

あすみ圭

Asumi Kei

# 月が導く異世界道中

Tsukiga Michibiku Isekai Dōchū

8



アルファポリス

# **Tsuki ga Michibiku Isekai Douchuu**

**– Moon-led Journey Across Another World –**

**- Volume 8 -**

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**[ Reigokai: Isekai Translations ]**



# 主な登場人物

Shiki

元は「リッチ」と呼ばれる  
アンデッドモンスター。  
真と契約したことで  
人の姿となった。  
ロツガルドでは  
真の助手として  
活動中。

Jin

ロツガルド学園の生徒。  
真の教え子達の  
リーダー役。

Tomoe

しん  
元は「蜃」と呼ばれる竜。  
真と契約したことによって  
人の姿を得た。  
日本刀に強いこだわりを持つ。

Amelia

真の教え子で  
弓と魔術を巧みに操る。  
講師である真のことよりも  
識を尊敬している。

Kahara Sairitz

ローレル連邦で  
要職に就いている女性。  
穏やかな物腰ながら、  
なかなかの策略家。

Lily

グリトニア帝国の  
第二皇女。  
学園祭の来賓として  
ロツガルドに  
訪れている。

Mio

元は巨大な蜘蛛。  
真と契約して、人の姿を得た。  
見た目とは裏腹に武闘派。

Misumi Makoto

本作の主人公。  
親の都合で異世界へ召喚  
されちゃった悲運な高校生。  
商人と先生の仕事で大変だが、  
欠かさず日記をつけている。



魔族領

ステラ砦

王都ウル

帝都ルイナス

リミア王国

グリトニア  
帝国

アイオン王国  
ボズダ

学園都市  
ロツガルド

ロビン

ツィーゲ

ナオイ

ローレル  
連邦

黄金街道

果ての荒野

月が道中  
Tsukiga Michibiku Izakai Douchi  
世界地図

# Chapter 134

## The enemy of my enemy is?

“That last one looked pretty fun-desu wa ne” (Mio)

“Umu, maybe I should also try it once. It’s an interesting idea-ja” (Tomoe)

“...A Shining Wizard and a midair combo. Don’t tell me Yuno is the same type as Eris” (Makoto)

The team battle finals concluded.

He may have shown surprising defensive power and toughness, but it didn’t turn into as much of a close game as I thought, and Ilumgand sunk.

In the middle of it, there was something that caught my attention, but that was also finished when I saw the midair combo.

As the Hopelace’s second son, he talked about authority, showed a fight that was completely different from his general notion, and without being able to show off much in the match, it finished.

His relatives must have come to see him as well. How pitiful.

The last spear totally hit his face too.

Even if it’s wooden, it was still impressive that the spear broke.

Was the throw of Yuno that good, or was it the face of Ilumgand that was hard?

Whichever it is, I think his consciousness was taken away with that attack.

“The ideas of Waka’s students are interesting. They are weak, but I could feel that they are used to scheming” (Tomoe)

“Right. The finals were pretty fun. The body techniques of that girl were great” (Mio)

Tomoe and Mio seem to have enjoyed it.

That they didn't show any will to evaluate the fight in the end is, well, it can't be helped.

They are not hyumans to begin with, and in their perspective, they honestly feel that they are no more than chicks.

But I feel a bit relieved.

If they are able to think that well by themselves and look for their own style with a clear objective in mind, no matter when my class finishes, they would still be fine.

Well then, I will go to the waiting room as well and congratulate them.

And while it, check Hopelace's state... No, I should not do that one.

It would be troublesome if I get into a problem again.

I stand up and was about to move, but then, I noticed an abnormality.

Jin and the others prepared their weapons. Yuno lost her spear so she made a stance with her fists.

Those movements were already at the level of martial arts.

I didn't teach her that at all, or more like, I can't teach her that, so she probably learned hand-to-hand combat from another teacher.

But the referee already declared the end of the match.

There should be no need for them to prepare their weapons.

And in the direction they are facing, there's the fallen Ilumgand.

“What?”

“Waka, there's a strange magic power coming out from that brat. He is releasing an incredibly wicked aura that is coiled around emotions” (Tomoe)

Tomoe tells me.

I am not using the [Sakai] for search and examination.

I am using it to suppress my power after all.

Also, my perception ability without using Sakai is not impressive at all.

“Really, but it is strange-desu wa. It looks like it is not only the current emotions, old emotions are joined together as well. It feels awful-desu” (Mio)

Mio is looking at Ilumgand as if looking at something weird.

The released magic power was probably amplifying. It changed into the special color that appears when powerful magic power is unleashed or used.

At that point, even I can clearly tell.

What I am saying is that his magic power had changed to the color suitable for water magic, blue.

I am not saying it defines the weakness and forte of an individual, but it does have a big effect in the path you take.

His gentle blue that's close to light blue is normally seen in people specialized in healing and support.

By the way, in my case, it is a darkish deep blue. Its specialty is... Tte, this is not the time for that.

“It doesn't seem... like he is doing this out of his will. Should we stop it?” (Makoto)

“Aren't the people managing the tournament the ones who should do something? It does feel strange though” (Tomoe)

In the middle of Tomoe's words, Ilumgand stands up.

Jin and the others take proper battle formation. But Amelia who is outside the stage shouts something.

After that, the three dissolve their stance and go down the stage. As if following Amelia, they all simultaneously left through the exit.

Ah.

They went to take the weapons in the waiting room huh.

That means...

"Waka-sama, it seems it has turned into a slightly bad situation. Should I say, it has eaten a lot?" (Shiki)

Just as I thought, Shiki speaks.

"Jin and the others went to retrieve their weapons right?" (Makoto)

"Yes. I told them that it was a reward from Waka-sama for winning the championship. Just in case, I thought they would be able to hold it back temporarily with those so I instructed them to return" (Shiki)

"That... noble, just what is going on with him?" (Makoto)

"He is in an incredibly dangerous state. No, it can already be considered too late. He has taken a dosage of at least several months to make his body get used to this abnormality, and that time has come" (Shiki)

"The time... has come?" (Makoto)

So it is really not his will.

But it is surprising that it was able to escape all the diagnosis of the academy.

Doping for several months?

"Yeah. That's not hyuman anymore. It is already beginning to change into a variation" (Shiki)

"...What's a variation?" (Makoto)

"Just as the word implies. It's when a hyuman changes into something that's not hyuman anymore. I am also a type of variation. I turned into it by my own will, so my circumstances are different from his though. There was a period of time when I was interested in the borders of hyumans and non-hyumans, and experimented with it. I

presume there's no mistake" (Shiki)

"Just for what or who did he do this for? Hopelace is a big noble right? Is there anyone who would choose to make them their enemy? From what I hear, it seems to be quite planned out, and it feels ominous" (Makoto)

"...Waka-sama, are you really saying that? This kind of advanced magic, use of drugs, and the nature of the plan. Hyumans are the target. Seeing the situation, there's only one power that would execute this kind of plan" (Shiki)

"Eh? But the demon race is different right? Rona-san pulled back her troops and she said that she would cooperate for the sake of Jin and Amelia" (Makoto)

That's right.

I requested Rona-san to hurriedly withdraw the demons in Rotsgard. There's no way she would do something like this.

"But, did that woman say anything about not doing anything in Rotsgard?" (Shiki)

"No. She just listened to my request, and then I promised her I would meet the demon lord later, that's all" (Makoto)

"Then, even if this is the deed of that woman, she hasn't broken her promise with Waka-sama. At the very least, that's what Rona would say" (Shiki)

Wouldn't that just be a play of words? Sophism?

I didn't want the demon race to cause any problems in the school festival.

Because the matter with Hopelace suddenly came up, I asked Rona to temporarily withdraw the demons since I have scarce personnel.

She accepted that.

Then, that would mean she doesn't intent to cause anything here right?

Didn't it mean she accepted that?

"Isn't that just sophism?" (Makoto)

"It was only a verbal promise after all. Even if she acts in a good willed manner, Waka-sama is still hyuman. I don't think Rona would reveal everything to you. Also, that woman saw a part of Waka-sama's power and has caught a hold of my existence. In that case, no matter what strife they cause, we would be able to get through it, that's why she didn't say it beforehand. Or maybe, if she told you and you were to do something to counter it, it might bring big disadvantages for her" (Shiki)

The demon race...

I thought at least the demon race would be...!

In terms of forming a relationship or negotiating, I thought they would not be a bad option, and yet...

In the end, maybe the thought of expecting a genuine ally was wrong.

Advantages and disadvantages, phrasing, diplomacy.

It is truly filled with troublesome things.

"From what I hear, the demon race is also not the type that one can deal with ordinary methods" (Makoto)

"Every single one deceiving Waka-sama... They only think about themselves! How unsightly. I can't forgive them-desu wa!!" (Mio)

In truth, I didn't feel confident working along with hyumans, so I wanted to try talking with the demon race and see. But, are you trying to tell me that that thinking was naïve?

Or are you telling me to swallow something of this level and negotiate with the demon race?

"..."

The regret that had no place to smash into and the mortification that couldn't turn into words, were turned into breath and exhaled.

Damn it.

Damn it, damn it, damn it, DAMN IT!!!!

I know!

I have already noticed!

This place is bigger than I thought.

Me and the Kuzunoha Company have gathered quite a lot of attention and have begun receiving interference.

This place doesn't belong to any country, so I thought it wouldn't gather that much attention, but I have understood that it was completely the opposite.

Not only the four major powers, even the demon race has locked their eyes on us.

Getting played around by the hyumans, Merchant Guild, demon race; not only can't I freely do business, I am beginning to lose my understanding of how to act.

I stayed unaware of the wideness of the stage I am standing in for way too long.

Can I do it? At this late of a time?

Using Kaleneon, I would hide from all troublesome things in a place I can't be found.

Even so, as long as I have talked to the Ansland sisters, there's no way I can just not do it!

“R-Raidou-sensei, this is terrible! There are several monsters rampaging in town!!”

“...”

“At the surroundings of Gotetsu, at the surrounding of Kuzunoha Company as well; everywhere has fallen into a terrible chaos! For now it doesn't seem like there is that much damage, but...”

The voice of Eva and Ruria.

When I turned, I see that the two of them were there, out of breath.

Truly good timing.

For them to come talk to me when I thought about them.

There's also monsters in the town huh.

Because of my experience in this kind of things, my head was able to stay calm.

Tomoe told me that getting ahead of myself is not good, but the summer vacation was valuable for me.

I see.

Ilumgand's variation. Things similar to that are probably happening in several places.

Rona-san... Rona.

Damn it.

You... deceived me right?

'I didn't lie' or 'You didn't ask me', I don't care about any of those.

If as a result, I have seen it in that way...

You won't have any problems if I act dishonestly as well right?

It is okay to think that you guys had nothing to do with this and cope with it while having that thought in mind, right?

I do think it was a one-sided trust.

Even so, I can tell that the feeling of being deceived and my opposition to her are welling up.

"If we don't run away fast or deal with it, this place will also be dangerous sensei!"

[Eva-san, Ruria, calm down]

"But!"

“It feels incredibly dangerous!”

[Yeah. Please tell me everything you know. Also, it may be a bit fast, but I want the answer as well. I want to hear the answer from the question a few days ago]

“??!!”

I could tell that both sisters gulped their breath.

It is weird that, seeing the restless state of these girls, I am steadily growing calmer.

The surrounding audience that saw the abnormal state of Ilumgand, and some that maybe heard the information from outside, suddenly fall into a state of panic, and the noisiness also increased at a fast rate.

The only ones calm around were us.

...It thoroughly makes me hate my own naivety.

I have not been through any bad things with the demon race, so they are good guys. Truly a childish thought.

I am an idiot who doesn't even know the 'N' in negotiation.

The enemy of my enemy is my ally.

Even when I was in Japan, I thought: 'like hell that's the case', and yet, in reality I thought exactly like that.

I am an idiot, truly an idiot.

Even I think I am hopeless.

— But...

Even if it is an idiot, it doesn't mean whatever they do will be forgiven.

No matter how stupid that person is.

No matter where I go, I won't change my thinking that: 'Instead of the one being

deceived, the one doing the deceiving is the wrong one'.

No matter what.

If this were a genuine negotiation and business discussion, me who was deceived would be the losing one.

But that's wrong.

This is a fighting scene where strength dictates the direction.

In that case, there are plenty of things I, we, are able to do.

First, I will hear Eva and Ruria's feelings.

And then, decide what I should do.

Without showing my disarrayed inside, I wait for the answer of the two with the usual face of Raidou.

# Chapter 135

## When I incidentally look, there are several paths

[Both of you, are you fine with that? I will ask once more, you don't have any regrets right?]

"Of course. The name of Eva and the family name Ansland. If you are saying that's the price, I will give them to you. Please do as you wish" (Eva)

Eva-san didn't hesitate and answered my last confirmation immediately.

I thought she would be more adhered to her name. How unexpected.

"I also don't mind. To begin with, the time I was Ruria Ansland wasn't that long, so I don't have any attachment" (Ruria)

Following after her sister, Ruria also agreed.

Her gaze slightly strayed from me and directed it to the stage.

Ah right, Ilumgand was meddling with her.

I think her name has already turned into a name that's only be called when criticizing her. A name with no worth.

"Raidou-sensei, you also asked Ruria huh. What an evil disposition. What did you intend to do if one of us were to reject it?" (Eva)

"Really. You even told me to keep it a secret from Onee-chan. That kind of thing, I think it is of bad taste" (Ruria)

[If your opinions didn't match, I would have wanted the two of you to forget that decision. But, I am glad. In a close future, 'the moment' will certainly come in some way. Please don't forget this agreement. It may just be a verbal promise, but if it is broken, remember that your lives will not suffice]

For a second, I remember Rona and add words.

This time, I am the side that's granting the wish of these girls.

There shouldn't be much to worry, but just in case.

"AAAEEEOOOOO!!!"

After confirming again that the sisters nod, that cry resounded in the whole competition ground.

The unpleasant voice was from Ilumgand. No, the former Ilumgand.

While enveloped in a sky blue light, he convulses every now and then, and all parts of his body were swelling.

His skin color also turned into an ashen concrete-like color, and was turning into something humanoid.

Currently, he looks like a 2 meter meat ball with legs.

Should I call it, in the midst of transforming?

His neck is stretched in a pretty strange way and it's quite horrific.

"He is absorbing the magic power of the collapsed ones. From what I can tell, that necklace is a tool that efficiently absorbs magic power of things in a particular state" (Shiki)

Shiki's calm words.

"Fumu, using emotions as its fishing hook, it ties up magic power and when the main body awakens, it will begin gathering magic power from its surroundings. If it's able to add to its power, it would make him a monster with the magic power of 6 people. Also, if you scatter people like that around the area and one were to activate, that person can use the others as feed. How interesting-ja na" (Tomoe)

Without showing much interest, Tomoe complements Shiki.

"I wouldn't want to eat that-desu wa ne. It looks as if he were in a drunken frenzy, and

on top of that, he looks unappetizing. And filthy" (Mio)

Mio turns her head away as if treating him like a filthy thing.

Jin hasn't returned yet.

They left temporarily to get their weapons after all. They will show themselves in time.

"Shiki, I understand how he turned that way now. And then, can he be turned back to normal?" (Makoto)

From what I have heard of Eva-san and Ruria, there are also turned variations infesting the town.

Just in case, depending if there's a chance to return them to normal, my orders will change.

"That would be difficult. That thing is something similar to a dish that used hyumans as its ingredient. To turn something cooked into ingredients again is... there are times when it is just not possible. Even if it is really possible, it would get increasingly difficult depending on how many were affected, and I think that it would take quite a long amount of time to resolve the situation this way. I wonder if it's worth enough to do that" (Shiki)

Shiki doesn't seem to like the idea that much.

But as long as I am not sure if this will be targeted to people close to me, I want to at least leave a counter-measure for it.

Because in basis, we don't have allies.

When I heard the comparison of turning cooking back to ingredients, the first thing I thought was that it was impossible. So this would be troublesome for Shiki.

"...Understood. Tomoe, call Mondo from Asora. Have him team up with Lime, make them give instructions to Akua and the others, and have them suppress the turmoil in town. I want some of them as samples for Shiki and the Arkes to research, so tell them that it is fine to use the Tree Punishment. Be the supervisor of their transportation as well please" (Makoto)

“As you will” (Tomoe)

After confirming that Tomoe nods and turns back, I tell her in thought transmission to order the standby personnel to suppress the town’s turmoil.

To call Mondo and have them listen to his and Lime’s orders.

The town seems to be in a terrible chaos, but our employees are all composed people.

In this kind of moments, they are truly reliable.

When the thought transmission connected for instructions, they already moved back all the merchandize that was in display, on top of that, they activated a defense barrier around the store and were in standby inside.

“Shiki follow-up for the students. No matter how monstrous Ilumgand turns, Shiki will still be able to handle it right?” (Makoto)

“Of course. Can’t even consider it a warm-up. But, the orders just now, with the current number of people in the company, I think it would be hard to cover the whole town” (Shiki)

Shiki must have noticed that he would end up doing something laborious from the orders I gave to Tomoe and seems to be dejected, but he nods at my question and points out the problem in my order.

“...I see. Then I will call the Mist Lizards too. It would be troublesome if they were mistaken for mamonos, so... after incapacitating Ilumgand, let’s have the students divide in 3 groups and help” (Makoto)

“In 3 groups?” (Shiki)

“Yeah. Later I will be calling the third Mist Lizard the students will be meeting” (Makoto)

“Understood” (Shiki)

“And then, Mio and I will...” (Makoto)

Grasp the number of monsters and their locations, after that, back-up everyone.

After saying all my thoughts, I closed my mouth.

...

Wait.

What am I doing?

I suddenly remember the bitterness of yesterday and my thoughts get interrupted.

It's true that Rona got me good.

In her perspective, it is something I didn't ask, so she didn't tell me. And from my perspective, I thought we were partners.

In the first place, we are not from the same camp, and making a request as if predicting her future plans, I can't help but feel stupid.

I don't think I will be able to easily trust the demon race anymore, and the promise I did with her, has already changed subtly inside me.

But even with that, is there a need for me to mobilize the Kuzunoha Company to suppress this chaos?

It can put Rona in check. And I can also get back at her for deceiving me.

But aside from that, what merit do we gain?

Yeah, think about it.

Not the usual where I concentrate and think by myself, but the thinking method I am familiar with until now.

Maybe because it has been long since I have used the bow alone, I have been thinking about thinks by myself, and most of the time I have reached the conclusion in that way.

But after coming here, probably because of my own limits, things have not gone well.

My field of vision is too narrow.

I should place several things in the balance, think about the future of that decision, and the things I can do.

The way of thinking that the representative talked about, the way of thinking about putting advantages and disadvantages as priority; maybe I should use them as reference.

(Tomoe, sorry. Can you return?) (Makoto)

(Yeah. No problem. Should I have Mondo return to Asora as well?) (Tomoe)

Mondo is already in the company?

No real need to return him.

(No, that's fine. Just that, please wait for a bit before shifting to action) (Makoto)

This is something that I should probably say in person.

(Then, I will order them to continue in standby and I will be returning) (Tomoe)

(Thanks. There's something I want to consult about) (Makoto)

Well, this is fine.

"Shiki, the previous order won't go. You two, there's something I want to ask you" (Makoto)

Right now, it smells like an emergency situation.

Not for the company, but an emergency situation for the town itself. In other words, it is a crisis for everyone except us.

This is probably quite the chance for us.

There's the saying 'burglars in fires', and this is exactly the fire. *<As in, burglars appear in chaos>*

Everyone is restless and being attacked by the menace called monsters.

I wasn't the one who caused it, so the inhumane example of arson to steal is not that accurate though.

There's absolutely no need for me to hurry.

Because we can get through rough directions after all.

Even if it's not to the level of theft, I can move in a way where I can take advantage of the situation.

Luckily...

The surroundings are getting spacious.

Because everyone has noticed the abnormality and has escaped from the stage one after the other.

Truly a panic.

If I just deal with the thing that was Ilumgand, this place will turn in a pretty safe place. Well, we are the minority in here though.

Even so, in this kind of situation, Rembrandt-san will probably be looking for me.

I did tell him my seat number, so he should know my approximate location. Depending on the content of the meeting, it could be dangerous.

"Ah, Tomoe. Sorry for changing my opinion. There's something I want to consult you three. This situation, what do you think we should do? For Kuzunoha Company and us, which action should be the most beneficial? Shiki, what's your take?" (Makoto)

After waiting for Tomoe's return, I ask the opinion of Shiki.

The one that knows the most about Rotsgard and Kuzunoha Company is Shiki after all.

"How should we move, is it? Eva and Ruria are here, so I think the first thing we should do is make this place safe. In terms of benefiting the company, I think there's the option of only moving the minimum possible. Just when needed" (Shiki)

"So, don't act?" (Makoto)

Eva and Ruria seem to feel relief after hearing Shiki's words.

About those girls, I don't mind what they hear from us.

I have established an agreement with those two after all.

Of course, it is not a pact made with magic, but more of a promise.

I have also told them that they should prepare for the consequences if they were to break it.

Those two are free to interpret it in any way they want, but I don't think they are taking it too lightly.

"Yes. Including the demands of the merchants and several other factors, the more damage this incident causes, the more time it will take for it to happen. I don't have any guarantees of how well it will go, but there's the chance that several companies will disappear. No matter which, I think that it benefits us better than suppressing the turmoil promptly and showing our power. If we take the initiative imprudently, the guilds that were in cahoots for trying to bring us down and the major companies might treat us as their private army, and just like how the representative clamored, they might really demand for the 90% of our profits, and to share our transportation method" (Shiki)

I see.

Even if I move through my current emotions of Rona and bring down her plans, it won't benefit us huh. The thing about keeping the demon lord in check certainly is a dangerous thought.

I still don't know how the guild would act after all.

I can clearly see that it will not turn into anything good, so that's why I am here thinking about struggling but...

"Tomoe, what do you think?" (Makoto)

"Right..." (Tomoe)

Tomoe looks like she is pondering.

I thought she would agree with what Shiki said.

These two are the same in the part that they both look at the advantages and disadvantages after all.

"There's also the choice of suppressing this turmoil anyways. Like a hero of justice" (Tomoe)

"What do you mean?" (Makoto)

A hero of justice you say.

The bad habit of Tomoe came out again?

"It may come with the demerit that the merchants will see our fighting power, but by respecting the hyuman life and not requesting for a reward, not only the store, we would be able to turn the people in this town to our side. No matter how much they try to bite us, if the residents treat us as heroes, they would need the resolve to attack us. Protecting the residents can actually become a wall that protects us from ill will" (Tomoe)

To act the part huh. In that case, it would be indispensable to resolve this in an early stage.

"Then it would be bad if we don't move as soon as possible, right?" (Makoto)

"No, it's still too soon. The best time is when there's a considerable amount of damage and the residents are falling into despair. The direction is important in the play after all. If we just close the lid after 5 minutes, the gratitude would diminish" (Tomoe)

I tried pointing out this suggestion and see, but it seems she had a different opinion.

...I see.

It is true that a hero of justice, instead of coming before the person is attacked, they come after the person has already been attacked and is already in a pinch. If they were to come before the problem occurs, no one would be grateful towards them.

Tomoe is saying that we should aim for that gratitude.

I see. It is better for them to be in a pinch.

In that case, there's still plenty of time.

Should I wait for a certain percent of the town to be destroyed, or when the defensive forces of the town clash with the monsters? I feel like that might give quite the impact.

Just that, there's also the possibility that they will hate us for not coming out faster.

If we don't place a good reason, it might become a double-edged sword.

"Mio, do you have an opinion?" (Makoto)

Honestly, I didn't expect much when asking her.

She sometimes shows impressive intuitions, but in basis, she is a person that's more instinct less thinking.

"How about using this chance to kill every hindrance? If it's now, we can use the chaos to bring down every problematic one. It may bring suspicions if only the merchants interfering with Waka-sama are brought down, but if we kill a decent amount of them, we can cover it up-desu wa" (Mio)

Slaughter everyone that's a hindrance. She is saying that we should kill everyone that's close as well huh.

What a straight opinion.

It certainly does have an immediate effect. Just that, this method is more like cutting the weed and leaving the root, so I feel like it won't resolve the main issue.



This opinion of mine is probably stemming out of my impression from that representative, but I feel like merchants are stubborn towards people that are successful, so even if we take care of the bunch that are bothering us, I don't think that would be the end of it.

When thinking that way, I can tell how scarce of an existence Rembrandt-san is.

And I don't know how he was in the past.

"Well then, what does Waka think? If you stopped the order from a while ago, you must have a guideline already, even if it's vague" (Tomoe)

Tomoe turns the question to me now.

True, I do have something in mind that's slightly different from the order I gave a while ago.

"...Well, yeah. One is that the even if we don't do anything, the matter will resolve itself; the other one is how it will affect the future demon lord meeting if I were to save Academy Town" (Makoto)

"Hoh~, a meeting with the demon lord. No matter the form, if you plan on meeting with the Lord of the demon race, suppressing this situation would be a minus" (Tomoe)

It's just as Tomoe said.

It will obviously not turn into a plus.

Or more like, I have already told you that before so you should know.

Tomoe sometimes schemes things, who knows what she is thinking.

In her answer just now, she might have done it just to increase the amount of options.

Shiki and Mio also gave out different options after all.

Well, right now is not the time to guess the real intentions of Tomoe.

I did feel like negotiating with the demons because they haven't shown any direct

antagonism towards us, and if we were to move now, it might turn the negotiations with them into nothing.

I have ended up defeating a few demons in the wasteland, but no one knows about that event.

What I know is that there were demons that were trying to use Tomoe.

"I at least want the area that Tomoe pointed out, Kaleneon. It is in such an inside part and it isn't that vast either, moreover, from what Eva-san said, it was a place that didn't have anything special and it wasn't as if it was prosperous in resources either. It seems there were also many uncivilized places around the area, so in terms of future worth, I don't think it is worth much to the demon race. I think it won't be that hard of a negotiation. But, if it's a negotiation with a hyuman that has destroyed their plan, I feel like it might become harder to ask for something or to get something. It might even turn into being unable to meet" (Makoto)

"Your guess about Kaleneon is probably right. The castle they were re-utilizing didn't have that many soldiers, and they weren't in alert mode. Instead of a military position, it felt more like a base to advance the cultivation of new lands" (Tomoe)

The words of Tomoe make the eyes of Eva and Ruria open wide.

Well, of course they will react like that.

Because Tomoe is talking as if she has seen Kaleneon already.

If it were from a hyuman, this is something hard to believe.

Kaleneon is in a pretty deep part of the demon's territory, so there's no one who knows its current state.

And that truth also served as the trigger for the foolish thing I thought of. <*Something he thought of before all this happened*>

"If we suppress the situation in Academy Town, no matter how well we resolve it, Rona will probably suspect that it was our deed. This would be the case if we were to follow Tomoe and Shiki's suggestion. And, in the case we use Mio's suggestion, we would have to totally migrate to the demon race side or there's the chance it would cause trouble for the store in Rotsgard and Tsige, and also to the people related to me. Well that's

the worst case scenario where we don't do anything to resolve the situation, moreover, they discover our connection with the demon race though" (Makoto)

The things to consider were steadily extending and it is becoming more difficult to predict the developments. I could tell that my mind was falling into disorder.

But I can still think of things roughly while arranging it.

I don't want to get talked down like yesterday anymore, so I have to do my best.

Endure, endure.

I can easily reach to a conclusion when alone, and yet, when other people mix in and give out their thoughts, it feels like a foreign substance is trying to blend in and it makes it hard to put together.

In the times when I was in the modern world, I didn't have to think about anything this seriously.

Even my future, I was the type that just thought: 'it would be nice if I were able to live by doing only archery'.

"Related to Waka-sama, by that, you mean the Rembrandt Company and the students? Also a few adventurers in Tsige would enter the list as well, right?" (Shiki)

Shiki complements what I said.

In terms of adventurers, Tomoe and Mio are more related to them, but no doubt that it does relate to the Kuzunoha Company.

The only ones I have been directly involved with would be Toa-san and her group.

And my current connection with Lime is more like a connection through Tomoe.

Also, he already knows about Asora, so he is basically on our side.

About Rembrandt-san and the students, what should I do?

From how the representative talked, I think that if I make it as if Rembrandt-san was exploiting me, the criticism from the representative won't be that much.

As long as the whole hyuman race doesn't know that I am in the demon race's side, there shouldn't be that much to worry about.

No, even so, there's no telling what might happen.

In the worst case, there might be the need to take them with me.

About the students, well, they are not my employees or anything like that.

Will they get implicated in this?

Even if it is discovered that a temporary teacher has been communicating with the demon race, instead of the students, it feels like the academy itself would be the one receiving the criticism.

It isn't like I have been using dangerous medicines like that Ilumgand screaming who knows what, and the fruits of Asora underwent examinations beforehand and there were no problems.

...That they weren't able to detect the use of medicine that transforms people into variants brings out questions as well.

Also Jin and the others did show their abilities. Many people witnessed it.

When taking that into account, there shouldn't be anyone who would condemn them.

Thinking about how the hyumans have been until now, there should be more people who would want to shelter them and utilize them right?

I think that even if I don't do anything about the students, they would still be okay.

Thinking about it in loss and gains, their growth may be remarkable, but currently they are still not strong enough to be considerable fighting powers.

In the worst case scenario, I can bring them with me and they will be safe, but nothing good will come out of it.

...

Right.

If I am prioritizing loss and gains, there's no need to be concerned about the students.

Actually, if I am going to the demon race, they are a connection I will have to cut.

Reeled in by power, the students took my classes and grew, but in all of that, the truth was that the temporary teacher was actually of bad origins. That could turn into a demerit.

That's about it.

But...

If we are talking about that, if I do as Mio suggested, it wouldn't be necessary to continue my relationship with Rembrandt-san either...

Just that, as a human being, I am hesitating.

"Waka, it seems Rembrandt is coming here" (Tomoe)

Rembrandt-san. So he really is coming.

It's true that at first our connection was just because that's how it developed.

But I thought I would follow his steps and become a merchant as well.

Now, I am attached too.

Should I abandon all my connections and start over at the demon's side?

Even if there may not be many, should I treasure the people I have become close to?

My current naivety will get in the way when dealing with people in the future.

Is it okay to wipe everything clean?

I can't brush off this anxiety.

Damn it.

There's no time.

I have to make a decision now.

No, that's also not right.

I can't hurry this.

The surroundings were making an uproar a few moments ago, but it is beginning to calm down.

It's not that it has actually calmed down. It's just that more than half of the audience has escaped already.

First, I will meet with Rembrandt-san and rethink.

Okay.

The Rembrandt couple have found us and hastened their pace. Seeing that, I try to hold down my impatient feelings.

# Chapter 136

## Sending off 4 and 5

To put advantages and disadvantages as priority when thinking is somewhat displeasing.

Honestly speaking, it doesn't fit me.

The times when I was in the wasteland without knowing anything were actually more peaceful.

Right now, even if I try to return to those times, I won't be able to.

If I were skillful enough to act within the things I know and don't, I wouldn't be in this situation where I am troubled.

“Raidou-dono, I have been looking for you! It's great to see that you are safe”

[You two as well. It is not like something has happened here yet, so it isn't that strange though]

“...That's clearly an abnormal state. It seems to still be in the middle of transformation. Raidou-dono is truly calm. It seems there's something occurring in the town as well. Everyone heard about the situation outside, saw that thing and fell into panic”  
(Rembrandt)

[No, if it's a fighting scenario, I am already used to it that's all. Well, I do have a lot of worries about so many things my store is lacking, so I am not as calm as you think]

“We still don't understand the situation, but does Raidou-dono know something? Since the time my daughters left, they haven't shown themselves again. It makes it hard to move. And that's why I am here but...” (Rembrandt)

It seems Rembrandt-san roughly understands the reason of this panic.

He and his wife don't seem to be that flustered.

Maybe they feel safe because Tomoe and Mio are here?

Or are the skilled merchants able to understand this kind of situations and rationally put it together?

Whichever it is, his calmness is different from mine which is simple composure stemmed from my defense method called violence.

[The most information we have is that, in the town, there's monsters like that appearing and rampaging. Sif-ojozan and Yuno-ojozan seemed to have grouped up with their comrades and are planning on doing something about that former Ilumgand. Shiki heard about this with thought transmission]

"In Raidou-dono's place, all employees know how to use thought transmission right? To be able to have communication in this moments of crisis, how enviable. I see, so my daughters are planning on doing something about that. ?!!! R-Raidou-dono, what do you mean by 'something'?!" (Rembrandt)

Nodding several times, Rembrandt-san slowly digested the contents of my written communication, but in the middle of it, he was taken aback and was clearly beginning to get agitated.

I was surprised that he was so calm in learning his daughters would be fighting, but it seems that wasn't the case.

[They are at that age after all. They probably want to test out their skills]

"T-That's not good... Raidou-dono, that's not good. I am sorry, but can you guys please do something about this? Like... can you skillfully deal with this situation? In the first place, there's no need to test their skills in this kind of situation. Right, I did hear there is a troop-like force that's formed by the Academy for the sake of public order. That's right. From the beginning, it is strange for students to fight" (Rembrandt)

H-He suddenly began to fluster.

While all flustered, he is mumbling on and on.

...His wife also has a face as if thinking of something, but it doesn't look like she is that agitated.

In this kind of moments, the parents normally get pretty protective, but she looks quite calm.

“...Raidou-sama, you are their sensei and you are not panicking about it, so my husband and I are not that worried about our daughters”

Maybe she noticed something from my gaze, she talked to me.

No wait, your husband is totally worried.

Even now he is not showing signs of calming down.

“Also, Raidou-sama’s group is here after all. I am certain that the worst case scenario won’t occur. Those girls too, they will one day learn that no matter how much power they gain on themselves, there’s a reality they can’t do anything against. If that day happens to be today, it can’t be helped. Actually, I feel happy that you are standing at their side in that moment. Even if this man looks flustered, he is not really”

...Scary.

Or more like, it isn’t that she blindly believes in her daughters’ possibilities.

‘They will one day understand their limits, so it is better to have them feel that frustration’ is what she is trying to say?

This wife, she is saying something really Spartan.

At a glance, her body seems to be calm, but when seen closely, her gripped hand was trembling, so she is probably pushing herself.

