

It was a peaceful day.

Part 5

The next day—

Diablo's group had lunch at 《Relief · Twilight Store》 .

Since Alicia had State Knight work to do, she was gone since morning.

Rem left her seat.

「.....This afternoon, I will be going to the Magician's Guild. Since Celes has been looking after me after all, I had best make a report to her.」

「That certainly is true.」

「.....Since I'm anxious about taking Krem along, I will go alone.」

「I shall allow it. Return by evening.」

「Yes.」

Shera waved her hand.

「Have a safe tri～p, and say hi to Celes-sama for me.」

Krem ate a biscuit and having no concerns. Is what he thought but—

She held out a single biscuit.

「I do not know where you are going, but if you get hungry, you should eat this -noda!」

「.....Yes.」

「That's wrong. It's “Thank you” -nanoda!」

「Ah.....That's true. Thank you very much.」

While making a complicated expression, Rem accepted the biscuit.

She showed a faint smile.

—She might have gotten used to her a little bit.

And then, she departed.

After lunch, in the dining hall that had no other customers, Shera taught Krem a song.

He didn't know what kind of songs this world had, but they were the so-called nursery rhymes. For some reason, they were all songs about food. Shera pointed at the entrance.

「Sylvie-san!」

It was a girl who was wearing clothes that had excessively too little cloth.

Only her chest and her waist were concealed.
Her red hair went down to shoulder length.
She was of a race called Grasswalkers, so she had rabbit ears on her head, as well as a round tail. And then, no matter how old she became, she would not change from her outward appearance of a child.
Sylvie worked as Faltra City's Adventurer Guild's Guildmaster. That should be a good indication of her age.
However, she displayed innocent behavior that suited her childish outward appearance.
She energetically waved her arms.
「Hey, Diablo-san! Everyone else too, how ya doin'!」
Saying that, she sat down in an open seat.
Shera asked a question.
「Sylvie-san, are you here to eat too?」
「Yeah, I guess I'll have something. But, I came here to meet with your group, Diablo-san.」
「.....It isn't another troublesome commission, is it?」
Their first commission was a trap.
Their next commission was a simple errand, or so they thought, but it turned into a battle against 100 Demonic Beings.
And then, a few days ago, it was "to prevent a war with the Elves".
Sylvie made a wry smile.
「They weren't all weird commissions, right? There was that medicinal plant gathering quest just a few day ago after all.」
「Hmph.....」
Even in that one, a Demonic Being appeared, they were attacked by bandits, and was pretty disasterous though.
Sylvie looked over at Krem.
「Today isn't about a commission. Since I heard that a new girl had joined your group, Diablo-san, I was wondering what kind of girl she was, see?」
「So you heard about her from Emil.」
「Yup, that's right. Krem-chan, was it?」
Krem had a biscuit filling her cheeks. She had properly eaten an omelette, but for the most part, as long as she had free time, she was chewing on a biscuit.
「Nwhat -nyanyoda?」
While making a wry smile, Sera wiped Krem's mouth with a handkerchief.
「Don't talk while eating. Alright, drink this.....Ahh geez, spilling it like

that.....You're so cute!】

She was probably feeling like she really got a little sister. Her face loosened over every little thing and she looked like she was having fun.

Sylvie was expressing a smile and was gazing at them.

「.....She looks like a normal child.】

As usual, she was a girl he couldn't let his guard down around.

So while making a cheery smile, she was looking out for signs.

「How much do you know?】

Making an enemy of Sylvie wasn't a profitable plan. If possible, he wanted to keep her as an ally but.....

She shrugged her shoulders.

「Nothing really? It's just, I came here a bit worried. Diablo-san, you have an image that seems like you wouldn't show mercy to even children after all.】

He was looked at with reproachful eyes.

Suddenly, he remembered what happened a few days ago.

He drank some alcohol that Sylvie brought over in place of an MP Recovery Potion, and ended up falling unconscious.

It seems that he did something to Sylvie at that time.

—I can't remember anything at all from that time.

By the time Rem and Shera returned to the large room, she had disappeared and—

Diablo was gripping the alcohol bottle and a portion of Sylvie's clothes.

He had probably done something.

However, since appearing as a Demon King that "got drunk and laid his hand on a child" would be a problem, he decided to feign ignorance.

「I have no interest in children. I am a Demon King after all, umu umu.】

「Well, I'll just leave it at that but—.】



Subtly, Sylvie's voice was chilly.

Conversely, with an atmosphere that had warmth, she called out to Krem.

「If there's anything that you are troubled about, go ahead and consult me as well, okay? Do you know where the Adventurer's Guild is?」

「Fumu, so you wish to serve Maou as well. So there are some among the Races that understand.」

「Maou?」

「I shall let you have this!」

Krem self-importantly stuck out her chest, and thrust her hand out.

What she held out, was a biscuit.

Going "ahh", Sylvie made a wry smile.

「She really is a child of Diablo-san's group. Thank you.」

She accepted it and tossed it into her mouth.

「Could this be from 『Peter』 ? It sure is delicious—.」

Part 6

One week later—

The church's bell rang three times, informing them that it was three o'clock in the afternoon.

Diablo's group was headed towards the cafe.

「.....I am sorry, having everyone expressly walk there.」

Right when they were passing through the gate to the Central District, Rem formally added those words.

Shera raised a lively voice.

「It's fine! I was really looking forward to going to a cafe!」

「.....True, we did promise to go there before.」

Alicia asked a question.

「Shera-sama, do you like cafes?」

「Ehehe, I've only heard about what it's like. I've been thinking that I want to run a cafe. Rem would be the person that brings the customers coffee, and Diablo would be the person wiping the glasses.」

Before he knew it, he had become the one wiping the glasses.

Rem shrugged her shoulders.

「.....I still haven't made any promises about the future. Well, I did make the promise to bring you to a cafe. It's just, I didn't think that it would be like this.」

「There's nothing to mind though? Since I'm happy as long as we can go

to the cafe.]

Alicia nodded.

「The matter this time, I believe that it is a necessary arrangement. Rem-sama, there is nothing for you to fret over.]

「.....I wonder if that is really the case.]

The place of destination was the cafe that was in the Central District.

There, Celestine Bordorel, the head of the Magician's Guild, was waiting. Towards Rem who had reported the chain of events, Celes said that she "wanted to meet with her by all means".

Because of that, Krem was also accompanying them.

Shera was pulling her hand.

Diablo was gazing at the girls from his position of being last in their line. He was bad at joining in the conversation of a group of people.

Rem was uneasy.

「When I said that it would be difficult to bring her to the Magician's Guild, she designated the meeting to be at the cafe.]

Alicia nodded.

「I believe that was appropriate. At a time where the other party would have thoughts of inflicting harm to Krem-sama, it would surely be difficult to resist while inside the Magician's Guild.]

「.....While Celes knew that the Demon King's soul was sealed inside of me, she allowed me freedom. At this point, I would like to think that there is no need for that concern.]

「A person's true feelings is something that can't be understood by anyone and everyone.]

「.....This time, there is one more worry that is bothering me but.....no, as long as Diablo is around, I believe that it will be alright.]

「I see.]

The reason why the girls' words were ambiguous was because Krem was around.

In other words, she was probably worried about a case where Krem would suddenly awaken as the Demon King and attack Celes.

It seemed that at that time, she was expecting that Diablo would protect her.

He had made preparations so that it would be fine if something were to happen, but looking at Krem for these past few days, he thought that such worries were probably just needless anxiety.

—This girl, she just simply "lives idly/does nothing but eat and sleep".

She was an exact image of an infant that gets as many biscuits as she wants.

Shera became something like a kindergarten teacher, teaching her songs almost every day, and was making her toys.

She opened her heart to her.

What should worry them is that the amount they paid for biscuits was not insignificant.

The moment the money that this party possessed ran out, wouldn't that be the moment the Demon King make its descent into the world. It was enough to make him think that.

The Central District was partitioned off by a stone wall.

Even when they went to the Feudal Lord's mansion before, they passed through this gate.

At that time, there was a bit of trouble with the gatekeeper, but this time, since the State Knight Alicia was there, they were able to pass thanks to her position.

The ground underfoot changed from stone pavement to tiles.

Also, the buildings, they weren't made of stone but were lined up estates made of brick and denoted that this was a district where the rich lived.

Watch-keepers meant for the sake of maintaining public order were standing all over the place.

Several times, ahead of them when they turned a corner, they would discover somewhat stylishly made shops.

Shera raised a voice of admiration.

「Uwaah.....So this, is a cafe, isn't it!？」

It was fundamentally a brick building, but the eaves were made with a wooden framework. An iron signboard was hung at the entrance.

Above all, there was glass fitted "in" the door.

Something like a door with glass in it, this was the first time he had seen such a thing since coming to this world.

Rem introduced it.

「.....It is said that this was made in the same way as the buildings in the royal capital. Celes might already be here. Shall we go in?」

They pulled the door open.

The fragrance of coffee drifted in the air.

Having come to this world, he had drank coffee several times, but he felt that this was a different fragrance from those other times.

Shera pulled Krem's hand and entered while looking around restlessly.

「Wah! Incredible! It's somehow, incredible!」

「Fumu, I don't really get it but.....This place, does it really have delicious biscuits?」

「They do~. They are called scones. A girl that went to the royal capital's cafe boasted about it.」

Alicia made a face that looked like she wanted to say something, but she kept silent.

Properly thinking about it, she lived in the royal capital. Moreover, she was the daughter of a duke family. Most likely, she has at least gone to the cafe. Even Diablo, in the world before he was summoned, he obtained a certain level of knowledge.

——Scones aren't biscuits, you know?

In the store interior, there were five counter seats and two four-person tables.

It wasn't very spacious.

There was the fact that it was just made, but the store interior was sparkling everywhere and looked new and clean.

He had heard stories that it was a considerably high-class store, but even when compared to the stores in the world that he was formerly in, it was full of a high-class feeling.

——Crap. I'm getting nervous. Now that I think about it, I, I've never entered a place with a riajuu atmosphere like a high-class tea house.

This place, it was something different from the type of stores where sweet coffee would come out in plastic or paper cups for 300 yen.

In the store, there was only one customer.

While still sitting in the chair, she expressed a smile this way.

Her looks were gentle, and her voluptuous body was wrapped up in a long robe.

A staff was leaning against the wall, indicating that she was a Magician. It was the person they had an appointment with——Celestine Bordorel.

「Ara ara, welcome.....Wait, it feels odd for me to say that even though there is an employee here, doesn't it?」

Rem greeted her.

「.....Did we keep you waiting?」

「Actually, I was looking forward to this a bit too much, and came here considerably early. But, it was correct to make it at this shop. I didn't lose interest no matter how much time I waited. To tell you the truth, I also

wanted to try coming to a cafe, you know?」

She expressed a childlike smile.

Shera leaned forward.

「M, me too! I was really looking forward to it, the cafe!」

「Araa, then, you're the same as me. It is wonderful to be able to drink coffee with the same taste as the coffee in the royal capital, isn't it—Ah, could it be that child?」

Even though she should know Krem's true identity, Celes' facial expression was calm.

Her gaze met with Krem's.

「Who are you -nanoda?」

「Nice to meet you, I am called Celes. I work as the head of this town's Magician's Guild.」

「Hou, I see. The one that maintains this town's barrier, so that is you.」
Krem had her gaze go around. It would seem that she was able to see the flow of magical power that was used for the barrier.

Rem became a bit nervous, and her face stiffened up.

Celes smiled.

「That's right, it is a significant responsibility. That's why, it was really difficult to come here alone. But, I'm glad.....After all, you are very adorable. I'm glad to have met you.」

「Maou only came here to eat biscuits -nanoda!」

「Is that so? They are very delicious, aren't they. Please have a seat.」

「Umu!」

Krem took her seat, and it was automatically decided that Sera's seat would be next to her. She was something like her guardian.

Following that flow, Rem sat in the remaining seat.

Since they were four person tables, without forcibly gathering at one table, Diablo and Alicia used the neighboring table.

Alone together with Alicia.

His nervousness became even higher.

—To think that my human life would awaken just from sitting opposite of such a beautiful girl in a riajuu tea house like this.

So that the heart throbbing in his mind wouldn't be perceived, Diablo deliberately behaved imposingly.

「You should order anything that you like.」

「Thank you very much, Diablo-sama. But is that alright?」

Alicia pointed at the menu that was on the table.

Incidentally, when drinking coffee at 《Relief》, one cup was 200 F (Furis). Even in other stores, it wouldn't exceed 300 F.

In this high-class shop.....

One cup of coffee, was 3000 F.

—HAAAH!? There are three zeros!?

His voice was about to reflexively come out.

That was an amount of money that matched one night (breakfast and a bed for one) at Relief.

—To think that she would arrange to meet at a place like this! That damned Celes, does she plan on making us go bankrupt, that damned oni! Damned witch!

That devilish woman expressed a sweet smile.

「I'll be the one paying here, so please order anything that you like, okay?」

「What, so she was a goddess.」

Diablo's muttering was fortunately not overheard by anyone.

The brought out coffee was different from the stuff that they normally drank. Its acidity was strengthened, but that became an accent to the bitter taste and made it easy to drink. Also, surprisingly, what was suggested was the orange juice. There certainly existed a sweetness different from sugar.

—Amazing! If it's this taste, it would definitely be popular even in a metropolitan area!

Krem found the coffee to be bitter and no good, but once the cocoa and scones came out, she became quite pleased.

「Sweet! Tasty! It is tasty, this muddy water and these biscuits are delicious -noda!」

It seems that to her, snack-like things were all biscuits.

「I am so glad that they are to Krem-chan's liking.」

「Umu, I shall praise it! The usual biscuits are good, but this place's biscuits were also delicious -noda!」

「Ufufu.....Would you like a second helping?」

She looking like she enjoyed it quite well.

At the time they were going back—

Shera, Krem, and Alicia left the store first.

Taking only a small amount of time to pay the bill, Diablo, Rem, and Celes exchanged words. So that not even the employee could hear them, they lowered their voices.

「Celes, you have heard of the situation from Rem, correct? Krem has lost her memories but.....She is the Demon King. What do you intend to do?」 He didn't want to make enemies of the Magician's Guild.