In the case of this couple, the father is the one specialized in pampering.

The two of them are girls, so, as a father, being strict to them is difficult, or something like that?

Seeing his wife placing her left hand over her right and putting strength in them, I thought this way.

[I am happy that you are have faith in us. It’s not like I can always be by their side, so this time, I will take responsibility and properly protect them. And the married couple,

what will you be doing from here on? This place is not that dangerous, so if you don't have any particular business, I suggest that you stay here]

“...I see. Dear, dear!”

“No, worst comes to worst, we can gather the mercenaries of the merchant guild and...” (Rembrandt)

“De-ar!!”

“Uo!! W-What is it, Lisa? Right now I am thinking about how to resolve this situation you see” (Rembrandt)

“Raidou-sama will be looking after this place, so it is safe. And then, this place is safe, but he asked us what we will be doing now” (Lisa)

“W-What? I see. Raidou-dono is going to. Fuh~” (Rembrandt)

What's with that 'fuh~'?

You even brought out the words ‘Merchant Guild’ that I don’t want to hear at this moment.

Also, mercenaries.

I have indeed heard that you can hire mercenaries for cheap in the Guild.

It’s cheaper than going around asking every adventurer to help in the goods’ transportation, so I have heard many merchants use this method.

It’s something that doesn’t concern me, so I don’t know its details though.

After Rembrandt-san’s wife talked to him, it seems he calmed down.

“What should we do? There’s the matter of the girls as well, so I think it is a good idea to stay here, what do you think?” (Lisa)

“...No, let’s try going to the Guild once” (Rembrandt)

“To the Guild? Didn’t we go a few days ago? Also, even if we go now with the current

situation, I don't think we can expect a decent reception" (Lisa)

Exactly as she says.

Also, taking into account that I will be on the outlook and I don't mind a few sparks flying to that place, for him to be in the Merchant Guild is not something I would like that much.

"I don't think the Merchant Guild here is that used to this kind of situations. Also, I have experienced several battles in Tsige and have taken command in them. I should be able to help out in reducing the amount of damage" (Rembrandt)

W-What did he say?

Just a few moments ago his mind was completely filled with his daughters, and yet, he suddenly says this.

While I was thinking this, Rembrandt-san turned from his wife to me.

"If this place will be protected by Raidou-dono, I don't need to worry about my daughters at all. Also, it isn't like I don't know the Guild Representative here" (Rembrandt)

"This place's representative... ah, Zara-san. Dear, you went to meet him before right?" (Lisa)

Zara.

That representative, if I remember correctly, he did have that name.

Not only Rembrandt-san, his wife is also an acquaintance of him huh.

Hah~ I still sigh just remembering his face.

"U-Umu. Anyways, if my family is safe, I have to do what I can. There's no loss in helping out the Merchant Guild, and this is the town my daughters are in. So, Raidou-dono, I will be heading to the Merchant Guild to help settle this panic" (Rembrandt)

"...Can't be helped. In that case, I will be accompanying you" (Lisa)

"L-Lisa, I don't mind you staying-" (Rembrandt)

"I will be going. I am more accustomed to rough situations than the people in the Guild here. Also, I would like to give my greetings to Zara-san. It's been a long while" (Lisa)

For some reason, Rembrandt-san wants to go alone.

Is there some sort of inconvenience if his wife were there?

This is the town his daughters attend to, so in the case of this person, he wouldn't have any affairs or anything like that.

In the first place, he is head over heels for his wife.

But, those two intent to leave the tournament ground?

What should I do? The choice where I have merits...

...

Ah, geez!

Like hell I will go doing the advantages and disadvantages as priority!

I am already at my limit!

I have a debt of gratitude with them.

I want to protect them.

I want them to be safe.

Then, that's enough for me.

I check my surroundings.

It seems there's still people in the guest seats.

Also, there are still a few people remaining.

In that case, it would be bad to do it 'here'.

"Raidou-dono, sorry but, I am leaving my daughters in your care. If I leave it to you, I have no need to hesitate. I will try to do what I can. Is what I am saying, but I am just going to create favor though, hahaha" (Rembrandt)

"Then, see you later. We will be going now" (Lisa)

[Wait. I will go along with you midway]

There's no assurance that nothing will happen to them if I let just the two of them go.

Let's place an escort.

I don't want the few people I can trust to face danger.

...If I were to enter the demon's side, I will have to help Rembrandt-san from the back, or they might face danger as well.

Well, I will leave that for when I actually have to think about it.

They seemed to be slightly puzzled for a moment, but the married couple accepted to have me accompany them.

I ordered Tomoe to teleport Eva-san and Ruria to the store in thought transmission.

After confirming that Tomoe nods, I leave everyone and follow Rembrandt-san.

Leaving the audience seats, we continue on into a dim passage.

[You two are in good terms with that representative-dono?]

"Good terms... it is a complicated relationship. What I can say for sure is that we have an inseparable relationship" (Rembrandt)

"There was a time when they both looked after their own stores. They were neighbors" (Lisa)

"Lisa!" (Rembrandt)

"Isn't that fine? It's not something to hide. Also, you two are like a mass of successfulness, and were similar" (Lisa)

Rembrandt-san was huh.

I can't imagine it.

And it seems the connection of the representative and Rembrandt-san is deeper than I thought.

At one hand, allies and companions they can rely on.

On the other hand, they are forceful and despise each other.

What a mysterious thing.

[I see. That guy is relentless depending on the person, to an extraordinary level. He gave the image of a merchant-like person, so it is a bit surprising hearing that he is similar to Rembrandt-san]

"...It was yesterday huh. The day you met with him. You did say you were troubled with the business. It seems he said something to you" (Rembrandt)

[I was unaware of my lack of knowledge and the friction in my surroundings]

"I talked to him a bit about you and your followers beforehand though. It seems it didn't get through him properly. Sorry" (Rembrandt)

[Don't worry. It isn't something you have to apologize for. It was my coping that was lacking after all]

"It is about you Dear, so didn't you say vague things to Zara-san?" (Lisa)

"It is personal information of Raidou-dono after all. I can't just readily give out details, Lisa. Fumu, if it didn't get through him, he must have acted in a very rustic manner" (Rembrandt)

[Sadly, it seems he didn't even treat me as a merchant. It was truly shameful]

"Even when he is like that, he does have a kind part as well, but he is the type that just

lacks in vocabulary. There are times when he is misunderstood" (Rembrandt)

Misunderstood?

It wasn't on that level. He went full-blown abuse though?

Well, there's no doubt he didn't expect anything from me, so it is definitely not a misunderstanding.

Rembrandt-san does seem to know him very well.

"He was doing a more likeable business than Dear. You were the type that just came silently from the back and attacked. It's true that his mouth was a big disadvantage for him though" (Lisa)

"Lisa, I feel malice there? Didn't I just skilfully handle the matters?" (Rembrandt)

Skilfully.

As expected, the world of merchants isn't simple.

I was way too lenient.

[You were old acquaintances huh]

"Yeah. Since a long time ago. Morris also knows about Zara well, and they have also competed with each other. I have noticed that in the end, my family is the most important, so I have drawn a line already, but he is still unmarried and has only been living in the world of business. Maybe because of that his sense of smell has grown duller, or it might be because he doesn't like my shadow, it seems he showed a bad attitude to Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

[So that's how it was. He told me that it was too fast for me to work here, so go back to Tsige and retrain as a merchant]

"Fuh~, he won't say it that kindly right? 'Run back and have your colleague look after you' is more like what he would say. Well, if that's how you took it that would be great for him" (Rembrandt)

He really does know that guy well.

Honestly, I told Rembrandt-san that he said it in this way, but actually, what I got from that guy's words were mostly 'Disappear you boosted rascal'.

"That's a Zara-like way of saying it. Ara, we are already outside. Raidou-sama, this much is fine, the rest we can go by ourselves. Please do take care of our daughters" (Lisa)

"Umu. Even if I look like this, I do know self-defense. Don't worry. I will also talk properly with representative Zara" (Rembrandt)

No, it wasn't like I was complaining or anything.

But well, it must have sounded like a complain to them.

Hah~, I am truly being pampered by Rembrandt-san.

Gotta reflect.

Well then, let's go to the main task. Summoning a guard.

[Please wait. I thought it would stand out at the previous location, so I accompanied you all this way. But since we are here, I would like to bring out a guard for you two]

"Guard?"

"Are you referring to one of your followers? But they are all at the previous location"

Without answering the married couple, I create a mist gate.

At a simple glance, it only looked like a body sized haziness, but it appeared at my side.

In there, a shadow appears, and a shape slowly gets clearer.

When two Lizardmen with beautiful scales appear from the mist, the couple gulp.

Surprised that two mamonos suddenly appeared.

It seems they were overwhelmed by their presence and their bearing that one can feel intelligence from.

[As you can see, these are mamonos I have summoned. They possess reliable power, so please bring them along. If by any chance you are attacked, these two will prove to be extraordinarily useful. In public, just say that Rembrandt-san or your wife used some magic tool to summon them]

"N-Now that you mention it, Raidou-dono was able to use summoning magic. I didn't expect them to appear instantly, so I was really surprised" (Rembrandt)

[They can understand common language, so if you want to give them orders, just saying it normally will work. By the way, the one holding a spear is Blu- I mean, Fia; and the one with a bow is Hyun]

Matching my introduction, both Mist Lizards kneel facing the couple.

It seems that since it is my order, they will follow it.

I'm grateful.

It looks like the couple also grew calmer after seeing how they acted.

"They can understand words huh. That's reliable. Raidou-sama, thank you very much" (Lisa)

"Yeah. Let me express my gratitude. Thanks" (Rembrandt)

[Please stay safe. Let's meet later]

I have the Mist Lizard 4 and 5 as bodyguards for the couple.

I plan on having the number 3 work along with the students, so maybe I should place the name like just now.

The two names I gave just now were impromptu, but it is more like code-names so there should be no problem.

Seeing off the couple, I head back to the tournament grounds where the students are probably already fighting in.

# Chapter 137

## Business and fight

“What’s happening?”

The fight hasn’t started yet.

Even so, on my way, I voiced out a question to no one in particular.

-The situation.

The former Ilumgand has swelled to about twice its original size and has turned into a humanoid shaped thing that shines dimly.

The meat ball-looking body has turned into a somewhat slim one now.

Looks like a badly made giant.

And in his hand, he holds the body of one of his fallen teammates.

The damage is terrible and with only a look I can tell that person is dead.

By looking at the monster’s mouth, I can tell what happened to a certain extent.

“That thing moved. When he was having a meal, the students came to stop him. And that’s how this situation came to be” (Makoto)

Without any hesitation, it eats people.

I think that the will of Ilumgand is already gone.

He is not making any strange noises. Maybe he was given an order of some sort, or he is just moving by his own instincts of violence? This is still unknown.

Jin and the others are standing on the stage where Ilumgand is and taking a battle stance.

It may be slight, but I can feel hesitation, or more like bewilderment, from everyone there.

They probably felt an emotion similar to fear after seeing Ilumgand eat a teammate, in other words, a comrade that attends the same school.

“Is the Academy not sending out help?” (Makoto)

“They are coming out just now” (Shiki)

Shiki answers me.

After his words, a group of purple clothed people come out from the corridor connecting to the waiting room.

What a taste.

Purple.

The group of around ten, point their staffs at the back of the giant and begin their arias.

Their numbers are few, but maybe they have good skills?

Or is the damage to other places bigger than expected and they can't circulate that many people?

Let's entrust Tomoe that aspect.

“Tomoe, I want you to go grasp the damage around the town and report it to me. I don't mind if it's an outline only. Can you do it?” (Makoto)

“Leave it to me” (Tomoe)

The fight begun.

Jin and the others are still in alert mode without participating.

They are waiting and seeing.

It seems those purple guys haven't suddenly told them to fight, so they are just

prioritizing observation.

In the purple group they are all magicians.

They have staffs equipped and they are also doing magic arias, so there should be no mistake.

...Such bad balance.

“Shiki, help out” (Tomoe)

“Understood” (Shiki)

Shiki nods at Tomoe’s no-questions-asked order to assist her.

Shiki’s forte is earth element.

Both wind and earth are good for surveying.

If both of them cooperate, we will be able to confirm the situation in a rather fast fashion.

I sit and rest my chin on one hand.

Looking at the progress of the battle, I once again think of the method I should take.

“Ara ara, magicians getting so close. What are they even thinking?” (Mio)

Mio is blunt about the situation.

The fighting force of the Academy shouldn’t be only this.

Honestly speaking, this Academy Town is a land with no battle experience.

There’s no fights, so there’s even rumors saying that expenses on defense are being placed on other areas.

Even so, they should have the fighting power of a tiger cub at the very least.

Especially in the school festival when powers of different countries visit.

They should have them prepared just in case.

The visitors coming here should have their guards and a bit of fighting power with them to protect themselves.

The problem is if that will be enough.

If that's not enough, we would have to step in for sure.

If we step in, the negotiation with the demon race will be more difficult.

"That's interesting-desu wa. That monster. From the 4 basic elements, he is nullifying 3 of them. For something that's practically a hyuman mix failure, it is pretty well made. Is that a byproduct, or was this an expected effect?" (Mio)

Hmm.

Hearing the words of Mio, I raise my head.

The 4 basic elements huh.

She refers to the earth, water, fire and wind elements.

Most of the spirits are of those elements and the majority uses it, so that's how they are called.

Despite its disgusting outward appearance, it is high spec.

When I look, the purple magicians' side suddenly increased their power.

It was in an instant.

It didn't seem as if they did anything. Is that kind of strengthening possible?

...Ah.

I noticed what it was about.

"The blessing" (Makoto)

"It seems so-desu. But to increase only the firepower is not going to help much in this situation. Because everything is attack magic. And to top it off, there's way too few using the effective element, fire. With that, they will only increase its vigor-desu wa" (Mio)

Mio said so amazed.

The progress of the battle moves as if matching her words.

The magicians released their magic and Ilumgand makes a shattering scream. It didn't sound as if it was weakening. That was a scream that felt as if it was strengthening.

Ilumgand turns unto the purple group and rushed.

He showed quite the instantaneous power.

Well then.

It looks like the turn of my students won't be coming for a while.

So, about the way to use this disturbance.

The success of this (don't know what's the factor that would state the success of it though) should be important to the demon race to a certain extent.

That must be why Rona didn't tell me anything and still went into action.

I want Kaleneon, but I can't overlook this uproar till the end.

In that case, how should I act?

While I absentmindedly~ look at the academy's fighting force get torn up, I get irritated by my thoughts that are not showing signs of arranging.

"Waka, I have a rough grasp of the situation. There seem to be about 50 of those monsters around the whole area. The teleport formations and auxiliary teleport formations are being actively targeted and destroyed. There's a few at the surrounding towns as well, and they show the same pattern. Also, the thought transmission interference, may be weak at the moment, but it looks like it is just the beginning. It may not be visible in Academy Town, but from the surrounding towns, it feels like they

are slowly closing the circle" (Tomoe)

Tomoe, that was fast.

And you even grasped the situation on the surrounding towns as well.

What terrifying people.

"I see. And the battle situation?" (Makoto)

"Not good. Maybe they were more accustomed to peace than expected. They haven't been able to defeat a single one yet. It seems they are doing well in holding back one of the monsters that is heading to the Academy's internal teleport formation, but the other places have received a lot of damage" (Shiki)

Ara ra.

I see. They are having it rough.

If it's not only this one but all the ones out there that have this magic negation or whatever it is, it may be a difficult opponent for students and magicians.

It might collapse the notions of the academy.

Well, no surprise.

This place has been nothing but peaceful after all.

Compared to Tsige and the base, this place is practically tensionless.

Hearing Shiki's report, I have understood that the situation will turn bad if we don't join in to suppress it.

"Waka-sama, those guys have been wiped-out-desu wa" (Mio)

Oh.

Mio notifies me about their wipe-out with a sigh mixed in.

For the purple guys to serve as a meal only... just how weak can they be?

"Jin and the others didn't assist?" (Makoto)

"They did, but their way of fighting was no good-desu wa ne. They didn't move like they did in the matches" (Mio)

How unusual.

From the reports I have received from Eris, I have heard that they are able to properly move when they fight mamonos.

Can't be helped. It seems they need instructions.

Now that I think about it, when I was pushed into actual site training by Sensei, I was clumsy until I got used to it.

They are students as well. Even if their body doesn't move as they want to, there's nothing to be embarrassed about.

Well, it would be no good if they end up dying because of that, but right now I am here with them.

"Geez. My evaluation of them had gone a bit higher, and soon after, they show such a sad behavior" (Mio)

Uh, it feels like I am the one receiving those words.

"Shiki, didn't you pamper them way too much? To use your forte element in only one kind of way, that's the pattern of hyumans. You should properly teach them how to have a wider field of vision like the time they were fighting in the team battles" (Mio)

How strict Mio.

Why is it? I feel like all her scolding is stabbing at me.

Ah, I am the type that can only do one thing.

Also, I am the type that misses whenever I am under pressure.

I can do this kind of fights easily, but when it comes to negotiations and business, I immediately show my true self... Mh?

“...Eh?”

Use your forte with a wider field of vision...

My forte...

Magic power and defense. Also, the speaking ability. <*Probably means his ability to speak with other races*>

I have used my speaking ability to make it shine in different aspects, but what about my fighting power?

I hate threatening with brute strength so I don't do it, but aren't there many other ways to use it aside from that?

In business, at work, in dignified things, I thought I had to do it fair and square.

In basis, it hasn't changed even now, and that's why I haven't gone for the power-type of merchandize.

Because if I were to put fighting power as merchandize, what's optimum for us would be to turn into a mercenary group. We are already using Asora, so that system would be way too much of an advantage for the merchants.

To exchange lives for money feels slightly wrong for me, so that's mostly the reason why I don't do it but...

Then, what would be fair and square?

I feel like something meshes here...

Violence is also one of the cards I hold.

No, I wouldn't be actively threatening.

But to be concerned about something that I wouldn't be using constantly is... pointless?

If our surroundings get even if only an impression that we are a group that possesses diverse abilities aside from business, they will obviously see us as a threat.

Using the backing of the country, they place pressure on other merchants.

They use the position they have built up as an advantage against newcomers.

I do think that that's an obvious business technique.

Then, to put your assets to a different use, isn't that something similar?

Personal connections, assets, power; that's the power of those guys.

To use your all to challenge something isn't strange.

Isn't it even stranger to exclude strength?

It is true that it might not be good for your image, but there's other ways of using strength aside from hurting someone.

Right. For example: in a situation where there's a threat that uses the same strength to cause damage?

I look at the guest seats.

I still see quite a few people there.

The academy head is probably there as well, using thought transmission to relay orders.

Seeing his own fighting force defeated so easily must have affected his spirit.

...Yeah.

Let's try it out.

"Waka-sama, what's wrong? Looks like your students are going to be fighting" (Mio)

"...Mio, and also Shiki. Please give instructions to Jin and the others. If they are about to be wiped-out, assisting them is also fine" (Makoto)

“Eh?”

“Hah?”

“N, you didn’t hear me?” (Makoto)

“No, that’s not it! Understood!” (Mio)

“Your orders have been received. I will instruct them to my best and have them gain experience” (Shiki)

I ask them again and Mio and Shiki run forward.

After reaching the inner part of the audience seats where the railing is, they jump down to the center of the tournament grounds, onto the stage.

There’s also the promise I made with Rembrandt-san.

I will not let a single one of my students die.

Also, just like his wife said: ‘Experiencing the feeling of being almost killed will surely serve them well in the future’.

Not like the surprise attack of the low-grade dragon. There’s surely a different meaning in fighting an upfront fight.

Well, since the time I came to this world, fights were mostly easy for me, so I am not in a position to say that though.

“Tomoe, come with me” (Makoto)

“As you will. It seems you have decided on what to do” (Tomoe)

“Yeah. For now, I will protect this town behind-the-scenes. Please have Lime and Mondo move. It is fine to have them rescue the residents. If the situation has not subsided after that, you can freely decide to suppress it. And while at it, capture one or two as samples and send them to Asora. I will leave the details of the orders to you” (Makoto)

“Let me confirm this, it is fine for me to enter the scene whenever I find it appropriate?”

(Tomoe)

"Yeah, I leave it to you. I will give you the details after this place is fully under control"  
(Makoto)

"As you will. And then, where are we going now?" (Tomoe)

"We are going to help the people that are at the guest side. In this part, we will act as heroes of justice" (Makoto)

"...I see. You are not going for the residents, but for the people that have posts in the countries" (Tomoe)

"...I will leave that to your imagination" (Makoto)

Tomoe probably knows everything I am thinking of.

If I want the guests to escape to a safe place, having Tomoe would be the best choice.

I am a merchant, and she is my escort and close aide.

If I want them to look at Kuzunoha Company, it is easier to show them Tomoe and Mio.

My thinking is still shallow, but Tomoe abides to it.

It may be rough, but I am grateful.

My thinking is simple.

Carrot and stick.

Aid and intimidate.

The thing that's fine for us to do when utilizing strength.

I have begun to think that the things we can do are actually many.

I feel like my field of vision has increased in an instant.

It may be rude to use the guests that are probably scared as my first testers.

Doing something like this, will it leave a good impression?

It is indeed an extremely simple idea.

I head to the guest seats with feelings as if challenging a test after studying all night.

# Chapter 138

## Guest's rescue

“Excuse me”

A clear voice resounds in the guest area that is being controlled by bewilderment.

There's a carpet spread out and seats lined up. A room that divides it from the general seats.

So this is the guest seats huh.

Tomoe's voice resounds well. It probably gathered the attention of all the countries' big-shots onto her.

There were some gazes my way too though.

“Who are you guys?! Don't you know that this area is off limits?!”

A face that I have seen in portraits shouts at us.

Ah, this guy is the academy's principal.

I never know where he was, and of course, I have never met him before, so I couldn't tell it was him immediately.

“Please do forgive us in this emergency situation. It seems your guests haven't evacuated to a safe place, so it may be out of our way, but we thought we should lend our assistance” (Tomoe)

Tomoe didn't show any sign of being angered and tells the academy principal her business.

At that moment, I noticed that there was a girl that send her gaze to Tomoe.

From what I can tell, she looks like a girl with social status.

She looks young, so maybe the next generation head of some noble family? Or maybe a princess of somewhere?

N, princess?

I feel like Tomoe might know something...

...

Could it be, this woman is the Gritonia Empire's princess, Lily?

If it's really, then she is quite the big-shot.

But it seems she is traveling with the hero, so it would be strange for her to be here.

There's the chance that she is not her huh.

I felt like there was a familiar gaze on me and when I turned to check who it was, I see a silver haired young man leaning his back on a wall with arms crossed.

Don't know what's so fun, but he is smiling, and he unfastens his arms and waves his hand at me.

Its pervert Root.

Right, he was here as well.

Damn it.

Then there was no need to come here to help them?

If he comes talking to me about strange things, it would not be good for me or my company.

But it seems Root doesn't intend to move into action. He crosses his arms again, his wide smile returns to a slight smile, and he silently looks at Tomoe again.

I don't get him.

Is he not worried about the Adventurer Guild?

I do think that that place is also facing danger though?

“First of all, introduce yourself! I don’t know about you”

“Sorry for my lack of manners. I am Tomoe, one of Kuzunoha Company’s employees, Academy Principal. And this person here is my master Raidou. He has an impairment that doesn’t allow him to speak, so I, his follower, am the one who has to introduce him. Please do understand” (Tomoe)

“Tomoe and Raidou huh”

[Pleasure to meet you Academy Principal. I am a temporary teacher working here, Raidou. I considered this an emergency situation so I thought I would help out and so I have come here. Please forgive our rudeness]

“Written communication. I see, it is you. I do remember there’s a temporary teacher named Raidou”

It seems he at least knows that I use written communication, and I also show a plate which serves as a certificate that proves I am a temporary teacher.

Looking at me, the written communication, and the proof; the tone of the Academy Principal softened.

“I am glad you have understood” (Tomoe)

“You said assistance, but what kind of assistance do you intent to provide? In this situation where we only know that there are monsters in town, there’s no way you can guide us to a safe place you know?”

“Academy Principal, you know of several places that are safe right?” (Tomoe)

“Of course, we have already secured a place in times of emergencies. Relaying composed orders and sorting information in a dangerous place is something I would want to avoid”

“Then if you tell us of that place, I will use teleport magic to send everyone there” (Tomoe)

“...Teleport? Teleport you say?! This amount of people, in a place the magic user hasn’t

gone to before?! Impossible. I have never heard of a spell like that!"

For a second, the Academy Principal lets out a dumbfounded voice, but he soon understood the content and splendidly rejected Tomoe's plan.

There are times I do think we leisurely use thought transmission and teleportation too much.

The teleporting technique is originally an advanced spell and not something one can leisurely use, and in thought transmission there's the thing about distance and tapping, and it is user-friendly, so it is used in the general populace, but the one we use is practically a completely different thing.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to compare the transmission quality to a bad-performance transceiver and a satellite telephone.

"But you know, it is actually possible. Well, it certainly can't be helped that this is being suspected as a trap. Fumu..." (Tomoe)

That's why it is troublesome to explain this complicated teleportation though.

Tomoe doesn't really look like she is troubled.

Maybe she has a method to convince them.

The only thing I thought of is having one person test it to show it works.

Well, having that one person cooperate will be the troublesome part though.

They are all big-shots after all.

Is there anyone I know that can help out?

Uhm, excluding the pervert...

"Ahahaha! What an interesting person, Academy Principal. Truly interesting. It's true that I have never heard of such an excelling magician with such a teleport spell" (Root)

"Falz-dono"

“Person called Tomoe, how about trying it out on me first. Right, can you teleport me to the guest seats around that part there? It is fine if I just picture it in my mind right?”  
(Root)

Root.

Acting as if he has never met her before, he volunteered as a test subject.

Tomoe probably knew this would happen, she didn’t look shaken at all.

Well, even if he is like that, he is still the Adventurer Guild’s Master.

He must have a decent amount of trust.

“Your name is Falz-dono right? Then, please enter inside this mist” (Tomoe)

“Heh~, the other side also has mist appearing huh. Well then, let’s try it out and see if such a convenient spell actually exists” (Root)

In the place where Root pointed out with his finger, there’s also mist appearing. And while still playing the fool, he disappears into the mist, and at the next instant, he comes out from the place he pointed out.

He then turns his head towards the guest seats and waves his hand.

Tomoe glanced at the princess(?) who has her hands on her mouth and her eyes wide open.

Looks like she is quite surprised.

Root walks through the mist on that side and returned.

“Amazing, that’s quite a significant feat! This is the first time I have seen such a great spell! From what I see, that was a power created from the sword hanging at your waist, right?” (Root)

What kind of crazy thing is he saying?

What Tomoe used was teleportation.

It comes normally from herself.

He should also know about the application of our space teleportation.

I really don't know what he is thinking.

"You got me. Falz-dono has quite the scary eyes there. That's right, this is the special power of this sword. No need for aria and it allows for a point to point teleportation"  
(Tomoe)

...Hm?

Tomoe is following?

But unrelated to my confusion, Tomoe and Root were looking at each other and grinned slightly.

Why?

Of course, everyone's gaze gathered at Tomoe's sword simultaneously.

To the shorter katana that she pointed out.

Oh.

I notice that there are other faces I know.

The priest and Lorel's... Sairitz-san, was it?

So they also came to spectate the tournament.

There were several more important-looking people than priest-san at his side, so it took me some time to notice him.

The priest-san is one of the highest positions in the Rotsgard church, so that means, the people there are even higher than that. They might even be from the main church of Limia.

I took time to notice the Lorel people simple because they were at a corner.



Sairitz-san is there too, but there are also many others there as well.

Most of them have darkish skin.

Are the people there mostly of that skin color?

Maybe she noticed my gaze, Sairitz-san made a smile for a second.

She soon returned her interest to Tomoe's sword though.

"I can't believe it"

The Academy Principal was at a complete loss for words.

Teleportation in itself is an extremely advanced technique, and just the fact of being able to use it, you would be admired.

That's why, in order to make this advanced technique as easy to do as possible, they recreate the teleport formation accurately, and there's also support formations that reduce the burden.

And to be told that this action can be done with the power of a sword, moreover, allowing you to teleport to a specific location; there's no surprise that they wouldn't believe it.

Well, for the common sense of this academy, it is something they wouldn't even think it exists.

And this is also proof that this is not something common.

The influential people that come from several countries are all concentrating their eyes on that sword.

Hope this doesn't become a new spark.

"How is it, everyone? Since they went through the trouble of coming to help us, how about relying on them?" (Root)

Root looks at everyone and proposes this idea.

It seems he will incite them for us.

I don't know if this guy is an enemy or an ally, but it seems that in this moment at least, he will act as our ally.

"...Right. It is just as Falz-dono said. Raidou-dono, I thank you for your courageous action, and I promise I will definitely repay you for it. On the name of Gritonia Empire's Lily. What about the others?" (Lily)

Gritonia's Lily.

So she really is the princess.

She even came for the school festival, impressive.

Maybe she also attended this academy?

I feel like she glanced at Tomoe for an instant, but I don't know her intentions.

From what I have heard of Tomoe, they don't have that deep of a connection and just parted at that point in time.

With Lily's words as the impetus, several 'me too' 'me too' were raised and more people decide take our helping hand.

People are willing to.

The people related to the Church, the Lorel Union, and also the nobles that seem to be from Aion. The Academy principal, who is being shouldered by a woman that looks like his secretary, also agreed with it.

Or more like, old man, why did your legs weaken to the point of needing someone to lend you a shoulder?

Isn't that sexual harassment?

"The people there as well, please decide quickly" (Tomoe)

Tomoe hurries the remaining 5, but they didn't show signs of moving.

What's going on?

I don't think there's significance for a guest to be staying here though.

"...This one is fine here. I have the duty to overlook this"

This one? <余. A super formal way of saying 'I'>

Is he a king?

Duty to overlook he says. He is looking at the stage.

The fight between the students and the monster huh.

"Father, that is..."

"You all, return"

"King, we can't do that. The one standing on that stage is my child after all"

...That's the Limia group.

Ilumgand's father, the Limia King, and he said 'father' so maybe the prince?

Judging from the bearings of the remaining 2, they are probably knights.

So they are a totally related party huh.

What to do?

I think the best choice would be to shelter the other people first.

"Waka, I will be bringing the people here to the safe place that the Academy Principal is thinking of" (Tomoe)

I was about to give the orders to Tomoe and looked at her, but she was one step ahead of me.

Of course, that's what I wanted her to do, so I nod.

A mist a lot bigger than the one Root crossed appears.

It looks like haze, but it has a thickness that makes you unable to see the other side.

It does make one think that this is a product of magic.

“Well then, I will place this katana under Waka’s care. I leave the matters here to you”  
(Tomoe)

“?!”

Oi.

What do you plan by leaving me the short katana?

I instinctively take the short sword that was given to me and look at Tomoe.

With a suggestive smile, she disappears into the mist.

Damn it.

Uhm, so I should convince the others from Limia?

But I don’t know the etiquette when talking to a king.

...Should I apologize first before going for the persuasion?

[This is the first time I have met with a person as great as you king, so I might come off as rude. Please do forgive me if that happens]

“You said your name was Raidou, right? Your written communication is skillful. And your magic should be as well” (King)

[Yes. I can’t speak common language, so I am using written communication in this way. Once again, I am the one in charge of Kuzunoha Company, Raidou]

“I know” (King)

[Hm? Do you mean, you know about my store as well?]

Why does someone like the Limia King have information of a small store in Rotsgard like mine?

“Right, Hopelace?” (King)

“?!!”

“If I remember correctly, the company that you were investigating about was the Kuzunoha Company, and about a temporary teacher named Raidou, right?” (King)

“This is a fact we have already confirmed, Hopelace-dono” (Prince)

What?

It seems there's a completely different development going on now.

The thin person that's probably the prince complements the words of the king and shoots them at Hopelace.

I see, Hopelace.

That means the various things Ilumgand did have already been exposed huh.

“I want an explanation Hopelace. Regarding your second son, Ilumgand, that has transformed, and about the calamity that's occurring in the whole Academy Town” (King)

“...King, it is true that I listened to my son's request and investigated about this teacher. I have also used money to bend the rules in this tournament. However, this situation was definitely not carried out by me. Ilumgand is my son, and he is an important son that might become the head of the family in this warring times. To turn him into that kind of... that kind of monster to plot something, I would never do it!!”

“...Then, why did Ilumgand take an interest in Raidou?” (King)

“...I don't know. I really don't know anything!”

I actually wanted to know that too.

Why was I hated so much to the point of being investigated and being declared war?

I only covered for Ruria. Is that something he would get so tenacious about?

Or was he the type that can't tolerate disgrace?

I am not a noble, so it is hard for me to completely understand their thought patterns.

The Hopelace head repeats his apology to the king over and over again.

"I will hear about it in detail after we have gotten through this situation and return to our country. But the shame you have made us bear on the many nations, won't come cheap" (King)

"Uh..."

"And so, Raidou, you are a merchant right? And a temporary teacher in this academy that teaches practical skills. Are the students fighting there your students?" (King)

[Yes, there's no mistake. Those are the students taking my class. Just that, they haven't been attending it for that long of a time]

"Hoh~. How long has it been?" (King)

[Less than half a year]

"Half a year... were those kids that strong since then?" (King)

[No. I began my business in Tsige, so I have seen the fighting style of the adventurers there. I taught them a part of it, and it seems it fit them well, they have been increasing their skills]

So the Limia King has also taken an interest in them huh.

Still facing the stage, he continues our conversation.

"Tsige huh. Certainly. The adventurers hero-dono brought from there had a fighting style similar to this one. It seems it is not a lie" (King)

Adventurers from Tsige in Limia?

Heh~

In that case, the current Limia has quite the high leveled adventurers there.

If the people that the hero recruited were people with the skills to enter and leave the wasteland at will, they will become quite the war potential for Limia.

Hero.

I didn't enquire any specifics, but she came to a remote place like Tsige huh.

Thinking about it in a logical manner, the reason she went there would be for training, maybe?

[King-sama, please come with me to a safe place. There's no assurance that this place won't be attacked by other enemies]

"If I have the teacher of those splendid students at my side, I don't have much to worry about. By the way, Raidou, you can use that sword?" (King)

The Limia King looks at the short katana I hold.