However, she definitely also had the responsibility of protecting the people of the Races.

Just how would she move?

「Fufu.....I don't think that there is a Demon King like that out there. To not be killing people of the Races and be liking snacks. Someone like that couldn't be a Demon King, right?」

Celes' cheerful smile didn't darken at all.

Rem asked a question, sounding worried.

「.....It, really helps us for you to say that, but.....Celes, will you be alright? Won't you get punished?」

「It's the same as the time with you. If the matter becomes public, I don't know what will happen. But, for me.....Things that tie people down and steals away their freedom even though that sort of thing isn't necessary, I get an "I don't want that" kind of feeling, you know?」

Celes is the key that activates Faltra City's barrier. She is unable to leave this town.

It was something that she herself chose to do, but it is a position where she has lost her freedom.

It was for that reason, that her words were believable.

Part 7

From the Central District's south gate, they came out into the direction of the plaza.

They went this way because Alicia said, "This way should be a shortcut" but.....

There were street stalls lined up, and it was crowded with shoppers. Unlike the Central District where the rich lived, this area truly felt like it was the district of the masses.

「I am sorry, to think that it would be this crowded.....」

Alicia said that sounding apologetic.

It couldn't be helped, the marketplace being crowded wasn't her fault.

Normally, due to Diablo's outward appearance, the people walking down the road would take some distance, but with this many people, that wasn't possible. Because everyone was engrossed with shopping, there were a lot of people that wouldn't notice even if they were bumped into.

Unless they were face to face, even the Demon King was nothing.
Krem started to get annoyed with the crowd of people.

「Eei, should I just burn them all!」

「You can't!」

Shera said that and made her listen.

Certainly, they couldn't allow her to burn them but.....walking through the crowd of people was difficult enough for him to understand that feeling.
Alicia extended a hand to Krem.

「So that we don't get separated, let's hold hands. Since we are always leaving it to Shera-sama, this time, I will do the honors.」

「Fumu? It cannot be helped. Well then, So that you do not get lost, you should firmly grasp Maou's hand -noda.」

The one that they were worried about getting lost is Krem though.....
Diablo started walking towards the western street. A Demon King worrying about everyone not getting lost was, a bit wrong, is what he thought.

Rem was minding the back of the group.

Shera lined up beside him, and grabbed his arm.

「Wait up—」

「Hmph, in the end, the place of destination is the inn. Even if we get separated, there won't be a problem, correct?」

「That's true, but it's more fun to walk together with everyone.」

「Do as you like.」

「Un!」

Recently, Shera appeared like an older sister that took care of her little sister, but Shera was originally a young lady that had childish parts to her. She clung onto Diablo's arm.

Having such soft things go *gyuu* and press up against him after such a long time, Diablo had trouble keeping his unrest from showing.

The lead was Diablo and Shera, following them was Rem, and at the back was Alicia and Krem.

—It kind of feels like we're party members in an RPG. Though the one at the lead isn't a Hero but a Demon King.

A Demon King • A Summoner • A Summoner and Bow-User • A Knight • A Demon King.....That was quite an inclined composition.

After walking for some time, when they got out of the congestion, Shera raised a voice.

「Everyone's gone!?」

So they got lost.

Rem, Alicia, and Krem's figures weren't there.

In this case, since they were the ones that were fewer, were they the ones that got lost?

However, since they were the ones at the lead.....

—Were we walking too fast? Since I've never walked as the lead when moving in a group, I didn't know.

If it's Rem and Alicia, they would probably head to the inn even if they were separated, is what he thought.

He had a strange uneasiness.

At a quick pace, he returned to 『Relief · Twilight Store』 .

Rem, Alicia, and Krem had not returned. He decided to wait for a bit.

He probably waited for about 20 minutes—

The bell indicating 5 o'clock in the afternoon could be heard from the neighborhood church.

The one that couldn't endure it any longer first was Sera.

「I, I'll try going back! They just might be searching for us in the Central Plaza! Diablo, you wait here. Since we might miss each other.」

「Umu.」

In a situation like this, he was unable to devote himself to the Demon King role play.

Krem was a Demon King, but she was still a child.

He thought that she would be alright if she was with either Rem or Alicia but.....

No, if they were together, wouldn't they have already come back? The possibility of her having gotten completely separated and being lost alone was high.

And then, the Alicia, with her strong sense of responsibility would be searching about for her? What was Rem doing?

While he was thinking about this and that, Sera started running towards the Central Plaza.

「I need to hurry up and find them!」

As time passes, the number of shoppers would decrease. Then it would become that much easier to find a lost child.

However, his bad feeling didn't settle down.

It would be fine if it were all just needless anxiety, but he couldn't calm down just by waiting.

Diablo called out to the poster girl of the inn.

「Oi, if Rem, Alicia, or Krem come back, tell them to wait in the room. Also tell them that they must absolutely not go outside.」

「Alright. Leave it to Mei-chan☆」

It was the usual tone of voice, but there was a more serious flavor that could be felt.

Diablo headed towards the plaza.

However, even if the people searching went from Shera alone to two people, there wasn't much meaning to it.

If they were going to be searching, there was a need for more helping hands.

When he walked while thinking, a large building that was on the western street that came into view.

「I see.....」

There was the Adventurer's Guild.

Chapter 4: Rem's Story

Part 1

Long before the church's bell rung five times—

It was immediately after getting separated from Diablo and Shera in the Central Plaza.

Rem was in the gap between two buildings, a back alley.

「.....What is the meaning of this?」

Chasing after two people, although she lost sight of them several times, she finally caught up to them.

Unlike the bustling Central Plaza, this was a place that was gloomy and had trash scattered about.

Trash was thrown out from homes into the back alley, and it stayed like that.

Because the air had gotten dry, there wasn't that much of an offensive smell, but it wasn't a place that one would visit on purpose.

Ahead of Rem in that back alley, Alicia was standing there.

She was pulling Krum's hand.

As for Krum, she looked like she had absolutely no understanding as to why she was brought to a place like this. Her cheeks were stuffed with a biscuit.

「Nn? You, did something happen?」

「.....Erm, I don't know why you were brought to a place like this. Alicia, why did you do it?」

Alicia expressed a faint smile.

「Truth be told, I hoped that I would take only Krum-sama along, and then I would later call out Shera-sama but.....Well, it might be alright if I were to take Rem-sama along. I don't know what will become the key after all.」

Her presence was different from the usual Alicia.

Rem became vigilant, and extended her hand to the pocket of her leather belt that her crystals were in. She stood at the ready so that she would call out her Summoned Beasts at any time.

「.....What are you talking about?」

「Why do you think Krum-sama had lost her memories? According to a Demonic Being Priest, what is required for Demon King-sama's revival isn't just magical power.....That's what it means.」

「.....Demonic Being Priest?」

Now that she mentioned it, she remembered that was the one that Edelgart borrowed her wisdom from.

The nervous feeling increased.

「Yes, after that.....I went outside of the town, and asked this to Edelgart-sama. Just what should be done for Demon King-sama to regain her memories, and fully, awaken.」

「What are you saying, Alicia!？」

「If Demon King-sama hadn't lost her memories, I could have told you the truth much earlier though.....」

「.....Alicia, are you saying that you wished for a Demon King that would kill the people of the Races?」

「Did I not mention that?」

Rem voice started to shake.

「.....Alicia.....you.....in that case.....It's as if you're a Demon King Worshipper, isn't it!？」

「Yes, that's how it would turn out to be.」

Alicia delightedly expressed a smile.

Unlike the smile that tended to be restrained that she showed up until now, it was a cheerful expression. Maybe it was because of a sense of liberation from the fact that she could divulge her true feelings.

Krum looked up at Alicia.

「I do not understand what you are saying -noda. Maou is revived. This is

my flawless, complete, and perfect form -nanoda.]

「However, you will not kill people of the Races, correct?」

「Umu, I cannot remember the reason to do such a thing. And then, the ones that can make biscuits are only the people of the Races after all!」

「That's why.....I thought I would try to awaken you to become the Demon King-sama.....To try and open your eyes.....」

「How annoyingly persistent! Do you want me to burn you!?」

「Yes, if that will awaken Demon King-sama, I can handle being the first one you burn, in fact, it would be the highest blessing.」

Krum made a reluctant looking face, and took some distance from Alicia. However, Alicia didn't release her hand while still expressing a gentle looking smile.

「Enough! Maou is going back!」

「For that to happen, you will surely have to kill me, and anyone that blocks your way. At that time, Demon King-sama should awaken.」

Rem took out a Summoned Beast crystal.

It seems that Alicia's knowledge was obtained from the Demonic Being Priest via Edelgart. They weren't baseless, reckless remarks.

—So in short, the moment that Krum kills someone of the Races, she will awaken as the original Demon King?

She absolutely needed to prevent such a thing!

「Alicia, why are you trying to do something like awakening the Demon King!?」

「It is because destroying the unsightly Races, and making this a beautiful world of Demonic Beings is my desire.」

Her appearance wasn't any different from usual.

However, as if she were confronting a monster that took the shape of Alicia, it was nothing but ominous.

This was no longer the time to be talking.

「.....I will have you return Krum.」

Alicia is a State Knight. She should possess befitting ability.

—Can I win against her?

Rem tightly grasped a Summoned Beast crystal.

It was an enemy that was difficult even in just one-on-one, but even more companions on the opponent's side were appearing.

The ones that turned up at the back alley were some familiar knights. And then, while making footsteps that were kicking the ground, a single man leisurely came walking up. He had thick armor, and carried several swords.

「Cristela-dono, so you were here. I was doing a bit of searching for you, you know?」

The young man that expressed a refreshing smile to the point that it was suspicious looking was the Holy Knight Sadraa.

In those eyes dwelled a flame that was several times darker than when she had seen them before.

The time she saw them before, there was an irritating composure as if he was scorning them, but now they were like that of a hungry beast.

Alicia cast an icy glance this way.

「I am terribly sorry. Seeing as how you were under house arrest, I was opposing this Adventurer.....No, this Demon King Worshipper.」
Rem's eyes went round.

「Wha!? The Demon King Worshipper is you, isn't it, Alicia!?」

「As if that would be the case. At the end of my infiltration investigation, I ascertained that you all were Demon King Worshippers, and am now safeguarding this little girl that you took from somewhere.」

「.....So it is that kind of plot. You are selling me out to the Holy Knight, aren't you?」

「No, I am only saving this child.」

「.....Kuh.」

Rem started thinking.

It seems that Alicia's objective is to destroy the Races, and make it a world of Demonic Beings. For the sake of that, she is trying to awaken Krum as the Demon King.

At the moment that Krum kills a person of the Races, she will awaken as the Demon King—is what the Demonic Being Priest told her.

However, while that may be true, what was the reason for her to hand Rem over to the Holy Knight?

To begin with, what was the reason for involving the Holy Knight?

She didn't understand.

Rem had piled up experience as an Adventurer, and wasn't ignorant about strategy. Even so, she still couldn't read Alicia's true motives.

「.....The one thing that I do know, is that I won't hand Krum over to you guys! That is the only thing!」

Rem threw a crystal.

It called out a Summoned Beast.

「.....Come forth! 《Aslau》 ッ!!」

It was a bull that possessed three horns. It's gigantic size far surpassed the size of natural cattle. Excelling in its charging power, its striking power in a single attack was the strongest among the Summoned Beasts that Rem possessed.

In regards to Sadraa, she had taken a blunder at the 《Triangular Ears》 , but she couldn't allow herself to lose here.

She needed to take Krum back!

Winning against a Holy Knight and a State Knight, and furthermore, four Subordinate Knights, it would be considerably difficult.

However, if she were to make showy sounds and fight, people should come.

The possibility that Diablo would notice would also rise.

That is what she calculated.

《Aslau》 charged at the Holy Knight.

Sadraa gave out an order.

「Become a shield.」

With that one sentence, the Subordinate Knights simultaneously came out in front of 《Aslau》 .

One of them was stabbed by a horn and sustained a considerably serious wound. However, being held back by the other three, the gigantic Summoned Beast's charge lost its power.

Rem found it difficult to understand.

「No way!? Why would they abide to an order where they might die!?」

Sadraa smiled.

「It is because God wishes “for this to be” that I am able to live. The thing called dying is namely only an invitation to heaven from God.....And then, those that abide by God's honorable will while they are alive will be approved after death. Those that disobey that honorable will will receive retribution and fall to evil. Above all, protecting me is equivalent to protecting God. Infidels that would refuse my order out of fear cannot enter the Subordinate Knights.」

Sadraa calmly drew a sword.

And then, he thrust it into the nape of 《Aslau》 's neck.

Keeping that sword as is, he drew a second sword and a third sword from his waist, and violently thrusted at it.

「Fuhah! Fuhaha! This is quite a sturdy Summoned Beast!」

『Aslau』 struggled, but the Subordinate Knights desperately held it down.

The Summoned Beast that had accumulated damage was finally annihilated and returned to becoming a darkened crystal.

No matter how much of a condition where it couldn't oppose them it was in, that was way too fast.

Although she was surprised at how the Subordinate Knights became a shield, Sadraa's true strength that could take down the gigantic Summoned Beast this fast wasn't common.

Did his true strength as a Warrior type draw near the Feudal Lord Galford's strength?

When it became this high of a level, Rem was no longer able to make a conjecture.

He had a strength that was completely different from the Adventurers that would normally go around patrolling the town or harvesting medicinal plants.

—Moreover, a Holy Knight can use magic.

「Kuh.....Come forth! 『Stoneman』！」

She brought out another Summoned Beast.

By all rights, she should have started running away.

Even if she were to have Sadraa alone as an opponent, Rem's chances of winning with the Summoned Beasts that she possessed were low.

In addition to him, there were four Subordinate Knights—No, there were only three that could fight now. And then, there was also Alicia.

Since Krum looked like she didn't understand the situation, she was simply making a displeased looking face and gazing this way. To her, was this an unenjoyable side show? She just might have a feeling of that level.

『Stoneman』 swung its gigantic stone fist.

It blew away a Subordinate Knight.

Alicia narrowed her eyes.