The made-up story about being able to use teleportation with it huh.

Tomoe, it is turning into something troublesome you know?

[Yes, I can. If it's me or Tomoe who was here a while ago, it can be used]

"Then can you bring me to that place? If Ilumgand sees me and his father, he might return to his senses" (King)

"King, that's not good. It's way too dangerous" (Prince)

"A noble of Limia is causing damage to the Academy. I have to provide my assistance to control this situation as well, or I won't be able to stand upright. Isn't that right, Hopelace?" (King)

Rejecting the words of the prince, the King looks at Hopelace.

He reacts with a jolt, and makes a small nod.

He probably doesn't want to face his transformed son.

"Of course, placing oneself in danger is not assistance, but showing that you are willing to is necessary sometimes. If the ones who have to do so are me and Hopelace, then it can't be helped. A quite blunt and unnatural thing to do, if I do say so myself" (King)

"...Raidou-dono, can you teleport us over there?" (Prince)

It seems the prince folded.

Well, I don't really mind though.

Then, I will be acting as the bodyguard of this people for a while?

[It is possible. Well then, all five, is it okay to teleport you around that seat over there?]

Saying so, I point to an estimated area.

The prince nods.

The knights stay silent.

Probably means that they will just silently obey. It must be tough for them as well.

Well, if they carry this out safely, they should gain big points for it.

At that place there's Shiki and Mio.

I put up the short katana.

Gotta show the act at the very least.

I create mist that is not that different from the one Tomoe made.

Mist is created at the pointed out place as well.

Preparations complete.

"I will definitely repay you, Raidou" (King)

The Limia King talks to me.

It would be weird to part from my katana at this moment, so I just lower my head.

In my left hand I have the scabbard and in my right the katana. It was pretty unshapely.

Knight, Hopelace, Prince, and then the King; in order, they disappear inside the mist.

# Chapter 139

## In front of the variant

“Will it really go well?”

In a small voice, I voiced out my surprise at the situation that was proceeding in a favorable manner.

In foreign problems, I would use power to force the situation into an advantageous direction for me and resolve it.

Even when I decided to do it, I still felt opposition.

Because you know, the war potential we have may not be in a country scale, but it is totally outside the boundaries of what one small-scale company has.

I feel like we would be able to eliminate a mercenary group, and even if we are faced with an army, in the worst case, we could manage to escape.

Tomoe, Mio and, depending on the situation, Shiki as well, are existences that can be called a one-man army.

If we used surprise attacks, I feel like we would be able to overwhelm a certain amount of troops.

Truly the definition of being a match for a thousand.

Gathering all our forces, we wouldn't even surpass the thousand. This may sound like self-praise, but the races in Asora are quite strong.

Counting them as part of our power, I will move them as a company.

As long as nothing extreme happens, I feel like we won't fail.

Now that I think about it, training the Forest Onis and having them sell medicine in the villages around the mountains was possible because they have been trained in the

military arts and made them follow a pathless course.

I didn't find that strange at all, and yet, I am facing away from my own power. It is truly a contradicting story.

That's why even if I have opposition towards it, I get used to it.

This is not Japan.

I feel like this will become my number one excuse inside me.

I turn my eyes towards the spectator seats.

There, the Limia group is looking at the fight on the stage.

With this, just by providing them safety, I will be able to create a debt towards the people that have a high-standing in the countries.

There's the chance that I will be able to turn the pressure of the people who complained and stood behind the guild, against them.

A smile naturally appears from my mouth.

"Well then, I should get going as well" (Makoto)

I pass through the mist towards the place they are.

Even so, why did Tomoe leave the short katana with me?

Well, it does help as a sub-weapon when using a long sword, and there are times when it can be used as a throwing weapon as well but... even so, thinking about it in terms of etiquette, it would be better to not leave a short sword to someone else.

I look at the katana that for some reason has been made as a weapon with the ability to teleport.

It felt like Root was also conspiring with her, so there must be some reason behind it.

It might be to hide the power of teleportation, but with how it flowed, just by changing the target of the power from Tomoe to the short katana, it won't hide the reality of it.

Just why did those two change the teleportation power from person to object?

I still don't understand it yet.

With that fuzziness inside of me, I look at the short katana in my hands.

Could it be, she still doesn't know the meaning of having two swords as a samurai? *<A samurai holds 2 swords, a long and a short one. The short one is for suicide, or what's originally called, seppuku>*

After I calm down a bit, let's try talking about this.

If they are doing this knowingly, I won't say much about it.

If the meaning of it is different from my own thinking, that's fine too.

If she told me that it was just a trifle of hers, I can't do much about it. I will just let her do as she wishes.

Trying to probe into it could lead into her just telling me that's just her hobby, so if she herself is having fun with it, that's for the best.

[Sorry for the wait]

"Don't worry, that was a splendid teleportation. Our country prides in being the hyuman race's number one in teleportation technique, but this is my first time seeing this kind of point-to-point spell. I would like to take some time after this to hear about it in detail, but right now I have to overlook that fight. No matter the result" (King)

"..."

Since I was pondering, I arrived a bit late, so I apologized to the Limia King.

I did think that there was no room to worry about it, and as expected, he easily let it go.

It seems the King is already prepared for anything that happens to the Ilumgand variant.

The Hopelace Head trembled at the words of the king and bit his lips though.

Considering the situation, I am somehow aware of Ilumgand's fate already.

It is the variant that even Shiki said would be hard to turn back to normal.

The chance of them returning Ilumgand to normal with their limited hyuman knowledge is incredibly low.

"I can't feel a will anymore. He is really rampaging like a mamono" (Prince)

Hm.

The prince huh.

I could feel pity from his words.

Royalty and a high noble.

Both of them probably knew each other, so it can't be helped.

"...Raidou"

The Hopelace Head suddenly talks to me.

In those eyes, he showed clear hostility.

I didn't do much to his son though.

I was only stopping bullying after all.

When I meet with the people of Limia again, there's also the choice of talking and clearing the misunderstanding.

Well, it will all depend if he is willing to, so I don't know if it will be possible.

[What is it?]

"I heard that your store handles a high number of medicines"

Or more like, you investigated it.

[Yes, most of my merchandize is medicine]

"Is there no elixir in there that can turn my son back?"

[Sorry, but this is my first time seeing such a transformation as well, so the chances of my medicine curing him is low. With just a glance, I can tell that it is using the hyuman body as a catalyst and it seems to be quite the complex spell formula. To return him to normal, it would be as hard as returning a dish back to ingredients]

Using Shiki's words as reference, I give a response.

"!!"

Hopelace didn't say any words, but his face showed several different emotions creating a complex expression.

Anger, sorrow, regret... Obviously, I couldn't see any positive emotions in it.

Witnessing his son about to be defeated, as a father, it is a given that he would feel that way though.

"What a splendid way of fighting. They are able to properly fight against Ilumgand, who was easily able to defeat the Purple Coats that are boasted by the Academy as being able to use all elements" (King)

I think using all elements and dividing the elements between all are two completely different things though.

"But it looks like they are having a hard time. As expected, maybe this was too much for students" (Prince)

The King and the Prince are looking at the fight in a relatively calm manner.

"Raidou, the two there giving out instructions, are they related to you?" (King)

The Limia King sharply notices Mio and Shiki.

[Yes. One of them is helping me out in my classes, his name is Shiki. The other one serves mostly as my bodyguard, Mio. Both of them are employees that have been with me since long ago and I rely on them]

“It seems they are not fighting though?” (King)

[I wanted the students to fight themselves. If the situation turns bad, I told them to back the students up, but in basis, I am having them give instructions in the fight. Also-]  
]

“My son is not a stepping stone for your students!!”

The sudden shout at my side made me stop my words.

I thought he would come saying that, so I was about to give an explanation. How hasty.

[Also, since they were students learning in the same academy, I had a small hope that maybe they would be able to return Ilumgand-sama back to his sense. It seems for some reason that person hates me, so I thought that if our company people stood on the stage, the hope would grow dimmer]

“Kugh!!”

Hopelace, who was lining up the next complain, shuts up after my excuse.

These were words I originally thought of if I was asked by people like the Limia King or the Academy Principal, but I suppose it is okay to have him hear as well.

“Hoh~, you were that thoughtful towards a noble of our country. That consideration makes me happy. Right, Hopelace?” (King)

At the latter half, the harsh eyes of the King turn towards Hopelace.

I can feel that his aim is to have Hopelace apologize.

No well, there's no real need to.

[It is just a plan where I am leaving it to the hands of my students. There's no need to thank me for it]

While getting the better of the trembling Hopelace, I turn to the king and lower my head.

Also, from what I see, Jin and the others have no leeway to worry about anything.

"At any rate, it is going back and forth. I can't see who would win" (Prince)

The prince speaks.

"Joshua, you can't tell either huh" (King)

"Yeah, but I don't understand something. Why are they only using fire element? Also, for all of them to be able to use the fire element is strange" (Prince)

Looks like they don't have much knowledge regarding that area.

The specialty of the royalty and the nobles is, as expected, politics after all huh.

"Fumu. Raidou, can you explain this? If you are able to, please" (King)

But is it okay for me to be answering this?

There are two knights there after all.

Shouldn't he ask them their opinion first?

Leaving aside the part about the fire element, the knights should have their own opinions about Ilumgand.

"Raidou, I don't mind. Please explain" (King)

Thinking that, I turned my eyes towards the knights. Maybe the King understood what I was thinking, he ordered again.

[As you can see, Ilumgand-sama has transformed into that giant body. And well, mainly because the battle has gone for a long period of time, I can tell that the variant's characteristic is mostly in the magic factor]

"Magic huh" (King)

[Yes. The current Ilumgand-sama possesses a firm resistance towards earth, water and wind; all elements except fire]

Detailed explanations of absorption, resistance, and nullification; in this case, let's just not do it.

"To three elements you say" (King)

[Luckily, the students there are all trained to use several elements, so they are able to fight him with the only element that is effective against him. I think non-elemental magic will also work, but the efficacy gained compared to the consumption of magic power is bad, so I think their decision was proper]

"Everyone... is able to use several elements? Then you are having them learn elements other than the one they were born with?" (Prince)

When the prince talks in a courteous manner, instead of a prince, he sounds more like a butler.

I am a part of the lower class, so I think he should be acting like the other high-class people.

[Yes, that's why they are able to provide a decent fight]

"Then why can't they push him back?" (Prince)

[I think the main reason would be that the element restriction is limiting their options. The fire element originally possesses few restraining skills, and it is more suited for attack and self-enhancement. On top of that, Ilumgand-sama is absorbing the magic power of his teammates and the hyumans around. Because his maximum magic power is increasing, the debuffing magic is not working at all. Moreover, his wounds are regenerating to a certain degree, so if they don't finish it with a big attack, there's the danger of prolonging the fight]

While I was doing the explanation, the Hopelace Head suddenly makes a bitter voice.

I look at the stage.

I didn't see it, but it seems they have dealt a big attack.

His arms are torn off from the shoulder down, and the giant is on his knees.

Arms?

Are they still fighting in order to incapacitate him instead of defeating him?

Looks like Mio decided that she gave enough advice, she is just looking at the fight without participating.

Shiki seems to be preparing for healing just in case and watching the progress of the battle.

Looks like the seven are quite fatigued. To the point that I am able to see it even from where I am.

From what I can tell, they are in a level where it is already hard for them to aim for incapacitation.

[Looks like the battle has progressed slightly. Though, it seems like their voice doesn't reach him, and they don't have the resolve to bring him down]

In terms of stamina, Ilumgand is the one in advantage.

Also...

While I was thinking about something that was bothering me, the thing I was anxious about happened.

The regeneration of Ilumgand's arms.

Aaah~

This will probably break their spirit.

"What, the arms he lost are!"

"Regenerating..."

"Ilum..."

Hm?

Before Jin and the others got shaken by the situation, one of the people there took the initiative and rushed with sword in hand.

Misura.

Is he eager because he didn't have much spotlight in the team battles?

But to enter in this timing and bring up the spirit is a good idea.

In a situation where their stamina is being chipped away, it would be bad for them to lose their willpower.

He must be tired as well, but it seems he is able to properly deflect the pitiful great sword that has been absorbed into Ilumgand's right arm.

The battle has begun once again, to the point where they have to give him another big attack.

Thanks to Misura's initiative, they have somehow managed to step it up.

(Waka-sama)

Shiki?

What is it? Is there a problem?

Thankfully, right now everyone of Limia is looking at the stage.

I have some room to talk with Shiki in thought transmission.

(What? A problem?) (Makoto)

(Yes. About two) (Shiki)

(Let's hear it) (Makoto)

(First, about this variant. It seems that it will be impossible for the students to incapacitate it with pain. Moreover, the fact that he was a former student is making them unable to show their original battle power, so...) (Shiki)

(They probably won't be able to beat it?) (Makoto)

(...Yes. If it's just defeating him, they have already marked the medulla oblongata that seems to be his weak point, but it might be difficult) (Shiki)

(I see. When it seems like it is totally impossible, Shiki, shift with them and incapacitate him. And the other one?) (Makoto)

(It seems another one of those has entered here. There's the danger that it might head to the spectator seats, so be cautious) (Shiki)

(Oh, I see. Thanks, I will be careful) (Makoto)

It seems nothing special happened in the middle of our transmission, and I was able to safely finish the thought transmission with Shiki.

Hmph~, one more is coming here huh.

Even if their mechanism is the same, their powers might be different.

I have to be in a distance where I can protect this people at any moment.

I am not sure if we will be able to cure Ilumgand, so I don't know if there's a point in incapacitating him though.

I just thought that it would be easier to talk with the Hopelace Head if his son is not dead.

?!!

Suddenly, the tension around us increased.

For a second I thought that the battle situation changed again, but when I looked, there was no real change.

The Limia King and the Hopelace Head are in the place closest to the stage, the railings of the spectator seats.

And a step behind them, there's Prince Joshua.

But that composition moved.

"King, please step back!"

One of the knights shouts and the two knights unsheathe their weapons and run to

the back.

They were probably using perception magic to watch their surroundings.

At the place where they were running to there was nothing visible, but in a place quite a bit far from here, at the exit corridor of the spectator seats, the shadow of a gray colored variant appears.

Uwa~, its appearance is quite different.

Its change is so big that it doesn't even look humanoid anymore.

A person that has developed in an abnormal way.

It has two legs, and more than half of its top is not composed of torso, arms, and then head.

It is only the head.

And its mouth is sticking out like the beak of a bird, and yet, it has fangs.

It still has quite the distance, but despite this, its mouth is so big that I can tell that there's fangs in it.

On top of that, compared to a person, its eyes were more like those of a horse, big black eyes positioned on the sides of the face.

Saying it bluntly, it is disgusting.

In place of hair, its head has several tentacles undulating on it. It doubled its disgusting level.

The knights ran to fight against the monster probably to avoid fighting close to the king.

I see. I can agree with that.

In that case, I will step a bit forward and...

“GYAAAAA!!”

Hah?

There should still be quite a good amount of space between them, and despite this, what's going on?

The knight's scream made me doubt my eyes.

It seems that thing already reached them.

Those stupidly big legs are not for decoration.

It must have made a dash with tremendous instantaneous power.

Looking at the ashen colored variant that cut the knight's body along with the armor to a thousand pieces and created a red spray and screams, for some reason, I associated it with a bullet.

Another scream overlaps.

I don't know if it's because it caught him off-guard, or because his skills are not that big of a deal – I will leave it as if it's the former – but anyways, it didn't take long before the other knight screamed as well.

The undulating tentacles turned sharp and pierced through the body of the knight.

The torso area, where the armor was the thickest, wasn't pierced by the tentacles, but every other part was.

Neck, thighs, joints; areas where the armor doesn't protect, and places where it can't be protected because of its construction were pierced through.

It is probably fatal.

The place they were fighting was in an area I couldn't reach in time, so I was unable to protect them.

I could use [Sakai] to heal them, but if I do so, that variant would also enter in its range.

Also, if I loosen my magic power suppression, what I am hiding might be discovered.

Tch.

But I definitely can protect these three.

It may not be the best option, but I have to deal with it.

Taking a crouching start stance with only its legs, it places strength in them. The variant turns its beak-shaped mouth towards me.

Ah, this is not a dash.

I was somehow able to tell that.

It seems my comparison was correct.

That thing shoots its body like a bullet and heads to our location in a straight line.

Okay, let's stop it and defeat it.

When I was about to stop it and made a step forward, for some reason, a shadow passes beside me.

?!!

Prince Joshua?!

"Father, please run!" (Prince)

Unsheathing a glittering thin sword that I would only think of as a decoration, the prince rushes to the variant in order to protect the king!

Ah!

Is he an idiot?!

This is bad.

Having the prince wounded would be extremely bad.

Right.

Even if I am not tense, that doesn't mean the surroundings aren't either.

Even so, this prince-sama is quite...

If I weren't here, who knows what would have happened.

(Sorry Shiki. Wounded people or maybe casualties have appeared. I want you to come here and provide medical treatment. Mio can stay there, I leave the babysitting to you, Mio. I count on you, don't let the students die) (Makoto)

Those two knights... it is probably too late.

But if it's Shiki, maybe he will be able to heal them.

Since I didn't have the leeway, I just leave those orders to Shiki and Mio without making an actual conversation.

From here, I can't tell if the knights are breathing or not, even so, from what I see, those are definitely fatal wounds.

It doesn't seem like there are other enemies, so if I just hold this one down it will be okay.

I hurriedly chase after the prince.

The variant is fast as expected.

At this rate... I won't make it.

My body can't just suddenly go from zero to max speed.

In an instant I understood that I wouldn't be able to make it, so I make an 'invisible arm' with magic power in the space between the prince and the variant, to protect him.

I have [Sakai] to conceal it, so it should be invisible.

If he gets wounded he can still be healed, but if possible, I want him to leave unscathed.

My magic power catches the variant when it was reaching its highest speed.

Just like that, I swing the ‘arm’ and throw the variant to separate it from the prince.

While relieved by the fact that I made it in time, I carry Prince Joshua and escape from that place. I jump into an area where that thing’s vision won’t reach the prince.

Damn it. I have separated slightly from the king.

I threw it away, so it won’t come with another attack so soon but, I have to defeat it quickly.

[Prince, it was a sudden development, so please forgive me for my rudeness. I will deal with that thing]

Writing all of that at once, I began to wonder what the mysterious sensation in my hand was.

Eh?

“?!!”

When I look down, I see the stiffened face of Prince Joshua.

Maybe because of the shock of a while ago, or because it got stuck somewhere along the way; a part of his clothes were quite torn off and...

My hand is on top of that...

No way, this is, breast?

Eh?

My brain is in turmoil.

“...I will explain the circumstances later. Right now, please protect father” (Prince?)

Dyed in bashfulness, he, no, her? I heard her low voice.

I hurriedly separate my hand from her body.

Unable to hide all of my confusion, I correct my posture as if springing away.

Right.

I feel like I have done something quite bad, but right now the priority is taking out that thing.

Great, looks like that thing is still dizzy.

I restrain it with [Brid] and shorten the distance.

What I used was a non-elemental [Brid].

Chantless and no element. I did plan on winning with that, but it didn't turn into a fatal wound.

However, it was plenty enough to hold it back.

Thanks to that, I was able to shorten the distance plenty enough. I clad magic power into my right hand and punch the side of its face.

The variant, that was send flying away with my punch, hit several seats and rails on the way and was bounded by it.

Great.

With this, the Limia king should be in a safe position.

Non-elemental spells have a tendency of having less firepower compared to the elemental spells of the same level, but from what I saw just now, a [Brid] is plenty enough to defeat it.

I do a quick aria, and making a gesture as if preparing a bow, I shoot out a white arrow.

The [Brid] that hit right on its beak didn't pierce immediately and sends the whole variant to the back, weaving its way in a part of the spectators' seat.

That's because I reduced the piercing power on purpose.

I don't know what it might do, so I thought it would be better to have distance.

But it seems my worries were unnecessary.

The variant swelled as if bubbles were popping up from inside it, and after, it scattered in all directions and died.

Ah, I was worried for a second there.

I see that Shiki has begun the treatment of one of the knights and I sigh once.

Looks like at least one of them will be saved.

I finished one job now.

...About the prince, I hope it doesn't turn into a new trouble. But well, don't think that will be possible.

If it was just the fight it would be so simple...

I try not to make eye contact with the prince and bring her to where the king is.

While I was thinking all this, I heard a scream incomparable to the ones before.

# Chapter 140

## Amelia

"Amelia, I will be going up there to provide medical treatment to the injured knights. There's no need to push yourself too much. When I return, I will do something about him. Mio-dono, I leave them in your care for a while" (Shiki)

"Okay. Waka-sama is calling, so hurry up. No need to worry here-desu wa" (Mio)

Shiki-san, who is at the rear, talks to me.

I can tell that he is being considerate towards us because we are having difficulties against the existence that was once Ilumgand.

But at the same time, my stomach pains at the fact that I can't meet his expectations.

...My connection with Ilumgand right now holds no importance.

Even if that's connected with my bad movements a bit.

The movements of everyone else are not good either after all.

If we did something like this in the usual classes, it would be to the level where the fight would be suspended and we would be lectured.

Because the current opponent we are facing is not a simple mamono but a student that attends the same school and has transformed, no matter how much I try, it is hard to deal with.

I hesitate in killing him, and even when we try to call him out to return him to his senses, we are not receiving a single decent response.

Aiming at a place where his life wouldn't be in danger, we managed to drop those arms of his.

But it looks like that pain didn't have any effect on him.

It probably made a scream filled with anger, but it soon regenerated his whole arms and the fight resumed.

If Misura didn't step forward at that time, we would have been swallowed by agitation and probably torn apart like the Purple Coats.

I have no words for my gratitude towards him.

What's 'mortifying' is that the current Ilumgand is quite stronger than us.

This is not an evaluation of him as a hyuman, but as the thing Shiki-san called variant though.

Leaving aside if he will be able to return or not, he became stronger than us again.

I can feel a certain emotion welling up inside me.

There's a part of me that wants to let my emotions take control and go punch him. But that's something I can't do at all cost.

It would turn into the impetus for the destruction of our party after all.

In the first place, I wouldn't be able to show such a pathetic self to that person, no, I don't want to show it to everyone.

That's why in this situation, the best choice would be to wait for Shiki-san to return.

The one who is staying here, Mio-san, doesn't show any signs of lending us any help, and it feels as if she is telling us to deal with it somehow with the directions she has given until now.

she is a really different type from Shiki-san.

The nature of Ilumgand's attacks, his immunity to all but one element, and his vital spot; she has already told us several important things to fight Ilumgand.

When we enquired things, she would answer; when we were wrong, she would give us hints.

The Academy's prided magic warrior corps (the ones who came here were the

magician corps though) the Purple Coats.

That's right. Even if it was their first time fighting it, the strongest fighting power in this town was easily defeated.

The reason why we are able to somehow fight against an enemy like that is mostly because we had Shiki-san's healing, Mio's advice, Sensei's equipment, and the blessing of the Goddess. No, it is practically the whole reason why we are able to stand against him at all.

In other words, we have been boosted in all standards and are now in this position.

If we fought carrying this hesitation without the healing, advice, and outstanding equipment; we would have fallen long ago.

We have been trained every day to defeat this amount of difference in strength with our teamwork, and yet, how pathetic we are.

"Damn it!! Just fall already"

Jin is kind.

He is still avoiding the vital and aiming to incapacitate Ilumgand.

He still thinks of him as our senpai.

The style he is using right now to push through is dual wielding.

Defeat before being defeated.

That's the fighting style Jin aims for.

And yet, there's vigor missing in the unrelenting sword style of him that swallows even the attacks of his opponents.

Against an opponent that has strong regeneration ability, a dulled sword style will only create the worst cycle.

The thing that was once Ilumgand is definitely coming at us with the intent to kill, so it makes it even worse.

“I am not good with fire element you know!”

Saying so, Izumo looks as if he is pained while shooting magic.

Using the wind element, he obstructs the opponent's movements and robs them of their vision, and while maintaining his high speed mobility enhancement, he throws a barrage of spells.

The fighting tactic he uses normally is nowhere to be found.

The wind spells that get close to that thing are all dispersed.

Instead of calling it resistance, it was more like nullification.

Even when shooting them up-close, his fire element spell's attack power is not enough and it doesn't show much effect.

That's why he stepped back to the rear and staying his feet, and to compensate for it, he is concentrating only on attacks to increase the attack power even if only a bit.

Moreover, since he is shooting a rapid succession of spells that are not his original forte element, his magic power is decreasing at a fast rate.

Izumo doesn't have an amount of magic power fit for long period fights after all, so it can't be helped.

“Not yet! I can still stop it!!”

Only Misura, who is standing at the frontlines and stopping the attacks, has enough willpower.

If contrary to his willpower, his healing magic were to run short, the danger he faces will increase in an instant.

To just stop the attacks and be relieved by it is dangerous.

He has to protect the line between us or everyone will crumble.

“There's no end to this guy!”

"He prioritizes the attacks that are aimed to finish him! How tiresome!!"

Daena and Yuno use speed and feints to attack.

But their stamina already reached their limits a long time ago. Moreover, transforming into a monster turned him less intelligent, but in exchange, his instincts got better. He doesn't let us get in any important hits.

The instantaneous power fighting style that prioritizes speed is, obviously, not fit for long term battles at all.

It might be better for Yuno to stand back and attack with her bow.

If those two get hit in the moment they run out of energy, it would be fatal.

*"Sefuto aruosute eda kurai"*

Sif is chanting a fire spell with high firepower.

The one who is able to throw the most effective attacks against Ilumgand is her.

She is also one of our spiritual supports along with Misura.

In other words, if we don't properly utilize her magic power, we won't have a chance of winning.

...

That's right.

If we want to win this fight with our own power without any more assistance... "Incapacitating him" is already impossible.

We have no other choice but to shoot an attack onto his weak point with the intent to kill.

Normally, Jin would be the one who would make a plan and organize us, but it is hard to expect that from him in his current state.

Even when he badmouthed senpai that much, there's no doubt that he is trying to save

senpai.

That's Jin's greatest strong point and at the same time his weakness.

Maybe he will change in the remaining time he is at the academy. No, he probably won't change.

A bitter smile came out unconsciously.

In my head there's already a plan.

I thought about it multiple times and I arrived to the same conclusion.

If we go at it for the kill, we can still do it.

We should be able to.

...There's no need to hesitate. It is better than worrying about it and ending up too late to be able to do anything.

'They can heal us, so it is fine to lose' I don't want something like that.

Also, to lose against this maddened Ilumgand, I definitely don't want to.

I didn't want to be involved with him, and yet, he continued messing with me and everyone else.

And then he turns into this...

A high-pitched sound reverberated.

It is the sound of Jin's sword clashing with the great sword that has been absorbed by the right arm of Ilumgand.

In a fight of strength, Jin would be pushed back.

Jin most likely knows the result, so before that happened, he rode in the shock of the attack and jumped back. To decrease the damage even if a bit.

Ilumgand didn't chase after Jin.

In place of that, he opened his mouth wide and was doing a strange magic power gathering method.

This is the first time I see him doing that.

In an instant, an unpleasant sensation assaulted my mind.

Ah.

Could it be!

“Everyone, barriers! A howling roar is coming!!” (Amelia)

I instantly shout and create a barrier to cover for the rear guard.

My range is not enough to reach the frontline!

I suddenly recall the memories of being cornered by that lesser dragon, so I was able to reflexively use the barrier method I thought when against a howl.

Because that was the worst trauma for me.

Even if I knew it would reduce my options, I still made sure I was able to create a barrier at any time, and it was unexpectedly useful at this moment.

And as I thought, a roar that had some sort of endowed effect reverberated through the very core of my body and assaulted us.

It seems like it has the same effect as the dragon, overpowering. As if paralyzed, the movements of Jin, Daena, and Yuno stopped.

The moment I saw that scene, the little hesitation that was left in me... disappeared.

Maybe it was a technique that left him stiff, Ilumgand was still not moving.

I am different from Jin.

Instead of losing my comrades, I would prefer to kill him.

“...Sif, can you endow that spell into my arrow? I am sorry for asking you to do

endowment which you are not that good at" (Amelia)

"Eh? That's impossible. It's not only because I am not good at it, the spell is already completed you know? Could it be, you are talking about the technique Shiki-san showed us once? If I do such a reckless endowment, even if it succeeds, it would not last 10 seconds before exploding. That was only possible because it was Shiki-san" (Sif)

"10 seconds huh? No problem. Izumo! You can move right?!" (Amelia)

"Tsuuu, somehow. Thanks for the barrier. Is that what you call a trump card? It reminded me of grandma's pocket" (Izumo)

"Stop with the pointless talk. Use a speed increase on me. Can you do it?" (Amelia)

"Eh, yeah, I can. But right now we have to cover for everyone else" (Izumo)

I shake my head.

"You already understand that there's no leeway to do that right? I will finish that guy" (Amelia)

"?!!"

"See, it is beginning to move!! If they get hit in that defenseless state, even Misura will die instantly!" (Amelia)

"B-But..." (Izumo)

From what I see, Izumo is probably in the side that wants to save Ilumgand.

"...'I will carry the burden', is that what you intent to do? Then I will make sure it is a direct hit this time, so please create an opening" (Sif)

Sif is in the side that doesn't care if he dies.

That's why she is worried that I will be carrying the burden, so she is trying to dirty her own hands.

But that's just not going to work.

"Impossible. His current magic defense is way too high. In terms of physical and magical damage, it has to possess quite the power or it won't break through. Can you do even more than the last attack, in a situation where it might drag your comrades in it?" (Amelia)

We were able to secure enough space, that's why she was able to shoot the previous attack that dropped the arms of Ilumgand.

I don't think Sif would be able to control that much firepower into a hit to his vital spot.

The accuracy of her attacks are not that high. That's one of the weaknesses she has.

Well, she has way too many plus points, so it doesn't matter that much, but right now that's not the case.

"T-That's..." (Sif)

"That's why I will do it. To smash him with both physical and magic attack, it is best to use my arrow and the forced endowment after all. It is okay, the chance of success is decent. Please let me show my cool side in front of Shiki-san" (Amelia)

With a slightly playful tone, but serious eyes, I look at Sif and ask for her cooperation.

Suddenly, my body felt lighter.

"Aah!! It is already a despairing situation! I will restrain Ilumgand with all the magic power I have, so Amelia, I leave the rest to you! Not caring about what happens just because Shiki-san is here, that's just too uncool!!" (Izumo)

With a teary expression, the despairing Izumo began shooting attack magic towards Ilumgand.

"...Understood. In the times when Jin is unable to move, you are the leader. That's what we decided right?" (Sif)

"Thanks Sif" (Amelia)

The powerful fire element spell that Sif completed was condensing in the tip of the arrow at my right hand.

What was that about ‘if it succeeds?’?

I knew that she would surely be able to do it.

I am aiming for the same path as her, so I know how many steps ahead of me she is.

It will definitely last for 10 seconds.

I dashed instantly.

I run beside the barrage cover that Izumo wringed out with his last amount of magic power, and, after accelerating in one breath, I kick the ground.

Reaching a height higher than average with my jump, I activate a floating spell.

Feeling a gentle sensation of my whole body being lifted up, I was brought up to the max height my jump reached again.

Below me, Ilumgand is looking at me.

Just as planned.

He thinks it is natural to receive the attacks.

That's how much confidence he has in his defensive power.

But right now you don't have a single obstacle around you that might serve as defense.

There's nothing obstructing the space between you and me.

Shooting from midair.

I was doing it just like normal, but for some reason, Raidou-sensei was surprised.

His face was saying ‘how dexterous’.

If someone like him, who has a 100% hit rate in his shots, tells me that, I could only take it as him making fun of me though.

Depending on the situation, jumping and firing is a valid option.

It's easier to secure a shooting space.

If I don't look at the state of the battle, I also face the risk of exposing myself to the opponent's attack, so it isn't only plusses.

Thanks to the previous attack of Sif, I was able to tell the degree of that prided defensive power of his.

Even if he blocks with both of his arms, my arrow that has a ferocious endowment will still be able to at least get his neck.

That's why- ?!!

“!! Don't tell me, that thing in his arm?! This is bad!!”

Imprisoned in my stance, I see something unbelievable.

With his left hand he grabs the arm that was dropped previously, and throws it towards me.

You are kidding right? Using his own arm... I wasn't expecting...

“Nameless children of earth! Provide support!”

Sif's voice!

I honestly wasn't expecting anymore backup from the girl that gave me her completed spell.

But she still had the spirit magic.

It doesn't have much effect on Ilumgand, but it seems she still has more up her sleeves.

Several stone arms stretch out from below Sif and went to grab at Ilumgand's legs.

The truly troublesome thing about him is that aside from fire element and non-elemental spells, the other elements can't even enter his surroundings.

Destroying his footing, using wind to blind him and obstruct his movements; the things we want to do, he didn't let us do it.

Especially the water element resistance. It even looked like he was being powered-up by it.

It's the worst.

And so, the one Sif used just now was activating the spell in an area close to her and stretching it towards the target.

The bind type spells normally activate around the target's area, so this one is quite irregular.

...I see, I think I somewhat understand the origin of her idea.

Did she use the spell that Eris-san used that time in summer as reference?

It entered enough to touch him, but as expected, the spell scattered in an instant.

But the trajectory of the arm that's flying at me has been slightly deviated.

That's enough. Thanks.

I feel a dull impact in my side, but compared to receiving a direct hit, this pain is nothing and I just fix my arrow to the bow.

I'm glad I used pain mitigation just in case something happened at the fall.

That impact felt like bad news.

I feel like I might cry if I look at it, so I don't.

While looking at the tip of the arrow that's about to rampage, I fix my aim to the head of the 'variant'.

Don't hesitate.

There's no time.

If the spell explodes before impact, it is over.

This is not magic power endowment but magic spell endowment.

This can't even be called endowment magic. An irregular of irregulars.

There are too many demerits.

But Shiki-san did it like it was nothing.

And right now the merit is what makes it worth.

I want to defeat that thing.

I want to surpass it.

I don't hesitate over anything and head onto 'the next step'.

I have to hit no matter what.

That's why... I pray.

The face of Shiki-san, and another person, appeared in my mind.