「Perhaps, do you require some assistance, Sadraa-sama?」

「No no, that is unnecessary.」

「However, people will gather if you take too much time here. If I feel that will be an inconvenience in one way or another, you know?」

「Fufu.....How unexpected. Cristela-dono, I thought you felt it was better if I didn't work.」

「The idea on not leaving Demon King Worshippers is something I approve of.」

「Is that so. I am terribly sorry for being suspicious of you the other day. State Knight Alicia Cristela-dono, it would seem that you truly understand God's honorable will and are a wonderful personage. God is watching over your deed.」

「Thank you very much.」

「Well, even so, your worry is unnecessary. It is about time to end this.....She is a companion of the man that bestowed humiliation upon me. I will show no mercy.」

Sadraa gave an order to the Subordinate Knights.

「Hurry up and capture her! Do it carefully, and without injuring her. That way, the pain that she will taste after this will become vivacious.」

「Yes sir!」

Their answer was good, but with the Subordinate Knights' ability, they seemed to have difficulty bestowing lethal damage to 『Stoneman』's tenacious body.

During that time, Rem called out another Summoned Beast.

Consecutively calling out powerful Summoned Beasts, and moreover, using them simultaneously, it consumed a considerable amount of magical power.

However, this is where she needed to fight back!

Krum asked a question.

「What? Could it be, do you want to kill those fellows? In that case, you should rely on Maou. These armored guys are of no relation to biscuits after all. In an instant, they will turn to ashes——」

「Stop it!」

Rem shouted.

Krum jumped with a start and drew her body back.

Rem's own feelings, which were complexly entangled, were finally settled, and she noticed.

About how she herself felt, and turned those into words.

「.....Krum.....Please don't kill anyone.....Please eat biscuits, smile with everyone, and sing with Shera.....That, is my desire.」

「Are you serious? With just you, you cannot fight against these guys, you know?」

「.....I, do not want you to kill anyone of the Races. Please, that is the only thing I want you to never forget.」

「I do not really get it, but I got it -noda. I will make that promise -noda.」

Krum breathed a sigh.

Rem smiled.

「.....To tell the truth.....I, was afraid of you, and I think I probably hated you. But, these past few days, it was as if you were family.....And I didn't hate that. Right now, I believe that I don't want to lose you. Even at the cost of this life of mine!」

She threw a new crystal.

Summoning 《Shadow Snake》 —It hurled itself towards the Holy Knight. It was a snake that was black like a shadow. It looked to bind him with entwining movements.

And then, Rem equipped claws onto her fist, and made her assault as if chasing after 《Shadow Snake》 .

「Haaaaa—ツ!!」

The ends of Sadraa's lips curved.

「Fufu, as expected of an Adventurer of Faltra City with is the foremost line. You truly are brimming with fighting spirit. Having courage, having such ability, it is extremely magnificent.」

The opponent drew the sword that was on his waist, and swung it.

He cut the 《Shadow Snake》 .

Rem struck at him with the iron claw that was attached to her right fist. However, right before then, she was glared at by Sadraa.

—Shoot, 《Chantless》 !?

「Fuguh!!」

「You should prostrate yourself before God, corrupted one that worships the Demon King!」

The freedom of her body was stolen.

She collapsed.

「Aguh.....!!」

Rem's hands were on the ground. She couldn't put any strength in her body.

As if she were lowering her head towards Sadraa, she became unable to fight.

So it was 《Stun》 again.

He whispered close to her ear.

「You are extremely wonderful. After all, if you didn't have hope, you wouldn't despair either. How you embraced that foolish hope that you might win against me, it was truly wonderful. And now, you should fall into deep despair.」

Sadraa's hand touched Rem's head.
Magic that could be used only when in contact was powerful. Among them, there existed magic that could snatch away one's consciousness.
A shock as if she were struck at the back of the head ran through her, and Rem felt her field of vision become darker.
In the middle of her fading conscious, she extended her hand out.
Krum opened her eyes wide.
Alicia whispered close to Rem's ear.

「What is required.....is hatred.」

When Rem's consciousness ceased, the Summoned Beast 『Stoneman』 had its magical power supply cut off and returned to being a crystal.

Part 2

Her consciousness returned—
She felt that she herself was swaying.
Rem opened her eyes.
It was dim.
There was someone that was peeking over at her.
That small shadow of a person was covered with a robe.
「You, are you alright?」
「Krum!」
Reflexively extending her hand out, and made sure that she was safe.
She looked up and down her.
It seemed that she didn't have any injuries on her.
「.....So you were safe. Ahh.....Thank goodness.」
「There is no way anything would happen to Maou, you know? It was strange how you suddenly went to sleep -noda.」
「.....It would seem that I was done in by Sadraa's magic.」
「Ahh, so that weird light from before was magic. To lose against one of that small level of magical power, how deplorable -noda.」
「.....That's true.」
As an Adventurer of this town, Rem was a fairly well-known existence, but recently, she's had a succession of defeats.
Diablo, Demonic Beings, a Holy Knight.....
She spilled out a sigh.
After that, she changed her focus to the surrounding area. It was dim, but

she was somehow able to see.

It was the inside of a cage. What surrounded them was an iron bars cage. Both above and below them were covered.

It was low enough that she was unable to stand up.

Even Krum would probably have her head obstructed.

And then, there was a thick cloth hung on the cage. Because of that, the inside was dim.

Her hands and legs weren't restrained.

There was no need to do so, that is what it meant. Her weapons were taken away.

This swaying was.....?

It was probably the load-carrying tray of a carriage, is what she guessed.

「.....About how long was I fainted for?」

「About long enough to eat one bag of biscuits.」

Pori pori She was eating biscuits. So even in a place like this.

In the same way that they had taken her from Edelgart, it seems that Alicia conciliated Krum.

If it was during the time that Krum was eating biscuits, it wasn't even 10 minutes.

Even if she were to estimate with the least amount of time to load the cage onto the carriage, they still shouldn't have left the town.

A slight amount of light from the sun was shining through the cloth that was placed on the cage. At this time, with the sunlight coming from the left side, the carriage was probably headed north.

The Central District?

No, did they continue further into the North District?

In this Human town, compared to the South District where there were a lot of Demi-humans, it was a wealthy place.

Since she didn't come here all that much, she couldn't recall what kind of buildings there were.

If she were to let out a loud voice, would the people of the town notice?

For example, what if she were to shout out "kidnapper"?

—With a Holy Knight and a State Knight as the other party, that would probably be pointless.

In terms of social trust, they were overwhelmingly above her.

Rem calmed down and started thinking.

—When I try and think about it, it's strange, isn't it?

When she carefully investigated the conversation from before, Alicia seemed like she wasn't telling the truth.

If Krum were to kill a person of the Races, she would awaken as the Demon King?

In that case, after they made Rem faint, it would have been fine if they attacked Krum. Krum may look like this, but she most likely possesses power as a Demon King.

How she can bestow magical power to Demonic Beings, how she calmly watches the frequent fights, how she appraised Sadraa to be “one of that small level of magical power”. She seemed considerably strong.

If Alicia were to seriously attack Krum, just as she wished, wouldn’t she become the “the first person of the Races that Krebskrum killed”?

Did she start to value her life?

In that case, she could have made use of the Subordinate Knights.

She didn’t have enough information so she couldn’t assert this, but weren’t Alicia’s words that “if Krum kills a person of the Races, she would awaken” a lie? That was the conjecture that she concluded to.

Then, wanting to awaken the Demon King—Were those words as a Demon King Worshipper also a lie?

That is probably nothing but a convenient hope.

In truth, Rem and Krum were handed over to Holy Knight Sadraa due to Alicia.

「.....Kuh.....If only, I were stronger.」

Su Krum held out a biscuit.

「You should eat -noda.」

「Eh? Um, thank you very much.」

Since it was already time for dinner, she certainly was hungry. Rem stared at the biscuit that was in her hand.

「.....It seems that you have suffered because of Maou, right? Rem.」

「Eh?」

Rem was surprised by her words, and the fact that Krum called her by name.

Krum dropped her shoulders.

「Alicia said it -noda. Because of Maou, Rem went through many hardships. Not just Rem, Rem’s mother, and then her mother.....For so, so long.....But, earlier, you fought to protect Maou -noda, is what I heard.」

「.....That’s true. I lost though.」

「You fought for Maou’s sake. Even though it would not be strange for you to detest Maou.」

「.....I won't deny that there were hardships though.」

「Even now, because of Maou, you are locked up in a place like this, right? Maou does not really understand much about the Races but.....the loyalty that Rem showed for Maou, it is greatly valued.」

「.....It isn't loyalty.」

「Un?」

Rem hugged her knees and looked downward.

Even while she was hesitant, she spoke out her feelings.

「.....God sealed the soul of 『Demon King Krebskrum』 in an ancestor of mine from many generations ago. Thanks to that, generations of women in my family, all of them lived while avoiding the public gaze. In order to not release the Demon King, they would treat their bodies with great care, and would definitely leave behind a baby girl.....All of them sacrificed their own lives. Many of them accepted this, and without settling down, they would take their distance from the surroundings, and live frightened lives of isolation and dread. Why.....only me? Why was I the vessel that sealed the soul of 『Demon King Krebskrum』 ?」

Krum tilted her head.

「In other words, because of Maou, you did not have freedom -nodana?」

「That is how it turns out to be.」

「I see. Not having freedom is no good. It is something irritating.」

Surprisingly, there was something that got through to her.

「.....Now that I think about it, at the same time that we were suffering, you spent that time being sealed.」

「Though, half of it was something like sleep. However, resenting the fact of having freedom stolen, is something Maou understands.」

「.....Do you also, resent us?」

「The one that Maou resents is God.」

「Is that, so.」

Rem felt astonishment from how the legend that she heard as if it were a bedtime story was actually the truth.

Moreover, to think that it was the Demon King herself that told her.....

Krum talked looking lonely.

「Nn.....You resenting Maou is only natural. Maou being resented is only natural -nanoda.....」

Rem breathed a sigh.

She wanted Krum to not make such a sad face.

If Krum were an atrocious king that brought harm to the Races, she wouldn't have any need to worry.

Surely Diablo would have defeated her. She should have been able to strike her with her hatred that continued for generations.

But on the contrary, the revived Krebskrum was a child that was much too innocent.

Rem cast her eyes downward.

「.....I've always, thought of it like that. However, you were also only born as the Demon King.」

「U, mu? Certainly, Maou was born as Maou.」

「.....It's not like you yourself chose to derail our lives.....I've realized that we're the same. You aren't any different from me. Just an ordinary person.....carrying an abnormal fate on your back.」

「Maou is not of the Races, but Maou understands what Rem wants to say.」

「.....That's why, I want to protect you. Most likely—Alicia didn't say the truth. Krum, the time that you awaken is when you kill a person of the Races? Or maybe something else will become the key? In any case, what she is scheming is the Demon King's awakening.」

「So it would seem. Good grief, even though Maou told her that Maou is flawless, complete, and perfect.」

Pori pori She said that while biting on a biscuit.

That appearance was neither flawless, complete, nor perfect, but Rem didn't say that.

Instead, as if she were persuading herself, she muttered.

「.....Let's return, to where everyone else is. We will definitely return.」

「If it is fine for Maou to use her power, Maou could break this iron cage, and those armored guys would be cinders with a single attack -nanoda!」

Rem embraced Krum.

For the first time, she touched Krum on her own accord.

She was warm.

「.....You can't do something like that. Do you understand? You promised, didn't you?」

After getting puzzled for a bit, Krum nodded.

「Umu, Maou promised -noda.」

Part 3

Before long, the carriage's movements stopped.
It seemed that they had reached their destination.
Making noisy sounds, the cloth that was hung over the cage was taken off.
Very soon, the setting sun would be hidden by the rampant walls of Faltra City.

The cage was opened.
Sadraa beckoned them over.

「Please come here. We have arrived at the place where I shall give you girls salvation.」

「.....」

The Subordinate Knights extended their hands out, grabbed Rem's arms, and dragged her out.

It was a cemetery.
The surroundings were a graveyard, and there were no signs of people.
Even though it hadn't gotten dark yet, she couldn't hear the hustle and bustle of the town. And also, the rampart walls were close.
So it was the northern extremity of Faltra City.

Come to think of it, there was a cemetery that the people of the upper echelons of society had used, is what she remembered. The cemetery that commoners used was outside of the rampart. It was enclosed with a fence, but it seemed that it would occasionally get water damage or animal damage.

Krum was the same as usual. With the biscuits that Alicia prepared, she completely did as she was told.

Earlier, Rem properly made her promise but.....

She became anxious.

—She won't kill people of the Races in exchange for biscuits, right?

The building right before her eyes rang its bell.

It was exactly six times. It was the bell that informed everyone that it was six o'clock in the afternoon.

It's the church.

It was considerably old, but it was properly maintained. There were marks that the stone walls were repaired many times, and the stained glass was newly fitted in.

On the roof of the belfry, the holy symbol of the Church was put up. It had a shape where the center was a circle and had a line extending out on three sides. A large wooden door was opened, and Rem and Krum had their backs pushed, telling them to go inside.

Just like the exterior, the interior of the church was old but was well maintained.

However, there was a strange smell that reached their noses. Kind of sticky, kind of sweet, it was a mysterious stench. Kind of like iron that had rusted.....

The origin of that smell, was the utensils that were placed at the inner part of the church.

A part of the chair was removed, and for some reason, various utensils were placed on it.

She had no idea what they were used for.

However, she remembered the rumors related to Sadraa.

It was said that he would torture people that appeared to be Demon King Worshippers, force them to confess, and then execute them.

Rem opened her eyes wide.

—These objects with so much rust on them, are they all torture utensils!?

Rem glared at Sadraa.