...Even if I pray to you, I will definitely not be able to obtain that power of yours with my current self though.

It appears in my mind.

The two people that my current self considers the most reliable of all.

“— Hit in the middle!!”

Isn't that right, Raidou-sensei?

The red arrow I shot flew splendidly to the aimed place as if blessed. It pierces onto the 'variant's' crossed arms.

For a moment the momentum decreased, but it easily pierced through.

Moreover, from the head that was hidden by both hands, I could tell that the arrow sunk deep into the vital point and a part of the neck I was aiming for, at the inner spine.



It... hit.

...It's over.

I was sure.

I look at the man that has shouted several times watching our fight from the spectator seats.

That person is most likely the Head of the Hopelace household in Limia Kingdom.

That person is my...

Even though I wanted to avoid problematic things, so I came here from a remote region of the empire to this academy...

Why did it end up like this?

But well, it's fine already.

Because with this, it's all...

My thoughts... I can't put them up properly.

For some reason, a feeling of hollow sadness spread through my chest.

And then, in the moment that I witnessed the outcome and my tension disappeared...

I wanted to scream from the pain that I felt in my side for a moment, but even with that, I was somehow able to grit my teeth.

In my silent state, I entrust my body to the falling sensation and the exhaustion, and relinquish my consciousness.

The explosion that occurred a second later and the thunderous sound that came after.

That resonated in my ears, along with the distant unsightly screams of the 'man' that I was never able to feel the real emotions of.



“Hello there, Tomoe”

“Root huh. Is it okay for the Adventurer Guild to be in this kind of place?” (Tomoe)

“Luckily the headquarters seem to be empty. Also, it’s not Root, its Falz. In this place that is” (Root)

“Hmph, well, this will be my thanks for your cooperation-ja. I will follow you on that” (Tomoe)

Excluding the Limia Kingdom’s group; Tomoe evacuated the guests to one of the shelters the Academy Principal knows of.

After that, she stood at the shelter’s entrance with the front that it is to protect them.

In truth, there’s the simple reason that it was more convenient to give instructions to the company members with thought transmission if she is there.

Also, because she hasn’t consulted with Makoto about how to move the guests of the several countries, she is trying to reduce the contact she has with them.

“And the situation is? I don’t mind if you just tell me what you can say” (Root)

“Most of it is going favorably. It will probably settle down in about one or two days” (Tomoe)

“Hm? No no, I wasn’t referring to that. About Mako-, Waka-sama. I was wondering if you were able to ask what you wanted to” (Root)

Tomoe was telling him the current state of the turmoil, but in contrast to that, Root denied it and states that he wants to know about herself.

Hearing those words, Tomoe was slightly flustered and responds with a facial reaction.

“?! ”

“That’s cute. I don’t know what you wanted to ask that you even went so far as to rely on the power of alcohol, but, how did it go? Did he tell you anything in your drunken

state?" (Root)

"You're so annoying. In the end, even without relying on such a nostrum, I more or less understand what's inside Waka's heart. Right now... I am fine with that" (Tomoe)

"What, so there was no point in getting drunk huh. What a waste. That thing, your body develops resistance to it, so after one month you won't be able to use it again. Since you have the chance, how about drinking it again while it is still effective?" (Root)

"I can still enjoy alcohol even without getting that drunk. I do think that it was a hard to get experience though. Seriously. I was wondering what you were going to say and here you go with such a stupid thing" (Tomoe)

"That's because I am interested you know. In the path that he intends to take" (Root)

"...I have no intentions of getting friendly with you. But, it is true that you have looked after us in these few days. I will tell you a bit. With this, Waka will probably notice the large amount of paths he can choose" (Tomoe)

"Hmph~. I see. It seems you guys have quite a lot of secrets, but can I take it as you guys beginning a change to this world?" (Root)

Roots narrows his eyes and asks Tomoe the true meaning.

That question felt as if he was happy and at the same time filled with curiosity.

And, it also felt as if he was cautious.

"Who knows" (Tomoe)

"Geez, isn't it fine to just tell me a bit more? Like, joining the Limia hero and becoming the hope of hyumans, accelerating the madness in Gritonia, receiving the protection of Lorel's wise man creed and live in peace, or you know, separating Aion from Tsige and making it independent" (Root)

"...I'm surprised you could think of so many-ja na" (Tomoe)

Tomoe mutters amazed at the possibilities Root pointed out.

"Then... go to the church and become a believer of the Goddess? If he wants to blend into this world, that's also an option. He did look like he wanted to fit with the hyumans after all" (Root)

"Nothing to say-ja" (Tomoe)

"...There's also the choice of assisting the demon lord in destroying the hyuman society that he considers warped, right?" (Root)

"..." (Tomoe)

"Scary~, so he is choosing a future path without being self-aware that he will be in a position to control the scale of the war. Ah~, in my opinion, I feel like he is slightly underestimating the power he possesses. If he felt constrained, it wouldn't be strange to have moved a long time ago" (Root)

"...Waka also has the experience and values he has lived up with until now. That person has a stubborn side as well after all. We also have a lot going on our side-ja yo" (Tomoe)

"Values? His? I want to know" (Root)

"..."

"Staying silent huh. That's troublesome. Then, can you please tell me only one thing? It doesn't have to be everything either. In exchange, I will also give you information that will prove useful. Like this, I feel like you are just leaving me in a cliffhanger" (Root)

"Hmph. Depends on the content" (Tomoe)

"Do I see interest? I'm happy. What I am the most interested in right now is the talk we had before, the talk about him changing. How is it?" (Root)

Root's words referred to the conversation they had before in a summer night.

The eyebrows of Tomoe twitched and she hangs her head down as if thinking of something.

"That huh. Well, it should be fine to tell you a bit" (Tomoe)

Tomoe raises her head a bit and accepts.

"Really?! I know that he has changed a bit since that time, but I wanted the opinion of someone that is close to him, like you Tomoe" (Root)

Root was delighted made an innocent smile.

"A dramatic change like the one you are assuming has still not happened yet. Waka still hasn't decided on what he wants to do after all. But, in terms of power, he has totally blossomed. If for example, you and Waka end up fighting, we would be able to watch without worries. That's how much he has grown" (Tomoe)

"?! Heh~. But I think that he would have been able to put up a fight against me even before he met me though. It doesn't sound like he has grown that much" (Root)

"I said 'watch without worries', didn't I? If you were to fight him upfront, well, you are in outline the summit of superior dragons, so you might be able to leave some scratches on him" (Tomoe)

Root looks at Tomoe as if in total loss of words.

The word speechless fit him well at this moment.

"Right now I still don't know from how high of a place my master is overlooking this society in or what he is thinking of-ja. However, regarding Waka, I recommend you to not lay a hand on him-ja na. If my master enters the 'changing' step you talk about, no matter if it's a superior dragon, it would be no different from a lizard" (Tomoe)

Unable to continue his words, Tomoe talks to Root as if giving the finishing blow.

"And then, what was that useful information you were talking about-ja?" (Tomoe)

"...The trump card of the hyumans is beginning to move. Well, if he has become that strong, there might be no need to worry" (Root)

"Trump card. The dragon slayer? If I remember correctly, she is the strongest hyuman-ja na" (Tomoe)

"Dragon Slayer, are you talking about Sofia? By no means. She is just a girl with the highest level in the people that are registered at the Guild and the one who defeated

Lancer, that's all. If you say strongest, that's not the case" (Root)

"Then who are you talking about-ja?" (Tomoe)

"The one that is the most loved by the Goddess after the heroes. It seems to be a well-made Imadai" (Root)

"Imadai... is that an ascended being?" (Tomoe)

"I see, you probably didn't know. It refers to a special lineage of humans that can use an element that even the Goddess can't use. For now, just think of it as the Goddess beginning to put serious effort even when busy. Her being busy is her just deserts though" (Root)

"Fumu. Well, I will gratefully receive your information. If you have finished your business, return. If you are with me all the time and they suspect some sort of relationship, it would be troublesome. Also, I feel like I paid too much. I will have you properly calm down the matter of the teleportation, okay?" (Tomoe)

With her left hand she goes 'Shoo shoo', showing a gesture of driving away Root.

"Understood. I finally get the chance to have Makoto-kun feel indebted to me, so I will properly do my part. I am more used to interacting with humans than you guys after all. I will go give a report later about how it went. To Waka-sama that is" (Root)

"Hmph, just telling you, I won't be giving you the katana. And of course, accompanying me in my teleportation is out of question-ja" (Tomoe)

"Of course. Leave it to me. Well then, give my regards to him. Also... it seems like none of the countries have noticed, but keep the thought transmission interception to a moderate level, okay? Seriously, even the thought transmission of you guys is terrifying. Don't worry, I won't talk with Makoto-kun. Thought transmission and teleportation; if the countries learned only these two, the war against the demon race would prolong for many years" (Root)

As if amazed, Root shrugs his shoulders and leaves the place where Tomoe is.

The place he is heading to is the area where the guests are in.

Just like how he told Tomoe, it seems he is obediently behaving as the Guild Master

Falz.

Tomoe, who is standing at a faraway place with the pretext of being a guard, sees off that back.

"Prolong... That Root, so he is also informed in the internal conditions of the demon race. I don't really have any interest in the war between the hyumans and the demon race, but if he is involved with both parties, I pity them a bit. Well then, I wonder when we should counterattack. In the meantime, I will leave them helping out with the evacuation. I feel like we can use that babysitting as a pretext a few days later-ja" (Tomoe)

After being left alone again, Tomoe resumes her instructions to the company.

She arranges the reports she received by thought transmission in the time she was talking with Root.

Reports of her subordinates, intercepting the communication of the countries; in the time Tomoe herself is concentrating, a massive amount of information flows in.

On top of that, Tomoe is calculating the timing to move.

She is disposing of the store that already has no inventory in it and has now become just a mere building.

Because it is fine to just rebuild it if they want to.

There's no need to be concerned about safety, is what she is thinking.

The company employees that are receiving instructions from Tomoe are right now dispersed around various areas of the town. Already having a list up of the areas where the variants are not rampaging and the places that can be used as refuge, they guide the town residents that are panicked.

Currently she has gotten the okay from the slum where the demi-humans are living in, and has added it in the list of safe places.

The chaos is still spreading, but the Kuzunoha Company and Tomoe as well, continued their moves without showing any sort of confusion.



“I see. Makoto-kun has already become that strong huh”

Root was shocked by the words of Tomoe, however, his feelings of joy were bigger.

‘He is certainly able to defeat you’ even when told that, he didn’t show signs of pessimism.

“Maybe, you will really become an existence that can shoot down the Goddess. You say that you are misfortunate, but why? Thinking about the current state of the Goddess where she can’t move, Makoto-kun might actually be an incredibly lucky one. I am having a lot of fun. As I thought, you really are the best. I don’t care in what you change. I am looking forward to the day I can see your power. If possible, I want to someday be able to walk alongside you and watch the same scenery as you. Fufu” (Root)

Muttering in a low tone, his expression looked pleased. A hard to approach atmosphere surrounding him.

# Chapter 141

## Competition grounds, one end

Amelia huh.

Hmph~ she was the one who killed Ilumgand.

Shiki should have told her not to overdo it, and the students were clearly hesitant.

I thought their hesitation came from their attacks that were like measuring his power and there was a vague line in their way of coping with things, but...

Amelia Hopelace.

Hopelace.

Did she really have some sort of antagonism towards the Hopelace household in Limia?

She had the same family name so I asked her in an indirect way before, but she didn't answer, and I didn't want to force her into saying something she doesn't want to.

I am like a cram school teacher.

I don't have any intentions of interfering with the circumstances of this place.

Well, no matter what it is, they have defeated Ilumgand thanks to Amelia, so that's fine.

No, as a result, it has also turned into something troublesome for me, so maybe I should have asked for her circumstances even if it was hard for her?

But if I did that, I would be making our connection pointlessly deeper.

The dry relationship that a temporary teacher and a student should have is pretty comfortable for me.

Knowing the distance between my students is difficult.

I was getting used to being a temporary teacher, but in times, I feel the difficulties of it in this kind of way.

If I had to evaluate the fight of Jin and the others as a battle teacher, sadly, I would not give them a passing grade.

If they didn't waste their time hesitating and went for the kill from the very beginning, they wouldn't exhaust themselves and would have been able to finish the fight for sure.

Mio and Shiki were there for support, so it is obvious that they would be able to.

That they were unable to is because they had the thoughts of saving Ilumgand, and it was probably because they were driven by Jin into that mindset and ended up having a tough fight.

I did tell an excuse to the Limia king, that they were fighting to call out Ilumgand, but honestly, I wasn't expecting much.

If it were an opponent that magic can show its effect with, there would be a number of methods to make it unable to act, but if it's only the fire element that works properly, the current group of Jin has practically no choice but to fight upfront.

With those conditions, as long as a miracle doesn't occur, there would be no way of winning aside from killing.

That's why, with this in mind, I was thinking about letting Shiki handle it if it seemed impossible for them.

Of course, that talk about passing grade I was thinking about a while ago, I will just keep that thought inside my head.

The fight just now wasn't a simple battle for them, and if they survived in actual combat, that's something to be happy about.

There's no need to point that out and pour cold water on them.

Looking at the gray lump of meat that was once Ilumgand and the students respectively, I thought that way.

"Waka-sama, the treatment to one of the knights somehow made it in time. The other one was already dead and in no state for treatment" (Shiki)

[Got it. Please return to the students' side]

"As you will" (Shiki)

Finishing his report to me, Shiki greets the Limia King and heads to where the students are.

[We were unable to save one of the knights. I'm truly sorry. Also, no words are enough to apology for the result of Ilumgand-sama]

He was able to save one huh.

I have to thank Shiki for that.

"Raidou, there's no need for you to mind it. Just remembering those wounds, I am happy that at least one has been saved. Let me thank you once again for saving the life of the knight and the prince. You defeating that monster was also splendid" (King)

Prince.

Ah...

I suddenly recall that sensation in my hands.

I feel like that will definitely turn into something troublesome later.

For now, I should be grateful that the topic is not touched yet.

In the first place, the breasts of the prince were nowhere to be found.

But for my hand to accidentally end up in that kind of place after her sarashi or something similar to hide her chest was torn, what kind of accident is that?

[Those words are wasted on me]

"Your students were also great. Even if it was with a group of seven, they were able to defeat an opponent that our imperial knights couldn't. It is to the point that I want to

bring all of them back to my country. Of course, also you who the defeated the same type of monster" (King)

His gaze is going back and forth between me and the short katana.

How to call it, it was like the eyes of an influential person.

Also 'the same type' huh.

I wonder about that. Ilumgand felt a few steps stronger and troublesome.

As I thought, maybe he was special?

I don't know what activities Rona did in this town, so I don't know the background either.

[Sorry to say this, but the variant I fought was a lot weaker than the one my students were fighting. So please acknowledge them instead of me. I think it was a harsh experience for them, but they fought well. Also, each one of them may have some thoughts about their future, but receiving the praise of the Limia King will definitely encourage them]

"Umu. But, weaker huh. I was unable to tell but, is that true? In that case, there's the chance that the work towards Ilumgand was more through"

The Limia King looks like he is thinking.

This is Rotsgard, but that assaulter – and victim at the same time – is Ilumgand, the son of a noble in Limia.

Also, the school festival that is occurring in this town gathers people from around the world.

If they want to narrow the suspects, there would be way too many candidates and would have a hard time with it.

The demon race would be the biggest suspect, but there's quite a lot going on between hyumans as well.

Anyways, Jin and the others have received a godsend.

To receive words that are practically an unofficial offer from the literal top of one of the four major powers.

There's the fact about national power, but there's also the climate and geography that's comparable to the Empire, and can expect much from Limia in the future. If someone asked me in which of the four major powers I would like to live, Limia would be the one I would most likely choose.

If I choose an area where the nobles are better, I think that it would be easier to live.

Those kids would be happy if they heard this.

From an academy scholarship student into a knight corps or a magician corps in Limia Kingdom is a straight path to success.

Maybe everyone except the Rembrandt sisters will go.

“...”

The Hopelace Head was on his knees, looking at the lump of meat.

Even if it was his second son, it is still the remains of his son.

He most likely lost his strength.

“Raidou-dono, I have something to talk with you about later. I don't mind if it's after this turmoil has calmed down, so please make some time” (Joshua)

[Understood, Prince Joshua]

I don't plan on telling anyone about that previous shock.

But the problem would be, how am I going to make her understand that?

Well then...

We have already secured this place, so let's contact Tomoe and bring this people to the safe place where the other guests are.

And then, have the remaining spectators evacuate.

For now there have been no emergency calls from anyone, so I want to confirm the situation once.

I was prepared to receive several problematic reports from the Mist Lizards, but there wasn't a single one.

As expected of Rembrandt-san.

He must have explained it well.

Well it would have been easier to explain if I called something more hyuman-like for example: Gorgons, Arkes, or the safest choice Forest Onis.

As long as I show it to Rembrandt-san, it would be a matter of time before his daughters also learn about their existence.

It would be troublesome to explain every single thing, so leaving it as if I can only summon the Blue Lizard race is easier for me.

[Even if we stay here, there might be an attack again. Please take refuge in the same safe place as the guests. The matter related to your country has already been resolved]

“But to stay in a safe place like that, do you think I would be able to face the residents of this town?” (King)

[The chief of this town, the Academy Principal, is also there. Of course, he is most likely moving in order to protect this town. Staying in a safe place to make more precise orders should help in calming down this turmoil faster. We will endeavor in evacuating the residents. I am not used to this kind of situations, but I will do my best]

“Evacuate? With power like yours, shouldn't you be going for suppressing?” (King)

[Of course, if there's the need to, I will. Just that, since the academy force is concentrating on suppressing like what happened a while ago, I thought that we should take on the job of guiding the evacuation and aiding which is lacking in personnel]

“...Similar... to the just descended...” (King)

In a low voice, the king mutters something.

Damn it, I missed what he said.

I think he said something about resembling.

Was that a monologue? Well, might as well confirm.

[Sorry, can you please repeat?]

“Ah no, there’s no need to mind it. I see. Then if we stay here fretting, it would only cause trouble huh. Umu... Joshua” (King)

He didn’t tell me.

But he didn’t reject my idea of prioritizing evacuation.

“Yes?” (Joshua)

“I don’t know if it will make it in time, but have an available unit head to Rotsgard. Reinforcements are definitely needed. I don’t mind if it’s after taking shelter, so please contact them. I will talk with the Academy Principal regarding the permission of it. You pass a thought transmission to a relay point and have them hurry the report to the Kingdom” (King)

“Understood. Well, the closest unit is the unit of the Hopelace household that has a territory in the Kingdom’s southern tip. When we secure a safe place where I can do thought transmission, I will transmit it immediately” (Joshua)

Joshua glances, but the Hopelace household head doesn’t react.

Is he alright?

He lost his son, so I wonder if he can do any normal decisions currently.

“Well then, Raidou. It might be troublesome, but please teleport us. After that, can you please lend a shoulder to that absentminded one over there?” (King)

[I would be happy to]

I confirm the location with Tomoe, and make mist that connects to the place she is in.

Thick mist that one can't see through appeared in front of the king.

I glance at Shiki and Mio.

Looks like they are doing the follow-up of the students.

I thought they could be taken as a fighting force in a matter of this degree, but it is probably no good.

They probably still have in mind that those monsters were former hyumans. The weakening in their strength is heavy.

I don't know how the evacuation of the other students is going, but I feel like it would be better to send these kids to an evacuation point and have them quietly wait there.

There's no assurance that there will only be one opponent, and there's also my promise with Rembrandt-san.

It wouldn't be good to push them.

While feeling disappointed, I look at the unit that has purple clothing and blood mixed.

Is this the level of the corps that are working as a mainline defense against the variants?

I don't know their real strength and their numbers, but depending on the number of people that can actually fight decently, this matter will probably take several days.

While thinking in my own way about how this situation would develop, I see off the back of the staggering knight.

While at it, I confirm that the Limia King and Prince Joshua disappear into the mist.

Well then.

I take the arm of the Head-dono that is grabbing the rails, motionlessly looking at the lump of meat.

[Hopelace-sama, excuse me. I will see you off, so please depart]

“Don’t touch me!!”

“!!”

The moment I take his arm and try to make him stand, he brushes off my hand and yells.

It was quite the high volume, and the eyes of the students and my followers turn to where we are.

Waving my hand to convey that it’s nothing, I wait for the Head-dono to stand by himself.

This may be something that can’t be helped. He glares at me hatefully and without the need of lending him a shoulder, he staggers to where the mist is and disappears inside it.

Well, not like I was planning on having everyone feel indebted to me though.

Hah...

He didn’t even look at Amelia once, and yet, why am I the one getting so much hate?

I don’t understand.

Did he inherit the hate his son had?

I don’t even know the reason of his son’s hate either, so I am still here with a question mark.

I really don’t understand the nobles.

I suddenly remember the words of Prince Joshua.

A rampaging beast that one can’t feel any trace of personality in it, huh.

The last shout of Ilumgand that was mixed with the thunderous sound of the explosion.

'I just wanted to apologize'

Is what he said.

...This is probably something that will never be realized now.

In the many times that I heard the voice of that variant, I didn't expect to actually understand something he said, but well, since I ended up hearing it, it can't be helped.

If there was someone you wanted to apologize to so much that you shouted it at your last moments...

Don't waste your time pestering me and just do thought transmission or write a letter to tell that person how you felt.

I sympathized with him for a moment, but after seeing off the Head-dono, I see Mio leaving the stage and running towards me, so I change the gears in my emotions.

No matter what he wanted to say or who it was to, I won't know.

There's no point in worrying about it now.

"Waka-sama, did anything serious happen to you?!" (Mio)

I nod once and answer Mio.

Right now Tomoe should be guiding the Limia group.

There's Root there as well, and the distinguished people have their own point of view, so being there is better for their job.

[I'm fine. In your side, it seems like... it has turned into something complicated]

In a sense, it is to be expected.

The atmosphere around the students isn't only of the victory in that battle, a complicated atmosphere.

Especially Amelia, her exhaustion is terrible.

Looks like she also got injured.

Her shoulder huh.

Even if Shiki treated her, he can't regenerate the clothes and armor, so the place she was injured is easy to tell.

Anyways, even if she has her own circumstances, as long as she doesn't tell me about it, it means that I am not qualified to hear it.

Her loving Shiki is with her, so I will just leave it to him.

If Shiki hears about her circumstances and he finds it necessary to tell me, he will.

There doesn't seem to be anything I can do regarding her.

"That was close. At the end, when he howled and the vanguard was unable to move, I thought that there was no choice but to lend them a hand, but Amelia somehow did it. To endow a completed spell to an arrow, counting Sif, those two really did something reckless-desu wa. It was probably an imitation of Shiki though" (Mio)

[Endowing a spell huh. And that's what caused the explosion. It was pretty amazing]

An imitation of Shiki huh.

Endowing a completed spell to a weapon, it increases the attack power explosively.

Just that, the effective time is really short.

Shiki said that he can only maintain it for several minutes.

Bluntly speaking, the consumption rate is bad.

As long as you are not that concerned about the attack power of your weapon, there isn't much point in using it.

Even with Shiki, he said that he mostly used this only when he wanted his opponent to mistake it for endowing magic and create an opening out of it.

It seems the two of them were able to do it, but if it's them, they would only be able to

maintain it for a few seconds.

I see, that's reckless.

With an opponent like the variant that has high defensive power against magic itself and has a limited amount of elements that are effective against it, this technique barely enters the degree of being useful.

With arrows, there's the merit that the power won't decrease even if it distances from you, but if the effective time ends before it reaches the target, it would be completely useless, so the demerits are big.

I approach the vanguard group that is sitting.

“...Sensei”

[Jin, you did well]

“I... I was supposed to not care about what happened to him. Actually, I should have been pissed off. But when I thought that I would be killing him... I just...” (Jin)

It looks like he is confused.

The point is, he thought he would be able to but he couldn't.

And he is unable to accept it.

‘Even though I defeat mamonos without mercy’, is probably something they all hold in their minds.

[He was a hyuman in the beginning. It's not something strange. Don't push yourself and rest for now]

“?!! Are you saying we will only be in the way?!”

[That's not it. You guys are students. There's no need for students to fight in the frontlines. Fighting is the job of others]

Honestly, there's a part of me that actually thought they would get in the way. But there's no need to say that and hurt them, so I told them my main reason.

Leaving aside if they are dependable or not, the Academy Town has their fighting force as well.

People like the purple clothed guys.

Information will be steadily gathered, so beginning with the Academy Principal, the influential people of the Academy will most likely plan out counter measures for the variants.

At the least, the situation is definitely not to the point that there's the need for the enrolled students to step into the frontlines.

"But we can also fight plenty enough!!" (Jin)

[For someone that fought only once and is already this tired, quite the big words there. Also, even if she was healed, Amelia received quite the injury you know?]

If the second variant intruded in that fight, there's the possibility that deaths would appear.

Well, the fact that they haven't touched the topic of that second variant even once might be because they didn't even notice it.

If that's the case, I can say for sure that what they need right now is not battle experience but rest.

They don't have the freedom to fight several variants at once.

Even if I said it was weaker than Ilumgand, depending on the power of the opponent, there's the chance they might die.

It doesn't change the fact that they were former hyumans, so there's the chance they will waver again.

My uneasiness in counting them as fighting force is big.

"Ugh... that is..." (Jin)

[I wanted to restore him]

“?!!”

[That was your true intention, right?]

“It wasn’t for Sensei? Am I... naïve?” (Jin)

The frail words that Jin said were an affirmation that, till the very end, he didn’t choose to kill him.

[I felt that instead of having you guys die, it would be better to bring down Ilumgand. For me, you guys are more important than him, and Amelia probably felt the same way when she took action. If you lament your naivety, it is okay to just improve yourself in your remaining time at the academy. I think that this trait of yours is a strong point and also an important part of you]

It didn’t work in his favor in this occasion though.

It’s true that it is one of his biggest appeals.

The composed disposition and the coldhearted trait don’t fit him at all.

“It was a naivety that brought everyone into danger. To call it a strong point is just...” (Jin)

Oh? An unusual display of heavy weakness from him.

Even though it is fine to just leave the complicated thinking and concentrate on resting.

[It is fine to just think about that later. Right now you should rest. This is an order as a teacher. I have received information that variants have appeared in this town and in the towns around. This matter will probably take time]

“No way... what in the world is going on?” (Jin)

[Anyways, today you guys should take refuge in the place where the other students are and rest. Even if you want to fight, if your body doesn’t follow, there’s no point. Also...]

[Sif and Yuno]

I call the Rembrandt sisters that are together.

“Raidou-sensei”

“Sensei”

[Your parents are okay. I have placed dependable bodyguards with them, so there's no need to worry. You will obediently evacuate right?]

“...Understood” (Sif)

“...I will evacuate, for today” (Yuno)

Yuno is also a troublesome lady.

Is she saying that she intends to fight?

Sif also responded as if she was harboring something as well.

I told this to Jin too but, you guys are students so there's no need to get so eager.

Even though other parts of their body are clearly showing exhaustion, their eyes were strangely vivid.

Is the battle excitement state still continuing?

No matter which, the best choice seems to be rest.

Let's leave the thankful words of the Limia King for a later time.

There's also the issue with the Prince as well.

It would be troublesome if she gets rash and does something reckless.

Especially when the person she wants to protect is being targeted.

I was able to experience this just a few moments ago.

[Shiki, Mio. Please guide the students to the evacuation point. If there's the need to, it is okay to put that place as the guarding priority]

“Eeh?! Uhm, and Waka-sama?” (Mio)

[I will go hear the situation from Tomoe. I leave these kids in your care]

I make mist that connects to the same place as before.

Tomoe, just how long does she intend to watch and wait?

It would be troublesome if the guests were to catch me, so I will just quietly go there, quickly hear what she has to say, and then head to my store to see how it is going.

# Chapter 142

## The two small miracles

Ah...

I crumble down in front of it.

'There's no problem, we just need to rebuild it later. That's why I took the store's sign and disposed of the store'

When I went to hear about the situation, Tomoe told me this without hesitation.

By the time I noticed, I was already here.

My mental state was as if someone told me: 'hey your house is burning'.

There's no traces of it being burned though.

Without thinking, I was on my hands and feet, and looking at the place that has turned into rubble.

Kuzunoha Company.

The first store I had.

I didn't even have previous part-time job experience, left a lot of the work to others, and can only remember lots of bad experiences though.

There were lots of painful memories but... but!

When I see it destroyed like this, I feel sad.

There wasn't anything important left and it isn't like my rights for the lot will be gone.

And the things Tomoe said were plausible.

The inventory has all been stowed away in the storage of Asora.

Also, if the stores around are all destroyed and only my store remains safe, it would only bring about unnecessary misunderstandings.

Well the store itself was only furniture and goods, and the renovation was done in a single day.

If I wanted to make it again from 0, I just have to ask the eldwas and it wouldn't even take 3 days.

Even so...

I understand all the reasons, but since it was heavy, a sigh leaks out from my mouth.

It still doesn't change my sadness.

The buildings at both sides are also destroyed completely and the one opposite to us has smoke coming out from the rubbles.

Yeah.

Destroying the store was an appropriate move.

I can tell that a variant unluckily appeared around this area.

I don't know their conduct principle, but if their target is the teleport formations, there was a part of me that thought the damage in town wouldn't be that bad.

That's why I had small hopes in seeing my store safe.

Hah...

Things like Asora and military power... Let's try putting them to practical use.

Is what I resolved to do not that long ago.

Or is she telling me to set sail anew from an empty lot?

...Let's take it in a positive manner.

Change of attitude.

"If the guy who made all this place a mass of rubble was around here, I would still be able to take it down but..." (Makoto)

The remains of what seem to be the results of a fireball crashing. No, it is as if something of high-temperature charged through the place.

Was this done by a variant resembling a fire element wild boar, or something like that?

When I try to picture the offender, the only common point I can find is the gray color skin of the two I have already seen.

The chances that it has a shape I can't even imagine are pretty high. Even so, with small hope, I look around.

But to my disappointment, the area around here is already quiet.

Looks like the residents have already evacuated, and even when I can hear commotion from afar, there's nothing like that in these areas.

My store is gone, so they probably finished evacuating the people in the early stages of the uproar.

Well, physical things will one day break.

I do have lingering affection towards my store, but for now let's just go to where the students have evacuated.

It wouldn't be strange for a temporary teacher to be there and it is safe.

"N?"

I think I heard something.

I perk up my ears.

Yeah, I really do hear something.

A scream.

And it is pretty close.

Several people are screaming intermittently.

That direction is... directly straight from the back of my store.

Wait.

Isn't that the brothel avenue?

There's a variant in such a place too?

The current mission of the Kuzunoha Company is evacuation.

As the representative, I'm no exception.

Or more like, the chances it is the same one that laid waste to this place is pretty high.

It might be the opportunity for retribution.

The equipment the eldwas made for me, the open version jacket. I activate the speed mode.

In the spacious street that has turned slightly athletic-like because of the rubble, I run directly towards the direction of the scream.

Even so, the brothels, a place that would normally not be an objective in a battlefield.

I wonder what reason Rona had to place a variant in such a place.

And in this timing nonetheless.

If the variants rampage following their instincts, their uses would be quite limited, but if their objective is the teleport formations, maybe there's one in that area and she chose to place a variant there?

No, that's not it.

Ilumgand was a student.

He transformed in the tournament grounds.

In the first place, the chances of ending only as a disturbance if they are driven by instinct is pretty high.

Thinking that she did this even when she withdrew her subordinates, means this plan should not be assured to succeed.

No. What if the demon race is still unable to control the timing of the activation in this tactic?

There's the possibility that they spread the medicine and accessories to the people that get close to their target locations frequently.

If they don't care about the numbers they produce and the amount of casualties, they would probably put the plan in motion.

As usual, I can't imagine what Rona is thinking, but while I was thinking about this and that, I arrived at the source of the scream.

As I thought, it really was the brothel avenue.

In this place the damage to the buildings is not that high. But in the corners of that place, the sounds of screams and destruction resounded.

Over there huh.

Without losing my way I head there, and from the window of a store, a cluster of something comes flying at me.

Oh, a boulder.

A cluster made up of a stove or something of the sort.

It flew at me with quite the speed, but without even touching my jacket, it stopped about 1 meter away from me with magic power and changed directions before falling.

A heavy noise sounds in a place a bit far from me.

Several clusters continued flying towards me, but they all ended up with the same

result. Without minding it, I step into the brothel store where the screams come from.

To think that my first step into the sex industry would be in this manner.

Pardon my intrusion~

“Looks like this is not the one. An octopus?” (Makoto)

It didn’t have the shape I was expecting and I clicked my tongue.

The variant there is an octopus.

No, the details are slightly different.

It has 8 legs, but 2 of those are strangely developed and long. At the tip it looks like the hands of a person.

But the impression it gives is that of a white octopus.

For such a creature to be attacking the prostitute \*Onee-sans\*, how maniac.

One woman is holding an edged tool that doesn’t look battle oriented and confronting it.

What a brave woman.

And also, there are several Onee-sans at the back showing a fighting stance.

Some were crying, some weak on their knees; there were many varieties.

Since I entered the fray, the situation changed and the body of the octopus faced towards me and had its legs wind.

Was this the one that was throwing stuff at me? Did it do it while against this Onee-san? That’s pretty handy. Moreover, it used some sort of method to detect me before I even arrived and began attacking me.

This one also has a special power?

I think that just moving all your legs as an individual being is a pretty impressive

power in itself though.

Well, from what I see, it doesn't look like it is that strong.

An opponent that I don't need to mind about what power it has.

Thanks to the fact that it noticed me quick, there's definitely Onee-sans that were saved, so it was actually a good thing.

There's the scent of blood in here as well, so there's no doubt casualties have already happened though.

Even if I begin to think about how many stores that octopus has already attacked, nothing will change.

If that woman with the edged tool that looks like a fruit knife weren't here doing her best, there would definitely be more casualties.

"H-Help us!!"

The words of one of the prostitutes served as the cue. Several high-pitched voices seeking for help came out from their mouths.

No need to tell me, I came with that purpose in mind.

Hm, but the one I defeated with Brid a while ago, exploded.

I don't want to get splashed indoors.