「.....I am not a Demon King Worshipper. No matter how much pain you inflict on me, I absolutely will not make a false confession.」

「Ahh, thank goodness.」

「.....What is it?」

「The people that know of the rumors about me, the moment they see these utensils, they would say “I was a Demon King Worshipper, but I’ve already reformed. Please point me to the faith towards God” and start weeping. Who would believe in such shallow words? You are, without a doubt, a Demon King Worshipper that would deceive us clergymen.」

「Kuh.....You intend on torturing me no matter what.」

「No, no. It is something often misunderstood, but I am not doing anything like torture.」

「.....Then what are these utensils? They don’t look like cookware, you know?」

「They are misunderstood to be for torture to normal people but.....The act I am going to do is “bring salvation”. Something like worshipping the Demon King, that is a mistake as a person of the Races. This is an act meant for the sake of saving those people whose souls have been corrupted. I simply wish to save all people of the Races.」

It was a voice filled with conviction.

She didn't understand the meaning of it.

On the various things like the utensils with tightly packed metal thorns, the iron table and saw, all of them had dark red dirt clinging onto them, and had traces of being used.

Moreover, that which he called bringing salvation, wasn't that rumored to be about him executing the ones that he tortured.

「.....So you call murdering people "bringing them salvation"?」

Sadraa shook his head.

「I am not killing people. It's just, as a result of saving them, they obtain God's forgiveness, and are simply invited to heaven.」

「What are you.....!?」

「Always, I cannot help but shed tears for that appearance. That moment, when a corrupted soul, is cleansed by my bringing of salvation, and is forgiven by God.」

「.....That's.....the result of torture, didn't they simply just die!?」

「No, because I have forgiven them, it must mean that God has forgiven them. In that case, it means that death is a happy result of being invited to heaven.」

Because he himself had forgiven them, that means that God has forgiven them?

That was ridiculous reasoning.

「.....Do you think that you've become God or something!?」

Claiming to be God should be something heavily prohibited in the Church. However, Sadraa didn't change his facial expression.

He was expressing a virtuous looking smile.

「That's right. Since this is something that I don't really want spreading about, I keep this as secret as possible but—actually, it would seem that I am God.」

「Ha?」

「Like I said, I am God himself that has made his advent into this world. Do you not understand?」

「.....I'm so disgusted, I can't say a thing.」

「Born in a blessed house, possessing a blessed body, boasting a blessed intellect—I, who has received all of heaven's favor, can only be God that has made his advent in order to save this world.」

He probably completely believed that. His words were filled with self-confidence.

Rem was dumbfounded.

「.....No matter what I say with my words, it would seem that it is pointless.」

Sadraa pointed at Rem's ears.

「That isn't true at all. There is no way your conversation with me would be meaningless. By exchanging words with me like this, I can understand the depth of your sins.」

「.....How stupid. I am not a Demon King Worshipper.」

「You.....It's those ears that are bad.」

「Wha!？」

Rem drew back, and covered the triangular ears that were on top of her own head with her hands.

The muscles along her spine shivered.

「That tail also isn't good.」

「.....These, are the characteristics of a Pantherian. There are few whose color is black, but it isn't strange.」

「No, no, I know. You cannot deceive the eyes and ears of God. Now then, let us cut them off without delay.」

「Wha!? Didn't you say that you wouldn't do any torturing!?」

「Correct, it isn't torture. I am cutting of the parts that are the origin of your corrupted soul. The parts that haven't gone bad are the important parts. It is the flesh that was bestowed upon you by God after all. That is why, as finely as possible, they will be removed from the start.」

「.....N, no way.」

Guessing the other party's intentions, Rem's knees started to tremble in terror.

This guy, he insisted that they were the corruption's origin, and had intended to mangle her from the start.

From top to bottom, she was gazed at by Sadraa, as if he were licking her.

「Fumu, those hands that threw a Summoned Beast at me, they are also no good.」

「.....You will fall into hell.」

「That mouth is also bad. How about we take out her teeth.」

When Sadraa made a signal, the three subordinate knights approached her.

「Oh, that's right. Because of your Summoned Beast, one of my faithful Subordinate Knights was seriously injured, given the miracle of healing,

and put to bed. Good grief, you've done something quite outrageous, haven't you?」

「Despite you making him a shield.....」

Both of her arms were grabbed by the Subordinate Knights.

Having neither her Summoned Beasts nor her weapons, she had no means to oppose Sadraa.

She was vexed.

Rem turned her gaze towards Alicia's direction.

「.....I don't understand. Why did you think to cooperate with something like this? To go as far as betraying us.」

Alicia shrugged her shoulders.

「For me, it is because I have my own objectives after all. If you do not want pain, how about seeking help?」

With a *pon*, she placed a hand on Krum's shoulder, who was right beside her.

Maybe because Rem's terror was transmitted, Krum was making a stern facial expression. Surprisingly, the hand that she ate biscuits with had also stopped.

「Perhaps, do you not require some assistance?」

「.....Th, that is.....unneeded! Please protect your promise.」

「U, umu.」

Krum had been given detailed instructions so that she wouldn't interfere. However, what should she do in this situation?

Alicia made a wry smile.

「Rem-sama, do you not understand what exactly is going to happen to your body from this point on?」

「.....I do understand. What I don't understand, is what your objective is. Is it to revive the Demon King and bring the Races to their downfall? If that is the case, is there a need for any of this?」

Sadraa looked over at Alicia's direction.

She didn't exterminate her smile.

「Oh my, me, revive the Demon King? As I thought, Demon King Worshippers say some strange things.」

「.....Alicia.....The understanding that you showed me, and how you went to together with us to save Shera, was it all a lie?」

「Truly.....She does say some strange things.」

Alicia turned her back.

「Sadraa-sama, I am bad with seeing things that look painful. Would it be alright if I left the rest to you?」

「Yes, please leave the rest to me. Also, the purity of Cristela-dono's body, I guarantee it.」

「Thank you very much. Well then, I will return after I have eaten.」

「I understand. By that time, I am sure that this Demon King Worshipper will have been forgiven by God.」

It was as if the rest of her life had been sentenced.

Alicia placed her hand on Krum's shoulder.

「Oh, that's right.....This child, she is just a victim that was captured by the Demon King Worshippers. Please don't injure her, okay? If she runs out of biscuits, please give her some more.」

「Yes, of course. She is a pitiable child that we saved after all.」

Rem was made to sit in a wooden chair with armrests by two Subordinate Knights.

Both of her hands were held down by the men.

Krum, from the corner of the room, gazed this way.

—Is she really not going to seek help? Her facial expression is asking that. If she were to seek assistance from Krum in her own cuteness, what if that made her awaken as the Demon King?

She absolutely didn't want that.

In order to not revive Demon King Krebskrum, her own mother and grandmother went through many hardships. Moreover, if the current Krum were to disappear, Shera would surely become sad. She did say that Krum was like a little sister after all.

Sadraa took out a gigantic pair of scissors.

「Fufu, if it's screams, it is fine for you to make as many of them as you like. This place is a church on the inner part of a cemetery. A cemetery after the sun has gone down, I'm sure that there is no one that would visit it.」

「.....How crafty.....Do you not have pangs of conscience!?」

「I do, you know? If I do not bring salvation to Demon King Worshippers, my chest hurts. And with that, let's bring you salvation right away. By lopping off those ghastly ears.....」

The edged tool approached her Pantherian ears.

「Uuu.....」

「With this, you will be brought only a small bit closer to normalcy. To a

proper Human.]

「.....To say that being Human is normal, that's just Demi-human discrimination!」

「Calling the impure impure, what is wrong with that?」

When Rem twisted her body to escape, her choker was grabbed by a Subordinate Knight and brought back.

「Don't move!」

The Subordinate Knight shouted.

Sadraa closed the scissors.

Batsun! (Snip!)

Rem momentarily swung her body. The base of her ear became hot. She was cut!?

However, the pain was only small.

For as much as she ran away, not all of it was cut off.

Sadraa raised his voice.

「Don't you understand that, you were to not to move!?」

While he was shouting, he pulled out a sword from his waist.

As she was being held down, he thrust it into Rem's right arm from above.

Zun (Pierce) The blade went through her.

She was stabbed.

Sadraa's sword went through Rem's right arm, and reached as far as the chair's armrest.

「—————っ!?」

She couldn't even voice out a scream from the pain that made the inside of her head a sloppy mess.

Doku, doku (Drip, drip) Blood was dripping onto the chair.

Krum rushed over to her.

「Rem——!? Rem! Rem! Does it hurt!? It hurts, doesn't it! Why, why are you getting beat up by them -noda! I will kill them! I will kill these guys! You do not mind, right!?」

「Uuu.....You can't.....」

「You! At this rate, you will die, you know -nodazo!?」

Death was dreadful.

However, she couldn't let Krum become the Demon King.....

Sadraa pulled out another sword from his waist, and pushed it out towards Krum.

「Don't get in my way!」

The very tip of the swung sword cut and tore the robe that was covering Krum. *Basari* (Drop) It fell to the floor.

Her horns became exposed.

And then, her lizard-like tail as well.

Sadraa and the others have learned that Krum is abnormal!

Rem even forgot about the pain of her right arm.

「ツ! Run away!」

However, Krum showed no signs of running away.

Sadraa, as well as the Subordinate Knights, for a moment, stared at Krum and solidified.

After that, he raised his voice as if he were boiling.

「This girl! She's a Demonic Being!」

Krem's eyes were full with the color of anger.

「Damned fools! Maou is Maou -nanoda! I will turn you all into ashes, you know!?」

「Those horns.....They remind me of the Demon. That's right.....There's no doubt that he's also a Demonic Being. I'll get the Feudal Lord to bring out the army and subjugate him tonight!」

That Demon—So it was about Diablo.

Making eyes with no determined focus, Sadraa held his sword and went forward.

He approached Krum.

「Such a hateful existence.....Giving me such disgrace.....Those horns are corrupted!」

「What was that?」

「Cristela-dono as well, if she saw those horns and tail as well, it would be recognised as me being in the right.....You damned Demonic Being. To be pretending to be a person's child, how repulsive!」

Sadraa raise his sword overhead.

Krum glared at him.

「So you intend on harming Maou? Very well! With how you had injured Rem, you should compensate with your death -noda!」

「A Demonic Being brat shouldn't talk so high and mighty to me. My ears will be violated! Those horns, I'll crush them to pieces!」

He slashed at her with his sword.

At that time, Rem kicked a chair.

Shaking off the hands of the Subordinate Knights who had turned their eyes towards Sadraa's and Krum's exchange and had slackened their grip, she brought her body forward.

A sharp pain ran through her right arm.

Having pierced through to the armrest, it were as if she were struck with a stake. It was a sharp pain that reached her bones.

However, Rem's thoughts weren't on her own pain.

In a daze, she kicked a chair.

Even though the flesh of her arm tore, and the bone was disconnected, none of that mattered.

「Krum!!」

Rem threw her body out.

Right now, Sadraa's sword was just about to swing down upon Krum's head.

That was where Rem broke in between them.

She protected Krum from the incoming sword by becoming her shield.

She held Krum close to her chest.

Heat ran through her right shoulder.

It felt as if burning iron was being pressed up against it.

She was cut.

A cold blade was entering her body.

A large amount of blood was spilling out.

It was soaking Krum.

「.....Huu」

Nothing but air that didn't become words came out from Rem's mouth.

Krum raised a yell that was like a scream.

「Rem——!？」

She collapsed.

On the floor, collapsed, in the area around Rem, blood spread out like a puddle.

Squatting down beside her, Krum shouted her name over and over.

「Rem! Rem! Rem!」

「.....Run.....away.」

「Rem too! I'll bring Rem too! I will kill these guys, and you will live!」

「.....Your, promise.」

「Th-that is.....I did promise but!」

「You've gotten in my way, didn't you!? By the likes of a Demi-human!」

Sadraa's sword, to make the finishing blow, went from Rem's back, and

went through her right to the floor.

「——ッ!!」

A large amount of blood flew about.

It was Rem's blood.

That bright red blood.

Krum opened her eyes wide and trembled.

A person of the Races would die. If they were to shed this much blood, they would die. That was what Krum knew.

If she sheds this much blood, Rem would die.

Blood. Blood. Blood.

Her life, would vanish.

Krebskrum shouted.

Rem, still collapsed, heard a voice that seemed like it shook the entire church.

Something was happening.

There was no mistake that her own life was coming to an end.

However, what was more important than that was, that she felt that something was happening.

She remembered the words that Alicia muttered in the back alleyway.

“What is needed.....is hatred.”

That's what she said.

—What was it necessary for? Was that, for Krebskrum's awakening?

Until things turned into this situation, Rem didn't know. She didn't know the method of making the emotion called hatred.

And then, after all this time, she knew.

Hatred is born when someone important is snatched away.

Part 4

Holy Knight Sadraa looked up close to the ceiling.

It should have been a small child.

Growing weird horns and a lizard-like tail.....She was most likely a Demi-human crossbreed.

He arbitrarily decided that she was a Demonic Being.

And then, he should have executed her as usual.

She should have been a powerless child that could only be executed, but she changed her appearance into something bigger than himself.

Was she really a Demonic Being?

The blood covered Pantherian that stayed collapsed groaned.

「.....Krebskrum.」

That was the name of the Demon King.

Sadraa once again glared at the gigantic monster.

That child, what did she say? That she was "Maou"?

「It couldn't be.....For her to be the Demon King.....No way.....Impossible.....」

Krebskrum swung her hand out horizontally.

A shock wave spread out.

The Subordinate Knights raised small shrieks and covered their heads.

The church's walls and roof were blown away. The fragments burned, and turned to ashes before they could fall to the ground.

They couldn't even tell if what she did was magic.

The classical church was annihilated to the point that its belfry, its holy symbol, its stone walls, its roof, its stained glass, not even fragments of any of that had remained.

Only the floor and walls with barely the height of a person remained.

And then, gigantic wings of light that almost reached the sky stretched out from Krebskrum's back.

The dazzling light wings stabbed the heavens.

From there, as if it were being drawn on the sky, a magic formation was developed.

What was being magnified were lines and symbols that they had never seen before. As it collided with the barrier that covered Faltra City, sparks scattered.

An ear piercing sound resounded.

—Is it really Demon King Krebskrum?

Sadraa pierced three swords into the floor, and made an order to the Subordinate Knights.

「I am going to use a maximum magic! Become my shield!」

「Y, yes, sir!」

The three Subordinate Knights stood in front of Sadraa.

「Fufu.....Even if she is the real Demon King.....She will surely disappear without leaving even dust behind by my maximum magic.」

Sadraa was full of confidence.

Even if he was in front of the Demon King, he didn't lose his calm and composure.

His unshakable faith, was also became his unshakable confidence, and

absolute belief in his victory.
Sadraa considered himself to be God.
That he was God himself.
Because of that, he believed that his confronting the Demon King was nothing but a verse that would make up his own legend.
Krebskrum glared at Sadraa's group.
In her violet eyes, flames of hatred swayed.
「oOOOOOOO—ッ!!」
It was a scream that made the air shake.
Despite that, Sadraa expressed a composed smile.
「Fufu.....So you've noticed my magical power, you damned Demon King.....However, it's already too late.」
His magical power took form and his magic was complete.
His ultimate magic.

「You should just get scattered away, 《Flare Burst》 ッ!!」

An explosion enwrapped Krebskrum's body.
And then—
There was no effect.
There was no sign of visible damage being bestowed on the Demon King.
Sadraa solidified with his hand still thrust out towards the Demon King.
「Eh?」
Krebskrum raised a fist overhead.
She struck at them.
—It's still, alright.
Sadraa still had his beliefs.
That he himself was God, and that even if he were to encounter a crisis where it seemed like he would die, he would survive without fail. As for why, it was because he was God.
The upper halves of the Subordinate Knights that had become his shield had evaporated.
His face was scorched by a hot wind.
Nevertheless, Sadraa believed his victory.
—Just watch, it will come soon. The power of God will defeat the Demon King.
—I will absolutely not die. Why, it's because I'm God.
—Look, it's will come soon. The Demon King's fist is already drawing near. Now is the time that God's power will awaken!

—Ahh, quickly, quickly, come on, come on, come one, come on! Power of God, do it now!

「.....Huh? Am I not God?」

Krebskrum's gigantic fist reached Sadraa's head.

The bulky armor that had defensive magic cast on it resisted, and his tenacious body tried to fasten down his life.

It was pointless.

Sadraa's body, which only had the level of strength of being able to stop anything in the range of the people of the Races, was easily smashed up by the Demon King's blow.

The defensive magic failed, his body scattered blood, and even that flying blood evaporated.

He scattered away.

Sadraa, in the same way as the Subordinate Knights that became his shield and died, had only his lower half remaining.

Still fallen down on the floor, the young Pantherian girl looked up.

Her body slowly became cold.

Looking at her appearance, Demon King Krebskrum raised a scream of hatred.

However, she could no longer remember the reason for that hatred.

Only her intent to kill expanded.

She had awakened.

Demon King Krebskrum's first cry, resounded in the cemetery.

Interlude

Faltra City, West Gate—

The soldiers were lined up on the ramparts.

The figure of Feudal Lord Galford was also there.

His eyes were narrowed, and was gazing at the western horizon.

It was exactly the time that the sun was setting.

On the grass-covered plains that should have been dyed red from the

sunset that shined upon it like usual, a black shadow had fallen upon it. Galford muttered.

「.....You're telling me, that that's all Demonic Beings?」

Even the hero that fought to the bitter end in the 『Races and Demonic Being War』 from 30 years ago had some trembling in his voice.

When standing atop the ramparts, the river and Fort Bridge Ulg could be seen close to the horizon.

Beyond that, a countless number of Demonic Beings were closing in, that was the report that came in.

Against that many Demonic Beings, the guards of Fort Bridge Ulg wouldn't even be able to buy time.

The withdrawal order had already been given.

Reports that the number of Demonic Beings was 200 or 300 were received, but since it was information from disordered soldiers, there was a problem with its accuracy.

Moreover, with Demonic Beings, their numbers weren't important.

The question was the quality.

Truly strong Demonic Beings could not be given damage unless it was done with a special weapon.

Even if they were to attack with a normal weapon, it would only injure the surface and wouldn't reach the core.

Just how many high grade Demonic Beings of that type were there.....

Tactics change according to the opponent's war potential.

The faces of the soldiers had turned pale.

There weren't any weak soldiers that would grieve and moan in front of the commander, but most likely, they were thinking that they wanted to start running away in their innermost thoughts.

If an unforeseen situation were to occur in addition to that, the units were liable to crumble before they fight.

Galford called out to the soldiers.

「Gentlemen, we are here in order to die. We have the conviction to go against any kind of formidable enemy that tries to invade. Until the townspeople have evacuated, and the main forces of the Royal Capital have constructed a war front, even if we are down to the last soldier, we must buy them time. Personally hold pride in the fact that you are disposable pieces. For you shall be the cornerstone to the Races gaining victory in the bigger picture.」

The facial expressions of the soldiers changed.

They went from ones of being crushed to death by fear to faces of men that would die in order to protect.

—However, just how long will that preserve the whole army's morale?
That is what Galford was thinking.

A thunderous roar resounded.

Was it magic from the Demonic Beings!? is the thought that stirred the soldiers.

It wasn't.

The sound came from inside the city.

Galford turned around, and witnessed an explosion in the North District.
So it was around the cemetery.

A burst of flames was rising.

No matter how experienced of a commander he was, he was unable to imagine that the Demon King had revived and blew down the church.

「.....Wings of light?」

And then, a magic formation that he had never seen before spread out in the sky.

No, Galford had seen something identical 30 years ago.

—The Demon King's magic formation!?

More than the soldiers that were agitated from wondering what was going on, Galford was even more agitated because he knew what it was.

However, he didn't let that show in his behavior.

He glared at the North District that had gone silent.

Once more, *Don!*, a loud sound rung out.

There was a considerable distance between the West Gate and the North District's cemetery. Enough that nobles would use a carriage for it.

Because of that, there should be no way for him to see the Holy Knight and his attendants getting scattered away due to Demon King Krebskrum.

At any rate, a situation that he couldn't just leave be had occurred.

Galford thought about the unit commanders that he had entrusted the North Gate and the East Gate to.

They weren't people that would move on their own judgement at times like this.

—So I should be the one to head there myself.

Leaving the West Gate to a unit commander, 1000.....no, he would leave 2000 soldiers. He would command 5000 soldiers and go from main street to the North District.....

A small figure of a person came climbing up the rampart's stairway.
It was a Grasswalker.

With an appearance of having light cloth covering only her breast and waist, she came running while her red hair and rabbit-like ears swayed about.

「Ya—, so this is where you were, Galford-san!」
It was the Adventurer's Guild Guildmaster, Sylvie.
Galford placed a hand on his sword.

「Now is a time of war. I don't believe that there is scene for Adventurers to play here?」

She waved both of her hands.

「Ho, hold on a second! Listen to what I have to say. It won't be of any loss for you after all!」

「I need to have my forces head towards the North District as soon as possible. I do not have the time to listen to your story.」

「Yes! It's that!」

「Fumu?」

Galford separated his hand from his sword. He jerked his chin and urged her to continue.

Sylvie pointed in the direction of the wings of light.

「I'm saying~ that I want you to leave the North District's cemetery to us. Because we'll be the ones to deal with it.」

「.....The large army of Demonic Beings that are drawing near Fort Bridge Ulg, are still outside of the barrier. Instead, the being that appeared in the North District is more of a menace, that is what I have determined, you know?」

「Yup, that's true.」

「Moreover, that magic formation is.....」

「It's that thing that was seen 30 years ago, probably.」

「You are telling me to leave it to you despite knowing that, is that it?」
Sylvie vigorously nodded.

「It will be fine since Diablo-san is headed over there. Therefore, we'll be leaving that over there to you, okay?」

「.....I see.」

So, again, it is a situation that involves that Demon.

「I do acknowledge the height of his ability, but I cannot say that I am able to trust him.」

「He isn't a bad person, you know?」

「The one that destroyed the main street and its buildings due to his

emotions, put chokers on women and led them around town, refused the Greenwood Kingdom's demands and didn't hand over the princess, and fought against the town's Feudal Lord isn't a bad person?」

「Hahaha.....One part of that was your fault, wasn't it, Galford-san?」

「As I thought, I cannot trust him.」

「Really? Then, it can't be helped but.....I did warn you, okay?」

Sylvie kept her smiling face.

However, her eyes had an icy shine.

The strength of the Magician called Diablo was something that Galford himself experienced. He had also seen how Diablo fought against the gigantic Summoned Beast that was a treasure of the Elves.

So he had war potential that rivaled that of 10,000 Faltra City garrison force elites. He possibly had strength that surpassed even that.

Galford once again made an inquiry to Sylvie.

「This town has 100,000 townspeople. They are being protected by the barrier situated by the rampart's eight towers, but if the barrier were to be destroyed from the inside, then the Demonic Beings that appeared in the west would attack. It is very likely that they cannot be held at bay with only the stationed troops. Do you understand the meaning of this?」

「Yup. If Diablo-san fails, then this town will be annihilated.」

「Even further to the rear, there are a great number of towns that do not possess barriers.」

「I know that. It's fine. Even I don't want to see a lot of people dying. That's why I want to decrease the number of approaching people so that it makes it easier for Diablo-san to fight.」

「.....I will have a unit of about 1000 soldiers head there.」

「Ahh, really?」

「It will require many hands to keep vigilantes whose sense of responsibility is too strong and curious onlookers away. It should not be Adventurers that protect the townspeople, but the army.」

Sylvie expressed a smile and nodded.

「As expected of you, Galford-san! Well then, let's cooperate and do our best.」

「I'll leave the North District to you. You understand, correct? No matter what happens, the barrier towers and the Magician's Guild must be defended down to the last.」

「Yup, we'll protect Celes-san. I've left her to reliable children, so you don't

have to worry, okay?」

She waved her hand with an impression that seemed like she was a child going out to play, and descended the rampart's stairway.

Chapter 5: Demon King and Demon King

Part 1

30 minutes before the Demon King's revival—

The church struck six bells.

Diablo entered the Adventurer's Guild.

It was right at dinner time, so the first floor dining hall was crammed with people.

Among them, he found Sylvie's figure. At the same table, Emil was also there.

The Adventurers of Faltra City knew of Diablo's strength. That's why, after seeing his figure, they spontaneously just their mouths.

Diablo had that much of a grim look to cause that while not noticing it himself.

Sylvie noticed him coming.

「Yaa, Diablo-san. What's up?」

「My close friend, it is rare for you to come here alone. Did something happen?」

「Something.....That's it.....」

He was mumbling.

—Just how do Demon King ask a favor of people?

He wanted to make a commission to search for Krum.

However, the Demon Kings that Diablo knew of made orders, but none of them had asked people to search for someone.

It was simple if it were an order. All he had to say was 『Krum has disappeared. Rem and Alicia have as well. Go search for them.』 .

However, is requesting something done with that kind of attitude?

No matter how much of a communication disorder he had, he knew that some part of that was wrong.

He couldn't use the Demon King role play.

With that being the case, he had to make the request with his plain self.

He started to have a cold sweat.

Emil tilted his head.

「What is it, my close friend? You're looking pale, you know?」

「.....Ah.....Um.....」

He tried to talk about the situation.

But he had flashbacks to the failures he made in his personal relationships up until now.

There were times where he was misunderstood.

There were times where he was hurt.

There were times where he was made fun of.

There were times where, even though he comfortably connected with someone when he talked, he was made into a laughingstock.

Once he remembered that, his throat became unable to move as if it were cramping up.

Sylvie made a dubious face.

「I wonder what's wrong?」

At that time, a young Grasswalker boy—he looked like a child but his age was unknown—came running in. He had a ragged mantle on him.

「Excuse me!」

「Yaa, did something happen?」

Sylvie tilted her head and extended her ears to the other party.

The ragged Grasswalker whispered and reported something to her.

Now that he thought about it, Sylvie was the Guildmaster that managed Faltra City's Adventurer's Guild.

Emil was also the leader that managed the Warrior-type Adventurers.

—To trouble people like them with searching for a child, that might be lacking in common sense.

With his Demon King role play, he could very much say things that seemed like they were lacking common sense, but when his plain self tried to put it out, there were many “reasons to not talk about it” that came to mind.

Although Diablo was having a vague apprehension, he still couldn't think of the situation as anything but “a simple case of a lost child”. He didn't know about Rem's wretched condition, nor about Alicia's betrayal.

That's why, he couldn't break the ice.

He couldn't do anything but stand there.

Hearing the story from the ragged Grasswalker, Sylvie's eyes went wide open.

She raised her voice sounding like she was in a panic.

「Diablo-san! Rem-san and Krum-chan were taken by the Holy Knight!?」

「What was that!?」

When he raised an angry voice, several Adventurers were taken aback and fell off of their chairs.

Sylvie stood up.

「Everyone——ッ!! It's an emergency Quest!! It's to rescue Rem-san and Krum-chan! Diablo-san, where's Shera-chan!?」

「She should be searching for Krum in the Central Plaza.」

「In that case, we'll put that place off for now. Let's hurry! It seems that the Holy Knight's carriage was headed towards the North District!」

「Do you not know of the location!?」

「It isn't definite but, probably, it's the church close to the North District's wall! Since five days ago, the Holy Knight had been using that place as his headquarters!」

「As long as I know that much, it's enough! You have my gratitude!」

「.....Eh?」

Diablo rushed out of the Adventurer's Guild.

He ran.

He had not gone there in this world, but if it was the North District's church, it also existed in the game. If it were in the game, it wouldn't take even a minute for him to dash from one end of the town to the other but.....

The other world Faltra City had a diameter of more than three kilometers. It would be 30 minutes if he were walking.

Since it wasn't a straight road, it would take even more time.

—However, a level 150 body shouldn't be just for appearances! I'll have to run there!

The day had already gone dark, and the market was closed. Thanks to that, there weren't many shoppers, and he didn't have to worry about bumping into people even if he were to run with all his might.

At the Adventurer's Guild, Sylvie's eyes had become round.

「.....He said "You have my gratitude"?」

「Yeah, he said that.」

Emil nodded.

Sylvie smiled, looking delighted.

「It kinda feels like, Diablo-san now as a better vibe from when I first met him.」

「My close friend was a good guy from the start. That guy, he's an ally of women! It's because of that that I feel like I want to help him out.」

「That's true. I guess it's about time that a carriage has been prepared.
Well then, Emil-san, I'm entrusting that place to you.」

「The opponent is a Holy Knight, right? Is there even a need to help Diablo out?」

The matter at 『The Triangle Ears』 was already widespread knowledge. If it was Diablo, even a Holy Knight couldn't be his opponent, that was the rumor.