The store's interior has a strong scent drifting about and right now the smell of blood and fat are not that strong, but if the meat of the variant scatters, it would be difficult to clean up in the close future.

[I will take care of this, so take this chance to leave the store. I will guide you to the evacuation point]

"?!! Boy, this guy is pretty strong. I am grateful that you came to help us, but... I will try to somehow hold it back, so please save the girls at the back"

First bring everyone out.

I don't know if she understood what I said, but I tried to tell her that I would be guiding them later to the evacuation point so wait.

But it seems the woman that is fighting didn't accept it.

Saying something that can only be taken as self-sacrifice, she asked me to help the others escape.

When I check, I see that the Onee-sans are beginning their mobilization for escape, but the people that are weak on their knees just... can't move the way they want to.

In a situation where it wouldn't be strange to just run away without caring, everyone still lent their shoulders to the Onee-sans that can't move properly to escape together.

Their sense of camaraderie is strong.

But you know...

Between joining the Onee-sans and guiding them to escape, or defeating the variant; the "easiest" one for me would be, without doubt, the latter.

Actually, I should be the one defeating this thing, and that woman should put away that knife and guide the Onee-sans.

The octopus tried to move, but it restraint itself and stopped its movements.

Looks like it at least has enough intelligence to be wary.

"Boy, stop! This is a really dangerous monster! It has already killed several people. Even if I look like this, I was a former adventurer. From the people here, I am the one that knows about battle the most, that why..."

Heh~, a former adventurer.

There are few adventurers in Rotsgard.

The main reason is that there's no existing guild here that gives out requests, but it is also because there's few profitable hunting grounds.

Lately, they have been selling a medicinal plant that can be gathered in a part of the

area and is high priced, so the situation has improved a bit though.

By the way, I think the reason might be because of the medicine recipe I exhibited in the church.

It is also the medicinal plant that my students brought to me as a souvenir in summer vacation.

The recipe that we taught the church was created by Shiki and the Arkes with that medicinal plant as the base.

I was surprised when Shiki and the Arkes said they would be able to make it, but thanks to that, my students were able to gain pocket money from it.

It is a bit sad that this is the main way for adventurers to gain money in this place though.

And for a former adventurer who's a prostitute (probably) to be in this town.

...Now that I think about it, what do adventurers do when they retire?

I think being a prostitute should be in the rare side though. Don't really know.

If it's men, I think something with a tough atmosphere like a bar, or the master of a cafe.

[In that case, I am a temporary teacher working in the academy. If you stay by those girls' side, they will definitely feel safer. I will be fine. I will rejoin you later outside, so please go with them]

"A teacher... from the academy? I see. Then you would be a lot better than a \*rotor\* like me. Is it really okay to leave it to you?" <*Rotor=Vibrator*>

I know a few prostitutes here that have come to my shop before, but I haven't seen this one.

If she knew me beforehand, I wouldn't need to do unnecessary explanation.

While I was feeling a bit troubled, the octopus, without learning its lesson, throws something at me.

Of course, that didn't hit me and was repelled by my magic power.

"?!"

Even if the woman who was talking to me didn't know what I used to defend myself with, it seems she does know that I did something to defend against it.

The way she looked at me changed again.

Looks like she revised her thoughts.

What was thrown was... Geh, the head of someone.

Even if she was beautiful, if it is only a head, there's no way to be charmed by it.

[Don't worry. Please wait outside. If possible, it would be great if you were to guide everyone in the other buildings as well. I will guide everyone to the evacuation point later]

"Not being able to gauge the strength of someone so close to me, I have really grown old. That thing's regeneration ability is quite strong, beware of it. I have wounded it several times, but it regenerated it all"

[I appreciate the information]

"...I owe you one. Don't go dying"

Seems like she consented. She joined the prostitutes that were watching and with clear instructions, they began moving.

That's great.

And so, the only ones left inside the building are the octopus and me.

Ah~, I was nervous there.

Maybe I am not used to battle situations where so many girls are looking at me, I felt a strange pressure.

It was a different nervousness to that of being in a party.

The woman just now was in a wine red short dress that had quite the high exposure rate, and on top of that, she tore a part of it to make it easier to move, so I was troubled settling my eyes.

To be in the brothels and feel calmer around an octopus instead of being surrounded by girls makes me sad though.

'Your appearance is poison to my eyes, I will be looking forward to the reward. Now, escape quickly' is something I don't think I will be able to say.

"Sorry but, the Onee-sans around this place are regulars that come often to buy my energy drinks. Having you kill them is troublesome" (Makoto)

Luckily, this thing only says 'Shukoshuko' and I can't understand what it is saying.

Ilumgand's case might have been a rare one.

Let's finish this.

I gather magic power to my right hand.

She said something about regeneration, so I do an aria of a single word for rapid-fire Brid.

On the palm of my right hand, a white ball of light is born.

The size is close to that of a baseball.

I turn my palm towards the octopus.

Several short bullet-sized arrow Brids were created from the light ball and they all pierce the octopus one after the other.

It is trying to block with its tentacles, but without caring, I continue shooting several tens of arrows.

It gradually backs off, and in the end, the octopus is sewed in the wall.

The firing continues.

In time, there was a change.

The head of the octopus gets bigger than its original size and then, it began to swell irregularly.

That doesn't look like regeneration.

It is done huh.

I make an earth element aria, and from the floor, a wall is created as if hiding that thing's body.

I don't want it splattering on me after all.

If I were to hit the weak point properly, it might not scatter and turn into a lump of meat like Ilumgand though.

It would be troublesome to search for it all the time, and with things like: effective element, resistances, and absorption, it makes it even more troublesome.

In that case, it is easier to just damage it till its regeneration limit and finish it.

Things like having several amounts of hyuman magic power increasing its defensive power don't affect me much anyways.

\*Buchatto

A big and unpleasant noise sounded.

I release the wall I created and, looking at the white gel-like substance, I confirm that the octopus was defeated.

I can't feel life signs from it.

It is the same as the beaked variant.

It is finished now.

After confirming it, I go outside.

[Sorry for the wait]

When I go outside, I was welcomed by a large amount of gazes.

Ooh.

There are quite a lot.

Moreover, it looks like they are still increasing in numbers.

There are some that are hugging each other from the happiness of being saved.

With these numbers, the slum where the demi-humans are, is an appropriate evacuation point.

Luckily, the demi-human leader there is an acquaintance of us and we already have permission to use the place.

I heard that the Forest Oni Akua is guarding the surroundings of that area.

There's a good amount of space and there's no variants appearing there.

They will get surprised, but they are able to accept this numbers, and I don't think they will reject it.

When this group is done gathering, I will guide them to the slums while protecting them.

Looks like I can kill a good amount of time.

As Tomoe said, it might take one day or, depending on the situation, several days.

Until then, we will steadily evacuate the residents, and when we 'end up encountering' a variant, we exterminate it.

It looks like my employees are scattered here and there and playing an active role in the evacuation places, so every one of us will probably gather when everything is over.

"You! You are alright. Did you defeat it?"

With her unchanged poisonous appearance, the Onee-san from before approaches me, and after confirming my safety, she asked me the situation.

[Yeah. I'm not sure if any more of those will appear, but I did defeat that... monster. It looks like your side is still increasing in numbers]

"An academy teacher, as expected, quite the impressive one. Well, I don't want to think that more of those things will appear though. And yeah, this was an unexpected situation for the people here after all. In that avenue, there were several customers. You probably already know, but in the brothels there's no day or night. Is the evacuation point far?"

The brothels are active even at daytime huh.

I didn't know that one.

I thought it was a business that operates only at nights.

[From here, the closest place would be the slum. Thinking about the space, it is the most appropriate place. Bringing everyone, I think it will take around 20 minutes]

"Slum?! In the slum where those demi-humans are?! Is it okay to go to such a place to take refuge?"

Just as the name slum implies, it is a place that is recognized by humans as a place with bad public order, so it can't be helped that she is surprised.

The people in the slums are actually simplistic and good natured though.

Because of the prejudices, people just go and hate it, so it must be hard to enter that territory because of fear.

[Fortunately, an acquaintance of mine is doing the role of putting the place in order. I work in a company, and that person is part of my connections]

"Ah! You, could it be, you are the Kuzunoha Company's... uhm, Raidou-san?"

I try telling her just in case so she feels more at peace, but for some reason, she reacted in a different point.

I don't know which store in specific are the customers that come to my place, but prostitutes do come to buy in my store frequently.

Maybe she immediately felt familiarity towards me, with a broad smile, she guessed my identity.

[Yes. I'm the representative Raidou]

"Hmph~, you are huh. That place sells a drink that works well for fatigue. I haven't gone to the store myself, but that drink has been helping me a lot"

[Thank you for your patronage. And thank you for your continued work]

To think that she was one of the people that drank it.

I lower my head and express my gratitude.

In present, the energy drink is selling decently. And a percent of it is because of the purchase of people in the night business.

No, it seems they also work at day, so maybe the wording night business is not correct?

Not only is it a rigorous manual labor, it also has irregular times. It really is a rough job.

Thinking that way, I lower my head deeply with those emotions in mind.

"...You, are pretty unique. Well, you are the representative of a unique company so that's a given huh. In this situation, no matter if it's the slum or any other place, as long as they accept us, I am grateful. Can you please wait for a bit? I will convince everyone first so it doesn't become troublesome later"

But it must have been strange for me to lower my head, she was surprised and after that she made a bitter smile.

I was treated as a 'unique' person.

Why?

She is a regular customer that buys a lot of my merchandize, and even if she hasn't

taken care of me in that aspect, she does her best working day and night.

Well, I don't get it but I am glad for her proposal.

Telling the people beforehand to avoid problems when they arrive there.

That place is originally the place where demi-humans live, is what Tomoe said and with that in consideration she is not sending people there though.

If the people evacuating have this in mind, the worries will lessen.

[That will help a lot. The academy is already on the move, so I think the situation will be resolved promptly. Please persevere for a bit]

"Of course. I'm sorry for troubling you. It may be late but, I am Ester. Nice to meet you"  
(Ester)

[Raidou]

We belatedly finish our introductions.

Several minutes passed before Ester-san returned from the crowd.

We began moving to our evacuation point, the slum.



"Shiki, take those kids and the remaining audience and go ahead first" (Mio)

"Wa? What is Mio-dono going to do?" (Shiki)

"Hm? I remembered some business. If it's just guiding the people to the evacuation point where the students are, even if it's only Shiki it will be enough right?" (Mio)

"That's true but... understood. Then I will be going first" (Shiki)

"I will catch up soon-desu wa" (Mio)

When Jin's group and the followers of Makoto were going to leave the competition grounds, Mio suddenly told Shiki to go ahead.

Shiki was troubled in asking the reason, but in the end, he agreed.

The distance to the evacuation point he has to guide the students and spectators isn't that far, moreover, he is going along as a guard.

With just that, the defense power was already at an excessive level.

"Well then..." (Mio)

Mio turns back on her heels and returns to the stage of the competition grounds.

In there, there is – no – there was a meaningful meat lump of a variant.

"My regeneration is on the special side, but maybe because of that, I can feel it. The smell or maybe the breathing of it; the signs of regeneration" (Mio)

After those words directed to no one, Mio makes one big sigh.

When she does so, the lump of meat that was before her eyes began to move as if it concurred.

"Even though the part that served as the nucleus was completely destroyed, how pitiful. As a person that is specialized in regeneration, I don't want to compare to you but, I will at least praise your vitality-desu wa" (Mio)

The moving lump of meat copies the outline of a hyuman shape.

But the appearance was not that of a hyuman but meat in the shape of a hyuman, and there was no strength detectable like before when it was a variant.

"...It may only be fragments, but I remember. You are a woman of Kuzunoha? Am I still alive?"

"Ara, you can speak? I didn't expect you to have a personality" (Mio)

"I am Ilumgand Hopelace"

"You were" (Mio)

Mio cuts into the words of the hyuman shaped meat lump.

The lower part of its face swelled and it made words as if coming out from its mouth.

And subsequently, when the upper part vibrated slightly, a horizontal cut is made, and when it opens it up and down, there were eyes there.

“...Was I... played around by those guys? How pathetic. Showing such a shameful behavior and even dirtying my family name!!”

“...”

“I used drugs, turned into a monster, and even with that, I still lost. Kukuku, how unsightly”

“Yeah” (Mio)

“The destruction impulse I was feeling a while ago and the emotions that were welling up and couldn’t control, are so silent right now, as if it was all a lie”

“...The nucleus was destroyed, so it is obvious” (Mio)

Mio already reached to a conclusion as to why he returned to his senses, but without voicing out any details, she narrows her eyes as if examining at the situation.

After that, while recognizing the hyuman shaped thing as Ilumgand Hopelace, she muttered several times. He continued talking to Mio but she just gave short responses or ignored him.

“But with this body of a monster, I should end my life already right? If I didn’t die, my responsibility of carrying the Hopelace household would get heavier. That would increase the burden of the residents in our territory” (Ilumgand)

“...Fuh” (Mio)

The second son noble is already dead.

That’s why, released from his firm convictions, he muttered in a calm tone.

Looking at Ilumgand, whose circumstances Mio practically didn’t know at all, talking about responsibility and standpoint, she saw it as humorous.

"It is alright. I don't know how long I will be able to live in this body. In that case, at the very least, I will relay my feelings before dying" (Ilumgand)

Ilumgand didn't show signs of minding the sneer of Mio.

With heavy dragged steps, he walks to where Mio is.

That face was steadily molding into that of when he was a hyuman, but he wasn't able to recreate that appearance perfectly.

The parts of the face were subtly apart from their respective locations, and if anyone saw it, they would feel disgust. Moreover, he had a terrible looking part resembling a keloid.

Even calling him a demi-human would be hard to do. That's how unbalanced and unsightly he was right now.

"That body, it isn't unstable to the point that you have to prepare for death. But do you intent to live as Ilumgand whatever-desu no?" (Mio)

Hearing the information from Mio, the hyuman shape glances at her.

"Hoh, I see. I can live. I have heard something good. I was talking about relaying my feelings, but don't worry. I won't lay a hand to Gotetsu or Ruria anymore. Why I wonder? Even though I was so stuck into it. I am choosing my ideals over my deep affection to her"

"Hm? Gotetsu, Ruria?" (Mio)

"I will fight. If I clad my whole body in armor, I can hide this unsightly body. Even if I am unable to realize my ideals basking in the sunlight, I will at least be able to serve as a shield for Hibiki-sama. I can still do that. When thinking that way, I even feel happy about having this giant unsightly body" (Ilumgand)

"N, Hibiki? Did you say Hibiki just now?" (Mio)

Hearing a familiar name being said, Mio asks again.

"...Yeah. It's the hero-sama that descended to Limia. If it is that person, she will definitely be able to overthrow the demon race. And then, the people will be able to

do their own roles, and be able to follow their own dreams. She will realize that kind of peaceful world" (Ilumgand)

"Ah, so you were talking about the hero-desu no. Then it is a different person from the Hibiki I know-desu wa ne. To think that the hero has the same name as her, how pitiful. The hero in Limia is named Hibiki?" (Mio)

"That's right. You have an acquaintance named Hibiki? In Lorel that kind of name isn't unusual, so it isn't impossible. Well then, see you. We probably won't meet again" (Ilumgand)

The hyuman shape with the memories of Ilumgand passes by the side of Mio. Without looking back at her, he tries to leave the stage.

"Right. I only intended to exterminate you, but since the memories of the original person are acting as the base, this is a pleasant surprise-desu wa ne. It will serve as punishment" (Mio)

The hyuman shape tried to turn when he heard the voice of Mio at his back, but he was unable to.

Because he couldn't put strength into the legs that supported his body and fell down.

Prostrating on the ground, he bended his neck towards her. The hyuman shape with the memories of Ilumgand learned about what was done to him.

"My legs are... You, what are you doing?" (Ilumgand)

What did she do?

He didn't know how it was done, but looking at the result, he could tell.

Both legs were severed.

From knees down, it was cut off.

Because he doesn't feel pain, he didn't scream. The expression of the hyuman shape had no pain reflected in it either.

“What, you say? Punishment-desu wa” (Mio)

Mio didn't show much change. Slowly shrinking the distance she has between the hyuman shape.

“Kugh?! I already don't have any intentions in harming your company or Raidou as Ilumgand”

“So?” (Mio)

“So, you say?”

“Yeah. You troubled Waka-sama so much and said abusive words to him-desu wa ne? I understand what you want to do, but your atonement comes first-desu wa” (Mio)

“Atonement?”

“Yes, atonement. It is simply the order of things. You were hostile to Waka-sama, antagonized him, interfered, and rampaged against the students of Waka-sama. Then after being defeated, you are not even a hyuman anymore” (Mio)

“...”

“See? You haven't atoned for your actions towards Waka-sama. You were only defeated. But right now – maybe a miracle happened – you have retained your memories, personality, and recovering the ownership of your body; you are still alive. Your soul and core that you were composed of were clearly destroyed, and yet, you are still able to act as a hyuman” (Mio)

“...But I am already...”

The hatred he had towards Raidou, the hostility he directed at Jin's group; those things were already gone.

Why did he do something so stupid that resembled the nobles he hated so much?

‘Even if I wasn't sane, there was nothing but shame’ is what the hyuman shape was thinking.

“Your defeat and your current appearance isn't retribution. It is just the result of your

own weakness. Ah, maybe you should think about it this way? You were given a miracle ‘for the sake of atonement’” (Mio)

“What... are you saying? Also, my current self has nothing that can be given as atonement. Nothing... But if it’s an apology, I will put my hands down and apologize to Raidou and the students”

“I am fine with your life-desu wa” (Mio)

“?!”

“An amendment death. It won’t suffice by a lot, but since it was a miracle, I will forgive you with just that. If you have a wish, disappear with the regret of being unable to fulfill it” (Mio)

The hyuman shape trembles heavily.

Because Mio smiled.

An innocent smile, with a glaze that one would be charmed with.

Despite that.

In the memories of the hyuman shape, it was a smile that brought forth an extreme intensity he has never seen in his whole life.

“!!”

A dull shock resounded in its body, and the hyuman shape looks at its own stomach.

There’s a big hole there.

Mio’s index finger and middle finger were pointed at the hyuman shape.

“Impossible. The resistance to magic in my body...”

“It has gotten stronger-desu wa ne. I intended to get rid of every trace of you with that one attack though. I am a bit surprised that you even have resistance to the darkness element. Maybe you obtained it with that miracle of yours. For the sake of thoroughly tasting this atonement” (Mio)

“...Raidou, does he hate me that much?! Is it because I hated him that he hates me too?!”

A shock resounds once again.

This time a hole opened in its chest.

“Waka-sama, at you? Ufufu, when one surpasses stupidity, there’s also a cute side to it-desu no ne. Waka-sama doesn’t even think of you as a pebble. That death of yours, and obviously that so called interest in you, he has none of those” (Mio)

“?!! T-Then why are you...?”

If it’s not Raidou’s orders, why is Mio doing something like this?

The hyuman shape didn’t understand.

“Isn’t that obvious? Because I can’t forgive you. If it’s Waka-sama’s order, I would even save you, but I didn’t receive any such order. I do think that Shiki received an order of incapacitating you, but that was something that happened before you died” (Mio)

“But he did order it right?! Then”

The hyuman shape already understood.

The outcome.

No, this wasn’t even a match to begin with.

It understood that there would be no way to escape from this on its own.

The regeneration didn’t show signs of beginning.

Those two holes in its body were telling the hyuman shape the difference in power like never before.

“But... Waka-sama didn’t say anything special even when you died. That was because ‘there’s no helping it if he died’, that’s the extent of what he thought, right? In that case, it is fine to just make it as if the miracle regeneration never happened. There’s no problem-desu wa” (Mio)

"I... can't die. In this kind of place, even if it's a life given by chance-!!"

Stomach, chest; and then, after the two fingers of Mio were pointed at the head of the hyuman shape, a dull shock resounds in the stage.

In that place that's already desolate, no one would see it.

All the remaining people and the students already went along with Shiki towards the evacuation point. And she knew that very well.

"Limia, Hibiki... how pitiable. To only have that level of power and hold the same name as the hero, that girl is misfortunate-desu wa ne. When I meet her again, I will recommend her to change her job to chef" (Mio)

Finishing the disposal of the thing that was once Ilumgand, Mio left the competition grounds and was about to head towards the place Shiki is, but she suddenly stops.

Because she recalled the conversation with the hyuman shape.

The name that remains in her memories, Hibiki.

Mio recalled the black haired girl that said came from Limia.

But that was only for a moment.

She had to return to where her master ordered her to be. She rejoined Shiki.

# Chapter 143

## If it's 3 days, it's still fine

It has been 3 days since then.

Academy Town is still in chaos.

The turmoil caused by the variants that's believed to be the deed of the demon race, in the end, from the first day till today, the variants continued their advance with their purpose still unknown.

In the first day I passed a night at one of the evacuation points, the demi-human's slum.

At night we all reunited to exchange information, but there was no especially important information, if there's one thing, it would be about the company's circulation of goods method. Looks like Root is going to do something about it. That's what I heard from Tomoe.

At the second day, the situation moved into a bad direction.

There were two big points.

The first one is that the communication network of the town has stopped working. The information from the surrounding towns couldn't be relayed anymore and since there's no response from the calls in this side, it has turned into a situation where it is unknown if it has actually reached or not.

Even if one tries to do thought transmission inside the town, you have to be in a close range or it won't reach. If the person doing the transmission is skilled, it will reach for about 1 or 2 kilometers; if both sides are skilled, it will reach about 3 kilometers. That's how the situation has deteriorated into.

Thinking about the wideness of the town, it is quite the harsh situation. It's a situation where it will be hard to even consider exchanging information with the neighboring towns.

Well, if there are really skilled thought transmission users in the Academy side, it might be possible.

From what I heard of Tomoe, because of this, the Academy's movements have grown a lot duller, so the thought transmission jamming is showing clear effects.

From what Shiki told me, the reason is because of the good amount of magic devices that are set up in various places around town.

He showed me one and it was pretty small. It is cylinder shaped with a size close to that of a 500 ml pet bottle.

A large quantity of them are set up in town and outside of it as well. It seems their main purpose is jamming the thought transmissions.

Looks like they were for quite some time in places like: inside pillars, below the floor, buried in the ground; in a lot of places. 'And before they were activated, they showed no reaction so were unable to detect them', is what Shiki and Lime apologized for.

If they were able to detect devices before they are activated, that would be pretty impressive.

The moment I heard about this, I was impressed by the demon race who probably took quite a long time to thoroughly set up these devices.

They must have done this through task laboriously. How diligent.

For some reason, I imagined an epic domino line.

I felt like destroying all the dominos, but I restrain myself.

Just like how the demon race can use their thought transmission in this, we are also able to normally use our thought transmission.

Looks like it only blocks the normal thought transmission.

In this place, it is impossible to intercept the contents of our thought transmission, and we also have methods to code the important contents; so, from now on, we are perhaps the only power that can use thought transmission properly.

'That's why, if you want to destroy the devices, I want you to do so after we have finished our moves' is what Tomoe said.

The other point is the increase in variants.

The reason being, there were some people that were involved with the variant incident and transformed in the evacuation points. In other words, danger appears in the places of evacuation. A bad situation.

That means there were quite the amount of people using the demon race's drug.

Could it be, the demon race was spreading them around randomly?

Whichever it is, instead of calling the chaos as the objective, it is more like the intention of this is to damage Academy Town.

At noon of the first day, I talked with all of my followers and compute all the people that have a similar necklace to that of Ilumgand.

To pinpoint the cause.

One of the reasons may be because they are in a stressful place like a shelter, and because of that, their spirit becomes unstable and several have turned into a variant just like Ilumgand.

Being in a situation where they are unable to use thought transmission might be one of the reasons as well.

To reduce the damage, I notified the employees to confiscate those accessories, and reduced the damage of the evacuation points we were stationed in.

Regarding the Mist Lizards that are following Rembrandt-san, I have received reports from them about the safety of the couple and a rough summary of the situation in the merchant guild.

By the second day, the people that have experience fighting mamonos, bodyguards, and people like mercenaries were gathered and organized as units. Looks like they began moving to remove the danger of the variants.

I have received reports saying that they moved on the offensive instead of defensive

mostly thanks to the influence of the Rembrandt couple.

The Guild Representative that went on the offensive, gathered the company representatives, the employees, and the people related to the guild, and proposed the idea of creating units to protect the town.

Maybe he proposed this because of the losses of the stores, products and even the merchants itself. Or maybe that was his true character. I don't really know.

Sadly, there's also plundering targeted at the stores that are still okay.

Maybe because my store and the ones in the surroundings were destroyed, when I heard the report, even when knowing it was imprudent, a part of me felt relieved that there were also other stores that were suffering damages from it. I am the worst.

At the night meeting of the second day, it was made clear that there were around 80 inside the town. And that variants appeared in several evacuation points that were not under the supervision of the Kuzunoha Company and were destroyed.

There probably wasn't anyone who was able to fight in those places.

The Academy's support was not directed at the evacuation points, but to the extermination of variants, so in the cases where a new variant appears, if they are unable to defend themselves, the evacuation point will collapse from the inside.

Did Rona calculate all this factors when she caused this uproar?

To estimate so many factors, that's impressive.

There's the chance that she seriously thought of destroying the town.

Also, from the Academy side, the Purple Coats and a part of the teachers made up units and are moving by the orders of the Academy Principal. It looks like they have succeeded in defeating several variants already.

Well, the numbers have increased, but since they are slowly rallying back, it can also be considered a good sign.

Because once a way to deal with them has been established, the efficiency in which they defeat the variants will increase.

The assistance of the various countries and the dispatch of troops are planned to be arriving, at its fastest, tomorrow into the surrounding towns, and the day after tomorrow they will enter Rotsgard.

Just that, since they are unable to confirm their arrival through thought transmission, this is only the case if the reinforcements began preparing since day one.

In the middle of it, the big-shots called for Tomoe and suggested her to provide support to the transportation of goods and soldiers.

I see, it is certainly understandable after being shown such convenient teleportation.

If it was me, I would have nodded, but the one who interacted with them was Tomoe and Root was at her side.

Regarding the long-distance teleportation magic, they explained something logical sounding and told them that it would be difficult.

There's a usage limit to the short katana. When released and used, one is unable to use it for all of that day, and if the usage is forced, there's the fear of breaking.

There are many things that can be done when placing the effect on an object huh.

They were able to think up such a setting with ad-lib. Long lived Dragons are impressive.

Seeing their wide field of vision when moving, I realize my own insufficiency.

And then, from what Tomoe said, today we are finally beginning to move.

When this uproar is finished, there will be several other problems waiting for me. Like: the Merchant Guild and the Limia Prince Joshua.

Even so, these stagnated days are better than the days where I just waited.

Unlike the people that are taking refuge, we are able to use thought transmission, so we don't feel any threat, and moreover, moving moderately into Asora is making even me feel slightly stressed in this enclosed situation.



Grand  
Garden  
Market

“...In this enclosed situation’, done. I feel like it is long for a 3 day journal, but since we are right now in an eventful situation, it should probably be something like this. It’s not like we will be showing this to someone anyways” (Makoto)

It’s quite abridged, but if it works as a memo, that’s fine.

I leave the room that the demi-humans prepared for me in the slum.

“Ah, Raidou-san. Today is quiet. There’s no uproar worth mentioning right now”

When I left the room, a cat that has about the same height as a hyuman and stood vertically, talked to me.

He is the person that is in charge of this slum, and because we have a connection through the company’s medicine, we are relatively close.

Most of the time he uses Akua and Eris as intermediaries, and there are times when we both talk in person.

It looks like he comes to our store frequently, so he can be considered a regular customer of our place.

It seems being in the slum doesn’t mean he doesn’t have money. He is poor, but in terms of a living, he is somehow earning it.

“Good morning. It is great that the friction between hyumans is disappearing” (Makoto)

“The conflict wasn’t as bad as I thought it would be. Well, it’s still dangerous out there though”

“It looks like that part will soon return to how it was before” (Makoto)

“There are some monsters there that are hard to detect, so we can’t lower our guards. I want this tense days to come to an end quickly”

“With this as the spark, it would be nice if the hyumans change their opinions of you guys” (Makoto)

“That’s impossible. They are a race that’s loved by the Goddess, and we are the ones

standing below them. A thought that has been engraved will not change easily. Hyumans will probably come to give us donations for a while, but I think that in time it will return to how it was before”

The cat, whose name is Bor, is still young, but with his mature face he makes a lonely smile.

What a farsighted person.

“Once it passes through the throat, you will forget the heat of it’ huh” (Makoto)

“Hm?” (Bor)

“No, it’s nothing” (Makoto)

“Lately, I have been thinking if we could try using our strengths to connect it to work. If we were to create a relationship with a part of the hyumans here and were able to make a connection where we both benefit from, this turmoil and its bad memories could be rewritten. For us that is” (Bor)

“Right. Today I will be heading out with Akua and Eris. Just in case, I will be leaving a few here, so if you have anything to tell me, please tell the people that remained here” (Makoto)

“...Outside. Understood. Be careful” (Bor)

The ears and whiskers of the cat twitched and showed surprise at my words.

Umu, a cat, nice.

“Yeah, you too” (Makoto)

Being slightly refreshed, I leave the half crumbled building.

(Akua, Eris, we are heading to the Academy) (Makoto)

I use thought transmission.

It wasn’t a conversation but an instruction.

With a speed that resembles that of an Oniwaban, two shadows appear in front of me.

"Good morning, Waka-sama. Today we are shifting to offensive, right?" (Akua)

"Good morning. There's no presence of variants in the surroundings. It's safe" (Eris)

The words of Eris that were practically screaming 'I have been working' are kind of doubtful.

She is not the type of girl that would lie in this kind of things, so I am not suspecting the contents though.

"I see. Good job. We are meeting with the Academy Principal and joining the suppression" (Makoto)

"Shiki-sama and Mio-sama too, right?" (Akua)

"What extravagant members" (Eris)

"It's fine for you guys to just hide and be on alert of the surroundings. If there's anything, tell me with thought transmission" (Makoto)

"Yes"

Before the other countries intervene, we will show our presence to a certain extent. That's the most important point it seems.

Well, for me, safety is what's most important.

Avoid the battles that can be avoided.

Treasure your life.

If I end up dying, I might even drag the residents that live in Asora along with me. Even if the danger of dying is a one in a million, I will still fight with defense as the priority. That's how I decided it to be.

When I clearly understand how deep my connection is with Asora, I can probably change my way of acting, but for now that's not the case.

The Forest Oni combi disappear once again.

Well then, let's go.

"Kuzunoha's master!"

...

Who is it?

A voice stops me when I was walking to the exit.

This is a name that many people in this place use to call me.

When I turn back, there is a woman I got to know not that long ago.

[Ah, good morning Ester-san. You look healthy]

"Good morning. Even if it's written, that's pretty stiff you know. You don't need to be formal with someone like me. It would make me formal too" (Ester)

[Sorry. It's in my nature]

Or more like, I am mostly like this with hyumans.

Saying it in a good way, polite.

In a bad way, indifferent.

Anyways, I am used to talking with others in a business-like manner.

I was thinking about joining the hyuman society, but I am beginning to lose my drive to do so.

What is it, this feeling?

"Hmph~. Ah, the reason why I stopped you. The accessory you told us to collect yesterday, is it better to collect them if we see them today as well?" (Ester)

[Right. Those might be one of the reasons of this turmoil. It's not assured until the

Academy investigates into it in detail though]

"Understood. We will do so. And, today you are going outside?" (Ester)

[This place has calmed down, so I am heading to the Academy to confirm the current situation of the town and the state of the students]

"It's impressive that you are able to say something like that so easily. There may be no need to tell you but, there's only one life. Pride and conceitedness will only lead to reducing your lifespan. Be careful" (Ester)

[Thank you for your worry. Well then, I will leave things here to you]

"Also, when this finishes safely, I will talk with my boss about you. It will probably be advantageous for you" (Ester)

[It is embarrassing since we are a small company, but please do tell that person]

The boss of the brothels. The only thing that comes to mind is a yakuza or the mafia.

Is it really okay to introduce me to such an underground person?

Well, if I have Tomoe or Shiki with me, there won't be any mess up.

Lowering my head, I end my conversation with Ester.

When I head to the exit of the slums, I tell the demi-humans that are wearing simple armor about my reason for going outside, and enter the street.

It has only been a few days and it has been quite stormy.

When I perk up my ears, I can hear the sounds of fighting and screams.

Maybe because it has been like a daily thing, at the third day I am already used to it.

The anxiety that's spreading through the residents is mostly caused by the fact that they don't understand the situation and that there's no way to know when they could get attacked.

I can normally use thought transmission to understand the situation, and with the

help of Akua and Eris telling me, I am able to avoid the variants and the Academy's corps.

That's why I don't really feel much anxiety in this situation.

It is the improvement of the thought transmission that didn't work when I was summoned by the Goddess. I'm glad we made this improvements.

Thinking about it, an emergency situation where cellphones can't be used would also create panic in the modern world.

Or more like, instead of anxiety, I am actually feeling cheerful.

The students have heard the words of praise by the Limia King from Shiki, so I want to hear in person how happy they were.

With the information that I receive from Akua and Eris, I circumvent the variants and the hyumans while continuing my steps towards the Academy.



"Temporary teacher Raidou! You bastard, why weren't you in the Academy in this emergency situation?!"

[My apologies. I heard from a follower of mine that the Academy Principal was moving to suppress the variants, so I gathered my employees that were safe and was evacuating the residents]

"Idiot! If the variants are taken down, there should be no need to care for the residents! Where's the need for you, a teacher – even if temporary – to help in the evacuation?! You are in a position where you have to obey my orders aren't you?!"

[Yes. It was my own arbitrary decision. We are in a situation where we can't properly use thought transmission, so even if late, I personally came to the Academy]

The place where the Academy Principal is.

The basement of the Academy's courtyard. It is a secure shelter.

It doesn't have much space to fit many people, but in exchange, there's various

equipment set up to grasp the situation outside.

It's like the command room in emergency situations.

Looks like the guests that were evacuated are all here.

There are also several rooms to reside in, so it seems they are living in those.

In the room there's other teachers and a number of staffs necessary for the management of this place.

As expected, there are some thought transmission users here that are skilled to communicate with the corps. The communication is passing without pause.

And in there, I am currently being shouted at.

With such force that I was wondering if the Academy Principal would burst a blood vessel. He wasn't showing any signs of returning to normal and was looking down on me like the Merchant guild representative.

But I didn't get flustered like that time and was just letting his anger slip by.

Main reason is because I understand what I should do, and that getting impatient will not bring forth anything.

I even had the leeway to think: 'if you are going to shout at me, do it after we go to another room. Wouldn't this bother the other people?'

"Two of the surrounding towns have gone completely silent. Is it because the people that can use thought transmission have died, or because they have been wiped out? We still don't know. Listen, this is the worst situation Academy Town has faced since its foundation! And yet, you... you bastard just!!"

Just how much is this old geezer expecting from a temporary teacher?

It is obvious that I would be counted as part of their strength since I am a temporary teacher, but to get so angry over it.

Could it be, he is thinking that since my students were able to fight that well against a variant, I should be strong enough to wipe out the variants? I don't think his thoughts

go that far though.

If he really does expect me to have strength surpassing that of my students and he is so angered by me not being at his disposition, that's maybe because his purple corps are showing much more casualties than the military gains?

I haven't heard much details regarding that, so I will ask later.

There should be teachers that weren't even able to arrive at the Academy and died on the way, and there should be teachers that have run away long ago. If the latter get fired, they wouldn't be able to complain about it, but the ones that died, I feel like he is the type that would kick their corpses.

I'm glad I only left Tomoe at this place.

If I left Mio, I would have to soothe her later and that's very difficult to do.

I wanted to meet the students too so I had Mio and Shiki tell them that I would go there later and had them in standby at one of the student dormitories.

It seems that they were faced with several outbreaks of variants, but I received reports that they were able to dispose of them secretly without any problems.

Also that there were some send to Asora as samples.

5 of them have been send, so that should be enough.

"Academy Principal, he evacuated us and on top of that he passed through the dangerous middle school garden to get here. Please leave the reprimands at that"

"?!! Oh, Princess Lily and even Sairitz-dono. That's unusual"

The angry words of the Academy Principal stop.

When I look, there were two people I knew standing side by side.

"I encountered the princess by chance. Academy Principal, I also ask of you. Right now, instead of reprimanding his actions, it is of more importance to have him cooperate in resolving this situation" (Sairitz)

"Of course, I understand that. But as the one managing the Academy, I couldn't overlook his thoughtless actions"

When you were evacuating, you weren't even thinking about me.

Weren't you more concerned about escaping?

Right now she is not here, but you even had your secretary lend you her shoulder.

Is it because the progress of the battle isn't going favorably? The Academy Principal is being quite short tempered.

If he was like this from the very beginning, I can't see him as a person capable of managing the elite academy. If he only has power and authority, and is in an unfitting position, then I would feel more familiarity with him... well, not really.

He is probably in the side that repudiates races. At the very least, he doesn't give me the feeling of wanting to help him.

"Please, can't you do it for us?"

"Please"

"...If the two of you go that far, understood. Temporary teacher Raidou"

[Yes]

"I will put you and your employees in charge of the northeast section of Rotsgard. Okay? Show me that you can restore your honor"

[I will definitely meet your expectations]

"Those students that have been sleeping and have been of no use since that fight as well. If they are awake, I permit you to use them too"

[...Understood]

He is a person that says more than necessary.

I was slightly pissed by that.

It's not like Jin and the others are in bad shape or anything.

Even Amelia was completely healed by Shiki at that day.

With one day of rest, they should have plenty enough energy to move.

I wasn't expecting the Academy Principal to tell me that directly, but I had Shiki and Mio read the atmosphere of the place and put Jin and the others to sleep whenever a part of the students went on rampages or the teachers went on rampage, so that they don't end up fighting them.

By the way, I gave them permission to do that.

Just in case, when those kids or the others felt like they were going to slip out and join the battle.

After this, I was planning on going there and waking them up.

I lower my head at the Academy Principal that leaves.

Northeast.

Merchant Guild all of a sudden huh.

I think it is a zone with pretty high importance.

If he wants us to handle that area, instead of calling it harassment by sending us to a dangerous place, it is more like he is running out of options.

The academy related facilities that the Academy is putting their priority in liberating are already filling their hands huh.

It looks like it is really a bad situation.

Tomoe also waited quite a while.

When I look at her, Tomoe noticed my gaze and silently lowers her head.

Just that.

With her personality, I thought she would come do some frivolous talk. Ah, that's because there's these two here.

[Princess Lily, and also Sairitz-sama. Thank you very much]

"No need for thanks. You have also helped us after all. If possible, I would want to tell the empire's hero about this, but there's no signs of the signal reaching. I feel very guilty about not being able to do anything for this town's residents. At that time the thought transmission was still working, but right now I don't know about the situation" (Lily)

"Raidou-dono has helped us after all, don't worry about it. On our side as well, if only the thought transmission was able to connect... The dragon unit reinforcements and the supplies should be arriving by tomorrow but..." (Sairitz)

...I see.

The reason for the waiting is coming to fruition soon huh.

Tomoe suddenly told us to move today most likely because of Sairitz-san's dragon unit that's supposed to be coming tomorrow.

[I will do my best so that both of you will not be wounded in Rotsgard. No need to worry]

"Your words make me happy, Raidou. I would like to talk with you once, before going back to the Empire. When things get calmer, can you?" (Lily)

The princess-sama of the country where the hero is huh.

The Limia King's way of talking felt as if he had been quite influenced by the hero.

Is this person the same?

I feel like her way of talking to me politely is Japanese-like but... meeting her alone, I don't think I would be able to stand it.

Ah, that's right.

[Of course. I will be bringing along my close aide Tomoe to meet you, Princess-sama]

“...Yeah... I will be looking forward to it” (Lily)

Great.

If I bring someone she already knows like Tomoe, there's no worries for awkward silences.

“Raidou-dono, the things called variants are scary opponents that even the Academy's elites are having a hard time with. Please be careful” (Sairitz)

[There's Tomoe too, so it's okay. She is really strong after all. Thanks for worrying, Sairitz-sama]

“You are going to bring her too?” (Sairitz)

[The Academy Principal told me to use my employees as well. Tomoe is a reliable subordinate]

“That's true. In these few days, we were able to live without worries. It's not good to retain her for so long. I will be praying for your well return, Raidou-dono” (Sairitz)

[Well then, let's go Tomoe]

“Yes” (Tomoe)

When I leave the basement, the brightness dazzles me for a second.

There's light down there, but as expected, it is completely different from the light of the outside.

While my eyes were getting accustomed, I head in quick pace to the student dormitory that's being used as a refuge.

“It's a good start. Well then, let's call for Mio and Shiki and have them put everything in order” (Tomoe)

[Right]

“Also, you were calm when talking with the Academy Principal. There was an unexpected lifeboat, but it was superb. I also think that it was a good move having me

accompany you when meeting the Empire's princess" (Tomoe)

[For some reason I was able to calmly deal with it. I am fine if you tell me after the northeast sweeping begins, I want to you to tell me about the explanation you gave them of the teleportation again. I want to match our ideas]

"Understood" (Tomoe)

If there's a mess up, I am pretty sure it would be from my part after all.

I have to review as much as I can.

[I am looking forward to the picture you and Root created]

There will definitely be scary parts in it, that I believe won't become a plus for me.

If I am going to use power, I also have to accept things like this.

"Leave it to me. For now, think about how you will act towards the merchant guild. I will be looking forward to an interaction like the one from just now" (Tomoe)

[I will do my best]

I am headed to the northeast, so I won't be able to avoid it.

I will be encountering the representative again, no, I will be meeting with Rembrandt-san. Let's think about it in a positive way.

I thought of seeing the state of the students and meeting with the Rembrandt couple when I was leaving the slum. Both of those will be achieved, so it is a good omen.

The counter-attack begins not at the fourth day when the reinforcements arrive, but in the third day. In other words, a turning point.

Let's engrave in the minds of the people of this town the memory of Kuzunoha Company.



The atmosphere of the student dormitory wasn't that different from the other evacuation points.

Many students are in the spacious lobby.

A part are outside working around the vicinity, but a sense of fatigue was drifting about in the whole area.

Counting Jin and the others that are sleeping, there's Shiki and Mio in the place that's used to nurse and treat the injured.

I stop them when they tried to come to where I am, and along with Tomoe, I go to where they are.

[Good work, Shiki, Mio. Looks like the students are quite tired]

"Waka-sama. Yesterday several became variants, so the people were unable to return to their own rooms. Today everyone seems to be feeling stressed" (Shiki)

"I was bored-desu wa. Crying 'Are we going to be okay?' 'Are we going to be okay?' over and over like broken toys" (Mio)

[Mio, try to choose your words a little. This kind of incident is a first, so it can't be helped that they are uneasy]

"S-Sorry" (Mio)

I warn her a bit for her bitter words.

It looks like not many people here have the energy to complain, but I want to avoid pointless animosity.

"Well, that will end today-ja. You two, are you ready?" (Tomoe)

The two nod at Tomoe's words.

[Then can you wake up Jin and the others? I want to talk with them for a bit]

"They have already woken up some time ago. Their body is a bit dull right now, but having them half-asleep when talking to Waka-sama would be troublesome" (Shiki)

Shiki, you work fast.

Now that I think about it, instead of waking them up when I arrive, it is more efficient if they are already awake.

Even so, I came here to where these two are, but I don't see the faces of my students.

[Then, where are they right now?]

"Over there. Their condition is being checked. I think they will be returning soon" (Shiki)

[I see. Then, everyone please stay here. Prepare so that we can leave as soon as possible. I will go talk to them for a bit]

Saying so, I confirm the consent of all my followers.

Talking with people wearing white robe, I move to a place where there are familiar faces.

[It's been a while, Jin, everyone]

"Sensei!"

Oooh, they synched perfectly.

Their timing was exact.

[I heard you were sleeping for three days. How's everyone's condition?]

"We are already fine. To think that we would be sleeping for 3 days, I can't believe it"

"How's the situation? It looks like it is not the same as ever though"

"I can't get in touch with my family. Do you know anything about that Sensei?"

From each mouth, I was poured by questions from my students.

Instead of telling them about the situation, I first have to clearly place what must be done.

Or more like, Daena has a wife and child.

Are they okay?

I forgot about that.

[Calm down. You have woken up, but you have been sleeping for 3 days. To suddenly move today is akin to suicide. There are still variants appearing outside. The situation is still in a deadlock]

“..”

[The subjugation corps of the Academy are currently advancing. In other words, the current situation is that students are still restricted from going outside. You were able to get out alive, so obediently stay here]

Hmph...

Daena and the Rembrandt sisters are in quite the bad state.

Their faces show that they totally want to move out.

[You can't, the three over there]

“?!”

[Sif, Yuno, your family is okay. Don't worry and just stay here healing the dullness in your body. Daena, I will investigate about your family. Don't go moving on your own convenience. You have received words of praise from the Limia King. Try to calm down a bit]

‘Were you happy?’ Is something I can't ask in this atmosphere.

I want them to calm down a bit by remembering the words of praise from the King.

“But... the town is still being destroyed by those guys right?!” (Jin)

Jin.

Seriously. When I admonish one, another stands up.

This is troublesome.

I originally intended to put the students as guards here as an excuse, but I feel like that would increase the work of Akua and Eris.

I was planning on leaving only one, but maybe I should leave both of them.

[Do you want to go?]

“...Yes. Even we can be a bit of use. We were able to fight with Ilumgand” (Jin)

[Then if in that time this place is attacked or a new variant appears, everyone here will be slaughtered. A student turned into a variant yesterday you know?]

“!!”

[I have to head to the northeast section by the Academy Principal’s orders. Jin, even with that, you still want to go?]

“...I will stay” (Jin)

[N?]

“I will stay! If we all cooperate we will somehow, no, definitely do something about it!” (Jin)

[How reliable. I will leave it to you. If you guys do well, I will tell Limia King about your great efforts. Well then, later]

(Akua, Eris, I am sorry, but please protect this dormitory. If Jin and the others leave, I don’t mind which, please have one of you accompany them) (Makoto)

(Understood)

(Roger)

I will leave the perception to Shiki.

I return to where Tomoe, Mio and Shiki are.

[Sorry for the wait. Let's go. Shiki, sorry but, I will be counting on you to watch out the surroundings]

(Also, can you please investigate the state of Daena's wife and child? I totally forgot)  
(Makoto)

I tell them the outline and the latter half I say it in thought transmission.

"Understood" (Shiki)

(I have already confirmed that. In the competition grounds that is being secretly protected by the Arkes, they are taking refuge together with Eva and Ruria) (Shiki)

...Incredible.

He still has the mindset of recognizing strength, so I don't think it is that far yet, but he is showing changes in his way of thinking towards weak people.

No matter how strong people are, they are all equals and hold rights.

That was the way I thought until now.

Of course, I don't intend to blame them for being powerless to violence. Just that when the people that spend their time polishing other technical skills aside from power are trampled down by violence, I began to think that it just can't be helped.

It's stupid.

A power that I received from a God and a strong body I obtained from enduring a harsh environment.

I was also a kid that had no other good point aside from archery, and yet, here I am thinking this way.

This power of mine was given by someone else.

But I can't stop thinking this way.

At times I am confused by my own thoughts.

That's why I am honestly grateful and surprised at Shiki who humanely made a follow-up for me who didn't remember the family of my student.

Truly grateful.

[Well then, let's go. First is the merchant guild]

It seems Rembrandt-san hasn't used the Mist Lizards to attack.

In those 3 days the Rembrandt couple are in good health. The Mist Lizards are doing a good job protecting them.

Looking at the destruction of the variants, I head to the place that has suffered a bitter experience.

# Chapter 144

## 5.45x39mm bullet

Extermination match.

In our way to the Guild, that's exactly how it was.

I didn't really give out orders of incapacitating them, so while I was listening to Tomoe; Mio and Shiki were literally crushing the variants that tried to attack us.

"It's like a 5.45x39mm bullet mowing them down" (Makoto)

Without thinking, I blurted out those words.

"The so called revenge goddess Kalashnikov, right?" (Shiki)

It was a monologue, and yet for some reason, Shiki reacted.

Why does Shiki know something like that?

And he is wrong to top it off.

"Goddess?" (Mio)

Even Mio reacted.

Looks like this one reacted to the word Goddess.

"Shiki that is not the name of a Goddess. It denotes a type of weapon called gun. A Kalashnikov rifle, I just don't understand what you are saying" (Makoto)

"Hoh, I see. I totally thought it was a name" (Shiki)

In the books that were recreated there were quite a lot of manga.

But I didn't expect Shiki to read those.

"Mio, when he said Goddess he didn't mean that Goddess, so don't mind it. I don't know what she is busy with, but Root said she is busy" (Makoto)

I look at Tomoe.

"I don't know the reason, but it seems she doesn't have the time to be concerned about us" (Tomoe)

I think this is quite the event though.

As I thought, her way of thinking is less understandable than that of Rona.

Soon we will reach the guild.

Until now we have defeated 15 variants.

From what Shiki has detected, the corps from the Merchant Guild are fighting several variants right now. It seems the Guild itself hasn't received any attack worth mentioning.

As long as we are going with the suppression pretext, there's no real need to avoid the variants. We kill the ones that come, so there should be few variants remaining in this area.

"Shiki, how many variants remaining?" (Makoto)

"Excluding the ones currently in battle, there's only 6 left" (Shiki)

"Waka-sama, if you so wish, I can go there and clean it out" (Mio)

"Thanks Mio, but its fine. We are only doing this in context, so there's no need to mind it" (Makoto)

I calm down the itching Mio and we head to the Guild.

A question suddenly sprung in my head.

That Goddess, I wonder what is her name?

It seems she is an acquaintance of Tsukuyomi-sama, so maybe she is a Goddess I know

the name of?

No way, what if she is a Goddess that's viewed in a good light?

"Waka, the Lizards are coming to receive us. Looks like Rembrandt is together with them" (Tomoe)

"Tomoe, right now is fine, but you can't call him with no honorifics okay? Also Mio, even if you meet the representative, you can't do anything. Okay?" (Makoto)

"Hehe, don't worry" (Tomoe)

"...Of course-desu wa. Even if he gets attacked, I won't do anything" (Mio)

"Mio, if he gets attacked, save him" (Makoto)

"...Yes" (Mio)

Don't avert your gaze.

How scary, jeez.

Next to Rembrandt-san who is waving his hand, there's the Guild representative Zara-san.

Ah, I feel light dizziness and nausea.

No doubt he is the next person I can't deal with well after the Goddess.

Even so, I can't just not go.

Today is an important day for Kuzunoha Company.

I prepare myself and meet up with them.

[It has been a while. Representative, Rembrandt-san. I'm glad to see that you all are okay. Because of the thought transmission jamming I was late, but by the orders of the Academy Principal, I have come to this northeast section to join the suppression]

"It's been long, Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

The first one to talk was Rembrandt-san.

Calling my name, he closed the distance and hugged me tightly.

“...Are my daughters okay? They are not being send out to fight right?!” (Rembrandt)

It was a whisper, but his desperate tone reached my ears.

His breath is tickling!

[Don’t worry. Your daughters have not gone to the battlefield. And just like you asked, I have hidden reliable people around them, so it’s okay]

With his hug released, I was able to create some space in between him.

It’s probably a secret talk between him and me, so I also write small words that only he can see.

In a situation where he can’t properly get in contact with his daughters, Rembrandt-san must have been suffering internally.

Sif and Yuno are really loved.

Being hugged by a man doesn’t make me happy though.

“...It has been a while, Raidou. If you are appearing here that must mean your store is fine right? If I remember correctly, it was in the middle of the main street” (Zara)

With a pronounced exhaustion in his face, representative Zara talks to me.

Ugh, I can’t even deal with his voice.

How pathetic.

[No, it was already destroyed. All of my employees somehow came out fine, but we were securing safety in the evacuation points, so I still don’t know the current state of my store]

“...I see. There have been variants that slipped into the evacuation points and have been wiped out. It is great to see that your place was okay” (Zara)

'I-It's great to see'?

Unexpected words came out.

I thought he would come shouting at me like the Academy Principal.

No matter how exhausted he is, isn't this too much of a change?

The representative gave me an impression of being a brash person.

Would he change this much just because the town is being attacked?

Or is he acting to make it look that way?

Did Rembrandt-san do something?

No, in this situation it is probably not necessary.

To exhaust the person that is taking control along with you would be like strangling yourself.

It might be the preparation to get as much reparation as possible from somewhere.

The insurance-like thing of companies is being managed by the Guild, so maybe a place that is higher than this Merchant Guild's branch, or maybe Rotsgard? Cheat it out of someone in this town?

"Hahaha, is the impression too different from last time? This guy hasn't experienced attacks from outside, so he is tired. On top of that, in this current situation where he is being protected by Hyun-dono and Fia-dono <*The Mist Lizards*>, he can't make a strong face towards Raidou-dono. Right?" (Rembrandt)

"S-Shut up! But if it's you guys who have such strong mamonos under you, shouldn't those rampaging guys be annihilated a long time ago? Why didn't you guys move until now?" (Zara)

Ah, the expected question came.

It isn't comparable to last time, but his eyes were shining a sharp enquiring light.

"Ah, I forgot to tell you but, I have revealed to this guy that the Mist Lizards are something you lent to me, since he is the top. I thought that way would make the conversation proceed in a smoother manner. Sorry for doing something of my own" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt-san soon supplemented more information.

Thanks to that, the representative didn't cause much trouble since he knew that I am the master of the Mist Lizards.

Well, as long as he didn't spread it to anyone else, I don't really mind.

Being able to summon Mist Lizards is something that the students taking my class already know anyways.

[The Academy corps were concentrating solely on subjugation. I was in the competition grounds and after a lot happened, I was taking care of one of the evacuation points, but even that evacuation point was in a dangerous situation, so I couldn't expect much from the Academy's elimination of the danger. It was my own decision, but I somehow got in contact with my company's employees and concentrated in guiding the residents to the evacuation points and proceeded to secure those places. It has calmed down one way or another, so today I headed to the academy and after receiving the orders of the Academy Principal, I headed to this place to participate in the subjugation]

"...I see" (Zara)

[On our way we saw signs of pillaging. How much of the damage has the Merchant Guild grasped?]

"Following this guy's suggestion, we have been confirming the extent of the damage, suppressing the monsters and securing the residents that are okay. I don't know the particulars of the damage, but I understand that it is better to just give up on the merchandize of the stores. Anyways, the military force is overwhelmingly insufficient. We have the gold, but there's already no adventurers or mercenaries that can be hired. Every time a death appears, it chips off our strength. As long as we are unable to make contact with the outside, honestly speaking, there's nothing we can do" (Zara)

Saying "This guy" and pointing at Rembrandt-san, the representative answers me.

Looks like they are quite cornered.

With that face that even has an unshaved beard, he looks several times older than the time I met him.

I send a glance to Tomoe.

When I do so, she makes a complacent smile, laughs, and then nods, which luckily no one noticed because they weren't paying her attention.

The situation is just as planned huh.

Certainly, even if there's money, if there's no adventurers nor mercenaries to hire, there's no point.

Dying while hugging your money.

It is a situation where not a few merchants have thought this way and ended up like that.

In that case, it would be hard for the current representative Zara to make composed decisions.

Then Rembrandt-san supporting here was a good decision.

"Seriously, what a troublesome man. Raidou-dono is here so there's no problem. I am telling you that this kind of thing can't even be considered a predicament, but you don't even listen. Even yesterday-“ (Rembrandt)

“Pat! You, shut up” (Zara)

?

Pat?

Ah, he is talking to Rembrandt-san.

If my memory serves right, I have seen a sign about it.

Patrick Rembrandt.

He is Patrick so Pat.

I normally call him Rembrandt-san, so for a moment I was wondering who he was talking about.

When Rembrandt-san was about to reveal a shameful event, the representative shuts him up.

"And well, the merchant guild has accumulated a relative amount of exhaustion Raidou-dono. This guy can still be considered in the decent compared to the merchants inside. The amount of people confused is not low. It's not something nice to see. And there's no people there that can serve as an example for Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt talks indifferently. There's no signs of sympathy in his words.

Simple bitter words.

Compared to the many people inside, I am a newbie that just made a store though.

I don't see this kind of Rembrandt-san that often.

[I am happy to see that I somehow made it in time]

"For a second I thought about having these guys you left with me cooperate with the offensive, but no matter how I asked them, they didn't accept anything besides protecting. I tried going outside myself and see, but they quickly made me go back. It was clear that it would be pointless to try, so I gave up promptly" (Rembrandt)

Ah, I see.

I only told them to protect after all.

It was probably like telling them: 'Don't cooperate unnecessarily'.

They may not be flexible, but they are reliable warriors.

[Then, following your advice, I will be entering the suppression without going inside the Guild. If you are able to get in contact, it is okay to have the mercenaries return]

“...As expected, this really doesn’t enter the category of predicament huh” (Rembrandt)

For the first time, Rembrandt-san’s expression changed into one of surprise.

[We have already defeated about 15 of them on our way here. And in this section...]

“?!!”

I ignore their surprise.

Stopping my writing, I look at Shiki.

“There’s 9 left. Right now there’s no other variants appearing” (Shiki)

Understanding my gaze, Shiki answered. Grateful by it, I look back at Rembrandt-san.

With how things went, I feel like Rembrandt-san would be more reliable than the representative right now.

[That’s how it is. There’s also an article which has been specified by the Academy as being the reason of the variants appearing. I will be leaving one of my followers to collect those, right Tomoe?]

“?!!!! M-Me?!” (Tomoe)

[She knows the particulars about it, so can Rembrandt-san cooperate as well? And representative Zara too]

“Of course I will cooperate. Is that okay, Zara?” (Rembrandt)

“...Yeah. If this will make those monsters stop appearing from inside, I will happily cooperate” (Zara)

How honest.

When representative Zara is this tired, I feel like I can talk with him.

Well, just like the demi-human Bor said: ‘After the crisis passes, people might forget about it after a while’, so this is probably a rare state of him.

[Then, we will be excusing ourselves now. We are done here, so we will be going. Let's meet later]

"Raidou-dono, the communication with the units is still cut off. Sorry but, if you find them and they haven't received the order to return, I want you to please tell them directly" (Zara)

[Understood]

A really amazing change.

'Sorry but' he said.

Tomoe, looking back once as if saying she is displeased by this, is guided by Rembrandt-san. Sorry.

I was puzzled choosing between Shiki or you, but there's the chance that talk about teleportation will be brought, so I thought that Tomoe was a better option.

...If I left Mio, that would be a bit scary.

I silently give my apology to Tomoe.

Let's finish this quickly and meet her afterwards. Right, in the afternoon I should get in contact with the Academy once.

...I thought of something nice.

"Mio, Shiki" (Makoto)

I beckon the two.

The two that were walking slightly ahead of me returned to where I am.

"Counting the ones still fighting, there's 9 variants remaining, right?" (Makoto)

"Yes, no doubt about it" (Shiki)

Shiki nods immediately.

"Then, avoiding the ones that are in the middle of fighting, how about you two do a competition with the remaining 6?" (Makoto)

"?!"

"If you end up in a draw... today's dinner will be Mio's choice lineup, and tomorrow will be Shiki's choice lineup. And, if one of you wins, I will listen to one of your wishes. How about it?" (Makoto)

"...Really? Something like that..." (Shiki)

"W-Waka-sama, you can't take back what you said later okay?!" (Mio)

Eh? Both of them bit harder than I thought they would.

But I gotta tell them that this is only limited to things I can actually do.

"Of course, things I can do. Limit it to something that I can do at that time okay? Like for example... if you want to hear about my previous world, I would like you to limit it to one day. Cooking together as well" (Makoto)

I illustrated Shiki and Mio with things both might want, to make it clearer for them.

"I won't be asking mean things in my wish. Don't worry" (Shiki)

"Exactly what Shiki said. Waka-sama, prepare yourself" (Mio)

I wonder why, even though it was short, the words Mio said first and the words she said later felt as if they were contradicting themselves.

Different from Tomoe, the two of them had a rough job of protecting, so I thought of this proposal as a breather of sorts but... maybe I was rash?

While following Shiki to the place where the fight is going on, I felt kinda uneasy.



"You were pretty docile there, Zara" (Rembrandt)

"...I thought you had turned tame, but let me take it back. What is that about being the

strongest in town? That thing, no matter how I look at him, it isn't merely at that level!!" (Zara)

"I didn't lie though. In truth, they are the strongest in town after all. In here and in Tsige" (Rembrandt)

In front of Makoto, Rembrandt uses 'watashi'; but when he talks to representative Zara he uses 'ore'. On top of that, his way of talking gets slightly rustic and frank. *<Watashi = 'I' in a polite way – Ore = 'I' in an informal way>*

From this, one can tell that their personal relationship is deep.

Looking at Tomoe who is being guided by Rembrandt's wife inside the Guild, the representative of the Merchant Guild, Zara, glares at his old friend while sweating bullets.

But Rembrandt eludes that gaze.

That look would normally make weak-minded people feel fear, but Rembrandt took it with a cool face.

This kind of face is obviously what one would get if the originally scary face of Zara seriously glares at someone.

But maybe because Rembrandt takes it as a frolic of an old friend, or maybe because he has abnormal nerves; he responded to Zara by saying an irony of lining up two towns, Rotsgard and Tsige, who have completely different natures.

"...The information of Kuzunoha Company is opaque in all senses. I can gather a reasonable amount of info about them, but I can't see the core at all. I don't even know the reason why it is gathering the attention of many countries. Its ability in battle as an organization is completely unknown. When I put a logical reason like: 'they probably don't have much to show in battle', they come with this!" (Zara)

"What do you mean by 'with this'? Hey hey, that's some terrible sweating there" (Rembrandt)

"They come walking from the Academy with only 4 people and while having a friendly chat as if there's no crisis going on, they arrived here with no injuries. The units grouped with mercenaries are turning out with deaths and injured every time they go

out there you know?! Not a single one of them was showing any sort of nervousness! They came here as if they were going out shopping in a sunny afternoon!" (Zara)

"Kukuku" (Rembrandt)

Hearing the words of Zara that sounded as if a dam had broken inside him, Rembrandt laughs with heartfelt fun.

"What number 1 strongest in town would be able to do something as crazy as that?! There are strong monsters spread around everywhere where one step can mean your death you know?! We were only able to defeat 4 after 3 days; with a group of more than 50 mercenaries! And then he comes and nonchalantly says '15' as if he was walking down a festival before coming here!! I was somehow able to get in contact with my employees? If this were a situation where we can 'somehow' get in contact, by now we would be getting supplies from outside!!" (Zara)

"Yeah, you are right" (Rembrandt)

"Why is the kid that got scared after being shouted by me able to walk all the way here with a smile in his face? Those guys, just what in the world are they?" (Zara)

"So that's why you are sweating that much. Yareyare, aren't you the one that's lacking fervor? Where did the man that seized the gambling den from the thief guild go to?" (Rembrandt)

"Don't lump this together with business. There's a limit to what merchants can do against people that you can't communicate with. What the Kuzunoha Company is doing is plain impossible for a company. From my point of view, Raidou and those monsters out there aren't that different. Why is an obscure group like that in this Academy Town? Just what are those guys, Pat?" (Zara)

"Just as you know, he is a medicine merchant. Registering as a merchant in the Guild of Tsige and making a store here, a chick-in-training, the merchant Raidou-dono" (Rembrandt)

"Pat, stop messing around" (Zara)

"...Just that, the close aides around Raidou-dono: one is a brave woman Tomoe-dono who's over level 1,500; the black haired girl you just met, Mio-dono, surpasses level 1,500 by a lot; and the other follower under Raidou-dono, Shiki-dono, is most likely a

high level that I don't know of. Just think of Raidou-dono as possessing the same amount of power as them. Those kind of people are selling medicine" (Rembrandt)

"O-One thousand five hundred? What are you..." (Zara)

"Oops, my tongue slipped. It is confidential information from the adventurer guild you see. It is a well-known secret in Tsige, but in other towns it doesn't even turn into a conversation and it just turns into their levels being unknown. Falz-dono, was it? Looks like they are close with the Adventurer Guild master. You as well, don't go leaking it outside, got it? I don't know what will happen to you if you do" (Rembrandt)

"Y-You just arbitrarily told me!!" (Zara)

Zara's whole body trembled heavily.

When he was talking with Raidou – Makoto -, he was still able to interact with him with a firm mentality even when exhausted.

That's because of his pride as the Guild's head.

But in reality, he was internally in shock, awe and fear.

He is the person that has been entrusted with the managing of the Merchant Guild.

He is able to calmly take the situation to a certain extent and analyze it.

The fact that this town is being attacked by monsters, and that those monsters are a threat that they are barely able to fight against after gathering skilled mercenaries and bodyguards that were former adventurers.

Every day confirming the survival of the people that are being protected, and realizing that each day they decrease in numbers. And those guys that are doing their best out there are also reducing in numbers.

The two strong mamonos his old friend brought along with his wife, right now one is at the entrance of the Guild and the other one is following the wife as a guard. Their strength was quite reliable.

Even though they are mamonos, when seeing them diligently do their job as guards, there are people that are even worshipping them out of gratitude.

But they don't join the offensive no matter what, and the couple were not allowed to go outside.

They were a power that was only limited to guarding.

Thanks to that they were able to send more people to attack and investigate, but even when they are being protected by strong mamonos, the refugees are accumulating a lot of stress.

Because the thought transmission is being limited, they are unable to grasp the situation and that increases the sensation of being enclosed.

No doubts this is the worst situation Rotsgard has faced since its foundation.

That's why he can tell.

The acts of Raidou and the Kuzunoha Company, if it's only by word, they 'sound' like good-willed people that are risking their lives for the town's sake, for the sake of resolving this situation.

Just by concentrating your eyes a little, those actions will look completely abnormal.

The strongest military power of the Academy was easily killed. Zara has also received information that they didn't even provide a proper fight.

And in truth, the people that were hired were even saying that the monsters are strong and the remuneration doesn't match. Just looking at the number of deaths and the town's state, Zara intended to negotiate in that aspect.

And they defeated 15 of those.

A number that can be laughed as a lie.

And yet, he couldn't laugh at it.

Half of Zara's heart couldn't believe it, but the other half felt that it was the truth.

They walked from the Academy to the Merchant Guild.

It sounds easy, but it was enough to make Zara unable to understand Kuzunoha

Company.

A small company that had no value of attention, had turned into a ghastly existence inside of him.

"Fuh, that's what happens when you don't even have much information and just judge Raidou-dono by the surface. If you changed your way of view a little, there's no personage as easy to get along with as him. I was expecting you to see through something as simple as that, but that's a shame" (Rembrandt)

"I-If such a person with no understanding in the way of commerce comes saying naïve words, anyone would get angry!! It's your fault for not properly teaching him the basics at Tsige! In the first place, why is a person with such crazy power-" (Zara)

"Not using it?" (Rembrandt)

"Y-Yeah" (Zara)

"I don't know. You should ask him personally. Well, his atmosphere looked different. This might have been influenced by you" (Rembrandt)

"Why did he enter the trade business?" (Zara)

"I told you, if have something to ask him, ask him personally. Also, you talked about basics and whatever, but you, are you seriously saying that?" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt looks at Zara with eyes of elation.

Zara thought that even though he is an old friend, that's a face he doesn't see a lot in Rembrandt.

"Isn't that obvious? This is the duty of someone in the same trade. Before beginning something, you have to lay the groundwork, look at the town's market price and have the ability to place the price. If your stock has some sort of specialty, consult with us beforehand. There are a lot of things to do. And yet, he probably doesn't understand a half of it. Raidou really only thinks about selling good things at a low price. His eyes are basically only looking at the customers. Just how is such a merchant going to go by in this world?" (Zara)

"Good things at the lowest price. Isn't that a basic in business? He is putting that in

practice. Truly nice" (Rembrandt)

"And I'm saying that doesn't work in practical business!" (Zara)

"It does" (Rembrandt)

"...You, did you go by in this way at that town and got your head crazy?" (Zara)

"Didn't we think in this way when we began our business?" (Rembrandt)

"Yeah, but after actually doing it, you realize that that naivety doesn't work!" (Zara)

"Why?" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt asked Zara like a child.