Sylvie shrugged her shoulders.

「It would be great if that were the case but.....I just can't shake this bad premonition of mine. Besides, Emil-san, there's an excellent Healing Magician in your party, right?」

She turned her gaze towards a white robed girl sitting at the neighboring table. The person in question looked downward, looking embarrassed. She was a shy person, but her ability was for sure.

Emil stood up with his sword in one hand.

「I don't really get it, but if Sylvie is the one saying it, we will obey!
Everyone, let's go!」

A great number of Adventurers other than the white robe responded and left their seats.

Sylvie gave several directions to the surrounding Adventurers.
A large wagon turned up in front of the Guild. A great number of Adventurers got on board of its load-carrying tray.

Emil asked a question.

「Sylvie, are you not going?」

「It seems like it will be a bit noisy after all. I am going to show my face over at where the Feudal Lord is.」

「I see.....We can't have us being surrounded by the army after we beat up the Holy Knight after all.」

「Yup, also, I didn't have time to say this to Diablo-san but.....It would seem that there was a person that was abducting Rem-san and Krum-chan together with Holy Knight Sadraa.」

「Hou? So a guy like that had companions?」

「It looked like it was Alicia-san.....」

She said that with a sigh mixed in.

Emil made a complicated facial expression.

「That's.....Uumu.....She is a State Knight. In terms of her position, there might be various things going on, right?」

「Yup, since it seems like there will be various situations, I'm counting on you.」

「Leave it to me! Same to you, Sylvie. We're counting on you to deal with the Feudal Lord!」

The wagon started to move.

A few minutes after that—

A shockwave spread out through Faltra City from the North District. Wings of light stabbed the heavens, and a magic formation developed in the sky.

The howl of the Demon King resounded.

Part 2

Diablo had come running and was out of breath.

It was the cemetery.

Many tombstones were mowed down, and had terribly fallen into ruin. It wasn't the result of the cemetery being abandoned.

It was the fault of the monster that was in this place.

It had curved horns and five luminous red points on its head.

It looked like a person of the Races wearing armor, but after getting closer, it had such a large build that one would have to look up at it. It was floating slightly above the ground. The surface of it looked hard like the exoskeleton of an insect. Wings of light were stretching out towards the sky from its back.

It was the Demon King Krebskrum.

At her back, there were ruins of a building that made him think "isn't that the church". Only a wall that reached a height that went up to his waist remained, and the rest was annihilated to the point that not even the roof tiles had turned into rubble.

It were as if it were removed and only a portion of the wall was left behind. At the edge of his field of vision, he caught sight of a round object that was flapping to keep afloat.

「Nn?」

It was a bird that was as round as a basketball that he recognised—It was the 『Turkey Shot』 !

The Summoned Beast went around the vicinity once and then vanished.

Before long, someone came out from the inner part of the cemetery.

As he thought. It was Shera.

「Diablo——!!」

「So it's you. Why are you here.....?」

「I mean! That's Krum-chan, right!? That's why, I, rushed over!」

「I see.」

Since the Central Plaza was closer to the North District than the Adventurer's Guild, the arrived at the same time.

「That's right! Diablo! Inside the church, it's kinda! Rem is.....」

「What!?」

「Blood.....A lot of it!」

Shera's complexion went pale.

Zowah A shiver went through Diablo's spine.

Just how much time had passed since she was taken away by Sadraa?
He couldn't imagine what could have happened at all.

However, something occurred, Rem collapsed at the church, and Krum turned into her Demon King form.

Diablo took all of the HP Recovery Potions that he had out from his waist pouch.

Altogether, there were nine tins.

「Hold on to these! I will go and attract Krebsrkum. You go and rescue Rem!」

For an instant, Shera showed feelings of fear.

However, she firmly accepted the potion tins.

「Got it. I'll, go and save Rem!」

「Yosh, go circle around to her.」

「Un! Ah, Diablo.....」

「What is it?」

「Don't get hurt, okay? Also, save Krum-chan.」

He thought about it.

Looking at the disastrous scene surrounding them, wasn't that no longer Krum, but the Demon King Krebsrkum, is what he thought.

Could things really be concluded with talking with her?

—No, even if it seems hopeless, a Demon King wouldn't speak pessimistically!

Diablo waved his black mantle.

「Who do you think you are saying that to, Shera. I am the Demon King Diablo! Just leave everything to me!」

Tears rose at the corners of her eyes and she nodded.

Shera broke into a run.

Diablo walked to the front of Krebskrum.

—So I'm not defeating her, but saving her.

Did he have the flexibility to do that? Thinking that, he looked up at the gigantic Demon King.

Part 3

He confronted Krebskrum.

Diablo stood right in front of her and glared right at her face.

「Krum, do you know who I am?」

「oooooooooooo——ツ!!」

Instead of a reply, she responded with a howl.

And then, she came swinging her fist.

This is something that Diablo couldn't have known but, the three Subordinate Knights and the Holy Knight had their lives ended by this single attack.

Its power was immense.

And that's how it should be. A body that was about twice as big as a normal person was striking their fist with a form as if they were throwing a ball after all.

—However, it isn't that difficult to dodge.

As long as one didn't wither from the howl or the power, it was only a larger size and easy to avoid.

He then became troubled.

Should he continue to call out to her without attacking just like this?

「.....Well, if it were an ally of justice, that's probably what they would do.」

「oooooooooooo——!!」

He evaded the second attack as well.

The ground was gouged, and tombstones were smashed up.

Diablo wasn't merely running from place to place.

「Krum! Unfortunately, I am not that kind. I am a Demon King after all! If you have forgotten my face and words, then I shall make you submit through sheer force! I shall make you remember even if you do not wish to!」

He struck the ground with the 『Staff of Tenma』 .

He poured magical power out.

And then, it immediately began to move.

Krebskrum made a horizontal swing.

He lowered his posture and avoided it.

The opponent's movements were like that of a child throwing a tantrum.

However, there was no doubt that the power was incredible. No matter how much of a Physical Damage Reduction effect the 《Hollow of Jet Black》 possessed, withstanding that was impossible.

That wasn't power of an interpersonal level.

In reality, it would have been better if he were to get further away and rapidly fire off magic.

However, the wall was close.

The barrier tower as well, it wasn't that far away.

If even a tower were to be destroyed from an attack aimed at Krebskrum, Faltra City would become defenseless to Demonic Beings and Demonic Beasts.

At worst, it would be fine if the stone wall were to be destroyed, but only the barrier tower needed to be protected.

Diablo struck his staff on the ground.

He poured magical power out.

—Next, another eleven more places huh.

What he was preparing was an establishment-type large-scale magic.

It wasn't the normal 《Aria Magic》 , but close to 《Formation-type Magic》 .

Although it takes time to prepare, since it was meaningless unless the opponent was within the established location, it couldn't be used in personal battles but.....

Krebskrum's way of fighting was no different from a child's.

If he saw through the pattern, there might be a chance to activate it.

—As it is right now, it would be easy if she were to only swing her fist about though?

Krebskrum stopped her movements.

So it wouldn't be that easy.

The opponent inhaled a deep breath.

Diablo intuitively understood. Corresponding with it, he fired magic.

「《Volcanic Wall》 !!」

The ground exploded up, and flames spouted out. A tall wall of flames that would make one wonder if it reached the sky was made.

It was a level 80 Fire and Earth attribute magic.

Having inhaled such a deep breath, Krebskrum then breathed out that breath.

It was a so-called 《Breath》 . Moreover, it was black.

—So it's a 《Darkness Breath》 .

In MMORPG Cross Reverie, Breath was categorized as a pure 《Attribute Attack》 .

Since it wasn't magic, Reflection due to the 《Demon King's Ring》 didn't work.

Since it wasn't a physical attack, Physical Damage Reduction due to the 《Hollow of Jet Black》 didn't work either.

In many cases, in order to cope with that, Diablo would choose the appropriate equipment and fortify himself, but he couldn't perfectly defend against all various attacks.

In some way or another, Krebskrum's Breath was intercepted by the 《Volcanic Wall》 .

「Hmph.....The difference in parameters is covered by technique.」

「Fufufufu.....」

Krebskrum spread out both hands and laughed.

He understood that the opponent he was fighting was Krum. He also had the feeling of wanting to save her.

However, being sneered at by the person he was competing against, as a Gamer, that wasn't pleasant.

Because it had been a one-sided defensive battle up until now, it couldn't be helped but.....

—Just watch, I will conquer you!

Diablo struck the ground with his staff, and stopped his feet.

On both of Krebskrum's arms, purple lightning was crackling and running over them.

「So it's going to be a lightning-type attack!?」

Diablo kicked the ground and escaped.

A countless number of lightning bolts chased after him from the sky.

Normally, it should have been lightning that came down with only a single attack, but as if it were attacking the whole area, it came down one after another.

—This is, magic! 《Lightning Meteor》 !? Or is it something different!?

The corners of Diablo's lips curved.

「I had thought that I had shown this to you during the fight with the Demonic Being Ourou but.....As I thought, it would seem that you have lost Krum's memories, haven't you!?」

The 《Demon King's Ring》 activated.

The lightning that came coming down, all of it was reflected.
A countless number of lightning bolts poured down upon Krebskrum.
It was an attack that made him worry for an instant that it might kill her.
A white smoke rose up.
But contrary to his worries, Krebskrum seemed like she had not received any damage.
Diablo clicked his tongue.

「Your Magic Defense is way too high!?」
If this were a monster that was implemented by the administration, it reached a level where there would be complaints from Players that were using the Magician-type build.
「How about this! 『Stardust』 !」
He fired Drain Type Magic. Since it was learned at level 30, putting it bluntly, it was a weak magic.
Its visual effect was showy.
Sparkling hexagonal ice crystals fluttered about.
Naturally, it wasn't magic that would bestow damage against an opponent like Krebskrum.
However, there was an interesting way of using this.
When used by a Magician with a short charge time like Diablo, it was possible to fire it in rapid succession.
He hit her with about five shots in succession.
The surrounding area around the opponent had become filled with 『Stardust』 's visual effect.
It was a smokescreen.
Magic had various uses even against opponents that it had no effect on.
While it was disturbed by a low level magic, Diablo opened enough of a gap, and struck the ground with his staff.
He poured magical power out.

「OAAAAAAAAA————ツ!!」

Krebskrum raised a howl.
He didn't overlook the breath before a 『Darkness Breath』 .
Her fists couldn't reach him.
If it was magic, it was possible to reflect it.
At this distance, there shouldn't be any mistakes.

A gigantic object came flying at him.

—A coffin!?

What was thrown at him with enough physical strength that it would burst the ground apart just by getting hit by it, was a coffin that was buried in the ground.

Due to 《Stardust》's derangement, being unable to see the opponent's movements backfired on him.

He couldn't avoid them.

Part 4

Shera walked to a location that was once a building.

From the remained walls, the floor, and the benches, she could guess that it was formerly a church.

She hadn't noticed when she was doing reconnaissance with her Summoned Beast, but there was a large amount of red liquid thrown about on the floor. It wasn't an amount close to that of a bucket that was flipped upside down.

「Hii!?」

Realizing that it was blood, Shera let out a small scream.

If this much blood had come out, there was probably absolutely no way that Rem was alive.

A chill ran down her spine.

However, all of that blood wasn't Rem's.

Taking a better look, bodies of people were scattered on the ground.

It was four people's worth of bodies.

Armor wearing men were—

Even after looking at the surroundings, there was nothing but their lower halves.

Shera had no idea as to where their bodies from the waist up had gone. How their upper bodies had been blown off and evaporated the moment that they were hit by Krebskrum's fist was something that she couldn't even imagine.

—More importantly, I need to see to Rem!

She walked over to a location where unidentifiable ominous utensils were scattered about.

Shera shouted.

「Rem————ツ!!」

She rushed over to her.

Rem was collapsed at the place Shera found her using the 《Turkey Shot》.

Her black hair was wet with the sticking blood, and there were scars of her being cut and stabbed by a sword on several places of her body.

How terrible. These wounds weren't things caused by Krebskrum, but were probably done by Sadraa and the others.

「Rem! Rem!」

There was no answer.

Shera crouched down beside her.

She felt like she was about to cry.

But she didn't have time for that.

Long before checking to see whether she was alive or not, Sera took out the potion tins that she received from Diablo.

「Rem! You can't die on me!」

She took off the cork stopper that was fitted into the metal tin. She sprinkled the liquid inside over Rem.

Shera prayed.

While she was praying, she sprinkled the potions one after another.

Not thinking about things like whether she was using too much or how it was meaningless if Rem was dead, she used all nine potions on her.

「Rem! Live! Don't die! You've finally become free, right! Even though you worked so hard up until now! Ahh, God, I'm begging you! Please don't take Rem away yet! She had worked so hard to protect the seal for the sake of everyone this whole time, and she finally became free! She's going to run a cafe together with me! So please don't take her away! She's worked so hard so I think it should be fine if you overlook her for a bit!」

Fuwari She felt like a warm light poured down from the sky.

Koho (Cough).....

「.....Please don't.....decide that on your own.....*Kohoh* (Cough).....I still haven't, said I would do it with you.」

「God————ツ!!」

Shera jumped at her.

「That hurts, Baka Sera!?」

「But!」

「Ahh, but.....It hurts. Though the feelings from a while ago are gone.....」

「Amazing! The potions that Diablo created are amazing, aren't they!」

「.....I see. So that's how it was. As expected, of Diablo.」
Shera asked a question.

「Why were you in a place like this? I mean, Rem, you were dying, and Krum is raging about.」

Rem made an anguished face.

「.....We were.....betrayed by Alicia.」

「No way!? Why would Alicia-san do that!? Are you sure it wasn't some kind of mistake!?」

「.....I also want to believe that it was a lie but.....It would seem that she desired the revival of the Demon King that killed people of the Races from the beginning.」

「EHH!? Why!? In, in that case, it's as if.....」

「Yes, Alicia was a Demon King Worshipper.」

「No way.....」

Hearing the whole story from Rem, Sera became sad.