"...To be able to wedge into the people that have authority. Because 'wisely' doing things is more important than ideals, no, it is necessary. Capitalize people with gold, kill people with gold. If you are unable to do that... you won't be able to become bigger" (Zara)

"Right. But, that only applies to people like us" (Rembrandt)

"What are you trying to say?" (Zara)

The eyes of Zara grow clouded.

"Before the power of Tomoe-dono and Mio-dono, just how many merchants are able to properly negotiate? For example: if the current you stands in the same space as those four, just how many of their demands will you be able to change into a favorable one? With that special method of yours" (Rembrandt)

"Such a thing, I will somehow manage to" (Zara)

"Even with the risk of having your important things and this whole town scattered away? Even with the risk of not knowing what kind of retribution will come if your actions are taken as traitorous?" (Rembrandt)

"!!!"

"Of course, if he wants to, I would teach him as much as he wants about stores. I will support him. But right now I don't think there's a need to for him. He doesn't think much about the adventurers that die in the wasteland, but he is a merchant that wants to help the people that have fallen ill or have curse illness. He holds the ideal of selling good medicine at a low price. I think he is actually a plenty beneficial person. He doesn't fit in a relationship where he holds the head of someone, and a pointlessly high-pressured personality doesn't fit him either" (Rembrandt)

Zara was probably self-aware that the latter half was pointing out at himself, Zara's expression turns into a bitter one.

"Are you saying business can be twisted by violence? Can such a crooked act continue? The church, the country, won't forgive such an act" (Zara)

"Really? If they think that giving them freedom is more beneficial than binding them, it isn't that impossible right? Supreme dragons sometimes come out from their nest and destroy villages; spirits rampage and block the sea and highways. These are things that happen every now and then. But do they go suppress them every time it happens? The only thing you would be able to do is pray, to wait for that threat to pass by. Because they understand that this way has less victims" (Rembrandt)

"It's foolish to put those natural disasters at the same level as the Kuzunoha Company" (Zara)

"A suppression unit led by a level 920 was needed to defeat one supreme dragon. They have two people that surpass 1,500 and can be considered of possessing that same power. Don't you think that's not much different? Also, do you know? Just by being strong, when that strength is on a whole different dimension, it even brings growth to towns you know? That's truly nice. Even when taking into account that my town is one that is easily influenced by that kind of effect" (Rembrandt)

Zara gulps at the words of Rembrandt.

Because the words that were coming out from his old friend that used gold and several tricks to climb higher, felt nothing but scary.

It is certainly true that if the Dragon Slayer Sofia is level 920, and the words of Rembrandt are true, Kuzunoha Company possesses power stronger than that of the strongest adventurer.

Even so, Zara is still clinging to his crumbling common sense.

“...Impossible. That’s impossible, Pat. If a single company practices such tyranny and egoism, the Goddess-sama would definitely bring divine judgment to it. Right?” (Zara)

“I wonder if even that divine judgment will be able to reach them, Zara. I... betted in the side that won’t reach. That’s why, no matter what anyone says, the Rembrandt Company will not stop supporting Kuzunoha Company. I don’t think the Goddess-sama would come out for a company, but even if that happens, I don’t have any intentions of changing my bet” (Rembrandt)

“Such arrogance is...” (Zara)

“If an ideal is able to stay practical even without changing its shape, arrogance is just fine. Lately, I have begun thinking this way. That blowing away all the people that only look at benefits and moving on is okay. At the end I was unable to do it, but if it’s Raidou, he will be able to. But well, I think his arrogance is brought by his ignorance though. That’s why I don’t meddle unnecessarily and simply watch as he does things the way he wants to” (Rembrandt)

“...That might not even be business anymore you know? No, it wouldn’t even be realistic” (Zara)

“Isn’t that fine? If an organization surpassing the border of business appears and cleanses this world of illness and curse diseases, it wouldn’t be bad to be part of such an unprecedented exploit. If he so wishes to, I will walk alongside. Zara, let me tell you this. He is not a man that would make people in his side suffer losses. In our words, he is a source of revenue that we would want to get no matter what we have to betray” (Rembrandt)

“Even if that means hyumans, no, even the Goddess herself?” (Zara)

“Yeah. What’s wrong? If gold is supremacy and profit is justice, no matter what you betray it is still ‘business’, right?” (Rembrandt)

“But Pat, that is...” (Zara)

“...Fukkuku. I know. I already know. If that were truly the case, it would be a lie to say that we haven’t profited from the war that way in these 20 years. That’s because people like us with capital and connections are able to profit like crazy from it. I am in

a remote town in the wasteland where fighting for your life is usual. Not in Limia nor Gritonia. Well, the current Tsige has gained enough revenue to the point that it would be able to join the war and not fall down. That is our limit. Even if I talk all high-and-mighty, I don't want to join hands and earn profits from war" (Rembrandt)

Rembrandt laughs.

Those vigorous words of his that one could catch a glimpse of slight madness, were laughed away by the person himself.

"That war... taught me that naivety won't save anything. I am grateful for that" (Zara)

"That huh. You slipped there. 'This' war has not finished yet you know? Also, even if you say you are grateful with that face, the only thing I can get through it is hatred. Well, I am the same though. My older brother and his wife died in the war after all" (Rembrandt)

"I lost all of my relatives" (Zara)

"Right. We have desperately lived with the mindset that only gold and ourselves were the only reliable things" (Rembrandt)

"Yeah. That's why, when I see someone like Raidou, I feel my own pettiness. Also, he gives a... I still can't say for sure, but I feel like something is out of place. Not about his power or anything like that. A feeling as if he is a different race from us" (Zara)

"Out of place huh. I see. You also have your own way of thinking. Then I don't mind. But if you are going to join, it's better to make it fast. This is honest advice from a friend that has faced the same pain and walked the same path" (Rembrandt)

"You... I, still can't approve of him that much" (Zara)

"Try coming to Tsige once. When you look at the state of affairs, your way of thinking will also change. Right, let's have my daughters guide you. A big service there you know?" (Rembrandt)

The remote town that is dramatically changing. Remembering his own den, Rembrandt was unable to contain himself again and leaked out a laugh.

"Sif-chan huh. She became beautiful right" (Zara)

“Hoh~, I haven’t said a single word about Sif though? I see, I see. When you heard about big service, you remembered Sif who resembles the Lisa you fell in love with a long time ago, right? Yeah yeah, how stubborn you are Zara” (Rembrandt)

“Wa?! I-I wasn’t really...” (Zara)

“Nah, I won’t be holding strange suspicions on a close friend like you... is what you thought I would say?! You old lecher! The eyes you use to follow Lisa are already indecent you bastard!” (Rembrandt)

“Guo, Pat, what are you saying in such a critical situation?!” (Zara)

Rembrandt strangles Zara with words that one can’t tell if he was joking or being serious.

The people that were looking at it from afar showed slight signs of fun, so they probably thought those two were playing around.

No one aside from Rembrandt himself would know if he did so purposely or not.

After about 5 minutes.

Seeing the mercenaries return one after the other to the Guild and the unchanged state of Raidou, Zara leaked out a low “Impossible”.

Rembrandt, hearing that small and feeble voice of his, opened his mouth wide and laughed.

Raidou looked at this in surprise.

# Chapter 145

## Lime and Mondo

(Okay, we safely finished one lap of patrolling. There might still be one hidden somewhere, but it seems the Merchant Guild will be taking the investigation regarding that. Our master Raidou should be able to continue his operation, but is there any new order from your side?)

(P-Please wait for a moment... Sorry for the wait. Then, continue by going to the northwest section and enter suppression. Please begin the investigation of the reason for the thought transmission jamming. By the time the sun goes down, return to base and report the situation and the results of your investigation)

(Received clearly. Well then)

(Yeah, the need for a regular report is unnecessary since the job doesn't require it. Wish you well)

The thought transmission finishes.

I can't talk, so I let Shiki handle the report of the situation and the instructions for the next action.

I also tapped into the conversation, so I know the contents of it. No need for Shiki to explain me.

"Next place is northwest huh. We just have to walk straight to the west. It is one of the few places where merchants sell products targeted to residents with low income and social status, right?" (Makoto)

"Yeah. The Academy most likely wants to liberate the establishments related to the Academy itself and the places where rich people are gathered in. They probably want to get as much support from the rich as possible. In the current state, it is assured that the Academy Principal's standing is plummeting. Looking at his impatient state, I even thought that instead of having one of the people aiming at the Principal's seat, it would be fine to have Waka-sama take over. He looks only at numbers, and using the

treasured corps he created, they easily got partially destroyed; making him fall into a completely shaken state. Even in the clique strifes that seem to be his specialty, he was unable to control it concurrently, so it is easy to see his limits" (Shiki)

"He doesn't want to give us any big job huh" (Makoto)

"When we finish the northwest, the next thing he will probably make us do is a joint operation with the purple coats" (Shiki)

"Even when I am temporary, I am still a teacher of the Academy, so he will use me as if he owns me. I will bring out the name of the Kuzunoha Company every now and then, but I don't have any intentions of badmouthing the Academy. In reality, the achievement of pinpointing the variant's reason of appearing will most likely be taken by the Academy Principal. Looking at how things are going" (Makoto)

"Yeah, since the demerits of having us as the ones pinpointing it would be big after all. If he were able to break the deadlock with his own abilities it would be one thing, but that's clearly the wrong way of doing things. It would be fine if he would just have a random guest of any power to see that he is asking the assistance of Waka-sama. I have heard from Tomoe-dono, it seems you were shouted at" (Shiki)

Shiki and I were smiling bitterly at the orders of the Academy Principal.

We are bringing out the name of the company occasionally, but in every place we go, I properly tell them that I am a teacher of the Academy, and I also announce that I am there under the orders of the Academy Principal.

I don't think the name of the Academy will fall just because we are the ones acting.

Because I only want them to have a good impression of the Kuzunoha Company, and I don't intent to badmouth other places while I'm at it.

The most I am doing is making it so that the other big companies don't stand out.

We are aware that our actions exemplify the Academy's existence and we also accept it.

"Waka, we have finished collecting the ornaments that are thought to be the key" (Tomoe)

“Good work, Tomoe. Was there any problem on your side?”(Makoto)

“...No, nothing. I did act slightly to make sure the companies don’t do any unnecessary things, but it was all finished in a good note” (Tomoe)

“Act slightly?” (Makoto)

“I gave water, food and blankets to the Merchant Guild representative, the one called Zara. I told him to use them well” (Tomoe)

“Will that serve as a diversion of some sort? Or more like, that food, did it come from Asora?” (Makoto)

“Instead of having a company from who-knows-where, it would be better for the Merchant Guild to bring those articles out using their own name, since that will cause less troubles. It will be beneficial for them as well and I “requested” him to mention our name a bit. The food, water, and blankets, were all things that I randomly bought from slightly faraway towns in the few days I travelled. Even if we have a lot of food, I won’t be giving out the food of Asora. I did mix some fruits though. The fruits are proof enough that we are the ones providing things” (Tomoe)

“You even bought things. Sorry” (Makoto)

“Don’t worry. I just had the scattered Forest Onis buy those. It would be troublesome if this were detected as the self-advertisement of a company after all. This is to make it so that our company is the one that stands out the most” (Tomoe)

“Tell me how much it cost later okay? But, I am surprised that that representative accepted that kind of condition” (Makoto)

“Don’t inquire, bring out the name of a company’ Just with that, he was able to obtain great quantities of food, water, and covers they were lacking for their beddings. Even if the person is not a merchant, the decision would be clear. He may be the Merchant Guild representative, but he is no doubt a hyuman” (Tomoe)

With her characteristic smile, Tomoe laughed with a ‘Fufu’.

I wonder if it’s really such a simple thing.

Representative Zara gave me the impression that he is the type that will put a

condition of his own in any proposal that he is given.

No matter how weakened he is. No, maybe Rembrandt-san helped out.

In that case, maybe after receiving the words of his old friend, he accepted the conditions of Tomoe.

“...Waka, it wasn’t such a complicated thing you know?” (Tomoe)

“...You, are you an esper?” (Makoto)

“Your expression was showing several words. Fufu, at his back there are people he has to shelter no matter what, and without enough food, and in this situation where it is not clear when it will be resolved; even if the situation has improved, if we were to offer to pull him, what would happen? Unable to use thought transmission, he can’t even decide things properly. Now then, in front of him there’s starving people, big amounts of food, and blankets for the people that are only wearing the same clothes they happened to be wearing since the events began. No matter if we give it, or we don’t, the ‘negotiation’ is just an easy deal” (Tomoe)

“I see. Is that how it is. Wait, you, did you just say the food in front of him? Don’t tell me, you used teleportation in front of representative Zara?!” (Makoto)

Isn’t that bad?

Because you know, we already said random things like usage limits and burdens.

“In the first place, you already told him that we use teleportation right?” (Tomoe)

“But that was before we created a lot of settings for it, you know?!” (Makoto)

“No problem. Because those things are provided by the Kuzunoha Company and given by the Merchant Guild. We asked him and he had no choice but to cooperate for the sake of the residents. Even if he wails about the origins of the objects that were teleported, the Merchant Guild will still take part in it. The ones that were piling up the food in this place were the Lizardmen. He knows the Mist Lizards are still here, so the representative-dono heartily accepted to cooperate. In the end it was only a verbal promise, but if he is able to shake his head and go against us in the future... I can only say that he would have quite the guts” (Tomoe)

“B-But you know...” (Makoto)

I can't help but feel if it's really okay to do something so reckless.

“Also, Waka, hiding secrets is truly a hard thing to do for the people that hold the secret and for the people that have to hide it” (Tomoe)

“Y-Yeah...” (Makoto)

Isn't it obvious for the people that hold secrets to hide them?

“Actually, it is a lot easier to have someone hide it for you” (Tomoe)

“...”

I don't understand.

“Root probably does something similar when playing diplomacy. But what's essential is to make the other person believe that he can't let others know of that secret” (Tomoe)

“...And?” (Makoto)

“Saying it in an extreme way, have someone with a certain position know something other people don't know, but if he acts in a way so that other people don't learn about it, it is the same as if no one knows” (Tomoe)

Hmm, even if you tell me that knowing is the same as not knowing, I just can't grasp it.

“Are you saying that, instead of us hiding it, it would be better to make it a public secret?” (Makoto)

“It is slightly different, but in a broader sense, that's how it is. Root made some good groundwork for our teleportation and he would make the continuation” (Tomoe)

Then aren't I right?

I will do my best in understanding a percent of the story they might come up with.

“...Understood. Then, for now let’s continue the subjugation. If I remember correctly, at that side there’s Lime and Mondo, right?” (Makoto)

“Yes. There might not be any left for me. I wanted to unsheathe my katana since it has been a while, but it seems like it would be better to just wait for another opportunity. I am jealous of Mio and Shiki... N? For some reason Mio is looking strangely happy. Did something happen?” (Tomoe)

Tomoe shows sadness at the fact that she can’t unsheathe her sword.

At the place she was gazing at, she saw that Mio who’s in a jolly mood. Tomoe makes a wondering expression and voices out her question.

“Ah, that. I had Shiki and Mio do a competition of sorts. About which of them would be able to clean up more variants” (Makoto)

“Hoh? Looking at her state, it must have been Mio’s win” (Tomoe)

“Yeah. 4-2, Mio’s win. I made it so they can’t interfere with each other, but it was a pretty good competition” (Makoto)

“I see... Even so, she is so happy I feel like she would fly at any moment. I can’t comprehend why” (Tomoe)

“Hm? Maybe because I told them I would grant one wish to the winner” (Makoto)

“?!!!!”

Instantly, the face of Tomoe turns dreadful.

Ah, I feel like it would have been better to just wash away that question.

“W-What’s wrong Tomoe?” (Makoto)

“Waka, what’s up with that luxurious reward?! I didn’t hear anything about this!!” (Tomoe)

“No well, you were at the Guild after all. Well then...” (Makoto)

Work work.

We have to depart soon.

"Wait, Waka! The talk is not over yet! No, it has actually begun just now! Where are you heading to?!" (Tomoe)

"The northwest section. That talk, I will tell it to you while we are moving. Don't lift your voice so much!" (Makoto)

"I request an acceptable explanation. Even if I accept it, I might not accept it though! In other words, I also get a wish okay?! Waka?!" (Tomoe)

It has turned quite crazy.

Oh well, it is better than being all tense.

Lime and Mondo are at the northwest section, so it shouldn't be that bad there.

I should just go with a pace where I can return to the Academy by the time the sun goes down.



"Hey, there it goes, Mondo"

"Understood!"

At both sides of the street that has no stone pavings, showing the whole naked ground, there's a thin man that's blowing away a gray monster while raising a shout, and at the direction it is headed to, there's a darkish skinned male approaching.

The big one-eyed monster with a large ball-shaped body was bigger than both men, but the man called Mondo grabbed it with one hand and killed its momentum.

The instant Mondo seized the monster, he smashed it to the ground, and after a pale light, its shape changed...

Into a single tree.

Mondo is a Forest Oni, considered as one of the ancestors of the Elfs.

He activated his special ability [Tree Punishment].

A technique that turns the target into a tree.

A dreadful skill that had scared even the master of Asora, Makoto, in the past.

The variant that turned into a bright green tree can't oppose at all. It decided the battle in an instant.

"The reforestation work is moving along well" (Lime)

"With this, it makes 8 huh. There's still quite a few left. It feels like... our pace is not increasing" (Mondo)

"We are doing it in a careful way in order to avoid attention, so it can't be helped. I had a call from Tomoe-neesan just now. Seems the Boss and everyone else are heading here" (Lime)

"I see... it seems my incompetent disciples are causing him problems, so it will pain me to meet them" (Mondo)

"The Akua-Eris Combi huh. Then, if they are taken into account as a combi, the responsibility would be divided, and that wouldn't be good for Akua. Boss says all kinds of things, but he is not actually that worried. As proof, he let all the Forest Onis migrate to Asora, right? He doesn't mind it much. He is actually enjoying himself" (Lime)

"Lime, having you tell me that, it really relieves me. I at least want to show him results that can satisfy him. Please accompany for a bit more" (Mondo)

"Of course. I can do great bouts with you. You are the perfect rival to climb the rankings of Asora. I will cooperate with you in whatever you want" (Lime)

"Yeah, for a brief period of time, we had a superior battle formation and great order, but with the participation of the Gorgons and Winged-kin, it instantly spiked down. We have to train once again" (Mondo)

"It seems there's limitations in the stone-turning ability and the flying ability. Those are close to cheating. Even if those abilities don't have use limitations like your [Tree Punishment], there's still certain rules to them. If the rules change, it will probably

return to a position close to before. Well, that's just an estimation though" (Lime)

"Really" (Mondo)

Lime and Mondo had finished evacuating the residents in the area a long time ago and have also finished the evacuation of the merchants.

At the second day, they stopped a part of the variants that appeared in the evacuation points and finished gathering the necklaces in a fast pace.

The motivation of Mondo who has returned from Asora, and the skillfulness of Lime blended perfectly together.

And then, at the third day.

Receiving a transmission to change into offensive, they didn't make any flashy actions, but have begun their movements to suppress the variants and establish stability in the evacuation points.

In this section there's no other power.

There's 3 evacuation points, and with Lime's personal connections and the sure-kill technique [Tree Punishment] of Mondo, they were able to splendidly protect the points.

Their communication is done in secrecy and the goods are being supplied with the use of teleportation. It can be said that they are doing a good job.

The locations of the evacuation points are somewhat close to each other, so it is more convenient when protecting a big amount of people.

Moreover, compared to the evacuation points of other sections, the ones there were spacious and the density of residents is low.

Quickly selecting the evacuation points that were easy to protect was a good move from those two.

Taking into account the saved people and the people that were able to safely escape, the northwest section is comfortable and it created low amounts of stress.

At the opposite site there's the northeast section where the Merchant Guild is located in, and because of the residents seeking refuge there, the density at that place is high and the stress must be quite high too. It is also the reason why representative Zara is being driven into a corner.

Because the two have saved them, the merchants and the residents that have moderate earnings are relying quite a lot in the two. Depending on the point-of-view, one can even call it dependence.

The name of Kuzunoha Company is resonating in their hearts a lot more than Makoto thinks.

"But what is the objective of the one that released these things here? That person knew Waka-sama was here in this town, and still did this. It would only be enough to cause an uproar. The thought transmission jamming and the appearance of variants; the person that can think of this kind of things should be able to understand a simple fact like that" (Mondo)

"Who knows. I don't understand the thinking of the demon race. Well, I will just move as the arms and legs of Boss and the others, that's all I need to think about. They will tell us if necessary. Also, those personages definitely won't do anything that might endanger us or Asora. Rather, they have even stopped us from doing dangerous things when trying to be of help. Even in this occasion, when the Lizards were added as members, they trembled in joy" (Lime)

"...Yeah, I understand that. Because I felt the same way as those Mist Lizards. Lime, it would be nice if the time you can tell your wish to Waka-sama comes near" (Mondo)

"That depends on Tomoe-neesan. It's that kind of promise after all. Well, I will just wait patiently. I have received the time to do so. No need to hurry" (Lime)

Lime looks at the distance.

"Then, how about we clean up one or two more, partner? Let's make our brethren at Asora envious of us" (Mondo)

"Yeah!" (Lime)

The two enlarge their perception range, looking for variants and choosing the ones they can safely hunt without catching the attention of the evacuation points.

And then, by the time Makoto and the others arrived, the two had turned several variants more into trees, and went to welcome their arrival.

# Chapter 146

## Eris, full-throttle

—Student dormitory.

Normally it is literally as the name states, the place where students live and the place where they can relax at, however, because of the turmoil caused by the variants, the student dormitory has turned into an evacuation point.

The territory that has now lost Mio and Shiki – the two reliable guards -, has obviously increased in uneasiness.

Jin and the others, who had just woken up, had taken this job as their replacement, but as expected, they are unable to bring enough comfort to disperse all the uneasiness.

Even the people that had witnessed their fight with the variant Illumgand, it would still be hard to suddenly trust in their skills just with that one fight.

If Mio and Shiki hadn't collected the accessories that served as the key of variant transformation, variants would have most likely appeared already.

"What's wrong Eris?"

"Akua, this is bad. The Academy Principal is going mad" (Eris)

"What does that mean? There's nothing particularly strange going on inside the dormitory" (Akua)

"It seems he is trying to utilize those kids. He got wind about them waking up... probably" (Eris)

"Hey, it is not like you are Waka-sama... so where is that random intuition coming from?" (Akua)

"It is difficult to explain. It is like... a spiritual kind of thing? At any rate, I can feel the

Academy Principal approaching" (Eris)

"Hah..." (Akua)

"Well then, what should we do? If the students are brought out, we would have to leave here as well. If that happens, there won't be anyone here left" (Eris)

"But Waka's orders were to protect those seven right? I think he considers the other students as extras" (Akua)

"Fufufufu, and so, I have a good idea" (Eris)

Maybe she felt something, Eris, who was sitting hugging her knees at the dormitory's roof, suddenly lifted her head up.

Her partner Akua wondered if something happened and asked her the details, but after hearing that it was the intuition of Eris, she lowered her tension slightly.

Just in case, she talked in a hypothetical way supposing that intuition is correct, but Eris looked at Akua and made an ominous smile and said that she had an idea.

"...Let's hear it out for the time being" (Akua)

"We "protect" the whole dormitory with our combination magic" (Eris)

"C-Combination magic?! Could it be, you are telling me to do that?! I-I don't want to. I don't want to, okay?!" (Akua)

The taller build Akua stands up and rejects the proposal of Eris.

Her expression even showed fear.

She must have quite a bad memory of it.

"But with that we would be able to resolve everything harmoniously. I investigated just now and the dormitory has quite the amount of food left. There might be some slight fighting over it, but they won't seriously go at it. It isn't that big of a deal even if they can't go outside for a while" (Eris)

"I am totally against it!" (Akua)

Akua turns her back at Eris and sits down.

“...I feel like Waka-sama will definitely get angry” (Eris)

“Like hell that would happen! I don’t want to taste that shame again” (Akua)

‘Buh~ there isn’t that much time left you know. Can’t be helped then, I will do it alone’  
(Eris)

“?!! Wait. Is that something that can be done alone?” (Akua)

“Of course there’s also a solo version. But my magic power isn’t enough so lend it to me okay?” (Eris)

“Oooh! Iazly?!” (Akua)

“Yeah, because if I don’t say so, I thought Akua wouldn’t do it with me. Now, magic power, magic power” (Eris)

With a trembling finger Akua points at Eris and makes a strange scream, but Eris seems to have understood its meaning.

She has been Akua’s partner since a long time ago after all.

“You better remember this later...” (Akua)

Akua looks at Eris with eyes filled with resentment, but it seems she intents to cooperate with what Eris is trying to do, she agreed with Eris and acts in order to give magic power to her.

It is a rare deed that can’t be done unless the magic power compatibility of both parties is high.

Akua and Eris may be a rough combi of different statures, but have been together since long so they are able to do it.

“You fell for it, Akua” (Eris)

“?!!! My body is!!” (Akua)

“Fufufu, well then... Let’s do it” (Eris)

“N-No! Eris, since when did you learn such a stupid technique?!” (Akua)

The magic power mixes and in the moment it was about to flow from Akua to Eris... Akua’s body trembled and suddenly stood up.

It was clear that it wasn’t her will.

“Now, your hand... let’s hold it~” (Eris)

“Don’t mess around! Eris, Eri~s!” (Akua)

Ignoring the shouts of Akua, the two spin around as if dancing.

“Sparkle, diamond of the heart~” (Eris)

“Body, move! If you don’t move now, when are you going to move! Move move move— !!!” (Akua)

“Special technique, Kokyt- Hah?! I-Is it running wild?!” (Eris)

The hand that was linked with Eris was shaken off forcefully, the hands that were linked as if forming a shell, were separated.

Akua’s head faced slightly downward, and with an angered expression, she glares at Eris.

“...Eris, are you prepared?” (Akua)

“No well, once you try it out it will feel good. No wait, that’s not it. It is true that there’s no time. It is definitely better to have the spell done. Calm down” (Eris)

“Who do you think you are making angry?!” (Akua)

“At any rate, I understand. This time for sure I will do it by myself. This is for the sake of Waka-sama~ Akua~” (Eris)

“Wuuuu~” (Akua)

Akua's thoughts had calmed down a bit, but this tells Akua that Eris' intuition was correct.

Because she learned that the Academy Principal is really heading to the Student Dormitory personally.

Her growling still continued, but she stopped herself from attacking Eris.

"Hah... The solo version is lonely" (Eris)

"SHUT.UP!" (Akua)

"Let's do it again with renewed spirits!" (Eris)

"Seriously, okay?" (Akua)

At the edge where Eris went to, she lifted both hands to the sky, and after that, she linked them both as if forming a shell.



"The greatest technique of the Shiratori's, from my mentor- Aghbuu!" (Eris)

Even though she was in the middle of a speech, a punch was nailed at Eris' abdomen.

"Just go to sleep already, you stupid girl! The aria has already finished, so something like this, even I can do it!" (Akua)

"Mugugugu" (Eris)

"I can do it! Koky-, nevermind, [Floral Ice Prison]!" (Akua)

"Muguu!!" (Eris)

Strange magic power expands at once on the roof of the Student dormitory and converts into water element.

Three patterns of different designs appear over the head of Akua and Eris vertically.

The emerald green light coming out from Akua's right hand passes through each one of them.

After a while of ascending, it stood still for a moment, and then, as if marking that as its summit, it released several bundles of light.

The bundles of light pierce the ground and fill its surrounding with ice. The student dormitory had been enclosed in an ice cage.

It only took a short time.

A spell that is quite large in scale and strong.

From the spells Akua and Eris can use, this one is pretty high up.

It is actually not a spell that should be used on 'mere' variants.

It is a selection stemming from Eris' playful personality, and Akua who is the one acting as the main spellcaster of it, her fatigue is totally not deserved.

Her fatigued look is not a pose, she is really exhausted.

“To attack me while I was doing the presentation. Don’t you have compassion nor the sense of beauty, Akua?!!” (Eris)

“Waka-sama told me to do that when you are running off your mouth and doing weird things!!” (Akua)

With a tired face, Akua refutes the energetic Eris.

“In the first place, this spell doesn’t have such a stuffy name! Listen well, it is [Aurora]” (Eris)

“Shut up. Seriously, just shut up Eris. Also, that names feels wrong somehow” (Akua)

“Don’t mind it. There are many techniques that change name when it is Solo version. Anyways! You have to say Kokytos and then, stopping once, you raise your voice and say Floral Ice Prison!” (Eris)

“...Waka-sama, it is already reaching the point where only me isn’t enough to stop her anymore...” (Akua)

“In the first place, if we are going for the literal translation, it should be Floral Cold Water Prison. Akua is really half-baked and near-sighted” (Eris)

“Yes yes” (Akua)

In the first place, the characters that Makoto uses are only on the level of interesting for Akua.

Eris is just unnaturally knowledgeable about them, that’s all.

She is at the level that if she were to go to Lorel, she would be highly praised by the people with knowledge about the Wise language.

Maybe she learned things from other places, she uses words Akua has never heard before to do comedic dialogues with Makoto.

Since a while back, before even meeting Makoto and Tomoe; Eris, has been thick in the strange component.

In any case, may it be kanji or in cross-wise writing, leaving aside if it was

embarrassing or not for Akua, she still tried her best.

“Hey”

“Yes yes”

“...How are we going to leave?” (Eris)

“...Oh” (Akua)

A proper retort from Eris.

The Forest Onis Akua and Eris, are confined at the Student Dormitory with Jin and the others.

It has been settled that Mondo will be praying to the heavens.



Mondo, seeing that spectacle from faraway, dashes in front of me and makes a jumping dogeza.

E-Eh? Was that something the combi did?

I understood the reason he lowered his head.

But I also clearly understand that it wasn't his fault.

After finishing the clean-up at the northwest section completely, we transmitted with thought transmission that we intended to return to the academy.

At that moment, something strange happened at the Student Dormitory.

It was suddenly covered in ice and unable to lay a finger on it.

We don't understand the situation inside, so currently we have no troops that can move and can't tell them to return and investigate that place.

Mondo originally wasn't going to accompany us, but the moment he heard about this, he told us he wanted to go along with us.

There's already no variants, so as long as we hold back the influx of variants from other sections, Lime alone is enough.

His opinion was the same, so I decided that it was okay and accepted Mondo accompanying us.

I see.

So he had a presentiment huh.

I also remember that ice pyramid.

I tried connecting with Jin through thought transmission, but as expected, it was cut off.

Akua and Eris as well.

From what I heard of Eris in the past, this is supposed to be a barrier of complete isolation.

And in truth, it is scary tough. To destroy it with physical attacks or magic attacks, you would need quite a lot of effort.

Even against Tomoe and Mio it will last for a while, so it is quite the technique.

Well, by the next day I noticed it wasn't perfect though.

It has an incredible weak point.

Well I couldn't find the heart to point out that weak point in consideration of Akua, since they went through so much trouble as to wear embarrassing frilly clothes, deceived by Eris with that pointless dance, and even making a speech about the special technique.

What was it? Kokytus, maybe?

The rough Forest Oni combi showed me that barrier magic, one with a bright red face and the other all energetically.

It is definitely more embarrassing for the taller one to match the shorter one by

bending her knees... but well, leaving that aside.

"Mondo, this is not really your fault. Akua and Eris must have had some sort of circumstance to do so. I will investigate just in case, since it seems something has happened, but now that I think about it, it is convenient to have the students inside that thing. Shiki, they have food right?" (Makoto)

"Yes. If it's for a few days, there won't be any problems. I don't know if they will exhaust it thoughtlessly, but well, even if they don't eat for one or two days, they won't die" (Shiki)

"Well there's someone here that could fight against a dragon after going three days without eating and only taking a simple meal after" (Tomoe)

"Tomoe, don't remind me. That's how it is, Mondo. You don't have to mind it much. Now, get up get up" (Makoto)

"Waka-sama... I am truly sorry! I will give those idiots a harsh punishment later" (Mondo)

"I will leave that to you. Anyways, we have to return to the Academy. In any case, we can't converse with them right now, so what are you going to do Mondo? Return to where Lime is? We will do something about that thing over there" (Makoto)

"But then!" (Mondo)

"We have yet to decide if we will destroy it or keep it like that after all. That thing, is pretty conspicuous you see. Maybe Root is also unexpectedly holding his head in pain right now" (Makoto)

"Kuku, you have a point. He might also be unexpectedly surprised by it. Mondo, if that's true, I will give a reward to the Forest Onis later. The punishment will be as Waka stated, your own decision, but the reward is fine to give it to everyone. Well, it is not settled yet though" (Tomoe)

Tomoe talks with the apologetic Mondo as if she is having fun.

After Mondo got his camp and passed several mock battles with Tomoe, Mio, Shiki and I; his way of acting towards us gradually changed a lot.

In the Forest Onis, Akua can also be considered as one of the people that has changed nicely, but Mondo changed quite a lot.

The stubborn him made a dramatic change as if a hoodlum had transformed into a ninja.

It seems he had quite the confidence in his power [Tree Punishment], and when that power was completely crushed, he must have faced some sort of change inside of him.

But well, only the person himself knows the whole truth. I am just speculating here.

“Thank you very much for your benevolent words, Tomoe-sama” (Mondo)

“Umu. Go ahead and return to where Lime is. Leave this to us. You guys should rest for tomorrow” (Tomoe)

“Then, excuse me” (Mondo)

“Yeah, have a good rest” (Makoto)

Mondo salutes once and goes back.

Lime and Mondo aren't the members that have to return to Asora today to report, so this is the last time we will see him today.

In the midst of dusk, we look at the icy work of art that's shining in the setting sun while walking once again.

“What are going to do with that thing? Destroy it? Leave it?” (Makoto)

“Isn't it fine to just leave it as it is? It is pointlessly sturdy and troublesome-desu” (Mio)

“I hold the same opinion. Depending on the situation of the Academy, they might even recruit the students to fight” (Shiki)

“I also think the same. ‘It isn't something that can be destroyed in one or two days’, is how we should leave it as” (Tomoe)

Mio, Shiki, and finally Tomoe, seem to be against the destruction of that work of art.

If it was to protect the students, they would have used it as soon as we left the student dormitory, so some sort of circumstances must have occurred to make them utilize it.

Let's just confirm that part and then leave it as it is then.

Those two can manage things inside after all.

"Only ask for the circumstances to those two and leave it at that then" (Makoto)

"I think that's fine. Tomorrow we will move onto liberating the remaining sectors and continue carrying out our functions. We still don't know clearly which country will be the first one arriving, but we will give a baton pass to them and that will mark our job as finished" (Tomoe)

"What about cooperating with the reconstruction?" (Makoto)

"I think that it should be fine to just leave it to the Forest Onis, Eldwas, and Lime's group who are already here. What's next would be how Root will close things. What I predict is that he will have the countries glare at each other and bring out the achievements" (Tomoe)

"Then the call of the Merchant Guild would be the most pressing problem huh" (Makoto)

"...Well, I wonder about that. Rembrandt doesn't seem like he intends to do much moving, but that guy called Zara might be unexpectedly easy to deal with you know?" (Tomoe)

"Zara-san huh. Right now that person is weakened, but he is actually a really formidable person. I don't think he is an easy guy like you think though" (Makoto)

"He is facing this kind of crisis after all. If he were to clearly learn 'from somewhere' that this was done by the demon race, one of the thoughts he might have is to somehow secure the use of the Kuzunoha's teleport transportation for emergencies. I don't know who leaked it, but he seemed to already know about Mio and my level, so I wonder, how is that man going to move?" (Tomoe)

Tomoe seemed to be having fun from the bottom of her heart as she seemed to remember something while laughing.

So she is saying that he would use us as a supplier in moments of emergencies?

It is true that representative Zara said he had gold but had nothing to use it on.

Maybe it is because I am just not good with him, I end up thinking he is not that kind of easy individual, but Tomoe seems to have a different thought.

“...If he still intends to place pressure even after this situation, it would be better to just cut off his head now, Waka-sama” (Mio)

“Mio, that’s just...” (Makoto)

“A person that takes the outstretched hand, and yet, holds a knife with the other hand, is just not worth giving them compassion. Good with good, evil with evil-desu wa” (Mio)

That’s one way of thinking about it though.

“With this, this town will realize the reality that this place is also at war with the demon race. The Academy, the merchant guild; they won’t be able to stay as they were before. I think this is a desirable change for us, Waka-sama” (Shiki)

Shiki.

With all that’s happened, it is certainly true that this will most likely make them aware.

N?

In that case...

“We find a suitable moment to expose that this was the deed of the demon race?” (Makoto)

“No. The Academy should be able to reach that conclusion on their own. I modified the collected ornaments a bit, so that will serve as evidence” (Shiki)

“So you made it easier to know. No matter how incompetent the ones investigating are, they will probably realize in 2 days and report it” (Mio)

Mio and Shiki answer my words with a smirk.

That must mean the modification is effective.

But in that case...

"If they learn that this is the work of the demon race, won't it be bad for us? Kuzunoha Company is being suspected of having connections with the demon race, is what the representative said" (Makoto)

I do know Rona-san in person, so it is not really a lie.

"Waka, I wonder how much of those inconsiderate words will the residents believe in. Isn't that an accusation without proof to begin with? I think that malicious gossip is as good as gone already. If they spread such a thing thoughtlessly, it will only make the surrounding residents see them with bad eyes. After all, we risked our bodies to help evacuate the residents and became the strength of the Academy to subjugate the variants. We are heroes" (Tomoe)

"I... see" (Makoto)

No well, thinking that they will become so intimate is one thing, but will it really make all the gossip disappear?

"If there's a company that still wants to do something after all this, there's also the option of letting it spread in town. It might be interesting to watch, kukuku" (Tomoe)

What an ominous laugh.

The evil magistrate Tomoe, or maybe the wholesaler Tomoe has come out?

I can tell that she is thinking about a lot of things.

How to say it, she looks quite lively.

When counted on, these three are truly reliable.

Oh.

The Academy.

We already cleaned up half of the variants today.

Tomorrow and the day after tomorrow, I wonder what kind of existence will Kuzunoha Company and I be viewed as in this town.

I don't think it will take long to learn about the result.

# Chapter 147

## Last night's fireworks

The Academy had turned into a slight commotion.

The reason is of course, the sudden appearance of an icy work of art.

Tomoe said she was going to look at Root's state, so I had Mio and Shiki go as well and had them buy some time.

If we carefreely reunite in the midst of the commotion, I think that's good enough.

To ask the reason of why Akua and Eris used the spell, I infiltrated into the Student Dormitory.

I can tell that the students are panicking.

But well, it is a spell that doesn't harm anyone inside.

Even when meeting them it would be bothersome, but I used thought transmission to contact Eris, confirmed their current location, and went to meet them as soon as I knew.

"And, why did you go to such lengths to use this spell to isolate the place?" (Makoto)

"Waka, that's cheating..." (Eris)

Even though I first went through the trouble of congratulating them for their hard work, there's one girl that seems to be done for. Eris had her knees curled up sitting down and rubbing the roof with her index finger.

She didn't show any signs of answering my question and was looking at me bitterly.

"W-Waka-sama, I have thought about this before but, how in the world did you enter here?" (Akua)

With a deeply exhausted expression, Akua showed even more mental fatigue and surprise.

In contrast to Eris, Akua had a beautiful upright posture as if a ruler was placed at her back.

After going through the camp training, her personality had turned quite diligent, and it may be hard for her to make follow-ups for Eris.

Maybe I should have one more person accompanying them to make it a group of three.

If that person has to group up with these two, it might be pretty hard to select the appropriate person.

The standplay of this combi is pretty intense, so even when they are among Forest Onis, these two stand out.

How troubling.

“The way I entered? In that case, Eris probably already noticed. There’s still some time till she recovers, so can I ask something Akua?” (Makoto)

“Y-Yes, what is it?” (Akua)

“If you used this in the Student Dormitory, why are you both inside?” (Makoto)

“Uh” (Akua)

With a pained expression, Akua moans and stays silent.

It wasn’t purposely, but an accident then?

With Eris here, that’s actually possible.

“Eris huh” (Makoto)

“N-No! I didn’t think about what would happen and...” (Akua)

“So you plunged into the craziness of Eris” (Makoto)

"Aw... yes. Something like that" (Akua)

"Fortunately, aside from the fact that you can't leave, there's no other problems. Well, good work. And so, is there anything you need to report?" (Makoto)

That's right. There's not much harm from inside.

But this spell is a defensive barrier, and yet, it has a dangerous sounding name like Kokytus.

If I remember correctly, it is the name of the ice hell.

I don't know if Eris knew about it when naming it, but for a simple babysitting barrier, it is way too unfit.

It is easy to understand the reason for the name when you try to carelessly get close from outside.

Well, the Academy is leading in the research of magic, so there shouldn't be an idiot who would do something like that but... you would get frozen.

No, I wonder if that can be considered 'frozen'.

It is more like, a sherbet maybe?

A highland orc that got close to it instantly had half of his arm frozen white.

In an instantaneous response, he severed his own arm with the other, so he got away with only that, but the fallen arm dispersed like diamond dust and crumbled.

A frightening spell.

"No, there's nothing really worth reporting" (Akua)

"Yeah, there is" (Eris)

"?!"

Eris suddenly joined the conversation.

So she recovered already huh.

“Eris...” (Akua)

“Fuh, they say that failure is the mother of success. Next time I will try even harder” (Eris)

“Right. So, Eris, you said you had something to report” (Makoto)

If I retort to everything, the conversation won't progress, so, when I am hurry, I decide to not retort.

With a slightly discontent expression, Eris nods.

“The ones that might be the ringleaders are probably gathering at a luxurious house” (Eris)

“...Heh~” (Makoto)

“The movements of the variants become organized at times, so it picked my curiosity and I laid out a net” (Eris)

“...Eris, I haven't heard about any of this though?” (Akua)

“Akua was doing my part of the work while I was doing that. Thanks” (Eris)

“Ugu” (Akua)

“Continue” (Makoto)

“Yes. They are probably using some sort of tool that – even when imperfect – it controls the variants. Something like that.” (Eris)

“Control...” (Makoto)

“Looks like the variants are gathering. The rich are in trouble” (Eris)

Eris says: “Over there” and points at the place where a lot of wealthy live at.

It is the section that the Academy is putting most of its forces in.

Tomoe for some reason didn't put much of our forces at that place.

I think that it would be faster to gather support by having the people living there like us, but I wonder.

It would be better to hear it in detail from the person herself huh.

Commanding the variants is new information.

I should confirm that as well.

But Eris' information gathering is quite high.

On top of that, I feel like she is getting even better at it.

"Thanks Eris. That helped a lot" (Makoto)

"Those words are wasted on me. This spell as well, it isn't even a pain to use it as an emergency measure in order to protect Waka's precious students from falling in the hands of the Academy Principal. And that's how it is. I want you to please forgive Akua's spontaneous discharge of the barrier" (Eris)

...As soon as I say thanks, she comes out with this.

Eris is truly a mystery.

"It's not like I am angry about it. If you want to, I can even bring you out of here. I will lead the way" (Makoto)

"R-Right now it's fine. I am worried about the students, so I think I will stay here until it melts" (Eris)

Because outside there's Mondo huh.

But if they go outside, Tomoe will probably be giving out rewards for the Forest Onis, so there is also a good part.

...Well, okay.

I am also slightly tired, so if Eris says she wants to stay here, I will just let her.

“I see. Then that’s fine. Well, I will be returning outside” (Makoto)

“Thanks for your hard work, Waka. If possible, please give my regards to Shishou” (Eris)

“I refuse” (Makoto)

“S-So cruel” (Eris)

I leave Akua and Eris, and leave the barrier.

Reunite with Tomoe and the others, meet with the Academy Principal, and after that... what should I do?

“Raidou-dono, are you returning now?”

N?

In a place slightly far from the barrier, I was called from the courtyard of a shelter.

Oh, an unexpected person.

[Sairitz-sama. This may be my imagination, but you look a bit tired. Are you okay?]

“...How embarrassing. Even though you should be several times more tired than me” (Sairitz)

[The Academy Principal and us are doing our best to resolve the issue. Please endure for a bit longer]

“Of course. So shameful. For me to be so tense just because communication has been severed” (Sairitz)

[I think that’s a natural mood]

I am dealing with this without problems, I think.

And yet, the eyes of Sairitz-san suddenly turn sharp.

Eyes that feel as if they could see through. An unpleasant sensation.

"Raidou-dono, no, Raidou-sama, I understand that this incident is being led to resolution by another power that is not the Academy. There's someone pulling its hand from the shadows. Even I can tell something like that, and most likely, Princess Lily has noticed this as well. The Limia King also doesn't have eyes for decoration. The exceptions are the eyes of Aion. And it seems Rembrandt Company has already given up on taking you in" (Sairitz)

As expected, the high-ups can see that we are moving from the shadows huh.

Should I ask her to please not interfere?

But if I handle this poorly, I feel like it will increase the problems.

"The power of Kuzunoha Company – even if it's only a part of it – I have understood it. Even if Raidou-sama is a Wise-sama, I can't imagine how you were able to gather so many strong people and created an organization. Could it be that you have awakened what you personages sometimes possess, the superhuman mental processing, or it could be that you have that rare business ability and charisma?" (Sairitz)

[You are overestimating me. I am not a Wise-sama, and I have no other way but to call this as a position I have been blessed to be born in]

"...Right now, you are clearly not intending to use it. After this, by the suggestion of the Guild Master Falz-dono, a meeting will be made to discuss several things about the Kuzunoha Company, but Lorel Union is thinking about positively accepting Raidou-sama, Kuzunoha Company" (Sairitz)

[Thank you very much]

Oh, what a welcoming proposal.

It would be great if that was all she had to say, but her eyes are still scary, so I can tell that it isn't over yet.

"Raidou-sama, please listen to this and consider it the will of Limia, Gritonia and Lorel" (Sairitz)

Sairitz-san draws one step closer, and mentions the names of the major powers.

I-It sounds like a threat.

"The role that the Kuzunoha Company is shouldering to resolve this incident is incredibly big. And I do think that it is not proper to ask this of you considering that" (Sairitz)

[Please continue]

"I want to ask you to fix the thought transmission urgently. If you are able to do it, I will reward you. Of course, I won't bring out the name of Kuzunoha Company regarding this matter" (Sairitz)

The restoration of the thought transmission huh.

I see.

If I tried to, I would be able to, but it would be bad if I don't confirm with Tomoe. Cause it might disrupt her plans.

'If I am able to, I will try to', should be the safe option.

[I can't promise, but I will do my best to recover it]

"I see. It's fine, thanks Raidou-sama. I will let them know of what you have said. I am sorry to have kept you for so long" (Sairitz)

Sairitz-san lowers her head deeply.

Following lead, I also lower my head.

She returned to the place where her escorts were waiting at the far distance.

So she kept the place secluded when meeting me.

Fumu, if I restore the thought transmission, we would be able to know the location of the reinforcements of every country.

That would be convenient, and if the communication is restored, the people taking shelter will suffer less stress.

I want to do it, but let's try talking with Tomoe about this.

A conversation that was tiring in a different meaning compared to when talking with Eris.

Eat, do archery, get tired, drop down, sleep, and repeat; that is my ideal, but in this world, it just doesn't work that way.

With loans, debts, and all the troublesome haggling that is probably happening here and there, it just makes my head hurt.

Yareyare.

I am truly glad that I have Tomoe and Shiki.



*<Warning: Conversation ahead is slightly difficult to follow because of fragmented information>*

“That’s an outrageous barrier. Those demi-human girls did this huh. I honestly don’t want to fight you guys”

“Well well, to surprise even Myriad Color-dono, how truly pleasant-ja na. Fufufu”  
(Tomoe)

“This is my first time seeing such a firm and aggressive barrier. If it’s through force, one day. If I am to analyze it, I want at least 3 days. Seriously, when I am close to him, I don’t get bored” (Root)

“What, you intend to break it?” (Tomoe)

“By no means. I am just interested. But if it doesn’t last for several days, I won’t be able to analyze it. And if I want to destroy it, I would have to return to my original form. If I transform into a dragon over something as petty as this and rampage, I would only be stacking up more panic on top of the variant uproar. And most importantly, Makoto-kun’s impression of me would lower. I won’t do it. Don’t want to interfere with Makoto-kun” (Root)

“...Fuh, we don’t mind holding the title of Dragon Slayer though. In terms of not being able to do anything, your side is more into that-ja shi” (Tomoe)

"Please pardon me from that. And? Is it over by tomorrow?" (Root)

Tomoe and Root were talking.

Maybe there's no worries of anyone hearing, they are not using aliases, and they show no signs of hiding their plans.

"That's how it is estimated-ja. A bit after the reinforcements arrive, we can just do the troublesome clean up and that's it-ja" (Tomoe)

"Troublesome huh. And Makoto-kun?" (Root)

"If the current Waka learns of this, he might turn into a bad direction. What should I do... It may be safer. I decided to clean up without telling him" (Tomoe)

"I see" (Root)

"It's something troublesome-ja yo. If the ones stealthily doing things weren't the demon race, it would be easier. Demon General Rona huh. She probably wanted some results no matter how it rolled. Waka has to be a bit more experienced, or those kind of people will only serve as poison for him" (Tomoe)

"If I remember correctly, Makoto-kun told her to withdraw her troops right?" (Root)

"Umu. I didn't enquire in detail if he said demon race or troops, but he did say it. She probably didn't listen to exactly what Waka asked, so there's not much point even if I ask in detail. Rona won't abide to it that much" (Tomoe)

"In that sense, Makoto-kun is similar to Mio. Can be called good-natured, or careless" (Root)

Root thinks of Makoto as if having fun.

He isn't using complicated words with deep meaning.

Makoto is the type that once someone listens to his request, he will honestly consider them as allies.

It is a type of person that is easy to treat, but also dangerous.

Because they easily hurry.

Just that, even when Root understands all this, he still considers Makoto as interesting.

He sees him as an existence that can “stir up” more than he has seen before.

“Earnestly training his body, shooting the bow; he is a person that lived his life with those activities as his core after all. He is thickheaded to the evil of the wide society-ja” (Tomoe)

“That’s why you are leaving the wealthy and the people that might be bad influence for Makoto-kun, for later?” (Root)

“No. That’s simply because of my inclination. If the people there reduce in numbers, the reconstruction will be slightly smoother, right? Also, if you are displeased to the point that you want to take advantage of the situation and rampage, it would be better to let out your feelings, or it will haunt you later” (Tomoe)

“And so, I should ignore the action of those demi-humans?” (Root)

“There’s a collaborator in the demon race aside from the blue-skinned. It’s just that I thought it would be a bit too fast to show Waka. Mio will deal with it tonight” (Tomoe)

“Oh, scary. So you won’t vindicate her or shelter her?” (Root)

“She is someone that hates hyumans unnecessarily much. I don’t think she would be of much use. It’s not like I am a protector of demi-humans or anything like that. Waka as well” (Tomoe)

Tomoe indifferently talks about circumstances Makoto doesn’t know about.

The strange movements of the variants that the Forest Oni Eris noticed, Tomoe also noticed it.

She also knows of the one that is controlling them.

And she marked that person as someone that is in collaboration with the demon race.

Just as Root said ‘her’, they also know the gender of that person.

If they investigated, they would be able to learn more details, or maybe, they already know all the details.

But for that person to move there, it seems Tomoe and Root didn't expect that.

Thinking about the current Makoto's way of thinking and position, Tomoe decided to finish it without telling her master.

Tomoe was secretly grateful that Makoto left the management of this turmoil to her.

"Also... wait for a bit" (Root)

Tomoe was going to ask Root: "What's up?", but she shut her mouth herself.

Thought transmission.

Root probably noticed. Without interfering, he silently observes Tomoe's expression.

Her face frowns for an instant.

The content was probably not good. Root's interest was piqued.

But after that, she returned to her normal face and continued the thought transmission. After several minutes, she silently exhales.

Looks like her thought transmission finished.

"From who?" (Root)

"Waka-ja" (Tomoe)

"Makoto-kun! Heh~ what did he say? Did something happen inside the barrier?" (Root)

"You really don't show self-restraint. It wasn't anything big. It's just that, Waka was about to catch tail about that demi-human-ja" (Tomoe)

"Hmph~, so he also noticed" (Root)

"No. It seems Eris said something. Seriously, that girl really does unnecessary things-

ja na" (Tomoe)

"I am slightly interested though. In the one who produced that demi-human" (Root)

"Also, he asked me if it was okay to restore the thought transmission" (Tomoe)

"He asked? He is the master, so it should be fine if he just restores thought transmission if he wants to. Maybe he is showing restrain since he left you in charge?" (Root)

"Might be. There's already no problems with that, so I told him I don't mind" (Tomoe)

"Eh?" (Root)

Root makes a strained expression and blurts out a question at the nonchalant words of Tomoe.

"What? Do you have any problems with the restoration of the thought transmission? You will probably be able to see beautiful fireworks in person. Waka's handmade-ja" (Tomoe)

"Ah, no... I see, right now huh" (Root)

"You had me talk the whole time. Root, you are hiding something right?" (Tomoe)

"It's not so big enough to call it hiding. It's just that you didn't ask. Fumu..." (Root)

"Aren't you troubled? But you also made a strained expression. And right now you look like you are having fun-ja. Root, what are you hiding?" (Tomoe)

"You will probably notice as soon as the thought transmission is restored. Even so, Tomoe" (Root)

"Hm?" (Tomoe)

"Fate probably does exist. How truly mysterious" (Root)

With a meek countenance, Root mutters.

Nodding several times, he consented while maintaining his silence.

Tomoe, who is next to Root, sighs at him who has entered his own world.

And then, she turns her eyes at the place where Makoto is currently at.

She slowly turns her gaze upwards and waits for the moment.

“Root, it’s Waka-ja” (Tomoe)

“Hm?” (Root)

With Tomoe’s words and her finger pointing at the sky, Root looks up and sees a subdued yellow ball of light, that resembles the moon, being shot up.

That light stops for a while in the sky as if illuminating the town.

And then, it exploded.

Turning into absurd amounts of strings, it didn’t limit itself to the town, it rained on the whole zone.

Some made acute angles, bending several times, and there are some that just go straight.

Without a chance to defend against it, it pierces through the body of Root and Tomoe.

“?!!”

“One shot huh. Waka is truly the type that polishes one talent-ja” (Tomoe)

Root who had his arms crossed, unlinked those arms.

“That just now... could it be, it was aimed at what the demon race prepared?” (Root)

“Umu. There’s no real need to destroy them after all. As long as they stop working, that’s fine. There’s a method to do so, even without placing power in the attack. Waka did so in that way-ja na” (Tomoe)

“...All of them?” (Root)

“I wonder. There doesn’t seem to be a second shot, so he probably got all of them”

(Tomoe)

“The demon race took several months to prepare them though” (Root)

“How hardworking-ja na” (Tomoe)

The two stayed looking at the sky for a while.





“Eris. How did Waka enter here?” (Akua)

“Used” (Eris)

“Used?” (Akua)

“He did a foul play by using an Earth Dragon” (Eris)

“He summoned a dragon?!” (Akua)

“Something even worse. An existence that’s proved to be the best at digging holes, the mole~” (Eris)

“...Eris, d-didn’t you say that this was a perfectly isolated place?” (Akua)

“I didn’t imagine that one. It seems it dug quite deep, that mole~” (Eris)

“...I will never help you again. This spell has died as of today” (Akua)

“I’m going to cry” (Eris)

The spell Makoto created to deal with the thought transmission jamming, that firework-looking spell, was blocked by the barrier, and those two were unable to see it.

Akua and Eris were devastated.

# Chapter 148

## Sudden Turn

(This is unbelievable)

The person that manages the rituals of Lorel and possesses strong political weight as well, in other words, the person Makoto considers a 'big-shot', Sairitz.

Learning about the light that illuminated the night sky for an instant, she could feel cold sweat flowing on her cheek.

The calamity that swallowed even the neighboring towns. Because of one of the incidents in it, the thought transmission jamming, Sairitz was 90% sure that all of this was caused by the demon race.

The demon race that has advanced their knowledge in magic a lot more than the hyumans. If it's something they set, it would be quite difficult to resolve the issue at an early stage.

No, she thought that way.

(So this is the result of his 'I will try'. I will abide to my promise of keeping it secret. Just because of a mere verbal promise, the situation was solved so easily. With an existence so out of norm like Raidou, as expected, he is without a doubt a Wise. And on top of that, one that has quite a lot of power compared to his antecessors. It would be troublesome to have Limia and Gritonia know, but there's finally the need to take him in) (Sairitz)

Conciliate with the person, take that person in, and enclose it; Sairitz possesses several methods to achieve that.

There's appealing methods, fear and pain inducing methods; truly varied.

But Sairitz decided to not use the negative methods for now.

Because she learned about the dangers of doing so.

(If possible, I would want to use his emotions to bind him. Because if we try to force him to do as we want, our country might get crushed into pieces. Inviting him, tempt him into interest, and bringing him to Lorel is the number one priority. Have him learn of the Wises' deeds of the past and make him feel deep affection is second. It would be ideal if it reached the point where he thought of our country as his second hometown, but well, I want to make it feel natural. For now, it would be better to make my invitations light. No, the thing I should focus on is reducing the contact between him and other countries) (Sairitz)

She doesn't know what kind of easy and scary method the demon race uses to jam the thought transmission.

Could it be a level of understanding the hyumans are far from reaching, or maybe a plan that they took a lot of time to prepare in order to make it work?

And yet, there's people that carefreely thwart those plans, with small numbers.

Kuzunoha Company, and their master, Raidou.

Honestly speaking, they surpassed by leaps and bounds the power and scale that Sairitz initially anticipated.

Battle power that can heedlessly take care of variants, and knowledge that can easily destroy the plans of the demon race.

On top of that, the sword one of his followers named Tomoe showed a few days ago; the teleporting sword.

Counting all those factors in, in the worst case scenario, it can even reach the level where they are able to destroy countries.

Imprudently provoking them would be extremely stupid, and to hand them over to another country would be practically the same as giving them her own country, is what she thought.

And so, revising her evaluation of Raidou and looking at him again, Sairitz felt like her consciousness would fly away after learning about how dangerous of an existence he is.

At first glance, he looks like a docile person.

Thinking about his real strength, it is to an impossible level even if taking into account that the evaluation of Raidou was low at first glance.

That's why, thinking about the people that have a bit of power, nobles, wealthy merchants, or people that easily get arrogant, that might try acting in a pressuring manner towards him, and if by chance his mood is harmed by that attitude; simply thinking about it makes Sairitz have cold sweat.

Also, Raidou has a liking towards demi-humans and employs them.

If certain demi-humans that have been unreasonably treated by the hyumans enter their ranks and the Kuzunoha Company begins to move for their sake, what would happen?

Not only cold sweat, Sairitz wouldn't be able to sleep for several days.

Without doubt, they would be able to make a demi-human country on the level of the four major powers. To have five major powers; not a joke that can be laughed at.

(There's Wise that don't hold discrimination towards demi-humans, so it is scary that I can't even joke about it. That situation would still have salvation, but in the worst case, if he were to support the demon race...) (Sairitz)

Sairitz stopped thinking in the middle.

Because she thought that having demi-humans as their allies and creating a country on the level of the four major powers is still in the level of cute. In her mind, something even scarier popped up.

The unification of the world.

The demon race that challenges the Goddess.

It would turn into a situation that can be considered the end of the world.

Kuzunoha Company is a double-edged sword.

A sword of calamity that has the power to cut countries apart.

(This is the worst. I feel like I am participating in a roulette with destruction written

in it for eternity) (Sairitz)

While feeling discomfort similar to anemia, Sairitz touches her forehead with her right hand.

The sticky sweat felt cold, and it was denoting her current mental state.

“Sairitz-sama, so you were here!”

“...What happened?” (Sairitz)

She wasn’t feeling well, but when her subordinate called her, she reacted and lifted her head.

“Yes, it is an emergency. Please return to the shelter at once!”

“Emergency? Tonight there’s nothing aside from the meeting Falz-dono proposed though, did something-” (Sairitz)

“At any rate, just hurry please!”

Sairitz felt it was slightly rude of the subordinate to cut her words, but she judged that something must have happened, so she followed her subordinate and entered the courtyard’s shelter.

A tense atmosphere she didn’t feel when she left, and the noisiness as if she returned to the first day of the incident, surprised Sairitz.

The back of the subordinate that was short of words was already far away. Sairitz regretted that she didn’t calm down a bit more and had him explain the situation.

(This doesn’t look like a trivial matter. The most I know is that our dragon units are supposed to arrive by early morning, but I haven’t received any report of it yet. Maybe they have obtained new information after the thought transmission was recovered) (Sairitz)

‘And it is not good information’, is what Sairitz added internally.

Walking towards the place where the hurriedness is the highest, Sairitz saw the representative of a major power with a complexion she normally doesn’t see that

person with.

The Limia King is personally giving orders violently. The prince and the convalescent knight are also moving busily.

The Gritonia Princess is giving out orders to her several subordinates, however, she shows an unconcealable irritated expression from time to time. Well, Sairitz is skilled at looking at people, so she is able to detect the slight changes in the expressions of others.

Even if she stays in place, she won't understand anything in detail.

The action Sairitz took, was to enter that place.

"Limia, Gritonia; just what in the world is happening to make the representatives of major powers like this?" (Sairitz)

The response for the calm words of Sairitz, were a pair of harsh expressions.

Limia King, Princess Lily.

What both of them had in common was their impatience.

"...Sairitz-dono huh. I have something I want to ask quickly. Where's Raidou?" (King)

"Same here. I want to know where Raidou is" (Lily)

"Just a moment ago I met with him. Just like how you two said, I requested him to somehow restore the thought transmission" (Sairitz)

And then, without even 10 minutes after, it was restored.

If she accepts the reality of that, she can't help but feel shivers all over her body.

She doesn't understand the reason why they didn't move until after several days, but this means that, if the situation requires it, they can act in a heartless manner.

The more faces she sees of their company, the more terrifying it looks.

"...As expected, if it's them, they are able to do it huh. Or maybe, they were able to, but

didn't do it? No, this is something we decided, right now it is not the time for that. The time it would take to look for him is precious. In that case, the moment we are able to make contact with him, it would be best if we wait for him at the entrance of the shelter" (King)

"I will accompany" (Lily)

Limia King and the one accompanying him, the prince, and also Princess Lily, lined up and began to walk towards the exit.

Sairitz, who hasn't heard about the situation yet, was anxious.

Trying to somehow understand the situation, she catches up with the back of the two and requests an explanation.

Because they seem to be the ones that know the most. No, her intuition was telling her that they were a related party.

"Both of you, please explain me the situation" (Sairitz)

"...It's a raid"

"Raid?" (Sairitz)

Limia King fires words with a loathsome expression. And Sairitz returns it with a question.

"The demon race, Sairitz-dono" (King)

"Yeah, I do think this incident with the variants was caused by the demons but..." (Sairitz)

"That's not it. In the homegrounds" (King)

"The imperial capital" (Lily)

"!!"

A scream that can't be turned into words filled the throat of Sairitz.

Because the words the representatives said were a scary truth.

The advance of the demon race.

News that shake the world.

"I know that it is an inane plan to provoke Raidou, but in this kind of situation, we have no choice but to ask for the unreasonable of him" (King)

"Totally agree your Majesty. One step wrong and their teleportation might turn into a threat. If it were to damage the sword, I would be secretly happy about it though" (Lily)

"Oya, how dangerous. Is Lily-sama stating that they are a threat?" (Sairitz)

"Sairitz-dono, let me state this frankly, this is not the time to be chit-chatting. The moment we secretly agreed on how to deal with them, it made us practically into accomplices. Please don't forget that" (Lily)

"?!!"

"I hold the same opinion as the Empire's princess. Sairitz-dono, you still don't fully understand the situation yet. Listen well, the ones attacking are an army that is being led by a demon general. The ones being attacked are the capital of my country and the empire's municipal. In other words, Lorel's important Priestess-dono is also fighting" (King)

"Chiya-sama too?! Your Majesty, what do you mean by that?! For the capital to be attacked and have both the hero-sama and priestess-sama in the middle of battle is just... isn't that strange?! What is the army of the kingdom doing?! To let the enemies infiltrate so far and haven't let the hero-sama and its party escape is just... that's abandoning their responsibility towards the world and-" (Sairitz)

"Shut up!" (Lily)

Seeing that Sairitz suddenly began blaming Limia King, Lily shouted.

Being cut off in the middle of her words, Sairitz looked like she still had more to say as she glared at Lily.

For her, no, for Lorel, the Priestess is that much of an important existence.

Just by having the Priestess that the residents in the country hold deep affection for, in another country, they hold no good affection towards Limia, and yet, on top of that, if she hears that danger is approaching them, it can't be helped that she would lose her calm for a moment there.

The reason why she acts more friendlier with Princess Lily than to the Limia King, is also because of this.

"Listen well, Sairitz-dono. My country's imperial capital is facing several enemy units already. And it seems they all appeared at the same time. We are currently trying to handle the situation, investigating from what direction they came attacking from. Limia is also the same" (Lily)

"At our country, it seems they detected a black mass appearing at the coast and advancing. It is already close to approaching the capital. I don't understand what's going on anymore. Those guys hold several trump cards?" (King)

"We need to revise the current battle progress as well. The aim of the demon race that holds the iron wall Stella Fort and is able to fight against both the Kingdom and the Empire. One wrong step and it might prove fatal. That's how it is, so if you think that we are doing something excessive in our negotiations with Raidou, enter in the middle of it and make a good follow-up. It is not a bad deal right? His impression of us will lower, and his impression of you will increase after all" (Lily)

"I don't care if I am the carrot or the stick, I just want to dispatch him to my country" (King)

"I also have to give commands in the imperial capital. I have to at least avoid the hero-sama of ending up in a hopeless situation" (Lily)

Impatience also begins welling up from Sairitz.

The Priestess might die.

The Priestess of the next era has not been born yet.

If Chiya dies, Lorel will lose the fulcrum for their spirit. Moreover, if something happens to Limia and Gritonia, Lorel will also turn into a country standing in the frontlines.

If those two catastrophes were to overlap, just what would happen to the country, it isn't something she can predict at all.

"Could it be that... using the variants here was a decoy in itself?!" (Sairitz)

"I don't think it is a complete coincidence" (King)

"I want to believe that it is a coincidence there are more VIP gathered this year than normal, but if information about Academy Town being attacked appears, it is obvious that the other countries will send troops and supplies. As a decoy it has a lot of inconsistency, but it will surely show some sort of effectiveness" (Lily)

"We were on the misconception that the demon race would stay in Stella Fort maintaining defense like a turtle, so even if we were to send troops, we would only need to delay our attack to the Fort. And because we had that way of thinking, we lowered our guard. They splendidly got the better of us. How irritating" (King)

"Well, it isn't all bad news. At the very least, restoring thought transmission with this timing, it should be safe to assume that Kuzunoha Company and Raidou are not spies of the demon race" (Lily)

"Even if we endure this, it wouldn't be a laughing matter if they used that teleport technique to attack us while we are in an audience after all. If Raidou were someone that is in cahoots with the demon race, he wouldn't have restored the thought transmission. In that part, I am also slightly relieved" (King)

The three representatives of the major powers were talking while walking in quick pace. Without waiting for their escorts to catch up, they arrived at the entrance of the shelter.

They felt every second as long. Painful tens of minutes pass.

A major power King, a major power royalty, and a person with high position in a major power.

The player that is making this many major power leading personages wait, Raidou, received a call from the Academy and appears in front of the shelter.

Tomoe and Shiki; two followers of his and Falz-dono, the Adventurer Guild's master, were accompanying him.

"Raidou, we have to talk" (King)

"It is something incredibly important" (Lily)

"I am sorry that this has to come as soon as I made a request before" (Sairitz)

Three restless voices were shot at Raidou simultaneously.

He showed surprise for a second, but not long after, without showing any hesitation in his expression, he bowed in front of the three.

His followers also follow his lead.

While they hear the talk of the three, Raidou's face gradually turns severe.

The King thought that this reaction was brought by his hate towards the demon race.

But the truth was different.

Raidou (Makoto) felt insecure, thinking that his days would pass without ever meeting the two Japanese that came to this world, and the anger towards the truth about this attack of Rona being a decoy; those two emotions were warping his expression.

The long night slowly advances.



PtF by: traitorATZEN