Large tears came falling out.

「Cruel.....so cruel.....」

「.....Seriously. Thanks to that, I made Krum go through a sad experience. Most likely, losing someone that she had become friends with was the key to her Demon King awakening.」

「That's just, terrible.」

「.....Please don't cry like that.」

「I mean, both Krum.....And you, Rem.....I feel so sad for you.....」

「I certainly was dying, but it's something that happens often if you're an Adventurer.」

「Having your heart ache, doesn't happen often.」

「.....Yeah, but.....Since you came here for me, it doesn't hurt anymore.」

Rem raised her body up.

Shera supported her back.

「Are, are you alright?」

「.....Of course. Nn?」

A large quantity of potions had fallen on the floor.

Rem narrowed her eyes.

「This is, did you use all of it?」

「Yup」

「.....These were handed over to you by Diablo, right?」
「That's right.」

Zushin There was an earth tremor.
Diablo and Krebskrum were fighting nearby.

Rem clenched her teeth.

「Weren't these, all of the HP Recovery Potions that Diablo possessed!? So isn't he fighting against the awakened Krebskrum without any items!?」

「Ahh.....!？」

Once more, an earth tremor was transmitted to them.

And then, a great number of footsteps came drawing near. There was also the metallic sound of armor.

Could it be companions of the Holy Knight!? Shera's body hardened from that thought.

Rem lowered her voice and talked.

「.....Run away, if it's you alone, then.」

「I don't wanna! I absolutely won't.....do that anymore.....To let there be a chance that you might die, Rem.」

Shera wiped her tears with her hand.

And then she prepared her bow. She put an arrow to it.

From the crumbling wall—an armor figured man showed his face.

It was golden armor that they wouldn't mistake for anything else.

「Oh, we hit the jackpot. Beautiful ladies, please be relieved. Now that my great self has arrived, everything will be alright!」

「Emil!?」

Shera and Rem raised their voices at the same time.

Other Adventurers also made their appearance from behind him.

Part 5

Diablo was blown away.

—By something like a coffin!

He hit his back on a tombstone. The tombstone broke.

For a moment, he stopped breathing.

If it weren't for the Physical Damage Reduction due to the 《Hollow of Jet

Black》, he probably would have been finished with that hit.
When Diablo stood up again, he immediately started running.
Coffins came flying in succession at the place that he had fallen.

「Pretty good.....Despite being Krum, you really are scheming, aren't you.....」

He then realized that throwing objects was one of the attacks that children often do.

In the end, Krebskrum was a child.

With her possessing powerful magic and 『Darkness Breath』, she might have other various special attacks but.....

She chose the way of throwing objects that she picked up.

If he were able to anticipate it, he could read the aim from the throwing motion. The coffins were big, but it wasn't that they couldn't be avoided.

——Even so, I've taken considerable damage.

Diablo felt around for something in his waist pouch.

Nothing was felt on his fingertips.

「Come to think of it, I did such a thing.....」

He had entrusted all of his HP Recovery Potions to Shera.

It was fine if it had saved Rem but.....

Because he had always done a Solo Play, he had no items meant to be used on other people. He had not grown accustomed to that kind of situation.

Potapota Fresh blood was dropping down at his feet.

He was bleeding from the head.

This might be the first time since he came to this world that he was so clearly injured.

「OOOOOOO——!!」

Krebskrum raised a howl.

Zunzun She faced the wall and started walking.

——What does she plan on doing?

Walking up to the rampart that surrounded Faltra City, Krebskrum then struck her fist on it.

——Could it be, is she going to destroy the barrier tower!?

If she were to aim for that from the inside with this kind of timing, he had no way of protecting it.

However, it didn't turn out like that.

Krebskrum tore out a portion of the rampart.

She then hoisted that overhead.

「Uooooooooooooo——Nッ!!」

「Oi, you couldn't be.....」

Diablo panicked and started running.

She threw it at him.

「Dammitt!」

Thinking about it from the opponent's standpoint, her fists were avoided, her Breath was defended against, and her magic was reflected.

The only action that displayed any effect was "throwing things".

She was not mistaken in constructing a strategy with that as the key point.

The portion of Faltra City's rampart came falling down.

He was nearly crushed.

「Uoh! That was close! At some point, Cross Reverie turned into Dookey Koog!?」

Did the administration plan on giving the last boss this kind of attack!?

From the inner part of the cemetery, *gasha gasha*, the sound of metal clanking approached him.

A golden armored figure appeared.

「Ooi, my close friend!」

「Do not come over here! You will get rolled up in my magic you know!?」

「Yeah, I'll leave it to you! I came only to say this—Rem-chan is safe! Shera-chan as well! They've already been taken out from the church so there's no need to worry about them!」

That was the best good news that he could ask for.

For a moment, his facial expression turned into a broad smile.

Emil stuck up his thumb, and went 「Good!」 with his teeth sparkling.

「My close friend! Go get 'em!」

「Fu.....That is some pretty good work considering it is you. As a reward, I shall show you a maximum magic of mine. It has just been completed.」

「What?」

Diablo struck the ground with his staff.

He poured magical power out.

「With this, it is the thirteenth point.....It is complete.」

Emil asked him a question.

「Is that magic?」

「Umu, in this world, this kind of magic exists as well. Though, it is a so-called 『Forbidden Spell』 .」

「Wh, what, did you say a Forbidden Spell!?」

「Kukuku.....」

—In the game's setting that is!

It established magical power points in thirteen spots and was something close to a 《Formation-type Magic》.

Its power was high but because it took too much time, he almost never used it.

If the opponent were to leave the effective range during the time it was being established, there would be no meaning to it. And when the range was made too wide, the power would drop by a corresponding amount. This time, because Krebskrum had moved over to the rampart in the middle of the battle, he had established it so that it would just barely graze the rampart. He decided to have them forgive him for melting its surface a bit. At this rate, all of the rampart might be made into throwing pieces.

Since the tower meant for the barrier was out of the range, it should be alright.

He did have a bit of anxiety.

Because for Diablo, this was a magic that he was using for the first time in this world.

The effect of magic was subtly different from the game. He didn't know what would happen unless he tried using it.

He turned his gaze towards Krebskrum.

「You had best come to your senses with my attack,
Krum..... 《Apocalypse Abyss》 ツ!!」

Pillars of light rose up from the thirteen magical power points.

A tornado sprung forth within the range.

The four classical chemical elements raged about, and physical objects changed into dust entirely.

Lightning ran around, magma blew about, and things that were frozen burst in an instant.

This magic possessed the four elements of earth, water, fire, and wind. Against a being of the Darkness attribute, it had an extremely high effect.

「————ツ!!」

Krebskrum raised a scream.

Even that voice of hers, due to the magic's strong effect, did not leak outside of the tornado. That's how it should have been.

「OAAAAAAAAA————ツ!!」

A suffering voice could be heard.

Was it overflowing?
The influence was extending to outside of the set range.
The rampart that should have been at a distance where it would only barely come into contact with the magic was losing its shape.
Emil was at his wits' end.
「O, oi, my close friend! You overdid it!」
「This isn't the time for that.....Even this place has gotten dangerous!」
The ground below their feet started to crumble.
Diablo started to step back, and then finally kicked the ground.
「You should run! If you do not wish to die that is!」
「Guhaaa—!?」
Emil broke into a run while raising a scream.
From the broken up ground, the bottom could be seen.
A current of magical power was swirling about. The four classical chemical elements that were spouting out became a tornado tinged with lightning and rose to the heavens.
It enveloped the rampart that should have been outside the range, as well as the collapsed church.
Finally, a majority of the North District's cemetery was swallowed up.

Part 6

The ground was gouged out in a bowl shape.
All of the things that were once there were completely destroyed.
At the bottom of that—
There was someone standing there.
Glaring at the person at the bottom from the edge of the bowl, Diablo was surprised.
—It couldn't be, you're not telling me that there was no damage to her, right!?
Honestly, he didn't have any spare MP to rapidly fire this much magic.
In the end, did he not make enough preparations?
Although it was right after she awakened, when he thought about how he was trying to defeat the Demon King, was there a need to prepare a large quantity of the highest grade of MP Recovery Potions?
Next to Diablo, Emil raised a voice of admiration.
「Uoo.....Incredible.....The cemetery has disappeared.....!?」
「You should escape while you have the chance. The Demon King is still going strong.」
「Wh, what!?」

At the bottom of the bowl, the Demon King shouted.

「Uoooooooooooooo!!」

Krebskrum's surface broke.

The right arm that she had raised overhead fell like a broken stone statue.

—So it really did have an effect!

Honestly, he felt relieved.

If she were to have no damage with that, she would have to have been said to actually be "undefeatable for Magicians".

On Krebskrum's surface, a large amount of minute cracks set in.

But even with that, the opponent didn't lose her fighting spirit.

She tightly gripped her remaining left hand.

At the edge of the bowl, figures apart from Diablo and Emil appeared.

「Ku—ru—mu——ゞ!!」

Vun vun The one that was waving her hands was Shera.

As well as Rem.

Diablo felt that that was dangerous. Krebskrum didn't have the memories of when she was Krum.

Even if it was Rem and Shera, the possibility that they would be attacked was high.

Krebskrum kicked the ground.

Diablo readied the 《Staff of Tenma》 .

With a single jump, Krebskrum leapt up close to Rem and Shera.

Emil raised a panicked voice.

「O, oi!? Isn't this pretty bad!? What's the meaning of this!? That monster is.....Krum-chan!?」

「That's right!」

There wasn't any time to give a detailed explanation.

Rem and Shera were already too close. This was different from with the Demonic Beings. Weak magic would have no effect.

—What do I do!?

Rem spread out both of her hands.

「.....Krum, I am doing fine. You've done enough. Please come back.」

Shera held out a biscuit.

「Look! Let's eat this together!」

Demon King Krebskrum raised her left fist overhead.

「OOOO.....OOOOOOO.....」

Diablo couldn't do anything but watch. Even if it was just a little bit, if the two of them were to move away, he would have any number of magic spells that he could fire.

He had yet to run out of MP.

However, it was also certain that Krebskrum had reacted to the two's voices.

Will you return, Krum?

—Come back!

Diablo prayed.

Krebskrum dropped her fist.

The gigantic left hand, was held out to Rem and Shera.

Rem touched the cracked fingertip.

「It must have hurt.....It's alright now. I am fine. Now then, let's go home.」

「Here, it's a biscuit. Let's go to the cafe again!」

Shera placed a biscuit on the large hand.

The cracks on Krebskrum's surface rapidly increased.

「OOOO.....OOOOO.....」

Krebskrum's body started to crumble.

The winged giant, lost its shape while dropping fragments, just like a stone statue that withered from the passing of many months and years and then collapsed from its own weight.

There were no longer any wings of light that stretched to the sky.

The magic formation that covered the sky also disappeared.

The crumbling fragments turned to sand, and were blown away by the wind.

A little girl with a biscuit place on both of her hands was squatting down.

She had horns and a tail.

Her violet eyes gazed at Rem.

「So you.....lived through it -nodana.」

「.....Yes, I was saved by Diablo and Shera.」

Rem held Krum tight.

Krum talked with a frail voice.

「Maou needs to apologise -noda. I broke my promise with you, Rem.」

「.....Yes.」

「When I thought that you were killed, Rem, the inside of my head turned completely red.....」

「.....That is, because you are a Demon King, Krum. It's something that can't be helped. Even if no one approves of you, I, will stand on your side.」

Shera hugged the two of them tightly.

「Me too! I'm also an ally to both of you!」

Diablo lowered his staff.

「Fuu.....」

Come to think of it, there was one more person that saw the whole story. Beside him, Emil folded his arms and stood there.

「It sure is a good thing, isn't it, the thing called friendship of beautiful women!」

「This matter, how do you plan on reporting it?」

「Fufu.....My close friend, you would prefer to not stand instead of be praised for your achievements, right? No need to worry, my great self is an ally of women! I won't do anything that would make those girls cry!」

「Come to think of it, you were that kind of guy, weren't you.」

So there was no need to worry.

He felt exhausted.

He felt like he was going to collapse.

Bata bata Blood fell to the ground.

—Come to think of it, I received a good amount of damage.

However, a Demon King would never show themselves looking like they were about to collapse!

Diablo re-motivated himself.

Part 7

The citizens in the vicinity are probably in chaos—Saying that, Emil and the other Adventurers got on board a carriage and left in order to maintain the public order.

Diablo heard the circumstances from Rem, and learned about the matter with Alicia.

「Is that so.....」

He didn't have any words for it.

When he thought "so I was betrayed again", his chest hurt.

However, there might have been some kind of circumstance for it. It was like that with the time with Sera.

He couldn't simply forgive her when thinking about how Rem was almost killed, but he couldn't simply hate her either.

When he thought that it was about time that they return to the inn, a cheerful voice could be heard from far away.

「Yaa, Diablo-san! You did some good work out there!」

Diablo snorted his nose.

「Hmph.....The matter this time, you all had also had a part in it. You should be proud that you were of use to me.」

As he thought, he couldn't honestly say his thanks.

Sylvie made a wry smile.

「Well thank you for that. I'm also happy that you protected the town. By the way, there's something that I kind of want to ask but.....」

Krum was at the end of her gaze.

Rem and Sera were holding her hands.

Diablo had a bad premonition.

「What is it?」

「That girl is the Demon King Krebskrum, isn't she?」

The smile disappeared from Sylvie's facial expression.

—This girl, so she saw it.

Sylvie was the Adventurer's Guild Guildmaster.

And then, the number one mission of Adventurers is "to prevent the Demon King's revival".

So it was impossible to continue hiding it.

「If she were, what do you plan to do? She has also become my property though?」

He said that with an extraordinarily overbearing tone.

He decided to press through with his usual Demon King role play.

If she were to consider the riskiness of fighting against Diablo, wouldn't she approve of Krum who had now become harmless, is what he was hoping for.

However, Sylvie's facial expression remained steadfast.

「I can't leave her at large. It's because I am the master of the Adventurer's Guild. Even after using magic that was enough to annihilate the cemetery, you weren't able to defeat her, right?」

—So she saw that much.

「Are you saying that you will fight me, Sylvie!？」

「I have faith in you, Diablo-san, but I don't think I can place my trust in Krebskrum who had killed a Holy Knight.」

Rem shouted.

「That guy, was nothing but a murderer!」

「If Diablo-san weren't here, this town would have been destroyed by Krebskrum, you know? Right now, a large army of Demonic Beings are invading from the west. Did you know about that?」

「Wha.....!？」

Krum shook her head.

「Maou didn't call for them! Maou told Edelgart to wait at the forest, but Maou didn't call for them!」

「That kind of thing, it's something that we know nothing about. Instead, I think that this should be considered a good opportunity, don't you?」

It was a cold voice.

Diablo breathed a sigh.

「You are surprisingly very straight-laced.」

「You need to tighten up on places that need to be tightened after all. I intend on protecting the tomorrow for the people of the Races. That's what an Adventurer is, right?」

「So you do not believe that Krum is safe.」

「Your persuasive power is lacking. I will put my absolute faith in someone the first time around. But if I'm betrayed, I won't put my faith in them a second time. Simple, right?」

「You, do you believe you can win against me?」

He analyzed the difference between their abilities.

Sylvie had used Bad Status Magic like 《Bind》 and 《Silent》 .

In the end, she was a Magician. Diablo had 《Magic Reflection》 . There was no losing element.

「Could it be that you're misunderstanding my fighting style?」

He felt intensity from her.

He couldn't allow himself to lose the mental battle here.

However, making an enemy of Sylvie was not a good plan, that was what his instincts told him.

—When I think of this as a speech before a battle, I've really screwed up! Rather, it was a choice in an adventure game. Moreover, it was the type where one would immediately go non-stop to the bad ending if the wrong

choice was made.

Being a one shot round without a save and load option, this was most likely risking Krum's life.

—Hold on a second.

Why are the two choices "fight Sylvie" or "kill Krum"? This is a world where it's possible to negotiate and possible to use magic.

The choices should be infinite!

Diablo asked a question to Krum.

「You, do you find your lifestyle here in this town to be valuable?」

「Nn? Of course -nanoda.」

「But, due to you rampaging earlier, as it is now, it does not seem like you will be able to live in the town.」

「Mu.....That is troubling -noda.」

「That being the case, this Diablo shall teach you one thing. There is a method that will let you continue to eat biscuits in this town without having your life aimed at by Adventurers.」

Sylvie leaned her body forward.

「That kind of method, there's no way something like that is——!？」

「You are the one that said it, Sylvie.」

「EH!？」

Krum talked while being somewhat excited.

「Ohh, that's good! Diablo's idea is good -noda! Maou wants to eat biscuits -noda!」

Rem and Shera seemed to approve as well.

「.....If there is such a method, by all means, please do it.」

「That's right! Even though she properly returned to normal, it's terrible that she's being targetted by Adventurers!」

Diablo nodded.

And then, he took out a white stone from his pouch.

It was the 《Contract Magic Gem》 .

「From here on, I will cast 《Slave Magic》 on you! If you refuse, we will have no choice but to fight!」

Krum opened her eyes wide.

「You are saying that you will make Maou a slave!？」

「That's right! You should become a servant of this Diablo!」

Sylvie was also surprised.

「EHHH!? Diablo-san, isn't that impossible!?」

「You were the one that said it, weren't you. "You would put your absolute faith in someone the first time around. But if you're betrayed, you won't put your faith in them a second time" that is what you said!」

「I, I did say that but.....」

With a *Hmph*, Diablo stuck his chest out.

「In that case! Shouldn't you "put your absolute faith in my 『Slave Magic』 once"!?」

「Uwah.....You started saying such unreasonable things so grandly!」

「Hou? So you are one that would withdraw what you yourself had said when the circumstances go bad. That kind of thing, as one that stands above others, it's somewhat questionable, isn't it? Do you have anything like credibility?」

「It can't be. I didn't think that Diablo-san would talk about the credibility of a person that stands above others.」

Sylvie breathed a sigh.

She looked at Krum.

「But, would the Demon King Krebskrum, accept that 『Slave Magic』 ?」

Krum looked like she was thinking about it.

Shera placed a hand on her shoulder. She expressed a smile.

「It's alright! I'm also enslaved to Diablo, but once you get used to it, it'll be at a level where it only becomes a bother when washing your neck!」

「What was that—!?」

Krum's eyes went round.

Rem nodded.

「.....Certainly, there isn't any inconvenience other than that. After that, you will be looked at with inquisitive eyes though. Ahh, I am also enslaved to Diablo.」

She grabbed her own choker.

Shera talked sounding like she was having fun.

「To begin with, you stand out if you're together Diablo anyway, so it's all the same!」

「.....I wouldn't say that it's the same, but it's better than having your life targetted by the Adventurer's Guild.」

Going *Fumu fumu*, Krum nodded.

The corner of Sylvie's mouth twitched.

「Are you serious? Diablo-san.....Are you serious, about doing that to the Demon King?」

「Only if that will get you to consent to keeping her here.」
Diablo glared at her.

Shera begged.

「Believe in us, Sylvie-san!」

「.....Going by the reasoning from earlier, you should believe in us once. Sylvie, I don't want believe that you are a person that would go back on your own words.」

Rem pursued her with reasoning.

Krum raised up both hands.

「Yosh! I will allow it! You should use that 『Slave Magic』 or whatever on Maou -noda!」

Sylvie went and—

「It's my loss. Diablo-san.」

Raised the white flag. She made a dry laugh.

「Haha.....If you are going to cast 『Slave Magic』 on Krum-chan, then I have no other choice but to believe you just this once. Although I don't know if that magic will show any effect on Demon King Krebskrum.」

「Who do you think I am? I am Demon King Diablo!」
Krum threw out her chest.

「I shall allow it! You should use that magic without delay -noda!」
Diablo nodded.

He held the white gem in his hand.

And then, he remembered the procedure that Shera did to the Summoned Beast the other day.

——Huh? I, have to kiss Krum?

Sylvie was watching.

Naturally, Shera was as well.

Rem tilted her head.

「Do you not know how to do it? Then please chant this just as I say it.」
——Okay.

Diablo resigned himself.



Epilogue

At the time when the wings of light spread out in Faltra City's North District—

Alicia Cristella was inside of the large army of Demonic Beings. Surrounded by those strange-looking beings of various sizes, they were on standby with the intent of attacking Faltra City.

Edelgart was next to her.

「Ohh, Krebskrum-sama is～!!」

She raised a voice of delight, and those in the surroundings were in agreement with her.

「Just as～, Alicia said!」

「No, I simply did what I was instructed to do by Priest-sama. I made a person important to Krum-sama, and then devised a plan that would destroy that person.」

「Difficult～, thing.....Incredible」

「For me, who is a weak person of the Races, I can only do this much.....」

「If Demon King-sama, revived～, everyone can receive magical power! Even wounds can be healed! Can win against Races? Can win!」
Hearing Edelgart's words, the Demonic Beings raised their voices.

The light wings that appeared in Faltra City stabbed the heavens.
A magic formation developed in the sky.

That itself is proof of Krebskrum-sama's existence! is what the Demonic Beings clamored.

Alicia's set up had succeeded.

Her ambition was being carried out.

She calmly waited for the moment of delight.

The Demonic Beings were waiting for Faltra City's barrier to be broken.

If Demon King Krebskrum, who had awakened inside of the town, destroyed either the Magician's Guild or one of the barrier's towers, the Demonic Beings would rush into the town.
Faltra City would surely become the place of the festival that congratulated

the Demon King's revival.

There were many Demonic Beings that got on board with Edelgart's proposition. It wasn't just the 100 Demonic Beings of the Edelgart faction. The Demonic Beings of the Baal faction had also come.

Orou had also come.

The light wings had appeared. The magic formation that indicated the Demon King also spread out.

Just when would the barrier be broken!?

The moment of delight—

didn't come.

Everything returned to silence.

Edelgart muttered 「Krebskrum-sama's presence became smaller」, and Alicia discerned that her strategy had failed.

The one that drew near to where those two were first, was Orou.

A gigantic owl that had grown a single horn and was flying in the sky raised a stern voice.

「What is the meaning of this? Demon King Krebskrum-sama's light wings and magic formation have vanished?」

It was a tone that was criticizing them.

The Demonic Beings that were in the surroundings also started to blame Edelgart and Alicia.

The Baal faction thought about nothing but killing people of the Races. Once they understood that that was impossible, they quickly withdrew to the forest.

However, maybe because they had a grudge from the battle the other day, the Orou faction didn't calm down.

「We shall have you take responsibility for having a great number of Demonic Beings undergo a fool's errand.」

Going "That's right! That's right!", the Demonic Beings raised their fists overhead.

The Demonic Beings of the Edelgart faction had those that advocated for her, but conversely, those that supported Orou also began to appear. That was probably inevitable.

This was the second time that Edelgart's dispatching of troops had failed. Not once had they passed through Fort Bridge Ul.

And then, the failure of this strategy was also Alicia's responsibility.

However, to be killed by Demonic Beings out of revenge for the failure

without destroying the Races, it was too meaningless.

Alicia was mortified.

Edelgart whispered into her ear.

「Once signal made~, run.....to town?」

「.....ツ!？」

Going *waa waa*, the fellow Demonic Beings quarreled.

They were originally beings that were rougher than the Races. Because of that, they normally lived separated from each other so that they wouldn't face each other.

Even though the quarrelling would change into them killing each other, it didn't require that much time to do so.

Naturally, the Demonic Beings bared their fangs at Alicia, who was the cause of the failure as well as a person of the Races.

Edelgart made her lance rotate.

「《Swing Spike》 ツ!!」

Suddenly using a 《Martial Art》 , she mowed down the Demonic Beings that drew near.

The opening of hostilities began.

With their companions knocked down, the Demonic Beings of the Ouroou faction pressed forward to Edelgart.

At that time, the one that kicked the Demonic Beings about and came running was, Edelgart's favorite mount.

It was the Demonic Beast 《Grand Dragon》 .

Possessing a sturdy body, it could dash across the earth faster than any monster. Naturally, even the Demonic Beings couldn't overtake it.

「Run!」

Being ordered to do so, Alicia ran.

She didn't look behind her.

She might have her upper half of her body taken by a Demonic Being's fangs in the next moment.

But even so, she couldn't do anything but believe in Edelgart.

It was fine if she became the cornerstone for the sake of annihilating the Races.

However, becoming prey of a diversion in a place like this, it was nothing but dying in vain.

An impact ran through her on her flank.

—I was killed!?

It was enough of an impact for her to think that her internal organs were smashed.

However, what hit her flank was, an arm that held her.

It was Edelgart.

Blood was gushing out from her head.

「WHA!? Were you severely hit, Edelgart-sama!?」

「Don't ta~lk.....you'll bite tongue..」

「Even I have an understanding of horsemanship. I am not that much of an amateur.」

She was at least able to talk without injuring her tongue while on horseback.

Edelgart nodded.

「Then.....could it be.」

Alicia was pulled up, and she straddled the Grand Dragon.

After that, Edelgart suddenly collapsed.

If the Grand Dragon hadn't supported her with one hand, she probably would have fallen off.

「Edelgart-sama!?」

Alicia frantically grabbed the reins.

With there being a countless number of small thorns on it, and her not wearing any gloves, a sharp pain ran through her hands.

When she supported Edelgart who had collapsed, her hand became sticky with blood.

They separated from the Demonic Beings that were chasing them.

The Grand Dragon was strangely fast.

They passed through Fort Bridge Ulg but—surprisingly, the guards were gone. Could it be that there was an evacuation order because the number of Demonic Beings was too large?

They approached Faltra City.

Alicia bit her lip.

She wanted to annihilate the Races. She wanted to see a world of beautiful Demonic Beings.

However, the current Alicia wanted to save Edelgart with all her heart.

To be continued

Afterword

Thank you very much for reading the third volume of 『Isekai Maou to Shoukan Shoujo no Dorei Majutsu』.

This is the author 『Murasaki Yukiya』.

With this volume, Demon King Krebskrum that was sealed in Rem has been revived. Diablo, he had ventured to revive the Demon King, and defeat it himself! is what he was enthusiastic about but.....it was unexpectedly a little girl. He couldn't win against a little girl. Various things happened, and in the end became Demon King VS Demon King.

(Diablo destroying the rampart is kind of talked about in another series of the same world view.)

This time, the cafe made its appearance, and I wrote about the sweets of this world. And then, a scene of the 『Slave Magic』 that is in the title was finally shown. It's because Diablo was asleep in the first volume.

Since there is a break for the tale, the next volume I'm thinking what if it headed towards a new development while pursuing the Alicia and Edelgart plot. It is scheduled for the beginning of next year.

This is some advertisement—The comicalization by means of Fukuda Naoto-sensei has started at WEB manga Niconico Seiga 『Wednesday Series』. It is currently free and open to the public.

『Altina the Sword Princess』 (Famitsu Bunko)

『Afterschool Gamefriend, The Season You Were Here』 (MF Bunko J)

『Hourou Yuusha wa Kinka to Odoru』 (Fujimi Fantasia Bunko)

『Kantai Collection – KanColle – Zui no Umi, Hou no Sora』 Novelization
(Kadokawa Sneaker Bunko)

Each of them are in publication.

On 9/25, in Overlap Novels in B6 size, a series called 『Isekai Cheat Sensou』 will start. If I were to give a rough exposition of it, it's Cheat VS Cheat. Please have a look at it.

Thanks—

Tsurusaki Takahiro-sensei, thank you very much for the wonderful illustrations. The feeling of challenging the limits was enjoyable!

Designer from Afterglow, Ooishi-sama, thank you very much this time as

well!

Shouji-sama who is in charge of editing, I am truly grateful that you gave me enough freedom that I thought 「Is it really alright for me to do this so carefreely?」 (Also, I am looking forward to the next time you're on the radio).

Everyone of the Kodansha Lightnovel Bunko Editorial Department and people of the staff. Family and friends that gave me support.

And then, I give my highest level of gratitude to the dear readers that read this. Thank you very much!